



Salman Khan postpones UK tour in light of Pahalgam attack



China backs Pakistan, advocates 'fair probe' into Pahalgam attack

People are forgetting the importance of partnerships in T20s: Kohli



FILM

PAGE-12

WORLD

PAGE-9

CRICKET

PAGE-10

3 NATIONAL
Delhi govt unveils major health cover for senior citizens



7 NATIONAL
Dr. Sanjay Kumar Department of Political Science, A.N. College, Patna

8 STATE
CM Dharami leads drive to strengthen safety & public systems in Uttarakhand

9 BUSINESS
IIP growth steady at 3 pc in March slows to 4-year low of 4 pc in FY25

11 SPORTS
Sudirman Cup Final: India face uphill task against Indonesia in battle for survival

MARKET

SENSEX	NIFTY
80218.37	24328.50
1,005.84	289.15
GOLD	SILVER
95,719.00	96,430.00
727.00	-11.00

WEATHER

Sunrise	5:43 AM
Sunset	6:55 PM
Moonrise	6:30 AM
Moonset	9:02 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	Minimum
39°C	28°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
40°C	28°C

SC cracks down on online obscenity

The SC issued notices on a PIL by Uday Mahurkar seeking curbs on obscene and pornographic content on OTT and social media platforms.

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday called it an "important concern" and sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking a ban on streaming of sexually explicit content on OTT and social media platforms.



A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih said it was either for the legislature or the executive to come out with measures to deal with the issue.

Gavai said in an apparent reference to recent attacks on the judiciary. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the government would not take it as an adversarial litigation.

"Kindly monitor it here. We will come out with something which balances the freedom of speech while (Article) 19 (2) is taken care of," he said.

CONTD ON PAGE-2

Govt bans 16 Pak YT channels, raps BBC for 'militants' use

New Delhi
The government has blocked 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for allegedly disseminating "false, provocative and communally sensitive content" about India and has also strongly objected to the BBC's reportage on the Pahalgam attack, officials said on Monday.



Besides, the Ministry of External Affairs is monitoring reporting of the BBC, which termed terrorists as militants, officials said. The YouTube channels blocked are Dawn News, Irshad Bhatti, SAMAA TV, ARY NEWS, BOL NEWS, Raftar, The Pakistan Reference, Geo News, Samaa Sports,

GNN, Uzair Cricket, Umar Cheema Exclusive, Asma Shirazi, Muneeb Farooq, SUNO News and Razi Naama.

"On the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government of India has banned Pakistani YouTube channels for disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its Army and security agencies in the backdrop of the tragic Pahalgam terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir," officials said. Agency

India, France seal Rs 64000 Crores Rafale jet deal for Naval power boost

New Delhi
India and France on Monday inked an intergovernmental agreement to procure 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 64,000 crore for the Indian Navy.

The pact provides for setting up of a production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities for aircraft engines, sensors and weapons in India, according to the defence ministry.

The agreement will also facilitate the transfer of technology for the integration of indigenous weapons in India, it said without elaborating.

The ministry said the delivery of the aircraft would be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France and India.

India is procuring the jets for deployment on board aircraft carrier INS Vikram.

Manufactured by French defence major Dassault Aviation, the Rafale-Marine is a carrier-borne combat-ready aircraft with proven operational capabilities in the maritime environment.

The sealing of the mega deal came three weeks after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the procurement. Agency

Heartiest Greetings on the Parkash Utsav of Hind Di Chaadar Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji

April 29, 2025

"श्री गुरु तेग बहादुर जी को उनके प्रकाश परब के विशेष अवसर पर नमन करता हूँ। अपने साहस और वंचितों की सेवा के उनके प्रयासों के लिए वे समस्त विश्व में सम्मान से देखे जाते हैं।"
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Failed as CM, how can I push for...: Omar on Pahalgam attack

Jammu
The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on Monday expressing shock and anguish over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and resolved to fight resolutely to defeat the nefarious designs to disturb communal harmony and hinder progress.



The resolution, moved by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary during a special session of the Assembly, was passed by voice vote. At the beginning of the session, House members

observed a two-minute silence to pay homage to the 26 people killed in the tragedy last week.

"The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster

CONTD ON PAGE-2



Delhi govt unveils major health cover for senior citizens

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri distributed the first Vay Vandana cards to beneficiaries at an event in the capital.

TSSN/New Delhi

The Delhi government on Monday launched the Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme, offering free treatment worth up to Rs 10 lakh to citizens aged 70 years and above in the city.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri distributed the first Vay Vandana cards to beneficiaries at an event in the capital.

Under this scheme, yearly medical assistance worth Rs 5 lakh will be provided free of cost. Additionally, Rs 5 lakh coverage will be provided under the Delhi government's scheme, making the total health cover Rs 10 lakh.

Gupta said, "This is the first programme of its kind under the triple engine model, and I thank Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi for respecting our elderly with this health scheme."

"There will be no difference between the rich and the poor; everyone will benefit from this scheme, regardless of their financial background," she said, adding that registration starts today, and the only criteria is that you must be a Delhi citizen and hold an Aadhaar card. You can enroll from today onwards.



More than 100 hospitals in the city are included in the scheme and over 30,000 registered for cashless treatment. This is a significant step forward, she said.

Lashing out at the previous AAP government, Gupta said, "The previous government did an injustice by delaying this scheme in Delhi for seven years due to ego and political reasons."

"Now, with triple engagement, we promise to bring change to Delhi. The city will become more beautiful, educated, and developed. The benefits of this scheme will reach everyone. We will work together, and it is a huge responsibility. Excuses won't work anymore; we will deliver the progress Delhi deserves," Gupta added.

Health Minister Pankaj Singh said it is a historical step for Delhi's healthcare system and the government is working to strengthen its health infrastructure.

"This scheme is portable, even if they are outside the city, can enrol. Chemotherapy, ICU care, surgeries, and 964 other medical treatments are also included," Singh said.

Under the Vay Vandana Yojana, each registered senior citizen will be provided with a unique health card. This card will securely store their complete health records, regular health check-up information, and emergency service details.

All health tests for citizens aged 70 years and above in Delhi will be conducted completely free of cost under the scheme.

Gupta earlier posted on X, "Serving the elderly is our top priority. Now, the Centre and Delhi governments together are providing health coverage of up to Rs 10 lakh to senior citizens aged 70 and above. Secure the health of your loved ones - get the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card today. #VisitDelhi #AyushmanDelhi #Plus"

The minimum temperature settled at 22.2 degrees Celsius, slightly below the normal by 0.6 degrees. The relative humidity ranged between 43 per cent and 32 per cent during the day.

Meanwhile, the city's air quality continued to remain in the 'poor' category for the seventh consecutive day. The average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 266 at 4 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 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'.

The DCP said they were intercepted near Ganda Nala, behind the Samshan Ghat at Shahpur Garhi in Narela, when they tried to flee upon seeing a police team patrolling the area.

During interrogation, Lekhraj revealed that he was out on bail in a case after spending five years in jail. He admitted to having procured two pistols from Aligarh around a decade ago, one of which had been recovered earlier in 2020.

A case under relevant sections of the Arms Act has been registered, and further investigation is underway, police added.

Lekhraj has previous criminal involvements, including multiple cases registered in 2020 under charges of attempt to murder, robbery and arms possession, the officer added.

Delhi max temp 40.4 deg C air quality remains 'poor'



New Delhi

Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius on Monday, 1.4 degrees above the season's average, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The minimum temperature settled at 22.2 degrees Celsius, slightly below the normal by 0.6 degrees. The relative humidity ranged between 43 per cent and 32 per cent during the day.

Meanwhile, the city's air quality continued to remain in the 'poor' category for the seventh consecutive day. The average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 266 at 4 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 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'.

The DCP said they were intercepted near Ganda Nala, behind the Samshan Ghat at Shahpur Garhi in Narela, when they tried to flee upon seeing a police team patrolling the area.

During interrogation, Lekhraj revealed that he was out on bail in a case after spending five years in jail. He admitted to having procured two pistols from Aligarh around a decade ago, one of which had been recovered earlier in 2020.

A case under relevant sections of the Arms Act has been registered, and further investigation is underway, police added.

Lekhraj has previous criminal involvements, including multiple cases registered in 2020 under charges of attempt to murder, robbery and arms possession, the officer added.

Two held with arms in outer Delhi Police

New Delhi

Two men were arrested while on their way to export money in outer Delhi's Narela Industrial Area, an official said on Monday.

The accused were identified as Deepak alias Lala (28) and Lekhraj alias Lekhu (32), the official said, adding that two bullets were recovered from Deepak, while a pistol loaded with one bullet was recovered from Lekhraj.

The police said the duo were arrested last Saturday when they were heading towards Bhorgan in northwest Delhi on a motorcycle, with an intent to export money. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan said.

The DCP said they were intercepted near Ganda Nala, behind the Samshan Ghat at Shahpur Garhi in Narela, when they tried to flee upon seeing a police team patrolling the area.

During interrogation, Lekhraj revealed that he was out on bail in a case after spending five years in jail. He admitted to having procured two pistols from Aligarh around a decade ago, one of which had been recovered earlier in 2020.

A case under relevant sections of the Arms Act has been registered, and further investigation is underway, police added.

Lekhraj has previous criminal involvements, including multiple cases registered in 2020 under charges of attempt to murder, robbery and arms possession, the officer added.

25 bus shelters in Delhi to get cold water dispensers as summer approaches

New Delhi

As peak summer approaches, the Delhi government transport department plans to install 'smart water dispensers' at 25 bus queue shelters and 16 bus terminals.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta recently announced an 'annual best action plan,' which involves providing cold drinking water at bus



queue shelters and cool roof shelters for commuters.

A part of a pilot project, the smart water dispensers will

have the capacity to provide 100 litres per hour of RO-filtered clean and chilled drinking water, an overall capacity of dispensing 800 litres per day.

The AI-camera equipped water coolers will monitor the footfall and feed the results for a decision on expanding the facility at more places.

"There will be a water-

proof digital screen, and the AI system will be connected to a dashboard for remote monitoring. The smart dispenser will have the facility to make public announcements, and alerts about heat waves and other information will be disseminated," says the proposal.

Tenders for both the projects has been issued, and the cost of installing dispensers -- 7 feet in height -- at bus queue shelters is Rs 2.10 crore, and at terminals Rs 72 lakh.

The work has to be completed in the next 30 days, according to the proposal.

Last week, Transport Minister Pankaj Singh held a meeting with his department officials to discuss the plan.

"Ensuring access to clean drinking water is a fundamental necessity, especially during peak summer months. By installing RO systems at our depots, we are taking a concrete step to prioritize the well-being of our hardworking staff and daily commuters. This initiative underscores our commitment to building a humane and responsive public transport system," Singh had said after the meeting.

mental necessity, especially during peak summer months. By installing RO systems at our depots, we are taking a concrete step to prioritize the well-being of our hardworking staff and daily commuters. This initiative underscores our commitment to building a humane and responsive public transport system," Singh had said after the meeting.

The work has to be completed in the next 30 days, according to the proposal.

Last week, Transport Minister Pankaj Singh held a meeting with his department officials to discuss the plan.

"Ensuring access to clean drinking water is a fundamental necessity, especially during peak summer months. By installing RO systems at our depots, we are taking a concrete step to prioritize the well-being of our hardworking staff and daily commuters. This initiative underscores our commitment to building a humane and responsive public transport system," Singh had said after the meeting.



Government of Haryana

Heartiest Greetings on Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti & Akshaya Tritiya

April 29, 2025





"आप सभी को भगवान परशुराम जयंती की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। मेरी कामना है कि उनकी कृपा से हर किसी का जीवन साहस, विद्या और विवेक से परिपूर्ण हो।"

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Scan the QR code to join the WhatsApp Channel of Information and Public Relations Department, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

www.prharyana.gov.in | <https://t.me/prdpharyana> | <https://www.facebook.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.instagram.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.youtube.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.linkedin.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.pinterest.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.tiktok.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.snapchat.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.whatsapp.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.telegram.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.zalo.me/prdpharyana> | <https://www.viber.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.signal.me/prdpharyana> | <https://www.whatsapp.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.telegram.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.zalo.me/prdpharyana> | <https://www.viber.com/prdpharyana> | <https://www.signal.me/prdpharyana>

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yamuna Authority to set up milk, vegetable booths

Noida
The Yamuna Authority is going to set up milk and vegetable booths in sector 18, 20 and 22D of Yamuna City. Plots of 100 square meter have been allotted for this. The work of setting up the booths will start here by next month.

Yamuna Authority chief executive officer, Dr. Arunvir Singh said that sector-18, 20 and 22D of Yamuna City are the biggest residential sectors. There are a total of 52 blocks in these sectors. In 48 of these blocks, basic facilities including roads, water and sewer have been developed.

Here, Mother Dairy and other milk companies have been allotted plots of 100 square meters to build milk and vegetable booths. The allottees have given a plan to start the booths here in about a month.

With the construction of these booths, the people of the city need not have to go to other shops for fruits, vegetables and milk. Apart from this, the authority has also decided to install similar kiosks on all four sides of the airport's periphery.

Locals raise grievances with GreNo Authority

Noida
Locals of sector P-4 took up their grievances with the authorities concerned of the Greater Noida Authority (GreNo Authority) here on Monday.

GreNo Authority general manager (Project) AK Singh visited sector P-4 with his team on Monday and took stock of the basic facilities. During this visit, the people of this sector informed about the problems.

The people of the sector raised the problems of stray dogs, broken drains, lack of dustbins and chairs in parks on a priority basis. They also brought to the notice of the authorities concerned that stray animals kept falling every day due to the broken roof of the drain located outside the sector.

In view of the outbreak of mosquitoes, the arrangement of fogging should be increased. A memorandum related to the problems was also submitted. Keeping in view the concerns of the locals, the general manager directed all the departments concerned to resolve the problems as soon as possible. Action will be taken against the negligent employees and contractors.

Caregivers to get food at GIMS for just Rs 10

Noida
A Dhanwantri Annapurna Centre has been set up for providing meals to the attendants of the patients admitted to the Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS).

Gautam Budha Nagar DM Manish Kumar Verma inaugurated the aforesaid centre. Clean and nutritious food will be available here for just Rs. 10. Free food will also be provided to the economically weak attendants.

GIMS' director Brigadier (Dr.) RK Gupta said that till now there was a provision of providing food in the hospital to the patients.

JNUSU sees left dominance ABVP tastes victory

■ Nitish Kumar of the All India Students' Association (AISA) secured 1,702 votes to win the post of president. nity welfare.

TSN/New Delhi
Left candidates bagged three of the four central panel posts in the JNUSU election to maintain their foothold in the premier university while the RSS-affiliated ABVP ended a nine-year phase out of office to win the post of joint secretary.

According to the results announced by the Jawahar Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) election commission early on Monday, Nitish Kumar of the All India Students' Association (AISA) secured 1,702 votes to win the post of president.

His closest competitor -- Shikha Swaraj of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) -- secured 1,430 votes while Students' Federation of India (SFI)-supported Tayyaba Ahmed polled 918 votes.

