



Trailer of Yami Gautam's new OTT film 'Lost' out



Russia hits civilian targets anew, EU officials visit Kyiv

Virat Kohli reacts to Gill's maiden T20I hundred, calls him 'Sitara'



FILM

PAGE-8 WORLD

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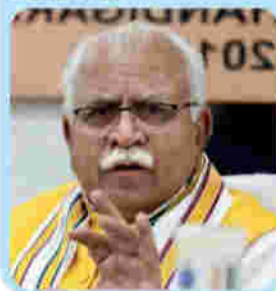
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ED cases fake, are used to topple or form govts: Arvind Kejriwal

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Haryana Assembly budget session from Feb 20: CM Khattar



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World Cup winner Raphael Varane retires from France team



7 BUSINESS

Adani speaks for first time since turmoil as stock rout continues



MARKET	
SENSEX	NIFTY
59330.90	17604.30
-874.16	-287.70
GOLD	SILVER
56,891.00	68,276.00
-71.00	-400.00

WEATHER	
Sunrise	7:09 AM
Sunset	6:02 PM
Moonrise	03:50 AM
Moonset	06:22 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	Minimum
23°C	10°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
24°C	11°C

Adani row: Opp rallies together for a JPC probe, sees chance to corner govt

These leaders were also of the view a reference to the Hindenburg Research should be avoided as it would amount to taking the issue out of the context of India.

All leaders of the like-minded opposition parties were unanimous that the issue of the tanking of stocks of Adani Group firms should be raised in Parliament during the discussions on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and the Union Budget.

New Delhi
Opposition parties on Thursday agreed to jointly raise the issue of allegations of fraud against the Adani Group in Parliament but were yet to agree on the mode of inquiry into the Gujarat-based corporate major.

At a meeting of like-minded political parties convened by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, there was a general agreement on raising the Adani issue vigorously in both the Houses and force the government to take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address from Monday.

A section of the opposition leaders were of the view that the attack on the government should be targeted on "forcible" investments by public sector institutions in corporate entities having questionable business practices that have led to massive losses. These leaders were also of the



view a reference to the Hindenburg Research should be avoided as it would amount to taking the issue out of the context of India.

Though Kharge made the demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation on the issue after the meeting of like-minded opposition parties, a section of the leaders favoured a Supreme Court-monitored probe

or an inquiry by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

"Different parties will express their views on the floor of both Houses about what the mode of enquiry should be conducted to expose and unravel this scam," said Derek O'Brien, the TMC's Parliamentary party leader in Rajya Sabha.

All leaders of the like-minded opposition parties were un-

animous that the issue of the tanking of stocks of Adani Group firms should be raised in Parliament during the discussions on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and the Union Budget.

"The parties are of the view that this scam of monumental proportions should be discussed on the floor of the House," an opposition leader said.

Opposition leaders said while the Congress pushed for a JPC probe on the issue, parties such as the CPI, CPI(M), Samajwadi Party, AAP and the TMC pushed for an apex court monitored probe. Some parties favoured a probe by SEBI, the market regulator.

"Opposition leaders are being continuously harassed for no reason by the ED (Enforcement Directorate) and the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation). The government must take action against the perpetrators of this monumental scam and ensure that they do not flee the country. The hard-earned money of millions of Indians is in peril," said O'Brien. The opposition parties are to meet again on Friday after a meeting was called by Kharge. The TMC and some other parties are unlikely to attend, sources said. The opposition parties are also likely to meet near the Gandhi statue in Parliament on Friday and raise the Adani issue.

Govt likely to clear 5 names for elevation as Supreme Court judges



New Delhi
The government is likely to clear the names of three high court chief justices and two HC judges recommended for elevation to the Supreme Court, sources said on Thursday.

On December 13 last year, the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended to the government to appoint Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice, Rajasthan High Court; Justice Sanjay Karol, Chief Justice, Patna High Court; Justice P V Sanjay Kumar, Chief Justice, Manipur High Court; Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah of Patna High Court; and Justice Manoj Misra of Allahabad High Court as apex court judges.

Sources aware of judicial appointments said that the government is likely to clear their appointments.

Once the five take oath as judges of the top court, its working strength will go up to 32.

The sanctioned strength of the apex court is 34, including the Chief Justice of India. Its present working strength is 27.

On January 31, the Supreme Court collegium had recommended two more names for elevation as top court judges — Justice Rajesh Bindal, Chief Justice, Allahabad High Court and Justice Aravind Kumar, Chief Justice, High Court of Gujarat.

While recommending their names, the SC Collegium had said that the names recommended by it on 13 December 2022 "shall have precedence over the two names recommended presently for appointment to the Supreme Court." "Therefore, the appointments of five judges recommended on 13 December 2022 should be notified separately and earlier in point of time before the two judges recommended by this resolution," it had told the Law Ministry. Agencies

RBI said to seek details of banks' exposure to Adani Group

Mumbai
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sought details about lenders' exposures to the Adani Group, banking sources said, a day after the conglomerate withdrew the Rs 20,000-crore follow on public offer (FPO) of its flagship firm Adani Enterprises amid the steep fall in its stock prices.

On Wednesday, Swiss lender Credit Suisse stopped accepting bonds by Adani group companies as collaterals for margin lending.

The going has been tough for the diversified conglomerate over the past week ever since US-based short seller Hindenburg Research levelled a slew of allegations about the group's operations, calling it the biggest corporate con ever. The Ahmedabad-headquartered group has denied all the allegations but failed to convince



analysts and investors.

The RBI gets access to banks' large corporate borrowers on a regular basis as part of the central repository of information on large credits (CRILC) data base, the banking sources said.

Many a time bank lending happens against pledged securities and a massive fall in the price of the equity shares of the Adani group's 10 listed entities could have accordingly lowered the value of the pledged securities.

There has been selling pressure in banks' stocks

since the Hindenburg Research's report released on January 24 as investors are concerned about the impact of the crisis on banks' books.

Country's largest lender SBI had said it's exposure to Adani group is fully secured by cash generating assets, in an attempt to assuage investor concerns.

Another public sector lender Bank of Baroda has said its total exposure to the embattled group stood at Rs 7,000 crore, which are also fully secured.

Agencies

No decision as of now on implementation of Uniform Civil Code, says Kiren Rijiju

New Delhi:
The government has not taken any decision as of now on the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday. He was responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha on whether the government has any plan to pass the UCC Bill.

"As per the information received from the Law Commission, the matter related to the Uniform Civil Code may be taken up by the 22nd Law Commission for its consideration. Therefore, no decision on the implementation of a uniform civil code has been taken as of now," Rijiju told the Upper House.

The minister said that the government had requested the 21st Law Commission to examine various issues relating to UCC and to make rec-



ommendations thereon. However, the term of that commission ended on August 31, 2018.

The term of the present law panel ends later this month. Government sources have indicated that the panel's three-year term could be extended, said.

The current law panel was constituted on February 21, 2020, but its chairperson and members were appointed in November last year, months before the end of the panel's term.

Implementation of the Uniform Civil Code was a poll promise made by the Bharatiya Janata Party during the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The UCC aims to replace personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of various religious communities, with a common set of rules governing every citizen of the country.

In December, a private member's bill that seeks to provide for a panel to prepare a Uniform Civil Code was introduced in

HIGHLIGHTS
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the Rajya Sabha. BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena moved for leave to introduce the bill to provide for the constitution of the national inspection and investigation committee for preparation of a Uniform Civil Code and its implementation throughout India and for matters connected therewith during the private member's business. Agencies

Adani stocks continue to plunge after FPO removal

Mumbai
Even after scrapping ₹20,000 crore FPO, the shares of Adani Group companies plunged further with the flagship Adani Enterprises dropping by 26% while stocks of other listed entities continued on free fall mode on Thursday.

Except Ambuja Cement, all other stocks of its listed entities witnessed rout declining from 5-18% on Thursday.

The market has not paid heed to Ahmedabad based billionaire Gautam Adani's reassurance, who in a video message said, "For me, the interest of my investors is paramount and everything is secondary." While shares of Adani



Enterprises were down 8 per cent, the shares of Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy and Adani Total had fallen 10 per cent. While Adani

Ports was down 2.7 per cent, Adani Power and Adani Wilmar were down 8.3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, Ambuja

Cements and ACC were trading in the green and were up by 5.6 per cent and 0.7 per cent respectively. The sharp decline in

the shares of the group led to further erosion in the net worth of Gautam Adani and as of Thursday noon, he had slipped to the 16th spot in the Forbes billionaire list with a net worth of \$69.2 billion.

Ahead of the market opening on Thursday, Gautam Adani, through a video statement, had said that the FPO withdrawal decision was taken considering the volatility in the market. "The board strongly felt that it would not be morally correct to proceed with the FPO.... For me, the interest of my investors is paramount and everything is secondary. Hence to insulate the investors from potential losses we have withdrawn the FPO," Adani said. Agencies

Ramcharitmanas row: Maurya on quest to 'amend' text

New Delhi
Digging in his heels in the controversy over his comments on Ramcharitmanas, Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Thursday said he will continue with his "campaign" unless the "objectionable" portions in the epic are banned or amended.

He accused the BJP of treating the Dalits and the backward as Hindus only for the sake of votes and said the "humiliation" of these communities should end.



tions of the Hindu text denigrated Dalits and women.

"Swami Prasad Maurya is not afraid of any number of threats to cut off his head, tongue or nose. I have raised the issue of respect for the backward and the deprived," he told reporters.

"This campaign will continue till the objectionable remarks are

modified or banned," said the SP leader, recently appointed as one of the general secretaries in his party.

The former UP minister said he was trying to stop Dalits and the backward from being abused. "We want to end the system of humiliation. So those who consider humiliation their religion, they are getting a stomachache," he said.

"I believe in law and the Constitution," he said, claiming that he has made his point in a "peaceful manner" and will continue to do so.

He claimed the BJP regards the Dalits and the OBC as Hindus only for votes. Agencies

Part of excise 'scam' kickbacks used in AAP's Goa election campaign, claims ED

New Delhi
A part of the alleged Rs 100 crore "kickbacks" generated in the scrapped Delhi excise policy was used in the AAP campaign in the 2022 Goa assembly election, the ED has claimed in its second charge sheet in the case in which Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is accused.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged that the cases filed by the agency were "fake" and aimed to "topple" governments or form them.

In its charge sheet filed in a special court on January 6, the federal probe agency also alleged that Sisodia was among those who were using mobile phones "purchased in the name of another person" to hide their tracks.

"There are instances wherein accused/suspects have used SIM card issued in the name of other persons and phones purchased in the name of other persons so that when they get caught they may take this excuse that either the SIM card is not in their name or that the phones were not purchased by them and belong to other persons," the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said in the charge sheet.

A Delhi court took cognisance of the prosecution complaint on Thursday and summoned the accused on February 23.

The ED named a total of 17 individuals and companies in this supplementary charge sheet including AAP communication in-charge Vijay Nair (39), promoter of liquor company Indospirit Sameer Mahandru, director of liquor company Buddy Retail Pvt Limited Amit Arora (45), general manager of leading French wine company Pernod Ricard Benoy Babu (44), whole-time director and promoter of Aurobindo Pharma P Sarath Chandra Reddy (37) and Hyderabad-based businessman Abhishek Boipally (36). All are in judicial custody at present.

A DANICS officer who had served as Sisodia's secretary stated that it was the first time that he saw these proposals in the draft GoM report (i.e. document handed over to him) and he was directed to prepare the report on the basis of the said document, the charge sheet claimed.

It also claimed that a close aide of the Delhi chief minister "arranged a video call through facetime (a video calling facility on iPhone) on his phone for Sameer (Mahandru) and Arvind Kejriwal, where Arvind said to Sameer that the aide is 'his boy' and that Sameer should trust him and carry on with him."

These facts, the ED said, are "relevant to mention so as to establish the abatement of his actions in relation to the excise policy scam, by the political leaders of the AAP." The Delhi chief minister rubbished the contents of the ED charge sheet, saying it has "filed 5,000 charge sheets under the tenure of the current government." "How many people have been sentenced? All the cases filed by ED are fake and they are used to topple governments or form them. ED does not file cases to eradicate corruption. They do it to buy MLAs, topple governments. There is a question on the ED charge sheet," Kejriwal said.

