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- Trump issues order to ensure U.S. diplomatic 02 personnel follow his agenda
- Delhi Police detain 14 PG students amid protest 🜌 **0**3 and Vandalism at Jamia Millia Islamia

After Assembly setback, Ambala MC poll a litmus test for Cong

and aller,

Gambhir urges Harshit & Arshdeep to step up in absence of Bumrah at Champions Trophy



Sensex ends marginally weak at 76,138.97 pts

No cut in capex, depreciating Rupee with Tulsi Gabbard not a concern: FM in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi: Reiterating that sectoral allocation and effective capital expenditure have gone up in the Budget 2025-26, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that government will continue to take steps to reduce the burden of price rise, while also dismissing the concerns around depreciation of Indian Rupee (INR) against US dollar.

Upper House.

effective

the

dollar on account

global macro economy.

On concerns raised by the

"US dollar index rose

Won,

also

6.5% during October 21, 2024

to January 27, 2025. Major

Asian currencies such as

Korean

Indonesian Rupiah, Malaysian

Ringgit depreciated by 8.1%,

6.4% and 5.9% respectively.

currencies

as

crores.

South

G-10

highlighted.

Replying to the general discussion on the Budget in Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman said that while there is no sectoral cut in allocation for the fiscal 2025-26, the effective capital expenditure has gone up.

The Finance Minister said that in the Budget 2025-26, the effective capital expenditure is projected at Rs 15.48 lakh crore as against Rs 13.18 lakh crore in the Revised Estimate of 2024-25.

"So, there is just no reduction in capital expenditure," she said during her two-hour long reply in the

"If we take this together with what is done by the public enterprises. .. they are independent of the Budget as they do their own but also account for the capital expenditure. If we were to take that also on board, for the year 2025-26 the capital outlay which I would define capital expenditure is likely to be in the range of Rs 19.80 lakh Minister

Opposition members over depreciated during this period weakening rupee, Sitharaman by more than 5.5%. For said that Indian Rupee (INR) instance, Japanese Yen, like other Asian currencies British Pound and Euro depreciated against the US depreciated by 7.0%, 6.6% of and 5.8% respectively," she uncertainty pervading the said

> "So, we believe that overvalued currencies erode national competitiveness as exports become expensive, and domestic companies will have to be given support. So, I would like to allay the concerns or apprehensions of the Hon'ble members on

minutes on the motion of

thanks to President's address.

In this, 173 Hon'ble Members

sat till late night and expressed

their views" Birla further

added. The Speaker expressed

hope that the house will

continue to get the support of

Income Tax Act and will likely

Matter of removal of HC judges lies with Parliament: Dhankhar

post, said, "I am seized of an

undated notice for motion

received on 13 December

2024, bearing 55 purported

signatures of the members of

the Rajya Sabha seeking

removal from office of Justice

Shekhar Yadav of Allahabad

High Court under Article

The Chairman ruled,

124(4) of the Constitution".

in future as well.

house

Meanwhile,

account of INR (Indian Rupee) fluctuation. The Government and RBI will continue to exercise necessary vigil. RBI's efforts in making sure the Indian Rupee stabilizes are several," the

Finance Minister further said. Responding to questions raised by former Finance Minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram over assessment of revenue foregone on account of income tax relief, Sitharaman said that revenue buoyancy numbers given in the Budget are realistic.

On the argument that income tax relief also benefits the rich and super rich, the Minister explained as to how the gains to those earning very high income are much less compared to those having annual income upto Rs 12 lakh. Budget 2025-26 presented

in Lok Sabha on February 1, 2025 provides for nil tax for individuals earning up to Rs 12 lakh a year. The direct tax relief given to taxpayers is estimated to result in the Centre foregoing Rs 1 lakh crore.

She also highlighted the steps taken by the government to ease the burden of price rise for ordinary citizens.

"Government's attempt to remove the stress of price rise is actually being received on the ground. The efforts will continue. We shall make sure that price should not be a burden on the ordinary citizens. We shall support this subsidized (Bharat) atta,

highlighted that the transfer to states is projected to go up in the financial year 2025-26. "The total allocation transferred to the states in 2025-26 is Rs 25.01 lakh crore which shows an increase of

The

4.92 lakh crore over the actual of 2023-24," she said. More than 90 members participated in the discussion

so on," Sitharaman said

Minister

also

on Budget in the Rajya Sabha. In the early part of her reply, Sitharaman noted that Budget 2025-26 has been made during a very difficult time.

"The challenges, particularly external challenges, are very, very severe, most of which are beyond even any projections (or) predictions. There are no models that you can build and understand how the trends will be because they are very dynamic and changing by the day," she said.

After the Minister's reply, the House was adjourned to meet at 11 AM on March 10,



PM Modi meets

Washington/New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi started off his US visit with meeting Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence, and congratulated her on her confirmation.

In a post on X, the PM said the two discussed various aspects of the bilateral friendship, of which Gabbard has always been a strong votary. "Met USA's Director of National Intelligence, @TulsiGabbard in Washington DC. Congratulated her on her confirmation. "Discussed various aspects of the India-USA friendship, of which she's always been a strong votary."

The MEA spokesperson said in a post: "PM @narendramodi held a productive meeting with U.S. Director of National Intelligence @TulsiGabbard in Washington D.C. today.

"Discussions focused on enhancing intelligence

cooperation in counter-terrorism cybersecurity & emerging threats." A readout of the meeting said: "The US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.

"Prime Minister Modi fondly recalled his earlier interactions with Ms Gabbard.

"The discussions touched on enhancing bilateral intelligence cooperation, particularly in counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, emerging threats, and strategic intelligence sharing. "They also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest, reaffirming their commitment to a secure, stable, and rules-based international order." The meeting with Gabbard, a practicing Hindu, came just hours after her confirmation by the Senate as DNI and her oath-

taking.

Lok Sabha registered 112 pc of productivity in first phase of Budget session: OM Birla

New Delhi: Lok Sabha has registered 112 percent of productivity in the first phase of the Budget session, which concluded on Thursday, despite disruption from the opposition members on various issues, Speaker Om Birla said.

The lower house of Parliament was adjourned by the Speaker till March 10.

In a statement, Birla said, 'The general discussion on the budget was lasted for 16 hours and 13 minutes in which 170 members participated. With your support, our productivity in this session was about 11

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

on Thursday ruled that the

matter seeking removal of

Allahabad High Court judge

Justice Shekhar Yadav from

his post is a matter of the

"Chairman's jurisdiction and

in an eventuality with the

Dhankhar instructed the

Parliament and President".



Praising members of the house, he said, today is the last day of the first phase of the Budget Session. 'I am happy that we discussed in a good atmosphere during the session. I got your full support.'

"There was a meaning

Secretary General of Rajya

information to the Registrar

General of the Supreme

Hour, the Chairman, while

mentioning the notice

received from some members

last December regarding the

removal of the judge from the

Soon after the Question

to

wheat, rice and chana dal and 2025. India's federalism in peril under BJP rule, TN BJP will return to power in Bihar Guv lacks moral authority to continue : Stalin

Chennai: Observing that India's federalism is in peril under the BJP rule at the Centre, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday sharpened his attack further against Governor R N Ravi and said he lacked moral authority to continue in office.

the members in the same way Referring to an editorial in a newspaper, Mr Stalin said the Union Finance Minister Nirmala unconstitutional excesses of the Sitharaman introduced the Governor and their despicable new Income Tax bill in the endorsement by the BJP-led Union government have been The new Income Tax Bill rightly accentuated in it today. will replace the six-decade old

He said "the strongly worded editorial encapsulates the Governor's arbitrary undermining of the Legislative foster his actions", Mr Stalin of National Anthem last month.

"The jurisdiction for the

subject

Chairman, Rajya Sabha and

in an eventuality with the

Parliament and Hon'ble

Sabha Secretary General to

convey the information about

While directing the Rajya

matter

in

the

Court,

"Taking

Court of India"

lies

with



Assembly and reiterates that he lacks the moral authority to continue in office.'

"It is appalling that neither the Governor, the titular head of the State, has learnt anything from the repeated censuring by leading newspapers across India and constitutional experts, nor have his BJP masters in Delhi, who continue to shield and

this announcement made in

the House to the Supreme

domain information and

inputs available, it is

expedient that the Secretary

General, Rajya Sabha shares

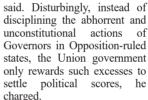
this for information with the

Secretary General, Supreme

Dhankhar

note of public

said,



"India's federalism is in peril under BJP rule", the Chief Minister said.

It may be recalled that the Raj Bhavan and the ruling DMK was at loggerheads on a host of issues with the Governor even refusing to deliver the customary New Year address despite turning up at the Assembly and walking out, citing non-recital



Patna: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sinha on Thursday claimed that his party would form the government again after the next assembly elections in the

introduce themselves as Biharis during the RJD regime from 1990 to 2005. It was the Nitishled NDA government that changed the image of Bihar due to its good works since 2005 when voted into power in the state, he pointed out.

Sinha while reacting over the remark of RJD supremo Lalu Sinha said that the people of Prasad that BJP would not come Bihar had not forgotten the

percent"

discussion of 17 hours and 23 2026

send this

come into effect from April

to power again in Bihar in the next assembly elections, said his party was all set to form the government in the state after the next assembly elections this year.

There was no point in discussing the remark of Prasad as he had lost his relevance in politics, he pointed out.

People of Bihar have already rejected the RJD and its leader Lalu Prasad as he has maligned the image of the state across the country and abroad", the BJP leader said adding that people were feeling shame to 'Jungle Raj ' of the RJD regime when criminals were striking at their will. How could RJD think of coming to power, he wondered.

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad had claimed that Delhi assembly election results would not affect the outcome of Bihar assembly polls as BJP was all set to lose power in the state. So long as he was present in Bihar, how could BJP form the government after the next assembly elections slated for October-November this year, he asserted?

Trump says U.S., Russia to immediately begin negotiations toward ending Ukraine conflict

Sabha

Court.



U.S Washington: President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed during a phone conversation earlier in the day that Washington and Moscow will immediately engage in direct negotiations aimed at ending the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

"I just had a lengthy and highly productive phone call with President Vladimir Putin of Russia," Trump said, offering his version of the content of the call in a post on Truth Social.

Trump said he and Putin agreed that "we want to stop the millions of deaths taking place in the War with Russia/ Ukraine.

agreed to work "We together, very closely,

including visiting each other's Nations. We have also agreed to have our respective teams start negotiations immediately, and we will

begin by calling President Zelenskyy, of Ukraine, to him of the inform conversation, something which I will be doing right now," Trump said.

He said he has asked U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency John Ratcliffe, National Security Advisor Michael Waltz and Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff to lead the U.S. team in the negotiations. Trump said he felt

the

"strongly that negotiations between the United States and Russia "will be successful.'

Russia thwarts terror attack on railway station in Pskov region

stated

constitutionally

exclusivity

President".

terrorist attack on a railway station in the country's Pskov region, the Federal Security Service (FSB) said in a statement Thursday.

The FSB said it dismantled a cell belonging to an international terrorist organization banned in Russia, whose members from a Central Asian country were planning to commit a terrorist attack on a transport infrastructure facility in the

Moscow: Russia has foiled a Pskov region. The members received instructions from an emissary of the organization abroad and were plotting to blow up the building of the railway station in Pskov. They carried out reconnaissance, acquired components to build an improvised explosive device, and began assembling it, the FSB said, adding that they planned to flee to a Middle Eastern country after conducting the terror attack



Shahjahanpur: Four persons, including three women, were killed and 16 others injured when a mini bus in which they were travelling collided with a truck at Kalan area in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, a police officer said here on Thursday.

Four killed, 16 injured as mini bus collides with truck in UP

Circle Officer (CO) Jalalabad Amit Chaurasia

said that the truck and the mini-bus collided head-on near Bichaula village on Farrukhabad state highway late on Wednesday night.

"While two women identified as Shyamvati (60) and Sharmila (26) were killed on the spot in the incident and 18 others were injured," he said.

He said that 20 people were travelling in the bus, all

work as labourers. "18 injured were admitted to Farrukhabad district hospital for treatment. where Lavkush (30) and Kumari Ram (35) succumbed to their injuries. The injured are residents

of whom were going to

Harvana from Sitapur to

of Sitapur, Hardoi and Lakhimpur districts in the state," the CO said.

JPC report on Waqf bill: Chairman has power to remove note that casts aspersion on panel: Rijiju

New Delhi: Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday slammed the Opposition for calling the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf Amendment Bill as "illegal and unconstitutional" and said that Chairman Jagdambika Pal has the authority to remove a note "that casts aspersion on the Committee"

Addressing the media at the Parliament House here, Rijiju defended the Chairman of the panel and said, "It should be clear that Pal has the authority to remove a note that casts aspersion on the Committee.

The JPC Chairman has the power to delete a portion. It is also mentioned in the rule, and everything

happened as per rule."

Objecting to the Opposition members calling the "JPC report as illegal and unconstitutional", he said, ". The JPC was formed by all the parties and it is not of one party. This is not just an NDA report. This is Parliament's Joint Parliamentary Committee so calling the JPC report as illegal and unconstitutional is not correct"

Rijiju said that the JPC report has an importance and if the Opposition were speaking against this report then they were "dismissing their own report"

As far as the report is concerned there can be differences in the opinion within the JPC, the Minister added

"There are basically two

opinions - one is those who are in the government, they might have separate opinion than those in the opposition. Even the opposition's views have been put in the annexure. It is wrong to say that the opposition's dissent notes are not included in the

Every view whether those considered by the majority or rejected by the majority have been included in the JPC report which was tabled in the RS today and which would be tabled in Lok Sabha," he said.

Rijiju said that the JPC report has been tabled on the floor of the House, now it will come to the government and then the report will be considered by the Cabinet. And after the consideration of the Cabinet then

whatever the amended version will be, it will then be presented in the Parliament.

The Minister said that the Opposition was already opposing the Bill which is not good and appealed to all the opposition parties to let the house consider this report as the "JPC has done a great length of consideration, hearing, debate and discussion.

Notably, the Upper House witnessed chaotic scenes leading to a brief adjournment of the house as Opposition members protested over the 'deletion' of dissent notes from the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf Amendment Bill

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that the



Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill had deleted the dissent notes of MPs and included views of people from outside.

He termed the move as unconstitutional, vowing to not allow the passage of such a report.

Meanwhile, similar situation was witnessed in the Lok Sabha too, when the report was tabled.

The Opposition created a ruckus and walked out of the house, alleging that dissenting comments were not included in the report of the JPC presented in the house.

JPC.

