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"MANNER IN WHICH BANNERS, PLACARDS DISPLAYED, LANGUAGE

JAIRAM RAMESH CRITICISES BJP AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT



GAUTAM GAMBHIR LAYS OUT THE RATIONALE BEHIND BRINGING SANJU SAMSON



BJP Will Return To Power With Record Numbers In Assam: Amit Shah

Mr Shah who addressed a large gathering of the BJP's youth workers in Guwahati, said, "The Maha Kumbh of youths in Guwahati today makes it clear that in the coming election the government led by Himanta Biswa Sarma will come to power."

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GUWAHATI : Hours before the Election Commission's announcement of the poll schedule on Sunday, Union home minister Amit Shah said the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in Assam will return to power with a record mandate in the upcoming assembly elections.

Shah, who was on a two-day visit to the state beginning Saturday, addressed a gathering of the BJP's youth workers in Guwahati. "Nearly 125,000 youths from 31,400 polling booths from across Assam are present in the meeting today... The outcome of any election can be gauged from the gathering of any party's youth workers," he said.

"The Maha Kumbh of youths in Guwahati today makes it clear that in the coming election the government led by Himanta Biswa Sarma will come to power. I can easily predict that BJP will achieve a



66 HOURS BEFORE THE ELECTION COMMISSION'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POLL SCHEDULE ON SUNDAY, UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH SAID THE RULING BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP)-LED GOVERNMENT IN ASSAM WILL RETURN TO POWER WITH A RECORD MANDATE IN THE UPCOMING ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

record majority in this election," he added. Voting to elect 126 new members of the Assam assembly is expected to take place in the first half of next month, and the BJP, which came to power in 2016 and 2021, is trying to retain power for a third consecutive term.

Five years ago, the party secured 60 seats and formed the govern-

ment with the support of allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and United Peoples Party Liberal (UPPL).

"Anyone who sees today's gathering can easily presume what will be the status of parties opposing us in the next election," Shah said, listing the state government's achievements in the past five years, including providing 165,000 government jobs against a promise of 100,000 made in 2021.

"Did anyone have to pay any bribe or secure recommendation from any leaders to get jobs and not a single court case (alleging irregularities in appointments) was filed. This is an indication of how BJP runs governments," he added.

Shah accused past Congress governments of not respecting Assam's language, heritage and culture and of failing to curb terror outfits. He highlighted how peace deals with various armed groups in the past five years led to the surrender of arms by over 10,800 youths and brought peace across the state after decades.

He blamed the Congress for encouraging illegal infiltrators for vote bank politics and assured that once the BJP returns to power in Assam for the third time, they will be detained and deported not just from the state but from every corner of the country.

"Can Congress act against illegal infiltrators? Only BJP can make Assam infiltrator-free. Congress had legalised, formalised and normalised illegal infiltrators, but we have taken a resolve to throw them out," said Shah while lauding the state government for evicting illegal settlers from 49,500 acres of encroached government and forest land.

JAISHANKAR VISITS BELGIUM TO MEET EU LEADERS AMID WEST ASIA CONFLICT

NEW DELHI : External affairs minister S. Jaishankar travelled to Belgium on Sunday to interact with his counterparts from the 27 member states of the European Union, marking his first foreign visit since the start of Israel and the US's war against Iran last month.



Trump urges other countries to send warships to open Hormuz Strait in a 'team effort'

AGENCY

WASHINGTON : US President Donald Trump urged all countries affected by the closure of Strait of Hormuz to send their ships to Persian Gulf and in a 'team effort,' help the US to open the strategic Strait. Paradoxically, Trump claimed that the US had beaten and 'completely decimated' Iran and 'destroyed 100 per cent' of Iran's military capability. He hoped that China, France, Japan, South Korea, the UK, and others, that are affected by this 'artificial constraint', will



send Ships to the area so that the Hormuz Strait will no longer be a threat by a nation that has been 'totally decapitated,' Trump said.

He said The US has beaten and completely decimated Iran, both militarily, economically, and in every other way, but the countries of the world that receive oil through the Hormuz Strait must take care

of that passage. 'We will help — A LOT!' The U.S. will also coordinate with those Countries so that everything goes quickly, smoothly, and well. This should have always been a team effort, and now it will be — It will bring the World together toward Harmony, Security, and Everlasting Peace,' Trump said on his social media platform. Trump claimed that many countries, especially those who are affected by Iran's attempted closure of the Hormuz Strait, will be sending War Ships, in conjunction with the US to keep the Strait open and safe.

Invest in Punjab, Govt will provide full support & incentives: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

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CHANDIGARH : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday assured industry leaders of full government support and incentives while addressing entrepreneurs on the concluding day of the three day Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit in SAS Nagar (Mohali). Highlighting the strong participation of global and national investors, the Chief Minister emphasised that the summit has created the right environment for industrial growth and will accelerate the state's economic progress. He announced that the government will hold a review session after six months to assess the progress of the investment proposals and projects finalised during the summit.

Interacting with the business tycoons on the concluding day of the landmark Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "Words are short to describe the dedication of those who have come here to attend this summit and become active partners in the economic progress of the state. Leading industrial tycoons from across the globe



PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER BHAGWANT SINGH MANN ON SUNDAY ASSURED INDUSTRY LEADERS OF FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES WHILE ADDRESSING ENTREPRENEURS ON THE CONCLUDING DAY OF THE THREE DAY PROGRESSIVE PUNJAB INVESTORS' SUMMIT IN SAS NAGAR (MOHALI).

have converged at this historic and landmark summit. The best coaches are those who prepare their teams for every sort of hostile environment and challenge, and the state government has worked on the same pattern."

Emphasising the spirit of the people of the state, the Chief

Minister continued, "Punjabis are always leaders and we can do anything for the country and its people as we give top priority to the nation. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new emergent field but the human brain is far more important than it, which is good for human resources development. It is heartening to see that businessmen are fast emerging as a key voice in policy making decisions."

Referring to the deliberations held during the summit, he added, "Around 30 brainstorming sessions were conducted during the three days of the Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit, which will go a long

way in accelerating the economic growth of the state. Besides putting the state on a high growth trajectory, this summit will also help in creating new job opportunities for youth. This is imperative for checking brain drain from the state and ushering in a new era of progress and prosperity."

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated that in a democracy the Universal Adult Franchise is very important and we are very fortunate that all of us have got this right. Everyone should exercise their right to vote so that their voice is counted. It is necessary to ensure that the democratic right of every person is acknowledged for the welfare of all.

LPG SUPPLY IN DELHI : CM WARNS HOARDERS OF STRICT ACTION



NEW DELHI (TIT NEWS) : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday warned hoarders of strict action over what she said some people inciting fear among consumers which is triggering panic LPG buying. On an optimistic note, she said 'very soon situation will return to normal'. The government has asked the people who own piped gas connection to surrender their cylinders which would address crisis to some extent.