Manisha of the Democratic Students' Federation (DSF) won the post of vice-president by securing 1,150 votes, ahead of the ABVP's Nittu Goutham who polled 1,116 votes.

The DSF also bagged the general secretary's post, with Munteha Fatima polling 1,240 votes, ahead of the ABVP's Kunal Rai who secured 1,046 votes.

The ABVP clinched the post of joint secretary, with Vaibhav Meena polling 1,518 votes, ahead of AISA's



Naresh Kumar (1,433 votes) and Progressive Students' Association (PSA) candidate Nigam Kumari (1,256 votes).

Meena's win marked the first time the ABVP has bagged a central panel post since Saurav Sharma's victory on the same post in 2015-16. The last time the ABVP won the post of president was in 2000-01 when Sandeep Mahapatra had emerged victorious.

This year's election saw a split in the Left alliance, with the AISA and the DSF

contesting as one bloc while the SFI and the All India Students' Federation (AISF) formed a coalition with the Birsam Ambedkar Phule Students' Association (BAPSA) and the PSA.

The ABVP contested the election independently.

Hailing the victory of its alliance on three central panel posts, AISA also raised concern over the ABVP's narrow win for the post of joint secretary and called it a challenge to the Left's dominance on campus.

"It is indeed a matter of concern that the ABVP has won the post of joint secretary with a margin of 85 votes. Despite this structural assault and corruption of the admission process to ensure BJP loyalists in faculty positions act as a ticket for the ruling regime on campus, the Left has returned to its leadership position in the JNUSU," AISA said in a statement.

It called the alliance's victory a mandate against the government's New Education

Policy which, it said, undermined public-funded education and discriminated against marginalised groups.

In contrast, the ABVP called its victory "a historic shift in JNU's political landscape" and said it broke the Left's "so-called red fortress".

"This victory in JNU is not only proof of the ABVP's proactive hard work and students' faith and commitment to nationalist thinking but it is also a victory for all students who

consider education as the foundation for nation-rebuilding. This is a democratic revolution against the so-called ideological tyranny established by the Left for years in JNU," the ABVP said in a statement.

Meena, the newly-elected joint secretary, said, "I am not at all considering this victory as my personal achievement or gain but it's a massive and fascinating victory of tribal consciousness and the nationalist ideology, which has been suppressed by the Left for years."

"This success is an embodiment of students who want to advance in education by wholeheartedly upholding cultural identity and the spirit of nation rebuilding," he added.

The polls, held on April 25, witnessed about 5,500 of the 7,906 eligible students casting their votes.

While the turnout was slightly lower than the 73 per cent recorded in 2023, it was among the highest since 2012.

Twenty-nine candidates were in the fray for the four central panel posts and 200 for the 44 councillor seats.

In the March 2024 polls, held after a four-year gap following the outbreak of Covid, the United Left won three of the four central panel posts while BAPSA -- which had contested independently -- secured one.

Nigerian who acted in Bollywood films held with Rs 30 lakh MDMA in Delhi

New Delhi
A Nigerian national who had worked in several Bollywood films alongside well-known actors was arrested along with an accomplice for drug trafficking in Delhi, police said on Monday.

The duo was caught with 354 grams of MDMA, comprising 766 tablets and valued at around Rs 30 lakh, they said.

The accused have been identified as Patrik (47), a native of Abia state in Nigeria, and Shashikant Ravindra Prabhu (42) from Maharashtra.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Surendra Choudhary said in a statement, "The arrests were made by a special team of the southwest district police near

Mahipalpur."

He said a scooter allegedly used for drug delivery was also seized from their possession. According to the statement, Patrik had arrived in India in 2008 on a business visa and stayed illegally after its expiry. He found work in the film industry, featuring in various Bollywood projects, but later fell into drug abuse and eventually into trafficking.

In 2019, Patrik was arrested for possession of heroin and spent three years in jail, during which he reportedly forged ties with other drug peddlers. After his release, Patrik shifted to supplying MDMA tablets across Delhi and NCR, the statement said.

GDA to monitor illegal constructions with AI; workshop organized for training

Shiv Kumar Ghaziabad
In a move to curb illegal constructions across the city, the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) organized a training workshop today at its auditorium. Following the directives of the Vice Chairman, the GDA has partnered with Geotrix Analytics Pvt. Ltd. to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) based monitoring across its eight zones.

The new system, powered by Geotrix software, will leverage geospatial analysis and satellite imagery to detect unauthorized construction activities. Officials said the software will compare satellite images taken three months apart and cross-reference them with official maps to pinpoint illegal develop-



ments. This advanced AI system has already been successfully implemented by the Varanasi Development Authority, where it has significantly improved

monitoring updates. Based on the AI findings, enforcement teams will receive clear instructions to initiate action in accordance with existing regulations.

The workshop saw participation from the Additional Secretary, all Executive Engineers, and Junior Engineers of the Authority. It was aimed at familiarizing the officials with the functioning of the Geotrix platform and enhancing their capacity to manage construction activities more efficiently and transparently.

GDA officials expressed confidence that the adoption of AI would bring greater transparency and effectiveness in maintaining urban planning standards, significantly reducing the scope for illegal construction activities in Ghaziabad.

Under the new system, senior officials will have access to a centralized application that provides daily

Jamia student molested near campus gate university says stepping up security

New Delhi
A woman day-scholar at the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) was allegedly molested near a campus gate on Sunday night and the accused has been arrested, police said here.

In a statement, the university said the incident was "unfortunate and strongly condemnable" and swift action was taken in the matter.

The JMI administration reiterated its "zero-tolerance" policy towards any form of violence against women, even as a student organisation alleged that the incident took place in full view of security staff who failed to intervene and claimed serious lapses in campus security.

According to the JMI official, the incident occurred on Sunday night when a woman student reported being molested near Gate No. 8 of the campus. The university's proctorial and security teams, along with the Security Advisor and Chief Proctor, immediately alerted the Jamia Nagar Police Station. Police personnel quickly arrived at



the university gate and apprehended the accused, it said. An FIR has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and the accused is currently in police custody with further investigation underway into the matter.

"The university addressed the situation promptly yesterday night itself. The perpetrator was immediately nabbed, and university authorities have taken multiple rounds of the campus, patrolling every nook and corner, to ensure that the campus remains peaceful and secure," the JMI statement said.

It added that senior officials, including the Vice Chancellor, have been constituted regular rounds to reassure students, especially women, of their safety.

The administration reiterated its "zero-tolerance" policy towards any form of violence against women and emphasised its commitment to maintaining law and order on campus.

Electric buses under Delhi's DEVI scheme likely to launch on May 2

New Delhi
The launch of electric buses under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Integration (DEVI) scheme is likely to take place on May 2, officials said on Monday.

An official said that the scheme, which was earlier scheduled to be launched on April 22, was postponed following the declaration of national mourning over the demise of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced the decision last week through a post on X, saying that the new launch date would be announced soon.

In a boost to last-mile connectivity and sustainable transport, the government is set to roll out 76 electric buses from the Ghaziabad depot under the DEVI initiative, a scheme rebranded by the newly formed BJP government.

The DEVI bus service aims to strengthen feeder connectivity to metro stations and major Delhi Transport Corporation



(DTC) bus routes, with each electric bus expected to cover a route of approximately 12 kilometres.

Known as the Mohalla Bus Service under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, the project has now been rebranded by the BJP administration, officials said.

It is a key initiative to improve last-mile connectivity in Delhi, they said.

The service, which had been delayed for several months, is designed to enhance public transport accessibility across the capital.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Indu Lekha w/o Late Sh. Naresh Kumar Lumb aged about 68 years R/o C-9/9326, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070, do hereby disown/debar her son namely Devesh Lumb and his family members (i.e. namely Meghna Verma (wife) his family members) from her all movable and immovable properties and any kind of assets or liabilities as their behavior is not well with my client and my client shall sever all relations with the above said persons and anybody dealing with them at his/her own cost and risk, my clients shall not be responsible for any act of their son namely Devesh Lumb and his wife.

DEEPAK JAIN ADVOCATE OFFICES: 265, LAWYERS CHAMBERS, DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI-110003. 33, CIVIL WING, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Know all men by these presents that my clients Smt. Paramjeet kaur/W/o. Late Kamaljeet Singh R/o. House W-25 Street No-44 Prithvi Park MBS Nagar Tilak Nagar SO West Delhi-110018 have severed all their relations with their son Gurpal Singh thereby debarred and disowned them from all their movable and immovable properties and assets. My clients shall not be liable for any act and omission done by them, if any person deals with them, he/she shall do the same at their own risks, costs and responsibilities and my clients and their other family members shall not be liable for the same."

RANJEET SINGH FLORA ADVOCATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that my clients Shri Parmod Kumar Gupta and Smt. Santosh Kumari Gupta both R/o 42-D, D-Block, First Floor, Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007 have severed/terminate all their relations with their son namely Nishu Gupta, his wife Veenu and their master child, due to their mischievous and cruel acts against my clients. My clients have disown/debar them from all their movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. My clients and other family members will not be responsible in any manner for the acts committed or omitted by the above said son and his family in future.

BAKSHI TAEHSWAR SINGH ADVOCATE

C-18, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi-110013
Delhi No. 291, Civil Side, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi - 110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT SMT. SUNITA W/O SH. JAGBIR R/O 252, VILLAGE SULTAN PUR DABAS, NORTH WEST DELHI-110039, DO HEREBY DISOWN/DEBAR HER SON RITIK DABAS FROM HER ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND SEVERE HER RELATIONS FROM HIM DUE TO HIS DISOBEDIENCE AND ACT OF OMISSION. ANYBODY DEALING WITH HIM SHALL DO SO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK AND MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF HIS ACT(S) WHATSOEVER, IN THE FUTURE.

VIRENDER SOLANKI ADVOCATE OFF. CHAMBER NO. 3, 100 FT. ROAD, SDM OFFICE, KANJAWALA, NEW DELHI-110081

Two held for illegal bird trade in U'khand 34 parakeets rescued

Dehradun
The forest department has rescued 34 protected rose-ringed and Alexandrine parakeets from two meat shops in Roorkee and arrested two people for allegedly trading in the protected bird species.

The action was taken after raids conducted on the orders of Haridwar's Divisional Forest Officer Vaidhyan Singh on a few shops in Roorkee following a complaint lodged recently by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India, forest department officials said on Monday.

Shoaib and Sarik were held after being found in possession of protected parakeets. They had unlawfully confined them in cages at their meat shops in Roorkee's Purni Teshil area, they said.

They were booked under different sections of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and recommended by a local court to judicial custody on Saturday.

Rose-ringed and Alexandrine parakeets are protected under Schedule II of the WPA Act, 1972. Buying, selling, or possessing this species is punishable by a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh, a jail term of up to three years, or both, they said.

The illegal activity came to light when a PETA India staff member noticed parakeets confined in cages inside two shops while passing through the area.

Punjab Agricultural University to get Rs 40 crore grant this year: Finance Minister

Ludhiana
Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday said the state government will give a capital grant of Rs 40 crore to Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) this financial year.

The government has already significantly bolstered the varsity's efforts in advancing agricultural research and academic infrastructure with a Rs 20 crore grant in 2024-25, he said.

Cheema on Monday inaugurated the newly established agro processing complex, a state-of-the-art facility equipped with Rs 46 lakh worth machinery. He also laid the foundation stone for a plant acclimatisation facility and a gene bank, a high-end project with an outlay of Rs 2 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, Cheema emphasised the transformative impact of the agro processing complex, which is designed to empower rural youth to become successful entrepreneurs and enhance farmers' income through value-added processing at the village and cluster levels.

He added that the plant acclimatisation facility would enable the Punjab Agricultural University to provide farmers with high-quality planting material through commercial tissue culture, strengthening the state's agricultural ecosystem.

The finance minister also inspected several key renovation and infrastructure development projects at the university, funded through the earlier grant of Rs 20 crore.

Haryana CM presents vision for fairer financial distribution at 16th Commission meeting

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini emphasised the strategic significance of the National Capital Region (NCR), describing it as the heartbeat of 142 crore Indians but also as a global reflection of India's aspirations to become a developed nation by 2047 during the 16th Finance Commission meeting held here on Monday.

Advocating for a forward-looking approach to resource allocation, the Chief Minister suggested the introduction of a new criterion based on the percentage of a state's area falling within the NCR. He further proposed that the Finance Commission consider another criterion based on the percentage of a state's population serving in the armed forces, recommending a corresponding share of central taxes to such states in recognition of their contribution to national security.

The meeting saw detailed discussions on critical financial issues, including tax devolution, resource allocation, and state-specific grants. Notably, Finance Commission Chairman Dr. Arvind Panagariya praised Haryana for having the second-highest per capita income among major states, despite its relatively small geographical size. He commended the state's significant contribution to the national economy and appreciated the Chief Minister and his team for presenting Haryana's 'Vision Document @2047' aimed at contributing to the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing the Commission, Chief Minister Saini stressed that while most Finance Commis-



sions have traditionally recommended grants based on various factors, some states, like Haryana, go beyond Centrally Sponsored Schemes to provide broader benefits to the poor from their own resources. He urged the 16th Finance Commission to recommend special state-specific grants for such initiatives.

Citing examples, Saini highlighted how the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Ayushman Bharat Yojana covers only nine lakh families in Haryana. In contrast, the state government expanded coverage through its Chirayu Ayushman Yojana, bringing an addi-

tional 32 lakh families with an annual income of up to Rs. 1.80 lakh under a Rs. 5 lakh per year health coverage scheme. Similarly, while 13 lakh families benefited under the Ujjwala Yojana, Haryana launched the Har Ghar-Har Gidhini Yojana, providing subsidised gas cylinders at Rs. 500 to 15 lakh additional families.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that under the PM Suryagrah Yojana, Haryana is offering an additional subsidy of Rs. 25,000 per kilowatt from state funds, over and above the central government subsidy.

He further asserted

that Haryana's Triple Engine Government — symbolizing the synergy between central, state, and local bodies — is delivering governance rooted in inspiration, innovation, inclusive development, and social welfare. Quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that Haryana has been consistently recognized as a vital engine driving India's economic growth.

Highlighting agricultural initiatives, Saini pointed out that Haryana ensures the procurement of all 24 crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), thus guaranteeing economic stability for its farmers.

He further asserted

that Haryana's Triple Engine Government — symbolizing the synergy between central, state, and local bodies — is delivering governance rooted in inspiration, innovation, inclusive development, and social welfare. Quoting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that Haryana has been consistently recognized as a vital engine driving India's economic growth.

Highlighting agricultural initiatives, Saini pointed out that Haryana ensures the procurement of all 24 crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), thus guaranteeing economic stability for its farmers.

He proposed that the Finance Commission consider recommending special grants for states that ensure such MSP-based procurement.

The Chief Minister also drew attention to Haryana's leadership in strengthening grassroots democracy. While some states have provided 33 to 37 percent reservation for women in local bodies, Haryana has extended it to 50 percent. He requested the Commission to include women's reservation and educational qualifications for members as parameters when determining grant norms for local bodies for the period 2026-31.

