



Kriti Kharbada shares adorable pictures from her first Lohri with Pulkit Samrat



Xi Jinping talks with Dissanayake, pledges new era in China-Sri Lanka ties

Champions Trophy opening on Feb 16 or 17; PCB hopeful Rohit will be there



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Indian Army celebrates its 77th Army Day with military splendor & solemnity at Pune

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Delhi witnesses season's first intense fog spell, IMD issues orange alert

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CM Mann inaugurates palace hotel in Patiala, says will promote destination wedding tourism

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I will be back for LA Olympics if boxing is there, says boxer Nishant Dev

7 BUSINESS

Monthly, Yearly Toll Passes for Vehicles: Gadkari



MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
76724.08	23213.20
224.45	37.15
GOLD	SILVER
78,650.00	92,806.00
534.00	2,250.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	7:16 AM
Sunset	5:46 PM
Moonrise	8:13 PM
Moonset	9:32 AM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	Minimum
20°C	8°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
19°C	8°C

Indian Navy commissions three warships together

INS Nilgiri, lead ship of P17A frigates; INS Vaghsheer, sixth and final Scorpene Class submarine; and INS Surat, fourth and final ship of P15B destroyers; commissioned; PM dedicates the three frontline platforms to the nation



Mumbai Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is emerging as a major maritime power, and being recognised as a reliable and responsible partner globally as he pitched for an open, secure, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

During his day-long visit to Mumbai, nearly two months after the BJP-led Mahayuti bloc stormed back to power in Maharashtra with a landslide mandate, the PM attended the commissioning of three naval warships, inaugurated an ISKCON temple and met ruling alliance MLAs over lunch.

"We should become a global partner in securing the sea from drugs, weapons, and terrorism, and make it safe and prosperous," he said, adding India's growing naval strength is enhancing global confidence in the country.

He was speaking after three new naval plat-

emphasised the need to protect territorial waters, ensure freedom of navigation, and secure trade supply lines.

Modi drew attention to India's significant contributions as a maritime nation. "In the Indian Ocean region, India has emerged as the 'first responder,' saving hundreds of lives and securing thousands of crores worth of national and international cargo," he said.

India's vision of a secure and inclusive Indo-Pacific region aligns with its broader global responsibilities, he said.

"India has always supported an open, secure, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," the PM emphasised.

It may be noted that China has territorial disputes with many countries in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

India's defence production has crossed Rs 1.25 lakh crore, with exports reaching more than 100 countries, he noted.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

GRAP 4 curbs invoked in Delhi as air quality dips

New Delhi The Centre's panel on Delhi-NCR's air quality on Wednesday invoked curbs under stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) amid a sharp dip in air quality due to unfavourable meteorological conditions, according to an official order.



Calm winds, low temperatures and foggy conditions allowed accumulation of pollutants in the region, with the air quality index soaring from 275 on Tuesday to 396 at 6 pm on Wednesday.

The India Meteorological Department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology predicted that the AQI may breach the 400 mark soon.

Accordingly, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) directed authorities in Delhi-NCR to "straightway invoke" all actions under stages 3 and 4 with immediate effect.

Stage 4 curbs include a ban on all construction activities, entry of non-essential polluting trucks into Delhi, and mandatory shifting of school classes, except for classes 10 and 12, to hybrid mode.

Non-essential diesel

trucks are prohibited from entering Delhi, while Delhi-registered BS-IV and older diesel-run heavy goods vehicles are banned, except for essential services under Stage 4.

CAQM on Wednesday issued a notice to declare the change in GRAP measures where they mentioned that the Sub Committee on GRAP has decided to invoke all actions under Stage-III (Severe Air Quality of Delhi) & also Stage-IV (Severe+ Air Quality of Delhi) of extant Schedule of GRAP, with immediate effect in Delhi-NCR to prevent further deterioration of the air quality and keeping in mind the Supreme Court's earlier directives. The Stage-I and II actions are already in force. Agency

Ensure separate toilets for transgenders, disabled: SC

New Delhi The Supreme Court on Wednesday said availability of public toilets is an important duty of the state governments and Union territories and steps need to be taken to ensure that such facilities are accessible to all.

Issuing a slew of directions on a PIL filed by a lawyer, the apex court asked all the high courts, state governments and UTs to ensure availability of separate toilet facilities for males, females, persons with disabilities (PwDs), and transgender persons in all court premises and tribunals across the country.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan while hearing the plea said public health is of paramount importance and creation of adequate public toilets also protects the privacy and removes the threat to women and transgender persons.

"The High Courts shall oversee and ensure that these facilities are clearly identifiable and accessible to Judges, advocates, litigants, and court staff.

"For the aforesaid purpose, a committee shall be constituted in each of the High Courts under the chairmanship of a Judge nominated by the Chief Justice and members comprising the Registrar General/Registrar of the High Court, the Chief Secretary, the PWD Secretary and the Finance Secretary of the State, a representative of the Bar Association and any other officers as they deem it fit, within a period of six weeks," the bench said. Agency

Rajnath for modernizing armed forces to tackle evolving challenges

Staff Reporter Pune Government is leaving no stone unturned to transform the Armed Forces into a modern warfare machine in view of the dynamic geopolitical world order and the constantly-changing character of warfare," said Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh during his address at "Gaurav Gatha", an event organised in Pune on January 15, 2025 as part of the 77th Army Day celebrations.

Raksha Mantri highlighted the increasing use of unconventional and asymmetrical methods in today's warfare, and exhorted the Armed Forces to always remain vigilant and ready to face any challenge.

"Conflicts and wars will become more violent & unpredictable. The emergence of non-state actors in many countries



and their resorting to terrorism is also a matter of concern. Due to the rapid technological advancements, future wars witness a change to a great extent. Cyber and space domains are rapidly emerging as new war zones. Along with this, a war of narrative as well as perception is also being fought all over the world. The military must focus on holistic capacity building and reforms," said Rajnath Singh.

Raksha Mantri emphasised on the need for a robust security system, strong military and secure borders to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He asserted that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is constantly striving to bolster the strength of the Armed Forces by equipping them with the latest weapons & platforms, and the focus is on modernisation through self-reliance.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Father kills woman for refusing to marry as cops stand outside

Gwalior A 20-year-old woman was allegedly shot dead in Gwalior city by her father and her cousin for refusing to marry the man chosen by them even as police officials were present right outside the house, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The accused allegedly pumped four bullets into the body of Tanu Gurjar, the victim, police said.

The incident took place in Gola ka Mandir area on Tuesday night, said City Superintendent of Police Nagendra Singh Sikarwar.

"The victim was to get married on January 18, but she was not ready to marry the man chosen by her family," he said.

There were heated arguments between the woman and her parents on Tuesday night. Local police came to know about the tense situation, and two constables including a woman cop reached the spot to intervene, the official said.

As there was wedding atmosphere in the house, the police personnel chose to stay outside and keep an eye on the situation, he said.

While the relatives tried to pacify the woman and her parents, her father Mahesh Singh Gurjar (45) flew into rage. He and his nephew Rahul then allegedly shot Tanu with a country-made firearm and a pistol, the official said. She suffered four bullet injuries. Agency

Army fully ready, capable to deal with any situation: Gen Dwivedi

Pune Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said the situation along the northern border is sensitive but stable while asserting that his force is fully ready and capable of dealing with any situation. In his address at the 77th Army Day celebrations here, he also said the ceasefire is maintained along the Line of Control (LoC) but "attempts to infiltrate continue".

He said the situation along the northern border is sensitive but stable. "Our Army is fully ready and capable to deal with any situation,"



HIGHLIGHT

Gen Dwivedi also underlined that special attention has been given to develop modern equipment and critical infrastructure at northern border.

bration in Pune reflects "our deep link" with the heritage of the region, he said. Pune hosted the celebrations for the first time. The Army Day Parade (ADP) took place at Bombay Engineers Group (BEG) and Centre here which comes under the Army's Southern Command. Agency

India's exports contract 1% to \$38.01 bn in December, trade deficit at \$21.94 bn

New Delhi India's trade deficit narrowed to \$21.94 billion in December after last month's shocking surge to a lifetime high on the back of miscalculations in gold imports, government data showed on Wednesday.

Exports contracted for the second month in a row by about one per cent vis-a-vis year to \$38.01 billion due to global uncertainties, while imports rose by about 5 per cent to \$59.95 billion.

Key export sectors, including petroleum, gems and jewellery, and chemicals, have registered negative growth during the month under review.



Petroleum product shipments have declined by 28 per cent to \$4.91 billion last month. During the first nine months of this fiscal also, these exports contracted by 20.84 per cent year-on-year to \$49 billion.

However, textiles, electronics, engineering, rice and marine products recorded healthy growth in December 2024.

HIGHLIGHT

During April-December this financial year, exports increased by 1.6 per cent to \$321.71 billion and imports by 5.15 per cent to \$532.48 billion.

Cumulatively, during April-December this fiscal, exports recorded a growth of 1.6 per cent to \$321.71 billion and imports by 5.15 per cent to \$532.48 billion.

Trade deficit, the difference between imports and exports, during April-December widened to \$210.77 billion from \$189.71 billion during the same period previous fiscal. Agency

Indian Navy commissions three warships together

CONT FROM PAGE-1

In the last decade, 39 of the 40 naval vessels inducted were built in Indian shipyards, reflecting our commitment to 'Make in India', he said.

Referring to the Navy's adoption of indigenous symbols inspired by the 17th century Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Modi said, "This reflects our resolve to free ourselves from colonial legacies while embracing our heritage."

Earlier, the PM witnessed the commissioning of warships INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer.

INS Nilgiri, the lead ship of the Project 17A stealth frigate class, is equipped with advanced stealth technology and reduced radar signatures, making it a significant advancement over its predecessors.

INS Surat, the final vessel of the Project 15B stealth destroyer class, enhances the Navy's surface fleet with improvements in design and capability.

INS Vaghsheer, the 6th submarine under the Scorpene-class Project 75, is designed for roles such as anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and intelligence gathering.

In the evening, the PM travelled to Kharghar in adjoining Navi Mumbai to inaugurate an ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) temple.

Speaking on the occasion, he said India's spiritual culture is deeply rooted in the spirit of service and his government has been working selflessly for people's welfare for more than a decade.

Rajnat for modernizing armed forces to tackle evolving challenges

CONT FROM PAGE-1
Raksha Mantri enumerated the steps taken by the Government to promote self-reliance, including the notification of positive indigenous lists of over 5,500 items. He stated that MoD is moving ahead at an unprecedented pace and in a planned manner towards making the defence sector strong and 'Aatmanirbhar'.

Raksha Mantri paid tributes to the country's brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the motherland while safeguarding the borders with unmatched valour & commitment. He commended the Indian Army personnel for protecting the nation from external threats, and playing a crucial role in dealing with internal challenges & natural disasters.

On the occasion, Raksha Mantri virtually laid the foundation stone for the Army Paralympic Node, which will be established at Dighi, Pune. He expressed confidence that the Node will inspire the Diyyang soldiers of the Indian Army to participate in international events such as Paralympics, Commonwealth & Asian Para Games and bring laurels to the nation.

Rajnat Singh also launched the Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan App, through which the people of the country will be able to visit historical war zones easily and learn about them.

Agency

Indian Army celebrates its 77th Army Day with military splendor & solemnity at Pune

■ General Upendra Dwivedi, as the Reviewing Officer, took the salute during the spectacular parade, which was commanded by Major General Anurag Vij, General Officer Commanding, Dhakshin Maharashtra and Goa Sub Area.