"The government has a strict stance against hoarding. We all must stand united when a crisis befalls the country," said Delhi CM Rekha Gupta. "I also want to warn those people who are creating fear among the public and inciting them to hoard. This is working against the country," she added. "In difficult times, let us all come together, exercise a little restraint, use alternative means, and very soon this entire situation will return to normal," CM Gupta assured.

EC announces Poll dates: Assam, Kerala, Puducherry on April 9; Tamil Nadu April 23; West Bengal April 23 & 29; Counting May 4

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NEW DELHI : The Election Commission on Sunday announced the schedule for Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and the union Territory of Puducherry, setting the stage for the first major round of state elections after the 2025 Assembly polls in Bihar. The poll panel said voting will be conducted over April in different phases, with the counting of votes for all states and the union Territory scheduled for May 4. According to the schedule, polling will be held in a single phase in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry on April 9, while elections in Tamil Nadu will be conducted on April 23.

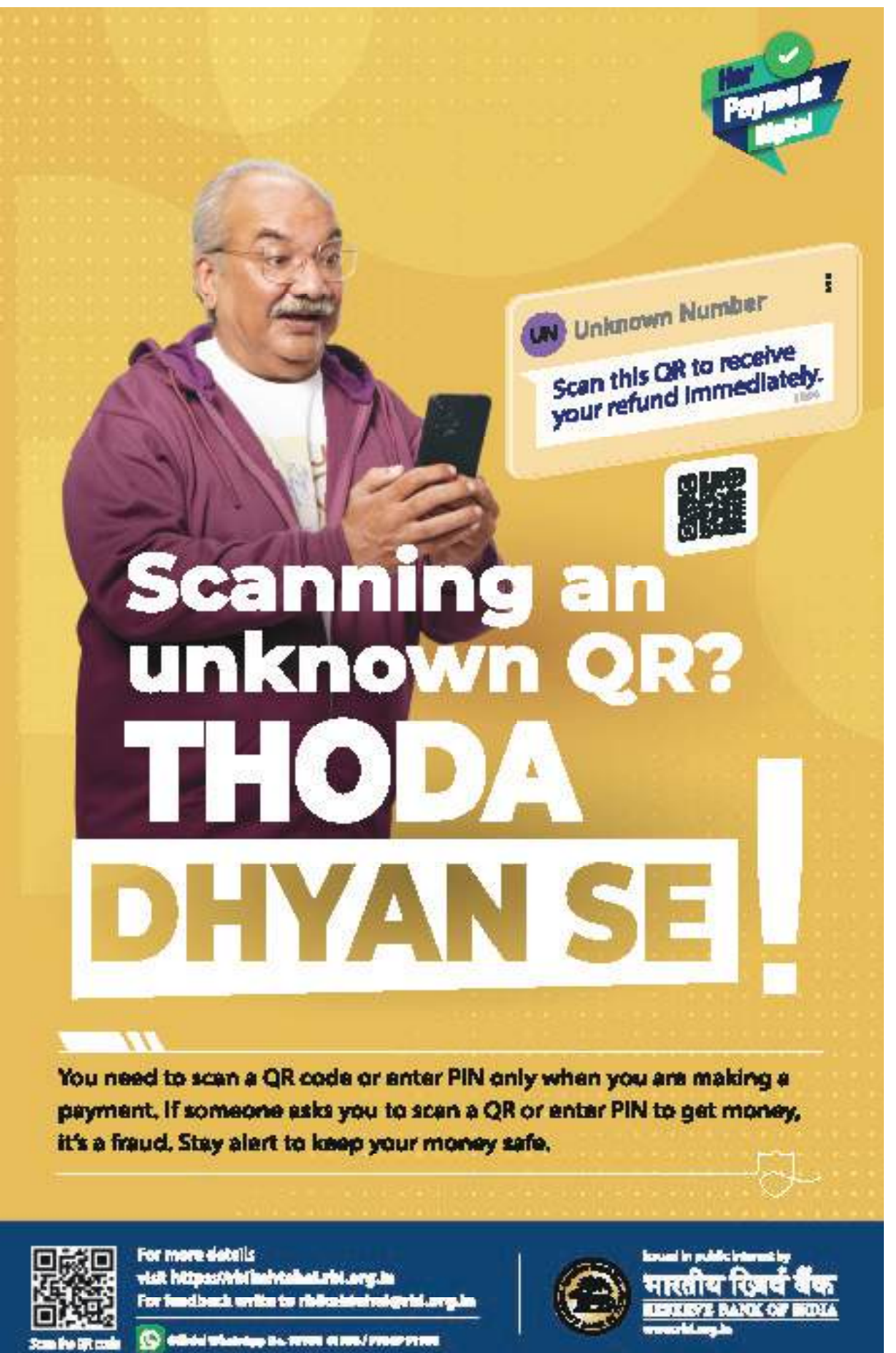
West Bengal will go to the polls in two phases on April 23 and April 29. Announcing the dates at a press conference, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said the Commission had completed extensive consultations and preparations to ensure a smooth, transparent and inclusive electoral process. "We are fully prepared to conduct free,



ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN ASSAM, KERALA AND PUDUCHERRY WILL BE HELD ON A SINGLE DAY ON APRIL 9, IN TAMIL NADU ON APRIL 23 AND IN TWO PHASES IN WEST BENGAL ON APRIL 23 AND 29, WHILE VOTES WILL BE COUNTED FOR ALL POLLS ON MAY 4, THE ELECTION COMMISSION ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY

nominations will take place on April 7, and the last date for withdrawal of candidature will be April 9. For the second phase, the notification will be issued on April 2, with April 9 as the last date for nominations. Scrutiny will be held on April 10 and candidates will be able to withdraw their nominations until April 13.

For Tamil Nadu, the notification for elections will be issued on March 30, with the last date for filing nominations on April 6. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on April 7 and the last date for withdrawal will be April 9 before polling on April 23. For Assam, Kerala and the UT of Puducherry, which are going to booths together on April 9, the election process will begin earlier, with the notification scheduled for March 16.



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CM Rekha Gupta Hails 'Apna Ghar Ashram' as a Beacon of Humanity and Compassion

Chief Minister praises the ashram's selfless service, highlighting its role in supporting the elderly and needy with care and dignity

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NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended the 12th anniversary celebration and the silver jubilee of Apna Ghar Ashram in Budhpur on Sunday. On the occasion, she praised the organisation for its selfless service to destitute, abandoned and ailing people over the past 26 years, calling it an inspiring initiative for society.

The Chief Minister said institutions like Apna Ghar Ashram become a ray of hope for people who, for various reasons, find themselves separated from their families and society. The organisation not only provides shelter to such individuals but also ensures essential facilities such as medical care, food, clothing and proper care, helping them live a life with dignity.

Rekha Gupta noted that over the last 26 years, Apna Ghar Ashram has built an extensive network of service. Today, the organisation runs more than 70 centres across India, and its services are



steadily expanding overseas as well. She described the institution as a true embodiment of humanity and compassion.

The Chief Minister also said that social service cannot be carried out by the government alone. It requires the combined efforts of both the government and society.