Agencies

Know your NAVY: The book 'A Decade of Transformation - Signalling Power & Partnerships' is a must-read!

Sayan Chatterjee
New Delhi:

Commemorating the exalting Indian Navy Day, on 4th of Dec, CNS Admiral R Hari Kumar released the book in Visakhapatnam in the august presence of the Hon'ble President of India and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Droupadi Murmu.

The book on Naval history, titled 'A Decade of Transformation - Signalling Power and Partnerships,' chronicles the Indian Naval History from 2011-21. The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day every year on 04 December to commemorate its finest hour - its offensive actions that led to a decisive victory during the 1971 war.

The volume authored by Capt. M Doraibabu, NM, and Cdr. Amrut Dilip Godbole, respectively from the Indian Navy. The title of the book denotes the three vital underlying factors of the Indian Navy in the decade under review - transformation in multiple respects into a capable and credible Navy, power in terms of combat, Network Centric Operations, and precise ordnance delivery, and lastly partnership signifying the Navy as a critical instrument of maritime diplomacy and the growing stature of IN as the Preferred Security Partner in the IOR, and beyond.

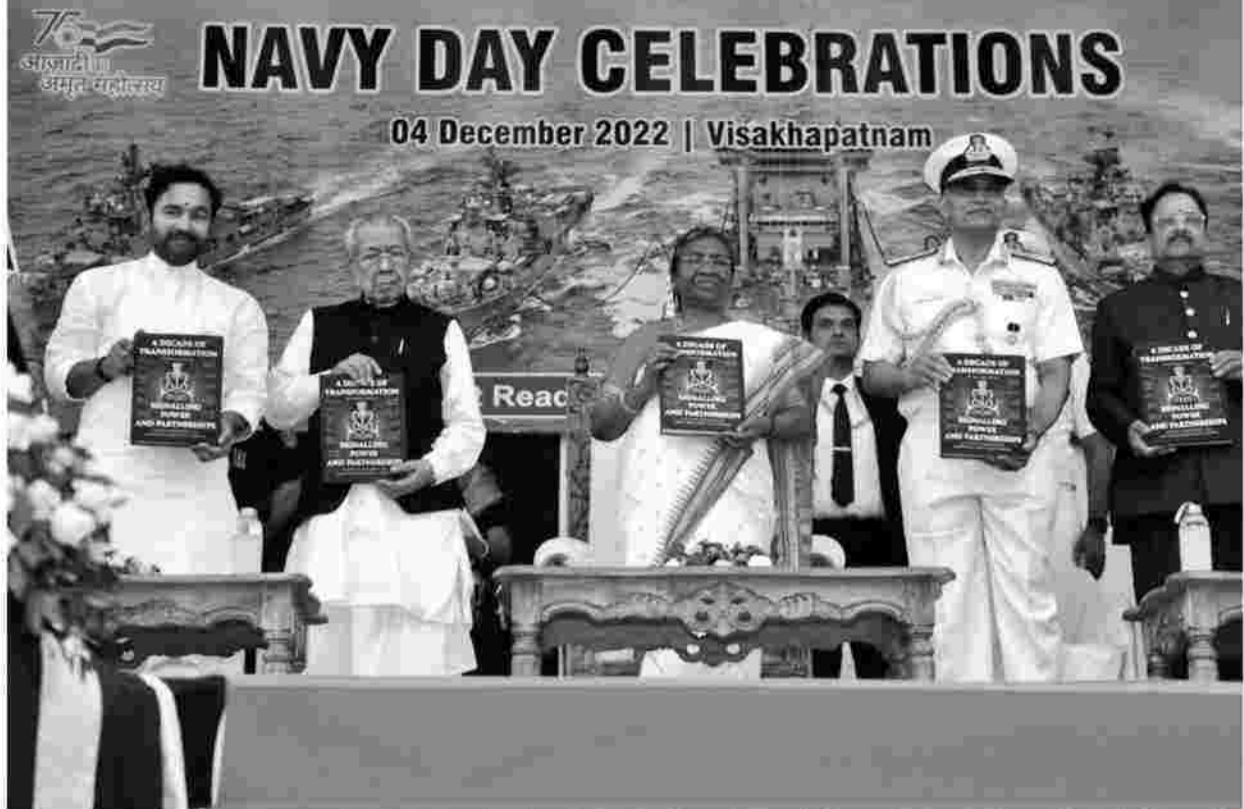
There have been many historic firsts for the Indian Navy in the period 2011-21, be it the in-

The volume authored by Capt. M Doraibabu, NM, and Cdr. Amrut Dilip Godbole, respectively from the Indian Navy.

duction of indigenously built submarines, both conventional and SSBN INS Arihant, the commissioning of INS Vikramaditya, the addition of Maritime Patrol Aircraft P-8I, and installation of many more indigenously built potent platforms.

This is, in fact, the seventh volume of the Navy's history; the first six having covered the period from 1945 to 2010. This unique undertaking by the Indian Navy can be traced back to 1968 when the service established a History Cell. The cell, objectively with its idea, duly collates and subsequent analysis of historical data relevant to the evolution of the Indian Navy.

Generally, each such volume has covered a period of a decade, and it has been a tradition to release it on Navy Day. The title volume documents vividly; a total of forty-four warships of varying sizes and capabilities were commissioned in the period as cited, of which thirty-seven were indigenously built. Despite fiscal constraints, the pivotal role played by the IN in the growth of domestic warship-building capabilities by effectively dovetailing with national initiatives such as Make in India and



Atmanirbhar Bharat has enabled its transformation from 'A Buyer, Navy' to a 'A Builder, Navy.' This volume stands to be a window for us to look through at our Indian Navy.

The volume further delineates the saga of significant growth in capabilities and the induction of cutting-edge technology required matching transformation in support facilities and human capital, in IN. The addition of new operational, maintenance and training infrastructure such as the Aircraft Carrier Dock, M15 Gas Turbine Test House, Shore-Based Test Facility, simulators, ARNAV wargaming software, the increasing

thrust towards digitalization for process optimization, and the shift to an 'All BE/B-Tech' officer cadre have been some of the significant transformation markers during this period.

The period 2011-21 also witnessed the IN platforms operating for more extended periods and farther than ever before. The Indian Navy, through its mission-based deployments, has ensured a sustained presence in the Indian Ocean Region. Today, the IN exercises with more countries than ever, both in the IOR and beyond. For a long, the IN, considered the principal manifestation of India's maritime power, has sig-

nificantly scaled up its diplomatic role through training assistance, capability and capacity addition, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and Search and Rescue (SAR) assistance.

Mission Sagar and Operation Samudra Setu I and II have been the IN's highlight operations in recent years in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The capability, reach, and, more fundamentally, the IN, intent anchored in India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region through collective maritime security continues to drive the IN's transformation to that of a 'Preferred Security Partner' in the IOR.

The title of this volume, A Decade of Transformation: Signalling Power and Partnerships, thus appropriately embodies the ethos and mettle of IN, its journey, and its intent in the period as reviewed. The volume delightfully captures the IN's journey of growth and transformation against the backdrop of multiple challenges and the mitigating measures adopted in its continued evolution into a combat-ready, capable, cohesive, and three-dimensional future-ready force.

The e-copy of this book has been made available for free reading on Indian Navy's official site. Shano varuna.

PLEXCONCIL's expected to generate USD 75 Million worth biz

NEW DELHI: Beating the global economic slowdown, the Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) for Indian plastic exporters organized by PLEXCONCIL from February 1 to 5, 2023 during PLASTINDIA 2023 has evoked tremendous response.

"Over 300 buyers from across 32 countries, will be meeting and interacting with Indian exporters during the PLASTINDIA Expo. PLEXCONCIL has connected with over 80 embassies and high commissions over the past months and we are happy with the immense support that we have been receiving. The RBSM is expected to translate into over USD 75 Million worth transactions," said Hemant Minocha, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL.

The RBSM is being organized with the support of Commerce Ministry's Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme "PLEXCONCIL has mastered the expertise in connecting global buyers and sellers of plastic goods over decades now. And it is heartening to note that the RBSM has generated a great response despite the economic slowdown even during the post-COVID era in many countries," said Arvind Goenka, Chairman of PLEXCONCIL's

GM foods are safe & shown no negative effect on humans and environment

New Delhi: The Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) has expressed its support for the proposed Food Safety and Standards (Genetically Modified Foods) Regulations, 2022 and called it timely and critical. FSII Director General Mr Ram Kaundinya said the draft regulations proposed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are progressive and have given clarity to Genetically Modified (GM) foods, especially in the wake of food imports being critical for India's food security. "In light of the importance of imports in our food supply chain and their critical requirement for many food processing industries, the draft GM food regulations released by FSSAI are timely and critical," he said.

"GM crops and foods are thoroughly tested, evaluated, and reviewed by trait developers and then regulatory authorities for human and environmental safety before they are allowed for commercial sale.

Helpline for psychological support to cancer patients, families launched

New Delhi:

Fortis Cancer Institute has launched a cancer support helpline to provide psychological support for patients as well as their family members. The National helpline number- 8586091051 will act as a medium of communication for families to help them cope with the emotional distress experienced in their fight against cancer.

A team of mental health experts as part of the psycho-oncology program by Fortis Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences will be available to provide help to those reaching out on the helpline number.

Dr. Samir Parikh, Director, Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences at Fortis Healthcare said, "While looking at the complete and holistic care of cancer, one needs to understand the psycho-social impact that happens not just on the patients but also on the families. The family members go



through a lot of emotional stress, and psychological distress while trying to find support for the patients... This is a special helpline which will enable and provide psychological and emotional support and care to families of patients who have cancer. This helpline is a unique initiative by Fortis Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences who work closely with the team of onco-sciences across the Fortis network."

Talking about the helpline number, Dr. Vinod Raina, Chairman - Oncoscience, Fortis Healthcare said, "Fortis Healthcare is the

first healthcare delivery organization to have launched a dedicated Cancer Support Helpline which will provide guidance and support to family members of cancer patients... The emotional and psychological support of both the patient and caregiver is mostly overlooked. One can beat the disease only when both the caregiver and the patient is mentally and emotionally strong. Thus, the launch Of Cancer Helpline.

Federation of Seed Industry of India calls FSSAI's draft regulations for GM food 'timely and critical'

AWS launches AWS Data Lab in India

New Delhi:

Today, Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS), an Amazon.com company, released findings from a new research report, which shows that organisations in India that harness the power of data can grow their annual business revenue by 13.6% on average. For large organisations, this is equivalent to ₹7,451 million in additional annual revenue.

More than half (63%) of organisations surveyed in India shared that effectively capturing and analysing data can lead to improved productivity, followed by increased sales and revenue (60%), and improved customer experiences (56%). However, the report found that despite the growing importance of data capabilities in an increasingly digital world, 93% of organisations in India are still in the Basic and Beginner stages of data maturity.

"Data can be an invaluable source of growth for organisations in India. The key is to put data to use by analyzing it effectively, and creating a data-driven culture. No



matter what stage organisations are in their data maturity journey, AWS is committed to helping customers in India to leverage the scalability, cost efficiency, and security of the cloud to scale their data projects and unify their data to drive productivity and innovate on behalf of their customers," said Puneet Chandok, President of Commercial Business, AWS India & South Asia (Amazon Web Services India Pvt. Ltd.).

Surveyed organisa-

tions in the retail trade sector ranked the highest on the data maturity scale, with 78% of these organisations achieving Advanced or Master levels, followed by information, media, and telecommunications (68%), and finance and insurance (67%). Conversely, organisations in education and training have the lowest levels of data maturity, with less than 30% of surveyed organisations in that industry achieving Advanced or Master levels of data maturity.

World Wetlands Day 2023: Making wetland restoration a social movement

Staff Reporter
New Delhi:

Wetlands International South Asia on Thursday organised a public event to sensitize society to the multiple values of wetlands on the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2023.