Reaffirming Haryana's prominent role in nation-building, Saini said, "My voice today is not just that of a Chief Minister or Finance Minister, but the voice of every citizen of Haryana." He expressed confidence that the historic recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission would strengthen Haryana's contribution to realizing the vision of a developed India by 2047 and pave the way for a brighter future for the entire nation.

Haryana extends validity of All India Tourist Permits from 9 to 12 Years: Vij

Komal Ramola
Chandigarh

In a major relief for the transport and tourism sectors, Haryana Transport Minister Anil Vij announced today that the validity of All India Tourist Permits in the state has been extended from nine years to twelve years. The move brings Haryana in line with the Central Government's All India Permit Policy, ensuring greater uniformity and addressing a longstanding demand of the local transport operators.

Speaking to reporters in Chandigarh, Vij stated that an official notification formalizing the decision would be issued shortly. This step aims to streamline operations for tourist vehicle owners and operators, eliminating discrepancies that had previously caused confusion and operational challenges.

The Transport Minister informed that Haryana Chief Minister had granted approval to the proposal earlier in the day. The decision follows a recent memorandum submitted by the Ambala Taxi Operator Union to the Transport Minister, where they requested that Haryana align its permit validity duration with other neighboring states such as Punjab



and Himachal Pradesh, where permits are valid for twelve years. Acting promptly, the Transport department prepared a proposal under the Minister's directions, which has now received the green signal from the state government.

Elaborating on the specifics, Vij said that the validity for tourist permits for petrol and CNG vehicles operating in the National Capital Region (NCR) has been increased from nine to twelve years. For diesel vehicles operating within the NCR, the validity has been extended from nine years to ten years, in compliance with environmental norms specific to the region.

For non-NCR areas, the permit validity for both petrol/CNG and diesel tourist vehicles has been extended from nine

years to a full twelve years.

The extension is expected to have a positive impact on stakeholders across the transport and tourism industries, offering longer periods of operational stability and reducing the administrative burden of frequent renewals. Operators believe the move will encourage more investments in tourist transport services, improve vehicle utilization, and enhance the overall ease of doing business in the sector.

Notably, the Ambala Taxi Operator Union, which had spearheaded the request for change, welcomed the decision. In their earlier representation, they had pointed out that Haryana's previous policy placed them at a competitive disadvantage compared to operators in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, where longer permit periods were already in effect.

With the state government's latest decision, Haryana's transport and tourism sectors are expected to become more competitive, benefiting thousands of operators and contributing to the broader goal of boosting tourism and mobility across the region.

Haryana Govt urges youth to focus on creating jobs, jot seeking them

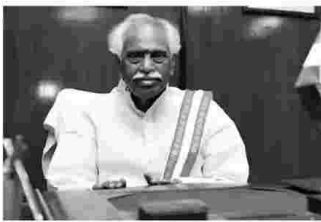
Shiv Kumar
Kurukshetra

A two-day National Conclave 2025 on "Transformation in Teacher Education Towards Viksit Bharat 2047" was inaugurated today at Kurukshetra University. The event is being jointly organised by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), the Haryana State Higher Education Council (ISHIEC), and Kurukshetra University.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Haryana Governor and K.U. Chancellor Hon'ble Bandaru Dattatraya urged the youth of Haryana to focus on creating jobs rather than merely seeking employment. He emphasized that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 will play a pivotal role in driving change across the nation, igniting a new consciousness and revolution, and positioning India as a developed country by 2047.

Highlighting the crucial role of educators, Governor Dattatraya remarked that a teacher is not just a transmitter of knowledge but a builder of character, shaping the future, guiding thoughts, and inspiring innovation and service.

The Governor lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership in formulating the NEP 2020, which he said aims to



make education more inclusive, multi-disciplinary, high-quality, and globally competitive.

Speaking at the inaugural session, NCTE Chairperson Prof. Panikaj Arora noted that achieving the desired learning outcomes requires innovation, collaboration, and dedication.

He explained that the third National Conference organized by NCTE at Kurukshetra University aligns with the broader vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. Prof. Arora stressed the importance of producing high-quality teachers in a rapidly changing educational landscape and called for the prompt, nationwide implementation of NEP 2020. Chairperson of the Haryana State Higher Education Council, Prof. Kailash Chander Sharma, elaborated on the goals of NEP 2020, aiming to develop self-reliant, creative, and rational youth equipped with

both human values and skills. He also underlined the importance of the Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) 4-year programme in unlocking new career pathways and bridging the skills gap in the teaching profession.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Kurukshetra University Vice Chancellor Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva highlighted India's immense demographic advantage, with a youth population of 300 million between the ages of 15-39. He explained how NEP 2020 addresses critical challenges such as unemployment, skill shortages, and the need for character building.

Prof. Sachdeva also shared Kurukshetra University's achievements, including the successful implementation of NEP provisions across undergraduate and postgraduate programs and the university's recognition with an A++ grade by NAAC.

Majithia targets Amritpal Singh with fresh drug, gang allegations

Chandigarh

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia on Monday launched a sharp attack against NSA detainee and Member of Parliament Amritpal Singh, releasing a series of videos purportedly linking him and his family to drug abuse and criminal networks.

Addressing a press conference, Majithia shared a video allegedly showing Amritpal's brother, Harpreet Singh, rolling a joint inside a vehicle — a direct contradiction to the family's claims of being falsely



implicated. Majithia also aired an earlier clip featuring Amritpal's father, Tarsem Singh, accusing authorities of framing Harpreet by planting

drugs on him.

"The footage clearly establishes Harpreet's habitual drug use, and exposes Tarsem Singh's false narrative aimed at protecting him, despite his status as a baptized Sikh," Majithia asserted.

The SAD leader further escalated his charges by playing an audio clip in which Tarsem Singh was heard criticizing both Amritpal and Harpreet Singh. Citing multiple recordings, Majithia accused Amritpal of involvement in a Rs 22-crore dacoity allegedly orchestrated with gangster Jaipal Bhullar. He also referenced evidence implicating Harpreet's brother, Gurpreet, who was murdered at Amritpal's instructions.

Punjab govt to deploy anti-drone system to check smuggling of drugs weapons

Chandigarh

The Punjab government will deploy an anti-drone system by September or October to check the smuggling of narcotics and weapons through unmanned aerial vehicles from Pakistan, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said on Monday.

Addressing reporters here, the DGP said the testing of the anti-drone system has been completed.

"We have conducted tests of the anti-drone system at the Indo-Pak border and our officers have also held meetings with the Ministry of

Home Affairs in this regard. By September or October, Punjab will install the anti-drone system on the second line of defence, in coordination with the Border Security Force (BSF)," he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the state had said last month that it would take the help of anti-drone technology to check the smuggling of narcotics, arms and ammunition from across the border.

Yadav further said that 5,500 home guards will soon be deployed. The state government had earlier announced that 5,500 home guards

Punjab wants to end drug trafficking by May 31 DGP tells officers to lead from front

Chandigarh

Ending drugs trafficking by May 31: that's the ambitious target Punjab Police has set for itself with the force's chief directing all senior officers to firm up plans to cut narcotic supply lines effectively.

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav took the carrot and stick approach to ensure the deadline is met. He announced that Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) and Commissioners of Police (CPs) would be rewarded for their "good work" and held accountable if their performance was not up to the mark.

Addressing reporters here, Yadav said Punjab will be made a drug-free state in the sense that the availability of narcotics on the streets is fully cut.

The DGP emphasised the decision was a well-considered one and arrived at after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann reviewed the ongoing anti-drug drive "Yudh Nashyan Virudh". "We have asked all field police officers — the SSPs and CPs — to lead this campaign from the front so that Punjab can be made drug-free in the true sense of the term," Yadav said.

SSPs and CPs have been directed to plan and execute whatever measures that feel are necessary and fix for themselves a target date to eliminate the menace, but it should not go beyond May 31, the police chief elucidated.

He stressed that the objective is to cut all supply lines before May 31, in which their areas would be completely free of drugs. After the deadline ends, a rigorous field assessment would be carried out to know the actual situation on the ground, Yadav said.

"Officers who perform well will be rewarded, and those with unsatisfactory results or found making will be held accountable," the police chief added while asserting that the force looks to achieve the goal in an absolutely professional manner.

The focus is not on a figure-based target but to completely sever the supply chains and make drugs unobtainable in Punjab," he said.

Laying out a broad strategy to fight the menace, Yadav explained that police would "call forward" and "break backward linkages through information and interrogation" to unmask those involved in drug trafficking and eventually arrest them. "Its twin purpose is to target street-level peddlers and the big fish in one go."

The DGP said the Punjab government is also examining a proposal to set up exclusive NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act) courts in the state.

"We have requested the government to set up 30 exclusive NDPS courts. After taking concurrence of the high court, the government will spend Rs 22.8 crore annually on setting up these courts. The proposal is under active consideration," he said.

'Terrorists are born criminals' - Mamata Banerjee's definition of Pahalgam Killers'



By Ajay Kumar

Mamata Banerjee is all set to meet the traumatised Hindu families of Murshidabad, but after she successfully establishes her Hindu credentials post the Pran Prathishtha and inauguration of Jagannath Temple at Digha. Announced in 2018, the Jagannath Temple at Digha is finally set to see the light of the day, a year ahead of polls in West Bengal. Needless to say, Mamata Banerjee is spending three nights at Digha to 'personally' oversee the preparations of a grand Pran Prathishtha, akin to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on 22nd January 2024 prior to the Lok Sabha elections. Drawing upon her devout Brahmin antecedents, Ms. Banerjee is intent on taking part in the Pran Prathishtha ceremony and also demonstrate her internal belief in Lord Jagannath, a Vishnu avatar, much revered in entire Bengal after Manu Durga. The uncanny resemblance of the clarion call, 'Jai Jagannath' set to counter the alleged BJP/RSS combine owned, 'Jai Shri Ram' can hardly be missed. Pray, look at the full-page advertisements, social media campaigns and the fervent push by varied Trinamool Congress spokespersons - one can be bedazzled to believe that 'Didi' is a 'pious Hindu mascot'. But scratch the surface and one shall see through the shallow, pretentious and carefully curated Hinduized image of Mamata Banerjee.

Post Pahalgam terror

attack, Mamata Banerjee took to X (formerly Twitter) to express her anguish - "My heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and prayer for the swift recovery of the injured. This act of violence is utterly reprehensible and must not go unpunished"... What followed the next day, 23rd April 2025, exhibited her guarded & camouflaged yet demonstrative appeasement narrative...

"Terrorism is an identity, terrorists are born criminals, terrorism has no caste or religion. Terrorists should not be forgiven". Not a word about how Pakistani terrorists had identified people on the basis of religion and used the victims religious identity to justify their acts of terrorism. While the entire nation was appalled at the inhumane carnage of innocent tourists' basis their religious practices, the Chief Minister of Bengal chose to re-enforce the notion that terrorists have no specific religious identity, they are born criminals - implying thereby - please don't identify Pahalgam killers as Muslims / Islamic fundamentalists or Jihadist protagonist. Why does Mamata Banerjee of her party Trinamool Congress need to establish this in the minds of Bengali voters, that 'all Muslims are not terrorists'. "Muslims are terrorists" - this line of thinking has never gained prominence in India. Islamophobia is still a western construct. Possibly this is why film actor Shahrukh Khan chose to shoot his film, My Name is Khan, in the United States and not India. Does the Chief Minister of West Bengal issue a certificate of credence to the so called larger Umma because this Umma forms at least 30% of her voting populace and is a decisive voter bank in more



than 9 districts of Bengal, including Murshidabad.

Contrast Mamata Banerjee's carefully crafted post Pahalgam statements with that of firebrand & unabashedly Muslim sentiment presenter Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM chief Owaisi, reacted with as much indignation as any Indian would, on the day of the heinous terror strike - "Inn kutto, haramzaado ne jo harkat ki, wahan par, naam puch puch kar goli maare, samudayi puch kar mare, these are terrorists from Pakistan. They came from Pakistan, with active support of Pakistani establishment & ISI. Yeh Kutte, these terrorists follow the ideology of ISIS". Asaduddin Owaisi, then put out a video urging all Muslims to offer the Namaaz-e-Jumma on Friday, wearing black bands on the arm. His calling to all Muslims of India was clear - 'by wearing black bands, we will send the message that we Indians will not let foreign forces weaken the peace and unity of India. I appeal to all Indians not to fall prey to the tricks of the enemy'. A simple contextualisation of statements of Asaduddin Owaisi with that of Mamata Banerjee, is proof enough off, who is addressing which constituency and for what proposed gains. Notably, none of the

agitating Muslim MPs / MLAs of the Trinamool, seen of the streets Bengal during Waqf Amendment Act protests, went on record asking Muslims in Bengal to stand tall with their Hindu brothers. Unlike Asaduddin Owaisi, none of the notable Muslim parties in Bengal asked the Friday Namaaz to sport a Black band on their arms to send a strong signal of brotherhood to Pakistan or Bangladesh. Nor did any Islamic Cleric launch a scathing attack on Islamic fundamentalists across the borders like Mizovaz Umar Ferooz, who his Friday Namaaz, during his Tagreeq from Jama Masjid in Srinagar.

No doubt, all opposition leaders including Asaduddin Owaisi, have cornered the Modi government with respect to the loopholes in security and accountability of concerned officials, including the home minister. But the single-handed pursuit of Trinamool leaders, spokespersons and sponsored intellectuals has been - resignation of home minister Amit Shah. Post Pahalgam terror attack, in less than 24 hours, TMC MP Sagarika Ghosh wrote on X, "Pahalgam terrorist attack is a scathing indictment of Amit Shah's utter incompetence". The same day, on 23rd April, TMC MP Mahua Moitra wrote on

X, "Enough of the ill is well" narrative for J&K. Stop peddling fake narratives, Modi & Shah. In any other country Home Minister would have to face the press and answer thought questions on intelligence failure. But here Godi Media is busy defying Amit Shah". From then on till the de facto Trinamool Congress supremo or the second in command, TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee finally sharpened the attack on BJP via Amit Shah, "Instead of deeply investigating the lapses that led to this unprecedented terror attack in Pahalgam, govt & media, seem more focused on pushing a narrative that benefits a particular party... This is not the moment for or surgical strikes or symbolic threats to Pakistan. It's time to TEACI TEHM A LESSON. Reclaim Pakistan Occupied Kashmir". Mr. Banerjee's pointed mention of a 'particular party', should however, not be missed.