Extending her best wishes to the volunteers and workers associated with the organisation, she said the government would also ensure that such service initiatives expand on a larger scale and reach every place where such facilities are needed.

Assurance of support and facilities for the institution

Impressed by the work of the organisation, Rekha Gupta assured that the Delhi government would extend full support in resolving administrative issues related to the Ashram's development and operations, including the availability of doctors and other essential arrangements.

She said that various needs of the Ashram—such as strengthening medical facilities, providing administrative assistance and addressing infrastructure-related challenges—

would be taken up on priority.

The Chief Minister also announced financial assistance for constructing a paved road leading to the Ashram to improve connectivity. She further said that if there is a need to institutionalise systems such as organ donation or eye donation after the demise of residents, the government would take the necessary steps in that direction.

Rekha Gupta said that inspired by the philosophy of Antyodaya advocated by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the Delhi government remains committed to ensuring dignity, security and assistance for the last person in society. The government's effort, she said, is to ensure that every needy individual in the capital receives the support and help they require.



CM REKHA GUPTA SAID SPREADING RUMOURS OF ANY KIND AND CREATING PANIC AMONG PEOPLE IS NOT APPROPRIATE. BOTH THE CENTRAL AND THE STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE CLOSELY MONITORING THE SITUATION WITH FULL RESPONSIBILITY, AND THERE IS NO REASON FOR CITIZENS TO PANIC.

Member of Parliament from North West Delhi Shri Yogendra Chandolia, Narela MLA Shri Raj Karan Khatri, senior BJP leader Shri Shyam Jaju and several dignitaries and workers associated with the organisation were also present on the occasion.

Delhi Metro crosses record 235 crore passenger journeys in 2025

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) recorded a steady rise in passenger journeys over the past two years, according to official data, reflecting increasing commuter usage across the Delhi-NCR Metro network. Data released by DMRC shows that the Metro recorded 2,283.5 million passenger journeys in 2024, equivalent to around 223.5 crore journeys, with an average daily ridership of about 62.39 lakh passengers.

The numbers increased further in 2025, when the network registered 2,358.03 million passenger journeys, or about 235.8 crore journeys, translating into an average of 64.60 lakh passenger journeys per day. The figures indicate a gradual increase in passenger inflow on the Delhi Metro network over the past two years. Ridership records were also broken during the period. The highest passenger journeys in 2024 were recorded on November 18, when 78,67,649 passengers travelled on the network in a single day. The



THE DELHI METRO RAIL CORPORATION (DMRC) HAS ACHIEVED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE BY RECORDING 235.8 CRORE PASSENGER JOURNEYS IN 2025, REAFFIRMING ITS STATUS AS THE LIFELINE OF DELHI-NCR AND THE BACKBONE OF INDIA'S URBAN MASS TRANSIT NETWORK.

record was surpassed the following year on August 8, 2025, when 81,87,674 passenger journeys were recorded, the highest single-day ridership on the Delhi Metro so far. The data comes at a time when the Metro network has also seen further expansion. With the inauguration of two new sections on the Pink Line and Magenta Line on March 8, the Delhi Metro continues to remain the largest operational Metro network in the country. According to official figures, Metro rail systems in India currently operate more

than 1,143 kilometres of track across 26 cities, handling nearly 1.15 crore passenger journeys every day. The Delhi Metro alone accounts for more than 55 per cent of these daily passenger journeys. Out of the 1,143 km operational Metro network in the country, the Delhi-NCR region accounts for around 416 km with 303 stations. This includes approximately 29 km of the Noida-Greater Noida Metro with 21 stations and about 13 km of Rapid Metro Gurugram with 12 stations connecting Delhi with NCR cities such as Noida, Greater Noida and Gurugram.

The Delhi Metro currently operates 343 trains comprising 2,368 coaches and runs around 4,508 train trips daily, covering nearly 1,40,112 train kilometres every day across the network. Driverless train operations are currently available on the Pink Line and the Magenta Line. The Pink Line spans 71.55 km from Majlis Park to Maujpur-Babarpur including Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar, while the Magenta Line covers 49.19 km from Krishna Park Extension to Botanical Garden and Deepali Chowk to Majlis Park.

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Honey MSP Fixed at Rs.120/kg Under Bhavantar Yojana: DC Abhishek Meena

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REWARI: Under the Bhavantar Yojana, the Haryana government has fixed a protected price of Rs.120 per kilogram for honey, providing financial security to beekeepers against market price fluctuations.

DC Abhishek Meena said the decision reflects the government's commitment to supporting farmers and promoting allied agricultural activities.

He said beekeeping has emerged as an important additional income source for farmers and also helps increase crop productivity through pollination, while the state continues efforts to promote agricultural diversification.

Registration and verification under the scheme will be done through the Madhukranti portal (madhukranti.in) and Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana portal for honey (hortharyana.gov.in). The registra-



DC ABHISHEK MEENA SAID THE DECISION REFLECTS THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING FARMERS AND PROMOTING ALLIED AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

tion period is from January 1 to June 30, 2026, and verification must be completed within Haryana.

Beneficiaries will be verified using Family ID and bank account details by authorized officials to ensure transparency and that genuine beekeepers receive the benefits. DC urged beekeepers to complete registration within the deadline, while more information is available on the helpline number 1800-180-2021.

FINAL PHASE OF ROHTAK ROAD DRAINAGE PROJECT UNDERWAY, CONFIRMS DELHI PWD MINISTER

NEW DELHI: PWD minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on Sunday said the storm water drain project along Rohtak road is in its final stage and will soon bring long-awaited relief to thousands of residents in the area facing waterlogging during monsoon. During an inspection of the ongoing work, he expressed satisfaction over the processing project and said that the major drainage infrastructure upgrade in West Delhi will benefit Kirari and several surrounding areas.

The project includes the development of storm water drains from the Kirari Suleman Drain near Nangloi Metro Station to the Hiran Kudna Drain, covering key stretches between Metro Pillar No. 428 to 626, and further from Tikri Border to Hiran Kudna Dr Officials accompanying the minister informed him that the RCC drain being constructed has a width varying between 1.2 metres and 2.25 metres

Snatching Case Cracked: Paschim Vihar East Police Arrest Two Accused

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NEW DELHI: In a swift and coordinated operation, the Paschim Vihar East Police successfully apprehended two young men involved in a mobile snatching incident reported earlier this month.

On 6th March 2026, a PCR call was received at PS Paschim Vihar East regarding the snatching of a mobile phone. The complainant, a hospital employee, stated that while he was standing on the street opposite Supriya Apartment, two unknown boys riding a scooter approached from behind Balaji Hospital, snatched his mobile phone, and fled the scene.

An FIR No. 67/2026 under Sections 304(2)/3(5) of the BNS was registered at PS Paschim Vihar East, and a dedicated investigation was launched. Team Constitution:



A special team was formed under the leadership of Insp. Rajpal, SHO, PS Paschim Vihar, comprising HC Kuldeep and Ct. Tarun, and operated under the overall supervision of Sh. Rajbir Lamba, ACP Paschim Vihar.

