



Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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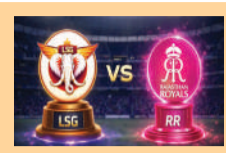
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Poll pitch: BJP promises Rs 21,000 for pregnant women, Rs 50,000 for girls' education in Bengal, says Delhi CM

New Delhi: In poll-bound West Bengal, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday held roadshows backing BJP candidate from Asansol, Agnimitra Paul, highlighting the party's promises to safeguard women's rights. "As soon as the BJP forms a

government, a new era of respect and security will begin for mothers, sisters, and daughters," said Gupta, listing the party's promises for women. Announcing the saffron party's promises for women, Gupta said, "Pregnant women will

receive an aid of Rs 21000. Daughter's education will receive support of Rs 50000." She further added that under the Lakshmi Didi campaign, 75 lakh sisters will be empowered and made self-reliant. Women will also receive free

treatment up to Rs 5 lakh, the CM added. Taking a jibe at the Trinamool Congress, Gupta said this election is not just about changing the government. This election is about freeing Bengal from "syndicate rule, corruption, fear, violence,

and appeasement. This election is about saving Bengal's soul," said Delhi CM. She further slammed the TMC, calling them out for plundering the state and bearing the consequences of the action after May 4, once the election results are announced.

"After May 4, the law will take its course. Those who have looted Bengal, those who have intimidated mothers and sisters, those who have robbed the youth of their future-they will be held to account, one by one," Gupta wrote on her official X handle.



Did India's CDS Mock Donald Trump and JD Vance?

PIB Calls Viral Clip Pakistan-Linked Deepfake

New Delhi: Pakistani propaganda networks have once again pushed misleading content online, this time circulating a doctored video falsely claiming that India's Chief of Defence Staff made derogatory remarks about US President Donald Trump.

The clip, widely shared across social media platforms, appears to have been manipulated to distort context and fuel disinformation, raising fresh concerns about coordinated attempts to strain diplomatic narratives and mislead public perception.

In the manipulated clip, extracted from an earlier interview of General Anil Chauhan, he is heard referring to the recent visit of JD Vance to Pakistan for discussions linked to ceasefire negotiations with Iran.

"If JD Vance is coming to Pakistan, then there is no big deal, you have to understand how the US system works. These ranks don't carry any power. Whether Trump goes to Pakistan or Vance does, the



truth remains that they are toothless rulers so it's no achievement for Pakistan. The whole world knows that Trump can't disobey Prime Minister Netanyahu. He runs India and Modi. This is what really matters."

Dubbing the video as 'deepfake' the Press Information Bureau's fact check handle on X, said that the Chief of Defence Staff has made NO such statement and the 'AI-generated deepfake video' is shared to mislead the public. The handle also shared the original clip wherein the CDS talks about integrating the newer

technologies in the forces. "The upcoming challenges will not be similar to the ones that we have already faced. Instead of looking back at Operation Sindoor, we should prepare for the next one. Geopolitics is changing and so is the technology at a much faster pace. We have to incorporate new systems and the new technology it has to be done with the existing ones. We need to work together to improve the coordination between the three forces. We need to integrate the services that we are providing in the old and new domains," he said.

Ramesh criticized the tone and content of the Prime Minister's speech, arguing that such addresses are traditionally meant to serve a larger national purpose. "A sitting PM's address to the nation has always been reserved for the overriding purpose of national unity and confidence-building," he said.

He further accused Modi of engaging in what he termed "unabashed partisan demagoguery" during the address, claiming that it included "59 different attacks on the Congress party." According to Ramesh, the episode would remain "yet another permanent stain on his record as Prime Minister." The development comes amid intensifying political confrontation between the Congress and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, with both sides trading sharp accusations over parliamentary proceedings and public messaging.

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US-Iran talks still unconfirmed as Wednesday ceasefire deadline nears

Washington/Tehran: Hopes for renewed diplomacy between the United States and Iran remain uncertain, with both sides yet to confirm participation in proposed talks in Islamabad as a two-week ceasefire approaches its Wednesday deadline. The ambiguity comes amid escalating tensions at sea and sharp rhetoric from leaders, raising concerns that the window for a peaceful breakthrough may be closing.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has called for the release of the Iranian cargo vessel seized by the US Navy on Sunday, as well as "its sailors, crew and their families." Iran has vowed to retaliate for the seizure.

However, officials on both sides have sent mixed messages, leaving the status of talks unclear. US President Donald Trump has denied facing pressure to reach an agreement, though he indicated that a delegation led by Vice President JD Vance may travel to Pakistan "soon."

On the Iranian side, officials have struck a more cautious tone. A foreign ministry spokesperson said there are "no plans" for another round of talks, even as President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the need for diplomacy to reduce tensions.

Vice President JD Vance and top US officials are expected to leave for Pakistan today ahead of a potential second round of negotiations with Iran, according to sources.

The diplomatic uncertainty unfolds against a volatile backdrop in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil route. The United States continues to enforce a naval blockade, and a recent incident involving the seizure of an Iranian-flagged cargo vessel has further inflamed tensions. Both sides accuse each other of violating a two-week ceasefire agreement that is set to expire shortly.

Iranian officials have responded strongly to what they describe as escalating US aggression. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer

Qalibaf rejected negotiations "under the shadow of threats," warning that pressure tactics would not force concessions. Similarly, First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref signaled that continued restrictions on Iran's oil exports could have wider consequences for global energy stability.

Meanwhile, diplomatic channels remain active behind the scenes. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Pakistan's Mohammad Ishaq Dar have held multiple discussions in recent days, focusing on the ceasefire and the possibility of renewed negotiations.

Despite the tensions, there are faint signs of willingness to continue dialogue. US officials maintain that a potential agreement is within reach, though details remain unclear. At the same time, Iranian leaders have expressed skepticism toward public statements made by Washington, particularly after claims that key provisions had already been agreed upon.

Trump backs Iran blockade, warns of bombing if talks fail

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday expressed optimism about ongoing negotiations while hailing his coercive decision to impose a naval blockade on Iran, arguing that Tehran has been left with no option but to send representatives to Pakistan for talks with the United States.

Speaking to CNBC, Trump voiced confidence that the "US will end up with a great deal," while acknowledging the difficulty of the situation. He admitted that the US is "not dealing with the nicest people," but insisted that Washington is handling matters "successfully." He went on to describe the naval blockade as a "tremendous success" and said that Iran has "no choice but to send delegation to Pakistan."

When asked whether he would consider extending the ceasefire if talks appeared to be making progress, Trump was blunt: "I don't want to do that." He went a step further, adding, "I expect to be bombing 'cause that would be a better attitude." He also warned that there is not "much time" left to reach an agreement, though he suggested Iran could find itself on "a very good footing" if a deal is struck with the US.

Trump drew a sharp contrast between Middle Eastern nations and NATO members, arguing that countries in the Middle East have proven to be far more dependable partners. "(Middle East countries) are much better allies than NATO," he told CNBC. He singled out the United Arab Emirates as "a good ally" and indicated that US support for the country is actively being weighed. "If the UAE had a problem, I find it hard to believe, but if they had a problem, we would be there for them," Trump said.

Trump's frustration with Europe has been building. Earlier, he revealed he was seriously considering pulling

the United States out of NATO after European allies declined to join the US-Israeli campaign against Iran. He said he no longer viewed Europe as a credible defense partner following their refusal to deploy warships to the Strait of Hormuz.

The ceasefire itself has come under strain. On Sunday, Iran's military threatened retaliation over what it described as an American "act of armed piracy," after a US destroyer opened fire on an Iranian-flagged cargo ship in the Gulf of Oman. Washington maintained that the vessel had attempted to evade the naval blockade, while Iran's military headquarters condemned the incident as a "violation of the ceasefire." Trump, however, is not the first to allege a breach during this two-week period.

On the financial front, Trump hinted during the CNBC interview that the US may extend economic assistance, potentially including a currency swap, to Gulf allies who have stood by Washington during the Iran conflict. He confirmed that a currency swap with the UAE is "under consideration," describing the country as a trusted partner. "It's been a good ally of ours," he said. "These are unusual times."

Trump did, however, seem aware of the political sensitivities surrounding the idea of offering financial support to a wealthy nation. "I'm surprised," he said. "They're really rich." As for Saudi Arabia, Trump said they are not "asking for anything" at this stage but praised their contributions nonetheless. "They're fighting. They're helping us," he said. "They're helping us on the Strait. They're helping us all over."

"The ones that aren't helping are NATO," he said. "We'll never need them. Actually, they'll need us. They need us desperately, because they're a paper tiger."

ED seizes Rs 9.29 cr assets in money laundering case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office, on Tuesday said it has taken possession of six immovable properties worth ₹9.29 crore located in Kharghar, Mumbai, and Pune.

The properties were held in the names of Suresh Kute, Archana Kute, and their associate entities.

These assets were earlier provisionally attached by the ED through Provisional Attachment Order No. 32/2024 dated September 24, 2024, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The attachment was subsequently confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority on March 3, 2025.

The attachment stems from a money laundering investigation initiated on the basis of multiple FIRs

registered across various police stations in Maharashtra under different sections of the IPC, pertaining to an alleged investor fraud

but resulted in substantial financial losses due to non-payment or partial repayment of deposits.

The ED investigation revealed that a substantial portion of the society's funds, amounting to ₹2,467 crore, was diverted as purported "loans" to a group of companies (Kute Group) beneficially owned or controlled by Suresh Kute and Archana Kute. These disbursements were made without proper documentation, collateral security, or end-use certification. Instead of being used for legitimate business activities, the funds were allegedly siphoned off for personal use or invested in unrelated business interests.

So far, the ED has conducted multiple search operations and issued several Provisional

Attachment Orders in the case. The total value of seizure, freezing, and attachment of assets in the case now stands at ₹1,627.86 crore.

Earlier, the ED had arrested Suresh Kute and filed a Prosecution Complaint before the Special Court (PMLA), Mumbai, which has taken cognizance of the offence. Recently, the ED also arrested Archana Kute, who has been remanded to judicial custody.

The action has been taken to safeguard the properties and prevent their disposal, transfer, or alienation. The current step of taking possession is in line with the provisions of the PMLA and forms part of ongoing proceedings aimed at securing assets identified as proceeds of crime.



committed by Suresh Kute and others through Dnyanradha Multistate Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. According to the FIRs, the society launched several high-yield deposit schemes offering returns of 12%-14%, which attracted a large number of investors

good. He said the media had reported that he is under "pressure" to make a Deal. "THIS IS NOT TRUE! I am under no pressure whatsoever, although, it will all happen, relatively quickly! Time is not my adversary."

He lashed out at Democrats describing them as 'Traitors' for 'belittling' the achievements of the US military and only talking that something needs to be done about Iran. Renewing his attack on

social media platform that the media made people actually think the US is losing the War. "The enemy is confused, because they get these same media reports and yet they



Equipment, their former leaders are mostly gone." He said the anti-America 'Fake News Media' is rooting for Iran to win, but it's not going to happen, 'because I'm in charge'.

Derek O'Brien alleges 'All-Out Targeting' of Mamata Banerjee by BJP and Agencies

New Delhi: Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Centre and multiple institutions, alleging that they were collectively targeting West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

In a strongly worded post on social media, O'Brien wrote, "All gang up against one woman," and went on to name Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Defence Minister, several Chief Ministers, and central agencies as part of what he described as a coordinated effort. He also referred to institutions such as the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency, and the Election Commission of India, alongside the deployment of "2400 platoons of CAPF," alleging that "all" were being used against Banerjee. The



remarks come amid heightened political tensions between the ruling All India Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party, particularly during election periods when issues of law enforcement, deployment of central forces, and the role of constitutional bodies often become flashpoints. The BJP has repeatedly rejected such allegations in the past, maintaining that central agencies function independently and that security deployments are carried out in accordance with the directives of the Election Commission to ensure free and fair polls.

US will not remove blockade until Iran makes a deal: Trump, claims he is winning Iran war

New Delhi: US President Donald Trump asserted on Tuesday that he will not remove the blockade until Iran makes a deal and claimed that he is 'winning' the Iran war 'by a lot.'

He said Iranian leadership has forced hundreds of ships toward the United States, mostly Texas, Louisiana, and Alaska, to get their oil. "I'm winning a War, BY A LOT, things are going very well, our Military has been a m a z i n g... T H E B L O C K A D E, which we will not take off until there is a DEAL." He, however, said, he will not let them rush the United States into making a deal with Iran that is not

realise their Navy has been completely wiped out, their Air Force gone onto darker runways, they have no Anti-Missile or Anti-Airplane

Trump accused Democrats of doing everything possible to hurt the 'very strong position' the US is in with respect to Iran. Comparing Iran war with two World wars, Vietnam war, and Iraq operations, he said 'they (Democrats) like to say that I promised 6 weeks to defeat Iran, and actually, from the Military standpoint, the Iran operation was far faster than that.'

He said the only thing that matters is that the US after 47 years, straightened out the mess that other Presidents let happen because they didn't have the courage or foresight to do what had to be done with respect to Iran. "We're in it, and it will be

done RIGHT, and we won't let the Weak and Pathetic Democrats, TRAITORS ALL, who for years have been talking about the Dangers of Iran, and that something has to be done, but now, since I'm the one doing it, belittle the accomplishments of our Military and the Trump Administration."

He said the Iran operation is being perfectly executed, on the scale of Venezuela, just a bigger, more complex operation. He claimed that the result will be the same. "I am properly and judiciously using our Military to solve problems left to us by others of far less understanding or competence," he added.



BJP "practising to be in opposition" in UP: Akhilesh Yadav targets Yogi's padyatra

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party National President Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday took a swipe at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, saying it appears to be "practising to become an opposition party" in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, as he criticised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the ongoing padyatra.



The Samajwadi Party chief, while speaking to reporters, said that the BJP's march in the scorching heat reflected a government "acting like the opposition while still in power." He added that such exercises indicate a lack of confidence within the ruling party.

During the interaction, Yadav also announced a leadership change in the party's women's wing. Outgoing president Juhi Singh declared Seema Rajbhar, a resident of Ballia, as the new national president of the SP Mahila Morcha.

On the issue of reservation, Yadav reiterated the Samajwadi Party's support for women's quota, alleging

that the BJP was attempting to "block and dilute" reservation policies. He also linked the demand for a caste census to broader questions of social justice, claiming that the ruling party was trying to "mislead the public" on the issue.

Escalating his attack, Yadav accused the BJP of relying on "propaganda" and said those in constitutional positions were acting in favour of the government. SP president said, "Dur-

ing Hitler's regime in Germany, a minister was appointed for propaganda. But in the BJP government, all those holding constitutional positions are also working for the government. The BJP can do anything when it loses. Now it is losing. If it loses, it will never return. People who can tell these lies are roaming the streets protesting against a bill that has already been passed. People who have taken an oath. They want to benefit them-

selves by lying. "When the BJP senses defeat, it resorts to misinformation. Those who have taken oath are now on the streets opposing a law that has already been passed," he said. Responding to Zen-j's role in the PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alp-sankhyak) plank, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said it represents a broad social coalition that would unite against the BJP. "Those who have faced injustice and oppression will come to-

gether under the PDA banner and form the next government," he asserted.