The event was focused on how the role society can play in ensuring the effective restoration of wetland ecosystems.

The chief guest of the event was Mr Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa and formerly Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog.

Dr Sidharth Kaul (President, Wetlands International South Asia) introduced the

Dr Sidharth Kaul (President, Wetlands International South Asia) introduced the theme of the World Wetlands Day 2023 and highlighted the continuous efforts of Wetlands International South Asia over the last 25 years towards wetlands conservation and wise use.

theme of the World Wetlands Day 2023 and highlighted the continuous efforts of Wetlands International South Asia over the last 25 years towards wetlands conservation and wise use.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Amitabh Kant delivered the keynote address and called for a whole-of-society approach and affirmative actions to restore wetlands for sustainable development. While according wetlands as the life-support systems, he highlighted the implications of worsening wetlands health on our developmental trajectory. India's leadership on championing wetlands conservation in the 75th year of India's independence was opined as a landmark moment to accord wetlands as societal assets and further step-up actions for wetlands conservation and restoration.

He released the publications and thematic poster made by Wetlands International South Asia on Wetland restoration.

was followed by the release of three knowledge and outreach materials. A poster with the theme "It's time for Wetland Restoration" highlighting the urgent need to prioritize wetland restoration, and calls upon increase investment of human, financial and political capital for wetlands conservation.

panel discussion on 'Ecological Restoration of Wetlands' was organized in the second half. The session was chaired by Prof. Sudhir

K. Sopory (Emeritus Senior Scientist, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology). Mr Kunal Satyarthi (Joint Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India), Dr Usha Lachungpa (Formerly Principal Research Officer, Forest Environment & Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim), and Mr Ramveer Tanvar (Founder, Say Earth and popularly known as the Pond Man of India) participated in the panel discussion.

2nd February of each year is celebrat-

ed as World Wetlands Day to mark the date of adoption of the Ramsar Convention - an international treaty established in 1971 to provide the framework for international collaboration and national action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Each year, WWD is linked to a specific theme to draw the global community's attention to issues related to wetlands conservation. The 2023 theme - 'Wetland restoration' focused on the significant role of restoring these ecosystems as a way of making society food, water, and climate secure.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"The General public is hereby informed that my clients Smt. Avinash Roy and her husband Sh. Ashwani Kumar both R/o 216-B, Second floor, Block -B, Mohan Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 do hereby debar her son namely Sh. Rajan Roy/S/o Ashwani Kumar, his wife Nikita Roy and his daughter Samaira Roy, from all of their movable and immovable properties of whatsoever kind for some personal reasons and ceases all kinds of relations with them in any manner of whatsoever kind shall be responsible at his own risks, cost and consequences."

MUSKAN ARORA & NIKHIL SIKKA
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ED cases fake, are used to topple or form govts, says Arvind Kejriwal

New Delhi

AP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday dismissed the Enforcement Directorate's supplementary charge sheet in the excise scam case, alleging cases filed by the agency are "fake" and are used to "topple" or form governments.

He charged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) does not file cases to eradicate corruption but to help poach MLAs and topple governments.

"ED has filed 5000 charge sheets under the tenure of current government. How many people have been sentenced? All the cases filed by ED are fake and they are used to topple governments or form them," Kejriwal said in a press conference.

The BJP slammed the AAP government saying the ED charge sheet exposed the real face of Kejriwal and his party.

"The liquor mafia paid Rs



100 crore on being asked by liquor mafia was perhaps a sin that caused the defeat of AAP in the Goa elections and the Delhi people will not forgive them for it," he said. In its charge sheet, the ED has alleged that a close aide of Kejriwal received kickbacks to the tune of Rs 100 crore from a group, on behalf of AAP leaders.

"Investigation of the trail of this kickback so far has revealed that part of these funds were used in the election campaign of the AAP for Goa assembly elections 2022. Cash payments to the

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"Investigation of the trail of this kickback so far has revealed that part of these funds were used in the election campaign of the AAP for Goa assembly elections 2022. Cash payments to the

tune of Rs 70 lakh were made to the volunteers who were part of the survey teams," the ED said.

The court took cognisance of the supplementary charge sheet filed by the ED against five individuals and seven companies in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy, which was withdrawn last year by the AAP government after a CBI probe was recommended into alleged corruption in its implementation.

MCD launches scheme for granting online approval of regular factory licence

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has launched a scheme for granting online approval of regular factory licence within nine days in order to facilitate the factory owners and traders.

The MCD has taken such actions in order to streamline the process of issuance of various municipal licenses under the Ease of Doing Business (EODB).

Under this new scheme online approval of regular factory licence will be given within nine days if the application remains un-



is complete in all respects.

In the online system there is also an inbuilt system of automatic pushing of the factory licence application to the next senior functionary in the chain of approval after three days if the application remains un-

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is taking steps to provide better civic services to the citizens. This initiative is taken to make the online system transparent, fast and simple so that the applicant can be given licence easily without any delay.

2 members of Canada-based Bambiha gang held by Special Cell

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Special Cell of the Delhi police has arrested two active members of the infamous Devender Bambiha gang of Punjab, the officials informed on Thursday. The arrested men have been identified as Gagandeep Singh (25) and Baljeet Singh (22) both are natives of Punjab. The cops have recovered 5 semi-automatic pistols with 4 live cartridges, the investigators said.

According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Special Cell, Alok Kumar, pistols were procured by Gagandeep Singh from a firearm manufacturer-cum-supplier of Khargone in MP as per directions of Canada and UAE-based handlers of the Bambiha gang.

Devender Bambiha gang has a fierce rivalry with the gang of Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar resulting in the killing of many of their associates in gangwar in Punjab and other states.

DCP further said that specific information was received that Gagandeep Singh, a member of the Bambiha gang had procured a consignment of pistols from Khargone (MP).

It was also learnt that Gagandeep Singh was on his way to Punjab via Delhi where he would meet one of his contacts near the bus stand at Dwarka-Palam Road between 10.30 am to 11.30 am on Monday. Subsequently, a raiding party led by Inspector Shiv Kumar was immediately constituted and a trap was laid near the bus stand on Palam Road.

Gagandeep Singh, who was carrying a backpack, was spotted at about 11 am. Later, he was nabbed by the members of the team and a search of his bag was conducted. 4 semi-automatic pistols of .32 bore were recovered from him, DCP Special Cell mentioned.

Thereafter, a team along with accused Gagandeep Singh was sent to Punjab to arrest other members of the gang. Meanwhile, his associate Baljeet Singh was arrested on Tuesday from Phagwara, Punjab at the instance of Gagandeep Singh. A semi-automatic pistol with 4 live cartridges was recovered from his possession, Kumar confirmed.

During the interrogation, it was revealed that Gagandeep is a truck driver and was very keen to join the Bambiha gang based in Canada, later he contacted a gang member via social media and started chatting with him. He also received a contact number of an illegal arms supplier Satnam Singh of MP's Khargone. Thereafter, Gagandeep went to Khargone and received four pistols from Satnam Singh. However, he was apprehended when he was returning to Punjab via Delhi, Kumar said.

Gagandeep further disclosed that the pistols were to be supplied to Baljeet Singh in Ludhiana as per the directions of Honey. Baljeet Singh is another operative of the Devender Bambiha Gang.

Delhi Crime Branch arrested a rewarded criminal wanted in many heinous cases

Staff Reporter
New Delhi

The Crime Branch of the Delhi police has arrested a rewarded criminal involved in many heinous cases including a daylight robbery that took place in Rohini's Prashant Vihar area last year, the officials informed on Thursday. A reward of Rs. 50,000 was also declared on his head by the Delhi police.

The accused has been identified as Jugesh aka Yogesh (52) a resident of UP's Baghpat. According to the Special CP Crime Branch on April 13, 2022, at around 4.30 PM, Rakesh Kumar Singh a delivery agent of

Berry Tex Pvt. Ltd., had gone to Prashant Vihar to deliver some packets containing Rs. 54 Lakhs. Two accused persons intercepted him and robbed the bag carrying Rs. 54 Lakh by taking him to gunpoint, and fled away.

In this regard, a case under sections of the robbery and arms act was registered and the investigation was taken up by local police. The incident was also captured in CCTV cameras and went viral on social media. Earlier the local police had arrested two accused persons namely Satpal aka Kake and Vijender aka Kabadi.



नए भारत का ग्रोथ इंजन

'आजादी के अमृत काल' में प्रस्तुत 'विकसित भारत' के संकल्प की पूर्णता हेतु सर्वसमावेशी और लोक-कल्याणकारी बजट 2023-24 के लिए

आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी एवं मा. वित्त मंत्री श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण का अभिनन्दन

आम बजट में उत्तर प्रदेश के

15 करोड़ गरीबों को निःशुल्क खाद्यान्न उपलब्ध कराने

प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना में हॉटसिंग फॉर ऑल के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने

एमएसएमडी इकाइयों को क्रेडिट गारंटी देने

एक जनपद-एक मेडिकल कॉलेज-एक नर्सिंग कॉलेज की परिकल्पना को साकार करने

एक जनपद-एक उत्पाद (ओडीओपी) व अन्य हस्तशिल्प के प्रोत्साहन/बिक्री के लिए यूनिटी मॉल की स्थापना

कैपिटल इन्वेस्टमेंट फण्ड के प्रावधान से इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर विकास

अति पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए आकांक्षी ब्लॉक कार्यक्रम का विस्तार करने

प्राकृतिक खेती के प्रोत्साहन तथा ग्रीन ग्रोथ लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के लिए

कृषि, पशुपालन, डेयरी और मत्स्य पालन को प्रोत्साहन देने

मोटे अनाज (श्रीअन्न) की खेती/प्रसंस्करण एवं उपभोग को बढ़ावा देने

वेस्ट टू वेल्थ प्लांट के लिए GOBARdhan योजना लागू करने

महिला स्वावलम्बन के लिए महिला सम्मान विकास पत्र जारी करने

बच्चों एवं किशोरों के लिए नेशनल डिजिटल लाइब्रेरी की स्थापना करने

युवाओं के लिए पीएम कौशल विकास योजना-4.0 को लागू करने

वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए सेविंग अकाउन्ट लिमिट बढ़ाने

पारम्परिक कारीगरों के लिए पीएम विश्वकर्मा कौशल सम्मान योजना लागू करने

रीजनल कनेक्टिविटी के लिए नये एयरपोर्ट, हेलीपैड आदि विकसित करने

आयकर स्लेब में वेतनभोगी कर्मचारियों व उद्यमियों को बड़ी राहत देने

केन्द्रीय करों में उत्तर प्रदेश का अंश रु. 1 लाख 46 हजार करोड़ से बढ़ाकर रु. 1 लाख 83 हजार करोड़ करने के लिए

प्रदेश की 25 करोड़ जनता की ओर से माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी का हार्दिक आभार

- योगी आदित्यनाथ, मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश



Amritkal in the country, the budget will be rich or bad



By Priyanka Saurabh

This is the last full budget of the Modi government before the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2024. There are many expectations from the Union Budget, from the common man to the industry, after the Corona epidemic, the condition of India's domestic economy is better than other countries of the world, at present the Indian economy is the fastest-growing economy among the G20 countries, although there are big challenges like speeding up the recovery of the country's economy, reducing the debt burden, giving relief to the middle class and reducing the fiscal deficit. The year 2023 shows the time when India is entering the Amrit Kaal. In the coming 25 years, the year 2047 will come, which will be the 100th year of our independence.

The Modi government is setting the agenda for 2024 and the opposition is also preparing its pitch. Today, through the budget, the government put its economic policy in front of the country. There is also politics in the backdrop of this economy. The government has made a bet to please the middle class. Has opened his bag for the farmer's barn and the plate of the poor. This is the last full budget of the Modi government before the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2024. There are many expectations from the Union Budget, from the common man to the industry, after the Corona epidemic, the condition of India's domestic economy is better than other countries of the world, at present the Indian economy is the fastest-growing economy among the G20 countries, although there are big challenges like speeding up the recovery of the country's economy, reducing the debt burden, giving relief to the middle class and reducing the fiscal deficit. The year 2023 shows the time when India is entering the Amrit Kaal. In the next 25 years, the year 2047 will come, which will be the 100th year of our independence.