Whether it Sandeshkhal, the Teacher's recruitment scam or the current majoritarian ethnic butchery under the guise of Waqf Amendment Act exemplified by Murshidabad, it has been this 'particular party', read the BJP, which has been the countenance of Hindu essence, in Bengal. Much to the chagrin of the Trinamool Congress,

the recent administrative reshuffling of SSPs of two Murshidabad districts for alleged dereliction of their duties, has not cut much ice with the simmering angst against Mamata Banerjee or her government. The silent Hindu minority in Murshidabad, Malda, North Dinajpur, Birbhum, North 24 Parganas & South Dinajpur keenly await the much-delayed arrival of their Chief Minister. How will the embattled supreme leader of Trinamool Congress, embrace the slighted Hindu minorities at the cost of alienation of the majority of Muslim voters. Will the state of Bengal, give any answers after 20 days of carnage, looting & arson, as to who were the criminals, who caused the mayhem? Were those who, specifically targeted the home of Hindus, agitating Muslim youth from neighbouring districts or were rioters hired goons who had crossed the international border to inflict partition like wounds on hapless Indians. Or, shall the state machinery ever be held accountable for the lack of intelligence and police paralysis in the face of raging criminals, who just happened to be Muslims, similar to the terrorists spraying bullets in Pahalgam. Is this why, the Chief Minister chose to say, "Terrorism is an identity, terrorists are born criminals, terrorism has no caste or religion" on 24th April 2025, a day after ISIS styled jihadis shook the national consciousness.

Whether it Sandeshkhal, the Teacher's recruitment scam or the current majoritarian ethnic butchery under the guise of Waqf Amendment Act exemplified by Murshidabad, it has been this 'particular party', read the BJP, which has been the countenance of Hindu essence, in Bengal. Much to the chagrin of the Trinamool Congress,

About the Author

(Ajay Kumar, Commentator & Journalist)

Breaking Time Sudoku

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

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

Solution, Sudoku

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

THE WISDOM TREE BY SUVEEN KUMAR

A day with no want, a life with no purpose, a job with no gain is as vain as gone days and the day you start believing it, you start living it. Not all the days are to desire, not every life is to aspire and not every job is to obtain. Sometimes some days pass by like they never came, a life is spent like it was never given and a job is taken where there is nothing to achieve. Machines are for humans, humans are not for machines. Our calculated life with calculated objectives turns everything in number, where there is a lot to count but there is nothing you can count on.

It is okay to slow down, hanging in, get lazy, get untidy, go out of ways, sleep late and wake up late, not to push yourself, stay unmotivated, be carefree and careless. It is sometimes okay to relax at the time of war, It's okay to forget at the time of exam, it's okay to stick at the time of presentation, it's okay

to hesitate at the time of interview, it's okay to try the dishes you never liked, it's okay to try the meals you never thought, it's okay to play the game you are sure to lose, it's okay to take the blame for the things you didn't do, it's okay to call someone their name even when you know it's not them.

Shape your life however you like it, take your chances whenever you want it, rule your choice whichever you ride in. don't be so open that you can't fold back and so folded that you can't get lose. Every choice is yours, every choice is yours, every pride is yours. Live the way you want but don't want so much that you can't even live. Want is important to live life not to fill life. A life full of longings and wants, will die desperate and hungry.

Moral: live the life, for the life.



Changing Scenario of Global Trade and the Indian Farmer



By Prof. Ripudaman Singh

Walnuts, pistachios, apples and pulses. Under the new reciprocal duty, we will have to import wheat, maize, pulses, chicken meat, dairy and many other products and this is a serious challenge to the livelihood of farmers and food security of the country. India is the largest producer of milk in the world, but with the imposition of 38-29% duty by the US, the price of Desi Ghee costing Rs. 600 per kg will become Rs. 760 per kg and this increased price of Rs. 160 will go directly to the US agribusiness multinationals. The cost of production of one quintal of wheat in the US is Rs. 1700, whereas the MSP decreed by the Indian government for one quintal of wheat is Rs. 2425. Clearly, the Indian farmer cannot compete with the US farmer in cost of production. India, the farmer, has less than one hectare of land on an average. It is difficult to say what will be the condition of Indian farmers if the domestic wheat and rice markets are opened to major American multinational companies.

If we talk about trade tariffs, then trade tariffs are nothing but a tool to shift the price imbalance in favour of rich western countries. Any increase in trade tariffs will make Indian exports less competitive in the US. Trump's reciprocal tar-

iffs will make Indian agricultural products, seafood and processed food, 31% more expensive in the US. Due to which American consumers will prefer cheaper alternative products over expensive Indian products. On the other hand, the US is planning to export key agricultural exports, like wheat, cotton, maize, soya and chicken meat to India to reduce its \$ 45 billion trade deficit with India. The US has suggested India to reduce agricultural subsidies, eliminate MSP and open up to genetically modified (GM) crops, American butter, etc. But these suggestions, to open up Indian markets for chicken legs and dairy products ignores the fundamental inequality in global agriculture.

India and other developing countries were given concessions and subsidies in certain crops by the WTO (under Amber box) to protect domestic farmers in developing countries from dumping of crop imports by developed



countries. For example, India gives subsidy up to 8% (Rs. 8000) for every acre of cotton crop (under Amber box). This has been going on for the last three decades. But due to Trump's reciprocal tariffs, WTO has become irrelevant. India has emerged as the number one producer of cotton, milk, rice, sugarcane and other agricultural products. But due to the new reciprocal tariffs, we will be forced to import cotton, wheat, maize, dairy and other products from the US. Same is the case with vegetable oil. Till 1990 India was self-sufficient in oilseeds, but by drastically reducing import duties we were forced to import vegetable oil from other WTO countries. Dumping of imported cheap palm, sunflower and other oils made oilseed cultivation unprofitable for our farmers, and made farmers give up oilseed cultivation. This has led to a huge shortage of vegetable oils and the government is currently losing \$ 16 billion every year on vegetable oil im-

ports. There is a fear that the same situation may arise in the case of maize, sorghum and pulses, which are the lifeline for our dry land small farmers. In the future, this situation may arise due to dumping of cheap rice, cotton, wheat and dairy products from the US, and Indian farmers will not be able to recover even the cost of their produce, and will be on the verge of ruin, because in India farmers are already committing suicide due to debt and not getting a fair price for their produce.

So this is a question of livelihood of millions of small Indian farmers versus the interests of US agribusiness. US agribusiness is commercial with 8000 large farmers, while in India 85% of small farmers do sustainable farming for their livelihood. US farmers are heavily subsidized by their federal government for all crops, while Indian farmers get less than 8% subsidy on farming cost. Considering this inequality, Indian farmers cannot

be equal partners in agricultural trade, hence equal reciprocal tariff should not be imposed on Indian farmers.

India's strategy to deal with this situation should be very sensible. We should talk about reducing tariffs along with giving compensation to Indian farmers to compensate for the loss caused by US dumping. We should form a front with the European Union and BRICS countries to stand against US tariffs, take initiative for bilateral trade and focus on agricultural research and food processing to increase crop productivity and farmers' income to make Indian agriculture more competitive in the world market, because it is also a stark reality that, despite being an agricultural country, our crop productivity is far behind the average of other major countries of the world. In such a situation, now India will not only have to prepare its farmers for global competition, but also make a policy that can ensure the stability of the food provider even amidst trade fluctuations.

Dear Reader, If you have any news or you have any suggestion regarding our newspaper or you have any problem with any government department, you may contact us on 24 hour helpline no- 0120-4225517, 4241284for Delhi & Ghaziabad (958230372), for Noida (981899989), Advertisement (9818799941), Circulation (08586925450)

TOP STORY

Readers are recommended to make all necessary enquiries and seek appropriate advice before action on any advertisement and content published in this publication. The printer, publisher, editor and seller of the Top Story do not vouch for any claims. The publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having final authority of or binding in any way. We do not owe any responsibility for damage or loss to any person, a purchase of this production is not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

FOR ADVERTISING IN TOP STORY PLEASE CONTACT: 9818799941

About the Author (The author is Professor of Economics and former Regional High Education Officer) ripudaman.singh.etw@gmail.com

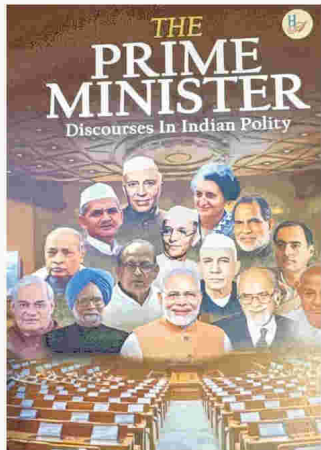
BOOK REVIEW



Dr. Sanjay Kumar
Department of
Political Science,
A.N. College, Patna

In the expansive field of Indian political scholarship, The Prime Minister: Discourses in Indian Polity by Dr. Anil Singh emerges as a pathbreaking and timely intervention. With scholarly rigour and accessible clarity, the book offers a comprehensive examination of one of the most powerful yet insufficiently theorised institutions in Indian democracy—the office of the Prime Minister.

Launched in April 2025 at the Prime Minister's Museum & Library in New Delhi, the book's release was marked by a distin-



■ (Title: The Prime Minister: Discourses in Indian Polity
Author: Dr. Anil Singh
Publisher: Har-Anand Publications Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
Year of Publication: 2025
Pages: 392 | Price: ₹999
ISBN-10: 8119798031 | ISBN-13: 978-811979803-2
Language: English
Availability: Amazon and Flipkart

Singh, the book culminates in a detailed assessment of Narendra Modi's decade-long premiership (2014–2024).

The narrative is marked by an admirable balance: it neither slips into uncritical admiration nor overt cynicism. Instead, Singh provides an insightful and empirically grounded analysis of how India's Prime Ministers have negotiated institutional constraints, coalition politics, federal challenges, and changing global realities. Of particular note is the treatment of Narendra Modi's tenure, which is characterized by Singh as a transformative period marked by centralized authority, digital governance, and assertive

Ministers Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel and Mr. Ramdas Athawale, and IP University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mahesh Verma. This high-profile launch underscored the national significance and academic anticipation surrounding the volume.

rooted in history, constitutional design, and political practice—to trace the institutional trajectory of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru's foundational leadership and moving through the eras of Indira Gandhi, Ra-

nationalism.

The author delves into the policy architecture of the Modi era—highlighting initiatives such as Digital India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Make in India, and infrastructure-led development—as emblematic of a new techno-managerial paradigm. Singh's examination also accounts for the ideological and electoral dimensions that have allowed Modi to reshape the contours of executive leadership in India.

Equally compelling is the book's exploration of extra-constitutional entities such as the Planning Commission and the National Advisory Council, which Singh critiques for their ambiguous roles in democratic decision-making. He argues for a reorientation towards constitutional transparency and coherence in governance—an especially relevant argument in today's policy landscape.

Perhaps the most compelling dimension of the book is its strong normative stance in defense of parliamentary democracy. Singh expresses concern over growing presidential tendencies and articulates a thoughtful

framework for democratic reform. His recommendations—ranging from institutional accountability to enhanced executive-legislative coordination—are pragmatic, timely, and grounded in constitutional fidelity.

Despite its academic foundation, the book is written in a lucid and engaging style, making it accessible to students, researchers, civil servants, media professionals, and engaged citizens. Each chapter is logically structured and thematically rich, allowing readers to navigate both the institutional and human dimensions of Prime Ministerial power in India.

In conclusion, The Prime Minister: Discourses in Indian Polity is a valuable addition to the corpus of Indian political literature. It not only fills a scholarly void on executive leadership but also contributes meaningfully to broader public discourse. Dr. Anil Singh's work is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the changing dynamics of political leadership and institutional authority in the world's largest democracy.

1984 anti-Sikh riots: SC orders expeditious trial of 11 cases in Kanpur



New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday directed the expeditious trial of 11 cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, in which chargesheets were filed post a re-investigation.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh asked the special public prosecutors appointed in the case to enter appearance before the courts aside from measures for the cases' early disposal.

The bench underlined an "inordinate delay" in the matter and ordered the expeditious trial of the cases.

Advocate Ruchira Goel, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said a 40-year-old illegible FIR in a Kanpur anti-Sikh riots case was forwarded to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) to retrace its contents but the laboratory was yet to give a report.

The bench directed the CFSL to expedite the process and submit its report at the earliest.

Goel referred to the trial being underway with the examination of witnesses in a related case.

The counsel appearing for the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee said some accused persons moved the high court and obtained a stay on the proceedings.

The top court was hearing a plea for the reopening of the killings of around 100 Sikhs in Kanpur during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

On March 3, the bench allowed the Uttar Pradesh government to engage forensic experts to reconstruct the four-decade-old illegible FIR in the case, requesting the laboratory's

report. In the 11 cases, which were re-investigated and chargesheets were filed, the Uttar Pradesh government appointed Kamlesh Kumar Pathak and Ranjeet Singh as special public prosecutors.

"In those cases also, we permit the complainants/victims/their families to engage counsel for which the trial court is directed to accord necessary permission," the bench said.

If owing to financial constraints, the top court said, the complainants and their families were unable to engage such a counsel, the district legal services authority will provide the best expert leading lawyer of the sessions division to represent the victims in trial, on payment of special fee.

SC modifies punishment of woman who killed daughters in 2015



New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday modified the sentence of a Chhattisgarh woman convicted for killing her daughters observing the motive behind the act was not proved.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kottiswar Singh brought down the more heinous charge of Section 302 (murder) to Section 304 Part I (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of IPC.

She was found to have spent over nine years in custody and the top court sentenced her to the period undergone without fine, directing her release as a result.

"What we have also noted is that the state did not make any serious endeavours to try to ascertain the motive or the intention of the appellant during the investigation, in spite of all the witnesses portraying a very normal domestic environment in the family and the appellant to be a normal person which indicated absence of any factor which prompted the appellant to commit the crime," the bench said.

The bench observed the investigating officer appeared to be satisfied over the evidence of the witnesses, recovery of the weapon and the medical evidence in attempting to prove the murder without investigating the motive behind the act.

On June 5, 2015, at around 9 am in Bharadiala Village, Bemtara District of Chhattisgarh, the woman fatally attacked her daughters with an iron crowbar.

The incident was witnessed by the sister-in-law of the woman who lived in the same house.

The woman denied the committing the crime and claimed she had no knowledge of the events as was possessed "by some invisible power".

The top court, however,

The bench observed the investigating officer appeared to be satisfied over the evidence of the witnesses, recovery of the weapon and the medical evidence in attempting to prove the murder without investigating the motive behind the act.

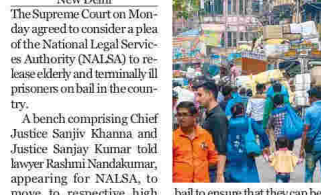
held the woman caused the death of her children or hitting them with the weapon on their heads.

"The crucial question, however, is whether she had the intention to cause death of her children or had the intention to cause such bodily injury which was likely to cause death or whether she had the conscious knowledge that it was imminently dangerous that in all probability, it would cause death, or such bodily injury as is likely to cause death and committed the act without any excuse for incurring the risk of causing death or such injury?" the bench asked.

Trial courts were asked to be mindful of pleas of accused, especially in cases of homicide, and in cases where they were unable to explain the events.

"If such circumstances emerge in course of the trial which remain inexplicable and bizarre as in the present case, the court, in our opinion, even if the accused opts to remain silent, should ask such questions to the witnesses, as may be necessary to elicit the truth by invoking Section 165 of the Evidence Act, since the court has to be satisfied that the offence alleged has been proved beyond reasonable doubt not only in respect of actus reus (constituent element of crime) but also mens rea (intent)," it said.