"The PDA is Zen-j. The Bahujan Samaj is the PDA. For the first time in history, a community is going to defeat a party. The community's name is the PDA family. We all believe that those who suffer pain, suffering, and oppression are going to unite to fight the BJP and form a PDA government."

Raising concerns over law and order, Yadav alleged that Uttar Pradesh remains unsafe for women, citing what he described as a rising number of incidents. He accused the state government of "suppressing data" and failing to ensure adequate protection. He said along with reservation, women need protection. "Tell me today, what do the statistics say? If we look at the statistics, women are most unsafe in Uttar Pradesh. These are not just one or two incidents, there are a large number of incidents that are happening continuously, and the government is hiding them," he said.

UP ATS investigation reveals cross-border funding links in suspected terror plot

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad has uncovered significant new details in its ongoing investigation into a suspected terror module, pointing to cross-border financial links and a broader conspiracy. Officials revealed that the accused individuals were receiving funds from handlers based in Pakistan, indicating a coordinated effort to support potential terror activities within India. The findings have raised serious concerns about the use of financial networks to facilitate such operations. According to investigators, at least eight bank accounts linked to the accused were used to channel funds from across the border. These accounts were allegedly operated in a manner designed to avoid suspicion, with transactions being split and routed through multiple channels. Authorities believe this method was intended to obscure the origin of the money and complicate tracking efforts. So far, financial transactions amounting to approximately Rs 2 lakh have been

identified as part of the probe. While the amount may appear relatively small, officials stress that such funds are often sufficient for reconnaissance missions and initial stages of planned attacks. Investigators are continuing to trace additional transactions that may not yet have been detected. As part of immediate preventive measures, all identified bank accounts have been frozen. Officials say this step is crucial to cut off any remaining financial support to the accused and prevent further misuse of funds. The freezing of accounts also allows agencies to closely examine transaction histories and identify potential accomplices or facilitators. The arrests in the case were carried out on April 2 near Alamnagar railway station in Lucknow. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, ATS personnel intercepted the suspects before they could move forward with their alleged plans. The operation was described as swift and well-coordinated, preventing what could have been a serious

security threat. The accused have been identified as Saqib and Arbab from Meerut, along with Lokesh and Vikas from Gautam Buddha Nagar. Authorities are now examining their backgrounds, communication records, and possible links to other individuals who may have been involved in the conspiracy. Initial investigations suggested that the group was planning coordinated explosions in multiple cities, including Lucknow. Such a plan, if executed, could have caused widespread panic and significant damage. Officials believe that the suspects were in the early stages of execution but had already conducted preliminary groundwork. One of the primary targets identified during the investigation was railway infrastructure. The accused were allegedly planning an explosion at a railway signal box, a critical component of train operations. Disrupting such infrastructure could have led to derailments or major disruptions in rail services, amplifying the impact of the attack.

Nitish chooses trusted aide Shравan Kumar to lead JD(U) MLAs

Patna: Nitish Kumar, the president of Janata Dal (United), has nominated his close aide Shравan Kumar as the new leader of the party's legislative wing. The decision was formalised through a notification issued by the Assembly Secretariat on Tuesday, bringing an end to days of speculation within political circles.



The position had remained vacant since Nitish Kumar's resignation from the post earlier, creating a leadership gap within the party's legislative setup. The development comes at a crucial time when the party is seeking to maintain internal cohesion and clarity in its legislative functioning.

A meeting of the JD(U) legislative party was held at Nitish Kumar's residence in Patna on Monday. During the meeting, party legislators unanimously authorised the veteran leader to select the new legislative party head, effectively placing the decision entirely in his hands.

In the days leading up to the announcement, Shравan Kumar's name had gained significant traction. Political observers had noted increasing indica-

tions that he would be entrusted with a major organisational role, especially given his proximity to Nitish Kumar and his long-standing association with the party. Fueling speculation further was the Bihar government's recent decision to upgrade Shравan Kumar's security cover to Y-plus category. Such moves are often seen as signals of rising political importance, particularly in a state where security classifications can reflect a leader's stature and perceived relevance. The decision is also being interpreted through the lens of Bihar's complex social and caste equations. Both Nitish Kumar and Shравan Kumar belong to the Kurmi community, an influential Other Backward Class (OBC)

group that has played a significant role in shaping electoral outcomes in the state. Shравan Kumar hails from Nitish Kumar's home district, adding another layer of political familiarity and trust between the two leaders. His grassroots connect and longstanding loyalty have been key factors in his rise within the party ranks. He began his political journey during the historic JP Movement, a mass movement that shaped the careers of several prominent leaders. Although initially more inclined towards social service, the experience laid the foundation for his later political involvement. In 1994, Shравan Kumar formally aligned himself with Nitish Kumar when the latter, along with George Fernandes, founded the Samata Party after breaking away from Lalu Prasad Yadav. This marked the beginning of a long political association that continues to this day. Shравan Kumar was first elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly from Nalanda in 1995. Since then, he has maintained an unbroken electoral record, winning the seat eight consecutive times, which underscores his strong local support base and political resilience.

Jarkiholi leads Cong damage control over minority backlash

Bengaluru: Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi today led the Congress' damage-control exercise in Karnataka after disciplinary action against two Muslim leaders triggered a political and community backlash, with senior party figures now indicating that a partial rollback of the decision may be considered. Speaking to reporters here, Jarkiholi said, "After taking permission from the high command, we will ensure that he (Abdul Jabbar) returns to the party," signalling that the matter is likely to be reviewed at the central level. He further said that the intervention was aimed at easing tensions within the community, saying, "The objective is to protect minorities and restore confidence."

Jarkiholi also acknowledged that concerns had emerged over perceived uneven disciplinary action within the party and said the issue would be placed before the high command for further consideration. The controversy erupted after the party suspended MLC Abdul Jabbar and removed MLC Naseer Ahmed from the post of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's political secretary over allegations of anti-party activity during the Davanagere South Assembly bypoll held on April 9. What was intended as an internal disciplinary measure has now escalated into a wider political issue, exposing fault lines within the state unit and drawing sharp criticism from minority organisations. The move has also brought Housing Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan un-

der scrutiny, with speculation in political circles that the leadership may examine his role as part of the broader fallout. Muslim organisations have strongly objected to the action, accusing the party of what they described as a "selective and discriminatory approach" towards leaders from the community. In a letter to the Congress leadership, they said the decision had caused "deep shock" and argued that senior leaders were removed "without being given an opportunity to explain their stand."

In response to the growing unease, Jarkiholi held discussions with KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar as part of efforts to defuse tensions and manage the political fallout. The internal tensions trace back to the candidate selection process

for the Davanagere South bypoll, which reportedly exposed factional divisions within Congress leaders from the Muslim community. Post-poll allegations of anti-party activity led to swift disciplinary action, but the decision has since snowballed into a controversy with wider political implications. Community representatives, in their communication to the party, warned that the handling of the issue had added to "existing disappointment" and risked alienating a section of traditional supporters. With pressure mounting and senior leaders now engaged in consultations, the Congress is attempting to balance organisational discipline with damage control, with indications that the disciplinary action may be reconsidered after discussions with the high command.

Telangana Govt forms committee to address RTC workers' issues amid strike

Hyderabad: In response to the strike announced by employees of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, the Telangana government has taken a conciliatory step by forming a high-level officials' committee to examine the concerns raised by the workforce. The move comes ahead of the planned strike beginning Wednesday, reflecting the administration's attempt

to address grievances while maintaining essential public services. The decision was formalised through Government Order Ms No. 66, which outlines the constitution and mandate of the committee. According to officials, the panel has been tasked with thoroughly studying the demands put forward by TGSRTC employees and submitting its recommendations within a

period of four weeks. The four-member committee will be headed by the Special Chief Secretary of the Transport, Roads & Buildings Department. It also includes senior officials from the Labour and Finance departments, ensuring that the evaluation of issues is both administrative and financial in nature. The Vice Chairman and Managing Director of TGSRTC will serve as the

Member-Convener, coordinating discussions and compiling the final report. Speaking on the development, Telangana Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi said the initiative is aimed at resolving the ongoing unrest among RTC workers. He emphasised that the government is keen on finding a balanced solution that addresses employee concerns without causing hard-

ship to the general public. In a video statement issued on Tuesday, the minister acknowledged the legitimacy of some of the demands raised by employees, while also indicating that a comprehensive resolution would require careful deliberation. He noted that while the government is open to positive engagement, certain decisions may take time due to procedural and financial considerations.

Siddaramaiah questions women's reservation delay

Mysuru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday questioned the BJP-led Centre over the non-operationalisation of the women's reservation law, pointing out that the constitutional amendment was passed in 2023 but has not yet been implemented. Speaking to reporters here, Siddaramaiah said the Congress fully supports women's political representation but alleged that the Centre has delayed implementation by linking the legislation to the delimitation exercise and census process. He asked what prevented the union government from enforcing the law im-



mediately after its passage, arguing that the delay undermines the intent of ensuring greater participation of women in legislatures. "The Women's Reservation Act was passed in 2023. It should have been implemented. Why is it being delayed?" he said, reiterating that the party supports social justice and enhanced representation for women. The Chief Minister also rejected the BJP's allegations against the Congress, asserting that his party has consistently supported reservations for women, including at the grassroots level through constitutional amendments for local bodies.

UP CM Yogi joins public outrage march against 'Opposition's betrayal on women's reservation Bill'

Lucknow: The city of Nawabs, Lucknow, on Tuesday morning witnessed a historic public outcry against the "Opposition's obstruction of the Nari Shakti Vandan Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha", as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself took to the streets for women's rights. Under CM Adityanath's leadership, a massive gathering of thousands of women marched from the Chief Minister's residence to the Vidhan Bhavan via Civil Hospital. The entire cabinet was seen participating alongside him in this protest march. This was not an ordinary march or rally, but a direct and strong response to what was described as an "attack on women's dignity and their constitutional rights". Addressing women in front of the Vidhan Bhavan, the Chief Minister said,

"The Nari Shakti Vandan Act is a historic initiative aimed at providing 33 per cent reservation to women in the Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha." He stated that attempts by parties such as the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Trinamool Congress, and the DMK, part of the INDIA bloc, to obstruct it have exposed their undemocratic and anti-women character. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given these parties an opportunity to improve their negative image, but they misused it and acted against women's rights.

The Chief Minister said, "In protest against this injustice, women across the country have taken to the streets in a democratic manner to express their anger. Despite the intense heat in Lucknow, the participation of thousands of women re-

flected widespread public support and blessings for the policies of the Prime Minister." He assured the women present that every citizen of the state stands firmly with this legitimate demand of half the population. Chief Minister Adityanath said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed a wide-ranging transformation in recent years, with policies centered around four key groups: women, the poor, youth, and farmers. As a result of these efforts, the country has set new benchmarks in development and self-reliance. Schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Ayushman Bharat Yojana have brought posi-

tive changes in the lives of women. He emphasized that Swachh Bharat Mission is not merely a cleanliness campaign but a powerful instrument for protecting women's dignity, while the Ujjwala Yojana goes beyond providing fuel and strengthens women's health, dignity and self-reliance. He further stated, "Various schemes of the central and state governments are not limited to benefit distribution but are enabling families to move towards self-reliance. Initiatives like the PM SVANidhi scheme and

Gharouni distribution have empowered even those at the last mile." He added that while the double engine government is continuously working, Congress, Samajwadi Party and INDIA alli-



dignity. This is why women across the country are uniting and protesting against these parties. He added, "The double engine government in the state is fully committed to ensuring women's safety, dignity and self-reliance. Schemes such as Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana, Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana and other youth-related initiatives are proving to be effective instruments in this direction." Chief Minister expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the women for their large participation in the protest march and said that the state government will continue to work for women's empowerment and take all necessary steps to protect their rights. The march began around 10 am from the Chief

Minister's residence under intense sunlight, yet the anger among women was even more intense. Holding placards condemning the Opposition's malicious politics and raising slogans such as "Insult to our daughters will not be tolerated," "Attack on women's rights, SP and Congress responsible," "Congress stands against women's power," and "NDA stands for women's dignity," the rally moved forward, exposing what participants described as the Opposition's cowardice and political selfishness. At every step, the gathering of women sent a clear message: no compromise on dignity and rights, no silence and no forgiveness. The participation of thousands of women in the protest march demonstrated that half the population will not remain silent on this issue. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

led the march from the front along with union Minister and BJP State President Pankaj Chaudhary, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, leaders of allied parties, members of the cabinet and office bearers of various BJP units. This was an unprecedented scene for the capital Lucknow. During the rally, a unique blend of discipline and enthusiasm was witnessed throughout the route. Active participation from all sections including youth, elderly, students and working women gave the event a broad social base. At several places, the general public welcomed the march with applause and slogans. Women raised slogans against SP and Congress and openly challenged what they described as the Opposition's anti-women mindset.

Briefs :

Sachdeva welcomes Delhi HC judge rejecting Kejriwal's recusal plea

New Delhi: Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva has welcomed the Delhi High Court Judge, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma's decision to dismiss the petition by Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal and others, who had requested her to not hear the CBI's appeal regarding the liquor scam. Sachdeva stated that he fully agrees with every observation made in Justice Swarana Kanta's judgment. He added that the personal remarks made by Kejriwal in the past days were of a nature that would naturally hurt the sentiments of any judge. He further commented on the remarks made by Kejriwal regarding the judge and her family, stating, "On behalf of the people of Delhi, I want to ask Arvind Kejriwal—if it is considered a crime for a judge's sons to be government lawyers. Should we then believe that if the son of a criminal is a lawyer (government or private), he should also give up his practice? If we go by Kejriwal's logic, such a lawyer could also take the side of their criminal parent." Sachdeva remarked that the AAP leader's issue is that he is too clever, which leads him to breach the limits of propriety. The BJP leader emphasized that Kejriwal must realize that courts are temples of justice, not a political wrestling ring. He stated that Kejriwal's attempt to build a narrative through personal comments was wrong, as court decisions are based on facts and findings.

Ashok Vihar armed robbery case solved, 3 accused arrested; minor apprehended

New Delhi: The North-West District Police has solved a sensational armed robbery case in the Ashok Vihar area by arresting three accused and apprehending a juvenile allegedly involved in the crime. The police also recovered the stolen mobile phone and a dagger used during the incident. Deputy Commissioner of Police Akanksha Yadav said that swift action by the police team led to the identification and arrest of the accused, adding that the case was worked out using CCTV footage and local intelligence inputs. According to police, the incident took place on April 17 near the Azadpur railway line when the victim was intercepted by four youth who threatened him with a knife and demanded his mobile phone. Upon resistance, he was assaulted on the thigh and robbed before the accused fled the spot. A dedicated police team conducted a detailed investigation, scanning CCTV footage and acting on secret information to trace the suspects.

Delhi Police Reunites Missing Mentally Challenged Woman with Family

New Delhi: In a compassionate and swift operation, the (AHTU) of the Delhi Police Crime Branch has successfully traced and rescued a 31-year-old mentally challenged woman who had gone missing from East of Kailash last month, reuniting her safely with her family. Deputy Commissioner of Police Pankaj Kumar said the case highlights the force's commitment towards protecting vulnerable individuals, adding that the AHTU team acted with urgency and sensitivity to ensure the safe recovery of the woman despite challenges posed by her condition. According to police, the woman, a Nepal national working as a domestic helper in East of Kailash, had gone missing on March 28 after losing her way.