6 Lakh - 5%, Rs 6 to 9 Lakh - 10%, Rs 9 to 12 Lakh - 15%, Rs 12 to 15 Lakh - 20%. Above 15 Lakh On annual income - 30% tax will be levied. More incentives are now being given in the new tax system. With this, taxpayers will be able to shift from the old to the new tax regime without any hesitation, whose income is up to Rs 7 lakh, will not have to pay even a single rupee tax, but if their income increases from 7 lakh to even one rupee, then they will have to pay tax.

Keeping in mind the need for 'Jan Bhagidari' through 'Sabka Saath - Sabka Prayas', this is a budget to give direction to a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with a strong financial sector for the Amrit Kaal. These include inclusive growth, last-mile access, infrastructure and investment, unlocking potential,

green growth, youth power, and the financial sector. Infrastructure development is very important for the development of the country. The investment made in important infrastructure related to road, rail, electricity, health, education, and agriculture will prove to be a milestone. Along with this, a special provision has been made in the budget to promote the vehicle scrapping policy. Provision has been made for several new schemes for farmers such as the Rs 2,200 crore Atmanirbhar Swachh Yojana program, alternative fertilizers, and the PM PRANAM scheme to promote the balanced use of fertilizers.

On the other hand, Madam Finance Minister is being praised a lot. 41 crore people were brought out of poverty and free ration to 80 crores poor. What is the population of

the country? How many rich are there in the country? Just two? Or two hundred? Or two thousand or two lacks? Understand the economy without leaving rituals, faith, politics, and devotion, nationalism. It would be better if the students and teachers of the economist explain economics to us. The world is in the grip of a recession. Retrenchment is in the offing and our children have learned nothing except IT and computers for the last three decades. Now employment will be generated from a digital library for children. From start up? From a contract job? From FiveG? By artificial talent? The result of online classes is that school children are also committing suicide in love. There is no harm in living in. But violence against girlfriend after break up, crime? Drunkenness? Will agriculture development and development depend on NGOs and

PPP?

Income tax will not have to be paid till the income of seven lakhs. You are welcome. The public has become rich. How many crore people have permanent jobs? Those whose income is above 15 lakhs, have to pay only 30 percent tax. Got something? Did you not understand the glory of tourism development from the goddess glory of Joshimath? How much inflation? What happened to the budget deficit? trade balance? financial losses? Inflation? How cheap, how much reconciliation will the treatment be from PPP Medical College and Nursing Home? Will the cost of education, energy, transportation, and groceries decrease? What is meant by investing in infra?

The reduction of Rs 30,000 crore in the budget of public welfare and very ambitious schemes like MNREGA in the budget presented for the next financial year prove that this budget is against the interests of landless farmers, poor laborers, and deprived sections. Similarly, instead of increasing the amount of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Fund, Rs 7500 crore has been cut this year, as well as the budget for Urea, which is most needed by the farmers, has been reduced by Rs 23000 crore this year as compared to last year.

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only correct solution.

7	3	5	1	8				6
1			3			9		
	2			4		1		
5			1				4	3
8			4		6			5
9	4				5			2
		9		5			8	
		6			1			9
2			9	7	3	5		4

Solution, Sudoku

9	3	8	7	2	6	1	4	5
7	4	5	1	3	8	9	2	6
6	2	1	9	5	4	3	8	7
3	1	6	5	8	9	2	7	4
4	5	7	3	1	2	8	6	9
8	9	2	6	4	7	5	3	1
2	6	4	8	9	1	7	5	3
5	8	9	4	7	3	6	1	2
1	7	3	2	6	5	4	9	8

THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

ONE LIFE - MILLION THINGS

When it is hard to decide what to do and what to leave, leave what you do and do what you leave, and then see what is it that you can't live without. Living for doing and doing for living will help you find out what is worth doing in this precious life. Doing everything that comes in hand and living for everything that you wish to live, only makes you nothing. You don't eat anything, do you? You don't drink anything, do you? So

not found until you have tried million things, the ultimate purpose of life is found by everyday trial, the only way to find your destiny is by travelling your journey. You will have to do number of things to find number one thing, you will have to live for number of people to find out who is worth dying for. The best way to come across the best thing in life is to go across everything in life, the best way to pick the best thing in why you live everything and anything? What you make in your life, is not how you life is made, because life is not a thing, it is more valuable than anything and everything thing you ever make. Accomplish something so good in your life that you don't wish to get another life for doing the same thing again, accomplish something so good in your life that life feels a blessing not a regret.

Usually one thing that you want to decide in your life is



THE WISDOM TREE - BY SUVEEN KUMAR

Moral: A life may have million dreams but the best are the once that you accomplish.

Fresh Assault on Judiciary

Another Republic Day has rolled by. The nation has gone through the ritual of annual celebrations at the Centre and in the States - receptions and udghatans. The President has spoken and so also other leaders. The country has been alerted against external dangers. Yet, the Republic and its basic structure, thoughtfully bequeathed to the country by Nehru, Patel and other Founding Fathers, faces today in unprecedented threat internally. Each succeeding week has seen new assaults on the system in the name of the country and of meeting new challenges. Not very long ago, a question mark was suddenly raised over the parliamentary form of Government. The people were asked to debate whether they should switch over to the Presidential system. Now, the judiciary is under fresh attack as reflected in the Centre's sudden decision to transfer two High Court Chief Justices to other States. The transfers, which continue to puzzle and raise some vital issues, have already led to the resignation of Mr Justice M.M. Ismail, Chief Justice of the Madras High Court - and writ petitions.

The Union Government asserts that the transfers have been carried out in accordance with the Constitution which states: "The President may, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, transfer a judge from one High Court to any other High Court." The Government, it is pointed out, had transferred Mr. Justice Ismail as Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court and Mr. K.B.N. Singh, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court to the Madras High Court in consultation

with the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Y.V. Chandrachud. Official sources have even claimed that the Centre had secured Mr. Chandrachud's "concurrence". But doubts persist on three grounds. First, the Chief Justice of India spoke out against the idea of judges' transfers at Jaipur barely a few hours before the late night announcement of the Government's decision in New Delhi. Second, Mr. Chandrachud has chosen to maintain stoic silence in the matter and has neither denied nor confirmed the Centre's claim. Third, the increasing lack of credibility in the Government's word.

Considerable misgiving has also been caused by the transfer as Mr. Justice Ismail is a remarkable person from all accounts and well known in New Delhi's judicial circles. Prior to becoming the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court in November 1979, Mr. Ismail is said to have declined an offer to become a judge of the Supreme Court as he wanted to stay on in Madras. He was appointed an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court by Mr. Justice Hidayatullah, then Chief Justice of India, in February 1967 and was made a Permanent Judge in May 1967. But he sought transfer to the Madras High Court in November the same year because of family circumstances and agreed not to claim his seniority vis-à-vis the other judges. Had Mr. Ismail stayed on in the Union Capital, he would have become Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in 1978. (Mr. Justice Ismail's former colleagues in Delhi speak highly of his professional competence and scholarly attainment in Mus-

lim and Hindu scriptures. I am told that he has translated the Quran and the Ramayana into Tamil.)

There is no gainsaying the fact that the Government can transfer judges under the Constitution. Further, the Supreme Court has also held that the Government has the power to transfer judges and that it need not seek their consent in the matter. But it is expected that the exercise of such power must not be either arbitrary or mala fide. Unfortunately, the Government has done little to assure all concerned that the transfers have been made in the best public interest. In fact, matters have been made worse by the Law Minister, Mr. Shiv Shankar, and all that he has said and done during the past many months: his repeated talk of pushing ahead with the transfers of High Court judges, especially of the Chief Justices, as a matter of policy and his refusal to confirm Acting Chief Justices in several States for months. This has left the legal world and independent observers with one dominant impression: that he is determined to demoralize the judiciary and make the executive all powerful.

Curiously, the relevant and realistic views of the Law Commission in its 80th report, prepared mainly by Mr. Justice H.R. Khanna and designed to ensure the independence and integrity of the judiciary, have been twisted. An erroneous impression has been created as though what Mr. Shiv Shankar has been seeking to do on the question of the transfer of High Court judges and the appointment of one-

third of the Judges from outside the State had the support of the Commission. This is not so as few MPs, even those who are members of Parliament's Consultative Committee for the Law Ministry, have cared to note. The Law Commission, to set the record straight, clearly stated: "We would like to emphasise that we are normally against the transfer of judges of the High Court from one court to the other as such power is liable to be abused and impinges upon the independence of the judges. Normally, a judge should continue in the Court to which he is appointed, except where he is appointed Chief Justice of some other High Court".

The Commission, nevertheless, recognized that situations could arise in some High Courts, as have reportedly arisen in recent months leading to complaints about corruption, nepotism, casteism and much else. (The Chief Justice of India recently criticized the growing trend in which the sons, sons-in-laws and other near relations of High Court Judges are nowadays practicing in their courts.) It, therefore, said: "There are occasions - we hope rare - when the image and good name of the judiciary makes it incumbent that a judge posted in a High Court be transferred to some other High Court. Although by and large the judges of the High Court have evoked great respect for maintaining high standards, complaints have sometimes been heard against one or other individual judge. The facts of the case may not be such as might warrant resort to the extreme remedy of im-

peachment; still the requirements of the situation may call for the transfer of the judges concerned. The transfer of a judge in such an event should not be looked upon as something taboo." Significantly, however, it still underlined the need "to ensure that the power of transfer is not abused and the transfers be not motivated by extraneous considerations."

The Commission did not stop at that and, to prevent "any abuse of the power of transfer", added: "We recommend that no judge should be transferred without his consent from one High Court to the other unless a panel consisting of the Chief Justice of India and his four senior-most colleagues finds sufficient cause for such a course. In case of difference between the members of the panel, the view of the majority should be taken to be that of the panel." Further, the Commission suggested that the Constitution be amended - "despite our general reluctance on this score" - since it would be "desirable to have a consultative panel with a view to preventing the sway of extraneous considerations in the matter of super-session or transfer." This objective "could be substantially achieved if, in case of transfer and also in case of ignoring the claim of the senior-most judge in the matter of appointment of the Chief Justice of the High Court, the matter is scrutinized by a high level body of persons who are known for their integrity and have also judicial background. Avoidance of controversy is also necessary to preserve and keep up the image of the High Courts."

The whole issue of transfer of High Court judges and appointment of new judges and Chief Justices needs to be considered by Parliament together with the weighty 80th report of the Law Commission which, alas, has been gathering dust.

TOP STORY

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Haryana Assembly budget session from Feb 20: CM Khattar

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Budget session of the Haryana Assembly will begin here from February 20, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Thursday.

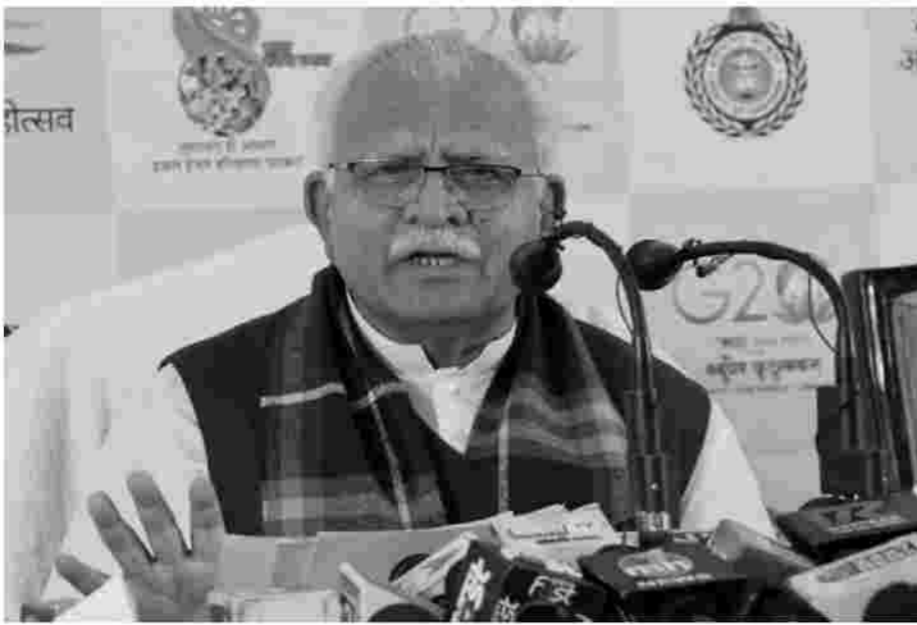
It has been proposed to hold the session in two parts, the chief minister said.