Abhishek Bhabhut Pune

The Indian Army celebrated its 77th Army Day with military splendor and solemnity at the Bombay Engineers' Group and Centre Parade Ground in Pune, Maharashtra, on 15th January 2025.

Nepal Army band, an all-girl marching team from the NCC, all-women Agniveer contingent, and a set of "robotic mules" were among the key attractions in the prestigious parade.

This marks the third occasion that the Army Day Parade was held outside Delhi, following the decision to bring this prestigious event to other parts of the country. For the Southern Command, this is the second time the parade has been hosted under its aegis, the first being in Bangalore in 2023.

The event was attended by various military and civil dignitaries including General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff.

The parade commenced with a Wreath Laying ceremony at the Command War Memorial, where General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), paid tribute to the brave soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice for the nation.

General Upendra Dwivedi, as the Reviewing Officer, took the salute during the spectacular parade, which was commanded by Major General Anurag Vij, General Officer Commanding, Dhakshin Maharashtra and Goa Sub Area.

The 77th Army Day Parade was marked by the presentation of 52 prestigious awards. Among the highlights were 15 Sena Medals (Gallantry), including 8 posthumous awards, and 37 Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Unit Appreciations, which recognised the outstanding efforts of units across the command.

In his address to the troops, General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS extended his heartfelt greetings to all ranks of the Indian Army, their families, veterans, war widows and civil defence personnel.

The COAS also presented the Veterans Achievers Award to several distinguished individuals, including Colonel (Dr) and Mrs Ratan Kumar Mukherjee, Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Monish Ahuja and Havaldar and Mrs Bajrang Nimbakkar.

This recognition celebrated their significant contributions to society after retirement, honouring their continued service in various fields such as education, entrepreneurship and social work.

The parade featured an impressive march-past with eight distinguished marching contingents, representing various Regimental Centers, including the Maratha



T-90 Bhishma tanks on display during the 77th Army Day Parade, at Khadi in Pune, Wednesday.

Pinaka, a multi-barrel rocket launcher, on display during the 77th Army Day Parade, at Khadi in Pune, Wednesday.

In a remarkable first, Agniveer women's marching contingent participated in the Army Day Parade at Pune on January 15 furthering the remarkable journey of women in the Indian Army.

Regimental Centre, Belgaum, Artillery Centre Nashik, Army Ordnance Regimental Centre, Secunderabad, Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre, Ahilya Nagar, Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington, the BGB Centre, Khadi, and the Mounted Army Service Corps Horse Contingent.

In a remarkable first, two special contingents participated in the parade: the Women Agniveer Contingent from the Corps of Military Police, symbolising the increasing role of women in the Indian Army, and the Girl's NCC Contingent from Maharashtra Directorate. These contingents reflected the progress and inclusivity of the Indian Armed Forces.

A fly-past by Sukhoi aircraft and Army helicopters further enhanced the grandeur of the parade.

The parade also honoured Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra awardees, including Honorary Captain Yogendra Singh Yadav, PVC, Sub

Major Sanjay Kumar, PVC and Colonel DS-Nashik, Army Ordnance Regimental Centre, Secunderabad, Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre, Ahilya Nagar, Madras Regimental Centre, Wellington, the BGB Centre, Khadi, and the Mounted Army Service Corps Horse Contingent.

For the first time, the Nepal Army Band also participated in the parade, symbolising the enduring friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

The 77th Army Day Parade also witnessed an impressive array of vehicle-mounted contingents, equipment and cutting-edge technologies, showcasing the Indian Army's advancements and preparedness for modern warfare.

Among the highlighted equipment were the K-9 Vajra self-propelled

howitzer, the BMP-2 Sarath infantry combat vehicle and the formidable T-90 tanks, symbolising the strength and versatility of the Indian Army.

The parade featured a range of innovations, including the Robotic Mule, a quadrupedal unmanned ground vehicle designed for reconnaissance and perimeter security, and the Swathi Weapon Locating Radar, which enhances the Army's ability to track hostile artillery and ensure precise counterfire.

The Sarvatra Bridging System, an indigenous rapid-deployment assault bridge, and the Multi-Barrel Rocket System also made a notable appearance, emphasising the Army's capability to respond swiftly and efficiently in diverse combat scenarios.

Another groundbreaking highlight was the ATOR N1200 - All-Terrain Vehicle, an amphibious vehicle capable of seamlessly operating across swamps, snow, and water bodies and the Vehicle Mounted Infantry Mortar System (VMIMS), designed for quick deployment and precise targeting, focusing agility and accuracy in modern combat.

In line with its forward-looking approach, the parade also featured Drone Jammer Systems to counter UAV threats and Mobile Communication Nodes to ensure seamless communication in remote and difficult terrains.

The parade further included inspiring tableaux such as Indian Army's Mission Olympics initiative, Role of Veterans in Nation-Building, Army's initiatives toward Net Zero Carbon Emissions and the Technological Infusion tableau were a major highlight that reflected the Indian Army's commitment to technology absorption and nation-building.

Cong's 'ugly truth' exposed by its own leader: Nadda



New Delhi
Rahul Gandhi's remarks that "we are now fighting the BJP, the RSS and the Indian state itself" triggered a row on Wednesday, with BJP president J P Nadda claiming that the Congress "ugly truth" has been exposed by its own leader.

Nadda alleged on X that it is not a secret that Gandhi and his ecosystem have close links with urban nexals and the deep state who want to "defame, demean and discredit" India.

He said Gandhi's repeated actions have also strengthened this belief. Everything he has done or said has been in the direction of breaking India and dividing our society, Nadda said.

Speaking at the inauguration of the new building of the Congress party's headquarters, Gandhi had said earlier that the BJP and the RSS have captured every

single institution of our country.

He added, "We are now fighting the BJP, the RSS and the Indian state itself." Hitting back, Nadda said, "Hidden no more, Congress' ugly truth now stands exposed by their own leader."

"I 'compliment' Mr. Rahul Gandhi for saying clearly what the nation knows—that he is fighting the Indian state!" he said.

The BJP president charged that the Congress has a history of encouraging all those forces who want a weak India.

"Their greed for power meant compromising the nation's integrity and betraying the trust of the people," Nadda said, adding, people of India are wise, and they have decided they will always reject Rahul Gandhi and his rotten ideology.

Rajesh Bhardwaj appointed as Chairman of WCIA



New Delhi
DCCI Chairman, Corporate Affairs & Communication (PD & Wheelchair) Rajesh Bhardwaj appointed as Chairman of Wheelchair Cricket India Association (WCIA).

Wheelchair Cricket India Association (WCIA) is dedicated to the welfare of disabled players playing wheelchair cricket in the country. WCIA President and Joint Secretary of DCCI Squadron Leader (Retd) Pratap Singh (Retd) appointed DCCI Chairman Corporate Affairs & Communication Mr. Rajesh Bhardwaj as the new Chairman of Wheelchair Cricket India Association (WCIA), on the auspicious day of Makar Sankranti.

Squadron Leader Abhay Pratap Singh (Retd) visited Rajesh Bhardwaj's residence in Noida and handed over the appointment letter to him for this post and expressed hope that Mr. Bhardwaj will work tirelessly for the upliftment of players playing wheelchair cricket and will take the sport and the players to new heights.

It is worth noting that Mr. Rajesh Bhardwaj took charge of the post of Chairman, Corporate Affairs & Communication of the Differently Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI) on 6 February 2024, in which the Indian man won 3-0. After this, the Sri Lanka wheelchair cricket team visited India from 11 June 2024 to 16 June 2024 and a series of 5 T-20 matches was organized in Greater Noida. In this series, the Indian team won with a

margin of 5-0.

Apart from this, a national tournament of teams from 24 states was organized in Udaipur and 25 October, 2024. Currently the PD Champions Trophy of 4 countries is also going on in Sri Lanka between 1 January to 21 January, which includes disabled teams of England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka apart from India. Mr. Rajesh Bhardwaj is going to tour Sri Lanka on 18 January.

Along with this, DCCI is organizing the 4th National Wheelchair Cricket Championship 2025 from 5 February to 15 February 2025 at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Handicapped Sports Training Centre in Gwalior. This championship will include 18 teams representing 18 states in which more than 250 elite wheelchair cricket players will showcase their skills.

Shri Rajesh Bhardwaj believes that these physically disabled children playing cricket should get the same sports facilities as the main cricket team. He wants these children to get coaching like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, five-star hotels like them for their stay, air-conditioned buses like the Indian team for their transportation.



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PUBLIC NOTICE
That to certify that my client Mr. Ramesh Chand Sharma S/o. Sh. Tara Chand Sharma Along with his wife Mrs. Bhawati Devi W/o Sh. Ramesh Chand Sharma H.No. 50/2, Kolla Vihar, Phase-2, Tilang Pur, Kotla West Delhi-110043. Presently Residing at 39/40 G/F, Tilang Pur, Kolla Vihar, Ngongli New Delhi-110043. Both of them Has Debarred and Disowned their Children's Namely Sunny Sharma @ Yogesh Elkar son along with his wife Kajal @ Kavita and their Younger son Shivam Sharma From Immovable effect from all their moveable and immovable properties due to his disrespectful behavior and being out of control and have Severed all their relation with him. If anybody does in any manner but the shall do at his/her own risks and consequences. My client shall not be liable or responsible for the same in any manner.

Yogesh Rohilla Advocate
C/o No. 885, Dwarka Court, Dwarka, Delhi-110075
M. 8886807632

Adv Contact: 9818-799941

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is informed that my client Sh. Amit S/o Late Madan R/o H. No. 269, MCTD Flats, Awantika, Sector 1, Kirti, New Delhi-110045. My client has broken off relationship with his younger brother namely Bantay S/o Late Sh. Madan and sister in law (younger brother's wife) namely Soma W/o Sh. Bunty both R/o Mahavir Enclave, Palam, New Delhi due to personal differences, erratic and disturbing behavior with my client to my client and his family. My client does not wish to have any kind of relationship with them in future.

R.D. Pandey Advocate
C/o No. 259, Dwarka Court Complex, Sec-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75. Mob. 9871321615

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Sh. R.K. Malhotra S/o Lt. Sh. C.S. Malhotra and his wife Hema Malhotra and their daughter Prayanshi R/o L&K 77A, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110018 have severed all their relations with their son/brother namely Ramesh Malhotra and his wife Megha Kne Megha Sachdeva and have disowned them from all their moveable and immovable properties, as they are not under the control of my above said clients. Any person dealing with above said Ramesh Malhotra and his wife Megha Kne Megha Sachdeva, shall be doing so at his/her own risks and responsibilities and my clients shall not be responsible for their acts(s), deed(s) and misdeed(s).

Kiran Shah Advocate
R/o RZ 47145, Jagatamba Vihar, West-Sagarpur, New Delhi-46

PUBLIC NOTICE
I am the owner through GVA/ATS and WILL dated 16/09/24 and purchase from Vinod Kumar Kohli. In this property there is no SMC of Umlia Kohli w/o Sh. Vinod Kohli as favour of her legal heirs Dharmender Kohli(smt), son, Umlia Malhotra (Daughter) and Vinod Kumar Kohli (Husband) due to this documents. I am giving the news paper publication.

If any body having any type of claim/rights title interest over the said property may inform within 7 days from today.