Aryan Age Delhi, Friday 14 February 2025

China urges U.S. to drop zero-sum mentality



Beijing: China urges the United States to discard its zero-sum mentality, correct its wrongdoings, return to the correct path of the multilateral trading system, and work with other countries to address respective concerns through consultations on an equal footing, a Chinese Commerce Ministry of spokesperson said on Thursday.

Spokesperson He Yongqian made the remarks at a regular press conference when responding to a question on the U.S. tariff hikes on steel and aluminum imports

The U.S. move is a typical manifestation of unilateralism and trade protectionism, He said,

noting that many countries have clearly expressed their opposition, and there are also strong oppositions within the United States. In fact, a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel ruled as early as 2022 that the U.S. Section 232 tariffs violated WTO rules. However, the United States has not only maintained its existing Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum, but has also further increased tariffs on aluminum products.

seriously harming the rights and interests of other countries, seriously undermining the rules-based multilateral trading system, and causing an impact on the global supply chain, according spokesperson.

Cleanliness drive continues throughout night after Magh Purnima bath

NATION

Prayagraj: As a part of its unwavering commitment to cleanliness, the Maha Kumbh administration once again proved its efficiency by swiftly restoring the Sangam Ghats after the Magh Purnima bathing festival.

As soon as the sacred snan concluded, a dedicated team of cleaners launched a large-scale cleaning drive by the Wednesday evening itself. Their prompt and tireless efforts ensured that, by night, the Sangam Ghats were once again pristine and beautiful, ready to welcome the next influx of devotees.

On the occasion of Magh Purnima, more than 2 crore devotees took a holy dip in Sangam on Wednesday. As part of the ritual offerings, a large number of devotees left flowers, garlands, clothes, and food at the ghats and the extensive use of public toilets was observed.

Following the decrease in crowd density, the Mela administration launched an cleaning drive, intensive



restoring the ghats to their pristine condition by Thursday morning. To ensure prompt cleanliness, all sector magistrates were instructed to initiate a largescale sanitation campaign as soon as

Swami

Vedanti,

Naka

the crowd dispersed. In response, the administration swiftly disposed of solid waste left behind during the bathing festival.

Special cleaning vehicles were deployed to collect garbage

the the from ghats and cesspool fairgrounds, while operations were carried out to maintain hygiene in public toilets.

Sanitation in-charge of the

Beijing launches satellite internet industrial park, key laboratories



Beijing: Beijing has officially unveiled a satellite internet industrial park and granted licenses to eight key laboratories in commercial space industry.

These happened at the Beijing Commercial Space High-quality Development Conference, which was held in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, also known as Beijing E-Town, and concluded on Wednesday. The conference mainly focuses on

implementing major projects and accelerating the highquality growth of China's commercial space industry.

The satellite internet industrial park will leverage Beijing E-Town's advantages in aerospace industry and

of new-type strengths industries to develop satellite internet projects, building a complete industrial chain of satellite internet research and intelligent manufacturing.

The eight kev laboratories focus on frontier fields, including aerospace vehicle design, satellite internet applications and satellite interconnection and control, among others. They aim to foster top talent and technological drive

innovation in the industry. Beijing E-Town hosts er 160 aerospace over aerospace companies, including over 70 national high-tech firms, with 16 ranked among China's top 100 commercial space companies, said an official of

Girishpati Tripathi, Jagatguru Avodhya: Chief priest of Shri Ramjanmabhoomi temple Acharya Satyendra Das was Ramdineshcharya, former MP given Jal Samadhi in the Saryu Ramvilas river on Thursday. Gaurishankar Das,

The last procession of Acharya Das was taken out with pomp and show from his Satyagopal Dham temple at Ramghat. It passed through the roads of the city of Lord Ram and reached the cremation ground on the banks of the Saryu river where Satyendra Das was given Jal Samadhi

The procession was taken out from Ram Mandir Gate to Hanuman Garhi, Lata Mangeshkar Chowk, in which the people of Ayodhya, along with saints and sages, Minister Satish Sharma, Mayor Mahant

treatment at PGI Hospital in Lucknow. He was admitted to PGI on 3 February after a brain stroke where he breathed his last during treatment on 12 February. His

Ramanandacharya

Das

Shrimahant Dharmadas, Mahant

Hanumangarhi Mahant Ramdas.

Ayodhya MLA Vedprakash

Gupta, Mahant Raghvesh Das

Vedanti and Mahant Bhushan

Das, thousands of saints and

performed by his disciple priest

Pradeep Das. The Chief Priest

died on Wednesday during

The last rites were

Ram devotees participated.

Acharya Satyendra Das given 'Jal Samadhi' in Saryu death spread a wave of mourning in the entire Ramnagari. Everyone was saddened by his death.

There was a stream of people expressing condolences at the priest's ashram. From saints-mahants to politicians, and common citizens, everyone paid their tributes and bid him a final farewell. Priest Satyendra Das' life was dedicated to Ram Lalla. He served Ramlala for about 32 years from 1992 till now. His contribution towards Shri Ram Janmabhoomi can never be forgotten. It will always be unforgettable. The saints of Ayodhya Dham have demanded the government to give him

Padma Vibhushan.

Prayagraj: The traffic system of Prayagraj is now running smoothly amidst the huge crowd of devotees on the bathing festival of Magh Purnima in Maha Kumbh, official sources said here on Thursday.

Sources said that Prayagraj's traffic remains smooth despite the massive Magh Purnima rush, as administrative effective arrangements ensure a hasslefree pilgrimage to the Sangam. "Traffic is moving smoothly on all major routes, including Malak Harhar (Lucknow), Mirzapur Road, Rewa Road, Sahson (Jaunpur), Phaphamau (Lucknow), Andawa



sanitation.

(Varanasi route) and Kaushambi," they said. Given Maha Kumbh, security forces and traffic police have been strategically deployed on all major routes to ensure devotees do not face any inconvenience. The traffic department has urged devotees to adhere to the instructions issued by the administration and avoid unnecessary halts on any route. Despite the overwhelming crowd in the Prayagraj, wellcoordinated efforts of the authorities have kept traffic under control, enabling devotees to reach Sangam effortlessly and perform their sacred rituals with ease.

fair Anand Kumar Singh said that under the cleanliness drive,

sanitation workers thoroughly

swept and cleaned all roads.

"Dustbins and liner bags placed

throughout the fair area were

emptied using tippers and compactors. The administration

has been running these cleaning

initiatives daily to uphold the

vision of a Clean Maha Kumbh.

However, on major bathing days,

the campaign is intensified to

ensure that pilgrims arriving the

next day experience a holy and

The swift action of the fair

hygienic environment," he said.

administration left both devotees

and locals highly impressed.

Expressing their appreciation,

many acknowledged the efforts of the Yogi government in ensuring a well-organized and spotless Maha Kumbh.

One devotee remarked that

the administration's commitment

to cleanliness has reaffirmed its

dedication to making the Maha

Kumbh a model of order and

PM likely to visit Tripura next month to launch a slew of projects and flag off Vande Bharat Express

Agartala: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Tripura next month to launch a slew of projects including flagging Vande Bharat Express off between Agartala and Guwahati from here.

The state government has already approached PMO seeking his availability after Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) issued a green signal

for starting India's fastest

coverage will be reduced to half, which will boost the business of Northeastern states with Tripura instead of concentrating on Guwahati," Fransport officials said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha said that the state government has planned to inaugurate the new infrastructure installed in Tripura Sundari temple under the centrally sponsored schemes in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Maha: Marathi actress moves court seeking transfer of probe of accident involving her driver



Mumbai: Popular Marathi actress Urmila Kanetkar has moved the offence had been tampered Bombay High Court seeking transfer of the investigation from an officer of Samta Nagar police station to any other officer in connection with a case where her driver allegedly hit two construction site workers, killing one and seriously injuring the other in December 2024, a lawyer said on Thursday. Arguing before a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Neela K Gokhale, the actress stated that the Investigation Officer (IO) was giving evasive replies pertaining to investigation and

CCTV footage of the spot of the incident and the entire scene of with, as the contractor who was

conducting work had not put

any 'work in progress' sign at

the spot. She has raised various

E-Town. U.S. military aircraft crashes

into San Diego Bay

Los Angeles: A U.S. military aircraft crashed into the San Diego Bay on Wednesday, according to the San Diego Fire-Rescue.

The U.S. military confirmed that only two pilots were on the plane that crashed into the water near Shelter Island. Both pilots have been rescued.

The aircraft was an E/A-18 G Growler, a U.S. Navy spokesperson confirmed.

The aircrew safely ejected, and they were taken out of the water, according to

the spokesperson. The pilots

transferred to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection boat on the scene and later taken to the Hillcrest Medical Center at UC San Diego Health.

Fire officials sent 60 personnel to the scene, including two fire trucks, a foam truck, five engines, a helicopter, two boats and a lifeguard river team. A Navy official said it is unclear if a distress signal was sent out prior to the crash. The pilots

train Vande Bharat connecting two important cities of Northeast daily. were

more

have not been identified.

The NFR has also almost Bharat Express is scheduled completed the railway line electrification work in Tripura to complete a 571 km journey between Agartala and South Assam to ensure Guwahati in seven and a half super-fast train service from Tripura. Presently, premiere hours stopping at Ambassa, trains like Tejash Express to Dharmanagar of Tripura, and Delhi and Humsafar to New Karimganj, Badarpur Bengaluru have been Junction, and Hojai of Assam. The train will start at 6 AM operating from Agartala by every day and reach Guwahati Diesel engine, besides a few express trains at 1.30 PM and the return connecting important cities. journey will start from



and

Guwahati at 2 PM and reach The proposed Vande Agartala at 9.30 PM, sources said.

> "At present trains take at least 12 hours to reach Guwahati from Agartala by diesel engine. The journey through hill sections of South Assam up to Lumding from Badarpur takes six hours to cover around 160 kilometers distance. After putting trains into electric lines the time

"The construction works are complete. The agencies engaged in the work are giving the finishing touches to the projects. We are eager to have Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the inauguration ceremony," Dr Saha said, adding that under PM's guidance, Tripura tourism has reached a new height and many more new opportunities are coming to add tourist attractions.

points justifying her plea to transfer the probe. The bench adjourned the further hearing, after directing the police to see to it whether the footage can be provided to the petitioner.

On December 28 last year, police have registered a case of causing death by negligence and rash driving against Kanetkar's driver, 58-year-old Gajanand Gunnipal, and initiated an investigation.

Trump issues order to ensure U.S. diplomatic personnel follow his agenda



Washington: U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order on Wednesday to revamp the foreign service to ensure "faithful and effective implementation" of his foreign policy agenda.

The order said failure to implement the president's agendaisagainstprofessional discipline and may lead to the termination of personnel.

The order came as Trump instituted changes to ensure U.S. foreign policy is aligned with his "America First" agenda.

The executive order said U.S. Secretary of State Marco will implement Rubio

reforms in recruiting, performance, evaluation and retention standards to "ensure a workforce that is committed to faithful implementation of the President's foreign policy." "The Secretary must

maintain an exceptional workforce of patriots to implement this policy effectively," the order said. "The Secretary shall, consistent with applicable

law, reform the Foreign Service and the administration of foreign relations to ensure faithful and effective implementation of the President's foreign

policy agenda," it added.

Ukraine-Russia conflict must end, Hegseth, rules out NATO membership

Washington: US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth on Wednesday said Ukraine-Russia that the conflict must end, Kyiv's NATO membership is unrealistic, and the US will no longer prioritise European and Ukrainian security as the Trump administration focuses on securing its borders and deterring war with China, media reports said on Thursday.

In remarks before a meeting of the Ukraine Contact Group, Defence Hegseth also said that European troops should be the primary force securing a postwar Ukraine-something US troops will not be involved in, the CCN reported on Thursday. "The United States does

believe that NATO not membership for Ukraine is a realistic outcome of a settlement," negotiated Hegseth said. And he added that any security guarantees offered to Ukraine "must be backed by capable European and non-European troops,' according to CNN report.

"To be clear, as part of any security guarantee, there will not be US troops deployed to



Ukraine," he said.

Hegseth also said that a return to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders, before Russia invaded Crimea and eastern Ukraine, "is an unrealistic objective."

According to reports, NATO allies, including Hegseth, agree that regaining Crimea from Russia is not realistic, and even Ukrainian Volodymyr President Zelensky has not emphasised this as a prerequisite for peace talks. One NATO official said it would have been more concerning if Hegseth had said that returning to Ukraine's pre-2022 borders was unrealistic.

But the comments about security guarantees are sure to concern Zelensky, who said this week that Europe alone cannot provide meaningful security guarantees to Ukraine without American leadership. Zelensky has also

continued to insist that his country joining NATO is the only way to deter Russia from launching new attacks in the future. According to reports,

President Trump announced his conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday morning, hours after Hegseth's speech. Trump said the two agreed

work "very closely" to together begin and negotiations "immediately" on ending the war in Ukraine.

"We will begin by calling President Zelensky, of Ukraine, to inform him of the conversation," Trump added.

Kremlin The on Wednesday said that Putin invited Trump to visit Moscow, which would mark the first visit by a US president since 2013, the report said.

with Trump spoke

Zelensky shortly after getting off the phone with Putin.

Later on Wednesday afternoon, Trump said he agrees with Hegseth and does not "think it's practical" to have Ukraine join NATO, the report said.

"I don't think it's practical to have it. Personally, I know that our new secretary of defence is excellent. Pete made a statement today saying that he thinks it's unlikely or impractical. I think probably that's true. I think long before President Putin, they said there's no way they'd allow that. This has been going on for many, many years. They've been saying for a long time that Ukraine did not go into NATO, and I'm okay with that,' Trump said from the Oval Office.

A European defence official told CNN that while many in NATO don't necessarily believe Ukraine can join the alliance given the political realities with Russia, they also don't say so publicly-as Hegseth didbecause they want to avoid giving Russia the idea that it can dictate who can and cannot join.

Afghanistan: Death toll from terrorist attack in Kunduz rises to 8

Kabul: The death toll from a terrorist attack carried out by a suicide bomber in the Afghan city of Kunduz has risen to eight, a spokesperson for the Afghan Interior Ministry said. "Unfortunately, yesterday we witnessed a heartbreaking incident in Kunduz, as a result of which eight people, including mujahideen and civilians, became martyrs, and some were injured," the spokesperson was quoted as saying by the Salam Watandar radio station on Wednesday. The

investigation into the incident is under the close supervision of security forces, and, according to the initial data, "the roots of this sinister crime lie outside the country," the spokesperson added. On Tuesday morning, a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a Kabul bank branch in Kunduz, where government employees had gathered to collect their salaries. The Islamic State terrorist group (IS or ISIS, banned in Russia) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Aryan Age Delhi, Friday, 14 February 2025



Briefs: Man killed by speeding

bus

New Delhi : A speeding private bus fatally struck a government employee, Kamal Kishore, at India Gate Circle on Wednesday. The bus driver abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene.According to police reports, Kishore was riding his motorcycle around 8 a.m. when the bus collided with him. Police immediately transported him to the hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Au-

thorities have launched an investigation and are searching for the driver.