Delhi CM backs HC for rejecting Kejriwal's recusal plea

New Delhi: Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said that "the judiciary cannot be questioned" as she welcomed the recent ruling of the Delhi High Court, which dismissed Arvind Kejriwal's plea seeking recusal of the judge hearing the Delhi excise policy case.

Reacting to the verdict, Gupta described the decision as "excellent" and said it reinforces public confidence in the judicial system. She asserted that institutions like the judiciary must remain above doubt and should not be challenged without substantial grounds.

The Chief Minister also accused Kejriwal of repeatedly questioning judicial processes whenever court proceedings appear unfavourable to him. She alleged that he tends to "selectively" accept rulings that favour him while casting doubt on those that do not.

"We have complete faith in the judiciary. This decision makes it clear that no one can question the judiciary," she said, emphasising the need to respect court orders irrespective of political



differences.

Last month, Kejriwal had approached the High Court seeking the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from hearing the excise policy case. He cited a potential conflict of interest, noting that the judge's children were listed as Central government counsel.

In his plea, Kejriwal argued that this situation could give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias, and therefore warranted the judge stepping aside to ensure fairness in proceedings.

However, the Delhi High Court rejected the plea, stating that the allegations were based on "conjecture" and did not meet the legal threshold required to establish a valid apprehension of

bias. The court observed that accepting such arguments without concrete evidence could set a "dangerous precedent." It stressed that judicial decisions must be grounded in facts and law, not perceptions or speculative concerns.

In its remarks, the bench stated that "the courtroom cannot become a theatre of perception," cautioning against attempts to undermine judicial impartiality without substantive proof.

The judgment reiterated that recusal of a judge must be based on credible and demonstrable reasons, rather than assumptions or indirect associations. Backing the High Court's ruling, Bansuri Swaraj also criticised Kejriwal during a press confer-

ence. She described him as a "bully" and alleged that he attempted to pressure a member of the judiciary after disagreeing with earlier court orders.

She further claimed that such actions could undermine the dignity of the judicial system and set an unhealthy precedent in public discourse.

The political reactions following the verdict have intensified the ongoing confrontation between the ruling establishment and the opposition, particularly in relation to the excise policy case.

Meanwhile, the court's decision is being viewed as a reaffirmation of judicial independence and the principle that allegations against judges must be backed by solid evidence.

As the case proceeds, attention is likely to remain on the legal arguments presented in court, even as political exchanges continue outside it. Overall, the ruling underscores the judiciary's stance on maintaining integrity and resisting attempts to question impartiality without sufficient legal basis.

Delhi Assembly pushes PAC's report on vehicular pollution, seeks ATR by Jan next year

New Delhi: With a renewed focus on one of the capital's most pressing environmental challenges, the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat has sent the third report of the Committee on Public Accounts to authorities concerned for necessary action to mitigate air pollution. The report is based on the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's Performance Audit on "Prevention and Mitigation of Vehicular Air Pollution in Delhi" for the year ended 31st March 2021. The Action Taken Report is required to clearly indicate the status of implementation of the Committee's recommendations as on 31st December 2026, and is to be submitted to the Assembly Secretariat by 31st January 2027, officials said on Monday.

In this regard, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta has stated that addressing vehicular air pollution requires coordinated and time bound action, and that institutional processes must translate audit findings into tangible outcomes on the ground. Carrying these directions forward, communications have been issued to the Delhi's Transport Minister, and the Secretary-cum-Commissioner of



the Transport Department, calling for a comprehensive and time bound response to the Committee's findings and recommendations. The Report examines critical dimensions of vehicular air pollution in the national capital, bringing up systemic gaps in regulatory frameworks, enforcement mechanisms and institutional coordination that have affected efforts for air quality management.

Drawing attention to these findings, Gupta observed that Delhi's response to air pollution must move beyond incremental measures, and noted that the Committee's assessment highlights structural deficiencies that impede effective pollution control, including gaps in planning frameworks, limitations in monitoring systems and inconsistencies in enforcement. And functioning of air quality monitoring stations,

incomplete tracking of prescribed pollutants and the absence of reliable, comprehensive emission data, all of which constrain evidence based policymaking. He further stated that the condition of public transport reflects enduring structural constraints that require sustained intervention.

Gupta emphasised that these limitations have affected accessibility and reliability, contributing to increased dependence on private vehicles and adding pressure on urban infrastructure and air quality. The Speaker also flagged that implementation of vehicular emission norms remains uneven, pointing out at the inadequate coverage of Pollution Checking Centres, irregularities in the issuance of Pollution Under Control certificates, weak oversight of emission testing processes and the slow adoption of modern emission monitoring technologies.

Delhi Govt busts sale of illicit drugs in East Delhi's Shahdara

New Delhi: The Delhi government's Drug Control Department conducted a covert operation in Shahdara's Rashid Market, taking down an individual, identified as Harbhagwan alias Bharat, selling drugs without a valid licence, according to an official document from the Department.

Receiving inputs from sources regarding the unauthorised sale of drugs lacking a valid licence, a team of Drug Inspectors carried out a raid at premises located in

Rashid Market, Village Khureji, Shahdara.

Harbhagwan was nabbed from the site, who continued to stock and sell medicines from the location despite the cancellation of the licence by the competent authority in September 2024.

As part of the operation, a decoy customer was deployed, who successfully purchased multiple medicines without a prescription. No cash memo was given, which confirmed il-

legal sale practices, according to a statement from the department.

Drug inspectors seized a total of 104 varieties of drugs meant for sale and distribution, including 23 expired drug items. Samples of selected drugs were collected for quality analysis, and the marked currency note used in the decoy operation was recovered from the accused.

"The Government of Delhi remains firmly committed to safeguarding pub-

lic health and ensuring that medicines are sold strictly in accordance with the law. Any violation, especially the illegal sale or distribution of drugs, will be dealt with strict action. We urge all stakeholders to adhere to regulatory norms and citizens to remain vigilant and report any such malpractices," said Pankaj Kumar Singh, Delhi's Health Minister, affirming the state's strict action against the sale and distribution of drugs illegally.

AAP student wing seeks probe into Gargi College incident, alleges forced entry by DUSU president

New Delhi: Members of the Aam Aadmi Party's student wing, the Association of Students for Alternative Politics (ASAP), on Monday marched to the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat along with students of University of Delhi, demanding an impartial inquiry into an incident reported at Gargi College on April 17.

According to ASAP, Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) president Aryan Mann, accompanied by members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and some alleged outsiders, forcibly entered the premises of the women's college.

The student group claimed that the college gate was broken and that the entry of male outsiders led to chaos and discomfort among students.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor's office, seeking a fair probe into

the incident, registration of an FIR under relevant legal provisions, and strict action against those found responsible.

They also called for enhanced security measures on college campuses to prevent similar occurrences.

ASAP alleged that protesting students inside the campus raised slogans and asked those who had entered to leave, following which the individuals were escorted out. The group further claimed that such incidents have occurred at multiple college events in the past year and raised concerns about the safety of women on campuses.

The student wing also stated that it had earlier approached the Delhi Police Commissioner on April 18 with a written complaint regarding the matter. It alleged that no FIR has been registered so far and no action has been taken.

Wanted criminal Rizwan arrested after brief encounter in Delhi

New Delhi: The Special Task Force of Delhi Police's South East district has arrested a wanted criminal from Uttar Pradesh, identified as Rizwan (40), following a brief encounter near Aastha Kunj Park, officials said on Tuesday.

The encounter took place late Monday night after police received specific intelligence about the accused's presence in the area. Acting on the tip-off, a team laid a strategic trap to intercept him.

According to a senior officer, Rizwan was asked to surrender, but instead attempted to flee while opening fire at the police team. In response, officers launched a counter-action to neutralise the threat.

After a brief exchange, Rizwan was overpowered and taken into custody. No injuries to police personnel were reported during the operation, officials added.

Police said Rizwan is

a resident of Old Mustafabad in Delhi and had been absconding for some time to evade arrest. He was wanted in a case registered under the Gangster Act at Kotwali Nagar Police Station in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh.

A reward of ₹15,000 had been by the Uttar Pradesh Police on February 17, 2026, for information leading to his arrest, indicating the seriousness of the charges against him.

Investigators revealed that Rizwan has a long criminal history, with as many as 28 cases registered against him—24 in Delhi and four in Uttar Pradesh.

His offences primarily involve snatching and theft, though he has also been linked to more serious crimes.

Police described him as a habitual and notorious offender who had managed to evade law enforcement agencies for a considerable period.

Delhi BJP chief slam opposition over Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam defeat, say people will not forgive

New Delhi: Two educationists including Rama Sharma and Ruby Mishra, voicing their support for the Nari Shakti Vandan Act along with Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, on Monday condemned what they alleged was the malicious attitude of opposition parties towards the Bill, stating that people will not forgive these parties after what happened in Parliament on April 17.

Addressing a press conference here, Virendra Sachdeva said that opposition parties like Congress, Samajwadi Party, and AAP have attempted to block the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and now will also face opposition from the women within their own parties.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Sharma said that

given the pace at which women are progressing, 50 per cent reservation is their rightful claim, but if the opposition is not ready even for 33 per cent, how will it ever agree to 50 per cent, she questioned.

According to the two educationists, it was shocking for the college students as well, after the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was defeated in the Lok Sabha with opposition not coming out in its support.

They claimed that happenings in the Lok Sabha that day, has led to widespread anger among women across all sections of society.

Sachdeva said that leaders of the opposition parties must understand that even the women work-

ers within their own parties are upset with them, and they will be the first to hold them accountable. He added that increasing seats by 50 per cent and providing representation to women is not wrong.

The decision taken by the opposition proves that the future of women in Congress, SP and other such parties that opposed the Act is bleak. Sachdeva said that Home Minister Amit Shah had clearly stated that if there are any amendments, they can be presented immediately so that the bill could be passed, but the opposition was only interested in defeating it.

He further said that opposition used delimitation as a pretext to defeat the Act, even though the de-

limitation framework itself was determined by Congress.

Ruby Mishra, Principal of Bhagini Nivedita College, said that she works in an area known as Kair village near Najafgarh, that, despite being in the national capital, still lags behind in terms of development, and girls there continue to struggle for education and often have to fight within their families to attend college.

She said that recently several girls approached her in the college with a question regarding the recent defeat of the Bill, asking as to why this happened.

"Why does this always happen to us?" they asked reflecting their deep disappointment.

Editorial

The Virulent Agenda of 'Ghazwa-e-Hind'

Recent operations conducted by India's security agencies have once again brought a shocking truth to light: the stranglehold of radical ideologies—aimed at undermining the nation's peace and integrity—remains active. The hatred being propagated under the guise of the 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' concept is not merely the dissemination of an idea; it is a calculated attempt to hollow out India's social harmony and democratic values from within. The terrorist modules uncovered across Mumbai, Thane, Odisha, and Bihar have made it abundantly clear that a covert war is currently underway—one that utilizes modern technology, social media, and ideological brainwashing to incite the youth.

Indian security agencies have recently exposed anti-national forces operating with the specific intent of destabilizing Indian democracy and integrity; in doing so, the grim reality of the radical 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' ideology has once again been laid bare before the world. A Special Cell of the Delhi Police effectively dismantled a major terrorist module by conducting simultaneous raids across various states, including Mumbai, Thane, Odisha, and Bihar. During these operations, four radicalized youths were arrested: Mosaib Ahmed (alias Sonu) from Thane (Maharashtra), Mohammedammad from Mumbai, Sheikh Imran from Odisha, and Mohammed Sohail from Bihar. Investigations have revealed that the primary hub of this network was located in Mumbai and Thane; authorities have seized bomb-making materials, explosives, and incriminating digital evidence from their possession.

It is imperative for the average citizen to understand precisely what the concept of 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' entails. It is a fundamentalist and radical ideology whose primary objective is the complete Islamization of India—specifically, by utterly eradicating 'Hindutva' (Hindu identity) and Indian culture, and subsequently establishing an Islamic regime within the country. Radical clerics, the military establishment, and terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba in Pakistan are utilizing this concept via the internet and social media to incite young Indian Muslims. 'Ghazwa' signifies a holy war, while 'Hind' refers to India. Although the origins of this concept are linked to historical contexts, in the contemporary era, it is being employed solely to propagate religious hatred against India. The ideological seed for the creation of a separate nation for Muslims within the Indian subcontinent was first sown by Syed Ahmed Khan. Subsequently, in 1947, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League gave this idea a political dimension, bringing about the Partition of India and leading to the creation of Pakistan. The demand for Pakistan was driven by the fear that the Muslim minority would face cultural suffocation; in 1956, Pakistan officially declared itself an Islamic nation.

At the time of the Partition, it was anticipated that the entire Muslim population would migrate to Pakistan, while the Hindus residing there would move to India. However, many Muslims chose to remain in India, placing their faith in the country's secular and democratic constitution. In Pakistan, conversely, the dominance of Islamic laws rendered life unbearable for the Hindu, Sikh, Christian, and Buddhist minorities. Driven by religious fanaticism, the very existence of minorities there was jeopardized; consequently, the non-Muslim population in Pakistan today has dwindled to a negligible figure. In stark contrast, the Muslim population in India has grown at an exceptionally rapid pace, and the number of Muslims in India today actually exceeds the total population of Pakistan. The primary factors attributed to this demographic surge are the lack of modern education and the religious constraints surrounding family planning. Regrettably, Pakistan—a nation that ought to have prioritized the development of its own citizens—has, since its very inception, remained embroiled in both direct and indirect warfare against India. Upon realizing the futility of attempting to defeat India in a conventional war, Pakistan adopted a strategy of "bleeding India through a thousand cuts," thereby systematically nurturing the ideology of 'Ghazwa-e-Hind'.

The terrorism plaguing Jammu and Kashmir constitutes an integral part of this very ideology. The initial phase of this Islamization agenda involved inciting local Muslims on religious grounds to orchestrate the killings of Kashmiri Pandits and to force them to abandon their homes and flee. The repeated targeting of India's economic capital, Mumbai, and its political capital, Delhi, is driven by the deliberate intent to cripple the nation. Although Afzal Guru—the mastermind behind the attack on the Indian Parliament—was an Indian national, his true handlers were based in Pakistan. Today, social media has emerged as the most potent weapon for propagating the ideology of 'Ghazwa-e-Hind'. Leveraging technological advancements, masterminds based in Pakistan are encouraging Indian youth to facilitate the Islamization of India. The cases that have recently come to light in Maharashtra are extremely alarming in this context. Whether it is the conversion of young Hindu women by highly educated youth at the TCS facility in Nashik, or the instances of conversion reported in Paratwada and Nagpur, the threads of all these incidents appear to lead back to these strongholds of religious radicalism.