Operation and Recovery: The team meticulously examined CCTV footage from Paschim Vihar East and West, as well as nearby areas under PS Khyala and PS Rajouri Garden. Through the investigation and intelligence inputs, the accused were identified as

Sahil (21) of Raghuvir Nagar and Rohan (19) of Tagore Garden.

Acting on specific information, the police conducted a raid on 14th March 2026, apprehending Sahil near Vishal Enclave, Raghuvir Nagar. Subsequently, Rohan was arrested near Soniya Camp, Paschim Vihar. At Sahil's instance, the snatched mobile phone was successfully recovered.

Recovered Items:

1 Snatched Mobile Phone

Profile of Accused:

Sahil, R/o Raghuvir Nagar, Delhi, Age 21

Rohan, R/o Tagore Garden, Delhi, Age 19

The investigation is ongoing, and further action is being taken against the accused.

Delhi Police Arrests Four Within One Hour in Wazirpur Assault Case

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NEW DELHI: Delhi Police acted swiftly after a PCR call reporting a quarrel at K-Block, JJ Colony, Wazirpur. Victims Mohan Lal (42) and Virender (47) were admitted to Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital with injuries.

Investigation revealed that accused Sahil @ Natwala @ Lala and associates Raghav, Romio, Akshay Kumar, Abhishek, and Arjun allegedly assaulted the victims over a minor obstruction of an e-rickshaw during a barat procession.

Police conducted raids and arrested four accused within an hour. A case under Sections 103(1)/109(1)/3(5) BNS has been registered



THE INJURED, MOHAN LAL (42) AND VIRENDER (47), BOTH RESIDENTS OF JJ COLONY, WERE ADMITTED TO DEEP CHAND BANDHU HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT.

at PS Bharat Nagar, and teams are working to apprehend the remaining suspects. Strict disciplinary action has been initiated against the officer, who has been transferred to District Lines and removed

from SHO charge with immediate effect. Delhi Police reaffirmed its commitment to lawful, unbiased enforcement and stated that such conduct does not reflect professional standards.

The force maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards crime and continues sustained drives against narcotics and other offenses. Regarding a viral video, Insp. Rajeev, ATO Ashok Vihar, made personal remarks during public interaction, which do not reflect Delhi Police's official position.

He has been transferred and removed from SHO charge, with strict disciplinary action initiated. Delhi Police reaffirmed its zero-tolerance policy against crime and narcotics.

Kapil Mishra Honors Odia Community's Role in Nation-Building at Odisha Parba 2026

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NEW DELHI: With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, cultural nationalism and religious tourism are gaining strength in Delhi. Festivals and cultural traditions from every state are now finding expression in the national capital.

Delhi is emerging as a reflection of the diverse cultures of the country, offering a clear glimpse of 'Mini India'. These remarks were made by the Hon'ble Minister for Art, Culture & Language Shri Kapil Mishra during Odisha Parba 2026.

On the final day of the three-day festival held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati, also graced the occasion



with his distinguished presence.

On this occasion, the Minister paid tribute to the significant contribution of the Odia community towards nation-building.

Kapil Mishra stated that under the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, Delhi is steadily emerging as a cultural capital. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, grand celebrations of the foun-

KAPIL MISHRA STATED THAT UNDER THE VISION OF HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI'S 'EK BHARAT-SHRESHTHA BHARAT' INITIATIVE, DELHI IS STEADILY EMERGING AS A CULTURAL CAPITAL.

ation days of various states are being organized in Delhi. He added that events associated with different states will continue to grow in scale and grandeur in the coming years.

The Minister further noted that the Odia community has played an important role in shaping the cultural and social life of Delhi.

The traditions of valor, courage and peace associated with Odisha serve as a source of inspiration for the world. The harmonious way of life that Odisha's culture maintains with nature is something the entire world can learn from today.

MP Subhash Barala Lays Foundation Stone for Grand Hanuman Temple in Manghera Village

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TOHANA: Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala laid the foundation stone for the construction of a grand Hanuman temple in Manghera village of the Tohana area and formally inaugurated the work.

On the occasion, he offered prayers with devotees, villagers, and panchayat representatives and sought the blessings of Lord



Bajrang Bali. Addressing the gathering, Barala said religious places symbolize society's faith and culture, and the upcoming temple

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, BARALA SAID RELIGIOUS PLACES SYMBOLIZE SOCIETY'S FAITH AND CULTURE, AND THE UPCOMING TEMPLE WILL BECOME A CENTER OF DEVOTION WHILE STRENGTHENING THE REGION'S SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

will become a center of devotion while strengthening the region's spiritual and cultural heritage. He said such sacred places spread the

message of faith, service, harmony, and social unity, and expressed hope that with the blessings of Baba Bajrang Bali, the temple will inspire future generations and promote positive energy, brotherhood, and social harmony in the area.

During the event, MP also announced a grant of Rs.5 lakh for village development and said the Centre and Haryana government are committed to the overall

development of rural areas, focusing on roads, education, health, basic facilities, and the development of religious and cultural sites.

He added that the government is also celebrating the birth anniversaries of saints and great personalities at the state level to inspire the youth.

A large number of devotees, prominent citizens, panchayat representatives, and local residents were present at the ceremony.

DAILY HOROSCOPE

ARIES : Regular workout routine is likely to get blended with your lifestyle and keep you in great shape. All is not lost on the financial front, if you are quick enough. A misunderstanding with a colleague can hamper the progress of a project.

TAURUS : Those requiring a loan will be able to get it sanctioned. Extra responsibilities can make you miss an important deadline or meeting. An ailment not attended to in time can cause problems. A family function may keep you busy. A planned

Gemini : Construction of a house or office may be started by some. Your help on the social front will be much appreciated. Seasonal fever may upset you for no reason, so remain guarded. Some of you are likely to make the money stretch

CANCER : Something that needs to be done in a property related matter will be accomplished. Interacting with your near and dear ones may give you hours of fun on the social front. You may have to chip in money for

LEO : Those looking for suitable accommodation will be able to find one. An initiative taken on the social front is likely to be appreciated by all. Some of you may think on the lines of establishing a home gym, just to remain in shape. Overspending is foreseen, but will

VIRGO : There is an outside chance of your getting detailed on a challenging assignment or mission that promises to boost your career. Check your mood swings as they can upset others in the family. You may go in for a new vehicle or a major household item. An

LIBRA : This is an excellent time to organise a party that you had been wanting to for long. A journey may prove tiring. It will be in your interest to remain neutral in a social situation and let somebody else take the

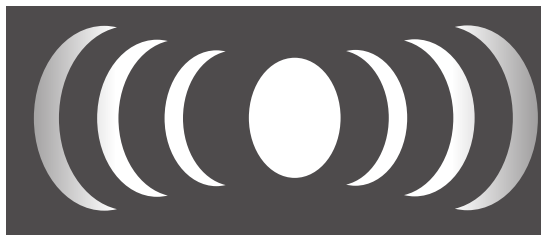
SCORPIO : You will get enough support to see a complicated task through. A domestic dispute will be amicably settled through your initiative. Things on the professional front may not go in your favour, as your performance takes a downward swing. Your