Delhi milk supplier killed over Rs 15,000 dues, accused

arrested after 2 years in Agra New Delhi : A 32-year-old Delhi University graduate was arrested after two years for allegedly killing a milk supplier following a monetary dispute in West Delhi's Punjabi The accused, Bagh. Rajesh Kumar, a resident of Vishnu Garden, was apprehended from Vishu Vihar in Agra for his involvement in the incident that took place in April 2023. According to DCP (West) Vichitra Veer, the victim, Brijbir Singh, had been supplying milk for nearly two decades. Singh had provided milk on credit to a local store and went there on April 15 to collect an outstanding payment of ₹15,000."Singh met a man named Kapil at the store. An argument ensued when Singh demanded his dues, during which Kapil started abusing him. When Singh protested, Kapil called his friend Rajesh to the scene," DCP Veer said.Rajesh allegedly retrieved a baseball bat from his vehicle and struck Singh on his hands and legs. He then handed the bat to Kapil, who hit Singh on the forehead, inflicting serious injuries. Singh succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment.Kapil was arrested soon after the incident, but Rajesh managed to evade the police and went into hiding. Despite multiple raids at his known hideouts, including those of his family and associates, he remained elusive. A non-bailable

Delhi Police detain 14 students amid protest and Vandalism at Jamia Millia Islamia

New Delhi : Delhi Police have taken 14 individuals into custody in connection with a protest and incidents of vandalism at Jamia Millia Islamia University. According to the university administration, a group of students had gathered illegally in the academic block on the evening of February 10, causing disruptions and damage to university facilities.

University officials stated that over two days, the protesting students vandalized property, including damaging the central canteen and breaking the gate of the security advisor's office. The administration condemned these actions, citing concerns over defaced walls, disruption of academic activities, and the discovery of prohibited items in possession of some students.

This incident followed a larger demonstration earlier in the week, where a significant number of students protested against what they perceived as the administration's crackdown on student activism. The protest, led by Leftleaning student groups such as the All India Students Association (AISA) and the



OUR

All India Revolutionary Students Organisation (AIRSO), accused the university of suppressing dissent. The demonstration occurred just ahead of a key disciplinary committee meeting scheduled for February 25 to address the case of two PhD students accused of organizing last year's anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protest.On Thursday morning, university officials, with assistance from the police, dispersed the students from the protest site to restore order on campus. A case was subsequently filed against 14 individuals iden-

tified by the university. In response to the situation, security at the campus gates was tightened, with paramilitary forces and anti-riot vehicles deployed outside. Entry to the university was restricted, with only students carrying valid identification being allowed inside.The crackdown on student protests at Jamia Millia Islamia is reminiscent of past incidents, notably the December 15, 2019, anti-CAA protests. During that event, police allegedly entered the university library and used force on students while searching for outsiders, sparking nation-

wide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The recent events highlight the ongoing tensions between the university administration and student groups. While the administration emphasizes the importance of maintaining order and discipline, students claim their right to protest is being systematically undermined. With the disciplinary hearing on February 25 approaching, the issue of student activism at Jamia Millia Islamia remains a subject of intense debate and contention.

Work on Ghazipur mound of shame to resume soon

New Delhi : The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is set to begin the second phase of biomining at the Ghazipur landfill by late March, following similar operations at the Bhalswa and Okhla landfills. Activities at Bhalswa and Okhla started in January after the Supreme Court authorized the municipal commissioner to implement six waste management programs.

A municipal official stated on Tuesday that the work order for biomining at Ghazipur will be issued by Friday, and operations are expected to begin within 12-15 days. "The delay occurred due to high quotes from bidders, which required re-tendering. The agency we finalized will charge Rs 395 per tonne instead of Rs 495 per tonne for processing the waste," the official said. The project at Ghazipur will cost around Rs 177 crore.

Currently, Bhalswa's contractor processes 8,000 tonnes of legacy waste daily, while Okhla handles 5,000 tonnes. MCD expects to process a minimum of 8,000 tonnes daily at Ghazipur, targeting a total of 30 lakh tonnes, with an additional 15 lakh tonnes potentially being



processed if the contract is executed on time. Ghazipur accounts for 45% of the 160 lakh tonnes of legacy waste across Delhi's three major landfills.

In the second phase, the contractor at Bhalswa is tasked with processing 30 lakh tonnes within 18 months at a rate of Rs 423 per tonne, with the project costing around Rs 190 crore. Meanwhile, at Okhla, the contractor will be paid Rs 404 per tonne to manage 20 lakh tonnes, with the potential to process an additional 10 lakh tonnes if completed on time, at a total cost of Rs 121 crore.

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena recently visited Bhalswa and directed that the daily processing be increased to 12,000 tonnes. "MCD has reclaimed around 20 acres of land at Bhalswa

after processing 45 lakl tonnes during Phase I. The LG has instructed the development of a green space on at least 5-6 acres to beautify the area and demonstrate the res toration efforts," a civic official said.Sources indicate that the second phase of biomining at all three landfills will be closely monitored by the Prime Minister's Office, which will also oversee the Yamuna cleaning initiatives. The biomining efforts at Okhla, Bhalswa, and Ghazipur were launched in 2019 after the National Green Tribunal raised concerns about the public health risks caused by the massive garbage heaps. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs allocated Rs 1,395.6 crore under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0

Sixth Delhi Finance Commission to be formed soon: Gupta

New Delhi : The Sixth Delhi Finance Commission will be established soon after the formation of the BJP government in Delhi, newly elected BJP MLA from Rohini, Vijender Gupta, announced on Wednesday. He emphasized that the BJP's commitment to the development of Delhi means there will be no delay in the commission's formation. Gupta highlighted that the panel plays a crucial role in the financial management of development projects underby taken municipal corporations.

Criticizing the AAP-led sanitation. maintenance. Delhi government, Gupta, park upkeep, and sewer who served as Leader of the management. Opposition in the previous Gupta further revealed assembly, accused it of nethat BJPMLAs met the Presglecting the importance of ident on August 30 last year the commission. He stated to lodge a formal complaint that the delay in its formaregarding these "constitu-tional violations" and also tion since April 2021 is a serious violation of Articles filed a petition in the Delhi 243-I and 243-Y of the Con-High Court to address the isstitution. This delay, he sue claimed, has adversely af-Responding to Gupta's fected financial planning allegations, AAP pointed and resource allocation in out that it has consistently Delhi, particularly for the demanded the formation of Municipal Corporation of the Sixth Finance Commis-



sion, which was previously Delhi (MCD), impacting essential services such as road resisted by the BJP.

Gupta reiterated that the BJP government will systematically repair the damage caused by what he de-AAP's scribed as "decade-long misgovernance." He assured that public welfare and development projects would be prioritized. "In the very first cabinet meeting of the new BJP government, issues like roads, electricity, water, and sanitation will top the agenda," Gupta said.ial decisions regarding these projects will be taken," he said.

'Attack' on cops Delhi court asks AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan to join probe, shields him from arrest till February 24

New Delhi : A Delhi court on Thursday granted interim relief to AAP MLA Ama-natullah Khan, protecting him from arrest un-til February 24 in a case related to alleged obstruction of police officers. The court in-Khan to structed cooperate with the investigation and directed the police to conduct his questioning under CCTV surveillance. Earlier, the Rouse

Avenue Court issued a notice to Delhi Police on Khan's anticipatory bail plea, which was filed after an FIR accused him of obstructing police officers on February 10 while they were attempting to arrest a proclaimed offender, Shavez Khan, in Jamia Nagar. Amanatullah Khan has denied the allegations, calling the charg-



es "false and baseless." around 3 p.m. when a Crime In a four-page letter to Branch team went to Jogabai the Delhi Police com- Extension in Jamia Nagar to missioner, the Okhla arrest Shavez Khan, an ac-MLA claimed the case cused in a 2018 attempted against him was fabri- murder case. While interrocated and demanded a gating Shavez, Amanatullah fair probe. He argued that there were no reasonable grounds for registering the FIR. According to the FIR, the incident occurred on February 10

Khan allegedly arrived with 20-25 supporters and confronted the officers.

for the initiative.

DCP (South East Delhi) Ravi Kumar Singh said the Crime Branch team had gone to Amanatullah's house to arrest Shavez, but the MLA and his supporters allegedly helped him escape. The FIR claims that Khan and his supporters threatened the officers, saying they "don't value courts or law enforcement."

The confrontation reportedly turned aggressive, with the officers being pushed and shoved, allow ing Shavez to escape. Since then, both Amanatullah Khan and Shavez have remained untraceable. The case is still under investigation.

on a tip-off, police received information that Rajesh was hiding in Agra. A raid was conducted, and he was found living with his wife, Radha, and their two-year-old son in Vishu Vihar, Agra, where he was taken into custody.

warrant was eventually is-

sued against him.Acting

Cops solve 1.5cr burglary case at jewellery outlet, arrest three

New Delhi :Police have cracked a burglary case reported from a Kalyan Jewellers outlet in Lajpat Nagar 2 on Jan 29, arresting the thief and two receivers of stolen jewellerv. Stolen items worth Rs 1 crore were recovered According to DCP Ravi Kumar Singh, the lone thief broke into the outlet by cutting through a glass window and made away with diamonds and gold worth Rs 1.5 crore. After selling the stolen items, he fled to Rishikesh and was lying low. Police tracked him down through a phone number he used to book a bike ride to Lajpat Nagar. The three accused have been identified as Shoib alias Lalla, Sumit Soni, and Manik Kadam."Shoib, the main accused, is a 31-year-old resident of Bhalswa Dairy with a history of involvement in eight previous cases. Sumit Soni, a 30-year-old goldsmith, is a resident of Madangir, with five previous cases against him. Manik Kadam, a 42-yearold goldsmith shop owner, is a resident of Tigri in south Delhi," police said. The investigation began with two incidents: a theft at a kids' clothing showroom on Jan 14-15.

Dwarka to be city's jewel, literally

New

Delhi: Dwarka could soon be boutiques catering to the capital's jewel, literprecious metal traders ally. Delhi Developand buyers. "DDA is ment Authority plans to seeking expressions of establish a gold souk interest for developing amenities, which also and upscale retail space specialising in the gold include trade in Sector 22 spaces and service Dwarka, turning the apartments for people place into a centralised visiting the gold market hub for jewellery shopfor trading purposes. It ping, reminiscent of will be developed on a Dubai's popular gold 3.91-hectare markets. states a DDA document The development on the plan.A DDA ofwill feature exclusive ficial said, "We want it showrooms dealing in

where all retail and gold and ornaments and wholesale activities related to gold trading will be done. We will be adopting the transit-oridevelopment ented concept for the project. commercial The floor area ratio and estimated car parking space required will be finalised accordingly." The Gold Souk Mall in Gurgaon's Sushant Lok plot," is India's first specialty jewellery mall. The site will be leased for an initial period of 40 years, basically to become a with a provision to exdestination tend it by another 20 years. The initiative fices in Sector 36 and aims to generate funds 30 in Rohini. It has for subsidised projects invited expressions

while preventing unauthorised settlements and illegal construction activities on vacant plots, said officials.Officials also stated that the project was part of a sustainable model from which DDA expects to generate good revenue. The land-owning agency is also working on the development of a hospital on 3.7 hectares of land in Sector 9, Dwarka, corporate of-

of interest from suitable investors for these projects.

Police examine IAS and IPS officers in connection with 2022 extortion case

New Delhi: Delhi Police has examined an IAS officer and an

one-stop

IPS officer in connection with a case of extortion, according to sources The questioning took place in

retail and wholesale of

mid-Jan and police have filed their first chargesheet in the case. While the cops confirmed the development, they did not elaborate, saying it was a "sensitive case' The case pertains to an inci-

dent in 2022 when two men --gym trainers by profession were arrested for allegedly trying to extort money from an elderly man and his family in northwest Delhi's Maurva Enclave, accusing them of having an illegal borewell in their house.

The victim's family called the local police and the PCR. The two accused, who are currently out on bail, dialled the officers requesting help. It was alleged that the area SHO was asked to let them go.In their statement during examination, the two officers accepted their acquaintance with the accused men and their call exchanges, but denied any further connection or involvement in the case, police said.

According to the chargesheet, the two accused posed as officials of the SDM's office and the joint commissioner of police's office to allegedly extort money from the complainant."From the investi-

been revealed that the accused misused his acquaintance with the IAS and the IPS officer. Both the accused persons, with common intention, posed as govt officials and tried to extort money from public persons. There is sufficient evidence against both the accused persons for committing an offence under IPC sections 170, 385, 509 and 34. Therefore, a chargesheet has been filed against them," the chargesheet stated.The investigation is still ongoing. Police are likely to file a supplementary chargesheet, placing on record the report of the vigilance inquiry that was conducted in the case

gation conducted so far, it has

😨 Editorial 📂 🖩 **Careless infection!**

A patient has died in Mumbai due to the rare disease Gulen-Barre Syndrome (GBS), which has been spreading across the state. After Pune and Solapur, this disease has now shown its presence in Mumbai too. A resident of Wadala area, who was admitted to Nair Hospital in Mumbai, died of this disease. This patient was working as a ward boy at BN Desai Hospital of Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

According to the Health Department report, the number of GBS infected patients in the state has reached 197. Recently, five more new patients have been found in Pune division. These include 40 patients from Pune city, 92 from newly incorporated villages, 29 from Pimpri-Chinchwad and 28 from Pune rural. Currently, 50 are undergoing treatment in the ICU and 20 patients are on ventilators.

A 53-year-old patient undergoing treatment at Nair Hospital died on February 10. This patient did not have fever or diarrhea, but he fell ill 16 days after returning from a tour of Pune. A 16-year-old student from Palghar, who is suffering from GBS, is undergoing treatment at the same hospital and her condition is improving.

GBS is not a contagious disease, but an autoimmune disorder. The body's immune system attacks the nervous system, which weakens the muscles and can even cause paralysis in severe cases. It is not transmitted from one person to another, but it can develop after a viral or bacterial infection.

As the number of GBS patients is increasing rapidly, a question mark has been raised on the municipal corporation's water supply system. It is initially estimated that the prevalence of this disease has increased due to drinking contaminated water. The municipal corporation has failed to provide clean water to the citizens. Even today, water is supplied to Pune through 1,000 private tankers every day, on which citizens are spending lakhs of rupees. After the increase in the number of GBS patients, the water of wells in Dhayari, Nanded, Ambegaon areas was tested and it was revealed that it was contaminated. However, if the municipal corporation had taken proper measures for water purification in time, this spread could have been prevented.

