

Aryan Age

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Youth Power to
Fuel Mumbai
Climate Week
2026

PG.3



Amruta Khanvilkar recalls injury
during intensTaskaree action
shoot: "My wrist remained swollen
for over a month"

PG.6



"Women's HIL helped me
grow as a striker & handle
pressure moments better".
Lalremsiami

PG.7



Sensex, Nifty succumb
to selling pressure in
blue-chips Reliance,
ICICI Bank

PG.8

"Pillar of Trust"

Amit Shah hails NDRF on Raising Day



New Delhi : Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday praised the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) on its Raising Day celebrations, saying the force has emerged as "the pillar of trust for the nation" that has been instrumental in realising the Modi government's vision for a disaster-resilient India.

In a post on X, Shah highlighted the important role of the NDRF in enhancing the preparedness of India in the context of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'disaster-resilient India.'

He described the force as "the pillar of trust, the nation relies on during calamities," and also paid homage to personnel who laid down their lives while saving others. Along with his message, Shah shared images of NDRF teams engaged in rescue and relief operations.

"Warm greetings to the personnel of NDRFHQ on

Raising Day. Through its significant role in realising the Modi govt's resolve to build a disaster-resilient India, the NDRF has today become the pillar of trust the nation relies on during calamities. Salute to the martyrs who sacrificed themselves for the safety of others," Shah wrote.

The National Disaster Response Force was formed on January 19, 2006, as an all-round skilled and specialized response force for natural as well as man-made disasters. The key functions include search and rescue in case of earthquakes and landslides, flood and cyclone rescue, handling chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear emergencies, and medical relief.

The NDRF is strategically deployed across the country with 16 battalions and 28 Regional Response Centres. Its training academy is located in Nagpur.

Final Hearing on Shiv Sena and NCP Party Symbols to Begin Wednesday

New Delhi: The long-running legal battle over party names and election symbols of Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party has reached its final stage. The Supreme Court will begin final hearings from Wednesday, January 21, and will hear arguments for two continuous days.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant will hear the case related to Shiv Sena's name and the 'bow and arrow' symbol. The court will also later hear matters linked to the NCP and its 'clock' symbol. No other cases will be listed on these days, showing the importance of the matter.

The dispute began after the split in Shiv Sena in 2022, when Eknath Shinde rebelled

against Uddhav Thackeray, leading to the fall of the Mahavikas Aghadi government. Later, the Election Commission gave the Shiv Sena name and symbol to the Shinde group based on majority support. Uddhav Thackeray challenged this decision in the Supreme Court, calling it illegal and unconstitutional.

Similar issues have arisen in the NCP after its split. Sharad Pawar has filed a petition regarding the party name and symbol, while Jayant Patil has challenged the Speaker's decision not to disqualify Ajit Pawar group MLAs. The court's verdict is expected to have a major impact on Maharashtra politics.

Power-Sharing Tension Over Thane Mayor Post

Thane: After political tussles over the Mumbai mayor's post, a new power-sharing dispute has emerged in Thane. BJP MLA Nirjan Davkhare has warned that if BJP is not given the mayor's post for at least two years, the party will sit in opposition instead of staying in power.

Davkhare said BJP has performed strongly in areas from Shil to Vadavali and won all seats it contested. He stated that party workers want a BJP mayor in Thane, and the party deserves respect for its contribution.

Currently, the Thane

dispute began after the split in Shiv Sena in 2022, when Eknath Shinde rebelled

PM Modi receives UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Delhi airport

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, at Delhi airport on Monday, marking the start of his official visit to India.

This is Sheikh Mohamed's third official visit to India since assuming office as President of the UAE, and his fifth visit to the country over the past decade.

The visit builds on the strong momentum from recent high-level exchanges between the two nations, including the visit of Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin

Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, in September 2024, and Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Crown Prince of Dubai, in April 2025.

India and the UAE share warm, multi-faceted relations underpinned by strong political, cultural, and economic ties.

The countries are major trading and investment partners, strengthened by the Comprehensive Economic Partnership (CEPA), the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system,

and the Bilateral Investment Treaty. They also maintain a robust energy partnership,

agreements covering investments in special economic zones, food

developments in West Asia, including the ongoing instability in Gaza, the

The visit will provide an opportunity for the two leaders to chart new frontiers for the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. It will also enable an exchange of views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, where India and the UAE share a high degree of convergence.

Sheikh Mohamed's visit coincides with a critical period in West Asia, as US President Donald Trump launched Phase 2 of the Gaza Peace Plan, aimed at establishing a National Committee for Gaza's administration.



including long-term energy supply arrangements.

During the visit, both leaders are expected to sign

security, and nuclear cooperation. The discussions are also likely to focus on regional

Nitin Nabin set to become BJP President

New Delhi: New Delhi, Jan 19 (UNI) The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) election process for its National President has reached the final stage, with Nitin Nabin emerging as the sole candidate for the post, according to an official press statement issued on Monday.

The process was initiated after the completion of organisational elections in 30 of the party's 36 state units, comfortably exceeding the mandatory requirement of elections being completed in at least 50 per cent of the states.

As per the schedule, the notification for the election process was issued on January 16, 2026, along with the publication of the Electoral Roll. The nomination process was held on January 19 between 2 pm and 4 pm.

A total of 37 sets of nomination papers were received in favour of Nitin Nabin for the post of BJP National President. On scrutiny, all nomination papers were found to be duly filled in the prescribed format and declared valid.

Following the completion of the withdrawal period, the National Returning Officer for the BJP Sangathan Parv, Dr K. Laxman, announced that only one valid nomination -- that of Nitin Nabin remains for the post of National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

With no other candidate in the fray, Nitin Nabin is set to be elected unopposed as the BJP's National

President, marking the culmination of the party's organisational election process.

Backed by senior party leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Amit Shah, Nabin's elevation reflects the BJP leadership's confidence in his organisational abilities and mass connect.

At 45, Nitin Nabin will be among the youngest leaders to head the Bharatiya Janata Party. He will be succeeding J P Nadda, who has held the position since January 2020.

The transition marks a significant moment for the ruling party as it prepares for key Assembly elections and navigates long-term political and organisational challenges.

Nabin began his electoral journey at the age of 26 when he won the Patna West by-election, drawing on the strong organisational network built by his

father and the BJP cadre base in the region.

Following the 2008 delimitation, he shifted to the Bankipur Assembly constituency—one of Patna's most prominent urban seats, home to institutions such as Patna College and Science College.

He currently represents Bankipur in the Bihar Legislative Assembly and is a five-time MLA, having retained the seat consistently since 2010.

In the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, Nabin registered a decisive victory with a margin of over 51,000 votes, reinforcing his reputation as a leader with deep grassroots connect and urban electoral appeal.

Within the party organisation, Nitin Nabin is widely regarded as a product of the BJP's cadre-based system. He rose through the ranks of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), serving as its Bihar state president and later as national general secretary.

During this period, he played an active role in youth mobilisation programmes and several national-level organisational initiatives, earning recognition as an effective organiser and strategist.

His unopposed election as BJP National President is seen as a generational shift within the party's leadership, underscoring the BJP's emphasis on organisational discipline, cadre strength, and continuity as it looks ahead to upcoming electoral battles.



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HC kept in abeyance Collector's decisions de-recognising the Ambernath Vikas Aghadi

Mumbai : The Bombay High Court on Monday kept in abeyance the Thane district collector's decisions de-recognising the Ambernath Vikas Aghadi (AVA), which was formed after the BJP joined hands with later-suspended Congress members, and recognising the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP alliance as a pre-poll alliance in the municipal council elections.

Termed the side-switching of NCP members of the Ambernath Municipal Council as "globe-trotting", the bench of Justices Ravindra V Ghuge and Abhay J Mantri

directed the Thane district collector to pass a reasoned order on rival factions' contentions

till January 19 evening.

Ambernath in

neighbouring Thane district grabbed national attention when the BJP joined hands with arch-rival Congress to sideline Shinde Sena, its state ruling partner, from power in the municipal council. On January 7, the AVA was recognised by the collector as a pre-poll alliance.

While the BJP won the post of municipal council chairperson through a direct election, the Shinde Sena, with 27 of 60 seats, became the single-largest party, followed by the BJP (14), the Congress (12), the Ajit Pawar-led NCP (4), and Independents (2). None reached the halfway mark on its own.

Initially, the AVA, comprising 14 BJP, 12 Congress, 4 NCP (AP), and 1 Independent leader, submitted a letter to the Thane collector, with BJP's Abhijeet Gulabrao Karanji-Patil as the group leader (for the post of Deputy Chairperson). On January 7, the AVA was recognised by the collector as a pre-poll alliance.

After the furore over the alliance, Congress suspended all 12 elected members, and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also directed his party to break the alliance with Congress, calling it "unacceptable." Later, the 12 Congress members joined the BJP.

Earlier during the hearing, the bench temporarily postponed the meeting for the formation of various subject committees, including those related to public health, public works, and education, in the Council,

SC suggests shifting Bikram Majithia to Chandigarh jail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday suggested that Shiroman Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia be shifted to a jail in Chandigarh while hearing his plea seeking interim bail on the ground that he apprehended threat to his life.

"We are saying shift him to Chandigarh jail, what is the problem?" remarked Justice Sandeep Mehta during the hearing.

A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta was hearing Majithia's petition. On the issue of an alleged threat to life, Justice Mehta quiered how many attempts had been made on Majithia since he was taken into custody.

Senior Advocate Gaurav Aggarwal, appearing for

Majithia, urged the court to grant interim bail, submitting that there was a genuine threat, as reflected in the state's own intelligence report dated January 3.

In response to a specific query from the bench, Aggarwal said Majithia has been lodged in Nabha jail since June 2025.