It has now become evident that these forces remain unsatisfied, even after having secured a separate nation in Pakistan. The objective of this ideology is to destabilize peace within India's interior regions and to polarize society. At the time of the Partition, the number of people demanding a separate Pakistan was relatively small compared to the total Indian population; yet, even sheer numerical strength proved helpless in the face of their violent religious fanaticism. Today, once again, these very same radical tendencies are attempting to hollow out India from within by exploiting both democracy and technology. This poses a monumental challenge to both Indian society and the government. Religious fanaticism becomes even more virulent when it is coupled with ignorance. To counter this ideology, mere vigilance on the part of security agencies is insufficient; rather, it is imperative that all sections of society—particularly enlightened citizens and the youth within the Muslim community—reject such toxic ideologies in a timely and decisive manner.

In this battle for national security, every citizen must effectively act as an intelligence officer. Concepts such as 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' pose a direct challenge to both democracy and human values. The true remedy lies not in falling victim to this religious extremism sponsored by Pakistan, but rather in upholding a deep sense of pride in one's Indian identity and the Constitution. The incidents in Nashik, Mumbai, and Thane have served as a stern warning to us. Only by firmly instilling the belief that love for the nation and modern education transcend religious fanaticism can we dismantle the strongholds of such destructive ideologies. Concepts such as 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' are not merely illusions propagated in the name of religion; rather, they pose a direct challenge to India's democracy, coexistence, and constitutional values. Police action alone is insufficient to curb these toxic ideologies; it requires social awareness, education, and a firm commitment to national integration. It is the responsibility of every citizen to identify—and resist in a timely manner—any elements that fuel extremist ideologies of any kind. India's strength lies in its diversity and tolerance; preserving this very strength while firmly countering such covert warfare is essential for ensuring a bright and secure future.

Farmers Need Trust and Simpler Systems, Not Just Credit

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has emphasised the need to make the agricultural finance system more simple, practical, humane, and outcome-oriented to provide relief to farmers from moneylending practices, high interest rates, complex loan procedures, and insensitive systems. He stated that while the Kisan Credit Card scheme has provided significant relief to farmers, the next step is to ensure the prudent use of technology, strengthen the banking system in line with rural needs, ensure effective on-ground implementation of schemes, and promote integrated farming models to enhance the incomes of small farmers.

Simplification of Loan Processes is Essential

Speaking at a panel discussion on agriculture held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on the occasion of Civil Services Day, Shri Chouhan said that having grown up in a village, he has closely witnessed how moneylending practices operated in rural areas, where people were forced to mortgage utensils, jewellery, land, or household items to secure loans, often at exorbitant and unregulated interest rates. He said that the need of the hour is to free farmers from this exploitative cycle. While KCC and institutional banking have improved access to credit for tractors, irrigation, seeds, and other agricultural needs, thereby boosting production, he pointed out that obtaining bank loans is still not easy in rural areas. Farmers often have to navigate multiple layers of paperwork, records, revenue offices, and administrative processes. Therefore, simplification of the loan process is crucial.

Sensitivity and Balance in the System

Shri Chouhan stressed that the system must incorporate both sensitivity and balance. He noted that sensitivity comes when one treats others as one's own. He observed



that individuals in positions of authority sometimes tend to look down upon farmers, whereas farmers are not supplicants, they approach the system with rights, needs, and dignity. Illustrating with an example, he referred to a farmer who had taken a loan of ₹18 lakh to build a house in a town for his children's education, which eventually escalated to ₹40 lakh due to accumulated interest. The farmer later approached for help along with his children, prompting Shri Chouhan to suggest practical solutions such as One-Time Settlement with banks. He also emphasised that while the use of technology is essential, it must be applied judiciously. He cited instances during wheat procurement where satellite-based verification led to discrepancies, causing distress to farmers. He said that institutions such as the agriculture department, NABARD, RBI, and other stakeholders must work together to develop more practical and reliable

systems, keeping in mind the limitations of technology.

Ensuring Adequate Human Resources in Rural Banking

Highlighting the shortage of staff in rural banks and branches, Shri Chouhan said that the workload in rural areas has increased significantly due to the expansion of direct benefit transfers, including MGNREGA wages, PM-KISAN payments, and other schemes. However, limited staff often struggle to provide efficient services. He pointed out that farmers sometimes travel 8-10 kilometres to reach a bank, only to face long queues and delays due to understaffing. This affects their time, labour, and livelihood. Therefore, a serious assessment is required to ensure adequate human resources in line with current demands.

Need for Greater Financial Support to Progressive Farmers

Shri Chouhan stated that KCC alone cannot address all challenges. Advanced farming practices

such as horticulture, capsicum cultivation, polyhouses, greenhouses, drip irrigation, and sprinklers require higher investments. He noted that cultivating crops like capsicum may involve an investment of ₹1.5-2 lakh per acre, with potential earnings of ₹3-4 lakh per acre. However, the key issue is whether farmers have access to initial capital and adequate knowledge. While the government provides subsidies, these have limitations. Therefore, there is a need to explore ways to extend greater financial support to progressive farmers so that they can adopt modern technologies and high-value agriculture.

Promoting Integrated Farming for Small and Marginal Farmers

The Union Minister emphasised the importance of integrated farming models to enhance the income of small and marginal farmers. He stated that farmers with one to two-and-a-half acres of land

cannot rely solely on food grains for their livelihood. They must diversify into allied activities such as fruits, vegetables, livestock rearing, goat farming, fisheries, and beekeeping to achieve sustainable income growth. He added that even for activities like dairy farming or fisheries, capital investment is required. Despite the extension of KCC to these sectors, the number of beneficiaries remains limited. Therefore, convergence of various schemes and resources is essential to make integrated farming both viable and practical.

Focus on Practical Implementation

Shri Chouhan also referred to the warehouse receipt financing scheme, stating that while it is a commendable initiative, it needs to be made more effective and practical. He explained that farmers often sell their produce at low prices due to immediate financial needs such as social obligations or debt repayment. If easy and timely credit is made available against stored produce, farmers can wait for better market prices and maximise their returns. He emphasised that while many schemes are well-designed, it is equally important to evaluate their processes, outcomes, and underlying challenges. Complexities must be identified and addressed. He urged stakeholders not to get lost in data alone, but to focus on practical aspects, including issues such as NPAs, coverage, access for small farmers, and actual benefits.

Call for Self-Reflection and Innovative Thinking

Shri Chouhan called upon civil servants to engage in self-reflection, improve implementation, and adopt out-of-the-box thinking. He said that for better service delivery and improved outcomes, officers must utilise their talent, capabilities, and ideas effectively. Practical and innovative ideas should be encouraged and translated into action for the benefit of farmers and the nation.

“Non-Communicable Diseases in India: From Preventive to Care”



Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda chaired a session titled "Addressing Non-Communicable Diseases in India: From Preventive to Care" during the 18th Civil Services Day celebrations, here today. Union Health Secretary, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava was also present.

Addressing the gathering, Shri JP Nadda emphasised the importance of the theme of the session and underlined the transition in India's healthcare approach from preventive to curative care. He stated that "in 2017 we came out with a holistic and inclusive health policy, where we focused on preventive, promotive, curative, geriatric, rehabilitative and palliative care."

Shri Nadda highlighted that the country has performed very well on the front of the communicable diseases while non-communicable diseases (NCDs) need more focus as the outcome in NCDs takes more time and there is a knowledge gap that needs to be addressed.

Recognising the issue of NCDs in the country, Shri Nadda stated that "since 60% of total deaths in the

country take place due to NCDs, the area is being focused on and prioritized." He added that "in the National Program for Prevention and Control of NCDs, the focus has been on Strengthening of infrastructure, Early diagnosis and early detection, Health promotion and Management of the disease and timely referral." "Health promotion is certainly one of the major areas, and management of the disease and timely referral are also very important. So these are the profile issues which we are trying to address as far as non-communicable diseases are concerned"

Underlining the government's efforts, Shri Nadda stated that "in the past six years, we have been able to set up more than 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs which are the first contact point between the 1.45 billion people and the health institutions. Each of these Ayushman centres has one ASHA worker, and wherever possible, other frontline health staff." He further added that "in 2017, we decided that we would go for voluntary and enhanced screening."

Shri Nadda also high-

lighted the positive outcomes of these efforts and stated that "we have developed around 107 non-communicable disease clinics at district-level points and 233 cardiac care units." He also added that "in this budget itself it has been announced that every district will have a day care cancer centre."

The Union Health Minister underscored the large-scale screening efforts to address NCDs in the country. He emphasized that "since 2017, 41.5 crore people have been screened for hypertension, out of which 7.1 crore have been diagnosed and 5.7 crore people are notified." He added that "we have tried to ensure early detection to help make India healthy. For example, 41.3 crore people have been screened for diabetes, out of which 4.7 crore people have been found diabetic and 3.4 crore people are being treated. For oral cancer, 35.3 crore people have been screened so far and 2.3 lakh people have been detected with oral cancer and around 2 lakh people are being treated. Over 16.5 crore have been screened for breast cancer."

Shri Nadda also added that "8.73 crore screenings

have been done for cervical cancer, and 1.1 lakh women have been diagnosed with cervical cancer out of which about 97,000 are being treated. He also underlined the proactive role of the government in detecting cancer at an early stage, reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases, renal failure, liver issues and other complications.

Shri Nadda highlighted the efforts taken in consolidating and expanding secondary and tertiary care and stated that "today we have 880 medical colleges, a number much more as compared to the past, 23 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) out of which 20 are already operationalized. In these, we have full-fledged departments of cardiology and full-fledged super-specialty cancer departments. "Under the Health Infrastructure Mission, we have allocated ₹64,000 crores for filling up the gaps between primary and secondary health care", he added. Shri Nadda emphasized that "teleconsultation is one area where eSanjeevani has been very important. It is provided both provider-to-provider and patient-to-provider. When we say provider-to-provider, the Community Health Officer at the health and wellness centre facilitates and translates the interaction, gives photographs, and enables live interaction with the patient for the specialist. In the same way, we also see patient-to-doctor communication, where the patient interacts directly with the doctor through the platform." "So far, over 46.4 crore patients have taken teleconsultation services and we are trying to address the disease burden of rural areas through this."

Shri Nadda also acknowledged that "nearly 70% of NCD risk factors are related to lifestyle and by

concentrating on the preventive part, we can address a very large portion of the burden that we are working on". He underscored the different initiatives of the government to address lifestyle diseases, like "Eat Right India" and "Fit India".

He reiterated the Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call to reduce 10% of our oil consumption, and to use less salt and sugar. He also emphasized the importance of Information, Education and Communication and highlighted that significant awareness is being created in the area of tobacco and underscored that "India is one of the leaders in legislation on cigarettes and other tobacco products and in smoking, the reduction has been noticeable. But there are other types of tobacco consumption which still need to be addressed."

Shri Nadda also talked about the importance of physical activity and Government initiatives catering to the same. He also emphasized the importance of sensitization and stated that "sensitization will start from ourselves. We must understand that our lifestyle is central, and we must sensitize ourselves, our family members, and our community for this." He also mentioned how the government is expanding and consolidating yoga to promote physical and mental well-being.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava, focused on India's strategy to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the importance of tackling obesity. She highlighted that "India is witnessing a shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular conditions, cancer, diabetes and respiratory illnesses, being addressed under the NP-NCD through a multi-pronged, whole-of-government and

whole-of-society approach, including awareness, population-based screening and continuum of care."

She further highlighted key initiatives such as the 75x25 initiative and Swasth Nari, Sashakt Pariwar Abhiyan, emphasizing prevention, early detection and community engagement. Identifying obesity as a major driver of NCDs, she noted that NFHS-5 data shows 24% of women and 23% of men are overweight or obese, with urban trends and rising childhood obesity being key concerns. She stated that unhealthy dietary patterns are responsible for this and cited a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research pointing to high intake of fats, oils and processed foods.

Highlighting national efforts, she noted that the "Hon'ble Prime Minister has called for collective action against obesity, including reducing edible oil consumption." She added that the Ministry, with support from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram and awareness campaigns, is promoting behavioural change through campaigns, outreach and school-based initiatives. In her concluding remarks, she emphasized workplace wellness, healthy lifestyles and regular screening, reiterating that small daily changes can lead to significant public health gains.

Prof. (Dr.) S. K. Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), emphasized the need for early screening and preventive action to reduce disease burden and improve overall health outcomes. Dr. L. Swasticharan, Dy. Director General, Dte.GHS, Sh. Pushpendra Rajput, Joint Secretary, MoHFW and senior officers of the Union Government were also present on the occasion.



Briefs :

Sikh Committee Asks for Tougher Laws Against Insulting Holy Books

Kurukshetra: The Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) wants the government to make much stricter punishments for people who disrespect holy books. They want a law similar to one recently passed in Punjab, where anyone caught insulting the Guru Granth Sahib could face 10 years to a lifetime in jail.

The committee has written to the Home Minister and the Chief Minister of Haryana. They believe this new law should protect the holy books of all religions, not just one. They say that these incidents hurt people's feelings and can cause trouble in the community, so a strong law is needed to stop it from happening.

The Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, headquartered in the historical city of Kurukshetra, has formally intensified its campaign for more stringent legal measures against the desecration of sacred scriptures. This move comes as a response to a series of incidents that have deeply unsettled the community and sparked a broader conversation about the protection of religious sentiments within the state.

By taking this firm stance, the committee aims to ensure that the sanctity of holy books is upheld through the full force of the law, creating a deterrent that currently feels insufficient under existing statutes. The primary motivation behind this recent push is the perceived inadequacy of current penalties for acts of sacrilege, which the committee believes do not reflect the gravity of the offense.

Sirsa Residents Angry Over Garbage Piles Despite Big Budget

Sirsa: Even though the city spends 10 crore rupees every year on cleaning, many areas in Sirsa are covered in trash. Residents are complaining that garbage is piling up in streets and markets, and private cleaning companies are not doing their jobs well. Some people have even written letters to the Chief Minister to ask for help.

While some leaders blame the private agencies, city officials say they have 400 workers cleaning every day. They claim that the problem is partly because some people throw their trash on the streets instead of using the bins provided. The city has a WhatsApp number for complaints, but residents say their messages often go ignored.

The city of Sirsa is currently grappling with a significant public outcry as residents express their deep frustration over the deteriorating state of cleanliness across various neighborhoods. Despite a substantial annual allocation of 10 crore rupees dedicated specifically to waste management and urban sanitation, the visible reality on the ground tells a much different story. Piles of refuse have become a common sight in both residential streets and bustling marketplaces, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among the local population who feel that their tax money is not being utilized effectively. The mounting anger stems from a perceived disconnect between the large budget and the actual hygiene conditions of the city.

26 Students Get Perfect Score in JEE-Main 2026

Gurugram : The results for the JEE-Main 2026 exam are out, and 26 students have achieved a perfect 100 score. This is an important exam for students who want to become engineers. The top scorers come from different parts of the country, including Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.

Over 11 lakh students took the test, which was held in 13 different languages. To stop cheating, the government used special electronic jammers at the exam centers. While no girls got a perfect 100 score this year, Mallavarapu Aasna from Telangana was the top performer among the female students.

The announcement of the JEE-Main 2026 results has brought a wave of celebration across the nation's academic landscape, marking a significant milestone for thousands of aspiring engineers.

This year, the National Testing Agency revealed that an impressive group of 26 students managed to achieve the elusive perfect NTA score of 100, placing them at the very pinnacle of one of the world's most competitive entrance examinations. This achievement is not merely a reflection of individual brilliance but also serves as a testament to the



rigorous preparation and dedication that these students have invested over several years of their secondary education.