Although Pune is a rapidly growing city, civic amenities are still inadequate. As a result, the empire of tanker mafia has flourished. The government and the Municipal Corporation should take immediate steps to improve water supply and health services.

The Municipal Corporation has appealed to people to contact the nearest Municipal Hospital without panic if they experience symptoms of GBS. If diagnosed and treated on time, the disease can be cured. However, the GBS epidemic has ruined the unplanned civic amenities of the municipality. The health of citizens has been put at risk due to inefficiency in the health system and contaminated water supply. If public institutions do not take timely measures, more serious consequences may be seen in the future. Even if it is not a contagious disease, careless infection is more dangerous!

All the municipal hospitals and medical colleges in Mumbai are equipped for GBS treatment. The municipal administration is clarifying that the necessary medicines, equipment and expert manpower are available for the treatment of patients. Citizens should not panic if they experience any symptoms of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS). The municipal administration has also appealed to immediately contact the nearest municipal hospital for guidance and treatment.

Guillain-Barré Syndrome is a rare autoimmune disorder, in which the body's immune system attacks its own nervous system. This weakens the muscles and can even lead to paralysis in severe cases. Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is not a contagious disease. It does not spread from one person to another. The exact cause is unknown. This disease occurs after a respiratory or digestive tract infection. It needs to be treated immediately. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is not a new disease, it has been known for many years. Although it is not a contagious disease, sometimes it can develop after a bacterial or viral infection. There are also many other causes of GBS. Guillain-Barre Syndrome occurs throughout the year. Approximately one in 1 lakh people suffers from this disease. Therefore, every month, some GBS patients come to major hospitals / medical colleges in Mumbai for treatment. In the past few years, this disease has exposed the negligence of millions of citizens of Pune in providing water without purification. This disease is not contagious; but it spreads due to contaminated water. Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, fever, are some of its symptoms. These symptoms are seen in many diseases; but the muscles of some GBS patients gradually relax, they stop working and this leads to temporary disability; It is experienced that if these patients have some other diseases, complications increase and the risk increases. It is the job of the health system to provide these patients with proper treatment, while it is the job of the municipality to remove the root cause of the disease, the contaminated water, and supply clean water. However, the high cost of treating patients and the lack of water purification projects in the relevant areas have made it difficult to control the situation. Due to this, public anger is increasing there The entire Pune gets its water supply from the Khadakwasla dam. Yet, the system has failed to create a system for the supply of clean water in this area. Even today, water is supplied there through local wells, and it was admitted in front of Health Minister Prakash Abitkar. It is true that the villages in this area have recently been included in the municipal corporation; but this cannot be said to be the reason for not arranging water purification. After the outbreak of 'GBS', leaders and administrative officials visited the wells in Dhayari and Nanded. If they had inspected these wells and made arrangements earlier, perhaps the spread of 'GBS' could have been prevented 'GBS' has also raised questions about the unplanned urbanization of Pune. Education and employment are leading to migration to Pune from all parts of the state and even from across the country. The total population of the Pune Metropolitan Authority area has now crossed the 50 million mark. To accommodate such a large population, it will not only be possible to increase the area; facilities have to be created for them as well. 'GBS' has highlighted the infection of inefficiency and carelessness in our public systems. If this infection is removed, it is relatively easy to overcome other infections.

Defence Research and Devel opment Organisation (DRDO) with an endeavour to integrate various stakeholders of defence R&D ecosystem in the country, is participating in the 15th edition of Aero India during February 10-14, 2025 at the Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru. It will feature indigenously developed state-of-the-art technologies and systems, working models and innovations in all formats, i.e., Indoor Pavilion, Outdoor Displays, India Pavilion and Flying display. DRDO for the first time is

showcasing a full-scale model of India's first 5.5 Gen stealth aircraft Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) equipped with cutting-edge features at the India Pavilion.

This Pavilion at Aero India 2025 will showcase India's commitment to its Make-in-India initiative by displaying indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities and cutting-edge technologies ready for the global stage. The pavilion exemplifies the combined strength of India's private industries, Defence PSUs, start-ups, and DRDO.Apart from this, visitors to this Pavilion will gain insight from 16 other DRDO developed products and technologies being displayed such as Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TED-BF); LCA Mk-2 Model; Air Droppable Container (ADC) -150; Advanced Light Weight Torpedo; Kaveri Derivate Aero Engine without afterburner, Naval Antiship missile - Medium Range and various other missiles.DRDO indoor pavilion at Hall-D at Aero India is meticulously divided into 9 themes, encompassing core areas of defence innovation. The themes are: 'Airborne Surveillance Solutions', 'Naval Warfare', 'Next-Generation Missile Systems', 'Supremacy in the Skies -ADA's 5th Gen Leap', 'Unmanned

Aerial Systems', 'RadarScape: Mapping the Invisible', 'Maritime Sentinel: A New Era of Surveillance & Safety', 'Sensors Suite for Fighter Aircraft' and 'Rakshak'. The Pavilion is displaying over 330 products which are categorised into 14 technology zones

It will provide an in-depth exploration of key defence areas, namely Advanced Materials & Composites; Surveillance & Reconnaissance Technology; Antenna & Microwave Technology; Soldier Support Systems; Combat Aircraft Technology; Corporate Directorates; Micro Electronic Devices, Computational Systems and Cyber Security; Land Systems & Munitions; Missile Technology; Next-Gen Combat Vehicles & Tactical Mobility; Photonics, Laser and Quantum Technology; Electronic Warfare & Communication: Simulation & Training Technology; and Aero Propulsion Technology. The indoor pavilion is also displaying the products developed under

Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme being executed by DRDO.The outdoor segment of DRDO pavilion is designed to demonstrate the real-world application of cutting-edge defence technologies featuring full-scale model of QRSAM Mobile Launcher Vehicle, Akash NG Launcher; Archer UAV 1:1 (Rustom-1); Air Droppable Survival and Rescue Kit (SARK); Emergency Escape Parachute System for Air Crew (EEPSA); Military Parachute Combat System (MCPS); Vehicle Mounted Jammer; Anti UAV (JAU) Entity of Project DHARASHAKTI, and VHF Radar. The demonstration of Dornier aircraft's midlife upgrade is one of the main highlights of DRDO's participation at the Aero Show

Aero India 2025

2025

AERO INDIA

The upgraded Dornier is showcasing enhanced avionics, better fuel efficiency, advanced radar systems, enhanced manoeuvrability, integrated surveillance systems, and improved electronic warfare capabilities, reinforcing

its role as a dependable asset of the Indian Air Force.DRDO will conduct a seminar with the theme 'DRDO Industry Synergy towards Viksit Bharat: Make in India -Make for World' at Hall No. 2 on February 11, 2025.

EDITORIAL

The seminar will foster industry engagement, promote self-reliance in defence and provide a boost to defence exports. Members of Academia, Indian Private Industry, StartUps, PSUs, and DRDO will participate in this seminar. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth will inaugurate the event and will release the Revised Policy for ToT, DRDO Policy for Harnessing Innovative Startups in Defence R&D and Compendium of DRDO Products for Export. During the seminar, Handing Over of Licensing Agreement for Transfer of Technology (LATOT) to Industries will also take place. At the event, Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO Dr. Samir V Kamat will chair a panel discussion on Opportunities for Industries in Defence

Export to foster a collaborative environment for enhancing defence exports.Under the banner of Aero India 2025, an Indigenisation & Valedictory event themed as 'SAMARTHYA' will be organised on February 12 by Department of Defence Production (DDP), to recognise and felicitate the contributors of Indigenously developed cutting edge technologies. Five DRDO developed products have been recognised to be showcased and Team leader of these products will be felicitated by the Raksha Mantri

As a prelude to Aero India, DRDO also organised the 15th edition of the Biennial Aero India International Seminar in association with the Aeronautical Society of India (AeSI) during February 8-9, 2025 in Bengaluru. The theme of the seminar was 'Futuristic Aerospace Technologies Challenges in Design Validation' covering emerging trends in futuristic aerospace technologies and military airworthiness & certification: challenges in design and test ing. This seminar provided valuable insights about cutting-edge technologies, a platform to explore collaborative research opportunities and forge strategic partnerships, while advancing the future of aerospace and defence technologies.DRDO's exhibition at Aero India 2025 is an excellent opportunity for the Indian aerospace community to foster the cause of indigenous development of military systems and technologies with the spirit of self-reliance & national pride. Working towards the vision of Samarth and Shashakt Bharat, DRDO is developing the indigenous capabilities of the country by equipping the Armed Forces with state-of-theart technologies/equipment, and bolstering the defence sector through collaboration with the private sector.

Fish Processing Industries

According to the Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA), there are currently 646 registered seafood processing units, of which 57 are located in Tamil Nadu.

The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is implementing a flagship scheme namely "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)" with highest ever investment of Rs.20, 050 crore in fisheries sector for a period of 5 years with effect from the financial year 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all states/ Union Territories (UTs). PMMSY inter alia supports the creation of modern post-harvest cold chain infrastructures such as cold storages, ice plants, including with ice flaking and ice crushing units and fish transportation vehicles etc. to increase the capacity and efficiency of fish processing industries. To enhance the global competitiveness of

for quality fish production, species diversification, promotion of export-oriented species, branding, standards, and certification, training and capacity building etc besides development of modern fishing harbours and fish landing centers, etc. The Department of Fisheries. Government of India has approved proposals to the tune of Rs. 1825.89 crore for development of cold chain

tries, PMMSY also supports



dedicated agency to facili-

tate export of seafood. The

MPEDA enrolls exporters,

lay down quality standards,

liaisons with importers to

boost the exports and con-

ducts capacity building pro-

gramme like training,

workshop/ meets for rele-

vant stakeholders to im-

campaigns.

awareness

prove their technical knowhow for enhancing the capacity and efficiency of fish processing industries. In addition, MPEDA also participates in various trade fairs and exhibitions, and organizes Virtual Buyer Seller Meets (VBSMs) and Chintan Shivir etc.

The State/UT-wise details of post-harvest infrastructure proposals approved during the last four financial years (FY 2020-21

III. As reported by MPEDA, during the financial year 2023-24, India exported 17,81,602 MT of Seafood worth US\$ 7.38 Billion and ₹ 60,523.89 Cr. The aquaculture sector contributed

projects represent a total project cost of ₹693.37

crore, with an allocated

crore. Details of these 11

projects along-with status

are furnished at annexure-

₹114.62

grant-in-aid of

infrastructure under PMMSY including construction of 634 cold storages/ice plants and 27189 post-harvest transportation facilities. So far, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, under PMMSY during the last four financial years (FY 2020-21 to 2023-24), and in the current financial year (2024-25), has approved 39 ice plants/cold storages, 1540 post-harvest transportation facilities, 3 fish retail markets, and 55 fish vending kiosks for marketing of fish, to the State of Tamil Nadu, aimed at development of the fish processing Indus-

fish processing and postharvest industry in the State.

The Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has established the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) through the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Act, 1972 as a to 2023-24), and current financial year (2024-25) (till date) under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is furnished at Annexure-I.

The State/UT-wise financial assistance given by MPEDA to the seafood processor for the last five years is furnished at Annexure-II. Further, under the Long-Term Interventions component of Operation Greens, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved 11 projects on shrimp processing in different districts of Andhra Pradesh in year 2022. These

62% and capture fisheries 38% of the total exports in terms of value (US\$), which benefited approximately lakh farmers and 10 lakh fishermen across the country. Further, fish processing industry has significantly helped fishers and fish farmers in India by steady demand, increasing their in come, reducing post-harvest losses, and expanding market access. The industry has also created direct and indi rect employment opportuni ties in processing, packaging, and distribution, further supporting coastal and inland fishing communities.

Cycling is the solution to obesity and pollution: Dr. Mandaviya

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya met with leading cycle manufacturers today to discuss strategies for promoting cycling nationwide. The meeting focused on incentivizing cycling and further boosting the momentum of the Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative.

"I used to cycle regularly to Parliament because of my passion for cycling. Cycling is the solution to multiple issues, including obesity and pollution. We need to make cycling fashionable, link it to health benefits, and market it effectively," Dr. Mandaviya told the cycle manufacturers

Union Minister urged manufacturers to offer incentives to encourage cycling across all age groups. "We need to attach cycling with tangible benefits—such as carbon credits for riders, free helmets, or exclusive membership perks for regular cyclists. Incentives will naturally drive people towards cycling," he emphasized.

Dr. Mandaviya also highlighted the potential for a growing demand for cycles to drive infrastructure development. "We need to work together to build a cycling culture, not just sell cycles. Cycling can significantly reduce our carbon footprint, and we should explore options like carbon credits. We must engage school children, office goers, and the masses by offering incentives like free helmets or rewards for



regular cycling," he added.

Union Minister had launched the cy cling drive at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in the national capital on December 17, 2023, to encourage cycling as a sustainable, healthy, and environment-

friendly mode of transportation. Over the past nine weeks, Sundays on Cycle has been organized at more than 3,500 locations across the country, witnessing the participation of over 2 lakh riders from Jammu and Kashmir to Tamil Nadu

and from Kolkata to Aurangabad

Representatives from Hero Cycles, AlphaVector 91 Cycles, Decathlon, and Cult.fit attended the meeting and expressed their commitment to supporting the "Sundays on Cycle" initiative. They pledged to explore innovative ways to en-

gage with the cycling community by way of incentivisation, promote cycling as a lifestyle, and contribute to the development of a vibrant cycling culture in India. 'We have to build a cycling culture, rather

than just sell cycles. We have to work as a team to ingrain this message among all that cycling everyday has to be an integral part of our lives as it pays a lot of dividends and give out an overall health-centric message. We have to sell the culture, not the product, mentioned Rohit Sharma, chief marketing officer, Hero Cycles. Adding how the meeting has stood fruitful, Vikas Jain, as sociate vice president, Alphavector India Pvt ltd, said, "This is eye opener to all of us to have this meeting for the first time and we are privileged that the Government of India is supporting this drive. We will come up with ideas and collectively work towards bringing cycling back to fashion, with the cooperation of the Hon'ble Union Sports Minister.'

The Fit India Sundays on Cycle is or ganised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI) and MY Bharat. Events are simultaneously held nationwide at SAI Regional Centres National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) and the Khelo India centres (KICs). The riders at the Sundays of Cycle have in cluded Indian Army jawans, postmen from India Post, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), prominent sports stars like Lovlina Borgohain, Sangram Singh Shanky Singh, Nitu Ghanghas, Saweety Boora, Preeti Pawar Rubina Francis and Simran Sharma as well as celebrities like Amit Sial, Rahul Bose and Gul Panag.