SAGITTARIUS : Home is a happy place to be in today, as a lot of guests promise to brighten up your day. A house may soon come into your possession. An official trip may need to be rescheduled to accommodate some additional tasks. You will lead your team to success by

CAPRICORN : Good returns are in the pipeline for those on the verge of disposing of their property. Chances of getting unfairly treated by a senior at work cannot be ruled out. Money may become an issue at home and lead to a showdown with spouse. Keep your valuables safe. Much fun is foreseen on the social front,

AQUARIUS : Excellent opportunities are set to come your way on the professional front. You will be able to break free from a manipulator trying to turn you against someone by his or her glib talk. You will be able to impress those around with your gift of the gab. Some form of appreciation can be expected by

PISCES : Family will help in putting you in a positive frame of mind. You will be able to achieve what your heart desired on the professional front. In these hard-financial times, you will be able to establish yourself. Popularity on the social front is assured today. Those pursuing higher studies are likely to realise their ambitions.



“Manner in which banners, placards displayed, language being used”: LS Speaker Birla urges MPs to maintain dignity in Parliament

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NEW DELHI : Lok Sabha Speaker Birla has written a letter to the leaders of political parties expressing grave concerns over the code of conduct of members in the Parliament, urging them to uphold the dignity of the democratic institution. Referring to recent incidents of protests and uproar in the Chamber and the premises of Parliament, the Speaker said that the members have compromised the prestige of the Parliament.



LOK SABHA SPEAKER BIRLA HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERNS OVER THE CODE OF CONDUCT OF MEMBERS IN THE PARLIAMENT, URGING THEM TO UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION

He underscored the importance of the House as a place for discussion, consensus, dissent and dialogue and said that the responsibility of the members is to “maintain that dignity and prestige of all democratic institutions in the country.” “The Parliament of India is the supreme democratic institution representing the sovereign aspirations of 140 crore citizens. Every voice raised in Parli-

ment represents the hopes, aspirations, and expectations of millions. The Parliament House complex is a sacred space for us all.

The House represents discussion, dialogue, consensus, dissent, and a diverse range of perspectives. This House has always upheld high standards and glorious traditions. As members of the country’s supreme democratic institution, our

responsibility to maintain the dignity and prestige of all democratic institutions in the country becomes even greater,” Birla wrote in his letter. Birla mentioned the use of banners, placards and language used by several members inside the Parliament premises, which he said, is a deep concern for all. He asserted that the situation requires serious reflection and analysis, both

individually and collectively. “As the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, I am writing this letter not merely as a formal communication, but from a sense of our shared responsibility toward the democratic system.

For some time now, the dignity and prestige of our parliamentary democracy have been compromised by some of our honorable members, both inside the Chamber and within the Parliament House complex. The manner in which banners, placards, and signs are being displayed, the language being used, and the conduct and behaviour being witnessed are matters of deep concern for us all. This situation requires serious reflection and analysis, both individually and collectively,” he added.

The Lok Sabha Speaker further emphasised his repeated efforts to preserve and promote the respect of the Parliament, including discussing the issue at the

Presiding Officers’ Conference and Business Advisory Committee. He reiterated the use of the members to engage in dignified dialogue and maintain “high standards of conduct and behaviour.”

“Our House has always cherished a glorious tradition of dignified dialogue. In the past, whenever a decline in the standards of conduct and behavior was observed in the House, conferences were organised by all political parties and other stakeholders to discuss the preservation and promotion of the dignity and prestige of our democratic institutions. This issue has also been discussed at the Presiding Officers’ Conference, where resolutions were passed. I, too, have requested you several times during meetings of the Business Advisory Committee, with leaders of political parties, and on other occasions, to maintain high standards of conduct and behaviour,” the letter read.

Rahul Gandhi Seeks Bharat Ratna for Kanshi Ram Ahead of UP Elections

Pradeep Mishra
info@impressivetimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to confer the nation’s highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, posthumously on social reformer and political leader Kanshi Ram.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Gandhi highlighted Kanshi Ram’s role in uplifting marginalized communities, strengthening Dalit political representation, and shaping the socio-political landscape of India.

The move comes as political parties intensify Dalit outreach ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, with Gandhi emphasising that Kanshi Ram’s contributions deserve national recognition.

Gandhi’s letter points to Kanshi Ram’s founding of the Bahujan Samaj Party, his efforts to challenge caste hierarchies, and his lifelong commitment to social justice and empowerment of Dalits across India. He stressed that con-



Former Congress president writes to PM Modi, highlighting Dalit leader’s contributions amid rising political focus on Dalit voters

ferring Bharat Ratna on Kanshi Ram would not only honour a visionary leader but also send a strong message of inclusivity and respect for India’s historically marginalized communities.

Sources said Gandhi’s appeal aligns with Congress’ broader strategy to consolidate Dalit support in key constituencies of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the upcoming polls.

The move has drawn attention in political circles, with analysts noting it may intensify competition among parties for the Dalit vote bank in the state. Several Dalit leaders and social activists have welcomed Gandhi’s proposal.

calling it a step toward acknowledging Kanshi Ram’s enduring legacy.

Political observers suggest that a decision on such a prestigious award would require careful consideration by the Union Cabinet and the President of India, factoring in contributions to society and national development.

The Uttar Pradesh elections, scheduled in the coming months, have already seen parties ramp up engagement with Dalit communities through welfare initiatives, public events, and targeted outreach programs, making Gandhi’s Bharat Ratna demand a politically significant move.

LS Speaker praises PM Modi’s commitment to parliamentary democracy in letter shared on X

Deepti Arora
info@impressivetimes.com

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Sunday praised Narendra Modi for his commitment to parliamentary traditions and democratic values, saying the Prime Minister’s message reflects the highest ethical standards of public service and will inspire elected representatives across the country to rise above partisan divides. In a post on X, Birla said he had received a letter from the Prime Minister and expressed appreciation for Modi’s long-standing faith in the principles and practices of India’s parliamentary system. “You have always had unwavering faith in the rules, procedures and traditions of India’s parliamentary democracy,” Birla



wrote, adding that the letter reflected the values the Prime Minister had upheld

throughout his public life. Birla noted that Modi’s career in public service—from his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat to his current role as Prime Minister—has been marked by adherence to high standards of public responsibility and democratic conduct.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
GREATER MOHALI AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUDA BHAWAN, SECTOR 62, SAS NAGAR
Tender Reference No. GMADA/DE(C-3)/2026/465-474 dated 14-03-2026
Divisional Engineer (C-3), GMADA invites online bids for the work of “Selection of Consultant for work of Program Management of Mohali Next Generation Roads Program.”
Closing date & time: 30-03-2026 at 11.00 AM
For details log on to: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
Advt. No. :- 1324/12/2025-26/9471