Dhananjai Kumar Advocate
Chamber No.635 Dwarka Court New Delhi-110075
Mob: 9810593498

PUBLIC NOTICE
I know to all that my client Sh. Arun Kumar Verma owner of SECOND FLOOR BACK SIDE, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, PLOT NO. C-43 & C-44, ARE MEASURING 40 SQ. YDS. YDS. KHARSA NO. 373,VILLAGE BINDAPUR, COLONY SANJAY ENCLAVE UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 and Sh. Arun Kumar Verma S/o Balkrishna Das Verma purchased aforementioned property from Vikrant Trading & Construction Co. thru its prop. Sh. Vikas Tripathi (Share 75%) & 2) Sh. Deepak Datta (Share 25%). GFA, ATS, and WILL dated 04/05/2023, and it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right or interest in the said property then he may contact within 7 days from today and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

Dhananjai Kumar Advocate
Chamber No.635 Dwarka Court New Delhi-110075
Mob: 9810593498

PUBLIC NOTICE
I know to all that my client Sh. S. Lakh Singh S/o S. Asha Singh and Smt. Urmila Singh (Share 25%) GFA, ATS, and WILL dated 04/05/2023, and it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any type of claim/rights title interest over the said property may inform within 7 days from today. Said property is free from all type of Encumbrance lien etc.

Dhananjai Kumar Advocate
Chamber No.635 Dwarka Court New Delhi-110075
Mob: 9810593498

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rules made strict to prevent cheating in board exams

Noida
To prevent cheating in UP Board's high school and intermediate examinations and to make the examination process transparent, the rules for appointment of room inspectors have been made strict.

At each examination centre, 50 percent room inspectors will be deployed from internal schools and the room inspectors will be issued an ID card with a QR code. The computerised identity card with QR code will contain information such as name, place of duty, photo, name of school, graduation subject, subject of teaching, post, mobile number etc.

There is less than a month left for the board examinations to begin. Around 41,890 students of high school and intermediate will take part in the examination. There will be 22,130 students in class 10th and 19,760 students in class 12th.

District school inspector Dr. Dharamvir Singh said that the security arrangements at the centres have been strengthened further. All principals have been instructed to put all the arrangements in order. A separate control room will be set up for each block, through which the centres will be monitored 24 hours a day.

Scared of Delhi Congress, AAP changing candidates

A scared former CM Arvind Kejriwal today changed the Aam Aadmi Party candidates for the Hari Nagar and Narela assembly constituencies, which exposed his party's non performance in the past 11 years after misleading the people with false promises, the Delhi Congress said in a statement.

Staff Reporter New Delhi
The Delhi Congress here on Wednesday accused the AAP of changing its candidates, saying scared of Delhi Congress guarantees for the people of Delhi ahead of the assembly elections and the strong, experienced candidates named by the Congress, the AAP party is changing its candidates.

A scared former CM Arvind Kejriwal today changed the Aam Aadmi Party candidates for the Hari Nagar and Narela assembly constituencies, which exposed his party's non performance in the past 11 years after misleading the people with false promises, the Delhi Congress said in a statement. Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said that till now, Kejriwal was creating a false narrative, but now he and the BJP leaders had realised that people were rooting for the Congress, and the AAP and the BJP were staring at certain defeat as they had squandered the past 11 years in charges and counter charges without addressing the problems of the people. Yadav said that while Kejriwal was changing his candidates, the people of Delhi have resolved to throw him out of power, as you cannot fool the people all the time with empty rhetoric.

Delhi witnesses season's first intense fog spell, IMD issues orange alert

New Delhi
Dense fog engulfed parts of the national capital on Wednesday, marking the season's first intense fog spell lasting three hours, which disrupted the schedules of over 100 flights and 26 trains due to low visibility.

The fog significantly reduced visibility during the morning hours, improved slightly in between and then once again shrouded the city as evening approached.

"Delhi experienced very dense fog on the morning of January 15, with visibility dropping to zero at Safdarjung and IGI Airport from 8:30 am, persisting till 11:30 am," the IMD stated. "This was the season's first instance of dense fog, and CAT-III operations extended beyond 9:30 am, with RVR at IGI Airport runways ranging from between 75-300 meters during the peak fog period."



It added. By 12:30 pm, visibility had slightly improved to 250 meters at Safdarjung and 400 meters at IGI Airport (Palam), with moderate fog prevailing at that time. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for Delhi, with dense to very dense fog reported in several areas.

An orange alert is issued for bad weather that can disrupt rail and road services. The minimum temperature dropped to 6 degrees Celsius, 1.4 degrees below normal, while the maximum temperature was recorded at 18.1 degrees Celsius, 1.8 degrees below normal.

The weather department advised caution, saying, "Drivers should use fog lights and exercise extreme care while on the road. Travellers should stay in touch with airlines, railways, and state transport authorities for updates on schedules." The IMD had also predicted light rain or drizzle during the day. The humidity level fluctuated between 97 per cent and 95 per cent.

For Thursday, the weather department has predicted cloudy skies with light rain and dense fog conditions. The minimum temperature is expected to settle around 10 degrees Celsius, while the maximum is likely to hover around 17 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the 24-hour air quality average in the city stood in the "very poor" category, with a reading of 386. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

Congress chief Devender Yadav files nomination from Badli

New Delhi
Delhi Congress chief and party candidate from Badli constituency Devender Yadav on Wednesday filed his nomination papers for the February 5 Assembly polls. He declared a net worth of Rs 46.85 crore.

Yadav has Rs 3.37 crore as movable assets, including four cars, and over Rs 15.36 lakh in cash. His wife has movable assets of Rs 2.05 crore which includes 1,250 grams of gold. He has liabilities of Rs 1.81 crore.

Yadav's total immovable assets are Rs 41.42 crore. His income for the financial year 2023-24 was Rs 70.47

lakh, while his wife's was Rs 25.24 lakh during the same period. Yadav has one pending criminal case.

He had immovable assets worth Rs 34.71 crore in 2020 and his wife had Rs 1 crore of immovable assets. Yadav had Rs 4.94 crore of movable assets, while his wife had Rs 1.30 crore of movable assets during the last nomination.

Taking on Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal, he claimed that the former Delhi chief minister was scared of the Congress' poll guarantees and has therefore, changed the AAP candidates from Hari Nagar and Narela Assembly con-

stituencies. It also exposes the AAP's non performance in the last 11 years as the party has been misleading the people with false promises, Yadav said.

Yadav said he has always been blessed and loved by the people of Badli who elected him on four occasions as the legislator and municipal councillor. He asserted that he never failed in honouring his responsibilities and ensuring the development of the constituency.

He said Kejriwal was an impostor who wears oversized shirts and broken slippers to mislead the people.

2 youths held for raping girl on pretext of birthday celebration

Gurugram
Police have arrested two youths for allegedly raping a 14-year-old girl at a guest house under the pretext of a birthday celebration, police said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred on Sunday night when the rape survivor reportedly left her home without informing her parents. She left with her friend Anshu to celebrate Avinash's birthday at a guest house, police said. The main accused, Avinash raped the girl after Anshu left the venue, police said.

The survivor, studying in Class 8, returned home on



Monday morning and informed her family who then approached the police. Both the accused, aged around 20 years, were arrested on Wednesday. Avinash is a resident of Gandhi Nagar in Gurugram while Anshu lives in Shivji Park, a senior police officer said.

Delhi CEO flags off autos on voter awareness campaign

New Delhi
Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi, Alice Vaz, on Wednesday, flagged off a fleet of specially designed autos with an aim to promote voter awareness ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections.

These autos will tour all 70 Assembly constituencies of Delhi spreading the message of the importance of voting and encouraging citizens to actively participate in the democratic process. More than 3,000 auto-rickshaws have been deployed for this awareness campaign. Speaking on the occasion, Vaz said, "Voting is not just a right but a responsibility that strengthens the foundation of democracy. Through this campaign, we hope to inspire every eligible voter in Delhi to come forward and make their voice heard."

The autos, adorned with vibrant posters and slogans, will serve as mobile awareness units, disseminating information about voting procedures, polling dates, and the importance of every single vote. This innovative approach is part of a broader effort by the Election Commission to ensure maximum voter turnout and inclusive participation in the upcoming elections.



Earlier, recognising the growing threat of misinformation, disinformation and fake news, especially during Assembly elections, the CEO launched a dedicated Myths Vs Facts Register. This initiative aims to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process by providing a reliable repository of verified information related to elections in India.

She said, "This initiative is a significant step towards safeguarding Delhi voters from the harmful effects of fake news. The five principles of the Congress — democracy, nationalism, secularism, inclusive growth and justice — are inscribed on one of the walls of the building. As one enters the building, the wall in front adorns the pictures of the party's first president WC Benerjee and current chief Kharage.

Sonia inaugurates Cong's new Kotla Road HQs

New Delhi
The Congress' new headquarters located at 9A, Kotla Road here was inaugurated on Wednesday, as the grand old party turned a page in its history after operating from its iconic 24, Akbar Road premises for the last 47 years.

Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi inaugurated the plush five-storey building in the presence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and KC Venugopal, among other senior leaders. Indira Gandhi Bhawan, constructed by L&T and designed by Hafeez Contractor, narrates the tale of the party's 139-year-old history with its walls adorning pictures from the freedom struggle to the party's governance achievements.

The five principles of the Congress — democracy, nationalism, secularism, inclusive growth and justice — are inscribed on one of



the walls of the building. As one enters the building, the wall in front adorns the pictures of the party's first president WC Benerjee and current chief Kharage.

While BR Ambedkar's picture with an inspirational quote adorns a wall, several other rare pictures showcasing India's struggle for independence and the Congress leaders' contribution are also put up across the five stories. From Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to Subhas Chandra Bose and from Rabinadrath Tagore to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, their

contributions are highlighted.

The party's 139-year history is showcased through out the building on the walls, in a unique blend of traditional and the modern. Achievements of Congress prime ministers are also highlighted including Jawaharlal Nehru's push for development of science and technology, Lal Bahadur Shastri's support for "Kisan and Jawan", Indira Gandhi's nationalisation move and the 1971 win over Pakistan, Rajiv Gandhi's peace pacts and IT revolution, P V Narasimha Rao's opening up of the economy

Kejriwal files nomination from New Delhi constituency

New Delhi
AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday filed his nomination from New Delhi constituency for the upcoming assembly elections and urged people to vote based on work and not "abuses".

Before filing his nomination papers, Kejriwal, accompanied by his wife Sunita, offered prayers at Hanuman and Valmiki temples. He then led a 'padayatra' from the AAP office to the New Delhi district magistrate's office, where he filed his nomination.

Hundreds of AAP workers, carrying party flags, walked with the former chief minister. After filing his nomination, Kejriwal expressed confidence that the AAP would return to power in Delhi. "AAP will form the government with full majority," he told reporters.

"I want to request the people of Delhi to vote based on work and not abuses," he said.

Attacking the BJP, Kejriwal said the party has no vision, no chief ministerial face and no narrative.

"They are not telling what work they will do in the next five years. People of Delhi cannot be bought with a pair of shoes, people are seeing what the BJP is doing," he said.

On reports about a threat to his life from a pro-Khalistan outfit, the AAP leader said God was with him.

"Jako rakhe saiyam maar sake na koye (Those protected by God cannot be killed by anyone). God is with me. One lives as long as their lifetime. The day one's lifetime ends, God calls them," he told reporters after offering prayers at the Prachin Hanuman temple. Sunita Kejriwal said the

people of Delhi know who will provide better governance.

"People know who can provide leadership. So, people will decide," she said. Kejriwal has held the New Delhi seat since 2013. He is pitted against BJP's Parvash Varma and Congress leader Sandeep Dixit this time.

Voting for the 70-member Delhi Assembly is scheduled to be held on February 5. The counting of votes will be taken up on February 8.