The Joint Entrance Examination, popularly known as JEE-Main, serves as the primary gateway for admission into prestigious technical institutions, including the National Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology. For the students who have secured a perfect score, this result represents the culmination of a grueling journey characterized by long hours of study, countless practice tests, and a deep understanding of complex concepts in physics, chemistry, and mathematics. The high stakes of the exam often create

an environment of immense pressure, making the feat of these 26 toppers even more remarkable in the eyes of their peers and mentors.

Geographically, the top scorers represent a diverse cross-section of the country, showcasing the widespread talent present in various Indian states and union territories. Reports indicate that the perfect scorers hail from regions including Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh, among others. This geographical spread highlights that excellence in technical education is no longer confined to a few traditional coaching hubs, but is increasingly distributed across different parts of India as resources and high-quality guidance become more ac-

cessible to students regardless of their location.

The scale of the 2026 examination was truly massive, with over 11 lakh students appearing for the test in various sessions held throughout the country and at select international locations. Managing such a large-scale assessment requires a sophisticated administrative framework, and the sheer number of participants underscores the intense competition that young Indians face while pursuing a career in engineering. The high volume of candidates also emphasizes why a perfect score is so highly coveted, as it ensures a top rank in a pool of over a million talented individuals.

In an effort to make the

examination more inclusive and accessible to students from diverse linguistic backgrounds, the test was conducted in 13 different languages. This multilingual approach is part of a broader educational policy intended to ensure that a student's proficiency in English or Hindi does not become a barrier to demonstrating their aptitude in core scientific subjects. By providing the exam in regional languages, the authorities have allowed students to engage with the complex problems in the language they are most comfortable with, potentially leveling the playing field for many.

Integrity and fairness were top priorities for the government and the testing agencies this year, leading to the implementation of stringent security measures at exam centers. To prevent any form of academic dishonesty or digital malpractice, special electronic jammers were deployed at venues to block unauthorized communication signals.

These jammers, along with multi-layered biometric verification and intensive frisking, were designed to create a secure environment where students could be tested solely on their merit, ensuring that the results remain a true reflection of their hard work.

Police Catch Three Men with Large Amount of Opium

Kurukshetra: The police in Kurukshetra have arrested three men from Jammu for smuggling 14 kilograms of opium.

The drugs, which are worth about 35 lakh rupees, were hidden inside a truck that was carrying maize. The police caught the truck near the Pipli flyover after receiving a secret tip.

The men told the police that they were bringing the opium from other states like Bihar and Jharkhand to sell in Haryana and Punjab.

One of the men, Manjeet Singh, used to be a truck driver and is believed to be the leader of the group.

The court has sent them to police custody so that officers can find out who else was involved in this drug business.

The Kurukshetra police have achieved a significant breakthrough in their ongoing campaign against narcotics by intercepting a major shipment of contraband near the Pipli flyover.

Acting on a specific intelligence tip-off, officers managed to apprehend three individuals hailing from Jammu who were allegedly attempting to transport a substantial quantity of opium through the state.

This successful operation is being viewed as a major blow to the inter-state drug trafficking networks that frequently use Haryana

as a transit point for moving illegal substances into northern Indian markets.

During the targeted search of a commercial truck, which was ostensibly transporting a routine cargo of maize, police discovered 14 kilograms of high-grade opium cleverly concealed within the vehicle.

The estimated market value of the seized drugs is approximately 35 lakh rupees, highlighting the high stakes involved in this particular smuggling attempt.

The use of a legitimate agricultural shipment as a cover is a common tactic employed by traffickers to evade detection during routine highway patrols and checkpoints across state borders. The three arrested men have been identified as residents of Jammu, suggesting a wide-reaching network that spans several regions of the country.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the contraband was being sourced from states like Bihar and Jharkhand, areas known for being origin points in the domestic drug trade.

The traffickers intended to distribute the opium across various districts in Haryana and Punjab, where demand for such substances remains a significant challenge for local law enforcement agencies and social workers alike.

Students Warned to Return Government Tablets or Lose Results

Faridabad: Around 500 students in Haryana who just finished their 12th-grade board exams have not returned the tablets given to them by the government. The Education Department has issued a final warning: if the tablets are not returned quickly, the students' exam results might be held back. Faridabad has the most students who still haven't given back the devices.

The tablets were given to students to help them study online and prepare for their exams. Now that the exams are over, the government needs them back because they are public property. Officials are asking parents to make sure their children return the tablets so there are no problems with their school records or getting into college later. The Education Department in Haryana has initiated a stern disciplinary measure targeting a group of approximately 500 students who recently completed their Class 12 board examinations but have failed to comply with state property regulations. These students, who were beneficiaries of the government's digital learning initiative, are still in possession of the electronic tablets provided to them for

academic support. In a clear and final ultimatum, officials have stated that the release of final board exam results—a critical requirement for any student's future—is now contingent upon the immediate return of these state-owned devices.

This situation has placed a significant number of young adults at a crossroads, as their transition to higher education depends entirely on the clearance of their secondary school records. The Education Department's decision to link academic results with the return of hardware is seen as a necessary, albeit drastic, step to ensure that public resources are not lost or misappropriated after their intended use has concluded. For these students, the delay in returning the equipment is no longer just a procedural oversight but a direct threat to their upcoming college admissions and professional prospects.

Among all the districts in Haryana, Faridabad has emerged as the area with the highest concentration of non-compliant students, causing specific concern for local educational administrators. The sheer volume of unreturned devices in this region has prompted a more

localized and aggressive outreach campaign to identify the individuals involved. Officials in Faridabad are currently working through school rosters to cross-reference serial numbers and student IDs, ensuring that every piece of government property is accounted for before the academic cycle officially closes for the year.

The tablets were originally distributed as part of a forward-thinking "e-Adhigam" scheme, designed to bridge the digital divide and facilitate online learning during a period when traditional classroom environments were frequently disrupted. By providing these tools, the government aimed to ensure that students from all economic backgrounds had equal access to high-quality study materials, mock tests, and virtual lectures. The program was hailed as a success for its role in helping the 12th-grade cohort prepare for their rigorous board exams, which are a defining moment in an Indian student's life. However, the terms of this digital loan were always made clear: the devices were provided for the duration of the students' school tenure and remained the property of the state.

BJP Prepares for Municipal Elections in Haryana

Chandigarh: The BJP is getting ready for the upcoming city elections in places like Panchkula, Ambala, and Sonapat. The party leaders have picked a few top names for each position, including the Mayors. These lists will now be sent to the main party leaders for a final choice. The Congress party has already announced its candidates, so the BJP is expected to release its final list very soon.

Candidates can start filing their official papers today. The party is trying to balance different local groups and castes to win the most votes. The actual voting will take place on May 10, and the results will be known by May 13.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has officially shifted its organizational machinery into high gear as it prepares for the upcoming municipal elections in several of Haryana's most prominent urban centers. With key battles looming in strategic locations such as Panchkula, Ambala, and Sonapat, the state leadership is under significant pressure to ensure a successful performance that reinforces its influence at the local level. These elections are viewed as a critical barometer for the party's popularity in urban areas, prompting a meticulously planned approach to candidate selection and campaign strategy.



In a series of high-level meetings held in Chandigarh, the state's political nerve center, party veterans and strategists have been vetting potential aspirants for various municipal positions. The focus has been particularly intense regarding the selection of candidates for the high-profile Mayoral posts, which carry substantial executive power and symbolic weight. After days of internal deliberations and feedback from local cadres, the state unit has narrowed down a shortlist of top contenders for each crucial seat, ensuring that the finalists possess both local popularity and administrative potential.

These preliminary lists, often referred to as "panels" in political circles, are now being dispatched to the party's central leadership for the final seal of approval. This top-down hierarchy ensures that the candidates align with the broader national vision of the BJP while also meeting the specific requirements of the Haryana state unit. The final announcement is expected to be made with a sense of urgency, as the party aims to give its chosen representatives as much time as possible to hit the campaign trail and connect with voters.

Farmers Frustrated as Wheat from UP is Stopped at the Border

Karnal: Many farmers are stuck at the Haryana-UP border because police are not letting their wheat-laden trailers through. The government says only farmers who are registered on a special official portal (Meri Fasal, Mera Byora) can bring their crops into Haryana's markets. However, some farmers who live in Haryana but have fields across the border in UP say they are being treated unfairly. Farmers waiting at the Manglora check post say they have been standing in line since Sunday night. Some claim that certain vehicles are being allowed to pass while others are stopped without a clear reason. While the government says these rules are necessary to manage the heavy arrival of wheat, the stranded farmers feel they have no choice but to return home without selling their crops. The atmosphere at the Haryana-Uttar Pradesh border near Karnal has become increasingly tense as hundreds of farmers find them-



selves caught in a bureaucratic deadlock over the transport of their wheat harvest. At the heart of the conflict is a stringent enforcement of state border controls, where police and local authorities have effectively halted a long queue of tractors and trailers heavily laden with newly harvested grain. These farmers, many of whom have traveled significant distances, now face

the prospect of their produce rotting or being sold at a loss because they are unable to enter the grain markets of Haryana. The primary hurdle cited by the district administration is the mandatory registration on the state's digital platform, known as the "Meri Fasal, Mera Byora" portal.

This official system was designed to track crop production and ensure that only

verified farmers within the state can access the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the organized market infrastructure. However, the transition to this digital-first approach has created a significant barrier for those who have not yet navigated the registration process or whose data has not been updated in time for the peak harvest season.

Second Worker Dies Following Blast at Hisar Rolling Mill

Hisar: The death toll from a boiler explosion at Jindal Rolling Mills has risen to two. Shiv Kumar, a worker who was badly burned in the accident on April 11, passed away in the hospital on Monday night. Another young worker named Vishal had died earlier during treatment. Three other workers are still in the hospital in critical condition.

Labor groups are angry because the accident was kept quiet for over a week. The police have started a case against the factory for causing death by negligence. Families of the victims claim the company did not have proper safety rules and that some workers were forced to work near the dangerous furnace. So far, the families say they have not received any financial help from the mill owners.

The tragic aftermath of the industrial accident at Jindal Rolling Mills in Hisar has taken a grimmer turn as the death toll continues to rise. Local health authorities confirmed that Shiv Kumar,

a dedicated worker who had been battling severe burn injuries since the initial incident, succumbed to his wounds late Monday night. His passing marks the second fatality resulting from the boiler explosion that occurred on April 11, following the earlier death of a young laborer named Vishal. The news has cast a heavy shadow over the industrial sector of Hisar, highlighting the perilous conditions that many factory workers face daily. The gravity of the situation remains high as three other workers involved in the blast continue to fight for their lives in intensive care. Medical professionals have described their conditions as critical, noting that industrial boiler explosions often result in complex thermal injuries that require long-term specialized treatment. The families of these injured men remain in a state of agonizing uncertainty, waiting outside hospital wards for any sign of improvement while grappling with the sudden loss of their primary breadwinners'

ability to work.

Deepening the tragedy is a growing wave of indignation among local labor unions and social activists regarding the timing of the news. Investigations and public statements from labor groups suggest that the accident was effectively kept under wraps for more than a week after it occurred. This perceived lack of transparency has sparked accusations that the management attempted to downplay the severity of the blast to avoid immediate legal scrutiny or public backlash. The delay in reporting has only served to intensify the anger of the community, which views the silence as an affront to the dignity of the victims.

In response to the fatalities and the outcry, the local police have formally registered a criminal case against the management of Jindal Rolling Mills. The charges focus on causing death by negligence, as preliminary findings suggest that the explosion may have been preventable.

Haryana Leaders to Meet in Gurugram for Big Discussion

Gurugram: For the first time in ten years, the Haryana government will hold its main Cabinet meeting in Gurugram instead of the capital, Chandigarh. The meeting is set for April 22 at 9 AM at the PWD rest house. This move shows that Gurugram is becoming more important for the state's politics and economy.

The leaders have many things to talk about, including 12 important plans for the state. One topic that might come up again is a request to waive the rent for the former Chief Minister's government house. This was stopped before because some ministers wanted to know exactly how much money was spent on things like water and electricity. The city has increased security and put extra police on the roads to prepare for this high-level meeting.

The Haryana government is set to mark a historical shift in its administrative tradition by convening its main Cabinet meeting in Gurugram, a move that breaks a decade-long streak of these high-level sessions being held exclusively in the state capital, Chandigarh. Scheduled for April 22 at 9 AM, the



meeting will take place at the PWD rest house, signaling a significant decentralization of governance. This relocation is widely interpreted as a formal recognition of Gurugram's burgeoning status as the state's economic powerhouse and an increasingly vital center for its political landscape, moving the heart of decision-making closer to the National Capital Region.

The choice of venue, the PWD rest house, has been meticulously prepared to host the state's top leadership, ensuring that the environment is conducive to the heavy legislative and execu-

tive agenda planned for the day. By bringing the entire Cabinet to Gurugram, the administration is making a symbolic gesture to the residents and stakeholders of the city, acknowledging that the challenges and opportunities of this urban hub are at the forefront of the state's developmental priorities. This shift is not merely logistical but represents a strategic effort to engage with different regions of the state more directly.

On the table for discussion are 12 critical agendas that span various sectors of public interest, reflecting a

comprehensive approach to state management. These plans are expected to cover a wide range of topics, from infrastructure development to social welfare schemes, and their approval could set the tone for the state's trajectory over the coming months. The Cabinet is under pressure to deliver tangible results, and the Gurugram setting provides a high-profile stage for the government to demonstrate its commitment to efficient and responsive governance across diverse territories. Among the more contentious items expected to resurface is the proposal

regarding the rent waiver for the former Chief Minister's government residence. This specific issue has seen significant debate in previous sessions, as it touches upon the intersection of political tradition and fiscal accountability. The proposal had been temporarily stalled in the past because several ministers demanded a higher level of transparency, specifically requesting a detailed breakdown of the expenditures related to utility bills, including water and electricity, incurred at the property.

The insistence on these details highlights an internal push within the Cabinet for more rigorous scrutiny of state spending, even when it concerns high-ranking officials. The outcome of this discussion will be closely watched, as it serves as a litmus test for the government's stance on financial transparency versus the perks traditionally accorded to former leaders. Whether the Cabinet reaches a consensus this time or requires further documentation remains to be seen, but the topic is emblematic of the broader debates regarding the responsible use of public funds.

Workers Protest After Official is Moved for Catching Power Thieves

Hisar: A group of power department workers is protesting because an official named Jojo Taneja was suddenly moved to a different job. They believe he was punished because he caught people stealing electricity in the Jind district. The Haryana Power Engineering Association says it is not fair to move an officer just for doing his job honestly.

The association is also worried about the safety of their workers after another engineer was threatened recently. They have told the top bosses that if Jojo Taneja is not given his old job back, they will keep protesting in different places.

They even warned that they might stop looking for power thieves altogether, which would cause the government to lose money.

The industrial city of Hisar has become the focal point of a significant labor dispute within the state's energy sector, as employees of the power department have launched a formal protest against the sudden reassignment of a high-ranking official.