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK
E-Tender Notice No.68 for 2025-26 (Online)
Online E-Tenders in “B-2” Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.
Tender document download on our website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. Conditional Tender will not be accepted.
Note : Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 2 (Two) (Costing below from Rs.25.00 Cr.) Work And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.
1. www.mahapwd.gov.in
2. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Document Sale	16.03.2026	to	23.03.2026
Start and End Date Time	From 11:05		Upto 17:00

* Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.
* Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document
* All eligible/ interested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
* The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
Please Note this to all Registered/Unregistered Contractors.
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Nashik
DGIPR/25-26/5539

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, MRG Ecoworld LLP applied with Directorate of Town & Country Planning, Chandigarh, Haryana for the revision of Building Plan for affordable Group Housing Society at sector 90, Gurugram in the name of “MRG Primark” vide License No. 39 of 2021 dated 19.07.2021 for setting up of Affordable Housing Colony over an area in the revenue estate of village Badha, Sector 90, Gurugram.
Whereas, the DTCP, Chandigarh, Haryana has issued in-principle revised Building Plan Memo No. ZP-1483/SD(RD)/2026/8269 dated 10.03.2026, seeking objections/ suggestion from all existing allottees regarding deviation/ changes in the building plan. Accordingly, vide this advertisement, objections/suggestions are hereby invited from existing allottees on the deviation/changes in building plans of the said colony. A copy of earlier approved building plan along with deviation/ changes in building plan are available on our website www.mrggroupindia.com. The said plans also can be perused at the corporate office of the developer i.e. 9th Floor, IREO Grand View Tower, Golf Course Extension Road, Sector 58, Gurugram, Haryana – 122102, STP office, Gurugram, as well as site office of the Developer. If any allottee has any objections/ suggestions on the deviation/ changes in building plans of the project, he/she may file objections in the office of STP, HUDDA Complex, Sector 14, Gurugram within 30 days from the date of issuance of this public notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the deviation/ changes in building plan of the project.
Given on this 16th Day of March 2026.
Sd/-
M/S MRG Ecoworld LLP
Gurugram

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.PC
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Pawan @ Muttu, S/o Vii, R/o:** House No. D-1/140, Madangiri, New Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 621/19 U/s 379/411/34 IPC, PS Madhu Vihar, East Distt. Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Pawan @ Muttu** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Pawan @ Muttu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Pawan @ Muttu** the said accused of **FIR No. 621/19 U/s 379/411/34 IPC, PS Madhu Vihar, East Distt. Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.04.2026**.
By Order
Udhav Kumar Jain,
JMFC-04, Shahdara Distt., Second Floor
Room No.13, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ravi, S/o: Kailash Sahani, R/o: Gali No. 12, Mukundpur Extn.-II, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 823/2022 U/s 354/354B/509/34 IPC, P.S.: Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ravi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ravi** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ravi** accused of offence in case **FIR No. 823/2022 U/s 354/354B/509/34 IPC, P.S.: Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.04.2026**.
By Order
Ms. Pooja Jain
Additional Session Judge-05 (POCSO)
Room No. 302, Rohini Court, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Monu, S/o: Subhash, R/o: H.No. D-3/485 Nand Nagri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 697/2020 U/s 33 Delhi Ex. Act, P.S.: Nand Nagri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Monu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Monu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Monu** accused of offence in case **FIR No. 697/2020 U/s 33 Delhi Ex. Act, P.S.: Nand Nagri, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.05.2026**.
By Order
Ms. Deepakshi Rana
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
Shahdara, Room No. 19
Karkardooma Court, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mukul, S/o: Bhupender, R/o: H.No. 149A, Deep Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1086/22 U/s 325/54/59 IPC, P.S.: Mangolpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Mukul** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Mukul** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mukul** accused of offence in case **FIR No. 1086/22 U/s 325/54/59 IPC, P.S.: Mangolpuri, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.04.2026**.
By Order
Ms. Reetika Jain
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05
Room No. 105, Rohini Court, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Pradeep Bhardwaj, S/o: Chandu Lal, R/o: H.No. WZ-72, Gali No. 2, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 226/18 U/s 498A IPC, P.S.: Subhash Place, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Pradeep Bhardwaj** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Pradeep Bhardwaj** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Pradeep Bhardwaj** accused of offence in case **FIR No. 226/18 U/s 498A IPC, P.S.: Subhash Place, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **04.05.2026**.
By Order
Ms. Aishwarya Sharma
Judicial Magistrate First Class, (Mahila Court)-01
Room No. 106
Rohini Court, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sonia Kapoor, W/o: Late Sanjeev Kapoor, R/o: Bunglow No. 23, In front of Malai Mandir, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Also at: 864, Udyog Vihar Phase-V, Gurugram, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **CC NI Act No. 3252/2021 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S.: Kirti Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sonia Kapoor** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sonia Kapoor** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sonia Kapoor** accused of offence in case **CC NI Act No. 3252/2021 U/s 138 NI Act, P.S.: Kirti Nagar, Delhi** and is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.04.2026**.
By Order
Sh. Gaurav Singal
Judicial Magistrate First Class-06 (West)
Room No. 355, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID
NOTICE
1. The Petitioner above-named has filed a True up petition before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of True up transmission tariff for 2019-24 and determination of transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Assets:
Asset-1: Combined Asset of a) 400KV D/C Bhadla (POWERGRID)- Bhadla (RVPNL) Ckt-1 & 2 along with associated bays; b) 1 no. of 400KV, 125 MVAR Bus Reactor along with associated bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation; c) 400KV, 500 MVA ICT-2 along with associated bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation; d) 220KV, Adani Bhadla (Pooling station) line-1 bay at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation. **Asset-2:** 220 KV Sourya Urja Line-2 Bay at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation. **Asset-3:** 500 MVA ICT-3 along with associated bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation. **Asset-4:** 500 MVA ICT-1 along with associated bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation. **Asset-5:** 2 nos. 220 KV line bays (205 & 206) at badha (POWERGRID) Substation. **Asset-6:** 02 no. 400 KV line bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation. **Asset-7:** Combined Asset of a) 765KV D/C Bhadla (POWERGRID)- Bikaner (POWERGRID) along with 2 nos. 240 MVAR Switchable Line Reactors along with associated bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) S/s and 2 nos. 240MVAR Switchable Line Reactors along with associated bays at Bikaner (POWERGRID) S/s; b) 765/400KV, 1500MVA ICT-1, 2 and 3 along with associated bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation; c) 1 no. of 240MVAR Bus Reactor along with associated bays at Bhadla (POWERGRID) Substation under **Petition-1: Transmission System for Solar Power Park at Bhadla in Northern Region.**
2. The beneficiaries of the Transmission system are: (a) Ajmer Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (b) Jaipur Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (c) Jodhpur Viduyt Vitran Nigam Ltd. (d) Punjab State Electricity Corporation Limited (e) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (f) Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd. (g) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (h) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (i) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (j) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (k) Chandigarh Electricity department (l) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (m) North Central Railway (n) New Delhi Municipal council. (o) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board. (p) Central Transmission Utility of India Ltd. (q) HVNPL (r) Surya Urja Pvt. Ltd (s) Adani Renewable Pvt. Ltd. (t) Essel Saurya Urja Company of Rajasthan Limited (u) Pathargadh Bhadla Transmission Co. Ltd.
3. **Details of tariff for 2019-24 block:**