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ARPAN SHARMA & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATES
CH. NO. 435, LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK ROHINI COURTS, DELHI

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TO KNOW ALL PEOPLE, that my client Sh. Harish Chand Rajora S/o Late Sh. Bhanwar Singh along with his wife Smt. Urvu Devi R/o H. No. 208, Block C, Chandan Vihar, Nanpuri, Dist. West, Delhi-110041, have disowned/debarred his son Shri yaman along with his wife Pooja from inheriting their/his all movable and immovable properties which find out anywhere else in my name and in the name of my family members, due to their hostile behaviour towards my client his family members and due to have made attempt of commit suicide. If anybody will deals with them they shall do so at their own risk and cost and they will be self responsible, my client alongwith his family members shall not held any responsibility for their any act. My client and his other family members also have finished/dispensed their social relation with them for future.
MAN PAKSHARAJORA ADVOCATE
SUPREME COURT OF INDIA Ch. No. B-45 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

Man killed in drunken brawl in Delhi, juvenile among 4 held

New Delhi
Four people, including a juvenile, were held for allegedly stabbing a man to death in south Delhi following a drunken brawl, police said on Wednesday.

The victim, identified as Saif alias Golu (29), was a resident of Sangam Vihar with a criminal background. According to police, Saif was a known offender at the Tigri Police Station and had been expelled due to his involvement in more than five criminal cases.

Despite this, he was hiding in a rented flat in the Tigri area. "On January 12, Saif was



drinking with Nitesh, Abhishek, Deepu and a juvenile — at his rented flat," police said. Saif reportedly began humiliating others, leading to a verbal spat that quickly escalated into a physical altercation.

One of the accused stabbed Saif multiple times before fleeing the scene, police said. A PCR call alerted the police to the incident on January 13. Investigators reviewed CCTV footage and

As one enters the building, the wall in front adorns the pictures of the party's first president WC Benerjee and current chief Kharage. While BR Ambedkar's picture with an inspirational quote adorns a wall, several other rare pictures showcasing India's struggle for independence and the Congress leaders' contribution are also put up across the five stories. From Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to Subhas Chandra Bose and from Rabinadrath Tagore to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, their

contributions are highlighted. The party's 139-year history is showcased through out the building on the walls, in a unique blend of traditional and the modern. Achievements of Congress prime ministers are also highlighted including Jawaharlal Nehru's push for development of science and technology, Lal Bahadur Shastri's support for "Kisan and Jawan", Indira Gandhi's nationalisation move and the 1971 win over Pakistan, Rajiv Gandhi's peace pacts and IT revolution, P V Narasimha Rao's opening up of the economy

2 Iranians 'hypnotize' shop owner to steal money, held

Gurugram
Gurugram police has arrested two Iran nationals for allegedly cheating a shop owner of Rs 45,000 by "hypnotizing" him, officials said on Wednesday.

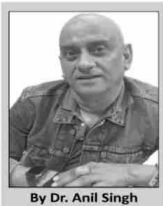
According to police, a shop owner filed a complaint on Sunday that three foreign nationals had come to his money exchange shop on January 9.

The complainant claimed that he was "hypnotized" by the accused and they made him transfer Rs 45,000 by pretending to have foreign

currency, police said. Based on his complaint, an FIR was registered at Rajender Park Police Station. Police arrested Rizwan Khan and Ghulam, Iran nationals, on Monday.

"Police investigation revealed that the accused do not have any valid documents to reside in India and have been carrying out financial frauds by 'hypnotizing' shop owners," they said. Police recovered Rs 9,000 cash, some foreign currency, a duplicate number plate and a car.

Delhi Assembly Polls: A Battle of Strategies, Surprises, and Political Dynamics



By Dr. Anil Singh

The Delhi Assembly polls are shaping up to be an intense political battleground, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and Congress vying for dominance in the capital's unique political landscape. This election is not merely about securing seats in the assembly but also about defining political narratives and setting the tone for broader electoral battles.

The AAP, Defending its Turf
The Aam Aadmi Party, under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, is seeking to retain power for a third consecutive term. Over the years, AAP has built its reputation on governance-oriented policies, focusing on health, education, and public infrastructure. The "Delhi Model" has been the party's hallmark, with flagship initiatives like the Mohalla Clinics, free water and electricity schemes, and world-class government schools. However, this time, AAP faces a dual challenge: anti-incumbency and intensified attacks from its political rivals.

The Aam Aadmi Party, under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, is seeking to retain power for a third consecutive term. Over the years, AAP has built its reputation on governance-oriented policies, focusing on health, education, and public infrastructure.

The recent corruption allegations, especially linked to the Delhi liquor policy, have given BJP ample ammunition to target Kejriwal and his team. AAP's leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, have been embroiled in legal battles, which BJP claims are evidence of "institutional corruption." These allegations threaten AAP's carefully curated image of a corruption-free governance party.

Nevertheless, AAP remains confident, banking on its core voter base of the urban poor, women, and middle-class households benefiting directly from its schemes. Its leadership has also sharpened his rhetoric, portraying himself as a people's leader fighting against a "vindictive BJP."

The BJP: Seeking a Breakthrough
For BJP, the Delhi Assembly has been a tough nut to crack. Despite its dominance in national politics and repeated electoral successes in municipal elections in Delhi, the assembly polls have eluded the saffron party since 1998. This time, BJP's strategy revolves around leveraging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity, aggressive campaigning, and a no-holds-barred attack decimate AAP.

The BJP has consistently highlighted law-and-order concerns, the alleged corruption in AAP's governance, and infrastructure bottlenecks to corner Kejriwal's government. The party is emphasizing nationalistic issues, aiming to consolidate its traditional voter base of middle-class and upper-class urbanites, while attempting to penetrate AAP's strongholds.

However, BJP also faces internal challenges. Its inability to project a credible chief ministerial candidate has often been a weak point. The party's reliance on Modi's charisma may not be enough to counter AAP's grassroots-level governance narrative. Moreover, BJP's aggressive approach, often seen as confrontational, risks alienating undecided voters who may find Kejriwal's softer, populist image more relatable.

Interestingly, for BJP, this election is a win-win situation. If it secures a victory, it will mark the party's breakthrough into Delhi's legislative governance. If it loses, the governance of Delhi ultimately remains under its control through the Lieutenant Governor (LG), appointed by the central government. With critical subjects like law and order already under the purview of the LG, BJP and AAP engage in fierce attacks, Congress

lative priorities, regardless of the electoral outcome.

Congress: A Surprising Contender

The Congress party, which has been a marginal player in Delhi since 2013, could emerge as the biggest gainer in the upcoming elections. Under Sheila Dikshit's leadership, Congress had ruled Delhi for three consecutive terms, but the party has struggled to recover after back-to-back electoral defeats. However, the political tides may be shifting in Congress's favor.

The Grand Old Party has adopted a measured approach, focusing on reviving its grassroots connect and presenting itself as a stable alternative. Unlike BJP and AAP, Congress has steered clear of polarizing rhetoric, instead emphasizing local issues like inflation, unemployment, and public welfare. The party has also been buoyed by a quiet resurgence of its traditional vote bank, including minorities, Dalits, and lower-income groups, who seem disillusioned with both BJP and AAP.

Congress's unexpected success in recent state elections, where it defied predictions to oust BJP in Himachal Pradesh and wrest Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh back into its fold, has reinvigorated its cadres. The party's leadership in Delhi, though fractured, appears to be consolidating under younger, energetic faces who are working to rebuild trust among voters.

The Triangular Contest

This assembly election in Delhi is unique because it is no longer a two-party battle between AAP and BJP. Congress's re-entry into the political arena has added a third dimension to the contest, making it a triangular fight. While BJP and AAP engage in fierce attacks, Congress

has opted for a low-profile, grassroots-driven campaign.

The fragmentation of votes is likely to play a crucial role. BJP's aggressive targeting of AAP may lead to an anti-incumbency wave, but the beneficiaries might not be BJP itself. Congress is strategically positioning itself as a viable third alternative for those dissatisfied with both the Kejriwal government and BJP's confrontational politics.

Major Issues Driving the Polls

- Governance vs. Allegations: While AAP continues to highlight its governance achievements, BJP and Congress are focusing on alleged corruption and administrative lapses. The electorate's perception of AAP's governance credibility will significantly impact the outcome.

- Public Infrastructure and Services: Issues like water supply, pollution, and public transportation remain top concerns for Delhi's voters. AAP's record on these issues will be scrutinized closely.

- National vs. Local Narratives: BJP is expected to emphasize national security, Modi's leadership, and Hindutva themes, while AAP will stick to local governance narratives. Congress, meanwhile, may gain ground by staying focused on public welfare issues.

- Youth and Minority Votes: With a young population and a significant minority presence, these groups will be key determinants. AAP has traditionally enjoyed their support, but Congress is likely to eat into this voter base. BJP's alliance with the Hindu Nationalist Party (HNP) and its handling of minority issues. Impact on National Politics

The Delhi Assembly elections are also significant for their implications on national politics. A loss for AAP would dent its ambitions of expanding beyond Delhi and Punjab. For BJP, a win would mark the beginning of its penetration into assembly-level governance in the capital. A Congress resurgence, on the other hand, would bolster the party's morale, reaffirming its ability to make comebacks in urban areas.

Regardless of the outcome, BJP's strategic control over Delhi through the LG ensures it remains a key player in the capital's governance. This structural advantage allows BJP to influence Delhi's administrative and policy directions, even if AAP or Congress secures a majority in the assembly.

A Way Forward

The Delhi Assembly polls promise to be a high-stakes political drama with no clear front-runner. The BJP is pulling out all the stops to break its jinx, while AAP is striving to defend its governance legacy amidst mounting challenges. Congress, though often overlooked, is emerging as a potential spoiler and gainer, ready to disrupt traditional calculations.

As the capital braces for yet another round of electoral battles, one thing is certain: the results will not only shape Delhi's immediate political future but also send ripples across India's national political landscape. Regardless of the assembly's outcome, BJP's strategic advantage through central control ensures it remains a significant influence over Delhi, making this election a politically fascinating spectacle.

(The writer is an Editor, STAR Views, Mumbai)

Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

COVERED SIN

It's a bad news that one day your sin will be uncovered but the good news is that not all the sins and the bad news over this good news is that you don't know which ones will be uncovered and which ones will remain covered. Your life becomes miserable only with one sin uncovered, imagine how miserable your life will be if all of your sins are uncovered. You are never strong enough to fight your own weakness and never weak enough to empower your own strengths. Life is far forgiving than we think it deserves. It does more than it does to us, it overlooks much of our mistakes than we do to it. We know the rules of life but we never care to care for it, it lives with us in all the times but we never care to live for it, it takes our mistakes, it fades the pain away,

it bears the scars, it walks us through from ground to stars. But we take it for granted, make it suffer knowingly, fail it at important routines, push it to go extreme, force it to experiment with anything and everything, put it through to damaging situation, drive it to wrong direction. We sometimes behave with life as if it belongs to someone else, we sometimes are so cruel with life as if it is made of something else. Give your life a five star as a rating if you think it deserves it, give your life an excellent review if you think it deserves it, glorify it, magnify it, gratify it if you think it deserves it, don't overrate it, just confide it and give your life a life that it starts living for life.



Moral: Every sin is forgivable and every virtue is immortal.

Indian Railways wins the race of women's empowerment.

SLUG: NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE "FIRST LADIES" WHO BROKE THE MALE BASTION.



By Priyanka Saurabh

Women are in the driver's seat in the Railway Board for the first time with the latest round of appointments approved by the Cabinet. Breaking the glass ceiling, the Railway Board, already headed by a woman, now has a woman member in charge of operations and business development and another woman member of the same rank who looks after finance as Finance Member.