The unrest began following the abrupt transfer of Jojo Taneja, an officer whose relocation is being viewed by his colleagues not as a routine administrative move, but as a direct retaliation for

his professional integrity. The workers contend that Taneja is being penalized for his successful efforts in identifying and penalizing individuals involved in large-scale electricity theft within the Jind district.

The Haryana Power Engineering Association (HPEA) has taken a leading role in this advocacy, publicly condemning the government's decision to move an officer who was simply performing his statutory duties. According to the association, Taneja's crackdown on power pilferage was executed with honesty and transparency, yet the reward for his diligence was a sudden transfer. This has sent a wave of demoralization through the ranks, as other engineers and technicians now fear that their own commitment to law enforcement could result in professional instability or "punishment postings."

Beyond the specifics of Taneja's transfer, the protest has highlighted broader concerns regarding the personal safety and security of power department employees on the front lines.

The association pointed to a recent and alarming incident where another engineer was reportedly threatened with violence while attempting to conduct a routine inspection. This climate of in-

timidation, the workers argue, makes it nearly impossible to carry out their duties without fear of physical harm, especially when they lack the explicit and unwavering support of their administrative superiors.

In a formal communication sent to the top management of the power utility, the HPEA has laid out a clear ultimatum regarding the current situation. They have demanded that Jojo Taneja be immediately reinstated to his previous position to restore faith in the department's merit-based system.

The leadership of the association has warned that if their demands are not met, the scope of the protest will be expanded to include various locations across the state, potentially disrupting administrative functions.

The most significant threat issued by the protesting workers involves the suspension of all anti-theft operations.

They have warned that if the government does not protect its honest officers, the department may altogether stop pursuing and catching power thieves.

Such a move would have a devastating impact on the state's exchequer, as electricity theft accounts for substantial financial losses every year.

Dangerous Pit Causes Scary Car Crash in Gurugram

Gurugram: A woman professor had a very lucky escape after her car fell into a deep, open hole in the middle of a road in the Sushant Lok-1 area. The accident happened on Monday evening on Galleria Road while she was driving home from work. People who saw the crash said the hole was dug for construction but had been left open for months without any fences or warning signs.

Because it was dark and there were no signs to warn her, the professor did not see the pit and drove right into it. Local people ran to help and worked hard to pull her out of the car. While she was not badly hurt, she was very

shaken up, and her car was badly damaged. Residents are angry because this is a fancy neighborhood, yet safety rules were ignored. The professor plans to report the incident to the police and city officials to make sure the people responsible are punished.

The upscale neighborhood of Sushant Lok-1 in Gurugram became the site of a harrowing ordeal on Monday evening, highlighting a severe lapse in urban safety and infrastructure management. A woman professor, returning home after a long day of work, found herself in a life-threatening situation when her vehicle plunged

into a massive, unguarded pit situated directly in the path of oncoming traffic. The incident, which occurred on the prominent Galleria Road, has sent shockwaves through the local community and raised urgent questions about the accountability of construction agencies operating within the city.

The accident took place under the cover of darkness, a factor that turned a poorly managed construction site into a literal death trap. Witnesses at the scene reported that the deep excavation had been left completely exposed for several months, lacking any form of protective fencing, barricades, or



reflective warning signs. For a driver unfamiliar with the sudden change in road conditions, the lack of visibility made the hazard impossible to detect until it was far too late to brake or swerve.

The sheer depth of the hole meant that the car did

not merely hit a bump but fell entirely into the cavity, causing significant structural damage to the vehicle. The sound of the crash immediately drew the attention of nearby residents and passersby, who rushed toward the site in a desperate attempt

to assist. In a display of community spirit, several locals worked together in the dark to reach the professor and carefully extricate her from the mangled car before the situation could worsen.

While the professor miraculously escaped without life-threatening physical injuries, the psychological impact of the crash has been profound.

Emergency responders and those who assisted her noted that she was in a state of extreme shock, a natural reaction to the sudden and violent nature of the plunge. The car itself, which served as her primary mode of transport for her profession-

al duties, has been rendered nearly unusable, representing a significant financial blow alongside the emotional trauma of the "lucky escape."

The residents of Sushant Lok-1 have expressed a mixture of fury and disbelief, pointing out the irony of such a dangerous oversight occurring in one of Gurugram's most expensive and well-known residential areas. Many argued that if a basic safety protocol—such as placing a simple warning sign or a plastic barrier—had been followed, the entire accident could have been avoided. The fact that the pit had remained open for

months without intervention from city inspectors is being viewed as a systemic failure of urban oversight.

Local civic activists have joined the residents in demanding immediate action, noting that Galleria Road is a high-traffic zone used by thousands of commuters every day. They argue that leaving a deep trench open in such a busy area is not just negligence but a criminal disregard for human life. The community is now calling for a full audit of all ongoing construction projects in the vicinity to ensure that no other "hidden pits" are waiting to claim their next victim.

Education Officials Visit NIT Kurukshetra After Recent Suicides

Kurukshetra: Two officials from the Union Ministry of Education visited the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Kurukshetra to talk with students and staff. This visit happened because four students have sadly taken their own lives at the institute in the last two months. The officials held private meetings with students, teachers, and hostel wardens to understand the situation.

Student groups like the SFI and AISU are very concerned. They believe that high academic pressure and a lack of support from the college leaders are causing these tragedies. They have asked for a deep investigation and better counseling services. Meanwhile, the college held a meeting to remember Diksha Dubey, a second-year student who was found dead in her hostel room last week. The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Kurukshetra is currently under intense scrutiny following a series of tragic

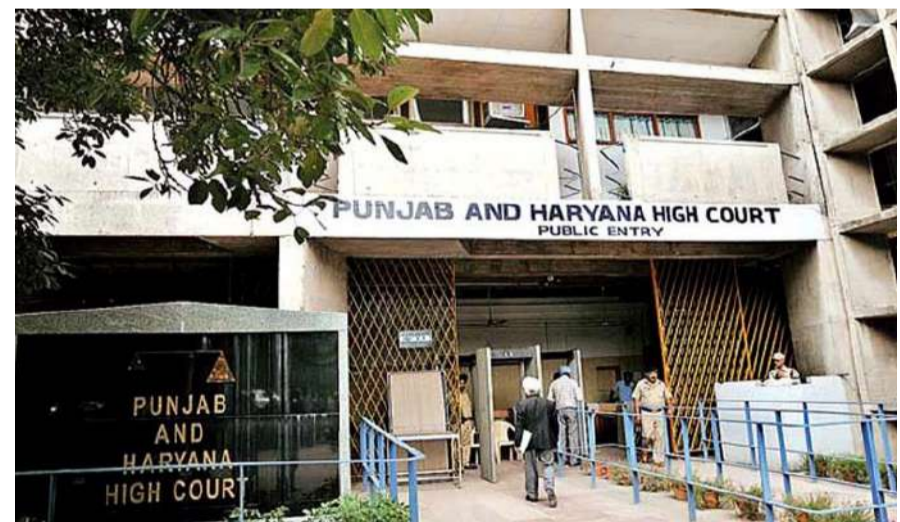
events that have shaken the campus community. In a direct response to the growing crisis, two high-ranking officials from the Union Ministry of Education arrived at the institute to conduct a thorough on-ground assessment of the prevailing environment. The visit was prompted by the deeply concerning statistic that four students have lost their lives to suicide within the span of just two months, a trend that has sounded alarms at the highest levels of the central government's educational administration. The atmosphere on campus remained somber as the federal officials engaged in a series of closed-door deliberations aimed at uncovering the root causes of this mental health emergency. These meetings were not restricted to administrative heads; the officials made a point to speak privately with a cross-section of students, faculty members, and hostel wardens. By facilitating these private inter-

actions, the ministry hopes to gather candid feedback regarding the daily pressures and systemic issues that may be contributing to the extreme distress felt by the student body. The urgency of the situation has mobilized various student organizations, including the Student Federation of India (SFI) and the All India Students' Union (AISU), who have been vocal in their demands for systemic reform. These groups have expressed profound concern over what they describe as a "toxic" combination of relentless academic competition and a perceived lack of empathy from the institute's leadership. They argue that the current institutional framework prioritizes grades and placements over the holistic well-being of the students, leading to a sense of isolation among those who are struggling. Central to the demands of the student activists is a call for a comprehensive and independent investigation into the recent

fatalities. They believe that a surface-level inquiry will not suffice and that the ministry must look into the specific grievances raised by students regarding internal grading policies and administrative coldness. Furthermore, the organizations are advocating for a drastic overhaul of the campus's mental health infrastructure, pushing for the implementation of 24-hour counseling services and the hiring of more qualified psychological professionals. The most recent tragedy involved Diksha Dubey, a promising second-year student whose life was cut short last week when she was discovered deceased in her hostel room. Her passing has served as a catalyst for the current ministerial intervention, as it underscored the recurring nature of the crisis. The institute recently organized a formal condolence meeting to honor her memory, providing a space for her peers and professors to mourn.

High Court Worried About Mobile Phones Used Inside Jails

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court is very concerned about how prisoners are able to use mobile phones while they are locked up. A judge asked how a person in jail could keep talking to other criminals outside. He said this happens either because the jail staff is not doing their job or because they are helping the prisoners. The court said that this is a serious problem for public safety and the government needs to look into it closely. While the judge was talking about this big problem, he did allow one prisoner to go out on bail for a specific case. However, he made it clear that the state must find out how phones are getting into jails and stop it from happening again. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has raised a red flag regarding the persistent security lapses within the state's correctional facilities, specifically focusing on the illicit use of mobile phones



by inmates. During a recent hearing in Chandigarh, the bench expressed deep apprehension over how individuals behind bars maintain active communication channels with criminal associates on the outside. This digital bridge between the prison and the underworld is seen as a significant threat to

the judicial process and public safety, as it allows for the coordination of crimes and the intimidation of witnesses from within the supposed confines of a high-security cell. The presiding judge delivered a pointed critique of the prison administration, suggesting that the entry of such devices is not merely an

oversight but a systemic failure. The court noted that for a mobile phone to reach a prisoner, it generally implies one of two troubling scenarios: either the jail staff is suffering from extreme negligence in their frisking and monitoring duties, or there is active collusion between the guards and the inmates.

Private Schools Told to Report Correct Number of Students

Rohtak: The Education Department in Haryana is upset because many private schools are showing "zero" students on the government's online portal. Since the new school year has started, schools are supposed to update their records to show how many children are studying there. The department says that having no data makes it hard to plan for the state's education needs.

Officials have ordered school heads to upload the correct information immediately. This data is important for the government to make good policies and share re-

sources fairly. If the schools continue to delay, it could cause problems for future planning. The government wants to make sure all school records are clear and honest.

The Haryana Education Department has issued a stern directive to private educational institutions across the state, particularly in the Rohtak district, regarding significant discrepancies in their student enrollment data. As the new academic session commences, a concerning pattern has emerged on the government's Management Information System (MIS) portal, where a

large number of private schools have failed to update their figures. Instead of reflecting their actual classroom strength, these institutions are currently showing a "zero" student count, a situation that has prompted immediate administrative intervention and widespread frustration among education officials.

The primary cause of the department's dissatisfaction lies in the logistical nightmare created by missing or inaccurate data. The MIS portal is designed to be a real-time reflection of the state's educational landscape, allowing policymakers to track student transitions, dropout rates, and overall growth. When schools neglect to transition their students from one grade to the next on the digital platform, it creates a "data vacuum" that misrepresents the actual number of children receiving an education within the state's borders.

Education officials emphasize that this data is not merely a bureaucratic requirement but the very foundation upon which state-level planning is built. Without an accurate count of students, the government struggles

to assess the demand for various educational resources, ranging from the allocation of scholarship funds to the planning of competitive examinations. The current "zero" data status effectively blindsides the department, making it nearly impossible to forecast the needs of the student population for the 2026-2027 academic year. In a formal communication sent to school heads, the department has ordered the immediate uploading of corrected student information. This push for transparency is intended to ensure that every child studying in a private

institution is officially recognized by the state. Officials have noted that the delay in updating records often stems from administrative lethality at the school level, but the consequences of this delay ripple upward, affecting the government's ability to formulate effective policies that benefit the entire student community. The government is particularly concerned about the fair distribution of resources and the monitoring of student movement between private and public sectors. Accurate data on the portal allows the state to ensure that students are not be-

ing double-counted and that private schools are adhering to their mandated capacities. By demanding "clear and honest" records, the Education Department is attempting to eliminate any potential for ghost enrollments or the accidental exclusion of legitimate students from state-level benefits and tracking systems. Furthermore, the department has warned that persistent delays in data entry could lead to more severe administrative repercussions for the defaulting schools. Future planning for teacher training programs, infrastructure grants, and lo-

cal area development depends heavily on knowing exactly where the students are located. The government has signaled that it will no longer tolerate the "zero student" placeholder on the portal, as it undermines the integrity of the state's digital governance initiatives.

The move also aims to protect the interests of the students and their parents. When a student's record is not updated on the government portal, it can lead to significant hurdles during the transfer process if the child moves to another school or city.



Struggling middle order worries Rajasthan Royals ahead of LSG clash

New Delhi: Rajasthan Royals, the inaugural IPL champions, will be aiming to stop their recent slump when they face Lucknow Super Giants at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Wednesday, with the visitors particularly concerned about the poor form of their middle order, especially captain Riyan Parag. RR are currently third on the points table and had started the season strongly with four straight wins. However, things have gone downhill in their last two matches. The slide started against Sunrisers Hyderabad, when they suffered a heavy 57-run defeat after a dramatic collapse, losing five wickets for just nine runs against pace.

In their previous game against Kolkata Knight Riders, they let a winning position slip, with Rinku Singh turning the match around late to hand KKR their first win of the season.

Parag's form has been a major concern. Handed the captaincy after Sanju Samson's exit, he has struggled badly with the bat, scoring just one 20 in six innings and registering three single-digit scores. While the top order comprising the likes of Yas-



hasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Dhruv Jurel, has carried the batting for most of the season, the team has faltered whenever the top three hasn't delivered.

Parag is not the only one out of form. Ravindra Jadeja has looked far from his best, while Shimron Hetmyer has managed just 39 runs in four innings. Despite this, batting coach Vikram Rathour has backed his skipper to bounce back.

"As far as I am concerned, it is just a matter of time. Not everyone makes runs every time," Rathour had said of Parag's poor run, after their defeat to KKR at Eden Gardens.

"Teams run in such a way that some stay in form, some stay out of form. There

is no doubt that he will come back and win us a few games on his own as a batter," Rathour added.

Fielding has also hurt Rajasthan at crucial moments. Nandre Burger dropped Rinku Singh early in the last match, and that mistake proved costly as Rinku, along with Anukul Roy, finished the game strongly.

Even with these issues, Rajasthan still look stronger than Lucknow, who are struggling in ninth place after three straight losses. RR's opening pair has been one of the most effective this season, with Sooryavanshi in great form and Jaiswal providing consistency. For Lucknow, early wickets will be key, but their bowling attack

has been under pressure.