During the hearing, Justice Mehta observed, "Rs 540 crore of public money (is involved)," to which Aggarwal responded that, as per the chargesheet, the allegation pertained to around Rs 40 crore.

Senior Advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for the state, sought time to file a response. He informed the court that the Punjab and Haryana High Court was already seized of the issue and that the state had assured the High

Court that all necessary steps were being taken to ensure Majithia's safety.

The matter was adjourned, granting time to the state to file a counter-affidavit. Before parting, the bench observed that Majithia's request for interim bail would be considered on the next date of hearing.

Majithia has approached the Supreme Court challenging a Punjab and Haryana High Court order, which dismissed his bail plea in an FIR registered by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau under Sections 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Notice on the plea was issued by the Supreme Court in December 2025.

The FIR was registered on the

basis of a June 7, 2025, report of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing an earlier NDPS case against Majithia.

The SIT alleged that Majithia and his wife had accumulated assets worth over Rs 540 crore, disproportionate to their known sources of income, through a network of domestic and foreign entities.

The allegations pertain to the period between 2007 and 2017, when Majithia served as a member of the Legislative Assembly and later as a Cabinet minister in Punjab.

The state has alleged that he exercised direct or indirect control over several companies, including Saraya Industries Limited and its subsidiaries, and that unexplained cash deposits, foreign investments routed through Cyprus- and Singapore-based entities, and inter-corporate transactions were used to acquire assets and benami properties.

It was also alleged that Majithia misused his official position to build business interests in the liquor, transport, and aviation sectors through family members and front entities.

Before the High Court, Majithia had contended that the corruption case was an offshoot of the NDPS case in which he was granted bail in August 2022, and that the Supreme Court had dismissed the state's plea for cancellation of that bail in April 2025.

He argued that the same material could not form the basis of a fresh FIR and alleged political motivation behind the prosecution.

He also pointed out that the investigation was complete, with a chargesheet filed on August 22, 2025, comprising nearly 40,000 pages and citing 272 witnesses. Rejecting these submissions, the High Court held that there was no legal bar on registration of a second FIR when investigation within three months and observed that Majithia could seek bail thereafter, noting that he could not be kept in custody indefinitely.



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KTR slams Centre for delay in sanctioning Mega Power Loom Cluster for Sircilla

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President and former Minister K T Rama Rao on Monday accused the BJP-led Central Government of deliberately delaying and discriminating against Telangana by not sanctioning a Mega Power Loom Cluster for Sircilla, calling it a "political vendetta" against the State's weaving community.

In a letter, addressed to union Minister for Textiles Giriraj Singh, KTR said the proposal had been pending for over a decade despite Sircilla fulfilling every eligibility norm under the Comprehensive Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme (CPCDS).

He recalled writing multiple letters and holding several personal meetings with successive union Ministers over the last 12 years, including the late Arun Jaitley, Smriti Irani and the present minister.

"Despite meeting Central Ministers nearly ten times and submitting de-



tailed reports, the Centre has failed to take a positive decision. What is the real reason behind keeping Sircilla's file aside?" he questioned, alleging that political bias was the only reason for the prolonged delay.

KTR said Central teams had also inspected the region and confirmed its eligibility under CPCDS norms. He pointed out that Sircilla, considered the backbone of

Telangana's textile economy, houses over 30,000 power looms and provides livelihood to thousands of families.

He also alleged that Mega Clusters were sanctioned to regions in other States with comparatively lower workforce and capacity, while Sircilla continued to be ignored despite its proven strength.

Stating that the Telangana

Government under former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had completed all preparatory work for the cluster, KTR said land allocation, uninterrupted power and water supply, single-window clearances and State-level incentives were already in place. "Keeping the proposal pending without citing any technical or financial reason is nothing but admin-

istrative arrogance," he remarked.

Taking a swipe at the Centre, KTR said the BJP spoke about "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" but failed to support one of the country's most capable textile hubs.

He warned that the delay was inflicting a heavy human and economic cost on the weavers and claimed the sector had slipped back into crisis, with reports of weavers' suicides resurfacing.

He also criticised BJP MPs and union Ministers from Telangana for failing to raise the issue and protect the interests of the State. "They have been reduced to mere ceremonial showpieces," he alleged.

KTR demanded that the forthcoming union Budget should officially announce the Sircilla Mega Power Loom Cluster and urged the Centre to take an immediate decision in the interest of Telangana's weavers, stating that prolonged inaction would only deepen their anguish.

Weather forecasting in UP to receive a major boost with the installation of 5 State-of-the-art radars

Lucknow: A major step is being taken to further strengthen the weather forecasting system in Uttar Pradesh. Five state-of-the-art dual-polarimetric Doppler radar systems are being installed in the state, which will become operational in the next six months.

This information was provided by Manish Kumar, Director of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Lucknow on Monday. He said that these radars are being installed in Lucknow, Azamgarh, Jhansi, Aligarh, and Varanasi. Four of these radars are being installed by the Uttar Pradesh government, while one radar in Varanasi is being installed by the IMD. This will ensure overlapping coverage in the radar network and significantly increase the accuracy of weather forecasts.

According to Manish Kumar, these advanced radars are capable of tracking the reflectivity and three-dimensional structure of clouds, which will further improve the capacity for 'nowcasting' or short-term weather forecasting. Along



with this, 2,450 automatic weather stations and 2,000 automatic rain gauge stations are being established at the block level across the state. This will create a robust block-level weather network throughout Uttar Pradesh.

He also informed that there is a proposal to install wind profiler radar meters in Lucknow and Varanasi. The site selection and tendering process have been completed, and these radars will become operational in the next one year, making daily weather monitoring more effective. In addition, under IMD's 'Mission Mausam' scheme, state-of-the-art observation systems will be established in Bareilly, Deoria, and Prayagraj, which will be operational in the next one and a half years. These systems will assist in surface, remote sensing, and upper atmospheric observations, strengthening forecasting accuracy and disaster management capabilities.

Senior scientist Mohammad Danish of IMD Lucknow said that the shift from traditional systems to digital systems will provide real-time data, more frequent updates, and high-quality weather data. This will make it possible to issue accurate weather warnings in a timely manner. Overall, these initiatives are expected to significantly strengthen weather forecasting, disaster management, and public safety in Uttar Pradesh.

Bengaluru civic polls after May 25, ballot papers to replace EVMs

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Election Commissioner G S Sangeshi on Monday announced that elections to the five new municipal corporations formed under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will be held after May 25, with ballot papers replacing Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Addressing the media, Sangeshi said the poll schedule would be finalised after the conclusion of SSLC and PUC examinations.

He made it clear that the same method would be followed for the forthcoming zilla and taluk panchayat elections later this year.

Explaining the rationale, the Chief Election Commissioner said both ballot papers and EVMs are legally valid methods of conducting elections, and there is no prohibition under existing laws or Supreme Court rulings on the use of ballot papers.

He observed that while EVMs have been widely



used over the last few decades, ballot papers remain a recognised and credible system.

Sangeshi noted that many elections in India, including Gram Panchayat, cooperative society and MLC polls, are still conducted using ballot papers, and several countries across the world continue to follow the same practice.

The decision comes against the backdrop of the Karnataka government's move last year to recommend ballot papers for all

future panchayat and urban local body elections.

Sangeshi underlined that opting for ballot papers should not be viewed as a step backward. "Ballot-based elections are still in practice and widely accepted. It is a tested and reliable system," he said.

The announcement follows a recent Supreme Court direction to the state government and the election commission to complete Bengaluru's local body elections by June 30. The elected council of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) completed its term in September 2020, after which the civic body has been under administrative control.

In September 2025, the city was reorganised into five separate municipal corporations — Central, East, West, North and South — under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, replacing the unified BBMP structure.

Odisha's cooperative sector heading towards bankruptcy :Congress

Bhubaneswar: All India Kisan Congress National Coordinator and President of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee Cooperative Cell, Amiya Kumar Patnaik, on Monday alleged that cooperative institutions in Odisha are steadily moving toward bankruptcy. Patnaik said that during the last 25 years of BJD rule and under the present BJP government, cooperative institutions have turned into centres of large-scale corruption, while the legitimate demands of cooperative employees continue to be ignored.

He alleged that cooperative-based oil mills, spinning mills and sugar mills have become defunct, and Regulated Market Committees (RMCs) are failing to function effectively for farmers. The Congress leader also pointed out the acute shortage of warehouses for storing paddy and other crops, along with the complete absence of cold storage facilities for vegetables across the state.

To address these issues, Patnaik announced that the Odisha Pradesh Congress Cooperative Cell on Monday launched the Cooperative Protection Campaign, starting from Ganjam district. The campaign aims to strengthen

the cooperative sector from the grassroots by making institutions active, transparent and free from corruption.

He said the Congress party has prepared a detailed roadmap to create widespread awareness about various welfare schemes implemented through cooperatives for people of all sections during previous Congress governments.

The campaign will focus on overall development of cooperative institutions, fulfillment of employees' legitimate demands, firm action against corruption, strengthening infrastructure and improving human resources.

Recalling history, Patnaik said that under the Five-Year Plans of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Service Societies were established at every panchayat to promote rural economic development, providing farmers relief from moneylenders and exploitation.

In Odisha, the cooperative vision of Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das was sincerely implemented during Congress rule.

He further stated that during the Congress-led UPA government under Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh,

cooperative institutions — from PACS to Central and State Cooperative Banks — were revived following the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee.

Human resources were strengthened, infrastructure was developed, computerisation was accelerated, and agricultural loans worth Rs 72,680 crore were waived for over five crore farmers, giving new momentum to the cooperative sector.

Patnaik alleged that current government announcements remain confined to publicity and paperwork, and urged immediate action to revive cooperatives.