Women's empowerment is perhaps the most defining movement since the 20th century. We hear inspiring stories of women who have made their mark in male-dominated roles, such as in public life and government, as captains of industry, and in sports. Today women are leaders in every walk of life, and their numbers are increasing with each passing year, and yet only 6-7% of the Indian Railways employees are women. Whatever the numbers are today, the "first ladies" who stepped into the turmoil of male-dominated fields need to be recognized. They were pioneers, brave and having immense courage to enter this new territory. In the 19th century, working outside the home was frowned upon for women: male employees feared competition, while middle-class women wanted to be recognized. Social norms were strict, and gender segregation was the norm.

But as the railroads expanded, the demands for workers grew. The first women employed by rail companies were destitute widows of railway employees. Managers offered them salaried employment—

though not entirely out of pity, as they earned significantly less than their male counterparts. Jaya Chaturvedi was the first woman officer in the Railway Protection Force as part of the 1984 batch. Initially working as an administrative officer, her passion to serve the motherland and explore uncharted bastions compelled her to quit that comfortable job and jump into railway policing. Jaya not only did well in the railways but also became the first woman inspector general in the paramilitary forces in the country. Among the 1981 batch of railway candidates, M. Kalavathi was inducted as the first woman member of the Indian Railway Service of Signalling Engineers. She currently works as the chief signal engineer in the Southern Railway zone. Before joining Electrical Engineering in Jamalpur as a 1983 batch special category apprentice, Kalyani leads the 13 women who are now in service and 10 more who are doing apprenticeships in Jamalpur.

Manju Gupta, who is currently working as the Divisional Railway

Manager of the Bikaner Division Mona Shrivastava of the 1998 batch was the first woman member to join the Indian Railway Engineers Service, which was till then only for men. It was only at the beginning of this century, i.e., in 2002, that Vijayalakshmi Vishwanathan, a member of the 1967 batch, rose to the position of Finance Commissioner of the Indian Railway Board. Vijayalakshmi was also the first woman Divisional Railway Manager in Indian Railways in the late 1990s. Almost two decades later, women had a hand in breaking the next bastion of men when Padmakshi Raheja was selected as a member of the 1974 batch of the Indian Railway Traffic Service. For the next five years Padmakshi was the only woman member in IRTS. Celebrating the unbreakable and undying spirit of India and its 75 years of independence. Manju Gupta, who is currently working as Divisional Manager of Bikaner Division, was the first woman member of Indian Railway Electrical Engineers. After her induction, 14 more women followed Manju's example and entered the Indian Railway Electrical Engineers. Mona Shrivastava of the 1998 batch was the first woman

member to join the Indian Railway Engineers Service, which was all-male until then. It was only at the beginning of this century, i.e., in 2002, that Vijayalakshmi Vishwanathan, a member of the 1967 batch, rose to the position of Finance Commissioner of the Indian Railway Board. Vijayalakshmi was also the first woman Divisional Railway Manager in the Indian Railways in the late 1990s. It took almost two decades for Padmakshi Raheja to break the next male bastion when she was selected as a member of the 1974 batch of the Indian Railway Traffic Service. For the next five years, Padmakshi was the only woman member in the IRTS.

A record for the Indian Railways is that women are now in the majority on the Railway Board, the top decision-making body of the national transporter. For the first time, women are in the driver's seat in the Railway Board, already headed by a woman, now has a woman member in charge of operations and business development and another woman member of the same rank who

looks after finance as Finance Member. In another way to inspire women's empowerment, the Indian Railways started dedicating an entire train and railway station to women. Manning Railway Station, located in Matunga Road Station (Mumbai, Maharashtra) are managed by women staff. Ajni Railway Station, located in Nagpur, Maharashtra, has women track maintainers working to clean, detect track faults, and repair them. Also, to increase the number of women leaders in the Indian Railways, the government has appointed all women IRTS for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express. The Deccan Queen train is also run by an all-women crew. Being the largest employer in the country, the Indian Railways has been making efforts to promote women employees and leadership in the sector, but still, statistics show that the numbers are not significant in proportion to their proportion in the population.

(Priyanka Saurabh, Research Scholar in Political Science)

TOP STORY

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CM Mann inaugurates palace hotel in Patiala, says will promote destination wedding tourism

Kamla
Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Wednesday inaugurated 'Ran Baas', the state's first luxury palace hotel, at Qila Mubarak here and said the initiative will encourage destination wedding tourism in the state.

According to an official statement, the aesthetically designed hotel has been built under public-private partnership model and will set a new benchmark in comfort and hospitality.

Mann said that Ran Baas, earlier a guesthouse located in 18th-century Qila Mubarak complex in the erstwhile royal state of Patiala, has been restored as Punjab's first luxury palace hotel, seamlessly blending heritage



with contemporary luxury.

The hotel will be a favourite place for destination weddings and other events, Mann was quoted as saying in the statement.

The hotel will give a big

boost to the tourism sector in the state in general and the royal city of Patiala in particular, he said, adding it is a reflection of the glorious cultural heritage of the state.

Mann expressed the

state government's commitment to making Punjab a leading tourist destination in the country through such projects.

Ran Baas offers 35 suites, a range of dining and wellness amenities and

curated immersive experiences for modern travellers, the statement said.

The CM said the palace hotel and the larger fort boast of an enduring, eclectic legacy steeped in royal culture from the celebratory traditions of Patiala to the architectural character of the palace itself.

The majestic fort is a key landmark in India's history and a remarkable example of the synthesis between late Mughal and Rajasthani architectural styles, reflecting a rich cultural heritage, he said.

Mann expressed hope that this prestigious project will drive tourism, create opportunities for local businesses and showcase Patiala's rich cultural identity and heritage to attract global travellers.

He said the hotel blends

the old with the new, merging late Mughal, Rajput, Sikh, and colonial styles while preserving the architectural integrity of Punjab's rich heritage, according to the statement.

The CM also said areas around Chahal dam, Kanjit Sagar Dam, and Shahpur Kandi Dam in the state are being developed as tourist destinations.

He said the state government has land in other states like Goa, Rajasthan (Jaipur), and Himachal Pradesh (McLeodganj) which will be developed in coming days.

The previous government used to sell the prime properties of Punjab to their close friends but now a reverse trend is being witnessed as the state government is developing these sites, he said.

Ensure justice for all with prompt grievance redressal: CM Yogi

Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, directed officials at Janata Darshan to resolve public grievances promptly and ensure no one faced injustice.

Interacting with citizens in the auditorium of the Mahant Dighvijaynath Smriti Bhawan at Gorakhnath temple on the second day of his tour to Gorakhpur, he assured them of swift and satisfactory resolutions of their problems.

The Chief Minister met approximately 150 individuals at Janata Darshan, listening attentively to their concerns. Subsequently, he forwarded their applications to the relevant officials, instructing them to ensure prompt and satisfactory disposal of their issues.

CM Yogi assured the at-

tendees that the government was committed to resolving the problems of every individual in need.

During the Janata Darshan, several individuals sought financial assistance from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for medical treatment. Assuring them of the government's full support, he promptly forwarded their applications to the concerned officials, instructing them to expedite the treatment estimation process and submit it to the government at the earliest.

The Chief Minister directed officials to address revenue and police matters with complete transparency and fairness, ensuring no injustice is done. He also emphasized strict legal action against those found forcibly occupying others' land.

Kejriwal and his AAP are taking their last breaths, says Anil Vij

Chandigarh

Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labour Minister, Anil Vij responded to the Enforcement Directorate's permission to proceed with a case against former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case. He said that "When a case is filed against Kejriwal, the truth will also come out before the public."

While interacting with media persons, Vij remarked that Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party are now taking their last breaths. Their widened and dejected faces are clear indicators of this. He



added that just as a wrestler lying on the ground insists he will win, someone who has already fallen continues to fall.

Addressing the controversy over naming the new Congress headquarters in Delhi after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh,

Cabinet Minister Anil Vij stated that even during his tenure, the Congress did not allow Manmohan Singh to function effectively. Congress restricted his powers, independence, and intellect. Hence, no expectations can be placed on them.

On the matter of farmers sitting on a hunger strike at the Khanauri border in Haryana, Energy Minister Anil Vij said that the government is closely monitoring the situation. He assured that the Chief Minister is paying attention to the matter, and whatever is necessary will be done.

Preparations are underway to make data of Vidhan Sabha proceedings AI-based

Chandigarh

Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Harvinder Kalyan, is exploring the possibilities of digitizing the video records of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, on the lines of the Lok Sabha. This digitization initiative will leverage AI technology, enabling easy retrieval of video clips related to any specific subject or MLA.

Speaker Harvinder Kalyan held a meeting with Vidhan Sabha officials and the NeVA team on Wednesday to discuss the digitization initiative. Experts from a private AI company were



also present, providing a presentation on AI-based video database technology. Vidhan Sabha Speaker Harvinder Kalyan directed

the officers to work on developing a new system. He emphasized that the system should be designed to meet both current and fu-

ture needs. He added that if the video recordings of the Vidhan Sabha sessions and debates are digitized using AI, it will provide direct benefits to the public. MLAs will be able to access and listen to their own views as well as those of their predecessors on various subjects. This initiative will also cater to the needs of researchers studying legislative work, he added.

Yogi orders war-footing preparations for Mauni Amavasya

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, directed improved arrangements for the expected 8-10 crore devotees at Sangam on Mauni Amavasya, January 29. Reviewing the turnout of over six crore devotees at the Mahakumbh during Paus Purnima and Makar Sankranti festivals with senior officials at a high-level meeting, he stressed the need for enhanced preparations for the upcoming event.

He instructed officials to coordinate with the railways to ensure timely operation of special Mahakumbh trains, emphasizing the need for continuous operation of both regular and special trains, with increased frequency to accommodate the large number of devotees.

The CM highlighted the need to enhance the mobile network in the fair area and ensure the continuous operation of buses, shuttle buses, and electric buses. He also emphasized regular toilet cleaning, barricading of ghats, and 24x7 electricity and drinking water supply in all sectors.

Many officials including Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Principal Secretary (Home and Information), Principal Secretary (Urban Development), Chairman (Power Corporation) and Director (Information) were present in the meeting.

Research Chair in name of P. Shriram Sharma to be established at MDU Rohtak: Haryana CM

Rohtak

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced the establishment of a Research Chair in the name of the great freedom fighter and member of Constituent Assembly Pandit Shriram Sharma at Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. In addition, the Chief Minister said that a University/Institution would be named after Pandit Shriram Sharma to honor his immense contribution to the nation.

He announced that the state government will also observe his birth anniversary, on October 1 every year. On this occasion, essay, poem writing, and speech competitions will be held in schools and colleges across the state, encouraging students to learn about and reflect on his life and legacy.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister announced the installation of a 30-feet tall national flag at the site of Pandit Shriram Sharma's



statue, along with a beautification project for the location. Regarding the two other demands made by the Pandit Shriram Sharma

Vichar Manch Samiti, further supporting the continuation of promotion of his ideals and values. The Chief Minister made these announcements while unveiling the statue of Pandit Shriram Sharma at a function organized at Pandit Shriram Sharma Park site in Rohtak today. He paid rich tributes to the great freedom fighter, highlighting his significant role in India's freedom struggle, making of constitution and his contributions to nation-building

and his efforts, he added.

Describing Pandit Shriram Sharma as a true patriot, respected politician, social reformer and Gandhian, the Chief Minister said that as a Member of the Constituent Assembly, he played an important part in strengthening the democratic framework of the country.