In their last match, Punjab Kings piled up 254/7 — the highest total of the season, after Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly added 182 runs in just 13.2 overs. That performance exposed LSG's bowling, which has lacked control. Prince Yadav has been a rare positive, picking up 2/25, but Avesh Khan and Mohammed Shami have struggled, while Manimaran Siddharth has also been expensive. Lucknow will likely look to exploit Rajasthan's weak middle order, but their own batting has not been settled either. The decision to push Ayush Badoni up to open with Mitchell Marsh hasn't worked. Marsh has scored back-to-back 40s but hasn't converted them into

big scores, while captain Rishabh Pant has been inconsistent. Nicholas Pooran's poor form has only added to their troubles.

For Lucknow Super Giants to turn things around, they will need both their batting and bowling units to deliver together, something they have not managed so far this season.

Squads: Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (c), Aiden Markram, Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuvanshi, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Shahab Ahmed, Arshin Kulkarni, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ayush Badoni, Mohammed Shami, Avesh Khan, M Siddharth, Digvesh Rathi, Akash Singh, Prince Yadav, Arjun Tendulkar, Anrich Nortje, Naman Tiwari, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan. Rajasthan Royals: Riyan Parag (c), Dhruv Jurel, Donovan Ferreira, Lhuan-Dre Pretorius, Ravi Singh, Aman Perala, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Yas-hasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja, Sam Curran, Adam Milne, Brijesh Sharma, Jofra Archer, Kuldeep Sen, Kwe-na Maphaka, Nandre Burger, Ravi Bishnoi, Sandeep Sharma.

We can be a major power in wrestling: Sujeet Kalkal

New Delhi: Sujeet Kalkal, the world number one-ranked wrestler in the men's 65 kg category, feels that if wrestling receives adequate support and public adulation, then India can be a major world power in the sport.

Speaking to UNI on Tuesday, Kalkal, who won the gold medal at the Asian Wrestling championships earlier this month, said, "Wrestlers don't get adequate support and public adulation, especially at the initial stage, that is why many young wrestlers abandon the sport early, wrestling needs to be supported, if it gets support like cricket then we can be a world power." The 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from April 6-12, 2026. India had a fruitful tournament, bagging 17 medals, including two golds (Sujeet in the 65 kg category and Abhimanyou Mandwal in the 70 kg category). The traditional sport of wrestling has also yielded medals for India during the last five Olympics-2024 (Aman Sehrawat), 2020 (Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia), 2016 (Sakshi Malik), 2012 (Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt), and 2008 (Sushil Kumar). Sujeet, a Hisar native, looked forward to competing at the

World championships and Asian Games later this year. He stressed that the World Championships are the toughest tournament.

"World championship is the toughest tournament competition-wise, it is more competitive than the Olympics. In the Olympics, you have to win a quota place, hence many of the very good wrestlers miss out on qualifying." 2026 Asian Games will be held in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, while the 2026 World Wrestling Championships will be held in Manama, Bahrain, from October 24 to November 1, 2026. The 23-year-old said that he plans to train abroad soon. "Training abroad is quite different from training here, and grapplers should train abroad to learn new skills. Maybe this time I will go to Japan, Russia, or the US as my coach decides. A player needs to experience various kinds of sparring partners and different tactics." He spoke about the support he has received under the government's Target Olympics Podium Scheme (TOPS) scheme. "I have in the past trained in Russia, Japan, and Mongolia. These exposure trips were made possible due to the TOPS support I received. Be it ex-

posure trips, physiotherapy, or any other need, the scheme has been most helpful."

Speaking about his strengths, Sujeet felt that he has a strong defensive game and is now working to increase his power.

"I feel that my defence is my strong point, I am currently working on finer aspects of attacking and also trying to increase my power." He is currently training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Northern Regional Centre (NRC), Sonapat, and at the Raipur Sports Academy. He spoke about the SAI, Sonapat centre, where he has trained for most of his career. "It's an important centre for wrestling, it offers very good facilities and wrestling equipment. The most important thing is that it has very experienced coaches like Balwant sir and Kamini Yadav ma'am." He advised aspiring wrestlers to start from a very young age if they plan to make it big in the sport. "They need to start from a very young age, around 5-6 years, someone starting from 15, that will be too late. Wrestling is a sport that takes a long time to learn, even more time to win medals, and the peak of a grappler is very short because this is an injury-prone game."

Darren Lehmann extends Northamptonshire deal to end of 2029

London: Northamptonshire head coach Darren Lehmann has signed a new two-year contract extension until the end of the 2029 season.

The former Australia batter, 56, was appointed in October 2024 and led Northants to T20 Finals Day for the first time in nine years during his first campaign in charge, including an impressive quarter-final win against Surrey.

The club have drawn all three County Championship matches this season and sit second in Division Two, according to BBC sport.

"It was an easy decision for me because I love the place," said Lehmann. "Everyone has made it such a

family club for me, so I'm delighted to be carrying on here.

"We just want to keep improving and hopefully we



represent the club proudly along the way."

Lehmann, who signed a one-year extension last August, was Australia head coach from 2013 to 2018, winning two Ashes series and the 2015 World Cup.

He has also coached Northern Superchargers in

The Hundred, Deccan Chargers in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and Sheffield Shield and Brisbane Heat in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL).

"We're all thrilled to have secured Darren's services for another two years. It's been an excellent fit since his first day and he's taking the club in a really positive direction," said Northamptonshire CEO Ray Payne.

"Darren's transparency and connection with the supporters has made a notable impact and the excitement around what the following years could bring on the field is a testament to his work so far." Northamptonshire host Worcestershire in their next match, starting on May 1.

Big strides made by India & South Africa players in latest ICC Women's T20I rankings

Dubai: India opener Shafali Verma has advanced two slots to sixth place in the ICC Women's T20I Batting Rankings after scoring a 38-ball 57 in the second T20I in Durban. The opener smashed two sixes and four fours, but it was not enough to help her side to victory as South Africa won the match by eight wickets.

The hosts lead the five-match series 2-0, following their opening six-wicket win at the start of the weekend, with matches moving from Durban to Johannesburg this week. Verma's progress has triggered a one-slot move for the West Indies' skipper Hayley Matthews to third place. India's captain Har-

manpreet Kaur hit an unbeaten 47 from 33 deliveries in match one to be rewarded with a two-slot move to joint 11th.

South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt is the leading run scorer of the series so far with 105 runs to her name, thanks to knocks of 51 and 54 in the first two matches. She remains steady in fifth place among the batters. Other movements in the list include Annerie Dercksen and Suné Luus. Dercksen leaped 18 slots to 33rd after hitting an unbeaten 44 in their second encounter, while Luus' 57 from 46 balls helped her to 35th from last week's 43rd place and a career-best 508 rating points.



All-rounder Chloe Tryon was unbeaten on 18 in the first match and took three for 22 in the second to climb four slots to joint-11th among the T20I all-round-

ers, gained one slot to reach 59th in the batters' list and is up three spots to reach 38th among the bowlers.

Left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba moved to

joint-sixth place in the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings after taking one for 17 in the second match at her home stadium in Kingsmead.

Finally, Ayabonga Khaka has advanced eight places to 25th after taking three wickets for 16 in the opening match, with series' leading wicket taker Tumi Sekhukhune rocketing 23 slots to 55th after grabbing two for 27 and three for 31 in the ODI Player Rankings. Bangladesh's Sharmin Akter's innings of 86 from 127 balls helped her side register their first-ever ODI victory over Sri Lanka in the opener of the three-match ICC Women's Championship series in Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

Asian Beach Games 2026: India look to make a mark in kabaddi, 3x3 basketball

Sanya: A 31-member Indian contingent will compete at the Asian Beach Games 2026 in Sanya, located on Hainan Island of the People's Republic of China, from April 22 to 30.

The sixth edition of the Asian Beach Games will have medal events across 15 disciplines, with a total of 62 gold medals up for grabs.

India will compete in four disciplines - 3x3 basketball, beach kabaddi, sail-

ing and beach wrestling. India's top basketball players Pranav Prince and Harsh Dagar will headline the 3x3 squad.

Organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), the Asian Beach Games is a multi-sport event focused on beach and coastal disciplines, according to olympics.com

First held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2008, the Games showcase sports not always

featured at the Asian Games.

The Asian Beach Games were last held in 2016 in Da Nang, Vietnam, and were initially scheduled to return in 2020.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a prolonged delay, with the event now resuming after a decade.

The 2026 edition will be staged entirely in the resort city of Sanya, with the opening ceremony on April 22

and the closing ceremony on April 30. Beach handball begins on April 21.

At the 2016 edition, India won 24 medals, including two gold, four silver and 18 bronze.

The women's kabaddi team clinched gold, while the men's team settled for silver.

India's other gold medal came in vocolytrun, where Shweta More triumphed in the women's 52kg event.

Signs good for Proteas at T20 World Cup after rankings rise

Dubai: Leading performers from South Africa have been the big winners following the latest update to the ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings. South Africa and India are currently finalising their preparations for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales from June 12 with a five-game series and players from both sides have been boosted with large gains on the updated rankings. Proteas skipper Laura Wolvaardt maintains her place in fifth behind Australia's Georgia Voll

on the updated rankings for T20I batters following a splendid half-century in the second game of the series against India, while teammates Annerie Dercksen and Suné Luus (up eight spots to 35th) also make ground on the same list following strong contributions in that Durban contest. There are also gains on the batter rankings for India opener Shafali Verma, with the right-hander moving up two places to sixth overall following her innings of 57 against the Proteas. Smriti Mandhana (fourth) is the only player

from India ahead of Shafali on the rankings for T20I batters, while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur is snapping at their heels just outside the top 10 after an unbeaten innings of 47 in the series opener against South Africa, according to ICC. Pakistani spinner Sadia Iqbal holds on to a narrow lead at the top of the rankings for T20I bowlers, but South Africa counterpart Nonkululeko Mlaba is the big mover as she gains five places to move to equal sixth following two wickets from the opening pair of matches against India.

Alcaraz, Sabalenka, Norris, McIlroy among winners at 2026 Laureus World Sports Awards

Madrid: The greatest names in sport gathered on Monday night in the heart of Madrid as the winners of the Laureus World Sports Awards were revealed at a spectacular red-carpet event watched by millions of sports fans across the globe.

Among the winners were the tennis stars who finished 2025 as the World No.1 in the women's and men's games - Aryna Sabalenka and Carlos Alcaraz; after sweeping six titles across the world of football, Paris Saint-Germain continued their winning streak with the Laureus World Team of the Year Award and Formula One's Lando Norris took the stage for a breakthrough win. The 2025 Masters champion Rory McIlroy claimed a victory far longer in the making. There was a third Laureus for Chloe Kim,

snowboarder supreme, and a first for Gabriel Araújo, a three-time world champion in Para Swimming. The Laureus World Sports Awards is the greatest show in sport, and the red carpet was full of superstars from across sport and entertainment, who shared images and clips with fans on social media. Guests included Nominees for this year's Awards and Members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, the all-time legends who vote for the winners each year. For the first time in Laureus history, the show was hosted by two athletes, both former Laureus winners: Novak Djokovic and Eileen Gu. Added to the list of those honoured this year are three additional recipients of the Laureus, the statuette awarded to the winner in each category, and prize the greatest athletes in

the world value above all other Awards: Nadia Comaneci, 50 years on from the Perfect 10 that made sporting history, Lamine Yamal, a world star at the other end of his journey, plus Toni Kroos - after a career spent as a serial winner for Real Madrid.

The city of Madrid was the sporting capital of the world on a day that also saw the start of play at tennis's Madrid Open, and five months before Formula One returns to the city for the first time since 1981. It was fitting that one of the big winners of the night was a Spanish sporting superstar. Carlos Alcaraz was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year after a landmark season. He regained the World No.1 spot at year's end after two Grand Slam singles titles, at the French and US Opens, plus another final, at Wim-

bledon. The Roland Garros final against Jannik Sinner - also nominated for this Award - will go down as one



of the greatest matches of all time. That is the mark of a Laureus winner - the combination of elite achievement and the creation of moments that last forever and inspire sports fans for generations to come. For Alcaraz, it furthers his own Laureus story and

puts him in exalted company. Alcaraz won the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award in 2023 and fol-

lows the Big Three of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal (Spain's only previous winner) and Novak Djokovic as winners of this Award. At 22, he becomes the youngest winner of the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. Laureus World

Sportsman of the Year Carlos Alcaraz said: "What an incredible honour it is to win the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. As a tennis player, I compete for titles on the court, but this Laureus Statuette means something more as it's a recognition among the greatest athletes in the world, across all sport." Three years ago, I received the Laureus Breakthrough Award in Paris and met one of my heroes, Leo Messi, who won the Laureus Sportsman Award. At the time, I dreamt that maybe one day I would join the great Leo Messi on the Sportsman list, and today, I have. Messi, Federer, Djokovic, Usain Bolt, and of course the great Rafa Nadal. I am following in the footsteps of giants. That makes this moment so special. I truly understand why these

Awards mean so much to the best athletes in the world. That includes all my fellow Laureus Nominees - the greatest sportsmen in the world - but I especially would like to thank Jannik Sinner. If we hadn't been across the net from each other, pushing the one another so hard, I don't think either of us would have found the levels we did. "I have always felt a strong connection with Laureus, and the famous words of Laureus' Patron Nelson Mandela, because it is about much more than celebrating wins and records. I too believe that sport can change the world. Long after the Awards night, Laureus shows how powerful sport can be in giving opportunities to young people all over the world. To know that my story can inspire the next generation makes me proud,

as does holding this Laureus Statuette. "There was a one-two for tennis as Aryna Sabalenka received the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award following another year defined by the sustained excellence necessary to claim the greatest prize in sport. From January 1 to December 31, she did not relinquish the top spot in the world rankings. Sabalenka defended her title at the US Open and was a finalist in Australia and France, where she ended the 26-match Roland Garros winning streak of Iga Świątek in the semi-finals. There were also WTA 1000 wins in Miami and - for a third time - in Madrid, the city where she tonight joined a list of tennis players to have received the Laureus Sportswoman of the Year Award, including Serena Williams.



MARKET

BSE Sensex			Nifty 50			Nifty 500			Nifty Next 50			Nifty 100			Nifty Bank			Nifty Midcap 100		
Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change		Close	Percent change	
79,273.33	0.96%		24,576.60	0.87%		23,042.35	0.77%		70,824.45	0.69%		25,464.00	0.84%		56,582.35	0.029%		60,086.70	0.5%	
Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open		Previous close	Open	
78,520.30	78,617.16		24,364.85	24,374.55		22,865.80	22,898.95		70,341.00	70,583.15		25,252.90	25,276.95		56,565.70	56,704.05		59,790.75	59,933.10	
High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low		High	Low	
79,367.08	78,522.96		24,601.70	24,354.90		23,064.35	22,893.60		71,050.65	70,576.85		25,487.90	25,268.00		57,085.10	56,356.55		60,338.00	59,895.80	

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Nestle	1,379.90	7.27
HUL	2,310.70	3.55
Trent	4,390.50	3.48
ICICI Bank	1,388.40	2.37
Bajaj Finance	938.85	2.30

Top Losers

Company	Current	% Loss
SBI Life Insura	1,911.60	-3.58
Bharat Elec	451.50	-1.32
Jio Financial	234.75	-1.01
Dr Reddys Labs	1,220.60	-0.97
Titan Company	4,479.70	-0.74

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Jun 05	152,615.00	-1,328.00 -0.86
Silver May 05	245,791.00	-6,754.00 -2.67
Crudeoil May 18	8,418.00	234.00 2.86
Naturalgas Apr 27	253.00	1.30 0.52

Telangana Govt invites Norwegian investment, proposes joint working group

Hyderabad: D Sridhar Babu has invited Norwegian companies to explore investment opportunities in Telangana, highlighting the state's growing potential in life sciences and healthcare sectors. The outreach reflects Telangana's continued push to attract global investors and strengthen international partnerships.