"The budget session will begin from February 20," Khattar told reporters here after a meeting of the state cabinet.

The session will begin with the Governor's address followed by a discussion on it, after which, the budget will be presented. After a gap of few days, the budget will be passed.

Khattar said the budget, presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday, is inclusive and futuristic, and keeps in mind the empowerment of professionals, youth, women, men, and farmers.

"A special focus has been



laid on infrastructure development, health, employment generation, housing, social welfare, farmers, higher education, innovation, and research, which will also be beneficial for Haryana," he said.

He also said some suggestions, including setting up of Urban Infrastructure De-

velopment Fund (UIDF) on the lines of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), given by Haryana during the pre-budget discussions were accepted by the Union finance ministry.

"Besides, I had also given a suggestion to continue the special assistant to the states

in the form of a 50-year interest-free loan. The finance minister has continued this scheme," he said.

Khattar said Haryana is in a better financial position as compared to its neighbouring states.

Haryana's economic growth rate is about 8 per cent and the per capita in-

come of the state is about Rs 2.75 lakh, he said.

Khattar said while presenting the budget, Sitharaman also highlighted promoting digital payments in the agriculture sector.

"We have been making digital payments to farmers for their crop procurement. So far, payments of Rs 63,000 crore have been transferred into the accounts of around 10 lakh farmers digitally," he said.

Under the 'Gobardhan (Galvanising Organic Bio Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme', a provision has been made in the budget to set up 500 new plants to generate bio-gas from cattle dung, Khattar said.

"In Haryana, construction work is on to build seven plants at Ambala, Charkhi Dadri, Nuh, Rohtak, Rewari, Sirsa, and Yamunanagar. In the coming financial year, three new plants will be set up at Karnal, Palwal, and Kurukshetra," he said.

Guru Ravidass gave message of humanity welfare: Punjab CM

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday vowed to work to ameliorate the woes of weaker and underprivileged sections of society in consonance with the teachings of Guru Ravidass.

Addressing a gathering before flagging off a train of pilgrims from here to Varanasi to celebrate the Parkash Purab of Guru Ravidass, the Chief Minister, after taking blessings from the head of Dera Ballan Sant Baba Niranjana Dass, said the government is duty bound to ensure the well-being of the poor.

Mann said that with the blessings of Guru Ravidass his government had been voted to power with a thumping majority. He said no stone would be left unturned to ensure the well-being of the poorest of poor.

The Chief Minister said Guru Ravidass gave the message of the welfare of entire humanity, equality of all the sections of society, creating a society based on



Mann said that with the blessings of Guru Ravidass his government had been voted to power with a thumping majority. He said no stone would be left unturned to ensure the well-being of the poorest of poor.

egalitarian values. He said Guru Ravidass laid out the concept of such an ideal society where nobody undergoes suffering of any kind.

Mann said his govern-

ment is committed to carving out a society based on the teachings and philosophy of Guru Ravidass.

The Chief Minister also lauded the role being played by Dera Ballan in the social and economic well-being of the masses. Apart from connecting people with the teachings and philosophy of Guru Ravidass, the sect has always remained instrumental in imparting quality education and health services to the needy and underprivileged sections of society.

Mann also lauded the philanthropic services rendered by the sect.

New MLAs form a group: CM asks them to work with dedication

Sushil Kumar Sharma
Shimla

A newly formed association of first time elected MLAs, for taking up their issues in Vidhan Sabha led by its President, Kewal Singh Pathania met Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here in Thursday and held a detailed discussion pertaining to various matters.

The Chief Minister asked them to work with dedication and commitment while discharging their duties and responsibilities. He also urged them to come up with new ideas that will pave the way for the development and welfare of the people of the State.

MLA, Shahpur, Kewal Singh Pathania was unanimously elected as the President of Association, as proposed in a motion by MLA, Dharampur Chandrashekhar whereas MLA Bharmour Dr. Janak Raj and MLA Shimla (Urban) Harish Janartha supported the motion.

MLA Trilok Jamwal from



Bilaspur has been entrusted with the responsibility of the post of General Secretary of this committee.

MLA of Gagret Chaitanya Sharma has been designated as the treasurer and the responsibility of IT and social media has been entrusted to MLA of Karsog Deep Raj.

The other members of the Association are MLA of Chamba, Neeraj Nayyar, MLA of Indora Mahindra Rajan, MLA of Manali Bhuvneshwar Gaud, MLA of Nurpur, Ranbir Nikka, MLA of Bhoranj, Suresh Kumar, MLA of Kulehar, Davindar Bhutto, MLA of Nahana, Ajay Solanki, MLA of Drang Puran Thakur, MLA of Anni Lokendar Kumar, and MLA of Banikhet DS Thakur.

Action on child marriage cases to begin Friday: Assam CM

Guwahati

The Assam government is firm in its resolve to end the menace of child marriage, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Thursday, noting that 4,004 cases have been registered in the state recently.

He also said that "action on these cases" will be initiated from February 3.

"So far @assam police has registered 4,004 cases across the state and more police action is likely in days ahead. Action on the cases will begin starting February 3. I request all to cooperate," the CM tweeted.

Last month, the state cabinet decided to launch a massive crackdown on the menace, and sought cooperation of all stakeholders in the endeavour.

It also approved a proposal that sought to book men who marry girls below 14 years of age, under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

HP CM resolves to solve truck union & cement industry impasse

Urges Bilaspur legislators to participate in meeting



Top Story News
Shimla

To resolve the deadlock over freight charges between the Cement Company and Truck operator Unions, Chief Minister, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has urged all the legislators of Bilaspur district to participate in the meeting to be held on 3rd February, 2023 at 4 PM in his office.

Earlier, Chief Minister held detailed discussions with the representatives of both Darlaghat Truck Oper-

ators and ACC Barmana Truck Operators Union late on Wednesday evening, and asked them to consult all the stakeholders to reach a common consensus on freight rates and submit a proposal to the government. The operator unions sought two days time to place their proposal before the state government after consultations with all the stakeholders.

He said that the Government was making concerted efforts to resolve the stale-

mate amicably at the earliest. The truck operators lauded the efforts being initiated by the state Government and expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for prioritizing to resolve the issue pertaining to both the parties.

Industries Minister, Harshwardhan Chauhan, Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Sanjay Awasthi, MLAs Rajesh Dharmani, Inder Dutt Lakhnpal, Principal Secretary Transport, R.D. Nazem, Principal Secretary

Threat call to blow up Ram Janmabhoomi complex



Ayodhya

A phone call from an unidentified man, threatening to blow up the Ram Janmabhoomi complex here, was received by an Ayodhya resident, police said on Thursday.

The call was received by Manoj, who lives in the Ramkot area of this Uttar Pradesh district. He alerted police about the call received on his mobile phone. According to police, the caller threatened to blow up the temple area at 10 am on Thursday. As soon as the information was received, police issued an alert to all personnel deployed at various locations in the district. Station House Officer (SHO) of the Ram Janmabhoomi police station Sanjiv Kumar Singh said they have registered a case and are conducting an enquiry. Efforts are on to ascertain the identity of the caller, he added.

Uttarakhand: STF to appeal in high court against bail to paper leak accused

Dehradun

The Special Task Force will soon file an appeal in the High Court against the bail granted by a lower court to the main accused in the paper leak of recruitment examination held by the Uttarakhand Subordinate Services Selection Commission.

"The chief minister has issued directions to take stern action against those involved in the recruitment scam. The STF will soon file an appeal in Uttarakhand



High Court against bail granted by the lower court to the main accused Hakam Singh and Sanjiv Chauhan," ADG, law and order, V Mu-

rugesan said.

The lower court's order granting them bail will be studied when it is made available to the STF after which an appeal will be filed in the high court, Murugesan, who is also the spokesperson of the state police, said.

Singh and Chauhan got bail in the case from the district and sessions court here on January 30. However, they are still in jail as their bail in other cases was rejected.

Railways revenue earnings up by 73% in passenger segment

New Delhi

The total approximate earnings in passenger segment for the Indian Railways on originating basis during April to January 2023 is Rs. 54733 crore, registering an increase of 73 per cent in comparison to Rs. 31634 crore achieved during the same period last year.

In reserved passenger segment, the total approximate numbers of passengers booked during the period 1st April to 31st January 2023 is 6590 lakh as compared to 6181 lakh during the same period last year, show-



ing an increase of 7%.

The revenue generated from reserved passenger segment during the period 1st April to 31st January 2023 is 42945 crore as compared to 29079 crore during the same

period last year, showing an increase of 48%.

In unreserved passenger segment, the total approximate numbers of passengers booked during the period 1st April to 31st January 2023 is 45180 lakh as compared to 19785 lakh during the same period last year, showing an increase of 128%. The revenue generated from unreserved passenger segment during the period 1st April to 31st January 2023 is Rs 11788 crore as compared to Rs 2555 crore during the same period last year, showing an increase of 361%.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, AMAN S/O SANJEEV KUMAR residing at House No. 91, Bidhauri (213), Bindroli, Sonapat, Haryana - 131403 declare that name of my Father and Mother have been wrongly written as SANJEEV KUMAR DAHIYA and MANJU LATA in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father and Mother are SANJEEV KUMAR and MANJU respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Letter No.: DRM/CAGRA/NFR/E-AUCTION Dated: 31.01.2023

On Behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager North Central Railway-Agra invites E-Auction as per category given as under-

Category	Catalogue No.	Asset Details	E-Auction Start Date and Time	E-Auction End Date and Time
Misc-Static-Services	PACK-AGRA-22-01	Two Wheeler vehicle Packing at Agra fort near parcel office	Date: 16.02.2023 Time: 11:00	Date: 16.02.2023 Time: 11:30
		Two Wheeler vehicle Packing at Mathura jn. near parcel office	Date: 16.02.2023 Time: 11:10	Date: 16.02.2023 Time: 11:40
		Two Wheeler vehicle Packing at Agra Cantt near parcel office	Date: 16.02.2023 Time: 11:20	Date: 16.02.2023 Time: 11:50

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 166223 (ADM)

North central railways @CPDRMCR @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Shriram Finance Limited

Head Office: Level-3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051; Tel: 022 4241 0400, 022 4060 3100; Website: <http://www.shriramfinance.in>

Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600 032

Branch Office: No. L1 & L2, Above SBI Bank, Gurudwara Road, Green Park Extension, New Delhi - 110016

APPENDIX-IV-A (SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8(6)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Note: It is informed that "SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022.