Supreme Court to examine NALSA plea for release of old terminally ill convicts



New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider a plea of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to release elderly and terminally ill prisoners on bail in the country.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar told lawyer Rashmi Nandakumar, appearing for NALSA, to move to respective high courts for the relief.

Nandakumar referred to the data and said many terminally ill persons, whose convictions were upheld by various high courts, were unable to move the top court to challenge their convictions and seek bail or the suspension of sentence and the matter needed an intervention.

The CJJ considered the submissions and said the plea of the NALSA will be taken up by a bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath.

"Petitioner urges this court to issue necessary directions so that prisoners of advanced age and prisoners who are terminally ill are released on bail to ensure that they can be taken care of by members of their families and can be reintegrated into society in their final days," NALSA's petition said.

The plea said terminally ill prisoners and those of advanced age required specialised care and individual attention and it may not be possible for prison authorities to provide considering the extent of overcrowding in prisons.

The plea, therefore, urged the top court to issue directions to facilitate the release of prisoners aged below 70 years and those suffering from terminal illnesses.

Such prisoners, it said, required specialised medical care and personal attention that overcrowded prisons are often ill-equipped to provide.

NALSA said as of December 31, 2022, India's prison occupancy rate stood at 131 per cent, severely straining infrastructure and impacting the quality of medical care and dignified living conditions within jails.

The petition highlighted some recent cases, including that of a 93-year-old woman incarcerated in Karnataka, whose plight prompted intervention from the District Legal Services Authority.

Similarly, bail was secured for a terminally ill undertrial by the High Court Legal Services

Committee before the Calcutta High Court.

The plea said the NALSA launched a "Special Campaign for Old and Terminally Ill Prisoners" running from December 10, 2024, to March 10, 2025.

As part of the campaign, dedicated national, state, and district units were constituted to visit prisons, identify eligible inmates, and coordinate efforts for their potential release.

Data showed 456 prisoners — including both convicts and undertrials — were identified to be within the targeted categories.

However, the plea sought relief only for prisoners who were convicted by high courts, not moved the Supreme Court in appeal and wished to legal aid services.

The NALSA is a statutory body in India established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to weaker sections of society. It also organizes Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.

DMK leader V Senthil Balaji resigned as Tamil Nadu minister SC told

New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday informed that DMK leader V Senthil Balaji stepped down as a Tamil Nadu minister and his resignation was accepted by Governor.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih perused a press release of the Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan which the state government submitted in court.

The top court, in the meantime, refused to accept the Enforcement Directorate's plea to bar Balaji from holding the post till the case was over.

"A press release is handed over to us which records that he has tendered his resignation which has been accepted by the honourable Governor. Therefore, now there is no occasion to entertain this application," the bench said.

The apex court on April 23 asked Balaji to make a choice "between post and freedom" as it warned him of cancelling bail if he did not step down as minister in Tamil Nadu.

It took exception to the

SC refuses to entertain fresh plea challenging Waqf Amendment Act



New Delhi
The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a fresh plea challenging constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, saying it cannot entertain "hundreds" of petitions on the issue.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar asked the counsel for petitioner Syed Alo Akbar to file an intervention application in pending five cases which will be taken up on May 5 for passing interim orders.

"You withdraw this. We passed an order on April 17 saying only five petitions will be taken up for hearing," the CJJ said, adding, "It will be open for the petitioner to file an application in the pending petitions if so advised."

On April 17, the bench decided to hear only five of the total number of pleas before it and titled the case: "In Re: Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025".

About 72 petitions, including those by AIMM leader Asaduddin Owaisi,

was passed by the Waqf Law Commission and was passed by Parliament with "due deliberations" and it should not be stayed without hearing the government.

Later, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs filed a preliminary 3,322-page affidavit defending the amended Waqf Act and opposed any "blanket stay" by the court on a "law having presumption of constitutionality passed by Parliament".

The ministry urged the top court to dismiss the pleas challenging the validity of the law, pointing out a "mischievous false narrative" surrounding certain provisions.

The Centre recently notified the Act, which got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after its passage from Parliament following heated debates in both houses.

The Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it.

It was cleared by the Lok Sabha with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

The Centre recently notified the Act, which got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after its passage from Parliament following heated debates in both houses.

The Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it.

The assurance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta came when he informed the bench headed by the

All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Anwar Basha former chairman Karnataka State Board of AUQAF represented by advocate Tariq Ahmed, Congress MPs Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohamad Jawed, were filed against the law.

While appointing three lawyers as the nodal counsel, the bench asked the advocates to decide among themselves who was going to argue.

The petitioners were allowed to file their rejoinders to the Centre's reply within five days of the service of the government's response.

"We clarify that the next hearing (May 5) will be for the preliminary objections and for an interim order," the bench said.

The Centre, on April 17, assured the bench that it will neither identify waqf properties, including "waqf by user", nor make any appointments to the central waqf council and boards till May 5.

The assurance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta came when he informed the bench headed by the

Kharge slams PM Modi for skipping all-party meet on Pahalgam



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for skipping the all-party meeting on the Pahalgam terror attack and accused the BJP of creating divisions in the country.

Kharge said that in this hour of crisis, everyone wants to fight together, but the BJP wants to spread venom and divide people.

"It is the misfortune of the country... Leaders of all parties attended the all-party meeting, but it is a matter of shame that PM Modi did not come to the country's pride was hurt, you (PM Modi) were giving an election speech in Bihar," Kharge said at the 'Samvidhan Bachao' rally here.

He said the Congress had decided to support the government in its action as the country is supreme.

"Country is supreme, then come parties and religion. Everyone should be united for the country," he said, adding that the Congress fought for the country's freedom and lakhs of people had shed their blood and devoted their lives to the cause.

"Was Bihar far away? The prime minister should have come to the all-party meeting and explained the plan. What help does he need from us?" he said.

"This is the attitude of the BJP and the prime minister. From our side, Rahul Gandhi went to Srinagar, met the injured, and spoke to the people."

"Modi did not come to the all-party meeting, but he talks big - about having a 56-inch chest, of taking the attack home (ghar mein ghushke marega)," he said.

Kharge said that the country and the Constitution have to be protected. It is because of B R Ambedkar's Constitution that "even a common man like a tea seller can become the prime minister and a mill worker's son like me can become the Leader of the Opposition and the Congress President," he said.

Targeting the prime minister, he said, "Modi gave inflation and unemployment. Such people weaken the country. The 56-inch chest has shrunk."

In the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Modi had said that it takes a 56-inch chest to convert Uttar Pradesh into Gujarat in terms of development.

Alleging misuse of investigative agencies against Congress leaders, Kharge said, "Whenever Congress grows, these people try to suppress it. We are not the ones to be suppressed."

He said that BJP leaders were "trying to weaken everyone but they cannot weaken democracy by filing false cases against people".

Kharge also questioned how the RSS "made properties and buildings". "Where did they get the money to build buildings worth crores and acquire thousands of acres of land," he said.

CM Dhama leads drive to strengthen safety & public systems in Uttarakhand

■ CM Dhama instructed that robust arrangements be established and monitored regularly

Pawan Lalchand Dehradun

In a crucial move aimed at bolstering governance and ensuring public safety during the ongoing Char Dham Yatra and other key events, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama chaired a high-level virtual meeting on Monday with all District Magistrates and senior state officials from the Chief Minister's residence.

The Chief Minister issued a series of critical directives, focusing on security, public services, infrastructure, and overall administrative efficiency. Emphasizing the paramount importance of security, particularly at religious and tourist sites, CM Dhama instructed that robust arrangements be established and monitored regularly.

Special focus is to be maintained on the Char Dham Yatra, which attracts a massive influx of pilgrims each year. District Magistrates were tasked with overseeing the security measures personally, ensuring that they are stringent and effective at all times.

Addressing the growing concern around misinformation, the Chief Minister directed that swift and decisive action be taken against individuals or groups spreading fake news, especially during sensitive periods like the Char Dham Yatra. To



counter misinformation, he stressed the need for the district administrations to proactively disseminate accurate and verified information through all available channels, keeping the public well-informed and preventing panic or confusion.

In a significant step towards enhancing law and order, CM Dhama ordered that strict verification processes be followed rigorously. Landlords who fail to verify tenants would face legal action. Moreover, the verification of people living in temporary settlements—including vendors, street hawkers, and slum dwellers—must be completed expeditiously. The Chief Minister also warned that strict action would be taken against those responsible for issuing essential documents like ration cards, Aadhar cards, electricity con-

nections, and Ayushman Bharat health cards to ineligible beneficiaries. District authorities were instructed to assign departmental officers specifically for carrying out these verification drives with urgency and thoroughness.

Environmental management also featured prominently in the meeting. The Chief Minister emphasized the need for stringent measures to prevent and manage forest fires, directing that strict action be taken against anyone found responsible for triggering such incidents. Public health was another major area of focus, with CM Dhama instructing officials to implement comprehensive plans to control the spread of dengue. Regular fogging operations and public awareness campaigns were mandated to safeguard public health.

Recognizing the chal-

lenges of the upcoming summer season, the Chief Minister insisted that there must be no electricity rostering in hospitals and critical institutions. Officials were directed to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water throughout the state. Special arrangements are to be made to guarantee sufficient drinking water availability to meet the increased seasonal demand.

Regarding the forthcoming Kaanchi Dham Annual Festival, CM Dhama directed officials to ensure that road conditions are well-maintained and sufficient parking arrangements are made to accommodate the large number of visitors expected at the event.

In his ongoing push for administrative efficiency, the Chief Minister instructed all District Magistrates to conduct

regular and surprise inspections of government offices. He emphasized that the administrative system must remain responsive, and public grievances must be addressed promptly. Furthermore, the regular organization of multipurpose camps, Tehsil Days, and Block Development Committee (BDC) meetings was stressed as a way to maintain continuous public engagement and grievance redressal.

On the infrastructure and industrial fronts, CM Dhama emphasized close monitoring of the progress on the installation of smart electricity meters across the state. Consumer grievances regarding electricity bills must be handled seriously, with prompt redressal. The Chief Minister also warned that immediate and strict action must be taken against those damaging government property.

In a significant announcement supporting local businesses, CM Dhama directed that tenders up to ₹10 crore in value should be awarded to local contractors to promote local employment and strengthen the regional economy. He also urged district administrations to maintain regular engagement with stakeholders from the industrial sector to facilitate smoother operations and investment.

UP sets target of Rs 30 Lakh cr eco for 2025-26

Lucknow Uttar Pradesh has achieved a major economic milestone under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, with the state's economy more than doubling from Rs 12.88 lakh crore in 2017 to Rs 27.51 lakh crore today — a feat accomplished without any increase in taxes. Now, the Yogi government has set an ambitious goal of expanding the state's economy beyond Rs 30 lakh crore during the 2025-26 financial year.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has consistently highlighted the stark contrast between the present and previous administrations, exposing how earlier governments were plagued by widespread corruption and mismanagement of public funds. These practices had left Uttar Pradesh's finances in a dire state, with the government once struggling to even pay salaries on time. In contrast, Yogi's administration, emphasizing transparent governance and fiscal discipline, has stabilized the state's economy and ushered in a new era of growth and prosperity.

One of Yogi Adityanath's most notable achievements has been the successful transformation of Uttar Pradesh's image from that of a "BIMARU" (sick) state to India's "growth engine" for five consecutive years. Despite being the country's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) had only



touched Rs 12.75 lakh crore between 1950 and 2017. In just over seven years under Yogi's leadership, it has more than doubled, with a target of Rs 30.77 lakh crore set for the current financial year.

Once decided, Uttar Pradesh today stands tall as India's second-largest economy, contributing 9.2 percent to the national GDP. In 2023-24, while India's GDP grew by 9.6 percent, Uttar Pradesh surpassed this with an impressive growth rate of 11.6 percent, underlining the state's surging economic momentum.

Before 2017, chronic budgetary deficits had stalled development projects and delayed salary payments. Today, thanks to vigorous fiscal management and deep structural reforms, Uttar Pradesh has been a revenue-surplus state for five consecutive years — all achieved without placing additional tax burdens on its citizens. The government's crackdown on tax evasion, plugging of revenue leakages, and extensive adoption of digital governance have significantly enhanced transparency and efficiency.

Congress launches 'Save Constitution' movement in Nagaland

Kohima The Congress launched 'Samvidhan Bachao' (save Constitution) movement in Nagaland on Monday.

Marking the launch, Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) in the presence of AICC Secretary-in-Charge for Nagaland, Christopher Tilak and Lok Sabha MP and NPCC president S Spongnerme Jamir held a conclave to create awareness among the general public to stand together to save the Constitution.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting at Congress Bhavan here, key party leaders voiced deep concern over what they termed as "systematic erosion of constitutional values under the BJP-led central government."

Tilak said the campaign aims to educate citizens

about the historical evolution of the Indian Constitution and raise awareness about the "growing threats it faces".

"This Constitution was built on the vision of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and B R Ambedkar, and the Congress party has protected it for decades. Today, it is under direct threat from the BJP and the RSS," Tilak said.

He accused the BJP of undermining democratic institutions, especially in northeastern states like Manipur and Nagaland. In Nagaland too, administrative overreach is becoming the norm, he alleged.

NPCC working president C Apok Jamir alleged that selective use of investigative agencies like Enforcement Directorate (ED), amounts to political victimisation.

Folk singer Neha Singh Rathore booked for 'provocative' social media posts

Lucknow

Police here have registered a case of sedition against folk singer Neha Singh Rathore over a complaint that her provocative social media posts targeting a particular faith community in the wake of the Pahalgam tragedy could harm the nation's unity.

The complainant referred to the execution-like killing of 26 people, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam last week by terrorists after reportedly asking about their religious affiliation, which left the entire country grieving and vying for the blood of the perpetrators.

"In this situation, singer and poetess Neha Singh Rathore, using her Twitter (now X) handle @nehafolk singer made some objectionable posts that can adversely



affect the national integrity and made repeated efforts to incite one community against another based on religion," the complainant, Abhay Pratap Singh, said.

Rathore said the government wants to divert attention from "real issues" by filing an FIR against her.

"What has the government done so far in response to the Pahalgam

registered at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case against the folk singer on multiple charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including attempting to promote sectarian animosity, disturbing public tranquility and endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India, police said, adding that she has also been booked under the Information Technology Act.

While BNS does not explicitly mention sedition as was specified in the colonial-era Indian Penal Code Section 124A, the new criminal code deals with similar charges of endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country under section 152.

Himachal governor inaugurates state-level Haroli festival

Una (HP)

Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Monday said it is the collective responsibility of the people to build a drug-free society to give the right direction to voters. Inaugurating the three-day Haroli Utsav on Sunday night, he said, "A country progresses only when its youths stay away from drugs and move towards their goals."

Expressing his best wishes to the people of Haroli, the governor said their festival is a wonderful confluence of cultural traditions, folk life and social unity.