He demanded comprehensive reforms, including the formation of a state-level task force of cooperative experts, establishment of a Cooperative Academy, strengthening of the State Cooperative Union Ltd, increased education funds, and higher budgetary allocations for the cooperative sector.

He also demanded complete waiver of agricultural loans for all farmers by March 31, construction of cold storage facilities in every subdivision and warehouses in every gram panchayat, and full electricity subsidy for cold storage entrepreneurs.

Telangana BJP questions CM Revanth Reddy's US visit for Harvard leadership programme



interests, citing what he called recent "public theatrics" that distract from governance.

The BJP leader pointed to what he described as a contradiction in the government's claims.

While the Chief Minister has stated that the state exchequer is under strain and funds are insufficient to implement Congress' electoral promises, he argued that spending on an overseas leadership programme sends a conflicting message.

He said the resources and administrative attention directed toward such international engagements could instead be utilised to address key concerns such as farmer welfare, employment generation, infrastructure development and implementation of welfare schemes.

The BJP expressed hope that the Chief Minister would return with "greater seriousness and dignity" and focus on delivering tangible outcomes for the people of Telangana.

"The people of the state did not vote for foreign certifications."

They voted for transparent, efficient and accountable leadership at home," Subash said.

JK: SFs launch search op to track down hiding terrorists in Kishtwar



triggered.

However, as per reports, around eight soldiers have also suffered injuries, primarily due to splinter injuries caused by a sudden grenade attack from the hiding

terrorists.

"The search operation resumed in the early morning supported by drones and sniffer dogs," they said, adding that the area has been cordoned off.

UP's cyber security prowess to be showcased at Cybertech Global show in Tel Aviv

Lucknow: At 'Cybertech Global Tel Aviv 2026', counted among the world's most prestigious cyber security platforms, India and especially Uttar Pradesh's cyber strength will be presented before the global community this time.

At the international conference to be held in Tel Aviv, Israel, from January 26-28, UP's and Asia's top cyber cop, Prof Triveni Singh will represent India, along with Madhavan Unnikrishnan Nair, national cyber security coordinator, government of India.

Both experts will present the nuances of cyber security and the technologies being adopted before the world's top cyber scientists and policymakers.

Prof. Singh, who is running the 'Cyber Safe Uttar Pradesh' campaign for awareness, will share information about the innovative measures being undertaken in Uttar Pradesh regarding cyber security and will hold discussions on cyber security support at the international level. Based on his experience of more than 25 years, Singh will explain how Uttar Pradesh, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has built a robust system to deal with cyber crime, financial fraud and technology-driven crimes. At the same time, Nair will share India's national cyber framework and policy experience on the global platform.

At this global gathering

Multiple road accidents in UP leave five dead, many injured

Lucknow: In separate road accidents across Uttar Pradesh, at least five people were killed and several others injured in Gonda, Unnao, Barabanki, and other districts.

On the Lucknow-Ayodhya service lane near Palharia under Kotwali Nagar area, an auto-rickshaw carrying passengers met with a fatal accident in the wee hours of Monday. Seeing a gravel-laden trailer approaching from the opposite direction, the auto driver swerved left. As a result, Ashish Yadav (resident of Pandeypur, Maurawan, Unnao), who was seated on the right side of the auto, fell onto the road.

Devendra Kumar Tiwari (resident of Rosipurwa, Colonelganj, Gonda), who was seated in the front of the Ertiga, died in the accident. He worked at a petrol pump and was travelling after taking a lift. Two others, Islam

(resident of Siddharthnagar) and Atikur Rahman (from Gonda), were injured and referred from the CHC to the district hospital. Innova passenger Makbool Ahmad of Bahraich sustained serious injuries, while his family members suffered minor injuries.

In another tragic incident at Ganjaria village (Gadh Rakhmua), a seven-year-old boy, Anshu, was crushed to death by a pickup vehicle while playing on the road. The vehicle was being driven by a villager, Gulshan. Police have seized the pickup and managed the situation.

On the Purvanchal Expressway at kilometer 39.9, a car travelling from Varanasi to Lucknow met with an accident after the driver report-

edly fell asleep. Driver Raj Kaushal Rai (Azamgarh) and passenger Anil Singh were injured and admitted to Haidergarh CHC.

Meanwhile, at Loniatra's Dahila Pokhra road, a tractor-trolley carrying devotees participating in a Kala Yatra overturned while overtaking near Khairabiru turn on Sunday night.

Around 25 people were on board, and 15, including children, were injured. Several injured devotees were referred from Trivediyan CHC to the district hospital, while others were admitted to private hospitals. The tractor was being driven by Ramdev Verma of the village.

In the last accident, two

cousins riding a scooter were killed in a road accident on Sunday in Sultanpur, while their third sister sustained serious injuries. The injured girl is undergoing treatment at a private hospital. Police reached the spot after receiving information and sent the bodies for post-mortem, initiating legal proceedings.

The incident occurred in Vaidaha village under the Gosaisinghpur police station area.

The deceased have been identified as Priyadarshini alias Shubhi (16), daughter of Vijay Kumar Tiwari and a Class 8 student, and her cousin Anvi Tiwari (17), daughter of Deepak Kumar Tiwari, who was a Class 11 student.

Priyadarshini's younger sister, Prashali Tiwari, was critically injured in the accident.

According to informa-

tion, the three sisters were going to Motiyanj market on a scooter to buy items. When they reached near a liquor shop on the canal embankment, an out-of-control tractor hit their scooter. After the collision, the tractor driver fled the scene.

It was reported that Anvi's birthday was on January 30, and the three sisters were going together to make preparations for the celebration.

On receiving information from villagers, the police arrived at the scene and sent the bodies for post-mortem.

Gosaisinghpur Station House Officer Ram Ashish Upadhyay said that an FIR will be registered in the case after receiving a written complaint.

Police are investigating all incidents.

Youth Power to Fuel Mumbai Climate Week 2026

Mumbai : UNICEF YuWaah has officially teamed up as the Youth Engagement Partner for the upcoming Mumbai Climate Week (MCW) 2026, scheduled from February 17 to 19. This strategic partnership, involving UNICEF India, Project Mumbai, and YuWaah, aims to integrate the perspectives of children and young adults into the heart of environmental policy. Starting this January, a series of preparatory activities will empower the younger generation to contribute meaningfully to urban resilience strategies and local climate discussions.

The initiative recognizes the climate crisis as a fundamental child rights issue that requires urgent local attention. By transforming global environmental goals into localized actions, the platform seeks to elevate the voices of those who will inherit the planet. UNICEF India Representative Cynthia McCaffrey highlighted that young people are essential drivers of change. By focusing on



their rights, the city can build a more sustainable and safer future for all residents while addressing immediate ecological threats.

In the days leading up to the main event, "Campus Climate Roadshows" will tour various colleges across the city from February 9 to 16. A centerpiece of these roadshows will be a unique e-waste art installation created by Eco Clubs under

the Ministry of Education's Mission LiFE initiative. This installation serves as a visual reminder of the impact of responsible consumption and the role students play in waste management. It highlights how creative expression can be used to spark serious environmental dialogue.

Additionally, the "Youth Green Innovation Challenge" will invite participants aged 16 to 24 to present creative solutions in sectors like food systems and renewable energy.

Successful innovators will have the chance to pitch their ideas to policy-makers and industry experts during the summit. This national platform is designed to identify young changemakers who can provide practical answers to urban challenges. The goal is to ensure that these innovations receive the support needed to scale and make a real impact.

Shishir Joshi, the CEO of Project Mumbai, emphasized that the roadshow and the innovation challenge are about turning ideas into tangible actions. By engaging college students directly, the organizers are building a durable network of climate advocates. These young leaders are expected to carry the momentum of Mumbai Climate Week far beyond the month of February. Their involvement ensures that the conversation about climate resilience remains a priority within their local communities and professional circles.

Media Stars and Experts Converge at St. Xavier's Fest

Mumbai : The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at St. Xavier's College recently concluded its signature media festival, Zeitgeist, drawing a massive crowd of students. The event featured a high-profile lineup of industry leaders and celebrities who shared their professional journeys and creative philosophies. It served as a bridge between academic learning and the fast-paced reality of the media world. Students from across Mumbai participated in the sessions, seeking inspiration and networking opportunities.

The festival kicked off with a practical session on international education, guiding students through scholarship opportunities and the application process for global universities. This segment addressed the growing interest among Indian students in pursuing advanced degrees abroad. Experts discussed which international universities are currently in high demand and how to navigate the competitive selection process. It provided a roadmap for those looking to expand their horizons beyond domestic media landscapes. A major highlight was the Artist Panel, where comedy icon Vir Das, actress Mithila Palkar, and performer Srushti Tawade discussed their craft. They shared insights into their latest projects and the importance of maintaining authenticity in a digital world. Vir Das spoke about

the need for creative work to feel natural, while Mithila Palkar encouraged young creators to "keep it real." Their presence highlighted the shifting trends in Indian entertainment, from traditional cinema to digital-first action comedies.

Throughout the day, specialized panels delved into various niches, including sports broadcasting and the advertising industry. Sports commentators provided a deep dive into the world of live broadcasting and the skills needed to succeed in that high-pressure environment. Meanwhile, the advertising panel explored the massive shift from conventional marketing to purpose-driven digital campaigns. Industry veterans analyzed how brands are now focusing on target-oriented communications to reach modern consumers effectively.

To provide a well-rounded perspective, the festival also included discussions on filmmaking and public policy. Filmmakers shared the technical and emotional aspects of visual storytelling, emphasizing that a good story is the foundation of any successful film. The event concluded with a policy panel that tackled serious issues like urban development, privacy rights, and displacement. This ensured that the students left with a better understanding of both the creative glamour and the social responsibilities inherent in the media field.