Briefs : Rohtak team conducts raid in Meerut, arrests doctor, 3 touts

Rohtak: A radiologist and three touts were arrested in a raid by a Health Department team from Rohtak at an ultrasound centre in Meerut on Tuesday. The ultrasound centre, where the sex determination test was conducted, has been sealed, and an FIR has been registered. An amount of Rs 26,800 was recovered during the raid."A team led by Dr Vishvjeet Rathee, District Nodal Officer (PC and PNDT), raided the Global Diagnostic Centre in Meerut. Radiologist Dr Chavi Bansal and touts Anil, Pawan and Hemender were arrested," said Dr Ramesh Chander, Civil Surgeon, Rohtak. "The radiologist conducted the ultrasound examination of the decoy patient without filling the mandatory Form-F and informed her about the gender of the foetus, following which the doctor was nabbed," said Dr

Rathee. The raid was conducted after striking a deal for a sex determination test through a dental surgeon, he said, adding that strict legal action would be taken against those found involved in such rackets and networks.

ED team raids BJP leader Niti Sen Bhatia's

residence in Panipat Panipat : A team of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the residence of senior BJP leader Niti Sen Bhatia at Model Town in Panipat on Thursday morning. The raid is purportedly being conducted in connection with a money laundering issue. An ED raid was simultaneously conducted at the Paonta Sahib-based pharmaceutical firm Vidit Health Care, which is owned by BJP leader's son Neeraj Bhatia.Former Karnal MP Sanjay Bhatia, who

is a close relative of Niti Sen Bhatia, also reached

Temperature rises above normal in state

Hisar : With the daytime temperature rising higher than normal by about 2°C to 5°C in various parts of the state, agriculture experts have issued an advisory to farmers to take measures to protect rabi crops, especially wheat. The average normal temperature should remain between 22°C to 23°C. Dr Om Prakash Bishnoi, wheat scientist from Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU), Hisar, said it took 90-95 days for the wheat earhead to emerge and 42-45 days for grain filling, but higher temperatures might shorten this period, potentially reducing grain quantity and yield.He said an increase of temperature by 1% above normal could bring down the yield by 6-7%. However, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said there had been a further increase of 3.6°C in average maximum temperature in the state, leading to concerns among farmers due to its impact on wheat crop.



Dr Bishnoi said to counteract the effects of higher temperatures, farmers were advised to spray 2 kg of potassium nitrate dissolved in 100 litres of water per acre. This helped the crop tolerate heat stress and supported grain development. Besides, timely irrigation at critical stages, zinc application, and white control measures rust should be followed to sustain yield potential. The farmers should stay updated with weather forecasts and adopt necessary precau-

tions, he added. Meanwhile, the highest maximum temperature of 30.9°C in the state was recorded at Hathnikund Barrage in Yamunanagar district. The average minimum temperature has increased by 0.6°C, though it remains near normal. The lowest minimum temperature of 7.3°C was recorded at Saragthal.Dr Bishnoi said lower nighttime temperature was a relief for the crops. "If the night-time temperature rises above 15°C, it may harm the crops," he said, adding

that a meeting chaired by Research Director Dr Rajbir Garg was held to formulate crop advisory.

In the last week of January and the first week of February, two to three western disturbances occurred, but no rainfall was recorded, which decreased the humidity in the air, leading to a rise in temperature. If snowfall occurred in hilly regions, night-time temperatures would remain low. Rainfall in the state could also help in reducing the temperature, said experts.

FDA cracks down on online sale of MTP kits, 227 seized in raids

Chandigarh : In a major crackdown on the illegal online sale of (MTP) kits, a team from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Health Department raided pharmacies in Ghaziabad and Badaun (Uttar Pradesh), seizing 227 MTP kits being sold unlawfully. The operation was launched on the directions of ACS Health, Sudhir Rajpal, who had instructed State Drug Controller Manmohan Taneia to curb the unauthorised sale of MTP kits.As part of the crackdown, a decoy operation was conducted by Amandeep, (DCO), Gurugram, who placed an online order for MTP kits. Upon receiving payment, the online pharmacies — operating from Ghaziabad and Badaun -dispatched the kits under the brand name "Unwanted" to the DCO's official address, along with instructions on how to use them for abortion. Taneja emphasised the legal restrictions on MTP kits, stating: "The MTP Act 1971 & Rules 1975 allow medical termination of pregnancy up to nine weeks using MTP kits only under the supervision of a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) and in an approved MTP



centre."Following the operation, FIRs were registered on February 11 under the MTP Act, (BNS) and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act at Sector 40 police station in Gurugram. The suppliers identified in the investigation include: Satyam Tripathi Office, Ghaziabad, M/s Baba Shyam Store, Badaun and M/s Apurva Mfg Group of Companies, Badaun. Taneja highlighted the serious health risks posed by illegal MTP kit usage, saying: "Many pregnant women who ingested these kits unlawfully at home had to be rushed to government health centres in life-threatening conditions. Their lives were saved by doctors and based on their statements, FIRs were filed against suppliers.

These cases are under trial in various courts."FDA teams, along with police and health officials, raided the supply points to investigate further At the Ghaziabad pharmacy officials seized 191 MTP kits and the owner was arrested for illegally supplying the kits without any records of acquisition.In Badaun, the police team found 36 more MTP kits intended for unlawful distribution. Officials confirmed that the pharmacy had been involved in the large-scale illegal supply of such kits. ACS Sudhir Rajpal noted that since 2015, more than 1,220 FIRs have been registered under the PC-PNDT and MTP Acts to prevent illegal abortions and protect the girl child in the state.

Anti-corruption bureau opens office in Palwal amid rising bribery cases

Anti Corruption Bureau, Unit -Pal

र तिरोधक व्यूरो, उपकेन्द्र - पत

Faridabad : In response to rising corruption cases in the region, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has opened a branch office in Palwal, marking the second such unit after Faridabad. This move follows the detection of 26 bribery and corruption cases across Faridabad and Pal-

wal districts over the past year. A senior ACB official stated that the new office would provide easier access for complainants who previously found it difficult to approach the Faridabad office. The Palwal unit, located in Rehra-

na village near the Mini Secretariat, will be headed by a DSP-rank officer and supported by six personnel, including an Inspector.

Inaugurating the office on Tuesday, ACB SP Jaiveer Rathi said, "This facility will enable citizens to report corrupt officials more conveniently.

It will not only save time and money for complainants but also help the department take swift action." He emphasised that the the ACB has uncovered 26 corruption cases in the region, with six FIRs registered in the past 45 days. These include three cases in Palwal, two in Faridabad and one in Gurugram

Among the major cases recently ex-Rathi said it included posed.

the ongoing probe into a Rs 54-crore fraud in the BDPO office at Hassanpur, Palwal, the arrest of a patwari from the DTP office accepting Rs 2 lakh in bribes, the arrest of a UP Police Sub-Inspector for taking a Rs 2 lakh bribe last month. The ACB has released helpline numbers 1064 and

1800-180-2022 for citizens to report corruption.Last year, five police personnel were dismissed from service in Palwal after being found guilty of corruption and misconduct. The officials included two sub-inspectors, two assistant sub- inspectors and one constable.

An official from the Police Department confirmed that these dismissals followed departmental inquiries, which found them guilty of taking bribes and other irregularities while on duty.

NHAI awaits utilisation report for green corridor along Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Faridabad

Faridabad : Even as the 24-km passage of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which passes through the city, has become operational, the (NHAI) is yet to receive the utilisation certificate for the work related to compensatory plantation along the corridor. The NHAI had released funds to the tune of Rs 5 crore for the work nearly three years ago. According to sources in the NHAI and district administration, though the part two of the expressway connecting Mithapur (Jaitpur Pushta) on the Delhi border and in Kelly village of Ballabhgarh subdivision in the district has been made functional, the issue of compensatory plantation or the proposal of development of a green corridor along the expressway is a cause for concern as the department concerned is yet to submit the compliance report of the project, for which funds



a year ago and the NHAI had er format for the utilisation taken up the matter with disof the funds meant for plan-

Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA) said a proper report about the green corridor was yet to be submitted despite the matter being highlighted during a meeting chaired by the local MP last month. As the NHAI had provided funds to the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) for the purpose in March 2022, the work involved compensatory forestry along the passage as around 5,700 trees had been removed to pave way for the construction of the expressway. The State Information Commission had also directed the HSVP in June last year to furnish the details of the plantation work carried out to Ajay Bahl, a local who had lodged a complaint to get the details about the work through an RTI application two years ago. Though plantation across several acres in Sector 59 here has been

the house on getting information about the raid. Navin Bhatia, the elder son of Niti Sen Bhatia, has applied for the Mayoral post from Panipat from the BJP in the civic polls. His claim for the mayoral post was being considered to be very strong among the aspirants. The tickets for the mayoral posts are vet to be finalised. Notably, Neeraj Bhatia, the younger son of Niti Sen Bhatia, who is one of the owners of Vidit Healthcare, Paonta Sahib, was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Jammu, in August last year in a case registered in January 14 for the alleged illegal sale of codeine syrup. The NCB had seized 33.98 kg of codeine-based cough syrup, 900 tablets of alprazolam, 56 capsules of tramadol, 210 tablets of lorazepam, 570 tablets of clobazam and Rs 15.03 lakh in cash from Bhatia's residence and his associate's home in Delhi last year. However, he has been released on bail by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.Sources said the ED team reached the BJP leader's residence in the wee hours on Thursday along with CRPF personnel. The team also called a mechanic to open the locks of an almirah in the house. As the information about the ED raid spread in the city, scores of BJP leaders and other supporters reached house, but no one was allowed to enter.

primary objective of the ACB is to curb bribery in public offices. Since January 1, 2024, were released way back in 2022. "The utilisation certificate had been sought around

trict officials, the authorities concerned are yet to reveal the details through the prop-

tation," said an NHAI official.Expressing dissatisfaction, an official of the

Officials told to put up posters on govt buildings

claimed to be carried out, a proper report is yet to be submitted.

Doctor shortage hits Emergency Wing at Faridabad Civil Hospital

Faridabad : The emergency wing of Faridabad's 200-bedded Civil Hospital continues to grapple with severe doctor shortage and it is operating with only two medical officers instead of the required six. Despite appointments by the Health Department, six doctors have failed to join duty, exacerbating the crisis.

To cope, the hospital has been deploying field doctors on deputation, but insiders reveal that this temporary fix is insufficient. "The Casualty section requires at least six doctors, but it has been relying on just two to three doctors, leading to patient care challenges," a hospital employee said on the condition of anonymity. The situation becomes



critical at night, when doctors are often unavailable to treat serious cases. Additionally, a shortage of General Duty Assistants (GDAs) further strains hospital operations. Information obtained under the RTI Act by local resident Ajay Saini revealed that six appointed doctors

failed to report for duty be-

orders have been issued.

tween 2014 and 2023. Shockingly, one doctor has time. been absent since November 24. 2014, without any formal notification to the department, yet no termination

Currently, the hospital is operating with 41 doctors

against a sanctioned strength of 55, leaving crucial specialties vacant, including radiology, psychiatry, forensic, neurosurgery and gastroenterology. The ab-sence of a radiologist means ultrasound procedures are handled by a Deputy CMO as a part-time arrangement. Adding to patient woes, activist Satish Chopra, who has been on a 71-day sit-in demanding a Trauma Centre, claims that the hospital suffers from a 20-30% medicine shortage at any given

However, Dr Vikas Goel, Principal Medical Officer (PMO), refuted this, stating that retired doctors have been hired to fill gaps and there is no shortage of medicines.

frauds, helping people avoid falling victim to such crimes.Speaking on the matter, Dahiya emphasised that cyber fraud could only be prevented through heightened awareness. "The district administration is focused on increasing awareness among the people to ensure they can identify and avoid

aims at educating the pub-

lic on the deceptive tactics

used in modern cyber

such frauds," he asserted. The DC also mentioned that the administra-



tion was seriously considering organising workshops at the Gram Panchayat level to further educate citizens. Additionally, similar workshops will be held in collaboration with bank officials to help people understand the ways to avoid financial fraud. Earlier, Dahiya while addressing the people at a workshop held here to observe Safe Internet Day pointed out that awareness was the

biggest weapon to avoid cybercrime."While using the Internet, it's important not to click on any tempting or suspicious post. Awareness about Internet usage needs to be heightened. One should avoid rushing when online, as hurrying increases the chances of making mistakes, which can lead to significant losses. A wrong click, made in haste, can make anyone a victim of cybercrime," said the DC

Three months on, Rohtak performing arts varsity's contractual faculty awaits salaries

Rohtak : Contractual faculty members of Dada Lakhmi Chand State University of Performing and Visual Arts (DLC-SUPVA), Rohtak, have not received their salaries for up to three months. Some of these staffers last received salaries in November last year.

DLC-SUPVA comprises Film and TV, Visual Arts, Design, and Town Planning and Architecture departments, at which nearly 35 adjunct and guest faculty members are employed on a contractual basis.

The contractual teachers of Film and TV faculty have not received their salaries for three months, and those from the remaining faculties have been awaiting their salaries for two months.

Contacted for comments, DLC-SUPVA Registrar Dr Gunjan Malik Manocha said the delay in disbursement of salaries to contractual faculty members had been caused due to the delay in the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor

"However, Shree Prakash Singh has now assumed charge as the Vice-Chancellor, and salaries will be released within a week after the completion of the official procedure in this regard," she added.

DLC-SUPVA Teachers' Association president Indranil Ghosh said having to work without receiving salaries for the past few months had been quite challenging for contractual faculty members.

Jail inmates' products draw crowds at 38th edition of Surajkund craft mela

Faridabad : The ongoing 38th edition of Surajkund International Craft Fair here showcased several items prepared by jail inmates and their families, attracting many visitors from across the country. The fair began on February 7, and will run up till February 23.

"Various handicraft, art and locally made items, including bakery products, are not very enticing, and I felt satisfied to buy some items like cookies that made me recognise the hard work and spirit of those who wanted to come out as reformed individuals," says Rakesh

Kashyap, a resident.

Claiming that such items were much cheaper in comparison to many artefacts or products sold at many stalls, he said the attempt to promote such an initiative was appreciable. "The inmates, who have prepared such items, may not have been present to see how interested people are in buying their products, but they'll certainly feel proud and satisfied when they realise," said a female visitor from

Faridabad. The authorities have displayed several items prepared by as many as 19 jails from states across Haryana, include Nuh, Hisar, Ambala and Kaithal. The mela provided the inmates a platform to showcase their talent, said Yogeshwar, an official from the Jail Department.