E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Shriram Finance Limited, the Physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Shriram Finance Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis in e-auction on 7th March, 2023 between 11 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. for recovery of the balance due to Shriram Finance Limited from the Borrowers And Guarantors, as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrowers and Guarantors, amount due, Short Description of the Immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and earnest money deposit & increment are also given

Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgaggers	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Description of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Earnest Money Deposit Details (EMD) Details	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person and Inspection date
Mr. Balbir Singh A-94, Sudarshan Park, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi - 110015 Also at: Plot No. WZ-95, A-4, Khasra No. 2704/597, Village Basai Darapur, Colony Known as Sudarshan Park, New Delhi - 110015. (2) Mr. Karanjyoth Singh Bhamrah A-94, Sudarshan Park, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi - 110015 Also at: Plot No. WZ-95, A-4, Khasra No. 2704/597, Village Basai Darapur, Colony Known as Sudarshan Park, New Delhi - 110015 (3) Mrs. Neetoo A-94, Sudarshan Park, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi - 110015. Also at: Plot No. WZ-95, A-4, Khasra No. 2704/597, Village Basai Darapur, Colony Known as Sudarshan Park, New Delhi - 110015	Dated:- 02.08.2023 Rs. 6457719/- (Rupees Sixty Four Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen Only) as on 23rd July, 2022. Loan Account No. RSSDLTF1808060004	All that part and parcel of the bearing plot No. WZ-95, A-4, area measuring 125 Sq. Yds., Out of Khasra No. 2704/597, situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur, Colony Known as Sudarshan Park, New Delhi - 110015. (Except Upper Ground Floor and One Shop/Car parking. Which is bounded as: North: Other Property South: Road East: Other Property West: Other Property	Rs. 1,31,55,300/- (Rupees One Core Thirty One Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred Only) Bid Increment : Rs. 10,000/- and in such multiples Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs.) Rs. 13,15,300/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred Only) Last Date of submission EMD : 06th March 2023 Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m	EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/ NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below: BANK NAME- AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH- DR. RADHAKRISHNAN SALAI, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI - 600004 BANK ACCOUNT NO- Current Account No. 006010200067449 IFSC CODE- UTIB0000006	07th March 2023 Time: 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.	Ved Prakash Mishra +91 9910144252 Property Inspection Date: - 4th March 2023 Time 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m. Customer Care Number : 022 - 40081572

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the <http://www.shriramcity.in/borrower> provided in the Shriram Finance Limited website.

Place : Delhi Date : 03-02-2023 Sd/- Authorised Officer Shriram Finance Limited



World Cup winner Raphael Varane retires from France team

Paris
France defender Raphaël Varane announced his retirement from the national team on Thursday, the second major player to leave Les Bleus following the World Cup final defeat to Argentina.

The 29-year-old Varane made his debut 10 years ago and played 93 times. He was arguably the tournament's standout defender when France won the 2018 World Cup in Russia. But he fell to the ground exhausted deep into extra time against Argentina in Qatar last December. France lost the final on penalty kicks after a 3-3 draw. "Representing our magnificent country for a decade has been one of the greatest honors in my life. Every time I wore the blue jersey I felt an immense pride," Varane wrote on his Instagram page. "The duty of giving everything, of playing with



my heart and of winning every time I stepped onto the field. I've been

thinking about this for a few months and I've decided it's the right time for

me to take my international retirement." Varane, who plays in the English Premier League for Manchester United, was five years old when France won its first World Cup in 1998.

The sight of Zinedine Zidane scoring twice against Brazil, and France celebrating a 3-0 win, sparked his desire for the game.

"As a child I remember watching France '98, this team, these players who filled me with indescribable emotions. It was a dream to emulate our heroes and, 20 years later, I experienced one of the greatest moments of my life," Varane added. "I will never forget this." Last month, goalkeeper and captain Hugo Lloris quit the national team after a record 145 appearances.

France coach Didier Deschamps must rebuild the team without two of his most consistent players heading toward next year's European

Championship.

Deschamps said Varane warned him this week. "He's an intelligent lad, who knows how to take the time to think, to weigh up the pros and cons before making a decision," Deschamps said. "Now that our paths are going separate ways, I would like to pay tribute to his honesty and his unrelenting commitment to the blue jersey. Raphaël played a central part on and off the field in the past decade." Along with Lloris and forward Antoine Griezmann, he was the player the coach always relied on. Deschamps, a former midfielder who captained France when it won the 1998 World Cup, said he reluctantly accepted Varane's decision.

"I experienced a little bit of a similar situation to his," Deschamps said. "I understand his point of view and respect his decision, even though it might seem a bit of a pity given all

that he's achieved with the national team." An elegant ball-playing defender, Varane stood out with his slick passing and his excellent positional play. His great anticipation and turn of speed allowed him to make crucial interceptions look easy.

A strong man-marker despite his slight build, Varane was also good in the air. One of his five goals for Les Bleus was a firm header in the quarterfinal win against Uruguay at the 2018 World Cup.

Deschamps praised Varane as one of the finest players he's coached.

"Obviously, I can't turn this page without feeling a certain emotion, given the connection we've built since 2012. Along with Lloris, he was in every single one of my (squad) lists, barring injury," Deschamps said. "I remember how authoritative he was during our World Cup playoff against Ukraine in 2013. His performance was of the highest standard. One of many."

India's Aman wins bronze at Zagreb Open wrestling

Zagreb
Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat clinched a bronze medal in the men's 57kg category at the Zagreb Open Championships here on Thursday.

The 17-year-old Aman defeated Zane Raye Rhodes Richards of USA 10-4 on points in the bronze medal contest to finish on the podium of the ranking tournament.

Aliabbas Rzazade of Azerbaijan bagged the gold, beating Yuto Nishiuchi of Japan 2-0 in the final.

The other bronze was won by Beka Bujashvili of Georgia, who beat Islam Bazarganov of Azerbaijan.

Aman had earlier defeated Roberti Dingashvili of Georgia in the quarterfinals, before losing to Nishiuchi in the semifinals, to qualify for the repechage round as his Japanese opponent went on to reach the final.

Another Indian Pruthviraj Babasaheb



Patil (men's 92kg) is in contention for another bronze as he will take on Gankhuyag Ganbaatar of Mongolia in the repechage round.

Patil had lost to Miriani Muisauradze of Georgia 10-0 in the semifinal. He had earlier defeated Radoslaw Marcinkiewicz of Poland 5-2 in the quarterfinals. In the women's 50kg, India's Shivani Pawar crashed out in the quarterfinals after losing to USA's Erin Simone Golston 4-0 on points.

Indian team opens campaign against Bhutan in SAFF U-20 Women's Championships

Dhaka
Powerhouse India face Bhutan in their opening match of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship here on Friday, with the team, mainly made up of players from the FIFA U-17 World Cup campaign last year, hoping to clinch the title in the inaugural edition.

Hosts Bangladesh and Nepal are the other teams in the tournament. All the matches will be played at the Bir Sherestha Shaheed Shipahi Mostafa Kamal Stadium here.

After a four-team round robin, the top two teams will play the final on February 9.

India take on Bangladesh on February 5 and Nepal on February 7.

India head coach Maymol Rocky stressed the importance of having a mix of experienced and young players in the squad, including those who have played



in the senior national team already.

"We have a mixture of youth and experience in our team, players that have

played at the senior level as well, so I am sure the girls will give their 100 per cent and the results will follow," Maymol said

at the pre-match press conference.

When asked about the opposition teams in the tournament, she said, "Bhutan are a good side, as are Nepal. Bangladesh have been doing brilliantly in the last few years, and they are definitely the team to watch out for." "But if we give it our best shot, we can overcome all obstacles." India captain Martina Thokchom, one of the players to have played in the senior national team, spoke about the advantages of being in the same camp with the senior side in the build-up to the championship.

"Yes, we are a junior team, but we were in the same camp as the seniors, and that has really helped us. We all stayed in the same hotel and even played a match together. It was a good learning experience, especially for the new girls in this team."

Punjab govt to give job to former hockey player currently working as 'Palledar'

Chandigarh
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday said a former hockey player, Paramjeet, who currently works as a labourer, will be given a job by his government as a coach in the sports department.

Mann tweeted the video of the meeting with Paramjeet, 30, where he said he works as a 'palledar', a labourer work that includes loading and unloading rice and wheat sacks from trucks, at the Faridkot mandi.

During his interaction, the chief minister said that Paramjeet will be recruited as a hockey coach in the sports department and soon formalities in this regard will be completed.

On being asked whether the earlier government took note of his plight, the ex-hockey player replied, "No, did not get any response".

Mann said that it is our duty to respect the players.

Paramjeet also told Mann that he wants to make his son a hockey player but it seems impossible given his poor financial condition.



"You will get a good environment to work," Mann told him while adding "we have to make Punjab and country No 1 in sports... Hockey is our traditional game and Punjab is known as hockey nursery".

Earlier, he was part of the Sports Authority of India and Punjab team and won medals in several hockey

tournaments, Paramjeet said.

However, a few years ago, he suffered an injury in his left hand which kept him away from the game for a long time and affected his hockey career.

Because of his injury, he started working as a "palledar" a few years ago.

Virat Kohli reacts to Gill's maiden T20I hundred, calls him 'Sitara'

New Delhi
India's star batter Virat Kohli reacted to young batting sensation Shubman Gill's maiden T20I hundred against New Zealand on Wednesday and touted him as a future superstar, calling him a 'Sitara'. The opener played a sensational knock of 126* runs in just 63 balls and helped India clinch the three-match T20I series 2-1, after losing the first match in Ranchi. His entertaining knock was decorated with 12 fours and seven sixes. He scored his runs at a strike rate of 200.

Sharing a message for the India opener on his Instagram, Virat said, "Sitara (Star). The future is here". Previously, the highest score in T20I by an Indian batter was by Virat Kohli, who had smashed 122* against Afghanistan during the Asia Cup last year in September.

At the age of 23 years and 146 days, Gill is the youngest batter to have a century in each format of the sport. He is also the fifth batter to have centuries for India in all formats of the game. Four other such batters are Suresh Raina, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Virat



Kohli.

Shubman Gill's unbeaten 126 followed by an all-round performance from captain Hardik Pandya helped India bundle out New Zealand for 66 to register a mammoth 168-run victory over Blackcaps in the third and final T20I of the three-match series. India thumped New Zealand by 168 runs - the biggest win by a Full Member against another in the men's T20I. With this win, Team India clinched the three-match T20I series 2-1.

Sai Praneeth enter quarters; George, Ashmita bows out

Bangkok
India's B Sai Praneeth defeated Korean qualifier Hyeok Jin Jeon in a tough three-game contest to enter the quarterfinals of the Thailand Open Super 300 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Praneeth beat his Korean opponent 24-22 7-21 22-20 in the men's singles second round match. He will next face sixth seed Li Shi Feng of China in the last eight round. Earlier in the day, Kiran George and Ashmita Chalaha put up gallant fights before going down in three games in the second round of their respective events. While George, Odisha Open champion, went down 22-20 15-21 20-22 to third seed Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong in men's singles, Ashmita lost 21-19 13-21 27-29 to sixth seeded Den Højmark Kjærskov of Denmark in a gruelling women's singles round of 16 match.

India make smart selection choices as team prepares to negate Rune's presence in Play-off tie

Hillerod
It will be a Herculean task for the Indian Davis Cup team to save its place in World Group I when it clashes with the Holger Rune-led Denmark in the Davis Cup Play-off tie, starting Friday.

India does not have even one player inside the top-300 while world No. 9 Rune will make the hosts firm favourites to stay in World Group I. The tie will be played indoors on hard courts.

India had blanked Denmark 4-0 in Delhi in March 2022 but the presence of 19-year-old Rune, who reached the fourth round at the Australian Open last month and won three ATP titles in 2022, makes it a very different proposition.

However, India have come out with a nice strategy to counter Rune's presence and are targeting lower-ranked players in the Denmark camp

— August Holmgren (ranked 484) and Elmer Moeller (ranked 718) -- to emerge victorious. The team has decided to field Yuki Bhambri on day one as the country's second-highest ranked player so that Sumit Nagal can go in as the number one player and strive to eke out a win on the opening day.

Holmgren might be ranked low but he is a tough nut to crack. He has been an NCAA champion in the past and will pose a strong challenge to the Indian team.

The doubles match will assume significance and seasoned Rohan Bopanna will have to use his experience to lead the side.

Ever since the new format was introduced in 2019, the Indian team has managed to stay in World Group I but the team will have to work hard to keep its place.