Asset	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Asset-1	1867.13	2014.71	1996.80	2107.20	2198.50
Asset-2	51.83	70.67	77.94	81.51	85.06
Asset-3	501.08	574.97	573.39	608.75	640.81
Asset-4	457.07	556.31	555.33	588.02	617.90
Asset-5	70.50	135.32	145.03	149.50	153.96
Asset-6	80.82	180.19	179.09	186.30	193.35
Asset-7	7292.63	16317.62	16105.55	16896.31	17554.48

Tariff for 2024-29 block:

Asset	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Asset-1	2081.64	2072.09	2051.53	2037.59	2003.56
Asset-2	79.65	79.62	78.53	77.89	76.08
Asset-3	545.44	549.27	548.28	549.76	552.66
Asset-4	523.01	527.64	527.49	529.59	533.13
Asset-5	144.91	145.36	137.08	133.09	128.87
Asset-6	183.04	185.01	183.43	183.35	175.15
Asset-7	16109.98	15954.13	15724.78	15522.14	15285.30

4. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the website www.powergrid.in
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiary through the e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.
Place: Gurugram
Date: 16.03.2026
Sd/-
General Manager (Commercial)
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121
A Maharatna PSU

CM Yogi Adityanath attends 'Jauhar Shradhdhanjali Samaroh' organized by Jauhar Smriti Sansthan in Chittorgarh

"Dignity of Sanatan is eternal; lineages of Babur, Aurangzeb and Akbar are unknown, but Maharana Pratap's descendants are present on this stage": CM Yogi

Udday Singh
info@impressivetimes.com

LUCKNOW : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath delivered a clear message against caste-based divisions from the historic land of Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. Quoting the famous lines of poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar: "Mooljaanana bada kathin hai nadiyon ka, veeron ka, Dhanush chhor kar aur gotra kya hota randheeron ka? Paate hain sammaan tapobal se bhootal par shoor, 'jaati-jaati' ka shor machaate keval kaayar, kroor." Chief Minister said, "Those who have nothing constructive to do are com-



mitting the sin of breaking social unity through casteism. Caste-based politics has weakened the foundations of society and nation. According to him, divisive politics can once again push the country toward a path of subjugation and unity is essential to prevent that". CM Yogi Adityanath was addressing a gathering on Sunday at Inani City Center during the 'Jauhar Shradhdhanjali Samaroh'. CM also felicitated individuals for their commendable work. On the occasion, he released

CHIEF MINISTER SAID, "THE TRANSFORMATION IN UTTAR PRADESH HAS TAKEN PLACE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, BUT THE SPIRIT BEHIND IT IS THE VALOR OF RAJASTHAN AND CHITTORGARH"

a book written by former Punjab Governor V.P. Singh. CM Yogi asked, "Who are those people, trying to divide society in the name of caste and spread mistrust through rumors". He said these are the same people who once claimed that Shri Ram and Shri Krishna never existed. They opposed Shri Ram Temple movement and tried every possible effort to

delay the verdict. According to him, these are the people eager to break Ram Setu and oppose the construction of Shri Ram Temple, creating an atmosphere of distrust and questioning constitutional institutions.

Chief Minister said, "The transformation in Uttar Pradesh has taken place under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but the spirit behind it is the valor of Rajasthan and Chittorgarh. He recalled that his revered spiritual predecessor had once come from this land to Gorakhpur.

He praised the bravery of warriors of Mewar, the sacrifice of heroic women through Jauhar and the devotion of

Meerabai, saying that their stories continue to inspire the nation. He described Chittorgarh Fort as not just a structure of stones but a guardian of India's identity.

CM Yogi remembered great national heroes such as Maharana Pratap, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Guru Govind Singh. He said their struggles were not for personal power or family but for the nation, faith and India's freedom. Even after immense sacrifices, such as the martyrdom of Guru Govind Singh's four sons, they never wavered in their resolve.

Referring to historical events, CM Yogi said that the spirit shown by

Maharani Padmini during the Jauhar of Chittorgarh reflected the same determination as Mata Sita's vow of purity. He mentioned the three major Jauhar events of 1303, 1535 and 1568 describing them as symbols of women's dignity and courage.

CM Yogi highlighted the law-and-order situation in Uttar Pradesh, saying that when his government came to power, it adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward crime and threats to women's dignity. He said that in a state of 25 crore people, girls are now going to school safely, women are working even in night shifts and safely return home.

Chief Minister also mentioned the bravery of Maharana Sanga while speaking about preserving India's identity. He said that Maharana Sanga had 80 wounds on his body, yet he was concerned not about himself but about the honor of the nation. Despite enduring injury after injury, he did not allow invaders to penetrate the land. He also referred to Maharana Pratap, saying that at just 27 years of age, he fought a war against Akbar and forced the emperor into a very difficult struggle. Chief Minister added that Indian history has always remembered their courage and valor.

Domestic power tariffs to reduce 26%, industrial 9% by 2030: CM

Sudhir Kr. Dubey
info@impressivetimes.com

NAGPUR: Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said electricity tariffs, which earlier used to rise by 9% annually, will now decline by 1.2% each year from 2025 to 2030. Domestic power tariffs will be 26% lower than current levels, while industrial power tariffs will be 9% lower, he said.

The CM was speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for Waaree Energies' solar ingot and wafer manufacturing plant in the additional Butibori industrial area. Fadnavis said India is now among the fastest countries shifting from conventional to renewable energy. He noted



that India earlier imported solar modules, wafers and ingots from China, but that is no longer the case. "Work is progressing rapidly under the Chief Minister Solar Feeder Scheme to meet farmers' electricity demand of 16,000 MW in the state. So far, 5,000 MW capacity has been created, and this is expected to reach 14,000 MW by the end of the year," the CM said. He said solar energy has helped avoid pollution that would otherwise

have required planting 300 crore trees to offset thermal power emissions.

He added that under the solar agricultural pump scheme, Maharashtra alone has installed 60% of all such pumps in the country and has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for installing the highest number of pumps in a single month. Responding to criticism over Davos-related initiatives, Fadnavis said he answers criticism through work. He said he had performed groundbreaking ceremonies for three projects in a day — New Era Cleantech, Greta Energy and Waaree Energies — and that all three had materialised through the Davos platform.

BJP-led Central Govt's failed foreign policy has pushed country into an oil & LPG crisis: CM Mann

TIT Correspondent
info@impressivetimes.com

CHANDIGARH : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday stated that the country is facing an oil and LPG crisis due to the failure of the foreign policy of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. He also raised serious concerns over the excessive centralisation of power in the hands of a few leaders at the Union government, warning that such a trend is dangerous for democracy.