The proposal was made during a meeting with a high-level delegation from Norway led by Ambassador May-Elin Stener at the Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat.

The discussions focused on expanding bilateral cooperation across multiple emerging industries.

Sridhar Babu emphasised Telangana's investor-friendly policies, noting that the state has built a strong ecosystem that supports industrial growth and innovation. He highlighted how proactive governance and streamlined processes have made Telangana an attractive destination for global businesses.

The minister elaborated on the state's 'Ease of Doing Business' initiatives, which are designed to

simplify approvals, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and provide a conducive environment for setting up industries. These measures, he said, have significantly improved investor confidence.

He pointed out that Telangana offers vast opportunities for collaboration in cutting-edge sectors. These include artificial intelligence, climate technology, health tech, cybersecurity, green hydrogen, electric mobility, clean energy, biotechnology, and medical devices.

By inviting Norwegian companies to participate in these sectors, the minister underlined the potential for knowledge exchange and joint innovation.

He suggested that such collaborations could accelerate technological advancements while also generating employment and economic growth.

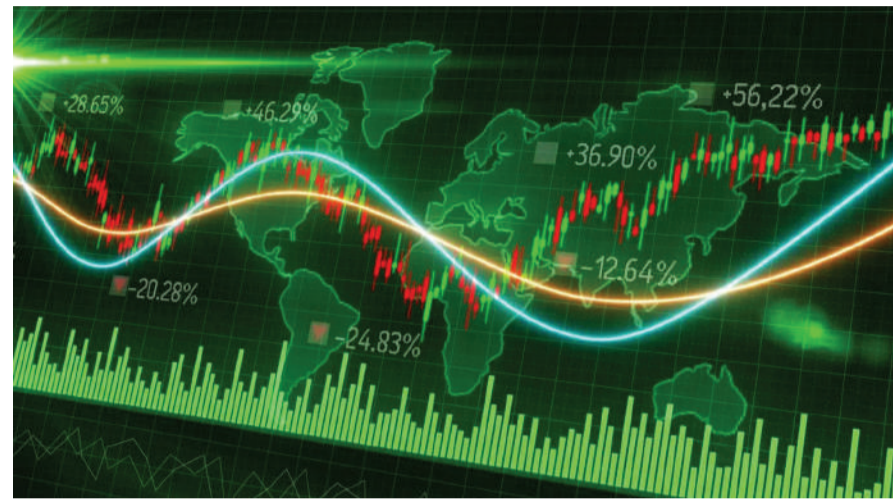
To institutionalise this partnership, Sridhar Babu proposed the creation of a dedicated 'Telangana-Norway Working Group.' The group would be tasked with developing a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen ties and identify specific areas of cooperation.

Stock Market posts gain with Sensex over 753 pts, Nifty above 24,570

Mumbai: The Indian Stock Markets today gained nearly 1 per cent to close at six-week highs, with the BSE Sensex surging by 753 points, or 0.96 per cent, to end at 79,273, while the NSE Nifty gained by 212 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 24,577, tracking the gains in Asian markets and easing crude oil prices. Among the sectors, all the indices traded in the green, while Nifty Realty, Nifty Private Banks, Nifty Auto, Nifty PSU Banks, Nifty Metals and Nifty FMCG were all in red.

India VIX declined 6.5 per cent, signalling a moderation in near-term risk perception.

On Nifty, around 35 stocks were in green with the top gainers were Nestle India, Hindustan Unilever, and Trent. On the flip side were SBI Life Insurance Company, Bharat Electronics (BEL), and Jio Financial Services.



Among the IT stocks, TCS and Wipro ended up over 1 per cent each while Infosys, HCL Tech and LTI-Mindtree were in green.

In the banking stocks, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and Bajaj Finance contributed significantly to the upmove.

Shares of Bharat Heavy

Electricals Limited (BHEL) edged up to 5.5 per cent on the firm announcing strong revenue growth in FY26.

Over 140 stocks touched their 52-week high on the BSE. These included Bank of Maharashtra, AU Small Finance Bank, Data Patterns, Syrra SGS, SAIL, Hitachi Energy, Welspun

Corp, JSW Energy, Adani Ports, Lloyds Metals, CG Power, Siemens, JSW Steel, Apar Industries, Schneider Infra, Cummins, NTPC, Vedanta, Jindal Steel, NMDC, among others. PNB Housing Finance shares also jumped over 8 per cent after the company reported a 14 per cent rise in Q4 standalone profit.

John Ternus set to become new CEO of Apple

New Delhi: John Ternus, Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering at Apple, is set to become the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the company on September 1, 2026, an Apple blog said here on Tuesday.

Apple's current CEO, Tim Cook, will become Executive Chairman of Apple's Board of Directors.

This transition was approved unanimously by the

Board of Directors following a thoughtful and long-term succession planning process.

To ensure a smooth transition, Cook will continue to remain CEO this summer. On his appointment as CEO, John Ternus said, "I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity to carry Apple's mission forward. Having spent almost my entire career at Apple, I have been lucky to

work under Steve Jobs and to have had Tim Cook as my mentor." "It has been a privilege to help shape the product and experiences that have changed so much of how we interact with the world and with one another," Ternus added. Sharing his experiences as Apple's CEO for many years, Tim Cook said, "It has been the greatest privilege of my life to be the CEO of Apple and to have been trusted to lead

such an extraordinary company. I love Apple with all of my being, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the team of such ingenious, innovative, creative and deeply caring people who have been unwavering in their dedication to enriching the lives of our customers and creating the best products and services in the world." Under Tim Cook's lead-

ership, the company reduced its carbon footprint by more than 60pc below 2015 levels during a period in which revenue doubled.

Ternus joined Apple's product design team in 2001 and rose to the post of Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering in 2013. During his tenure, Ternus contributed a lot to releasing Apple's different product lines, like iPad and AirPods.

We are in 'wait-and-watch' mode: RBI Governor on Iran war

New Delhi: Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Tuesday said the central bank is adopting a cautious "wait-and-watch" approach in response to the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, stressing the importance of flexibility in monetary policy amid global uncertainty.

Speaking about the current economic environment, the Governor noted that the RBI has maintained a neutral stance over the past few policy cycles. This approach, he said, allows the central bank to remain adaptable as the balance between inflation and growth continues to evolve.

"We are therefore in wait and watch mode now," Malhotra said, adding that avoiding rigid commitments is essential in times of heightened uncertainty. He emphasised that policymaking must remain agile and responsive to rapidly changing global and domestic conditions.

He underlined that in such scenarios, the RBI's strategy is to be increasingly data-dependent. This involves continuously reassessing risks and adjusting policy measures based on emerging economic indicators rather than pre-committing to a fixed path.

Highlighting India's ex-

posure to West Asia, Malhotra pointed out that the region plays a critical role in the country's economic framework. It accounts for about one-sixth of India's exports and one-fifth of its imports, making any disruption there significant for trade.

He further noted that nearly half of India's crude oil imports come from West Asia, along with two-fifths of fertiliser imports. Additionally, the region contributes almost two-fifths of inward remittances, underlining its importance to India's external sector.

Given this dependence, the ongoing crisis has the potential to impact multiple aspects of the Indian economy, including inflation, supply chains, and currency stability. Addressing the policy response to such disruptions, Malhotra explained that supply shocks should initially be "looked through," meaning that temporary price spikes may not warrant immediate aggressive intervention unless they persist.

However, he cautioned that the real risk lies in second-round effects—when initial supply shocks begin to influence broader price levels and inflation expectations. This could happen if supply chain disruptions continue over an extended

period. If such effects take hold, inflation can become entrenched in the economy, making it more difficult to control. Preventing this scenario, he said, is a key responsibility of monetary policy.

Rather than relying on blunt demand suppression, the RBI aims to manage inflation expectations through calibrated policy measures. This approach helps maintain economic stability without unnecessarily slowing growth.

On the external front, the Governor stated that the RBI's interventions in the foreign exchange market have been measured and appropriate. He clarified that the central bank does not attempt to defend any "indefensible peg" of the currency.

He added that India's current account deficit remains manageable, and the country's foreign currency exposure is within reasonable limits, providing a buffer against global volatility.

Malhotra also highlighted the importance of carefully sequencing capital account liberalisation. For a developing economy like India, he said, such decisions are not merely technical but central to maintaining macroeconomic sovereignty.

Govt Coal Firms Must Stay Competitive Under New Sale Policy: union Coal Minister Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad: G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday directed all government coal companies to enhance their competitiveness by maintaining strict quality standards and reducing production costs, aligning with India's broader push towards energy self-reliance. The minister stressed that efficiency and quality would be key in strengthening the domestic coal sector.

The directions were issued during a nationwide review meeting held via video conference from New Delhi, where performance and future strategies of coal-producing companies were discussed in detail. The meeting focused on preparing the sector for a more competitive and market-driven environment.

Kishan Reddy emphasised that

coal must be marketed at competitive prices without compromising on quality, particularly under the proposed 'Coal Exchange mechanism.' This system is expected to transform how coal is bought and sold across the country.

Under the new framework, consumers will be able to procure coal of their preferred grade from suppliers of their choice. This flexibility is aimed at increasing competition among producers and ensuring better service for buyers.

The minister noted that in such a market-driven ecosystem, maintaining consistent quality would be crucial for companies to sustain and expand their market share. Producers failing to meet standards could risk losing customers in a more open mar-

ketplace.

Reviewing the performance of Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kishan Reddy advised the company to prioritise high-quality coal supply while keeping prices competitive. He also urged the company to stay on track with its expansion and production targets.

Buddhaprakash Jyoti, Chairman and Managing Director of SCCL, participated in the meeting from Singareni Bhavan and presented the company's roadmap for future growth and development.

Dr. Jyoti informed that SCCL is working towards securing approvals for five new opencast mining projects within the current year. These include projects such as JK OC at Yellandu, Manuguru Opencast Extension, Ra-

magundam OC-1 Phase-III, Goleti OC, and the RK Opencast Project.

He noted that these projects are currently awaiting forest and environmental clearances, which are critical for their execution. Additionally, approvals for non-forest land are pending for seven more proposed projects.

The CMD highlighted that SCCL is taking proactive steps to improve coal quality and increase dispatches, particularly to avoid stock accumulation during the summer season when demand patterns fluctuate.

He also pointed out a key challenge faced by the company—the lack of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land, which is essential for obtaining environmental approvals for mining projects.

US begins USD 166 billion tariff refunds, Indian exporters left without direct claim route

New Delhi: The United States government has initiated the long-awaited process of refunding billions of dollars in tariffs after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down duties imposed by President Donald Trump earlier this year.

While the move unlocks an estimated USD 166 billion in refunds, Indian exporters impacted by the tariff regime are unlikely to benefit directly.

According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), Indian exporters do not have a legal mechanism to claim refunds from US authorities. The refunded duties are payable only to US-based importers who had originally borne the tariff burden at the time of entry.

GTRI has advised Indian exporters to proactively engage with their American buyers to negotiate a share of the refunded amounts. "The refunds will flow only to US importers, making commercial negotiations critical for exporters seeking compensation," the think tank noted.

The tariffs, introduced



on April 2, 2025, targeted multiple countries, including India, and significantly impacted outbound shipments. Of the total USD 166 billion eligible for refunds, nearly USD 12 billion is estimated to be linked to imports of Indian-origin goods.

Tariffs on Indian exports began at 10 per cent and were subsequently raised in phases—touching 25 pc by August 7 and escalating further to 50 pc by August 28, where they remained until early February 2026.

The sweeping tariff framework was eventually invalidated by the US Supreme Court on February 20, rendering the duties legally void.

The refund process, however, comes with procedural constraints. As per reports, US importers must file detailed claims through an online system, including shipment-level data, tariff classifications and proof of duty payments.

Initial eligibility is restricted to certain "unliquidated" entries or shipments still within 80 days of final customs accounting. Data from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shows that over 330,000 importers paid duties across more than 53 million shipments, but only around 56,500 had completed mandatory registration for electronic refunds by mid-April.

Vedanta shareholders to receive 1:1 shares in four new demerged entities

Mumbai: The board of directors of Vedanta Limited has formally approved the implementation of its long-anticipated composite scheme of arrangement, setting May 1, 2026 as both the effective date of the demerger as well as the record date for determining shareholders eligible to receive consideration under the scheme, the company has officially announced.

Under its demerger scheme, Vedanta will demerge four business undertakings into separate entities, namely Vedanta Aluminium Metal Limited (VAML), Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL), Malco Energy Limited (MEL) as well as Vedanta Iron and Steel Limited (VISL).

Taking May 1, 2026 as the date of record, all shareholders will receive one share each in all four entities for every Vedanta share held.

TSPL shares will carry

a face value of Rs 10, while VAML, MEL and VISL shares will carry a face value of Rs 1 each.

According to the company, Investors must hold Vedanta shares in their demat account as of the record date to be eligible for the shares of the demerged entities.

However, since May 1, 2026 is Maharashtra Day as well as a public holiday for both stock exchanges and banks, the last date to purchase Vedanta shares and qualify for the demerger entitlement will be April 29, 2026.

Investors who buy shares on or before April 29 2026 will see their holdings reflected in their demat accounts by May 1, 2026, making them eligible to receive shares in the demerged entities, according to the company statement.

Certain non-convertible debentures forming part of the aluminium undertaking will also be trans-



ferred to VAML on the same record date of May 1.

Upon the scheme's effectiveness, TSPL and MEL will be renamed Vedanta Power Limited and Vedanta Oil and Gas Limited, respectively, subject to regulatory approval, according to the statement.

Separately, the board also approved the transfer of Vedanta's shareholding in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) to VAML.

The agreement for this share sale between Vedanta and VAML is expected to be signed on or before April 30, 2026, with the transaction expected to be completed by the same date.

BALCO's turnover for FY 24-25 stood at Rs 15,909 crore, constituting approximately 10% of Vedanta's consolidated revenue for the year. BALCO's net worth as of 31 March 2025 was Rs 12,088 crore, representing 39% of the company's consolidated net worth as of the same date.

Vedanta's demerger is widely regarded as one of the most significant corporate restructurings in India's metals and mining sector. The restructuring scheme had previously secured shareholder and creditor approvals, and received a pivotal boost when the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved it in

December 2025.

After the demerger is implemented, Vedanta's diversified businesses will operate as independently listed entities, enabling investors to hold direct stakes in distinct, sector-focused companies rather than a single conglomerate.

The company has maintained that the split will help simplify its business structure, sharpen management focus, and unlock value by allowing each vertical to chart its own growth and capital allocation trajectory.

Vedanta's chairman Anil Agarwal had previously indicated that the combined valuation of all demerged entities could surpass the current unified market capitalisation of the company. The demerger also coincides with Vedanta's ongoing efforts to reshape its balance sheet, with parent Vedanta Resources continuing its deleveraging drive.