The Chief Minister said that on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Constitution, the Prime Minister has called for remembering and honouring the great personalities who played pivotal roles in its creation. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar gave the Constitution to the country and Pandit Shriram Sharma also made a notable contribution to this monumental work. Deeply influenced by the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, Pandit Shriram Sharma participated in all five Satyagraha movements during India's struggle for its independence and was imprisoned multiple times for his efforts, he added.

On the occasion of Army Day, Sujapur witnessed a grand celebration organized by the Sam Kalyankari Trust and the Ex-Servicemen League. The event became a stage for political power dynamics, marked by the unparalleled oratory of former Union Minister and MP Anurag Singh Thakur, who left a lasting impression on the audience.

Rajendra Rana, in a visible display of strength, mobilized a massive crowd from across the state, turning the event into a show of influence. Attended by prominent leaders, including a dozen MLAs, former legislators, Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur, and MP Anurag Singh Thakur, the gathering saw an overwhelming turnout of ex-servicemen and their families, with the venue packed to capacity. The Himachal Po-

Anurag Thakur steals the show at Army Day Event

Vishal Rana
Hamirpur

On the occasion of Army Day, Sujapur witnessed a grand celebration organized by the Sam Kalyankari Trust and the Ex-Servicemen League. The event became a stage for political power dynamics, marked by the unparalleled oratory of former Union Minister and MP Anurag Singh Thakur, who left a lasting impression on the audience.

The spotlight of the event, however, firmly belonged to Anurag Singh Thakur. His electrifying speech captivated the audience as he detailed the Narendra Modi government's initiatives for soldiers' welfare. His words resonated so powerfully that the crowd erupted in applause multiple times, cementing his reputation as a statesman par excellence. Many attendees later remarked that Thakur's presence transformed the event



into his stage. As he concluded his speech with an apology for an early departure due to a flight to Delhi at 3:30 from Gaggal airport, the gathering began dispersing. This unexpected exodus left the venue noticeably empty for the subsequent speech by Jairam Thakur, sparking speculation about internal factionalism within the BJP in Sujapur. The contrast was stark, with Anurag Singh Thakur's towering influence casting a long shadow on the event.

Anurag Singh Thakur's leadership, charisma, and ability to connect with the people not only dominated the event but also shed light on the underlying groupism within the BJP ranks in Sujapur. His remarkable presence and oratory have once again underscored his growing stature as a leader who commands attention and admiration.

Preamble reading programme across Haryana on Jan 17

Chandigarh

The Haryana Government will organize a Constitution Preamble Reading Programme across the state on January 17 at 11 am on the theme 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman'. The programme will be organized in all mini secretariats and other offices of all the districts as well as all government and private schools, colleges, universities and local bodies (Gram Panchayats, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations).

A letter to this effect was written by the Chief Secretary's Office to all the Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, Di-

visional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Managing Directors and Chief Administrators of Boards and Corporations, Vice Chancellors of all the universities of the state, Municipal Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil) and Chief Executive Officers of District Councils.

The letter states that the Central Government has started a year-long historic celebration from November 26, 2024 to commemorate the completion of 75 years of adoption of the Constitution of the country. This decision reflects the remarkable journey of our democracy and the endur-

ance of our founding principles and constitutional values.

The purpose of these celebrations is to honour the Constitution makers by reiterating the basic values enshrined in the Constitution. The Constitution Preamble Reading Programme is also being organized in this series. It has also been asked to ensure public participation in these programmes.

Instructions have been given to the concerned officials that the design of the poster of the Preamble is being sent separately by the Department of Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture.

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This was disclosed at a review meeting held for the implementation and submission of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) and Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Dr Vivek Joshi here on Wednesday.

The chief secretary directed departments to involve their stakeholders in seeking inputs for the reform action plan. Dr Joshi said stake-

Haryana to drop 1,500 compliances to promote ease of doing business

Chandigarh

The Haryana government has set a target of reducing 1,500 burdensome compliances and decriminalise 50 provisions (Business & Citizens) under Acts/Rules/Checklists by December 2025 to promote ease of doing business in the state.

This was disclosed at a review meeting held for the implementation and submission of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) and Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Dr Vivek Joshi here on Wednesday.

The chief secretary directed departments to involve their stakeholders in seeking inputs for the reform action plan. Dr Joshi said stake-



holder feedback was crucial for the successful implementation of Business Reform Action Points.

He also directed the departments to adhere to the stipulated timelines set by the government for completion of their tasks. The chief secretary directed the Industries and Commerce Department to involve all deputy commissioners for suggestions on business re-

forms. He directed the officials of Hartron to ensure that the information on online portals is available to entrepreneurs in Hindi as well so that more people could avail of the benefits of digital services. He also asked the departments to avail the services of Hartron to get translation of work from English to Hindi.

Principal Secretary, In-

dustries and Commerce, D Suresh said a total of 985 business and citizen compliances have been dropped, of which 746 pertain to business category while 239 relate to the citizen category. Till now, 30 provisions have been decriminalised and 19 provisions are under review.

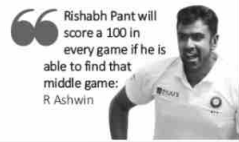
The meeting was informed that suggestions have been invited on the reduction in the compliance burden under 23 Acts of various departments.

The structure of reforms across all 23 Acts is being done through 4 steps: Simplification of forms, procedures and documentation, Elimination of Redundancy which outdated laws/provisions and unnecessary compliances are being repealed, Digitisation for

transition from offline to fully online platforms and Decriminalisation of minor offences such as delays in submission and non-filing of returns.

For BRAP-2024, a total of 435 reforms are to be undertaken by 15 February, 2025 across various departments.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance and Planning Departments and FCR, Anurag Rastogi, Additional Chief Secretary, Town & Country Planning and Urban Estates, AK Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and Antyodaya (SEWA), G Anupama and senior officers of various departments were present in the meeting.



“Rishabh Pant will score a 100 in every game if he is able to find that middle game.”
R Ashwin

I will be back for LA Olympics if boxing is there, says boxer Nishant Dev

New Delhi
Set to pursue his childhood dream of competing in the professional circuit, Indian boxer Nishant Dev says the move does not mean the end of his quest for an Olympic medal and he will compete in the 2028 Los Angeles Games if the sport manages to stay on the roster.

Dev decided to turn professional owing to his close loss in the Paris Games quarterfinals and the state of flux surrounding boxing's Olympic future. However, competing in the Los Angeles Olympics continues to be at the back of his mind.

The 2023 World Championship light middle-weight (71kg) bronze medalist has signed up with Eddie Hearn's Matchroom Boxing. His inaugural professional bout scheduled for January 25 in Los Angeles. "I wanted to fulfil my dream of playing in the Olympics, which I did. Now, I am chasing my second dream — professional boxing," Dev told PTI from Los Angeles, where he is honing his skills under the tutelage of professional boxer Ronald Simms.

Dev narrowly missed a medal at the Paris Olympics, losing a contentious quarterfinal bout to Mexico's Marco Verde, a memory that continues to haunt him.

"I was heartbroken. Facing such a



setback on such a grand stage was profoundly challenging," he reflected. Compounding this disappointment is the prevailing uncertainty surrounding boxing's future in the Olympic arena.

"As of now, boxing isn't confirmed for the Olympics. I don't want to wait three years only to find out that it's excluded. That time could be better spent pursuing my professional boxing dream," he explained.

"At 24, I am already being told I am too old. If I had started late, like Vijender Singh or Vikas Krishnan, who

didn't have strong endings to their pro careers, I'd regret it.

"I dream big. I want to be India's first professional world champion and win all the major belts." Following the Paris Olympics, Dev took a two-month break to recalibrate before making this potentially life-altering decision. "I stayed home with my family. Every time I thought about my boss, I got restless, they supported me throughout. I even travelled to Indonesia with friends and attended psychological (counseling) sessions."

"Gradually, these measures allevi-

ated my stress," he recounted. Breakaway World boxing is currently trying to become the new global body of boxing, should it receive the recognition from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). World Boxing rules allow professional boxers to compete at the Olympics.

And Dev, one of the most consistent Indian boxers in recent times, does intend to return to amateur boxing to compete at the 2028 Olympics.

"When the LA Olympics come around in 2028 and boxing is there, I'll be back. I've already contacted BFI, and they've assured me the doors to amateur boxing are always open," he said.

In fact, Dev feels the "upgraded" version of him will have more chances of medalling at the Olympics.

"I will definitely come again for the Olympics if it's there. This is a kind of preparation for me. In professional boxing, I am playing more rounds. I am building my stamina.

"So when I compete in the Olympics, I am not tired and I have extra skills, a different mentality, superior mentality, more power, speed, everything will be upgraded," he explained.

"In amateur, I was doing three rounds of three minutes, I was getting tired. So, there is a big effect of training here.

Pakistan selectors decide to name Saim Ayub in CT provisional squad

Karachi
Pakistan selectors have decided to include opener Saim Ayub, who is recuperating from a right ankle injury, in the provisional squad for the Champions Trophy beginning next month.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has not disclosed the squad officially but it contains most of the premier stars such as Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Nasim Shah, Fakhar Zaman and Shadab Khan.

An insider said the selectors included Saim as they feel even if he is not recovered in time to play the ICC showpiece he can be replaced by another player.

Changes to the preliminary squad can be made until February 13.

Saim is presently in London on PCB expenses and final reports of the examination done by two high-profile orthopaedic sports surgeons are awaited.

"The reason for Saim still remaining in London is if the doctors recommend, he can do his rehabilitation with them there and the doctors can also keep a close watch on his progress.

"But if the doctors inform the board this week, on the basis of the final test results, that he can rehabilitate in Lahore, Saim will return to the High Performance Centre here," the insider said.

He said assistant coach Azhar Mahmood and the team physio, who had



went to London with Saim, have joined the Pakistan team in Multan ahead of the first Test against the West Indies from January 17.

The selectors are hoping the young southpaw can recover from his injury in time for the Champions Trophy because he has proven himself to be the most improved and consistent ODI batsman in recent times.

His two hundreds in the three-match one-day series in South Africa showcased Saim's growing reputation as a fluent and quick scoring opener.

Former Justice H S Bhalla takes charge as administrator of HOA

Chandigarh
Former Justice H S Bhalla has assumed the role of administrator of the Haryana Olympic Association.

An HOA spokesperson said Justice Bhalla is currently serving as the chairperson of the Haryana Second Law Commission.

His appointment as the administrator of the Haryana Olympic Association was announced recently.

Under Justice Bhalla's leadership, Haryana's sports teams will participate in events organized under the aegis of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

This step is expected to bring a new direction and momentum to sports activities in Haryana, the spokesperson said.

Justice Bhalla's appointment aims to ensure transparency and fairness



in sports associations.

The new management of the Haryana Olympic Association is committed to promoting sports development and safeguarding the interests of athletes, the HOA spokesperson added.

Champions Trophy opening on February 16 or 17; PCB hopeful Rohit will be there

Lahore
The opening ceremony of the Champions Trophy will be held either on February 16 or 17 and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is confident that India captain Rohit Sharma will be in attendance at the event.

The PCB source also said that it is awaiting communication from the ICC on the schedule of the customary captains' photo-shoot and the pre-event press conference.

The eight-team tournament will get underway on February 19 in Karachi. However, India will play all their matches in Dubai, starting with the clash against Bangladesh on February 20, after refusing to travel to Pakistan owing to security concerns.

The source said PCB has procured all relevant clearances from its gov-



ernment to promptly issue visas to all captains, players and team officials who will come here for pre-tournament events.

"This obviously includes Rohit or

any other Indian team player or official or board official," he added.