The items kept for sale include bags, chairs, paintings, handicraft items and food items such as biscuits, namkeen and cookies. He said the initiative was not only to promote the products manufactured in jails but also financially help inmates as 50 per cent of the money would go into their pockets.



Gurugram's garbage woes take centre stage in civic polls

Gurugram : As Gurugram prepares to elect its civic representatives after a 27-month hiatus, the waste management crisis — a key issue in the last election continues to plague the city. With 36 wards comprising villages, builder colonies and HSVP sectors, garbage disposal and sanitation have emerged as major concerns in over 20 wards, making it a central election issue. The problem is most severe in rural areas, particularly in Ward 20, home to Bandhwari village, which hosts the city's infamous landfill site. Every day, over 1,200 metric tonnes of waste is dumped here, leading to severe health and environmental hazards. Though the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG) has deployed vendors for waste treatment, legacy progress has been slow, leaving garbage scattered across the ward, with residents battling stench, pollution and health risks. "Garbage defines our lives. It dictates everything — where we get water, when we sit outside, even if we let cattle roam



freely. Now, it will decide view, toxic leachate lakes who we elect," said Rajesh and dying wildlife," she said.

Other wards facing simi-Kumar, a former panchayat member of Bandhwari. "Our lar waste management chalvillage has suffered ever lenges include Ward 1 (Sisince we were included in kanderpur Ghosi village), MCG. They misuse our land open dumpyard at the city's as a dump yard." The crisis entrance, frequently overrun extends beyond villages, afwith stray cattle; Wards 10 & fecting residential societies 11 (Khandsa Mandi, Pace and upscale localities. Vaish-City, Hans Enclave) struggle ali Rana Chandra, a local with irregular garbage colresident and environmentallection; Ward 25 (HSVP sectors, including Sector 17) ist, expressed frustration faces illegal dumping and over air and water pollution caused by Bandhwari landcommercial encroachment. fill fires and leachate runoff. "We have a major problem "People bought homes worth with garbage dumping by local market vendors and illecrores to be closer to nature gal usage of residential units and the Aravallis. Instead, they got a garbage mountain for commercial uses.



ARYAF

Ambala : After a poor performance in the previous Assembly election in Ambala Cantonment, the upcoming Municipal Council election in Ambala Sadar is shaping up to be a crucial test for local Congress leaders. Party workers fear a lack of leadership, internal divisions and absence of a strong organisation could hamper their chances once again.

A senior local Congress leader, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said, "The party activities came to a standstill after the election. Some major steps should have been taken when several leaders left to support Congress rebel and Independent candidate Chitra Sarwara. The party was divided into two and we are facing a similar situation again in the council election."

Tensions surfaced at a Congress Bhawan meeting on Tuesday after some leaders sought the support of Ambala City MLA Nirmal Singh for the council elec-



tions. This move did not sit well with many party workers, as Singh's daughter, Chitra Sarwara, had contested the previous Assembly election as an Independent, leading to the Congress candidate finishing in third place.

Haryana for property self-certifica-

Onkarnath Paruthi, former general secretary of the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee grievance cell, highlighted the party's disarray: "The Municipal Council election will be a big test for Congress. Disappointment

has spread among grassroots workers after recent electoral setbacks. Due to infighting and the absence of a proper organisation, well-known Congress leaders are unwilling to contest the council election. The state leadership is responsible for this situation."

Pavinder Singh Pari, who unsuccessfully contested the last Assembly election, defended the party's strategy, saying: "A meeting was held and it was unani mously decided to give command of the election to Am bala City MLA Nirmal Singh. He is a senior leader and a voter in Ambala Cantonment. He has assured us of his support and asked for a list of candidates. We will also request MP Varun Chaudhry to be our star campaigner." Despite internal conflicts, Congress remains hopeful. Ashok Jain, the party's convener for the council election in Ambala Cantonment, said, "The party is making strong preparations and we will contest elections in all 32 wards, including the chairperson's post. While the absence of a structured organisation is a challenge we are confident that party workers will come togethe

and fight unitedly."

Persistent property ID errors in Karnal MC upset residents

Karnal: Discrepancies in property IDs within Karnal Municipal Corporation (KMC) limits remain a major issue, causing significant inconvenience to residents. Problems with ownership verification, property transfers and tax assessments persist despite multiple initiatives by authorities to rectify errors.

Errors in property IDs include name changes, incorrect addresses, mobile number updates, incorrect property size, change in category or use and status updates from unauthorised to authorised. These discrepancies have created roadblocks for residents attempting to sell or purchase properties.

The issue has been raised multiple times in the Haryana Assembly, with Opposition leaders accusing the government of negligence. Protests have been staged demanding a quicker resolution. According to official data, Karnal had 1.42 lakh property IDs in 2013. A 2019-20 survey by a private company, assigned by the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Haryana, increased the number to 1,62,222. Following claims and objective company assigned by the private company claims and objective claims and



1,66,584. In November 2022, KMC uploaded property ID data online for public verification and correction. Since then, over 88,000 complaints have been filed regarding incorrect entries, leaving residents struggling to get them rectified. Following the online verification initiative, the number of registered properties increased to 1.68,341. Out of the

tion. As many as 57,000 properties out of 1,68,341 have been self-verified by residents.Despite these efforts, many residents continue to struggle with property ID errors. Yashpal, a local resident, said: "The property ID of my residence was shown as commercial. Despite multiple complaints, the issue remained unresolved for several days." Bhupinder Kumar, another resident, said, 'I had to visit the MC office for months to resolve my property ID issue. Authorities kept asking for additional documents."Amit Kumar, another resident, said: "I had to raise objections multiple times before my property ID issue was finally resolved."The Opposition has criti-88.000 complaints, officials have apcised the government's handling of the issue, with Congress leader and proved 67,000 corrections, rejected nearly 18,000 as invalid, kept 370 former Deputy Mayor Manoj Wadhobjections pending and sent 2,100 wa slamming the property ID and cases back to owners for additional NDC portal system. 'Flaws in property IDs and the documents. To improve data accura-

NDC portal have persisted throughout the last tenure. These portals have only caused inconvenience to residents. This system should be re-

Vij replies to party notice, refuses to give details

Ambala : Cabinet minister Anil Vij today said that he had sent his reply to the BJP high command regarding the show-cause notice issued against him, and was ready to give more replies if the party wanted.

Taking a serious note of the statements by the senior BJP leader against CM Nayab Singh Saini and state BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli, the BJP had issued a show-cause notice to Vij.

The minister has reportedly sent an eight-page reply to the high command. Speaking to mediapersons here, Vij said, "I was asked to give a reply within three days, and I have submitted my reply in time. I was in Bengaluru and came to know about the show-cause notice through the media.

Before I got the hard copy of the notice, it was already in the media. It was a secret communication between two people. How it was leaked to the media and who is leaking the letters is a

Three senior leaders join forces to gain control



matter of investigation. If the party wants, this angle should also be investigated."

Refusing to divulge the details of his reply, he said, "I will not disclose what I have written. I have even torn the copy of my reply and will burn it. I have mentioned everything I could remember and also told the party that if it wants my reply on any other issue, it can tell me. I will reply." The party had issued a notice to Vij for allegedly breaching party disci-

He had also called for Badoli's resignation on "moral grounds" after the latter was named in a rape case in Kasauli

statements. In the notice, is

sued by Badoli on the direc-

tions of the national party

president, Vij was asked to

Vij had earlier made

respond within three days.

back-to-back statements ex-

pressing dissatisfaction

against his own government

and criticised Saini, saying

that the CM was unaware of

the ground realities.

Education must be practical, not just about degrees, says Dhanda

Panipat : Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda on Wednesday reiterated the state government's commitment to strengthening the education system by making it more effective and employment-oriented. He emphasised that education should equip students with practical knowledge to help them become self-reliant rather than merely obtaining degrees.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a library and building constructed by the Narwal Khap in Kathura village of Baroda constituency, Dhanda acknowledged various development initiatives underway in the village. He also announced a grant of Rs 11 lakh for the construction of a Narwal Khap Bhawan.

During his visit, the minister directed officials to rectify shortcomings in the newly built library and enhance its facilities. Expressing concern over the poor condition of the village school, he assured that necessary upgrades would be made soon. "Officials must send an estimate for the reconstruction and improve-

ment of the school so that the work can be completed at the earliest," Dhanda instructed. The minister highlighted the rapid implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, stating that it

would be fully effective by 2025. "The education system must be employment-oriented so that children gain practical knowledge and become self-reliant during their studies," he asserted.

 Dhanda also stressed the importance of updating educational content, saying that
 incorrect literature and mis-

leading facts must be re moved as they influence stu dents' thinking.

"Education should not just be about earning degrees but about making individuals capable," he added.

Criticising the Macaulay education system, the minister said it had weakened the thinking abilities of the youth and there was an urgent need for curriculum reforms. "Macaulay's education system has dampened young minds and it is essential to change it," he stated.

Responding to a question about the upcoming civic polls, Dhanda asserted that the BJP was well-prepared and in a strong position to contest.

"The BJP will enter the electoral fray with full preparations and perform better in the upcoming civic polls," he is- claimed.

Karnal : In a dramatic turn of events, three prominent Sikh leaders in Haryana have joined forces to take control of the (HSGMC) after contesting the recent elections on differt ent symbols.

cy and limit unauthorised access, the

department has introduced a self-

certification process. So far, 36% of

property owners have self-certified

Jagdish Singh Jhinda, head of Panthak Dal (Jhinda) and former HSGMC (ad hoc) president, Didar Singh Nalvi, president of Sikh Samaj Sanstha and former senior vice-president of the ad hoc committee, and Baljeet Singh Daduwal, former ad hoc committee president, held two secret meetings on February 9 and 11 in Panchkula. Their objective: securing the support of Independent members to gain a majority and take charge of HSGMC affairs. The firstever HSGMC elections on January 19 resulted in a fractured mandate, with no single faction securing a maiority. The committee comprises 22 Independent members, nine from Panthak Dal (Jhinda), six from the SAD-affiliated Haryana Sikh Panthak Dal and three from Sikh Samaj Sanstha. To strengthen its position, 19 Independent members formed the Akal Panthak Morcha, which has se-



cured the support of six members from Sikh Panthak Dal, bringing its total strength to 25.Jhinda and Nalvi won their respective seats, while Daduwal lost. Before the elections, Daduwal attempted to register a group called Shiromani Akali Dal (Azad), but its registration was denied due to its resemblance to a po-

litical party's name, which is restricted under the Act. Confirming their meetings, the trio expressed a commitment to working together for the welfare of the Sikh community."I have no issues joining hands with anyone if it is for the betterment of the community and to ensure effective management of HSGMC," said Jhin-

da.Nalvi echoed similar sentiments "For me, the community's welfare is the top priority. On the day of the election results, I had already offered my group's support to Jhinda. I also met Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini twice to discuss the election outcome." Daduwal emphasised their mission to prevent those who opposed their cause from taking control: "The Sikhs of Haryana fought for over two decades to get a separate committee. We have now set aside our differences and held two meetings. We have enough members to form the committee's body."On the other hand, Independent Akal Panthak Morcha claims it has sufficient numbers to take control. Prakash Singh Sahuwal, an Independent member from Nathusari Chopta said: "We have the numbers and will participate in co-opting the maximum additional members."Baldev Singh, president of Haryana Sikh Panthak Dal, confirmed his group's support for the 19-member Akal Panthak Morcha, saying they are in a strong position to manage HSGMC's affairs

Ex-Merchant Navy employee stabs daughter to death; attacks wife, mother with hammer

Rewari : Police have arrested a 40-year-old former employee of the Merchant Navy, accused of stabbing his 9-year-old daughter to death and injuring his wife and mother by hitting them with a hammer in the Mayur Vihar locality here on Tuesday night. The accused, identified as Sandeep Kumar of Hudiya Kalan village in Alwar district (Rajasthan), currently resides in a rented accommodation in Mayur Vihar in the city."On the in-

tervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, we received information that a man in Mohalla Mayur Vihar had beaten up and injured his wife, daughter, and mother. Acting swiftly, the police rushed to the spot and found many people gathered there. A lot of blood was found scattered in the room, after which the Forensic Science Laboratory team was called to visit the scene of the crime. A knife used in the crime was also recovered from the

spot," said the spokesperson of the district police. He maintained that the accused's wife, Kusumlata, and mother, Prem Devi, said that Sandeep had stabbed his daughter, Ranvita, in the neck. Later, the girl, in critical condition, was rushed to the hospital with the help of an ambulance. The accused's wife and mother also suffered injuries in the attack and were hospitalised. The spokesperson in-

The spokesperson informed that a case of murder

was then registered against the accused, Sandeep Kumar, in this respect. Acting swiftly, the accused was arrested a few hours after the crime. The preliminary investigation suggested a domestic feud behind the crime, he added. Manish Kumar, SHO, Ram Pura Police station, told The Tribune that the accused had left his job in the merchant navy in 2017 and he used to quarrel with his wife due to some domestic issues.

Govternment committed to improve groundwater levels in dark zone blocks, says minister

Chandigarh : Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil has emphasised that dedicated measures are being taken to improve groundwater levels in Haryana's dark zone blocks. Speaking at a press conference alongside Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana, he said the Central government is committed to implementing effective water conservation and recharge initiatives in collaboration with the Haryana Government.

Patil highlighted that around 150 districts across India have several blocks classified as dark zones due to severe groundwater depletion, with

Haryana among them. The ministry's goal is to help Haryana's dark zone blocks recover through rainwater conservation efforts, which, he stressed, "can only be successful with public participation."The minister revealed that in the Union Budget 2024, Haryana has been allocated approximately Rs 76,000 crore for development projects. Additionally, the state has received around Rs 78,000 crore in grants, accelerating its progress. Comparing the figures with previous governments, Patil stated: "Before 2014, Harvana received only Rs 19,000 crore in the Central budget and Rs 21,000 crore in grants. The

current allocations reflect the government's commitment to Haryana's rapid development."Patil also highlighted the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, under which 13.8 lakh farmers in Haryana are receiving direct financial benefits. Across India, the scheme has benefited over 9.58 crore farmers. Further, he shared that Rs 3,416 crore has been allocated in the Railway budget to enhance Haryana's rail infrastructure. Key developments include 14 new projects covering 1,195 km and 34 railway stations being upgraded under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, with an invest ment of Rs 1,149 crore.

Gambhir urges Harshit & Arshdeep to step up in absence of Bumrah at Champions Trophy

SPERIS

Ahmedabad : India head coach Gautam Gambhir believes Jasprit Bumrah's absence from the ICC Champions Trophy squad could be a golden opportunity for the side's upcoming pace duo.