Mathura prepares for grand Akshay Tritiya celebrations amid tight security

Mathura (UP)

Extensive arrangements have been made across Brajghum's temples for the smooth conduct of the Akshay Tritiya festival on April 30 amid tight security and a detailed traffic plan, officials here said on Monday.

District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh said, "Without compromising security, every effort will be made to facilitate easy darshan for devotees."

He also added that Nagar Nigam officials have been instructed to ensure a constant water supply and fans are installed to provide relief from the heat.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has also been directed to ensure round-the-clock medical facilities, including ambulance availability, the



official said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shlok Kumar stated that the area has been divided into three zones and nine sectors, with adequate police arrangements in place.

He also noted that a detailed traffic plan has been devised to ensure smooth vehicle movement during the festival.

Gyanendra Kishor Goswami, the priest of Bankey Bihari Temple, explained, "Devotees pay obeisance to the lotus feet of Bihari Ji

Mahara) in the morning and have Sarvang Darshans in the evening, a rare occasion available once a year."

He highlighted the special rituals for the day, including the application of sandalwood paste and offering 'Satu' prashad to the deity to protect him from the heat.

"Bankey Bihari Mahara) wears a Peetambari (yellow-coloured) dhoti and Payal (anklets) on this day, a tradition started by Swami Haridas," he added.

The priest also mentioned that darshan of the lotus feet of the deity on Akshay Tritiya is considered equivalent to visiting the Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand, which reopens today after the winter closure.

In Vrindavan's Radha Raman Temple, the day marks the start of a tradition where the deity is given a new floral abode daily. Dinesh Chandra Goswami, the temple priest, noted that this practice cools the deity as the sanctum is kept cool. The deity's attire, including Dhoti, Bagalbandi, crown, and flute, will be made of sandalwood, and the "Bhog" will include cooling fruits like muskmelon and cucumber. The preparation of sandalwood paste for this event began 15 days ago.

Akhilesh slams BJP govt in UP over 'attack' on SP MP Ramji Lal Suman

Lucknow

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav slammed the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on Monday over an alleged attack on party MP Ramji Lal Suman, claiming that it was part of a broader pattern of intimidation against PDA (backward, Dalits and minorities).

Karni Sena activists hurried tyres at Suman's convoy at the Ghabhana toll booth on the GT Road between Aligarh and Delhi on Sunday, police said. Talking to reporters here, Yadav said, "The atmosphere that has been created in Uttar Pradesh today is one where the (Mahindra) Thar and bulldozers have deliberately been turned into symbols of the BJP's dominance and fear."

He alleged that the attack on Suman took



place because the Rajya Sabha MP was on his way to Sunhera village in Bulandshahr district, where he was set to raise his voice against atrocities on Dalits, including the crushing of some villagers under the wheels of a Mahindra Thar vehicle, resulting in the death of a Dalit woman and serious injuries to others.

"The government is deliberately using the Thar and bulldozers to instill

fear among people. This is not just an attack on Ramji Lal Suman, it is a direct challenge to the government's so-called zero-tolerance policy on crime," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said.

Asserting that the SP stands by the Constitution and rule of law, Yadav alleged that with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) being in power in Uttar Pradesh, certain sections of the society have been given the complete freedom to commit atrocities because "their people" occupy positions of power at every level.

"The attack on Suman points towards full support from the government machinery. Today, they are intimidating opposition leaders, tomorrow, they will not even spare the common people," he said. Agency

Over 1,000 Indians leave Pakistan for home after Pahalgam terror attack

Lahore
China on Monday said it welcomes all measures to "cool down" the current situation between India and Pakistan, including a "swift and fair investigation" into the Pahalgam terror attack, and expressed support for its all-weather ally in safeguarding its sovereignty and security.

"China welcomes all measures that help to cool down the current situation and supports fair and just investigations at an early date," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here.

He, however, evaded direct response to a question whether Beijing will take part in the probe as, according to a Russian media report, Pakistan wanted China and Russia to be part of the investigation into the Pahalgam attack.

He also parried another question about fairness and credibility of any investigation, considering that Pakistan faced allegations of sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

As a neighbour of both India and Pakistan, China hopes that both countries will exercise restraint and work in the same direction, handle relevant differences properly through dialogue and consultation and jointly uphold peace and stability in the region, Guo said.

India and Pakistan are both important countries in South Asia. Peaceful coexistence between the two countries is important to the peace and development of the region, he said.

While China on April 23 "strongly condemned" the brutal terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, its first reaction on the rising tensions between India and Pakistan came after Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar called China's top diplomat Wang Yi on Sunday and sought

China backs Pakistan, advocates 'fair probe' into Pahalgam attack



He, however, evaded direct response to a question whether Beijing will take part in the probe, as, according to a Russian media report, Pakistan wanted China and Russia to be part of the investigation into the Pahalgam attack.

Beijing's support. Wang had the phone call with Dar upon request, state-run Global Times reported.

Dar briefed Wang, who besides being Foreign Minister is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC), on the latest tensions between Pakistan and India "following a terrorist attack in the Kashmir region", state-run Xinhua news agency report quoted on foreign press release.

7 killed 9 injured in bomb blast in northwest Pakistan

Peshawar
At least seven people were killed and nine injured on Monday after a powerful bomb blast ripped through the office of a peace committee in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said.

The bomb blast occurred at the office of a local peace committee in Wana, headquarters of South Waziristan district, police said.

According to hospital administration, 16 injured people were brought to the hospital after the explosion, of which seven succumbed to their injuries.

So far, no group has claimed responsibility for the blast.

The police stated that the explosion was so severe that it destroyed the building of the peace committee's office, trapping several people under the debris.

Rescue teams and locals reached the site upon receiving the information and started an operation to retrieve the injured from the rubble.

The injured were transferred to a nearby hospital where they are receiving treatment. According to the hospital administration, some of those injured are reportedly critical.

So far, no official statement has been released about the nature or motives behind the explosion.

However, police and security agencies have cordoned off the area and launched an investigation.

Officials have said that evidence is being collected from the scene, and different aspects are being examined to trace those responsible for the blast.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist incidents, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, following the collapse of the ceasefire agreement with the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in November 2022.

Israeli strikes on Gaza kills at least 27 Palestinians

Deir Al-Balah
Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight into Monday killed at least 27 Palestinians, according to local health officials.

Israel has carried out daily strikes on Gaza since ending its ceasefire with Hamas last month. It has cut off the territory's two million Palestinians from all imports, including food and medicine since the beginning of

March in what it says is an attempt to pressure the militant group to release hostages.

The daily bombardment and widespread hunger is taking a heavy toll on Gaza's most vulnerable residents, including pregnant women and children.

An airstrike hit a home in Beit Lahya, killing 10 people, including a Palestinian prisoner, Abdel-Fattah Abu Mahadi, who had



been released as part of the ceasefire. His wife, two of their children and a grandchild were

also killed, according to the Indonesian Hospital, which received the bodies.

Another strike hit a home in Gaza City, killing seven people, including two women, according to the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service. Two other people were wounded.

Late Sunday, a strike hit a home in the southern city of Khan Yunis, killing at least 10

people, including five siblings as young as four-years-old, according to the Health Ministry. Two other children were killed along with their parents, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Israel says it makes every effort to avoid harming civilians and blames Hamas for their deaths

because the militants operate in densely populated areas.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Hamas is still holding 59 hostages, 24 of whom are believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals.

Sensex Soars 1,006 Points, Nifty Hits 24,300 on Reliance Gains

Mumbai
Benchmark BSE Sensex soared by 1,006 points to close above 80,000 level on Monday as a sharp rally in Reliance Industries and private banks, and foreign fund inflows helped stock markets cut short two days of fall amid India-Pakistan border tensions.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,005.84 points or 1.27 per cent to settle at 80,218.37 with 23 of its constituents ending with gains and seven in the red. During the day, it surged 1,109.35 points or 1.40 per cent to 80,321.88.

The NSE Nifty rallied 289.15 points or 1.20 per cent to close at 24,328.50.

Reliance Industries surged by 5.27 per cent to emerge as the biggest gainer among Sensex stocks. The oil-to-retail behemoth reported a 2.4 per cent rise in March quarter net profit beating street estimates.

Mahindra & Mahindra spurred 2.29 per cent after the auto major announced a Rs 555-crore

acquisition of SML Isuzu and said that the buyout was a strong strategic fit for the company that would put it in a strong position. SML Isuzu Ltd shares, on the other hand, tanked 10 per cent.

Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro and ICI-ICI Bank were also among the Sensex gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,952.33 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Foreign investors have infused Rs 17,425 crore in the country's equity markets last week, supported by a combination of favourable global cues and strong domestic macroeconomic fundamentals.

This came following a net investment of Rs 8,500 crore in the preceding holiday-truncated week ended April 18.

IIP growth steady at 3 pc in March slows to 4-year low of 4 pc in FY25

New Delhi
India's industrial production growth remains almost flat at 3 per cent in March sequentially, though, on a year-on-year basis, it slipped from 5.5 per cent, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing, mining and power sectors.

The government also revised the industrial growth figure downward to 2.7 per cent for February 2025 from the provisional estimate of 2.9 per cent earlier this month, according to the official data released on Monday.

In the fiscal 2024-25, the IIP decelerated to a four-year low of 4 per cent. It was 5.9 per cent in 2023-24 and the previous low was recorded at -8.4 per cent in 2020-21.

The growth was 11.4 per cent in 2021-22 and 5.2 per cent in 2022-23.

The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rose by 5.5 per cent in March 2024,



as per the data. The data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) also showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth slightly decelerated to 3 per cent in March 2025 from 5.9 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production dipped to 0.4 per cent from 1.3 per cent growth a year ago. Power output also slowed to 6.3 per cent in March 2025 against 8.6 per cent in the year-ago period.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist & Head - Research & Outreach, Iera, said, "In sequential terms, the improvement in YoY (year-on-year) growth of electricity and mild uptick in that of manufacturing was offset to a large extent by the dip in the growth of mining."

"Looking ahead, while there is some evidence and commentary around frontloading in exports to the US, we need to see whether this is driven by redirection away from other geographies or a

bump up in output in the ongoing month".

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth decelerated to 2.4 per cent in March 2025 against 7 per cent in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged a 3.1 per cent growth in March 2025 against 3 per cent a year earlier.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 2.3 per cent in the month under review, down from 6.1 per cent a year ago.

Agency

Gold Price drops Rs 1,000 amid US-China trade deal optimism

New Delhi
Gold prices declined Rs 1,000 to Rs 98,400 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 99,400 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated Rs 1,000 to Rs 97,900 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 98,900 per 10 grams.

"Gold prices continued to decline as easing US-China trade tensions boosted investors' risk appetite, reducing demand for safe-haven assets like bullion while a stronger dollar added downward pressure on gold," Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said.

On Friday, China announced it would exempt some US imports from its steep 125 per cent tariffs, though it denied that any formal trade talks were underway.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve officials signalled that they see no immediate need to adjust monetary policy, choosing instead to monitor the economic impact of the Trump administration's tariffs.

"This hawkish stance suggests that interest rate cuts may not materialise in the near term, further weighing on gold, which typically loses appeal as a non-yielding asset when interest rates stay elevated."

GNCAP urges corporates to choose 5-star safety vehicles

TSN/New Delhi
Global New Car Assessment Program (GNCAP), a safety rating system for vehicles has updated its fleet safe guide and recommended to corporates and fleet owners to go in for safer vehicle selection using GNCAP five star ratings and the UN safety standards for passenger cars.

"Work-related crashes cause a third of global road deaths, making driving one of the biggest risks for employees. To assist fleet managers in making safer vehicle purchasing decisions, Global

NCAP has revised and further developed our FleetSafe guide. It reflects the latest thinking and recommendations on vehicle selection. Improved fleet selection and purchasing can contribute greatly to ensuring safer vehicles enter the fleet, safeguarding the health and well-being of employees and contribute to saving lives globally."

Said David Ward, President Emeritus, Global New Car Assessment Program (GNCAP). "Using Global NCAP's guidelines and adopting a five star commitment will

be the best way for fleet managers to meet their duty of care for employees, reduce the costs of road crashes, and demonstrate real commitment towards Corporate Social Responsibility. How vehicle fleets are driven, maintained, and purchased is an important contributor to improved road safety," said Mr Ward.

"Over 1.1 billion two wheelers are sold globally and they also require multiple safety measures to be implemented. Two-wheelers should have ABS, blind spot detection systems and



more to make them safer. With Two wheelers accounting for 44% of road fatalities in India, improving their safety is major priority. These priorities include anti-lock brakes, standards for helmets enforcement and road design." He added.

"For further safety of Two wheelers riders GNCAP recommends anti-lock brakes (ABS) on all bikes capable of plus 50km/h. India is world leader on ABS standard but it has mandated ABS above 125cc but could go further," he said.

"Since ABS has been a successful intervention to reduce the risk of road crashes and fatalities involving two-wheelers and fatalities, this should be a feature in all motorised two-wheelers above 125cc," said David Ward of Global New Car Assessment Programme at a conference on 'Vehicle and Fleet Safety' at the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE). Safe technology systems, including ABS for all two-wheelers, cannot be ignored, he added.

Advt Contact : 9816-799941

Cricket

DC eye improved middle-overs batting show against struggling KKR

■ DC suffer two defeats in their last four matches, including a loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday

New Delhi
Delhi Capitals (DC) would aim for an improved batting effort in the middle overs when they face a struggling Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in their 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) match here on Tuesday.

DC have suffered two defeats in their last four matches, including a loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday, and will look to avoid any hiccup at the business end of the tournament.

Abhishek Porel has batted with plenty of aggressive intent at the top of the order but veteran Faf du Plessis will quickly need to get used to the slow nature of surface at Kotla after struggling in his comeback game.

KL Rahul has been DC's leading run-getter this season but could not accelerate against the spinners on Sunday night. He would back himself to take on the likes of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravarty.

With quality spinners in their ranks, KKR could pose a stiff challenge for the home. The Ajinkya Rahane left-side is slightly low on confidence after a tough outing against Punjab Kings in a rain-hit match.

A solid innings is expected from Karun Nair to ensure Rahul isn't left to shoulder the burden alone in the middle-order.

In the bowling department, DC skipper Axar Patel led from the front with two wickets but found little support from others.

Star pacer Mitchell Starc, who went wicketless against RCB, will look to exploit the weaknesses in his former team, while Kuldeep Yadav, with his deceptive googlies, remains a threat in the middle-overs.

DC's fielding has also led much to be desired against RCB, with Porel dropping a crucial catch of Krunal Pandya on Sunday night.



KKR, meanwhile, have managed just seven points so far and are placed seventh in the standings, having failed to collect any points for their last three matches, including two losses and a no-result.

Rahane will be desperate to arrest the slide and keep their playoff hopes alive, with another defeat making the task tougher.

Issues have cropped up across departments for KKR.

Their batting lacks a settled look, with Quinton de Kock and Rahmanullah Gurbaz being rotated in the opening slot alongside Narine, while the side has relied heavily on Rahane and younger Angkrish Raghuvanshi to score runs.