Marathon Campaign Amplifies Fight Against Child Abuse



Mumbai : The Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026 served as a massive platform for the non-profit organization Arpan to promote its #POCSOPakadLega campaign, aimed at eradicating Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). Building on the momentum of its 2025 Child Safety Week, the organization used the high-visibility event to educate the public and reinforce the importance of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The initiative sought to turn a somber issue into a mainstream conversation of collective accountability. The campaign's central message, fronted by National Award-winning actress and Arpan Goodwill Ambassador Vidya Balan, delivered a stern warning to potential offenders.

By using the slogan "Kisi bhi bacche ko galat tareeke se chhua toh #POCSOPakadLega," the organization aimed to make the legal consequences of abuse visible and inevitable. During the Dream Run segment of the marathon, Arpan's team marched with placards and slogans, turning the race into a demonstration of community-led protection.

On-ground engagement at the event was bolstered by innovative installations, including a motorized "handcuff" display at the Motivational Zone. This visual metaphor was designed to arrest the attention of the 60,000 participants and spectators, symbolizing that no offender is beyond the reach of the law. Additionally, a public pledge board allowed attendees to formally commit to child safety, while life-sized cut-outs of Vidya Balan encouraged social media amplification through "photo-ops" with a purpose.

Pooja Taparia, the Founder and CEO of Arpan, emphasized that the campaign is about breaking the long-standing silence surrounding

CSA in India. She stated that the marathon provided an unparalleled opportunity to transform awareness into action, noting that even a single adult stepping up can change a child's life forever. The organization's presence was a continuation of its award-winning efforts from the previous year, focusing heavily on making the POCSO Act a household name.

Arpan remains a leading voice in the field, having impacted over 2 crore individuals since 2007 through prevention and healing services. With a team of over 150 professionals, the NGO works on everything from school-based personal safety education to policy advocacy at the national level. By integrating their message into major public events like the Mumbai Marathon, they continue to drive the social change necessary to create a safer environment for children across the country.

Discover the Hidden Charm of Mumbai's Own Mini Goa

Mumbai : Tucked away in the bustling neighborhood of Mazgaon, Matharpacady stands as a 400-year-old heritage village that offers a serene escape from Mumbai's high-speed metropolis. This architectural gem is defined by its narrow alleys, pastel-hued wooden bungalows, and traditional red-tiled roofs, reminiscent of coastal Goa. As a living museum of the city's colonial past, the village remains a stronghold for the indigenous East Indian Catholic community, who have meticulously preserved their ancestral architecture and social customs despite the encroachment of modern glass skyscrapers.

The spiritual and cultural heart of the hamlet is the Holy Cross Oratory, a historic chapel built in 1875 after the village was miraculously spared during a devastating plague. Today, this legacy lives on through vibrant annual feasts and religious processions that transform the area into a cultural spectacle, particularly during Christmas. Featuring unique landmarks like the "Lion's Den" bungalow and traditional Goan-style dormitories known as kudds,



The Opposition's Declining Unity

The balance of power in Indian politics is currently clearly tilted in one direction. The Bharatiya Janata Party has taken such a lead at all three levels - organization, leadership and electoral strategy - that the opposition's mass is becoming increasingly fragmented day by day. While the process of leadership change in the BJP is going smoothly, on the other hand, the opposition parties seem to be stuck in internal differences, selfish equations and directionless politics.

Currently, there is only one dominant force that is constantly underlining its influence on the horizon of Indian politics, and that is the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP will get a new full-time president in the coming week, and the election of a relatively new but organizationally loyal leader, Nitin Nabin, as the full-time president from the post of working president says a lot. This election has once again proven how tight and impenetrable the grip of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the party is. Despite facing many challenges at the international level and some degree of political deadlock, the BJP's coin is still ringing in domestic politics. The issue of Hindutva is currently at the center of all political discussions and all other questions and problems seem to be secondary for the time being. This era of victory that began in 2014 is still going on with the same vigor, and the BJP has become a huge and precise machine for winning elections, not just a political party, although the opposition is criticizing that it has become a huge and precise machine for winning elections.

In the face of this storm of BJP, the condition of non-BJP parties has become very bad. The Congress, which once brought independence to the country under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, is in a state of disarray today. Although Rahul Gandhi is trying to raise important issues, the party does not seem to be getting the desired momentum. Although the opposition is constantly criticizing the functioning of the Election Commission and the role of Commissioner Dnyanesh Kumar, it does not seem to have any impact on the actual voting or the results. Although the opposition is crying foul over the Commission's conduct, it is becoming helpless before the BJP's electoral tactics. The 'India' alliance of the opposition parties is currently going through a struggle for existence. Most of the regional parties in this alliance seem to have their vision limited to their own states. Be it China's infiltration or the controversial statements of US President Donald Trump, these regional parties have little to do with international issues like that. As long as the BJP does not bother them in their own states, they pretend to unite at the national level. 'Our business should run smoothly' is their main motto, and this alliance goes down the drain when selfishness gets in the way.

In this age of instant noodles, political loyalties and alliance have become as fleeting as water on a taro leaf. The 'INDIA' alliance finds itself in a precarious situation, unable to hold on to its gains, and appears to have completely lost its momentum after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP, like a skilled magician, creates confusion by raising multiple issues simultaneously and achieves its political objectives amidst the chaos. The opposition is repeatedly failing to understand this technique. As the upcoming elections in Kerala draw closer, the conflict there is becoming more intense. After the last parliamentary session, Prime Minister Modi and opposition leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, had an informal tea meeting. This cordial picture drew sharp criticism from the Left parties in Kerala against the Congress. The Left parties are becoming restless due to the increasing strength of the Congress in Kerala, and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's popularity also appears to be declining. Vijayan's working style is being criticized as that of 'Kerala's Modi' even within his own party, and this decline of the Left has become a matter of concern for democracy.

On the other hand, Amit Shah has geared up to oust Mamata Banerjee's government in West Bengal. Efforts are underway to corner the Trinamool Congress using new legal and political issues. Although Mamata Banerjee is formally part of the 'INDIA' alliance, she is not inclined to leave any seats for the Congress in the upcoming elections. Therefore, a direct contest is expected between the BJP and the Trinamool in Bengal. The situation is no different in Tamil Nadu. Since Chief Minister M. K. Stalin does not want to give the Congress a share in power, the Congress is now reportedly in contact with film star Vijay and his 'TVK' party. The BJP has also started working on forming a coalition of smaller parties there, along with the AIADMK. The conflict between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress in Punjab is well-known, with the Congress trying to weaken Kejriwal's party, while the Congress accuses Kejriwal of acting as the BJP's 'B team'. In Jammu and Kashmir, the ruling National Conference appears to be under pressure from the BJP, which is why the BJP's dominance is also felt in the politics there. Overall, given the current political situation, the possibility of opposition parties uniting in the coming year is extremely slim. While every regional party is struggling for its own existence, the BJP is strengthening its organization at both the central and state levels. It will be interesting to see how the new president, Nitin Naveen, under the guidance of Modi and Shah, carries forward the party's triumphant march. The lack of a concrete program and universally accepted leadership among the opposition is making these battles easier for the BJP. Looking at today's political situation, the defeat of the opposition is not only a result of the BJP's strength, but also a reflection of their own failures. Beyond declarations of unity, the opposition is failing to present a concrete program, credible leadership, and a national perspective. Regional self-interest, personal ambitions, and mutual distrust make opposition alliances appear strong only on paper. Until the opposition overcomes these limitations, it will be impossible to stop the BJP's organized juggernaut. Until the opposition moves beyond its narrow regional identities and presents a national vision, it will be difficult for any alliance to stop the BJP's victorious march. The coming period will not only be about power equations, but also about determining who survives in the battle of ideologies.

Fostering India's Indigenous Chip Design Ecosystem

India is strengthening its semiconductor ecosystem as a strategic pillar of economic growth, technological capability, and national resilience. With global demand for advanced electronics and AI-driven applications rising steadily, the semiconductor industry is projected to reach nearly USD 1 trillion by 2030. At present, the global semiconductor workforce faces a shortfall of semiconductor talent, resulting in a requirement for over 1 million additional skilled professionals by 2032. This positions India as a pivotal contributor to the global semiconductor ecosystem through targeted initiatives.

Recognizing chip design as a strategic national priority, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has implemented proactive measures to transform India's semiconductor design landscape. These initiatives span approximately 400 organizations, including 305 academic institutions under the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme and 95 startups under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

By enabling nationwide participation in semiconductor chip design, the C2S Programme democratizes access to advanced design capabilities. It empowers students, researchers, and entrepreneurs irrespective of institution or location to develop innovative semiconductor solutions, and accelerating indigenous innovation in line with the vision of technological self-reliance and global competitiveness.

The C2S Programme is an umbrella capacity-building initiative launched by the MeitY in 2022, with a total outlay of ₹250 crore over five years, covering academic institutions across India.

The C2S Programme targets the development of 85,000 industry-ready professionals across undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels. This includes: 200 PhD scholars engaged in advanced research in chip design,

7000 M. Tech graduates specializing in VLSI or Embedded Systems, 800 M. Tech graduates from computer, communication, or electronic systems programmes with focused VLSI exposure, 69,000 B. Tech students trained through VLSI-oriented coursework. Moreover, beyond man-

EDA software and semiconductor foundries, enabling them to design, build, and test their own chips. These opportunities also include implementing R&D projects under the C2S Programme to develop working prototypes of Application-Specific Integrated Circuit (ASICs), Systems-on-Chip (SoCs), and

infrastructure, intellectual property cores, and technical mentorship. This centralized support enables institutions to undertake chip design and fabrication activities, strengthening India's domestic semiconductor design capability.

The Chips to Start-up Programme has delivered

support and large-scale capacity building. Key programmes and institutions such as C-DAC and ChipIN centre, provide end-to-end enablement for chip design education and innovation. By integrating R&D institutions and industry partners, the C2S institutional framework supports indigenous chip design and advances India's objective of a self-reliant and globally competitive semiconductor design ecosystem.