India's top runners aim to qualify for Asian Games from New Delhi Marathon on February 26

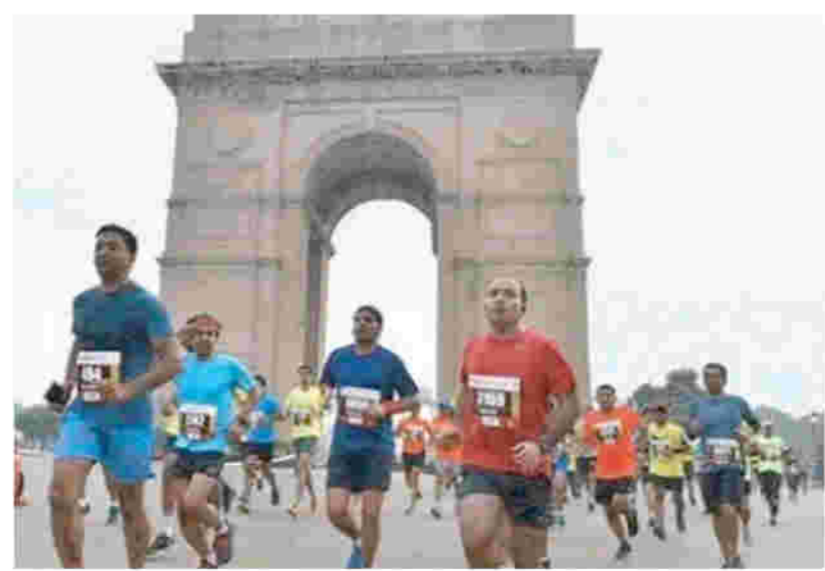
New Delhi
India's top runners, including Srinu Bugatha, A Belliappa and Jyoti Singh Gawate, will aim to qualify for the Hangzhou Asian Games later this year when they turn out for the New Delhi Marathon to be held here on February 26.

Jyoti will be defending the title she had won last year with a timing of 3:01.20.

Organised under the aegis of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and Fit India race, it will start and finish at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The route of the race will cover key landmarks in the heart of the city, like Humayun's Tomb, Lodhi Garden and Khan Market.

The AFI had already announced that the New Delhi Marathon will be an Asian Games qualifying series event.

"The performance of athletes in



this National Marathon will be considered for selection/participation in the Asian Games scheduled to be held at China, provided that they achieve

the qualifying standards as fixed by AFI," the national federation said.

"The qualifying timing for the marathon to be selected for the Asian

Games is 2:15.00 (for men) and 2:37.00 (for women)." Not everybody can participate in the elite race of the New Delhi Marathon. Only those who has a timing of 2 hr 40 minutes among men and 3 hr 10 minutes among women are eligible to run in the elite race.

Those who are not eligible for elite category may participate in the open age category.

The runners will be participating across four categories of full marathon, half marathon, 10K and 5K. Organised by NEB Sports, as many as 16,000 participants will compete in Apollo Tyres New Delhi Marathon. In addition, over 50,000 others will also be running in the virtual marathon from different parts of the world over five days, starting from February 21.

The event will also see differently-abled people participating along with the rest of the runners.

Biden's top economic aide leaving White House



Washington:

President Joe Biden's top economic adviser, Brian Deese, is leaving his post. Biden said Thursday in a statement that Deese would step down as director of the White House National Economic Council. That position had him coordinating policy across the government and negotiating with Congress on coronavirus aid, the budget, infrastructure, the tax code, clean energy incentives, investments in computer chip plants and other measures that the president counts as key victories.

"Brian has a unique ability to translate complex policy challenges into concrete actions that improve the lives of American people," Biden said. "He has helped steer my economic vision into reality, and managed the transition of our historic economic recovery to steady and stable growth." It was the second major departure in recent weeks, as White House Chief of Staff R on Klain is also leaving and being succeeded by Jeff Zients, who previously led the administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Deese leaves with the economy having so far avoided a recession that many economists anticipated as the Federal Reserve has lowered inflation by slowing down the economy. Unemployment is at a low 3.5% and semiconductor companies are building new plants, while automakers are shifting toward greater production of electric vehicles.

Naya Bharat Mahotsav, 'Sankalp Se Siddhi Tak,' Edition 2 Organized in the United Kingdom

New Delhi/London: On the occasion of the 74th Indian Republic Day, the World Humanitarians Foundation and Trident Events and Media Ltd. celebrate Naya Bharat Mahotsav Edition-2 from January 26th to 30th in London, which includes a series of events. This series of events is organised by the World Humanitarians Foundation and Trident Events & Media Ltd. and supported by Himadri, Uttarakhand Handloom & Handicraft Development Council, Associated with GTTCI (Gaurav Gupta), and Real Indian Brands (Rajesh Sharma).

The Global Inspirational Awards is the 1st event of the series which happened in the House of Lords, London Parliament, hosted by Sandip Baroness Verma. This event is organised by the World Humanitarians Foundation and Trident Events & Media Ltd. and supported by Himadri, Uttarakhand Handloom & Handicraft Development Council, associate partner GTTCI, and Real Indian Brands media partner Lyca Radio.

Global Inspirational Awards that recognise excellence across



all sectors. Baroness Manjila Pola Uddin is the chief guest of the night.

The Designer Fashion show is the 2nd event of the series, which happened in Osterley Park Hotel. A fashion show themed on promoting 'Khadi'. This event is organised by the World Humanitarians Foundation and Trident Events & Media Ltd. and supported by Himadri, Uttarakhand Handloom & Handicraft Development Council.

Shahid Mallya, an Indian playback singer, flew all the way

from India to the United Kingdom for a fashion show. Shahid Mallya graced the fashion show with his performance.

The 3rd and last event of the series was the Women Empowerment Summit-2023 which focused on a Panel Discussion on "Secrets to tomorrow's empowered women" which is held at Nehru Centre, and which is inaugurated by Dr Amish Tripathi, Deputy Director, The Nehru Centre, High Commission of India, London.

The extravaganza encourage

talent, trade, and technology in sync with our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat and the global outreach, keeping in mind the economic vision and the economic development of the nation.

Additionally, the associated organisation will focus on promoting art, culture, and tourism through the exhibition and fashion show because they believe that the art walk is a great way to direct people and encourage the world to visit India. Unity in diversity is one of the major characteristics of Indian culture, which makes it unique. In the Global Inspirational Awards, they will honour the individuals and organisations that have gone too far to achieve their goals and helped their country come out of the global crisis. The panel discussion will focus on promoting art, culture, and tourism's global challenges and their impact on world humanitarian action.

The Global Inspirational Awards is the 1st event of the series which happened in the House of Lords, London Parliament, hosted by Sandip Baroness Verma.

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan in next few weeks: Maryam Nawaz



Lahore:

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Thursday said that the party's supreme and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan in the next few weeks, ARY News reported. According to information, the PML-N Vice President stated that the party has begun public meetings and that Nawaz is also ready to return to Pakistan.

Moreover, Maryam Nawaz lambasted the former PML-N government and said that the counter-terrorism department of the province is still in a rental building for the last ten years. They have done little for their law enforcement institutions, and the Imran Khan government was unable to construct a forensic lab in KP. The PML-N sen-

ior vice president called the Peshawar incident a security breach and chastised PTI head Imran Khan for allowing terrorists in, according to ARY News.

Last week, Maryam Nawaz took a jibe at Imran Khan-led PTI and said that her party is not afraid of elections at all and that it would win seats by a majority when Punjab goes to the polls, Geo TV reported. She made the remarks in an address in Lahore to the party workers after she recently returned to Pakistan from London where she was residing since October 2022 to spend time with her father and ex-PM Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam Nawaz also reiterated that the PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif would be among them soon, a topic that has sparked much speculation, according to Geo TV.

EU officials pledge solidarity with Kyiv, Zelenskiy says speed up sanctions

Kyiv:

Ukraine urged the European Union on Thursday to impose more sanctions on Moscow, as some of the bloc's top officials visited Kyiv in a show of solidarity that offered no quick path to membership during Russia's invasion. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen led a delegation of more than a dozen officials that promised military, financial and political aid before the first anniversary of the Feb. 24 invasion. "Europe has been by Ukraine's side since day one because we know the future

Zelenskiy, who greeted von der Leyen with kisses on the cheek, and said they had discussed a 10th EU sanctions package against Russia.



27 national leaders.

The West stepped up pledges to deliver more arms to Ukraine in January. But,

unwilling to admit a country at war, the EU is set to dash Ukraine's hopes of being swiftly allowed membership,

underlining the need for more anti-corruption measures. "Today, we are proposing to Ukraine to join key European programmes - this will give Ukraine benefits close to those of membership in many areas," von der Leyen said, without committing to any dates.

Zelenskiy, who greeted von der Leyen with kisses on the cheek, and said they had discussed a 10th EU sanctions package against Russia. "We can see that the pace of Europe's sanctions has slightly slowed down while the terrorist-state, on the contrary, is increasing its pace of adapting to sanc-

tions," he said, standing beside von der Leyen.

The EU did, however, announce a doubling of the number of Ukrainian troops to be trained by the EU to 30,000 this year and promised 25 million euros (\$27.50 million) for demining areas recaptured by Ukraine. "NOT THERE YET"

The EU's top officials for foreign policy, migration, agriculture, economy and justice were also in Ukraine's capital. EU officials said talks included discussion of more arms and money for Ukraine as well as more access for Ukrainian products to the EU market, helping Kyiv

cover energy needs, sanctions on Russia, prosecuting Russia's leadership for the war and extending an EU no-roaming mobile calls zone to Ukraine.

The wealthy bloc has already earmarked almost 60 billion euros in aid to Ukraine, including nearly 12 billion euros of military support and 18 billion euros to help run the country this year, but declines to offer a fast track to membership while Ukraine is at war. "Some may want to speculate about the end game but the simple truth is that we are not there yet," an EU official said.

BUSINESS

Toyota Kirloskar motor announces prices of Urban Cruiser Hyryder's CNG Variant

Hisar:

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced the prices of the Urban Cruiser Hyryder's CNG variants. TKM had earlier announced its foray into the CNG segment with the launch of Toyota Glanza and Urban Cruiser Hyryder in November 2022. The details of prices are as per the below table.

Details of Urban Cruiser Hyryder E-CNG variant's showroom price, is as follows:

Commenting on the same Mr Atul Sood, Vice President, Sales and Strategic Marketing said, "The launch of the Urban Cruiser Hyryder has been a significant milestone for us, in keeping with Toyota's quest for promoting sustainable mobility solutions. Today, it gives us immense pleasure to announce the prices of our CNG variants for our customers, who have shown overwhelming interest in the product since the launch.

At Toyota, we are committed in making a shift to-

wards low-carbon energy sources, with a vision to realise a 'Carbon Neutral Society'. We are confident the competitively priced Urban Cruiser Hyryder CNG variants will encourage widespread acceptance of environment friendly technologies and provide multiple options to customer to meet their diverse requirements."

One of first of its kind in the segment, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder is available with a factory fitted CNG kit in both S & G grades. Equipped with a Manual Transmission (MT) powertrain in both the grades, the CNG variant will be in addition to the Self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric as well as the Neo Drive variants, which are already available in the market.

The much-anticipated SUV from TKM was launched in July 2022. Since then, the product has received overwhelming response, thus reinforcing customers' faith and trust in Toyota brand and its advanced technology prowess.

Adani speaks for first time since turmoil as stock rout continues

Mumbai:

Embattled billionaire Gautam Adani on Thursday spoke publicly for the first time since his ports-to-energy conglomerate publicly battled a short seller's accusation of stock manipulation and accounting fraud, saying the abrupt move to withdraw a fully-subscribed share sale at his flagship firm was due to market volatility.

His group continued to lose on the stock market, with the cumulative rout now nearing USD 108 billion in a week - one of the biggest wipeouts in India's history.

"After a fully subscribed follow-on public offering (of Adani Enterprises Ltd), yesterday's decision of its withdrawal would have surprised many. But considering the volatility of the market seen yesterday, the board strongly felt that it would not be morally correct to proceed with the FPO," Adani said in a video message to investors.

The company decided to refund the money to in-



vestors. Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) closed at Rs 1,564.70 on the BSE on Thursday, less than half the price at which shares were offered to investors in the follow-on public offer (FPO) that closed on January 31.

Sources close to the group said it was felt that investors may feel cheated for invest-

ing in AEL shares in a price band of Rs 3,112-3,276 when the stock is available in the open market at a much lesser rate.