The middle-order trio of Venkatesh

Iyer, Andre Russell, Rinku Singh and Ramandeep Singh has struggled to make a significant impact.

Bowling has been another area of concern, with KKR failing to break opening stands, allowing teams to post big totals — as seen in the last game where PBKS added 120 for the opening wicket.

While KKR managed to pull things back at the death, it will require a collective effort from Chakaravarty, Vaibhav Arora, and Harshit Rana to stem the flow of runs against DC.

Teams (From):
Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (c), Jake Fraser-McGurk, Abhishek Porel, Karun Nair, KL Rahul (wk), Tristan Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Mitchell Starc, Kuldeep Ya-

dar, Mohit Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Sameer Rizvi, Darshan Nalkande, Donovan Ferreira, Tripurana Vijay, Dushmantha Chameera, Faf du Plessis, T Natarajan, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Manvath Kumar L, Madhav Ti-

Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Rinku Singh, Quinton de Kock (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Rovman Powell, Manish Pandey, Lavrnthi Sisodia, Venkatesh Iyer, Anukul Roy, Mosen Ali, Ramandeep Singh, Andre Russell, Amirich Nortje, Vaibhav Arora, Mayank Markande, Spencer Johnson, Harshit Rana, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakaravarty, Chetan Sakaria.

Match starts at 7:30 pm.

Sunil Joshi biggest name in contention for Spin Coach's role at BCCI's COE

New Delhi
Former India left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi has thrown his hat in the ring for the post of spin bowling coach at BCCI's Centre of Excellence (COE) that was vacated by Sairaj Bahutule earlier this year.

The COE was earlier known as the National Cricket Academy when it was based out of the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. It remains in the city but is now operational from a new location after BCCI purchased land to build a more expansive facility.

Bahutule resigned to become an assistant coach in IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals.

The 54-year-old Joshi, who played 15 Tests and 69 ODIs for India between 1996 and 2002, is currently working with Ricky Ponting in the Punjab Kings IPL team and has also coached Uttar Pradesh during the domestic season.

He has also worked with Bangladesh's national men's team as its spin bowling consultant.

According to sources in the BCCI, Joshi appeared for his interview online in front of a three-member panel comprising COE's Head of Cricket VVS Laxman, chairman of men's selection committee Ajit Agarkar and General Manager (Cricket Operations) Abbey Kuruvilla.

There were four others, who appeared for the interview in person, including India U-19 women's team coach Nooshin Al Khadeer, who was an off-spinner during her playing days.

She represented the country in five Tests and 78 WODIs and has been working in the erstwhile NCA setup for some years now.

Another strong candidate is believed to be Rakesh Dhruv, a former Gujarat and Saurashtra left-arm spinner. Veteran off-spinner Pritam



Gandhe, a domestic doyen from Vidarbha, has also been interviewed for the post.

When a senior BCCI official was asked about the interviews for the position, he said: "Obviously, Sunil Joshi has the best CV out of all the other candidates. In case of Nooshin, the BCCI is also going to have an elaborate men's wing with dedicated staff for international, national and domestic age-group women's cricketers." "While playing elite level does embellish the CV and Sunil is the only (men's) Test cricketer among those who appeared for interview, his biggest plus is considerable experience in elite level coaching."

"He has coached multiple first-class teams, has been a part of IPL coaching set-up and also coached senior men's international team. And don't forget, he is from Bengaluru, which makes a lot of sense logistically," he said.

But even Dhruv can't be ruled out as he has played a lot of cricket for Saurashtra and Gujarat.

Most of the candidates were asked about their vision for the role.

The chosen candidate will be expected to not just provide technical insight to international stars like Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav or Washington Sundar but also work with a host of India A, India U-19 and top domestic performers.

MCA to launch cricket academy modelled on NCA



Pune

The Maharashtra Cricket Association will start its own cricket academy modelled on the Centre of Excellence (erstwhile NCA) in based in Bengaluru and will also come up with 'regional centres', says president Kohit Pawar.

The MCA will start with a financial assistance of Rs 75 lakhs each for six district cricket associations and similar support will be extended to the other bodies in the future.

There are a total of 21 districts under the jurisdiction of the MCA and the six districts to have got the assistance are Jalna, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Pune, Kolhapur, Satara and Parbhani.

The academy will be named 'Ajay Shirke - Maharashtra Cricket Academy', named after the former MCA president who also served as treasurer and secretary in the BCCI.

The announcements were made by MCA president Pawar during the governing body's MahaVandana MCA Awards 2025 ceremony.

People are forgetting the importance of partnerships in T20s, says Kohli

New Delhi
Indian superstar Virat Kohli has underlined the importance of stitching partnerships in T20 cricket, especially on wickets where leaving the willow from the word go is not possible.

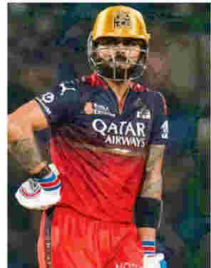
The pitches in the IPL thus far have been on the slower side, not allowing the batters to go hammer and tongs from ball one. However, the likes of Kohli and KL Rahul have flourished in challenging batting conditions.

Kohli collected his sixth half-century in 10 IPL innings against Delhi Capitals on Sunday, helping RCB maintain their unbeaten run away from home.

"It was a top win, especially looking at the surface. We saw a few games here and this wicket played out differently compared to those. Whenever there's a chase on, I keep checking with the dugout, whether we're on course," Kohli, who played a second-fiddle to Krunal Pandya, said after the win.

Kohli elaborated on his batting methodology, saying he analyses the conditions and changes his style of play accordingly.

"(What) the total (is) on the board. What the conditions are like. Who are the bowlers that are due to bowl. Who are the bowlers that are going to be hard to get away," Kohli explained when



asked how he plans the chase.

"I try and make sure my singles and doubles don't stop so that the game doesn't get stagnant. People are forgetting the importance of partnerships and that's coming to the fore in this tournament to try and dominate the bowlers through partnerships and professionalism." Krunal, who struggled initially to get going, eventually hit his first fifty in IPL in nine years.

"Krunal was outstanding, he can make an impact and it was just about time. We've communicated beautifully, Krunal kept telling me to stay while he took his chances," said Kohli.

Aussie podcasters remove IPL 2025 videos after receiving 'polite' legal letter from BCCI

Sydney
A "polite legal letter" from the BCCI has prompted the creators of a popular Australian podcast to take down "every single video" related to their coverage of the ongoing Indian Premier League from their social media accounts.

Sam Perry and Ian Higgins, who host The Grade Cricketer, received a legal notice from the BCCI and the IPL over the weekend.

"You may have noticed that every single video from our coverage of this year's cricket tournament has been removed from YouTube, YouTube Shorts, Facebook, Instagram and X," Perry said on the podcast on Monday.

"This is something we've done ourselves, it hasn't been done to us, we have removed these videos. On Saturday evening Australian time we received a very polite legal letter about elements of our content from the cricket tournament we speak to you about pertaining specifically to this season.

"As a result we decided to take those videos down," he added.

According to a report in the 'Sydney Morning Herald', "The legal notice was related to claims that Grade Cricketer IPL videos featured still photography shots from the tournament that the BCCI considered to be used for 'commercial' rather than 'editorial' purposes." It is to be noted that the IPL, in its media advisory, makes it clear that the audio and videos they provide are



exclusively for editorial use.

"Media are allowed to use the press conference video/audio on their respective websites or mobile applications for editorial use. The press conference video/audio cannot be uploaded on social media platforms including but not limited to YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter)," all IPL media advisories read.

Both Perry and Higgins are scheduled to travel to India for a few live shows this week.

"It's very important to note we're going to continue to post coverage of the

tournament, at the same cadence that we do. In fact, there's going to be more in the next couple of weeks because we're going to India," Perry said.

"But our approach to content has been consistent for five years, we just now have a deeper understanding of what is and isn't producing muster." The Grade Cricketer produces a daily show called "The Big IPL Breakfast", and following the development, it will be renamed.

"We are considering changing its name to the Big Cricket tournament Breakfast," Perry said.

Pakistan ex-cricketers Shoaib Akhtar, Basit Ali's YouTube channels banned in India

New Delhi
Former Pakistan cricketers Shoaib Akhtar and Basit Ali's YouTube channels have been blocked in India following "an order from the government related to national security or public order" in the wake of Pahalgam terror attack.

The Indian government has withheld several Pakistani channels after the April 22 terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down.

The move follows recommendations from the Ministry of Home Affairs in which it said that the Pakistani YouTube channels were "disseminating provocative and com-



munally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misin-

The Indian government has withheld several Pakistani channels after the April 22 terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down.

formation against India, its Army and security agencies". Dawn News, Irshad Bhatti, SAMAA TV, ARY NEWS, BOL NEWS, Raftar, The Pakistan Reference, Geo News, Samaa Sports, GNN, Uzair Cricket, Umar Cheema Exclusive, Asma Shi-

razi, Muneeb Farooq, SUNO News and Razi Naama are the other Pakistani channels banned in India.

Following the order, the channels have been withheld by YouTube.

"This content is currently unavailable in this country because of an order from the government related to national security or public order," stated a Youtube message on logging into the channels.

Akhtar, a former pacer of repute, is a popular figure among Indian fans for his in-depth and often humorous analysis of international cricket issues. Basit, a former Pakistan coach, runs similar content on his channel.

Getting reverse swing is one thing, execution under pressure another: Axar on Starc



“China serious about winning gold at LA Olympics: Former Australia captain Steve Waugh”



Sudirman Cup Final: India face uphill task against Indonesia in battle for survival

Xiamen (China)
Faced with a herculean task to trump a formidable Indonesia and stay afloat in the competition, an under-strength India will need its struggling singles stars to deliver the goods in a must-win Group D contest at the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals here on Tuesday.

India's campaign began on a disastrous start on Sunday with a 1-4 defeat to Denmark, a result that put their qualification for the knockout stage in serious jeopardy.

With only two teams progressing from Group D, India must secure a win against Indonesia to keep their hopes alive otherwise, their third and final group match against England will be reduced to just a formality.

The poor form of their star singles players—Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, and PV Sindhu has not helped the team. However, there is some hope for India. Lakshya has defeated Indonesia's top men's singles player Jonatan Christie in their last two encounters — at the Paris Olympics and the All England Championships.



In the women's singles, with Indonesia's top player Gregoria Mariska Tunjung pulling out, Sindhu will face world No. 11 Putri Kusuma Wardani, a player she has beaten twice before.

Despite this, Indonesia boast a strong contingent of doubles players, including Fajar Alfian, Muhammad Rian Ardianto, Leo Rolly Caramando, Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, and

Daniel Marthin — all ranked among the world's top 10.

With India's top men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty absent, the inexperienced pairing of Hariharan Anshakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi will face an uphill battle in what is likely to be a tough contest. In the women's doubles, Febriana

Dwipuji Kusuma and Amallia Cahaya Pratiwi are ranked world No. 8, and without Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, Tanisha Crasto and Shrutika Mishra will be hoping to build on their encouraging performance against Denmark, which was the lone bright spot for India in their opening match.

In the mixed doubles, India's Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha will face the challenge of overcoming world No. 21 Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari of Indonesia.

Back in February, India had suffered a setback at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship, where they were eliminated in the quarterfinals in Qingdao, despite fielding a strong squad and they would like to avoid a league stage exit here.

India's best-ever performance at the Sudirman Cup has been two quarterfinal finishes: in 2011 and 2017.

While India has made significant progress in recent years — highlighted by their historic Thomas Cup win in 2022 and the Badminton Asia Women's Team Championships title in 2024 — the absence of key doubles pairs has dampened their prospects in the ongoing Sudirman Cup.

Saransh Jain named captain of rebranded Jabalpur Royal Lions for MPL T20



Senior off-spinner and India A player Saransh Jain was on Monday named captain Jabalpur Royal Lions, formerly known as the Jabalpur Lions who won the inaugural edition of the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) here.

The franchise has undergone a change in name and ownership ahead of the second season with Econex Sports being the new owners.

At the players draft held here on Sunday, the franchise added other key players to its squads including Rahul Batham, Abhishek Bhandari, and Sid-



darth Pattidar. The franchise hadn't retained any player from the first season but retained Jain in the player draft and completed the full roster of 16 players. Two more players will be added from selection trials to be held in Jabalpur. Jabalpur Royal Lions squad: Saransh Jain (c), Rahul Batham, Ritik Tada, Siddarth Pattidar, Ritesh Shukla, Dharmesh Patel, Pankaj Yadav, Ankit Singh Kushwaha, Sanjog Nijjer, Akarsh Singh Parihar, Abhishek Bhandari, Atul Kushwaha, Abheer Pratap Singh, Anubhav Agarwal.

PR Sreejesh conferred Padma Bhushan by President Droupadi Murmu

New Delhi

Former Indian hockey star PR Sreejesh was honoured with the prestigious Padma Bhushan award by President Droupadi Murmu for his outstanding contribution to the field of sports.

The official X handle of President of India posted, "President Droupadi Murmu presents Padma Bhushan in the field of Sports to Shri Sreejesh P. R. He is a former Indian Hockey goalkeeper and the current Coach of the Junior Indian Hockey team. Sreejesh is widely known for the double Olympic Bronze medals and for being the only hockey goalkeeper in the world to win the prestigious FIH Goalkeeper of the Year three times during his 22-year playing career."

The Padma Awards are among the highest civilian honours in India and are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. These awards recognise exceptional achievements in various fields such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, and civil service.

The Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, the Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order, and the Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced annually on the occasion of Republic Day.

For the year 2025, the President approved the conferment of 139 Padma Awards, including a duo case (where an award is counted as one). The list comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards. Among the awardees, 23 are women, and the list also includes 10 individuals from the categories of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 posthumous awardees.

PR Sreejesh's recognition is seen as a proud moment for Indian hockey, celebrating his illustrious career and immense contributions to the sport.

Sreejesh, revered as the 'God of Modern Indian Hockey' and currently serving as the Coach of the Indian Men's Junior Hockey Team, becomes only the second hockey player to receive the Padma Bhushan after the legendary Major Dhyan Chand, who was honoured with the award in 1956.

Sreejesh's stellar career, which spanned 18 years and saw him represent India in 336 international matches, came to a close after the Paris Olympics 2024. In his final appearance at the Olympics, Sreejesh's exceptional goalkeeping helped India secure a Bronze, adding to the historic Bronze medal won in Tokyo 2020.

Lahiri finishes 22nd; Niemann wins Liv Mexico along with invite to US Open



Mexico City
Indian golfer Amirban Lahiri returned a card of two-over 73 in the final round to finish T-22 in LIV Golf Mexico City.

Teeing off from the 18th, Lahiri opened with a birdie and added two more on the second and the 12th. His bogeys came on the sixth, the 10th and the 13th and he double bogeyed the Par-4 third. Joaquin Niemann registered his third victory of the season, rallying past two major champions with his mother in attendance for the first time outside of his native Chile.