MeitY leads national semiconductor initiatives, provides policy direction, and anchors schemes such as Chips to Start-up Programme.

These coordinated institutional frameworks ensure equitable access to national chip design infrastructure, strengthens academia-industry collaboration, and builds a steady pipeline of industry-ready chip designers. It plays a critical role in advancing indigenous chip design capability and positioning India as a credible participant in the global semiconductor ecosystem.

Semiconductors have emerged as a strategic foundation for innovation, economic growth, and national security. Leadership in semiconductor design and talent development is increasingly central to global technological competitiveness.

Recognising this, India is positioning its academic and innovation ecosystem to play a decisive role in shaping future semiconductor technologies.

The Chips to Start-up Programme reflects India's commitment to building a strong and self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem. By enabling large-scale skill development, hands-on design experience, and access to national infrastructure, the programme is empowering students, researchers, startups, and entrepreneurs to contribute to indigenous chip design and innovation.

India's chip design ecosystem under the Chips to Start-up Programme is being strengthened through a coordinated institutional framework that combines technological infrastructure and startups.

Through a combination of national technological facilities and fabrication support, the programme has enabled large-scale participation from academic institutions and startups.

IndiaSkills is the country's premier national skill competition framework, designed to identify, nurture and benchmark India's best vocational talent against global standards, while creating a structured progression pathway for skilled youth from the grassroots to national and international platforms, including the WorldSkills Competition.

The ongoing IndiaSkills Competition 2025-26 cycle has witnessed one of the widest participation footprints to date, with 3.65 lakh candidates registering from 35 States and Union Territories across 63 skill categories, through the Skill India Digital Hub.

The competition will commence with the

Opening Ceremony at the B.K.B Auditorium, Gauhati University followed by a familiarisa-

tion programme on January 19.

The regional competition has been conceptualized to reduce geographic and logistical barriers for participation, strengthen skill ecosystems in the North Eastern Region, and identify region-specific strengths and high-potential candidates aligned with industry demand and national priorities.

This integrated approach ensures strong industry alignment, high-quality competition standards and adherence to national and international benchmarks. Winners from the North East Regional Competition will advance to the national stage of IndiaSkills Competition 2025-26, contributing to India's growing pipeline of skilled talent for global opportunities.

IndiaSkills 2025-26: North East Regional Competition

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is organising the North East Regional Competition of IndiaSkills 2025-26 from 19 to 22 January 2026 at Gauhati University, marking a significant milestone in India's national skilling ecosystem. This is the first time a dedicated IndiaSkills Regional Competition is being conducted exclusively for the North Eastern Region, with participation from all eight North Eastern States. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is serving as the knowledge partner and implementing agency for IndiaSkills Competition 2025-26. The competition will bring together skilled youth from all eight North-Eastern states to compete across 26 skill categories on a national platform cele-

brating regional talent and excellence.

The competition will be inaugurated on 19 January 2026 by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening skill development, regional inclusion and competitive excellence across emerging regions of the country.

Smt. Hena Usman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India addressed the pre-event press conference. The North East Regional Competition represents a decisive step in deepening India's skilling architecture across emerging regions of the country.

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Several Initiatives in the Distribution Sector Improve Key Performance Indicators

The country's power distribution utilities (DISCOMs and power departments) have collectively recorded a positive Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹2,701 crore in year FY 2024-25 marking a significant turning point for the sector. The distribution utilities as a whole have been reporting PAT losses for past several years since unbundling and corporatization of State Electricity Boards.

The positive PAT of ₹2,701 crore returned in FY 2024-25 compares to a loss of ₹25,553 crore in year FY 2023-24 and a loss of ₹67,962 crore in FY 2013-14.

While commenting on this, Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister of Power said that this marks a new chapter for the distribution sector and is a result of several steps that have been taken to redress the concerns of

the distribution sector.

The Minister said this achievement was possible due to the leadership and vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi captured in his words that, "India is driving not only its growth but also the growth of the world, with the energy sector playing a significant role in this". Shri Manohar Lal said the government is committed to the required reforms in the sector so that the power sector can support our growing economy and play its part in the journey towards Viksit Bharat.

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS): Enhancing financial viability through infrastructure modernization and accelerated smart metering.

Additional Prudential Norms: Linking access to finance for Power sector Utilities to achievement against performance benchmarks to

promote fiscal and operational discipline. Amendments to Electricity Rules: Enforcing timely cost adjustments, prudent tariff structures, and transparent

utilities for improved financial governance.

Late Payment Surcharge Rules: Enforcing legal contracts through timely payments in the power sector

subsidy accounting to ensure full cost recovery.

Electricity Distribution (Accounts and Additional Disclosure) Rules, 2025: Introducing uniform accounting and enhanced transparency across Distribution

thereby supporting investment in new RE projects. Incentivizing states to implement critical power sector reforms, with borrowing limits tied to performance metrics as part of Additional Borrowing Scheme.

The result of these re-

forms is evident not just in the positive PAT posted by the Distribution Utilities after so many years, but also in other performance indicators.

The Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses have reduced over the years, signalling a transformation. The AT&C losses have reduced from 22.62% in FY 2013-14 to 15.04% in FY 2024-25. Further, signaling much improved cost recovery, the Average Cost of Supply-Average Revenue Realized (ACS-ARR) gap has narrowed from ₹0.78/kWh in FY 2013-14 to ₹0.06/kWh in FY 2024-25. Reforms such as the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge) Rules have led to a 96% reduction in outstanding dues to generating companies—from ₹1,39,947 crore in 2022 to just ₹4,927 crore by January 2026—while bringing

down Distribution utility payment cycles from 178 days in FY 2020-21 to 113 days in FY 2024-25.

The Ministry of Power has put in concerted efforts over the past decade to improve the performance of distribution utilities across the country. In addition to the different policy initiatives, extensive engagements with States and UTs have emphasized reforms in the distribution sector. These include discussions led by Shri Manohar Lal, Union Power Minister during the Regional Conferences of Energy Ministers of States/UTs in 2025 - Gangtok (Northeastern Region), Mumbai (Western Region), Bengaluru (Southern Region), Chandigarh (Northern Region) and Patna (Eastern Region). Regular interactions and review have played an important role in DISCOMs accomplishing this remarkable turnaround.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

A set of quantifiable measurements used to gauge a company's overall long-term performance.

Electricity Distribution (Accounts and Additional Disclosure) Rules, 2025: Introducing uniform accounting and enhanced transparency across Distribution

MAHARASHTRA

Sewage-mixed water supply sparks health concerns in Pune's Karve Nagar

Pune: Serious public health concerns have surfaced in Pune's Karve Nagar area after residents reported the supply of sewage-mixed drinking water, triggering widespread anger and alarm among locals.

The incident has raised fears of a potential outbreak of waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, and skin infections, particularly affecting children and the elderly.

According to residents, contaminated and foul-smelling water was supplied across several parts of the locality, rendering the water unfit for consumption or daily household use.

The issue came to light on Sunday, January 18, in the Gaikwad Chawl area near Bhujbal Bungalow, where sewage-contaminated water was found flowing through the main water supply pipeline.



Residents said that during the morning water supply, multiple households received dirty and discoloured water directly from their taps.

In several homes, the water appeared blackish in colour and emitted a strong, unbearable odour, prompting immediate concern and panic among families.

Many citizens claimed that visible traces of sewage were present in the water, leaving no doubt about the extent of contamination.

Several residents said they refrained from using the water even for basic activities such as washing utensils or bathing, fearing serious health consequences. Angry locals accused the civic administration of gross negligence, alleging that repeated complaints about pipeline issues in the area had gone unaddressed.

BJP MLC Sandip Joshi announces exit from active politics

Nagpur: BJP Member of the Legislative Council Sandip Joshi, known to be close to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and union Minister Nitin Gadkari, on Monday declared his decision to retire from politics, saying the move is intended to create space for the younger generation.

In a letter shared on his social media platforms and addressed to his supporters, the 55-year-old leader said politics for him was never about power or status but about selfless service and commitment.

Joshi expressed concern over the present political environment, marked by defections for power, opportunism, and intense competition.

Such developments disturb not only common citizens but also sincere party workers. With limited opportunities and growing ambitions, hardly anyone is willing to step aside, which he described as "today's harsh reality."

Stating that he still considers himself an ordinary

BJP worker, Joshi said the prevailing situation convinced him that he should be the one to step back. He announced this decision through his letter, noting that he has served as a corporator and mayor of Nagpur in the past.

Emphasising the need to encourage young leadership, Joshi said that after deep introspection, he has decided to bring his political journey to a close.

Acknowledging the role played by the party in shaping his career, he sought forgiveness from senior leaders Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis while announcing his decision.

Joshi clarified that his current term as an MLC will continue until May 13 this year and he will fulfil this responsibility as entrusted by the party.

However, after that date, "he will neither seek a ticket nor accept one even if offered," he said. The opportunity, he added, should go to a young grassroots worker or to whoever the party deems fit.

He further stated that following May 13, he would completely withdraw from active politics, stressing that the decision was made after careful and thoughtful consideration, not due to any emotional impulse. Going forward, he plans to function as a social worker and continue serving the public.

Joshi also acknowledged the significant influence of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in his life after his family and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the BJP for the various opportunities he received throughout his political career.

He noted that if he chose to remain in politics, future opportunities would likely arise. Highlighting the BJP's culture, he said it is a party where even an ordinary worker can rise to become the Prime Minister of the country. However, he firmly believes that his continued presence should not deprive any ordinary worker of opportunities.

"In my absence, nothing will be obstructed for anyone. This is the ultimate truth," he added.