Another source confirmed to PTI that the PCB has made it clear to the ICC that the opening ceremony, featuring all teams and their captains, will take place in Pakistan.

"This is in line with the usual protocols and since the opening match is on 19th the opening ceremony can be expected either on the 16th or 17th," the source added.

He said the schedule of the opening ceremony would depend on the warm-up matches list.

The source said that recently three Indian nationals, who were a part of the ICC delegation which came to Pakistan, were promptly issued visas once the world body sent their names to the PCB.

Yashasvi Jaiswal joins Mumbai Ranji camp



Mumbai

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Wednesday joined the Mumbai camp after confirming his availability for the next round of Ranji Trophy but skipper Rohit Sharma was not to be seen after turning up for a couple of practice on the opening day of training.

Rohit, who batted alongside Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane on Tuesday here at the Wankhede Stadium, is expected to resume training in a day or two.

However, it remains to be seen if the incumbent Indian skipper would play in the domestic giant's next Ranji Trophy fixture.

Rohit is yet to confirm his availability for the Elite Group A contest against Jammu and Kashmir starting on January 23 but so far, no formal discussions have been taken place.

"The selectors are expected to announce the squad on January 20, during which they will follow the due process of checking for the availability of every player. Rohit will also be approached around the time for selection," a Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) official said.

The 37-year-old is looking to put an end to his poor run with the bat after he managed a mere 31 runs in three Tests that he played against Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Meanwhile, Jaiswal had a batting stint in the open nets session at the Bandra Kurla Complex Ground in the morning.

While Rahane looked in rich form with some powerful flicks off the pads, it was Shivam Dube who was severe on both fast bowlers and spinners alike as he played an aggressive knock in his batting stint with the Mumbai captain.

U19WC 2025 warm-ups: Nigeria shine, Bangladesh edge super over

Kuala Lumpur
Nigeria, the Africa qualifiers, made a strong statement in the ICC Women's U19 World Cup, comfortably chasing down Scotland's target of 62 in just 11.3 overs during Wednesday's warm-up match at the Royal Selangor Club, as per ICC.

Elsewhere, New Zealand hit back after a warm-up outing defeat to the USA on day one, claiming victory over West Indies in their second practice outing with a confident performance at the UKM Oval.

The USA went two from two with a victory over Nepal, while there were morning victories for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, with the latter claiming a Super Over win over England.

Alongside the Nigerians there were wins for Ireland, Australia and India.

Lilian Ude ensured there was no respite for the Scots in Nigeria's push, claiming 3/15 to back the work of opening bowlers Peace Uson and Mubibat Amusa. Pippa Sproul's 25 helped Scotland's pushback, but the wickets kept tumbling at the other end.

Captain Piety led Nigeria in the chase, finishing 28 not out from just 16 balls, hitting three sixes, with Victoria Ighinedion making another score of note (25) after her work against Pakistan two days ago to close out the win.

At the picturesque Selangor Turf Club, reeling at 66/8 at one stage, England had recovered to 113/9 from their 20 overs, with Prisha Thanawala (28) and Tilly Corteen-Coleman (23 not out) putting on 46 for the ninth wicket. Phoebe Brett's 3/32 and Davina Perrin's 2/6 ensured a tough defence of the low total, with a run out



The USA went two from two with a victory over Nepal, while there were morning victories for Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, with the latter claiming a Super Over win over England.

From Charlotte Lambert and Corteen-Coleman denying a match-winning run off the final ball of Bangladesh's innings.

A six from Sadia Akter lifted Bangladesh's Super Over total to 113, before the calm of Habiba Islam Pinky closed out a tense win.

It was a successful hit out for the Kiwis in their victory over the West Indies, with Emma McLeod (50) and Kate Irwin (46) both coming off the

ground to hand Eve Wolland (22) and Anika Todd (20) the chance to bat, posting 151.

Seven of New Zealand's 10 bowlers went on to claim wickets for their side, bowling the Windies out for 72.

USA meanwhile made another statement, restricting Nepal to just 58, passing the target inside 14 overs.

Six bowlers shared wickets for the Americans, with Isani Vaghela leading the side to victory, even after resistance from Riya Sharma, who claimed three wickets for Nepal.

At the Kolel Tuanaku Ja'afar Ground, a five-wicket haul from Linansa Thikararame ensured a Sri Lankan victory despite being held to 114 in a spirited Samoa bowling performance.

Australia posted 137 and were largely untroubled, as Kate Pelle, Ines McKeon, Eleanor Larosa and Grace Lyons all enjoyed time in the middle.

Rain affected India's meeting with South Africa, as Niki Prasada's team won by six wickets on the DLS method.

Shikhar Dhawan opens up about challenges of his early Cricketing career

New Delhi
Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan on Wednesday shared insights into the early struggles of his career during a heartwarming event as part of his interaction with budding cricketers from various NGOs for the Shikhar Dhawan Foundation.

In a conversation with underprivileged children, he disclosed the challenges he faced when starting out in cricket.

He recalled as quoted by a press release, "I started playing at a young age for a club, practised for a year, and got to play a tournament after a year." Dhawan revealed that during his early days, he would not only practice but also perform various chores, like rolling the pitch, bringing tea for the coaches, and enduring long hours under the sun, all in the hopes of getting just 10 minutes to bat at the end of the day.

These early sacrifices and hard work eventually paid off, propelling him to where he is today as an internationally renowned cricketer. This inspiring story was shared during a special event in December last year, where Dhawan interacted with underprivileged kids, gifted them presents, and engaged in a Q&A session.

Through his foundation, Dhawan aims to make a positive impact on the lives of these children, offering them both material and moral support. His journey from humble beginnings to cricket stardom serves as a powerful reminder of perseverance and dedication.

The 38-year-old brought the curtains down on his illustrious career by taking to Instagram and sharing an emotional message to announce his decision. In his illustrious career, runs effortlessly came off Dhawan's bat. He represented India across all formats, but ODI was his forte.

In 167 appearances, the southpaw



These early sacrifices and hard work eventually paid off, propelling him to where he is today as an internationally renowned cricketer. This inspiring story was shared during a special event in December last year, where Dhawan interacted with underprivileged kids, gifted them presents, and engaged in a Q&A session.

produced swashbuckling performances and racked up 6,793 runs at an average of 44.1, including 17 centuries and 39 fifties.

In the longest format of cricket, where he stitched up memorable partnerships with Murali Vijay, Dhawan garnered 2,315 runs in 34 matches at an average of 40.6. His Test career was laced with seven tons and five half-centuries.

In the T20i format, Dhawan made 68 appearances and scored 1,759 runs at an average of 27.9, including 11 fifties. In the domestic circuit, Dhawan played 122 First-Class cricket matches and handsomely scored 8,499 runs at an average of 44.26, including 25 centuries and 29 fifties.

Four Indians arrested on charges of abducting Chinese national

Kathmandu: Four Indian nationals have been arrested in central Nepal on the charges of abducting a Chinese national from Kathmandu, police said on Wednesday.

A special team of police on Tuesday arrested Ashutosh Dattatreya, 32, Amol Karmate, 30, Af-sar Seikh, 40, and Amol Shrisat, 33, all from Maharashtra, from an Indian number plate vehicle heading towards Hetauda from Kathmandu carrying the Chinese national, government daily Gorkhapatra quoted Nepal Police as saying.

The Indian nationals claimed they abducted the Chinese because he cheated them in the name of playing illegal gambling.

The police said it acted on a tip-off to arrest the four Indians at the Hetauda-Bhimfedi-Kulekhani road section of the Kathmandu-Hetauda Highway.

The police said both Indians and Chinese seemed to be involved in criminal activities.

It said it has initiated an investigation into the matter.

Xi Jinping talks with Dissanayake, pledges new era in China-Sri Lanka ties

Beijing: China places Sri Lanka on top of its neighbourhood diplomacy and supports it in safeguarding its sovereignty, President Xi Jinping told his Sri Lankan counterpart Anura Kumara Dis-sanayake during their meeting here on Wednesday. After their meeting, the two countries signed several agreements to boost bilateral ties, an official statement here said.

Xi expressed China's readiness to usher in a new era of development in bilateral ties and called on the two countries to have a "keen grasp" of their relations from a "strategic perspective" and jointly build a China-Sri Lanka community with a shared future, it said.

Dissanayake, who arrived here on Tuesday on a four-day visit a month after travelling to India on his first overseas trip since assuming office in September, was given a ceremonial welcome at the Great Hall of People,



following which both the Presidents held talks.

After the talks, the two leaders witnessed the signing of several bilateral documents on the cooperation plan for jointly building the "Belt and Road" and on the export of agricultural products to China, social livelihood, news and broadcasting, the Chinese official statement said.

Dissanayake's meeting with Xi is keenly watched as the Sri Lan-

kan leader representing the Marxist-oriented Janata Vimukti Peramuna (JVP) — the majority partner of the ruling National People's Power (NPP) — outlines his China policy after his India visit where he assured New Delhi that he will not allow Sri Lanka's territory to be used against India's security interests.

His assurance was viewed in the backdrop of concerns raised by India over frequent vis-

its of Chinese research vessels regarded as spy ships to Sri Lankan ports.

In his meeting with Dissanayake, Xi stressed that China has always placed Sri Lanka at the top of its neighbourhood diplomacy, the official statement here said.

China will continue to support Sri Lanka in safeguarding its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, support Sri Lanka in independently

exploring a development path that suits its national conditions, and is willing to deepen political mutual trust with Sri Lanka, he said.

Xi emphasised China's readiness to work closely with Sri Lanka in ushering in a new era of development and also recalled the long-standing relationship between the two countries, highlighting the close friendship that has existed for decades.

China will actively support Sri Lanka in focusing on economic development, and the two countries should jointly foster new highlights in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, as well as cooperation in modern agriculture, digital economy and marine economy, Xi said.

High-quality Belt and Road cooperation and cooperation in various fields have achieved fruitful results, bringing tangible benefits to the two peoples, Xi said.

India to provide grant for supplying police vehicles to Sri Lanka



New Delhi: India would supply vehicles to be used by the Sri Lankan police under a grant, the Indian High Commission here said on Wednesday.

Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Santosh Jha and the top bureaucrat in the public security ministry DWRB Seneviratne have signed the MoU for the grant assistance worth Sri Lankan rupees 300 million.

The project entails supply of at least 80 single cabs, spare parts and accessories to the police stations in Northern Province of Sri Lanka, which will address a vital re-

quirement of Sri Lankan Police related to enhancing safety of citizens and maintenance of law and order, a release said.

India's people-centric development cooperation initiatives based on the needs of the people of Sri Lanka and the priorities of the Sri Lanka government are making a tangible difference to the daily lives of the people in all the 25 districts of the country across sectors such as housing, health, education, fisheries, transport, renewable energy, livelihood sustenance, agriculture, among many others, the High Commission said in the release.

For Advt Contact:
9818-799941

Bangladesh SC acquits former PM Khaleda Zia

Dhaka: Bangladesh Supreme Court on Wednesday acquitted former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a corruption case, overturning the High Court's earlier 10-year prison sentence.

The verdict was delivered by a bench led by Chief Justice Dr Syed Rezaat Ahmed after reviewing 79-year-old



Zia's appeal against the High Court's ruling on Wednesday, the Dhaka

Tribune reported. The Supreme Court acquitted Zia, the par-

ty's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, and all other suspects in their appeal over the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case, the report added.

The Appellate Division noted that the case was motivated by revenge.

Zia was sentenced on February 8, 2018, by Dhaka's Special Judge Court-5 to five years of imprisonment for alleged embezzlement of

government funds in the name of the Zia Orphanage Trust.