The offer price of the Rs 20,000 crore FPO was at a discount to the trading price when it was first announced last month. But the US-based short seller's report triggered a sell-down in stocks of all 10

group companies and the cumulative loss of value is now close to USD 108 billion.

"In my humble journey of over 4 decades as an entrepreneur I have been blessed to receive overwhelming support from all stakeholders, particularly the investor community... For me, the interest of my investors is paramount and everything is

His group continued to lose on the stock market, with the cumulative rout now nearing USD 108 billion in a week - one of the biggest wipeouts in India's history.

secondary. Hence to insulate the investors from potential losses, we have withdrawn the FPO," Adani said.

US-based short seller Hindenburg Research's report and the stock rout figured in Parliament on Thursday, with opposition parties seeking a discussion and a probe by a joint parliamentary committee (JPC).

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also asked banks for details of their exposure to the Adani Group.

Adani said the decision to withdraw the FPO will not have any impact on the group's existing operations and future plans. "We will continue to focus on timely execution and delivery of projects."

SAMIL gets great place to work certification

New Delhi:

Shriram Automall India Limited (SAMIL) - India's Largest Phygital Marketplace for used Vehicles and Equipment, has been recognised as Great Place to Work@ Institute (India) Certified company for Third time in a row.

Great Place to Work@ is a global authority that recognises High-Trust and High-Performance Culture™ at workplaces around the globe and SAMIL is among them as a sustainable diverse, supportive and empowering organisation. We at SAMIL have shifted our focus on continuous employee engagement and development on various fronts. This has helped us create a unique work culture at our workplace that is long lasting.

SAMIL is a purpose-driven organization and has played a valuable role in the industry and society - especially during periods of uncertainty like the Covid-19 pandemic by providing all the facilities to its employees even during the nation-wide lockdowns. SAMIL understands the psychological needs of its employees and thus introduced many ways of keeping the employees engaged and stay stress-free with activities, games, quizzes and more. Important sessions from various SMEs of workplace, lifestyle, health and awareness have helped the employees to learn and grow at a faster pace.

Stepping up capex in Budget will boost logistics, connectivity: IRF

New Delhi:

International Road Federation (IRF) welcomes stepped up capital expenditure for infrastructure development in the union budget 2023-24 terms it as a boost to infra projects

Increased allocation will ensure time-bound creation of world-class transport infrastructure and improve logistics and connectivity across the nation.

New Delhi February 2,

2023. International Road Federation (IRF) a global road safety body working for better and safer roads worldwide has welcomed the increased allocation of Rs 10 Lakh crore as capital expenditure in the union budget for the year 2023-24 as it will help boost logistics and connectivity across the nation.

"The Union budget gives a boost to infrastructure development and has ear-

marked Rs 10 lakh crore as capital expenditure for financial year 2023-24. This is significantly higher (33%) than the Rs 7.5 lakh crore allocated in the fiscal 2022-23. The provision of Capital outlay of 2.40 Lakh crore for railways, Rs. 10,000 Crore for urban infra fund, Rs. 75000 Crore for 100 Critical transport infra projects, promises strong development in the infrastructure space." Said Mr Satish

Parakh, President, International Road Federation (IRF) India Chapter and Managing Director Ashoka Buildcon Limited welcoming the union budget.

"The announcement of 50 New airports and heliports will contribute to improved connectivity. The Vivad se Vishwas II - Voluntarily Settling Contractual Disputes scheme will provide big relief and ease of cash flow to contractors for fast track real-

ization of contractual disputes, which are awarded but have been challenged in court" said Mr Parakh.

IRF also welcomed the thrust of the budget on seven growth engines of PM Gati Shakti including roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics.

"The Union government in its budget has emphasized on providing a massive push to all kinds of mobile

connectivity by taking forward programs across various key sub-sectors such as roads, rail, inland waterways, air connectivity. There was a dire need to give impetus to the infrastructure sector in view of its capital-intensive nature and long gestation period for infrastructure projects. Hence, augmented budgetary allocation, would ensure time-bound creation of world-class infrastructure and pro-

pel India's overall development." Said Mr Parakh.

"From highway construction to expansion in other mobility infra sectors will work as key drivers for the Indian economy and the most tangible evidence of the nation's progress. Investment in the infrastructure and mobility sector has a cascading impact on all sectors such as banking and financial sector, logistics, power sector.



Alia Bhatt, Ranveer Singh's 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani' gets new release date

Mumbai
Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh starrer 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani,' directed by Karan Johar has announced a new release date. The film that was earlier slated to release on April 28 will now hit the-



Karan Johar as director after 2016's 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil.'

The film also stars Dharmendra and Shabana Azmi in pivotal roles. Filmmaker Karan Johar took to so-

cial media to announce the new date. He posted on Instagram: 'They say 'sabr ka phal meetha hota hai', so to increase the mithaas of this incredibly special story - we're coming with

a whole lot of love! Rocky aur Rani ke parivaar ho rahe hai taiyyaar, aur ab dekhiye yeh anokhi kahani of pyaar!'

The rom-com was initially scheduled to release on February 11 but was pushed to April 29 to avoid clashing with Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon's 'Shehzada.' Later, Mani Ratnam's directorial 'PS-2' was announced for an April 29 release and 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani,' has avoided a clash again.

'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani' is written by Ishita Moitra, Shashank Khaitan and Sumit Roy.

On November 12, 2022 Johar had announced on Instagram, 'My heart is filled with excitement and gratitude... #RockyAurRaniKiPremKahani releasing in cinemas near you on 28th April, 2023!' In the statement, the filmmaker said 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani' marks his return to his first home-cinemas, after a gap of seven years. "I had the absolute honour of working with not one, but many illustrious actors on the set of my seventh film," the director said.

Shilpa Shetty Kundra wishes her 'Tunki' Shamita Shetty on her birthday



Mumbai

Actor Shilpa Shetty Kundra on Thursday extended warm birthday wishes to her sister Shamita Shetty.

Taking to Instagram, Shilpa shared a video which she captioned, "From sharing a box of chocolates and NOT wanting to share clothes. From being each other's agony aunts to pulling each other's hair out To... NOW becoming an inseparable pair I love you to the moon and back... HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHAMZIE we love you to the moon and back!!!!", a fan commented.

Shilpa and Shamita Shetty share a great bond and the duo never fails to shower love on each other on social media.

Shamita is known for her performances in films like 'Mohabbatein' and 'Zehar' and she also featured in Salman Khan's Tv reality show 'Bigg Boss Season 15'

heart emoticons and sweet birthday wishes for the ex Bigg Boss contestant.

Ranbir Kapoor's sister Riddhima Kapoor Sahni wrote, "Happy bday @shamitashetty_official."

A user wrote, "Happy Birthday shaamzzz."

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHAMZIE we love you to the moon and back!!!!", a fan commented.

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Talking about Shilpa's work front, she was last seen in an action comedy film 'Nikamma' alongside Abhimanyu Dasani and Shirley Setia.

Trailer of Yami Gautam's new OTT film 'Lost' out



Mumbai

After a phenomenal performance in 'A Thursday', Yami Gautam is back with another drama 'Lost'. The trailer of the film is now out. Directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, the film stars

compelling actors like Yami Gautam Dhar, Pankaj Kapur, Rahul Khanna,

Neil

Bhoopalam, Tushar Pandey, and Pia Bajpiee in key roles. After receiving an overwhelming response at the

Chicago South Asian Film Festival 2022, the Atlanta Indian Film Festival 2022, and the 53rd International Film Festival of India, the makers of A Thursday have dropped the trailer of their upcoming film.

Yami, a promising actor who has assayed a sensational role in A Thursday, has got well-deserved praise by fans and critics alike. Post the success of the last series, the fans are counting on Yami's another thriller, Lost.

Neil

Bhoopalam, Tushar Pandey, and Pia Bajpiee in key roles. After receiving an overwhelming response at the

Taking to Instagram, Deepika shared a post which she captioned, "Happy Birthday! @anishapadukone."

The post reads, "If you have nothing in life but a loving sister, you are richer than you know."

Deepika and Anisha are the daughters of the former Indian badminton player Prakash Padukone and Ujjala Padukone.

The 'Piku' actor shares snaps with her sister on different occasions on her social media. Meanwhile, talking about the work front, Deepika was recently seen in the action thriller film 'Pathaan' opposite actors Shah Rukh Khan and John Abraham.

Helmed by Siddharth



Anand, the film was declared a blockbuster hit and has minted Rs 634 crore, Gross, Worldwide in its first week.

Deepika, recently at a 'Pathaan' success event spoke about her chemistry with Shah Rukh, saying, "In all the films that we have worked on, we have a very good relationship which reflects on screen. There is a lot of respect between us."

The trailer features the actress playing the role of a dynamic crime reporter who is on a relentless search for the truth behind the sudden disappearance of a young theatre activist played by Tushar Pandey. The clip showcases a battle between what's right versus what's the ultimate truth and it represents a higher quest and a search for lost values of compassion and integrity.

Yami shared the trailer on Instagram and wrote, "The search for integrity, truth and Ishan has begun. #TruthIsNeverLost, #LostOnZEE5, premieres 16th Feb (sic)."

Deepika Padukone pens sweet birthday wish for sister Anisha

Mumbai
Actor Deepika Padukone on Thursday penned down a sweet birthday wish for her sister Anisha Padukone.

Taking to Instagram, Deepika shared a post which she captioned, "Happy Birthday! @anishapadukone."

The post reads, "If you have nothing in life but a loving sister, you are richer than you know."

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Helmed by Siddharth

Popular celebrity photographer spills the beans on Sidharth Malhotra-Kiara Advani's wedding

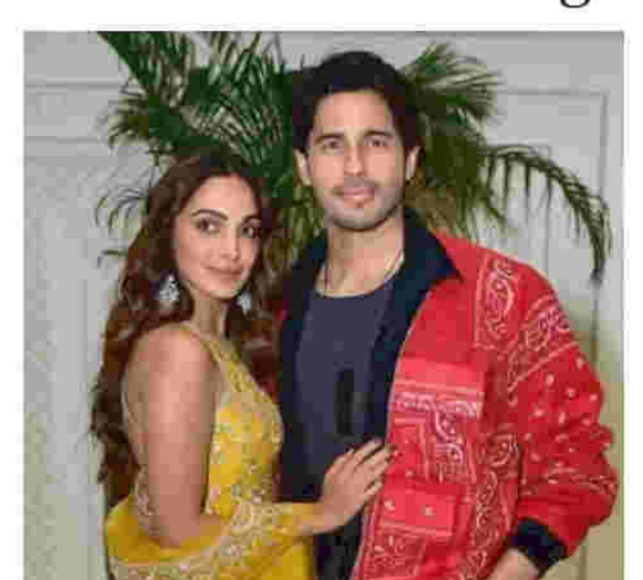
Mumbai
Mumbai-based renowned paparazzo has said that his team will be covering Bollywood stars Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani's wedding in Jaisalmer from February 4-6.

Viral Bhayani shared a post on Instagram that his team is leaving for the wedding, which will reportedly take place at the luxurious Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer.

He wrote, "We are heading to Jaisalmer to cover Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra's wedding. We will land tomorrow and then take a jeep to Jaisalmer."

"One team will have to wait at Jodhpur airport in case guests are not taking chartered flights direct to Jaisalmer. We are not sure what we are going to get, but we will brace the cold weather and try our best."

The paparazzi said that "most images normally get



uploaded by the stars, we just wait and watch. February 4-6 is when the wedding will take place at Suryagarh Palace."

Last month, one of our sources revealed that the couple has booked a luxury hotel in Rajasthan for their industry friends.

"They have booked Jaisalmer's Hotel Suryagarh from February 3 to 7. The

couple's security team will be at the premises to avoid any untoward incident. Sid, Kiara, their families, and close friends are expected to reach the venue on February 4. The mehndi, sangeet, and haldi ceremonies will be celebrated in the hotel premises on February 4 and 5," the source had informed while spilling the beans about the Sid-Kiara wedding.