Bombay HC rules love affair and refusal to marry do not amount to Abetment of Suicide

Ch. Sambhajinagar:

The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court has quashed a first information report and criminal proceedings for abetment of suicide registered against a young nursing student from Beed, holding that a mere love affair or refusal to marry does not constitute instigation to suicide in the absence of any specific overt act or guilty intent.

The ruling was delivered by Justice S. G. Chiplaonkar recently, while allowing Criminal Application No. 2475 of 2025 filed by the applicant, Aarti Suresh Sonavane, under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The court quashed Crime No. 21 of 2024 registered at Shivajinagar Police Station, Beed and the consequential charge-sheet in RCC No. 152 of 2024 pending before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Beed, for an offence under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code.

The criminal proceedings had arisen from a complaint lodged by the father

of one Nilesh, who was preparing for recruitment in the police department and was allegedly in a romantic relationship with the applicant. According to the complaint, Nilesh informed his parents about the relationship on November 30, 2023, travelled to Beed on December 20 to appear for an examination, and was found dead by suicide through strangulation on December 23, 2023, at around 7 pm.

It was alleged in the FIR that due to the relationship, the applicant frequently contacted the deceased and that her conduct amounted to abetment, leading him to take the extreme step. On this basis, a case under Section 306 IPC was registered and investigation culminated in the filing of a charge-sheet before the trial court.

Before the High Court,

the defence counsel argued that even if the FIR and charge-sheet material were accepted at face value, they failed to disclose the essential ingredients of abetment of suicide as defined under Sections 107 and 306 IPC.

It was contended that the applicant, BSc Nursing student, had been unnecessarily implicated and that a relationship and mobile phone conversations, by themselves, could not amount to instigation, aiding or conspiracy.

The defence relied on recent Supreme Court rulings, including Prabhu v State represented by Inspector of Police, to submit that even in cases involving broken relationships, criminal liability for abetment cannot be imposed unless there is clear material showing intentional provocation or goading to commit suicide.

Opposing the plea, the Additional Public Prosecutor argued that a witness

statement indicated the deceased had ended his life after the applicant allegedly refused to marry him. However, after examining the FIR, witness statements and charge-sheet material, the court observed that the allegations against the applicant were confined to the existence of a relationship and did not attribute any specific act, threat, humiliation or continuous conduct that could have driven the deceased to suicide.

In

its legal analysis, the High Court referred to Chapter V of the IPC and reiterated settled principles on abetment. The court cited Ramesh Kumar v State of Chhattisgarh, where the Supreme Court held that in

Tenneco Clean Air, Indian Army and Vaghmi Foundation Launch 5,000-Tree Plantation Drive in Pune



and society, he said.

Samairah, Founder and Director of Vaghmi Foundation, highlighted We have been working on green initiatives for the last five years. In Pune, a large number of trees have been cut in recent years, and we are fighting against this from the street level to the Supreme Court.

Explaining the decision to carry out the plantation on Army land, Verma added that

the provisions of the Information Technology Act, based on which the Look Out Circular was issued. The complaint in the matter was filed by Nikhil Shamrao Bhamre, a resident of Thane West and social media convenor of the BJP Maharashtra region. According to the complaint, objectionable content was published on December 14 from the Facebook accounts 'Shahar Vikas Aghadi' and 'Dr Sangram Patil'. The posts were alleged to be derogatory, misleading and hateful towards national leaders and the BJP, with claims that objectionable remarks were also made about a woman. Acting on these allegations, the Cyber Crime Department initiated action. With Dr Patil being prevented from leaving the country despite complying with investigation procedures, the episode has drawn wider attention, including from political circles, and has intensified debate around free expression, due process, and procedural fairness.

In a strong step towards environmental conservation and sustainable urban forestry, Tenneco Clean Air India Ltd, in association with the Indian Army (15 Battalion, Jat Regiment) and Vaghmi Foundation, organized a large-scale Vrikshavropan Abhiyan (Tree Plantation Drive) aiming to plant 5,000 trees within a month, reinforcing the collective commitment of corporate, civil society, and the armed forces towards a cleaner and healthier environment, a release stated on Monday.

The Vrikshavropan Abhiyan, conducted under the guidance and protocol of the Indian Army – 15 Battalion, Jat Regiment, reflects a collaborative effort to enhance green cover and promote long-term environmental sustainability.

As part of the initiative, 5,000 trees will be planted in phases, with the first set of saplings planted during the event and the remaining to be planted within a month.

The Vrikshavropan Abhiyan, conducted under the guidance and protocol of the Indian Army – 15 Battalion, Jat Regiment, reflects a collaborative effort to enhance green cover and promote long-term environmental sustainability.

Speaking to the media here, Rishi Verma, President of Tenneco Clean Air, said the initiative reflects the company's commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment.

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British NHS consultant halted at Mumbai airport over social media posts



again on January 16, when he submitted a written statement.

According to sources, Dr Patil had informed investigating officers that he would be returning to the UK on the morning of January 19 and was assured that the Look Out Circular issued against him would be withdrawn prior to his departure. However, the situation unfolded differently at the airport. Dr Patil reached Mumbai International Air-

port early on January 19 to board an 8 am IndiGo flight to London, but was stopped at the immigration counter and informed that he could not travel abroad due to an active Look Out Circular. His onward journey was halted without prior notice. The case against Dr Patil is being investigated by Mumbai Crime Branch officers Sharad Dharave and Milind Kathe. A case has been registered in the Cyber Crime Department under

the provisions of the Information Technology Act, based on which the Look Out Circular was issued. The complaint in the matter was filed by Nikhil Shamrao Bhamre, a resident of Thane West and social media convenor of the BJP Maharashtra region. According to the complaint, objectionable content was published on December 14 from the Facebook accounts 'Shahar Vikas Aghadi' and 'Dr Sangram Patil'. The posts were alleged to be derogatory, misleading and hateful towards national leaders and the BJP, with claims that objectionable remarks were also made about a woman. Acting on these allegations, the Cyber Crime Department initiated action. With Dr Patil being prevented from leaving the country despite complying with investigation procedures, the episode has drawn wider attention, including from political circles, and has intensified debate around free expression, due process, and procedural fairness.

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According to political observers, the move is being seen as an attempt to exert pressure on the Bharatiya Janata Party for securing the mayor's post for two and a half years, along with key positions in important civic committees.

The issue gained further attention after senior BJP

leader and cabinet minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule commented publicly on the matter for the first time.

Although the BJP emerged as the single largest party by winning 89 seats in the Mumbai civic polls, it requires the support of the Shinde Sena to form the municipal administration, as both parties had contested the elections as allies. In contrast, only 29 candidates from the Shinde Sena were elected as councillors. Despite the smaller number, there are claims that efforts are being made to negotiate a stronger share of power.

Responding to questions on how the mayoral decision would be taken, Bawankule said that the party's parliamentary board would consider any formal demands once they are officially

placed. He clarified that no such demand had been communicated to him personally so far.

He also noted that Shinde is a member of the parliamentary board and that key decisions would be taken collectively in the coordination committee, which includes Devendra Fadnavis, Ajit Pawar, and Shinde.

Bawankule further stated that if there is any demand related to the mayor's

is speculation in some sections of the media that a few councillors are in contact with Uddhav Thackeray. Reports have also claimed that certain councillors have expressed that they do not hold any disrespect towards Thackeray. Political observers suggest that keeping the councillors together in a hotel is a precautionary measure to prevent defections, although no official confirmation of this has been provided so far.

At the same time, it is being said that the Shinde Sena is keen on securing representation in key committees of the Mumbai civic body. This has fuelled further discussion that the hotel stay arrangement was part of a broader strategy to strengthen bargaining power within the alliance.

Meanwhile, all Shinde Sena councillors are currently staying at the Taj Lands End hotel in Mumbai. There

Aryan Age | 05

Clash Erupts in Bhiwandi; Former Mayor Injured, Police Lathi-Charge Protesters

Thane: Tension continues to prevail in the power-loom town of Bhiwandi after a clash erupted between two rival political groups late on Sunday night, triggering concern over law and order in the area.

The incident reportedly followed the recent municipal corporation election results and has deepened political hostilities between the competing factions.

Former Bhiwandi Mayor Vilas Patil alleged that Mit Choughule, son of BJP MLA Mahesh Choughule, led an attack on the bungalows of Konark Vikas Aghadi's winning candidates.

According to Patil, the bungalows targeted in the alleged attack belong to him and his wife, Pratibha Patil,

both of whom have previously served as mayors of Bhiwandi.

He claimed that window panes were damaged during the attack and that women and children inside the houses were threatened, creating panic among family members. Patil further alleged that his wife, Pratibha Patil, sustained injuries during the incident, though details regarding the nature and severity of her injuries were not immediately clear.

Following the alleged attack, members and supporters of the Konark Vikas Aghadi staged a sit-in protest at Shivaji Chowk, demanding action against those responsible. Vilas Patil claimed that while the protest was underway, supporters of the

BJP MLA attacked the demonstrators in the presence of police personnel.

He accused the Bhiwandi police administration of acting under political pressure and failing to protect his supporters during the confrontation.

Patil alleged that Mit Choughule and his supporters carried out the attack out of anger over their defeat in the recent municipal corporation elections.

As tensions escalated and clashes intensified between the two groups, police intervened to prevent further violence. To disperse the crowd and restore order, the police resorted to a lathi-charge, after which the situation gradually came under control.

Hans Christian Andersen biopic 'My Fairytale Life' set under Nikolaj Arcel direction

Mumbai : An ambitious biographical feature chronicling the life of legendary Danish author Hans Christian Andersen is officially moving forward, with acclaimed filmmaker Nikolaj Arcel attached to direct the project titled *My Fairytale Life*.