The 26-year-old Niemann also earned an invite to the U.S. Open, thanks to the LIV Golf exemption he

clinched with one tournament to go. Niemann seemed to make it look easy this weekend, shooting 64-65 after an opening 68 on Friday.

He started the final round three shots behind second round leader Bryson DeChambeau, the Crushers GC captain, and two shots behind Ripper Captain Cameron Smith in the final group but outperformed both major winners, each of whom failed to break par on the par-71 layout.

With the victory, Niemann extended his season-long points lead and guaranteed his exemption into the U.S. Open, no matter what happens next week at LIV Golf Korea.

India bag 13 gold medals at South Asian Youth TT Championships

Kathmandu

India bagged 13 gold and three silver in an impressive medal haul in the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships here.

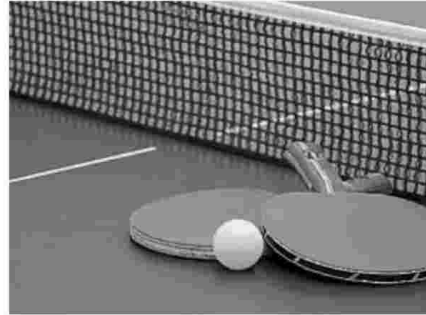
The qualification event for this year's Youth Asian Championships saw the Indian contingent dominate the competition across various categories on Sunday.

The Indian teams grabbed three gold medals in the Under-19 girls, Under-15 boys, and Under-15 girls sections and made a clean sweep of all six golds in the U-19 and U-15 doubles, including the mixed doubles events.

Additionally, India secured four gold medals in the U-19 boys and girls singles events.

However, hosts Nepal claimed the fourth gold in the U-19 boys category. Despite a lone loss to Pakistan in the five-team league phase, Nepal finished on top with seven points, securing three wins and edging out Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, who took second and third place, respectively.

India, having qualified for the Youth Asian Youth Championships last year, did not have to field its squad in the



competition. In the team events, Pritha Vartikar, Ananya Chande, Hardee Patel, and Diya Bramhachary clinched the U-19 girls gold, defeating Nepal 3-1. Prateeti Paul, Aarushi Nandi, Advika Arawal, and Tamayee Saha triumphed in the U-15 girls category, thrashing Sri Lanka 3-0.

In the U-19 boys' singles final, Kushal Chopda triumphed over fellow Indian R Balamurugan 3-1 to claim the gold, as the Indians secured the top two spots. In the U-19 girls' singles, Ananya Chande defeated Pritha Vartikar 3-1 to take the gold, leaving Pritha with the silver.

Jamshedpur FC knock NorthEast United out in Kalinga Super Cup quarter-finals after sudden death

Bhubaneswar (Odisha)
Jamshedpur FC secured a hard-fought semi-final spot in Kalinga Super Cup 2025 after edging NorthEast United FC 5-4 in a dramatic quarter-final penalty shootout at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday, April 27, 2025. The match had ended in a stalemate after regulation time, forcing a nery penalty shootout that went into sudden death.

Khalid Jamil's men showed great composure under pressure, even after Jordan Murray and Stephen Eze missed during the initial set of five penalties. NorthEast United had their own share of troubles, with Guillermo Fernandez and Michel Zabaco missing their early attempts. Despite rallying to tie the shootout at 3-3, NorthEast faltered in sudden death when Asheer Akhtar skied his shot, while Ashutosh Mehta and Lazar Cirkovic converted for Jamshedpur.

The win sets up a semi-final clash between Jamshedpur FC and Mumbai City FC on Wednesday, April 30, at 8 pm IST, as per the AIFF official website. The match itself was a tactical battle, with both coaches adopting a cautious approach from the onset. With attacking threats such as Alaeddine Ajarai, Nestor Albiach, and Guillermo Fernandez for NorthEast, and Javier Hernandez Gonzalez, Javier Siverio and Jordan Murray for Jamshedpur, defensive discipline was paramount. The first half saw few clear-cut chances as both sides focussed on



closing down space and maintaining shape. The first notable opportunity came for NorthEast United in the 15th minute, when Ajarai's thunderous free-kick from 32 yards was palmed away by Albino Gomes, ensuring the scores stayed level.

Jamshedpur also had their moments, with Hernandez and Siverio linking up well, but they failed to seriously trouble Gurmeet Singh in the NorthEast goal.

The pattern continued in the second half, with both teams struggling to break down stubborn defences. Jithin MS came closest for NorthEast with a well-struck volley from 21 yards that whistled just past the post, while Siverio and Murray were repeatedly denied by Gurmeet's safe handling.

Substitutions were made by both managers to try and inject fresh impetus, but they largely failed to influence proceedings, and the stalemate persisted until the final whistle.

In the resulting shootout, it became a test of nerves. After the early misses from both sides, the tie-breaker was forced into sudden death. Tho Singh Huidrom briefly kept NorthEast United's hopes alive with a composed finish, but when Asheer Akhtar blazed his effort over the bar, Jamshedpur had the last laugh. Stephen Eze was presented the Kalinga Player of the Match award by Dr. Saswat Kumar Rout, Officer on Special Duty, Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha.

Central govt should take big steps against terrorists: HI president

Bhubaneswar
Hockey India (HI) President Dilip Tirkey has condemned the recent terror attack which took place in Pahalagam, Jammu and Kashmir, and requested the Centre to take the "strictest action" against the terrorists.

"Central govt should take big steps against terrorists. 26 innocent Indians were killed...we are all in pain...in the future, such incidents must not happen. J&K is a very beautiful place...a lot of people go there...I request the Government of India to take the strictest action against those terrorists..." Tirkey said while speaking to ANI on Sunday.

The tribute came in the wake of one of the deadliest attacks in Kashmir since 2019. On Tuesday, terrorists attacked tourists at the Baisaran meadow in Pahalagam, killing 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen, and leaving several others injured. The incident has sent shockwaves across the nation and

the international community. Following the attack, India has taken strong diplomatic steps against Pakistan, holding it responsible for continuing support to cross-border terrorism. Global leaders have also condemned the attack and expressed solidarity with India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly condemned the terror attack, assuring that the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi said, "I strongly condemn the terror attack in Pahalagam, Jammu and Kashmir. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. All possible assistance is being provided to those affected."

He further added, "Those behind this heinous act will be brought to justice... they will not be spared! Their evil agenda will never be uncheck. Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakable, and it will get even stronger."





“It will be very difficult”: Karla Sofia Gascon on possibility of her return to US

Washington actress Karla Sofia Gascon talked about her possible return to the US and expressed concern over the trans community “losing their freedom” around the world.

She also talked about her film ‘Emilia Perez’, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Gascon, the first trans woman to be nominated for a Best Actress in Oscar, had earlier faced backlash over resurfaced tweets containing anti-Islam and racist remarks, and later she apologised for her past actions and expressed her commitment to learning and growth. Gascon, who was on track to make history as the first openly transgender actress to win an Academy Award, saw her chances dashed after journalist Sarah Hagi uncovered her questionable tweets from 2016.

The posts, which included derogatory comments about Islam, George Floyd, and the LGBTQ+ community, sparked widespread outrage and led to a backlash against Gascon.

On talking about her possibility of returning to the US, she said in Spanish, which was later translated to, “I’m looking forward to it. The question is whether, when I



get to the United States, everything will be okay.” She continued, alluding to President Trump’s executive orders that targeted transgender, nonbinary and intersex people, “I hope so, but if they don’t let me in or they don’t let me work because they consider that I am not a sufficiently qualified person or they want to discriminate against me because of my sexuality, then it will be very difficult,” as per The Hollywood Reporter. “But I hope so. I’m looking forward to doing millions of things in the United States because I think it’s a wonderful country full of something that we have all wished for in this world, which is freedom, and we are losing it. We are losing it,” she added, as per the outlet.

Kajol unveils Shubhangi as leading lady of Anupam Kher’s ‘Tanvi The Great’

Mumbai legendary actor Anupam Kher revealed Shubhangi as the lead actress of his film ‘Tanvi The Great’.

During the press conference

The introductory teaser of ‘Meet Tanvi’ has also been released, showcasing Shubhangi as Tanvi. The debutant was selected from Anupam Kher’s acting school, Actor Prepares, where she has trained over the years, as per the press release.

held in Mumbai, today, Bollywood actor Kajol introduced the lead actress, Shubhangi. Since the announcement of the film, the lead actress

has been kept under wraps.

While introducing her, Kajol asked Shubhangi how she feels about being part of the event. She replied, “Amazing, excited and you (Kajol) are standing next to me”

Kher praised Kajol as an actor and said, “I just called her up and said I am unveiling Tavi, will you come, she said, ‘Yes’, there was no discussion and she is here.”

He told Kajol, “... I learned a lot from you” When asked, why he decided to call Kajol for the event, he replied, “She is the best looking, she is the best performer and she is relevant today both as a per-

son and as a performer and I knew she will say yes also and she doesn’t take herself so seriously and that is the best part about her...if ever I was to make this film few years back I would have cast Kajol as Tanvi.”

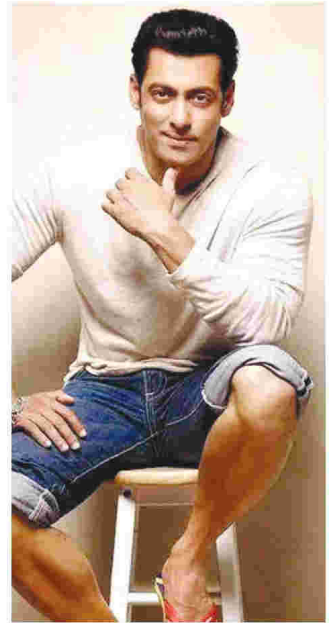
The introductory teaser of ‘Meet Tanvi’ has also been released, showcasing Shubhangi as Tanvi. The debutant was selected from Anupam Kher’s acting school, Actor Prepares, where she has trained over the years, as per the press release.

While talking about casting, Kher said, “When it came to casting Tanvi, I was determined to discover a fresh face and select a talent from my institute, Actor Prepares, in order to offer a newcomer this opportunity. Shubhangi was the chosen one, who is an

exceptionally bright talent. She has given her all to portray Tanvi — a story very close to my heart.”

“I am deeply grateful to Kajol for her support and for giving Shubhangi so much love on this important occasion,” he added.

Reflecting on her debut, Shubhangi shared, “I am immensely grateful to Anupam Kher Sir and Actor Prepares for giving me this opportunity to be the face of such a special film. My joy had no limits when I got to I will be playing the role of Tanvi. Embodying the character of Tanvi has been an overwhelming yet enriching experience. Working alongside so many legends in the film industry has strengthened my foundation, and I am determined to continue working even harder.”



Salman Khan postpones UK tour in light of Pahalgam attack

Jaipur Salman Khan has announced the postponement of his highly anticipated UK tour, ‘The Bollywood Big One’, following the tragic Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives on April 22.

The superstar took to his Instagram on Monday to share the news, citing the need for a pause in the wake of the tragic event.

The tour, which was scheduled for May 4 and May 5 in Manchester and London, was set to feature some of Bollywood’s biggest stars, including Kriti Sanon, Varun Dhawan, Sara Ali Khan, Madhuri Dixit, Tiger Shroff, Disha Patani, Sunil Grover, and Manish Paul.

However, the entire show has been postponed to a later date in light of the sombre situation.

In his post, Salman wrote, “In light of the recent trag-

ic events in Kashmir, and with profound sadness, we have taken the difficult decision to postpone The Bollywood Big One shows, originally scheduled for May 4th and 5th in Manchester and London.”

“While we understand how much our fans were looking forward to these performances, we feel it is only right to pause during this time of grief. We sincerely apologise for any disappointment or inconvenience this may cause and deeply appreciate your understanding and support. New dates for the shows will be announced shortly,” the caption further read.

This decision follows similar actions by several other prominent artists, including Arjith Singh and Shreya Ghoshal, who cancelled their upcoming concerts in Chennai and Surat, respectively, out of respect for the victims of the attack.

Paul Rudd recalls his fame post ‘Clueless’, says “I started getting more work”

Washington actor Paul Rudd recalled working in the 1995 coming-of-age teen comedy film, ‘Clueless’ and why he still “really feel so famous”.

“I didn’t really feel so famous,” said Rudd, adding, “I was a working actor and I still had a regular job when I was doing this commercial the first time, reported People.

“And then as it slowly started to, as I started getting more work, occasionally someone would say, ‘Hey, Clueless!’ or whatever,” he continued, adding, “But it wasn’t — nothing felt so different really.

“And, you know, I think just the very nature of the time when there was no so-

cial media, there was no internet — everything just went by just a little bit slower,” added Rudd.

Rudd appeared in the films Clueless (1995), Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers (1995), Romeo + Juliet (1996), Wet Hot American Summer (2001), Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (2004), The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005), Knocked Up (2007), I Love You, Man (2009), and This Is 40 (2012).

He shared that he “would do whatever kind of work I could get” to fund his acting dreams throughout the ‘90s, including waiting tables and DJing at weddings and bar mitzvahs, as reported by People.



Raga-based live ensemble Jhalaa to be launch at WAVES summit

Mumbai raga-based music ensemble Jhalaa is set to be unveiled at the WAVES (World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit) 2025 in Mumbai on May 1.

The summit will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. UK Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy is also expected to speak at the event. She will deliver a keynote titled “Creative Bridges: Unlocking Power of Cultural and Digital Partnerships Between UK and India.”

Featuring an ensemble of 12 musicians, 6 women (singers-dancers) and 6 men (singers and multi-instrumentalists), Jhalaa blends the raga-based music with a fresh, contemporary style. Music maestro AR Rah-



man, Norwegian DJ and musician Alan Walker, rapper King, and singer Shreya Ghoshal are all set to entertain the audience with their performances at the WAVES (World Audio Visual and En-

tertainment Summit) 2025.

This landmark initiative is the flagship project under the Bharat Maestro(a) Awards, launched earlier this year by music legend AR

Mania to celebrate India’s

musical heritage and uplift the next generation of classical musicians, according to the press release.

Curated by Rahman, Jhalaa was formed through a global talent search that re-

ceived more than 500 entries, ultimately bringing together the finest young artists formally trained in Indian classical music and classical dance forms.

“In the golden eras of Indian classical music, ragas drew inspiration from nature, the seasons, and the changing tides of human emotion. Jhalaa seeks to rekindle that connection, offering an immersive experience that weaves the moods of nature and the rhythms of life into every performance,” said award-winning composer Khatija Rahman in a statement.

Khatija alongside music director and BMA’s Advisory Board Member, Sai Shrivani and Kannika Urs, Project Head of Jhalaa and Head of KM Musiq, has worked passionately to bring this vision to life.

Kenneth Branagh hails Tom Cruise as an ‘underestimated’ actor



Washington In a heartfelt tribute to his long-time friend and co-star, actor and director Kenneth Branagh has praised Tom Cruise as an “underestimated” actor, despite the actor’s successive success in blockbuster franchises.

Cruise is set to be honoured with the British Film Institute’s (BFI) highest honour, the BFI Fellowship, in recognition of his extensive contributions to the film industry, particularly in the UK.