Speaking to reporters after India sealed their home ODI engagement against England 3-0, Gambhir suggested Bumrah's absence from the setup for the Champions Trophy could be an opportunity for Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh to make a name for themselves.

"Harshit has shown some good signs, Arsh(deep) was also good today. Obviously, you'll always miss a bowler like Jasprit Bumrah, his quality and stuff. But it's always good to have Mohammed Shami back with his quality," Gambhir said.

Bumrah, India's bowling lynchpin, was a part of Champions Trophy squad, but was ruled out due to a lower back injury.

Harshit, who made his ODI debut against England, was originally included in the ODI series as a reserve bowler. He picked up six wickets from his three outings, at an average of 24.33,

Harshit or Arshdeep will

have to put his hand up in the

Champions Trophy along

with Mohammed Shami.

Someone missing out could

be a great opportunity for

someone else too," Gambhir

noted."That's the way the

sport goes, and hopefully

these guys can put their hands up and deliver," he

strategies during the series,

Gambhir stated that the side

looked to rest and rotate

players in the leadup to the

India's

said.Discussing

and impressed the team injury list, during the global management enough to pick event. him as Bumrah's replace-"So someone like

ment for the Champions Trophy. Meanwhile Arshdeep, already a regular in the T20I setup, featured in the the third ODI, and looked in good touch with his newball burst, getting the breakthroughs of Phil Salt and Ben Duckett in what was his ninth ODI

Gambhir thinks the duo, still inexperienced in the format, could play a great supporting act to Shami, himself a returnee from the

argument.Saud and substi-

tute fielder Kamran were

fined 10 per cent each of their

match fee as they celebrated

too close to batter Temba Ba-

vuma after he was run out in

the 29th over of South Afri-

found to have breached Arti-

cle 2.5 of the Code, which

relates to "using language,

actions or gestures which

disparage or which could

provoke an aggressive reac-

In addition to this, one

Saud and Kamran were

ca's innings

he wasn't supposed to be benched throughout the series. We wanted to give Yashasvi (Jaiswal) a go in the first game and see what he can bring to the table, because he was in really good form in Australia," Gambhir said.Iyer was initially not meant to play the opening ODI of the series, before getting late call up due to an injury to Virat Kohli. He featured in all three games and scoring 181 runs at an im-

Champions Trophy, and dis-

cussed the impact made by

Iyer

England."On Shreyas Iyer,

against

Shreyas

pressive strike rate of 123.12.

Gambhir hinted that Iyer would continue to feature for the side at No.4 at the Champions Trophy.

'We always knew that Shreyas will be an important player for us at No.4. Be it the World Cup, or forget about even the World Cup, he is always important for us. So when you've got three games, you want to rotate

'Today, we could've played Shami but we wanted to give Arsh(deep) a go. When you've got Champions Trophy around the corner, you want to maximise these opportunities and everyone a go. But Shreyas was always in the scheme of things," Gambhir said.

India's Champions Trophy campaign kicks off against Bangladesh on 20 February in Dubai. India squad: Rohit Shar-

ma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd. Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakaravarthy.

Ed Joyce to step down as head coach of Ireland women team

Aryan Age

Delhi, Friday, 14 February 2025

Dublin : Ireland have confirmed dual-international Ed Joyce will bring his sixyear coaching reign of their women's team to an end following the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier.

Joyce made his name as a top-order batter for England and Ireland and in recent years has forged a successful path as a coach of the

been in charge of Ireland's women's team since the middle of 2019 and has since led the side to many famous victories and a place at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2023.

to try and get Ireland to qualify for this year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in India later this year, with the side attempting to be one of two teams to earn their place at the event via the qualifier tournament that is set to be

matches in charge of Ireland, with the highly-accomplished coach to step down following the event and the end of his current contract, an ICC report said.

Joyce said he has en-

der some form of contract -3number of these being fulltime.

This process of professionalisation alone has been rewarding yet challenging. Throw the Covid pandemic into the mix, the constant need to juggle the availability of players who are still studying – all while meeting the demands of international cricket – the role has been all-encompassing," he said. "Just as in my profes-

sional playing career, I rec ognise the natural cycle of coaching. There comes a time when a system benefits from fresh perspectives and new voices, allowing players to explore and develop their skills in diverse ways," Joyce said.

confident our level was very high

and my message to the players

against their neighbouring rivals in

the final, wherein Fakhar Zaman

scored a brilliant century to guide

them to a commanding total, before

Mohammad Amir ran through the

Indian top-order and set their his-

of the best teams, so India was noth-

ing we had not seen," Sarfaraz dis

cussed the team's mindset ahead of

the contest. "I told the guys to relax.

forget the result and just give 100%

last wicket went down and we won

it is impossible to describe that feel-

ing in words. When I took the last

catch, I was at gully. And I just ran. I

saw Shoaib Malik and ran into his

arms, I jumped into him and hugged

him. The whole team then joined in.

It was indescribable," he added.

The rest is history. When the

"We knew we had beaten some

toric win.

Pakistan had a dream day

ahead of the final was to relax."

Block that noise - Sarfaraz advise to Pakistan Three Pakistan players fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct ahead of Champions Trophy face-off against India

Dubai : Pakistan players Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel and Kamran Ghulam have been fined for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during their tri-nation series match against South Africa in Karachi on Wednesday.

Shaheen was fined 25 per cent of his match fee after he was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during an International Match.

The incident occurred in the 28th over of South Africa's innings, when Shaheen tion from a batter upon his/ deliberately got in the way of her dismissal during an Interbatter Matthew Breetzke as national Match.' he ran a single, causing an inappropriate physical contact that also resulted in an to the disciplinary records of one or two demerit points.



the three players, all of whom did not have a previous offence in a 24-month period.

All three admitted the offences and accepted the sanctions proposed by David Boon of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for formal hearings.

On-field umpires Asif Yaqoob and Michael Gough, third umpire Richard Illingworth and fourth umpire Faisal Afridi levelled the charges.Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent

Karachi : ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 Event Ambassador Sarfaraz Ahmed, who was the captain of the Pakistan side that lifted the Champions Trophy in 2017, wants the Men in Green to play intense but smart cricket against arch-rivals India on February 23, when the two sides face-off in Dubai.

"Whenever we meet, it is a special occasion and there is so much hype and pressure around it," Sarfaraz discussed the importance of India-Pakistan encounters in ICC tournaments."But as players, you need to stay calm, try and block that noise out, and just play with the same intensity as you would play Australia or any other team," he said.

Sarfaraz predicted that Pakistan has a good chance of defending the title under the leadership of Mohammad Rizwan, an ICC report said.

"Pakistan have a really good chance of defending that title and I think they have a strong team. Some best - especially Babar Azam," he said."He is a different Babar to the one that played in 2017, a more mature player and a dominant player in the game. His batting will be so important for Pakistan and so will Fakhar Zaman's," Sarfaraz said. With the ball, Shaheen Shah

Afridi and Haris Rauf are brilliant bowlers and are playing well. The captain, Mohammad Rizwan, is also a wicketkeeper-batter, which worked pretty well for me back in 2017." he said

Unlike in the ICC Men's Crick-World Cup or the Men's T20 World Cup, where India have a significant advantage over Pakistan, the Men in Green have a 3-2 advantage against the latter in the Champions Trophy.

However, their 2017 campaign got off to a shocking start when they lost to a strong India side by 124 runs. Rohit Sharma (91), Shikhar Dhawan (68), and Virat Kohli (81) starred with the willow before the bowling attack finished the job.

Sarfaraz recalled how the side semi-finals and our bowlers were

Mohammad Hafeez, something he reckons that the present Pakistan

side will need too. "Afterwards, we had a great team meeting, and some of our senior guys - Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Hafeez – all said their piece. You need those types of characters around you. We changed our mindset from that day. The acrimony was very good for us, we made a couple of changes to the team and it helped

our confidence," he said. Pakistan turned it around after the loss to India, beating South Africa, Sri Lanka, and England on the way to the Finals.

While the addition of Fakhar Zaman, who debuted in the group stage game against South Africa, added solidity and firepower to the top, the likes of Junaid Khan and Rumman Raees gave Pakistan control and wickets with the new ball as they showed in the semi-final against England, which Pakistan won by eight wickets. "We played England in the

Pakistan begin their Champions Trophy 2025 campaign against New Zealand on February 18 in Karachi and face-off against India on 23 February in Dubai.

ioved his time coaching Ireland's women's team and believes the side have made great progress since he took the reins back in 2019. "It has been a privilege to

lead Cricket Ireland's women's performance programme and to work with this group of dedicated cricketers and support staff. The last six years have been an incredible journey – not just for me personally, but for the players, coaches and, indeed, the entire performance pro-

gramme," Joyce said. "When I came on board we had just announced firstever part-time contracts for women cricketers in Ireland Those six part-time contracts have grown over subsequent years to now 23 players un-

Irish women's team. The 46-year-old has your players a bit," he added. Joyce's last task will be

held in the coming months.

It will be Joyce's final

demerit point has been added

of a player's match fee, and

of the boys from 2017 are still there and we're talking about some of the nior players like Shoaib Malik and it was India in the final. I was just

regrouped under the guidance of se-

just superb, "Sarfaraz said. "Then,

Indian Women Team banks on home support ahead of FIH Pro League matches

Bhubaneswar: After the remarkable Women's Asian Champions Trophy title win in November last year, the Indian Women's Hockey Team is all set to continue its run of form into the FIH Pro League matches at the Kalinga Stadium here from February 15 to 25

India will kickstart their campaign with two matches against England on February 15 and 16 followed by clashes against Spain on February 18 and 19. The side will also face challenging opponents in World No. 4 Germany and World No. 1 Netherlands on February 21, 22 and February 24, 25 respectively.

India are led by Arjuna Awardee Salima Tete with deputy Navneet Kaur by her side. With a blend of experienced players of the likes of Savita, Sushila Chanu, Nikki Pradhan, Vandana Katariya, Udita. Lalremsiami and Sharmila Devi alongside star youngsters like Deepika, Sunelita Toppo and Jyoti in the ranks, India have a well-balanced squad.

The Indian players are heading into the tournament after their recent performances in the Women's Hockey India League which followed their



Patidar

gratitude for the opportu-

nity, stating, "I am not over-

ly expressive but always aware

of match situations. My focus

will be on backing my players

and creating a relaxed, confident

environment. Learning from Vi-

rat Kohli's experience will be in-

Virat Kohli endorsed Pati-

dar, saying, "You have earned this role. The fans love watch-

ing you play, and the team is

right behind you. I urge every-

Plessis added, "Leading RCB

is an honour. You have a strong

leadership group-lean on

them. Most importantly, keep hit-

Former captain Faf du

one to support him fully."

valuable.

expressed

iconic Women's ACT win in Rajgir. Last season, India had a disappointing campaign finishing eighth with only eight points won in 16 games and could only score 16 goals over the course of the prestigious Pro League and will be eyeing to put up an improved show backed by home crowd.

a n d

Ahead of the India leg matches, Captain Salima Tete stated, "We can't wait to play at the Kalinga Stadium again and win as many points as we can. We are facing challenging opponents but I am confident that the girls are ready to take on the challenge and do their best on the field.

Rajat Patidar named RCB

Bengaluru : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have appointed Rajat Patidar as their captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

The 31-year-old batsman, a key member since 2022, has been instrumental in RCB's campaigns.

Patidar first joined RCB in 2021 and returned in 2022 as a replacement player, delivering a breakout performance with 333 runs at a strike rate of 152.75 in 12 matches. His unbeaten 112 off 54 balls in the Eliminator against Lucknow Super Giants remains a highlight. In 27 matches, he has scored one century and seven fifties.

RCB Head Coach Andy Flower lauded Patidar's leadership, saying, "Rajat's calmness and simplicity will serve him well as a captain. We have observed his leadship at the state level liked what we saw. He is a brave cricketer who cares about his

teammates, qualities that will earn him respect.' Mo Bobat, RCB's Di-

rector of Cricket, explained the decision: "We had extensive discussions, including with Virat Kohli, and found compelling reasons to back Rajat. The timing is ideal, with a fresh squad and a new leader marking a new chapter for RCB.'

captain for IPL 2025

ting those sixes!'

Owned by Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited, a subsidiary of Diageo India, RCB has been a formidable IPL franchise, reaching three finals and making consecutive playoff appearances from 2020 to 2022. Their remarkable 2024 campaign saw them qualify for the playoffs despite long odds.

RCB's women's team clinched Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 title, having secured Smriti Mandhana as their marquee player.

The franchise has expanded its brand beyond cricket with ventures like RCB Hustle (a fitness product), Dash of RCB (a premium non-alcoholic cocktail mixer), and RCB Bar & Cafe.

Shanto tips Bangladesh to surprise at Champions Trophy

Dubai : Bangladesh captain Nazmul Hossain Shanto has issued a warning to rival teams at the ICC Champions Trophy by declaring his side are heading to the upcoming tournament believing they can cause a massive shock and win their first ICC event.

The Asian side won just two matches at the ICC Cricket World Cup in India in 2023 and been victorious in just one bilateral ODI series since when they defeated Sri Lanka 2-1 on home soil in March last year, according to an ICC reported.

But Shanto thinks belief is growing within the Bangladesh side and is confident his team can surprise during the eight-team tournament that will be held in Pakistan and the UAE from February 19.

"We are going to the Champions Trophy to be-come champions," Shanto said.

"All eight teams deserve to be champions in this tournament. They are all quality teams. I believe our team has the ability. No one will feel extra pressure.

"Everyone genuinely wants (to become champions) and believes in their capabilities.

'We don't know what Allah has written in our fate. We are working hard and doing our best. I believe we can achieve our goal."

Bangladesh are drawn in Group A at this year's Champions Trophy and will face India first-up in Dubai



didn't have quality pace on February 20, before matches in Rawalpindi bowlers, but now we have a strong pace bowling unit. against New Zealand (February 24) and Pakistan We didn't have wrist (February 27) ahead of a pospinners before, but now we tential spot in the knockout stages of the event.

While there is no spot in

Bangladesh's squad for for-

mer skipper Shakib Al

Hasan, Shanto believes his

15-player group is well bal-

anced with a good mix of

confident with the 15 play-

ers in the squad," Shanto

the ability to win a match

single-handedly.

"I am very happy and

"Anyone who plays has

"Not too long ago, we

youth and experience.

said.

do. Overall, we have a balanced team. If everyone fulfills their responsibilities properly, we can defeat any team at any time."

Bangladesh squad: Nazmul Hossain Shanto (c) Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Mushfiqur Rahim, MD Mahmud Ullah, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Rishad Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Parvez Hossain Emon Nasum Ahmed, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Nahid Rana.