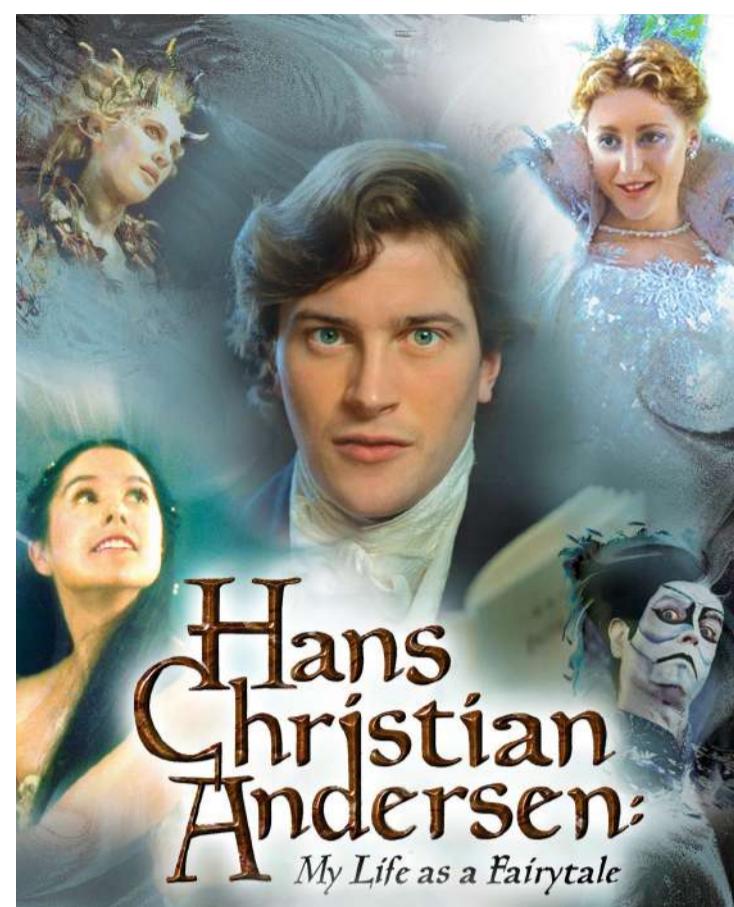
The film aims to explore the complex personal journey of Andersen, whose timeless stories such as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and *The Snow Queen* have left an indelible mark on world literature.

My Fairytale Life marks a significant reunion between Arcel and screenwriter Anders Thomas Jensen, rekindling a creative partnership that was recently revived on the historical epic *The Promised Land*, according to a report by Deadline.

Known for their sharp storytelling and nuanced character studies, Arcel and Jensen are expected to bring both emotional depth and dark humour to Andersen's life story.

Rather than focusing solely on Andersen's later fame, the film delves into his formative years, portraying him as a socially awkward outsider driven by ambition and deep emotional insecurity.

The synopsis reveals that Andersen arrives in Copenhagen as a virtual nobody, armed with grand dreams of conquering Denmark's cultural elite and becoming a celebrated artist. Set against a vibrant yet unforgiving backdrop, the story unfolds in a world populated by ac-



tors, playwrights, and elitist patrons, where talent alone is not always enough to secure acceptance.

Christian's fierce determination to gain recognition and affection

becomes the emotional core of the narrative, highlighting his lifelong struggle to belong in society.

However, the film also examines the darker side of ambition, as

Andersen's delusions of grandeur threaten to undermine his chances of success.

Ironically, the very identity that would later immortalise him — that of a children's fairytale writer — is something the young Andersen vehemently resists, viewing it as a limitation rather than a triumph.

The production of *My Fairytale Life* will be led by producers Louise Vesth and Tine Mikkelsen under the banner of Zentropa Entertainments4.

The project is being mounted as an international co-production with Zentropa Berlin GmbH, underscoring its broad European scope and appeal.

Financial and institutional support has been extended by The Danish Film Institute Market Scheme and FilmFyn, in cooperation with broadcaster TV2, Nordisk Film Distribution, and Plaion Pictures.

The film is also co-funded by the European Union, reflecting continuing backing for culturally significant European storytelling.

Nordisk Film Distribution will handle domestic release in Denmark, while TrustNordisk has secured international sales, positioning the film for a strong global presence.

Principal photography on *My Fairytale Life* is expected to begin in late 2026, with anticipation building around what promises to be a richly textured and revealing portrait of one of literature's most enduring figures.

Lyricist Varun Grover stands by AR Rahman after online criticism

Mumbai : Lyricist and screenwriter Varun Grover has come out in support of AR Rahman after the Oscar-winning composer faced backlash over his recent remarks, which were interpreted by some as "communal."

He further added, "And the very next day was

cause pain, and I hope my sincerity is felt," he said.

In a separate interview



with BBC Asian Network, Rahman was asked whether he had ever faced prejudice in Bollywood as a Tamil composer.

Reflecting on his jour-

ney, he remarked, "Maybe I never got to know of this, maybe it was concealed by God, but I didn't feel any of this.

The past eight years, maybe, because a power shift has happened, and people who are not creative have the power now. It might be a communal thing also... but it is not in my face."

During the same inter-

view, Rahman reiterated his criticism of Chhavaa, accus-

ing the film of exploiting

"divisiveness..."

Earlier on Sunday, Rahman released a video message addressing the situation, reaffirming his deep connection with India and his purpose as an artist.

"Music has always been

my way of connecting, cele-

brating and honouring our

culture. India is my inspira-

tion, my teacher and my

home."

I understand that inten-

tions can sometimes be

misunderstood. But my

purpose has always been

to uplift, honour and serve

through music.

I have never wished to

reflect on the composer's re-

marks.

In his post, he wrote,

"The greatest living com-

poser of the last 3 decades

got attacked and abused

(even by people within the

industry) for stating an

opinion in the politest,

mildest manner, that too

based on his lived-experi-

ences."

hindsight.

One such instance be-

came a light-hearted joke

on the set,

Amruta Khanvilkar recalls injury during intense Taskaree

action shoot: "My wrist remained swollen for over a month"

Mumbai : Amruta Khan-

vilkar has long been admired

for her courage in embracing

challenging and unconventional

roles, and her experience

on the sets of Taskaree: The Smuggler's Web proved

that reputation well-earned.

The Netflix web series

marked a major milestone in

Amruta's career, as it was her

first full-fledged project driven

heavily by action, pushing her

into physically demanding

and unfamiliar territory.

Known primarily for her

strong performances across

genres, the transition to an

action-oriented role required

intense physical preparation,

discipline, and mental focus

—areas that were relatively

new for the actor. Recalling

her early days on the shoot,

Amruta revealed that her

introduction to action choreo-

graphy came with an unex-

pected and painful setback.

During her very first action

sequence, she sustained an

injury after accidentally hit-

ting a stuntman on the face,

an incident that left her wrist

swollen for over a month.

Despite the pain and discom-

fort, Amruta chose not to halt

filming, demonstrating her

professionalism and commit-

ment to the project.

"While shooting my first

action sequence, I got injured

and continued filming," she

shared, candidly describing

the incident that occurred on

set. The actor explained that

the intensity of action scenes

often makes it difficult to ac-

curately judge force, timing,

and movement, especially for

performers new to the genre.

What initially appeared to

be a discouraging experi-

ence gradually turned into a

valuable learning curve for Amruta.

"Despite the injury, it was a very rewarding expe-

rience for me, as it helped me

understand the dos and don'ts of action sequences," she said, reflecting on the lesson the mishap taught her.

Amruta also openly

acknowledged that her

boundless enthusiasm

sometimes led to unintended

consequences during action

scenes. She revealed that she

would occasionally end up

hitting her co-actors uninten-

tionally, making certain moments more

real than planned.

"People on set were often hesitant to perform

action scenes with me because I would uninten-

tionally hit them," she said, laughing about it in

hindsight.

One such instance be-

came a light-hearted joke

on the set,

Amruta Khanvilkar recalls injury during intense Taskaree

action shoot: "My wrist remained swollen for over a month"

Bhansali Productions unveil teaser for 'Do Deewane Seher Mein'

Mumbai : Zee Studios and Bhansali Productions have unveiled the teaser for their upcoming romantic drama *Do Deewane Seher Mein*, offering audiences a glimpse into a contemporary love story rooted in emotion, nostalgia, and urban life, according to Variety.

The film stars Siddhant Chaturvedi and Mrunal Thakur in the lead roles, bringing together two actors known for their nuanced performances and strong on-screen presence.

Described as a "perfect love story between two imperfect people," the film promises a modern romance that unfolds gently.

Evoking emotions that feel both personal and universal.

The teaser suggests a narrative that lingers like a half-forgotten memory, capturing fleeting moments, unspoken emotions, and the quiet intensity of love in a bustling city.

Helmed by director Ravi Udyawar, *Do Deewane Seher Mein* is primarily set in Mumbai, using the city's energy, chaos, and intimacy as an essential backdrop to the love story.

One of the teaser's standout elements is its incorporation of the timeless song "Do Deewane Seher Mein" from the 1977 classic *Gharonda*.

Originally sung by Bhupinder Singh and Runa Laila, composed by Jaidev, and penned by legendary lyricist Gulzar, the song adds a layer of nostalgia and poetic depth to the film's modern setting.



He has also collaborated with Chaturvedi previously on *Yudhra*, further strengthening their creative association on this romantic project.

Do Deewane Seher Mein is produced by celebrated filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, along with Prema Singh, Umesh Kumar Bansal, and Bharat Kumar Ranga, in association with Ravi Udyawar Films.

Bhansali, whose recent directorial ventures include *Gangubai Kathiawadi* and the Netflix series *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, continues to support diverse storytelling through his production banner.

Bhansali Productions has previously backed films such as *Malaa* and *Tuesdays and Fridays*, showcasing a mix of fresh talent and intimate narratives.