The same verdict handed down 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for five other accused, including Zia's son Tarique and former chief secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui. Each of the accused was also fined Tk2.1 crore.

Among the accused, Tarique, Siddiqui, and

Ziaur Rahman's nephew Momtazur Rahman have remained absconding.

Zia appealed the trial court's verdict to the High Court, but the sentence was increased to 10 years by a High Court bench comprising Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman on October 30, 2018.

Zia subsequently filed

a leave-to-appeal petition against this sentence.

Following years of delays due to legal procedural issues and a lack of initiative from lawyers, the Appellate Division accepted Zia's leave-to-appeal on November 11, 2024.

The court also stayed the High Court's 10-year sentence pending the final hearing of the ap-

BUSINESS

DPIIT Discusses FDI Promotion with PEs, VCs, Pension Funds

New Delhi: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Wednesday held consultations with pension funds, private equity and venture capitalists on ways to attract more foreign direct investments into the country, an official said.

The meeting was second in the line. Last week, the department held discussions with stakeholders, including law firms and industry chambers, on the matter.

In that meeting, the issues being flagged by law firms included permitting e-commerce players to allow foreign direct investment (FDI) in inventory-based models of online trade for export purposes only; easing press note 3 by defining beneficial ownership; and some tweaking the policy for single-brand retail trading.

Under this press note, government approval is mandatory for investors



from countries sharing land borders with India in any sector.

FDI inflows into India have crossed the USD 1 trillion milestone in April 2020-September 2024 period.

The key sectors attracting the maximum of these inflows include the services segment, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, trading, construction development, automobile, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.

The investment in India rose by 45 per cent year-on-year to USD 29.79 billion in April-September this fiscal on healthy inflows in services, computer, telecom and pharma sectors, according to government data.

Monthly, Yearly Toll Passes for Vehicles: Nitin Gadkari

New Delhi: The government is contemplating introducing monthly and yearly passes in lieu of toll collection for private vehicles on National Highways as they account for only 26 per cent of total realisation, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

Addressing an event here, Gadkari also said the toll collection booth will be set up outside villages so that it may not disturb the movement of villagers.

The minister said, "74 per cent of toll revenue comes from commercial vehicles. We are considering introducing monthly or annual passes for private vehicles."

Private vehicles account for only 26 per cent of total toll collection, so the government would not suffer any losses, he added.



The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has decided to initially implement a barrier-less global navigation satellite system (GNSS)-based toll collection

system on national highways as an added facility along with FASTag, Gadkari said.

"Global navigation satellite system (GNSS)-based toll collection

system will be better than current toll collection system," the minister added.

Last year in July, Gadkari said a pilot study with regard to the GNSS-

based user fee collection system has been done on Bengaluru-Mysore section of NH-275 in Karnataka and Panipat-Hisar section of NH-709 in Haryana.

The move is aimed at reducing traffic congestion and charging motorists for the exact distance travelled on the highways.

During 2018-19, the average waiting time for vehicles at toll plaza was 8 minutes. With the introduction of FASTags during 2020-21 and 2021-22, the average waiting time of the vehicles was reduced to 47 seconds.

Although there is considerable improvement in waiting time at certain locations, especially near cities, in densely-populated towns, there are still some delays at toll plazas during peak hours.

India is First Responder for Global South in Disasters: Goyal

New Delhi: India is known as the first responder to the Global South for its humanitarian initiatives in times of natural disasters, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

Addressing the World Congress on Disaster Management - Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDM-DRR) Awards here, he said India is known to provide disaster management to neighbouring countries in flood prevention and flood control.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the country provided free vaccines to over 100 countries through the 'Vaccine Maitri' humanitarian initiative, he added.

The minister added that disaster relief insurance claims is an area where work needs to be done in creating awareness and providing faster disposal of the claims in a seamless manner and there should not be a need to approach the courts to get relief.

Factual, correct assessment and analysis will help the authorities in settling disaster relief claims faster and giving relief to the deserving, the minister said.

"India is the first responder for Global South in times of need," he said.

Vishwa Samudra Group appoints Shivdutt Das as MD and Lakshmi Priyadarshini as VC

New Delhi: The US\$ 3 Bn conglomerate Vishwa Samudra Group from Hyderabad, India led by its promoter Chairman Mr. Chintita Sasidhar has announced Mr. Shivdutt Das as the Managing Director and Ms. Lakshmi Priyadarshini Chintita as the Vice Chairperson for its Holding Company to oversee the group operations.

The holding company currently has interests in Engineering, Marine,



Aviation, Manufacturing and Investments, its engineering arm Vishwa

Samudra Engineering has been an industry outlier demonstrating

phenomenal growth in the last 2 years surpassing many competitors in the infrastructure space in India. The pioneers in building urban ropeway at Varanasi also bagged the most innovative infrastructure company award at the ABP Infrastructure Conclave.

Shivdutt has been part of the group for the last few years working as the Group Executive Director. This makes him one of the youngest professionals compared to his

peer group. A part of the FICCI National Executive, he has worked with organisations like United Spirits, ICICI Prudential, Bharti AXA Life Insurance, Tata AIA, Reliance Capital and D Y Patil Healthcare in the past beyond his own start-up eco system as an early investor. He was also one of the investors on Swiggy cap table pre-IPO.

A qualified economist with great interest in philanthropy has

recently authored a gorgeous coffee table book "Dugga Dugga" covering the story of Durga Puja and its connection to India across geographies.

During this announcement Mr. Chintita Sasidhar, the Group Chairman said "The group needs this leadership now when we are poised to take a quantum leap and build a legacy through our work. We are building a global enterprise and Shivdutt is the best suited inter-

nal talent to take this role".

Taking ahead this KMP formation, Ms. Lakshmi Priyadarshini Chintita was announced as the Vice Chairperson for the Group. An avid mathematician who had found her world in teaching children the simpler ways to solve the most complex problems of maths now creates the right balance and gender inclusion ratios of the group philosophy.

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Kriti Kharbanda shares adorable pictures from her first Lohri with Pulkit Samrat



Ali Fazal, Richa Chadda, Varun Sharma, and Manoj Singh were also a part of the functions. Kriti and Pulkit have appeared together in several films, like 'Veeray Ki Wedding', 'Taishi', and 'Pagalpanthi'. Reportedly, their love story began during the filming of Pagalpanthi in 2019, and since then they have been treating fans to their heartwarming moments on social media.

Mumbai
The much-loved B-town couple Kriti Kharbanda and Pulkit Samrat celebrated their first Lohri after tying the knot in March last year and the pictures are "kaafi cute" to handle. The couple took to their Instagram account to share adorable glimpses from their intimate home celebration. Kriti posted photos of the couple taking rounds around the sacred fire, dancing, and celebrating with their par-

ents, making the occasion extra special. The actress looked stunning in a red sari adorned with intricate floral designs, while Pulkit kept it stylish yet simple in a blue kurta-pyjama set. Along with the pictures, the actress added a caption that read, "Kaafi cute! Hamari pehli Lohri!" Fans flooded the comment section with love and wishes. One user commented, "Ghar pe hi manali, good idea," while another added,

"Very cute. Bless you guys." Last year, Kriti celebrated Karwa Chauth with Pulkit and shared a couple of pictures from the occasion. Along with the post, the actress also added a long caption where she wrote about the traditions she grew up watching her mother follow. Pulkit and Kriti married on March 15, 2024, in Manesar. Their wedding festivities took place in the presence of close family members and friends. Actors



Shahid Kapoor flaunts rugged look in upcoming film Deva with a cigarette in his mouth

Mumbai
Actor Shahid Kapoor is leaving no stone unturned to create excitement among his fans regarding his upcoming film 'Deva'. After sharing film's teaser and video of the song 'Bhasad Macha', Shahid on Tuesday shared a picture of his rugged look with a cigarette in his mouth, exuding intensity and charisma. He also gave an exciting update about the film's trailer. He informed everyone that the trailer of Deva will be released next week. The film revolves around Shahid Kapoor portraying a rebellious police officer

tasked with solving a high-profile case that unravels layers of deceit, betrayal, and a dangerous conspiracy. Apart from Shahid Kapoor, 'Deva' also stars Pooja Hegde as a journalist in a pivotal role. Directed by Rossan Andrews and produced by Zee Studios and Siddharth Roy Kapur, the film has generated immense buzz since its announcement. The film is slated for release on January 31, 2025. 'Deva' also marks Shahid's return to the big screen after almost a year, following his last appearance in the film 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya', co-starring Kriti Sanon.

Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas's daughter Malti Marie gets adorable birthday wish from grandmother



Mumbai
Actor Priyanka Chopra's mother, Madhu Chopra, has shared a heartwarming post for her granddaughter Malti Marie on the occasion of her third birthday. Malti, the daughter of Priyanka and Nick Jonas turned three on January 15 and her 'nani' (maternal grandmother) marked the occasion with a touching post on social media.

Another wrote, "Happy birthday little angel." Malti Marie was born through surrogacy to Priyanka and Nick Jonas on January 15, 2022. Since her birth, Priyanka has often shared glimpses of her motherhood journey, balancing her career with her new role as a mother.

A week ago, Priyanka dropped pictures and videos that captured the start of her New Year. The actress celebrated the New Year at Turks and Caicos with her husband Nick Jonas and their little one Malti Marie. In the post shared by Priyanka, the actress also shared a video of the little one singing. In one of the videos from the post, Priyanka Chopra can be seen recording Malti Marie singing, the little can be seen watching the film 'Moana' on television and singing along to a song from the film. When she stops in between, Priyanka prompts her to continue singing.



Raha trips and falls while running towards Ranbir Kapoor; dotting dad comforts his baby girl

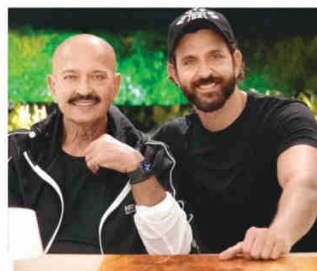
Mumbai
Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor took some time off from his busy work schedule and decided to take over daddy duties while his wife Alia Bhatt indulged in a game of padel. In the video shared by a paparazzo, Raha and Ranbir can be seen sharing some adorable moments



as she runs barefoot on the grass. However, while heading towards Ranbir, she trips and falls. The lit-

tle munchkin gets up all by herself and walks towards her dad, who then comforts her. As the video surfaced on social media, scores of netizens praised Ranbir Kapoor for being there for his baby girl. One user wrote, "Ranbir is one of the best fathers. Hands-on with his little one since she was born."

Rakesh Roshan recalls being shot with 2 bullets for not letting Hrithik work with the underworld



Mumbai
Hrithik Roshan debuted in Bollywood with the 2000 film Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai which was directed by his father and former actor Rakesh Roshan. Hrithik became a star overnight with the film's success. However, a week after its release in January, Rakesh was shot with two bullets in broad daylight while leaving his office. He somehow drove himself to the hospital and recovered. The incident was linked to the underworld that held its influence in Mumbai, especially the entertainment industry. In an interview with Bollywood Hungama, Rakesh Roshan recalled that criminals from the underworld



wanted to produce a film with Hrithik as the lead. However, the filmmaker was against it. He shared "I never gave any indication that Hrithik could do a film for them. I kept putting them off saying Hrithik had no dates, which in any case, was the truth. They then asked me to take dates away from other producers and give it to them. This again, I refused to do." The dotting dad was determined to not give in to their demands and as a result, was shot. "Once I had committed my son's dates elsewhere, I refused to give into arm-twisting tactics. I never gave in. With the kind of tension and fear that some of us had to bear, we couldn't do anything creative, let alone make a film," he added.