Clos 23.031.40

Previous close

23,045.25

23,235.50

% Gain

60.55

52.50

3.97

194.95

22.95

%Loss

-4.62

-1.54

-1.47

-1.07

-1.03

Change (%)

519.00

0.61

178.00

0.19

-98.00

-1.57

12.70

4.12

chain,

services.

BSE Sensex

-0.042%

76,201.10

76,013.43

Open

Current

1,849.25

1,746.35

136.25

8,409.00

1,472.15

Current

2,244.70

1,111.55

3,956.55

1,843.25

234.95

Price

86,000.00

95,680.00

6,128.00

320.90

76,138.97

Previous close

76,171.08

76,764.53

Company

Bajaj Finserv

Sun Pharma

Bajaj Finance

Tata Steel

Company

Adani Ports

Commodity

Gold Apr 04

Silver Mar 05

Crudeoil Feb 19

Naturalgas Feb 25

Infosys

ONGC

Adani Enterpris

Hero Motocorp

Cipla

Top Gainers

lop Losers

Commodities



| <u>ببن (</u> | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------------|
| lifty 50 | A | Ni | fty 500 |
| Percent chenge -0.060% | 20,904 | Close 4.35 | Percent che -0.01 |

Previous close

20,907.85

21,122.00

Open

20,926.00

20,866.50

MARK

| Nifty | Next 50 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Close 60,947.75 | Percent chenge 0.20% |
| Previous close 60,826.50 | Open 60,975.70 |
| High 61,738.90 | Low 60,827.05 |

| Nift | y Next 50 | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| Close 7.75 | Percent chenge | 2 |
| close 6.50 | Open 60,975.70 | Рі 2 |
| High 8.90 | Low 60,827.05 | 2 |
| | | |

| Nif | ty Next 50 | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Close 60,947.75 | Percent chenge 0.20% | |
| Previous close 60,826.50 | Open 60,975.70 | |
| High 61,738.90 | Low 60,827.05 | |

| xt 50 | 1 | Nif |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| ent chenge 0.20% | 23,50 | Close)4.85 |
| Open 975.70 | Previou 23,50 | us close)8.35 |
| Low 827.05 | 23,72 | High 29.90 |
| | | |

ty 100

-0.015%

23,527.20

23,470.45

Oper

High 51,556.20 49,836.10 49,276.10 50,669.15 Aseptic packaging SIG opens €90 million plant in Gujarat

50,881.20

Previous close

50,756.40



New Delhi : Aseptic packaging and filling solutions provider SIG on Thursday announced opening of its first production plant for aseptic carton packs in India. "This €90 million invest-

Nifty Bank

-0.24%

49,469.35

Open

49,359.85

Previous close

49,479.45

ment, completed in just 20 months in Ahmedabad, marks a major milestone for SIG as it strengthens its presence in one of the world's most dynamic and fastestgrowing markets," the company said in a media release. As per the release, the plant in the state of Gujarat has an initial annual production ca-

tic carton packs, while creat ing more than 300 local jobs."The plant will supply SIG's growing filler base which serves all leading dairy and non-carbonated soft drink players in India," it said. The company said that India being the world's larg est milk market and a major juice-producing country presents immense growth opportunities for aseptic packaging solutions."With less than 10% of its milk consumption packaged and a lack of cold chains, aseptic cartons are a safe, sustain able.

Nifty Midcap 100

0.25%

50,856.40

Open

Sensex ends marginally weak at 76,138.97 pts

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex remained negative for the seventh consecutive session on Thursday, declining 32.11 pts to settle at 76,138.97 as selling pressure was seen in Technology, IT, and Oil and Gas stocks.

Open

23,055.75

22,992.20

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) fell 13.85 pts at 23,031.40. High volatility was seen

during the day, as the Sensex improved 30 pts to open at 76,201.10. It rallied 593 pts at 76,764.53, a day high.

In late trade, it erased earliergains and settled at 76,138.97, easing 32.11 pts from its previous close.

Meanwhile, it slipped 158 pts at 76,013.43, a day low. The Nifty registered days

high and low at 23,235.50 and 22,992.20 pts respectively.

The stocks that dropped were IT by 0.93 pc followed by FMCG by 0.66 pc, Technology

0.34 pc The Mid-cap rose 0.07 pc while the Small-cap slipped by 0.43 pc.

In 30 scrips, 15 advances

tainable energy

by 0.64 pc, and Oil and Gas by

while 15 declined.

Ports by 1.90 pc to Rs 1108, Infosys by 1.19 pc to Rs 1841.65, L& T by 1.12 pc to Rs 3252.60 and SBI by 0.85 pc to Rs 727.

Tata Power Renewables, ONGC collaborate to lead way in Battery Energy Storage system

Kolkata : Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), a subsidiary of The Tata Power Company Limited and a leading player in India's renewable energy sector, has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), India's premier energy company, to explore joint opportunities in the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and its value chain.

The MoU was signed at India Energy Week 2025 in the presence of Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman and CEO of ONGC, Deepesh Nanda, CEO & Managing Director of TPREL, and other dignitaries, according



a significant milestone in ties across various segour journey to drive India's ments of the BESS value energy transition. Battery including utilityscale systems, grid stabili-Energy Storage Systems zation services, renewable will play a crucial role in energy integration, mistrengthening grid reliabilicrogrids, hybrid energy soty, enabling greater renewlutions, industrial and comable energy integration, and mercial storage solutions, supporting India's ambibackup power, electric vetious clean energy goals. hicle (EV) charging infra-Together, we aim to develstructure, and energy tradop innovative storage soluing through ancillary tions that will pave the way for a sustainable and resil-

ONGC remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing clean energy initiatives. This collaboration with TataPower Renewable Energy Limited represents a strategic step towards strengthening energy storage capabilities, which are vital for grid stability and renewable energy adoption. By leveraging our collective expertise, we aim to contribute meaningfully to India's energy transition long-term energy and security."This collaboration between Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited and ONGC underscores their shared commitment to promoting sustainable energy solutions and driving India's energy transition. By exploring joint opportunities in the battery energy storage sector, both compa-

SGLTL Q3 FY25 consolidated net profit increased to Rs 1589.20 lakhs

Hyderabad : Standard Glass Lining Technology Limited (SGLTL), a premier engineering solutions provider, announcing its first ever-third quarter financial results following a listing on the NSE and BSE, said that its consolidated net profit increased to Rs 1589.20 lakhs for the third quarter ended on December 31,2024 from Rs 1247.45 lakhs in the corresponding period last year.

Revenue from operations during the quarter increased to Rs 14,013.97 lakhs against Rs 13,765.23 lakhs in the corresponding period last year, the Hyderabad-based company said in a release here on Wednesday evening.

However, for 9-months FY25, the company's consolidated net profit raised 45 percent to Rs 5,216.02 lakh against Rs 3,588.35 lakh in the corresponding period last year while for nine months, revenue from operations also increased to Rs 44,733.48



end.

lakhs from Rs 34,232.52 lakhs in the corresponding period in the previous year.

Despite a slight sequential quarter seasonal dip in Q3 (Q3FY25 Rs 1247.45 lakhs from Rs 2090.54 lakhs in the previous quarter) due to employee leave during the festive period, our 9M FY25 performance remains strong, reinforcing our position as a leading player in the industry, the company claimed.

sponse from investors has been truly humbling, and we are proud to report strong revenue growth of 33 per cent YoY and industry-leading EBITDA margins at 20 percent" .Beyond financial success, we are laser-focused on innovation and market expansion"

With the launch of Shell & Tube Glass-Lined Heat Exchangers and other advanced technologies, we are unlocking an estimated Rs 2,000 crore opportunity in India. Backed by cuttingedge technology from our investor AGI Inc. Japan, we are poised to transform the industry, enhance productiv ity, and drive long-term value for our stakeholders, he said.As we move forward our commitment remains clear-to deliver profitable. sustainable growth while continuously setting new industry benchmarks. The future of Standard Glass Lining is brighter than ever, he added.

The gainers were Tata Steel by 3.06 pc to Rs 136.30, Bajaj The losers were Adani Finserv by 2.97 pc to Rs 1840.60, Sun Pharma by 2.88 pc to Rs 1742.35 and Bajaj Fipacity of up to 4 billion asepnance by 2.26 pc to Rs 8404.85.

to a media statement here on Wednesday.

The collaboration aims to jointly explore and identify commercial opportuni-

Commenting on the ient energy future. MoU, Deepesh

Nanda, Arun Kumar Singh, CEO & Managing Director, Chairman and CEO, TPREL, said, "This part-ONGC, said, "As India nership with ONGC marks transitions towards a sus-

nies aim to contribute significantly to the country's renewable energy targets and build a robust, futureready energy ecosystem.

The company successfully raised Rs 210 crores in the IPO, fueling growth initiatives and took possession of S2 Unit 5 (100,000 sq. ft.),

gy Limited, stated: "This quarter marks a historic milestone for Standard Glass, as we announce our first earnings report post-IPO. The overwhelming re-

the operations are expected

to commence by February

new subsidiary in the USA to

strengthen our exports, set

for completion by Q4 FY25,

Nageswara Rao Kandula,

Managing Director, Stan-

dard Glass Lining Technolo-

Commenting on the

performance.

the release said.

company's

Endeavor to establish a

SKF profit slides 17 pc to Rs 109 crore in Q3

 $New \, Delhi: \, Bearings \, manufacturer \, SKF \, India$ Ltd on Thursday reported 17% year-on-year (YoY) decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 109.5 crore in October-December quarter (Q3) of the current financial year 2024-25.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 132.1 crore in the Q3 of the previous financial year 202324.SKF's revenue from operations however rose 15% year-on-Year in the December quarter of the current fiscal to Rs 1,256.1 crore as compared to Rs 1091.9 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

Speaking on the company's business performance, Mukund Vasudevan, Managing Director, SKF India Limited, said, "We delivered excellent revenue growth in Q3 2024. Overall, while SKF India Ltd. grew by 15%, the Industrial business grew 23% YoY and our automotive business grew 10% YoY. This performance underscores the resilience of our strategy and our ability to adapt to evolving market dynamics.

IOL Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals net drops over 11 pc to Rs 20.55 crore in Q3

New Delhi : Pharmaceutical and specialised chemical company IOL Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Ltd on Thursday reported 11.54 per cent drop in net profit year-on-year to Rs 20.55 crore during the Q3 of FY25, versus Rs 23.23 crore in the same quarter of fiscal 2022-24. Total income during the reporting quarter fell marginally to Rs 527.37 crore, a drop of 0.26 percent from Rs 528.77 crore in

the Q3 of 2023-24, the company said in a regulatory filings with the stock exchange.

Commenting on the results, Mr Vikas Gupta, joint MD, said "we are pleased to report our Q3FY25 results as despite challenges such as pricing pressures, stagnant demand and intense market competition, the company has successfully maintained stable and sustainable performance.

Microsoft to set up Al center in Hyderabad : Telangana CM

second office building of

the Microsoft company in

Hyderabad is a milestone

in the development of the

IT sector, he said the

sociation with the city.

Hvderabad : Tech giant Microsoft will set up an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center here in collaboration with the Telangana government, Chief Minister A Reventh Reddy announced on Thursday

The new center will develop cloud-based AI infrastructure, including an AI Knowledge Hub, Reddy said after inaugurating another new facility of the Microsoft company Gachibowli in the city.

Extending gratitude to the Microsoft leadership team for trusting Telangana, he said the IT Company's commitment to innovation will definitely contribute to state Rising vision.The state government is a partner in launch-ADVANTA(I) GE TELANGANA, which includes an AI Foundation Academy, Reddy said. With this partnership,

Telangana and Microsoft will introduce Artificial In-



Reddy said the giant IT telligence (AI) education company that created globin 500 government schools and also use Artificial Inal impact and developed intelligence for good governovations from Hydernance and public services, abad the CM said.Having the

The expansion of Microsoft will create more job opportunities for the youth in Hyderabad, the CM said the big facility will empower the youth further.

world's biggest Microsoft This investment will company has been mainstrengthen our startup ecosystem and provide mentaining a close and long astorship, AI tools and access Microsoft India comto a global network , he pleted 25 years recently; addec

Amazon and DGFT extend collaboration to accelerate ecommerce exports from India

Kolkata : Amazon and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on Thursday announced an extension of their collaboration to accelerate ecommerce exports from India

This builds on their initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in November 2023, which aimed to leverage the government's Districts as Export Hubs initiative to boost MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) exports, according to a media statement here. The renewed association will focus on equipping MSMEs across India with essential skills and resources to succeed in ecommerce exports

The MoU was renewed in the presence of Santosh Sarangi (Additional Secretary and Director General of DGFT), Chetan Krishnaswamy (Vice President, Public Policy - Amazon) and Bhupen Wakankar (Director Global Trade – Amazon India).

The expanded collaboration introduces several new initiatives to further bolster India's ecommerce exports ecosystem. These include specialized training sessions across 47 districts, integration of Amazon's



Export Navigator tool within DGFT's Trade Connect portal, and the establishment of Export Communities as local offline networks for MSMEs.

The collaboration will leverage diverse event formats to provide guidance to MSMEs on expanding product selection and scaling export operations. By combining Amazon's global reach and expertise in ecommerce exports with DGFT's local expertise, this initiative aims to unlock new opportunities for Indian sellers in international markets, aligning with the government's vision to boost exports and support local businesses.

In the first year of their association, DGFT and Amazon organized a series of ecommerce exports promotion events across 20 districts in India. These events, held between De cember 2023 and December 2024 saw Amazon representatives providing guidance to over 3,000 MSMEs about ecommerce exports and the process of selling on Amazon global marketplaces.

Participants received on-spot assistance and real-time query resolution. Following these events, Amazon offered support to interested sellers, assisting them with the onboarding process and connecting them with trusted third-party service providers to help obtain necessary documents, meet compliance requirements, and get listing and advertising support.Santosh Sarangi Additional Secretary and Director General of DGFT, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, said "Our continued collaboration with Amazon is a significant step in realizing the vision of making each district an export hub.Building on our initial success, we are expanding our focus to 47 districts to support more MSMEs to access global markets. This partnership has already benefited over 3,000 MSMEs, and we are excited to see its growth

Owned, Printed, Published and Edited by Dewang Goyal, published at 209,2nd Floor, Gagan Deep Building, Rajendra Place, Near Metro Station, Delhi and printed at Sai Printing Press, D-85, Sector-6, Noida-201301, E mail-aryanage123@gmail.com, Website - www.aryanage.com. Editor- Dewang Goyal RNI- DELENG/2013/50604, Mob.8454927803