Siddhant Chaturvedi, who rose to prominence with his breakout role in *Gully Boy*, continues to expand his range with recent projects such as *Dhadak 2*, *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, and *Gehraiyaan*, as noted by Variety.

Mrunal Thakur, meanwhile, has carved a space for herself across both commercial and content-driven cinema, with notable performances in *Son of Sardaar 2*, *Sita Ramam*, *Jersey*, and the Netflix anthology *Lust Stories*.

Director Ravi Udyawar is best known for helming the critically acclaimed thriller *Mom*, which marked the final on-screen appearance of legendary actor Sridevi.

SPORTS

Aryan Age | 07

"Women's HIL helped me grow as a striker & handle pressure moments better": Lalremsiami

New Delhi: Shrachi Bengal Tigers forward Lalremsiami reflected on her side's runners-up finish in the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26, calling the season a valuable learning experience both personally and collectively, while expressing confidence that the team will go one step further next year.

"It was a very good season for us and I got a lot to learn from it. Of course, we wanted to win the title and become champions, but as a team I think we performed really well. Sometimes the final result is not in your control, but overall, I really liked the HIL this time. We enjoyed it a lot and learned a lot together," Lalremsiami said.

Looking ahead, the 25-year-old was clear about the team's ambition. "Last time we finished third, this season we finished second. Next season, we will definitely aim for the trophy," she said.

Individually, Lalremsiami enjoyed one of her most productive seasons, scoring three goals and finishing among the top five scorers in the tournament, after playing the full campaign as a striker.

"In the last season, I was playing more as a midfielder, but this season I played the entire tournament as a striker. That gave me more chances to score goals. The midfielders and defenders supported me a lot, and I'm really grateful for that. I enjoyed this season and I'm happy with how I played."

She added that the league significantly improved her decision-making inside the circle.

"As a striker, you have to make quick decisions in 1v1 situations and under pressure inside the circle. In Hero HIL, I experienced a lot of those moments. Sometimes I made wrong decisions early on, but match by match I learned what to do better. Especially inside the circle, my decision-making has improved a lot."

Speaking about the strong Indian core in the Tigers squad, Lalremsiami highlighted the importance of familiarity and leadership.

"Players like Vandana, Monika, and Gurjeet are our seniors and we play together for India, but we hadn't

played together for some time. Reuniting in HIL was exciting and a lot of fun. As Indian players, we understand our responsibility to guide the juniors, communicate well under pressure



and help everyone play their natural game. I think we succeeded in doing that."

The forward also underlined the impact of leagues like the Women's HIL on Indian players' confidence. "Hero HIL is a huge stage. Young players dream of playing here and playing alongside foreign players. When you start, the confidence may not be very high, but with time it increases a lot. For both seniors and youngsters, this league is very important for improvement."

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"We didn't have much time to build combinations, but everyone – players and coaches – gave 100 percent to understand each other quickly. Our team culture and communication were very good, and that helped us on the pitch. Senior players handled the team very well and guided the younger players. Everyone played their own game, and that consistency was very important for us."

After a slow start to the tournament, Shrachi Bengal Tigers found consistency and momentum as the league progressed. Lalremsiami credited the team environment, communication and leadership group for building strong on-field chemistry in a short period.

"In our matches against the Pipers earlier, one game went to shootout after we conceded late, and in the other we dominated most of the match but couldn't score. So, we felt the matches were ours to win and that we had let them slip rather than being outplayed. Before the Final, the idea was simple – play our game, focus on ourselves and our skills, and try to finish the match in regulation time. Unfortunately, it didn't happen, but the experience was very important for all of us."

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Pro Wrestling League: Jyoti Sihag Downs Olympic Silver Medallist Guzman Lopez

Noida : Straight from Haryana's wrestling heartland, Sisai, Tiigers of Mumbai Dangal's 53kg pick, Jyoti Sihag, produced one of the standout results of Pro Wrestling League 2.0, defeating Paris 2024 Olympic silver medallist Yusneyl Guzman Lopez of Cuba 9-5 on Sunday at the Noida Indoor Stadium.

and aligned seamlessly with the identity Tiigers are shaping in their debut campaign.

Commenting on Jyoti's achievement, Aksha Kamboj, Co-Owner, Tiigers of Mumbai Dangals, said, "What Jyoti did out there reflects the kind of belief and fearlessness we want this team to play with. She backed her ability, stayed brave under pressure, and showed what's possible when talent meets confidence. This group has the hunger and the mindset to do something special, and moments like these show the direction we're moving in and the standards we're trying to build." Jyoti began wrestling in her early teens, driven by her uncle's belief that she could reach the highest level of the sport. With steady backing from her family, including her husband and his family, she progressed through the domestic circuit before making her mark internationally. A defining moment came in Yerevan, Armenia, where she secured international gold by defeating Mongolia's Monkhboldyn Dolgoon 10-0 in the 55kg final, underlining her control and competitiveness on the mat.

Speaking of her triumph, Jyoti said, "I want to thank my team and Aksha (Kamboj) ma'am, who believed in me, who trusted me and gave me an opportunity to represent Tiigers of Mumbai Dangals in Pro Wrestling League. This is my debut season. I am happy with my performance today and getting a good bout result for the team. I hope I can continue this form, and I am sure we will find our winning strength in the next match." Stepping into the league environment with Tiigers of Mumbai Dangals, Jyoti reflected the fearless approach the Mumbai franchise represents, embracing the spirit of the city that never sleeps. Under lights and noise, Jyoti stayed measured, drawing strength from her corner and executing with intent rather than urgency. It was a performance that justified the faith shown in her.

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Despite moments of visible frustration, Swiatek showed composure when it

forced errors during the match, frequently misfiring off both wings as she searched for timing and con-



sistency, according to BBC Sport.

Yuan, playing with freedom and little pressure, seized on Swiatek's early rustiness, forcing the top

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set into a tight opening set

superior movement and baseline depth to gradually wear down the Chinese qualifier. Swiatek eventually sealed a 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 victory, ensuring her campaign for a seventh Grand Slam title stayed on track, albeit without the dominance she is known for. Reflecting on the match, Swiatek admitted she was far from her best but took encouragement from winning despite the difficulties. "It wasn't perfect but that's why I am happy," Swiatek said. "It is not hard to win matches when everything is going well. Today it wasn't, but I managed to win, so that's good." One area of concern for Swiatek was her second serve, which was repeatedly targeted by Yuan, who won 59 percent of the points off it.

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BSE Sensex

Close	Percent change
83,246.18	-0.39%
Previous close	
83,570.35	Open

High	Low
83,539.93	82,898.31

Nifty 50

Close	Percent change
25,653.10	-0.42%
Previous close	

Open
25,694.35

High
25,653.30

Low
25,494.35

Nifty 500

Close	Percent change
23,373.75	-0.47%
Previous close	

Open
23,485.30

High
23,443.35

Low
23,324.85

Nifty Next 50

Close	Percent change
68,693.90	-0.24%
Previous close	

Open
68,857.90

High
69,233.70

Low
68,516.90

Nifty 100

Close	Percent change
26,181.95	-0.39%
Previous close	

Open
26,285.30

High
26,246.10

Low
26,104.95

Nifty Bank

Close	Percent change
59,891.35	-0.34%
Previous close	

Open
60,095.15

High
60,107.50

Low
59,594.60

Nifty Midcap 100

Close	Percent change
59,647.65	-0.37%
Previous close	

Open
59,739.55

High
59,938.70

Low
59,480.30

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Interglobe Avi	4,941.50	4.25
Tech Mahindra	1,718.30	2.86
HUL	2,413.90	2.27
Kotak Mahindra	426.90	2.08
Bajaj Finance	969.45	2.02

Top Losers

Company	Current	% Loss
Wipro	245.95	-8.04
Reliance	1,413.60	-3.04
Eternal	281.35	-2.21
ICICI Bank	1,380.60	-2.14
TMPV	344.00	-2.71

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Feb 05	144,980.00	2,463.00 1.73
Silver Mar 05	303,425.00	15,663.00 5.44
Crudeoil Feb 19	5,396.00	-53.00 -0.97
Naturalgas Jan 27	328.10	47.70 17.01

Sensex, Nifty succumb to selling pressure in blue-chips Reliance, ICICI Bank

Mumbai : Indian equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Monday, weighed down by sharp losses in heavyweight stocks such as Reliance Industries, Eternal, and ICICI Bank amid persistent global tariff-related uncertainties.

Investor sentiment remained fragile as concerns over global trade tensions, a weakening rupee, and continued foreign capital outflows kept market participants cautious, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 324.17 points, or 0.39 per cent, to close at 83,246.18. During intraday trade, the benchmark index fell as much as 672.04 points, or 0.80 per cent, to hit a low of 82,898.31.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 108.85 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 25,585.50, snapping its recent gains.

Heavyweight Reliance Industries emerged as the biggest drag on the indices, falling 3.04 per cent after the company reported a flat net profit of Rs 18,645 crore for the third quarter.

The muted earnings performance came as a decline in gas production and weakness in the retail segment offset gains in other business verticals, disappointing investors.

Banking stocks also faced selling pressure, with ICICI Bank sliding 2.26 per cent following a decline in its December-quarter consolidated profit.

The lender's profit fell 2.68 per cent to Rs 12,537.98 crore, impacted by an RBI-mandated Rs 1,283-crore provision related to agricultural loans that were wrongly classified as priority sector advances. On a standalone basis, ICICI Bank, the country's

second-largest private sector lender, reported a more than 4 per cent decline in October-December profit at Rs 12,883 crore. Other prominent Sensex laggards included Eternal, Titan, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, and UltraTech

Cement, reflecting broad-based selling across sectors. However, selective buying was seen in pockets of the market, with InterGlobe Aviation, Tech Mahindra,