CM Mann further questioned Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the unchecked cross-border drug supply, asked the Union Home Minister to explain the failure of central agencies, and cautioned that the Centre's treaty with the United States could severely jeopardise the interests of farmers. He also remarked



that despite frequent foreign tours by the Prime Minister, the country is facing worsening diplomatic ties and growing economic distress.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the Progressive Punjab Investors Summit, CM stated, "Due to the failure of the foreign policy of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, the country is facing the oil and LPG crisis."

He remarked that United States President Donald Trump, whom Prime Minister Narendra Modi describes as a close friend, should have consulted him before waging a full-fledged war against Iran.

Rajasthan Day Mahotsav: CM Sharma flags off "Viksit Rajasthan Run"

Sudhir Kr. Dubey
info@impressivetimes.com

JAIPUR : Chief Minister Bhanu Lal Sharma on Sunday flagged off the 'Viksit Rajasthan Run' with the state celebrating accomplished targets on empowerment of youth in career making and sports, on the second day of Rajasthan Divas Mahotsav. Sharma flagged off the three-km run at the Amar Jawan Jyoti in the vicinity of the state assembly complex here Sunday morning.

The run that concluded at the Ram Niwas Bagh, was participated by a large number of dignitaries from various walks, youths and sports persons. CM himself proactively joined participants in the event running with them



CM BHANU LAL SHARMA ON SUNDAY FLAGGED OFF THE 'VIKSIT RAJASTHAN RUN' WITH THE STATE CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHED TARGETS ON EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH IN CAREER MAKING AND SPORTS, ON THE SECOND DAY OF RAJASTHAN DIVAS MAHOTSAV

in the race amid cheers from BJP enthusiasts and the spectators. Similar ceremonial runs were organised in district headquarters and even smaller cities in the state.

Addressing the gathering at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, Chief Minister Sharma said that youths, indeed are the future of the nation, hence, higher priority is being given to serve their interest.

For this cause we, in the government here, have been working on a number of initiatives that provide youngsters fair opportunity in the stream of their choice in higher education or making the career as per the potentials and eligibility in their respective arena, he said. For this, we have removed all bottlenecks and grey areas from the administrative system of the previous regime that used to obstruct aspirants' attempts in pursuing academic entrance exams and/or the recruitment tests for government jobs.

Assam expands government cancer hospital network to 17 centres: CM Himanta Sarma

TIT Correspondent
info@impressivetimes.com

DISPUR : Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that Assam now operates 12 cancer hospitals, with 17 planned under the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), a joint initiative between the Assam government and Tata Trusts. He stated that no other state in India has such an extensive cancer hospital network in the government sector.

Two new cancer treatment centres at Golaghat and Tinsukia, each constructed at a cost of Rs 135 crore under ACCF, were inaugurated virtually by Union Home Minister Amit Shah from Guwahati on Sunday.

"You all must remember that before COVID, Ratan Tata had come to Assam in the presence of the Home Minister and the



Home Minister had told Ratan Tata that you should build a Cancer Hospital in every state of the North East. Assam then dreamt a bigger dream. We signed an MoU in front of Ratan Tata and the Home Minister that the Assam Government will contribute 50%. Tata Trust will contribute 50% to build 17 Cancer Hospitals in the entire state. From Chemo to Radio Therapy to Surgery. Today we have 12 Cancer Hospitals... two more were inaugurated by the Home Minister today in Golaghat and Tinsukia and with three more that dream will be complete.

Adequate stock of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG gas available in MP: CM Mohan Yadav

Bijender Bansal
info@impressivetimes.com

BHOPAL : Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav conducted a high-level review of the civil supply system in the state amid the ongoing geopolitical tension in West Asia. The Chief Minister has assured the people that an adequate stock of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG gas is available in the state and the supply system is completely smooth. He has appealed to the citizens not to panic and not to pay attention to any kind of rumours.

To control the impact of this global crisis, the state government has formed a high-level cabinet committee, which includes Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda,



MADHYA PRADESH CM DR. MOHAN YADAV CONDUCTED A HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF THE CIVIL SUPPLY SYSTEM IN THE STATE AMID THE ONGOING GEOPOLITICAL TENSION IN WEST ASIA.

Food Minister Govind Singh Rajput and Minister Chaitanya Kashyap. This committee, in coordination with the Central Government, is continuously monitoring fuel and

essential commodities in the state.

Food Minister Govind Singh Rajput has clarified that some changes have been made in the refill booking system to give priority to domestic consumers. Now consumers will be able to make the next booking only 25 days after the previous delivery. Its objective is to prevent hoarding and to deliver gas equally to

all families.

Currently, the supply of LPG for commercial activities has been limited, and hotel operators have been advised to adopt alternative fuels. Strict action is being taken across the state at the administrative level to prevent black marketing. So far, about 500 illegal cylinders have been seized by conducting investigations at more than 120 places.

Also, the government has issued a helpline for the safe return of the residents of Madhya Pradesh living in Gulf countries, through which more than 255 migrants have been contacted so far. The Chief Minister has directed that a quick solution to every problem of the citizens should be ensured through the control room at the district level.

NEWS BRIEFS

BENGAL CM MAMATA ANNOUNCES DA ARREARS FOR STATE GOVT WORKERS; HIKES ALLOWANCE FOR PRIESTS, MUEZZINS

KOLKATA (TIT NEWS): An hour before the Election Commission of India declared the polling schedule in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that the state government will clear DA arrears of its employees and pensioners, including teachers, non-teaching staffers, and workers of grant-in-aid institutions, from March this year. Before that, Banerjee said her government has increased the monthly honorariums of priests and muezzins by Rs 500, and this revision will bring their allowance to Rs 2,000. She made both the announcements on her social media. "I am happy to announce that our Ma-Mati-Manush government has delivered on its promise to all its employees and pensioners, and to lakhs of teachers and non-teaching staff of our educational institutions, as well as employees/pensioners of our other grant-in-aid institutions like panchayats, municipal bodies, other local bodies etc. They will start receiving their ROPA 2009 DA arrears from March 2026 onwards as per the modalities detailed out in the Notifications issued by our Finance Department," she said in a post on X.



ODISHA CM REVIEWS UPCOMING INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN PARADIP

BHUBANESWAR (TIT NEWS): He directed district administration and industry officials to resolve pending issues within fixed timelines and accelerate project implementation. The CM emphasised that Paradip will soon transform into one of the country's largest economic zones. He advised officials to ensure immediate steps for the commencement of infrastructure and industrial projects, including Paradip Port expansion, shipbuilding and repair facilities, and IOCL and JSW-led industrial units. The meeting also discussed the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip Economic Region, AMNS India's proposed projects, Paradip Petrochemical Complex, and integrated steel plants. Land acquisition, approvals, and other clearances formed part of the detailed deliberations. Majhi instructed authorities to prioritise employment opportunities for Odisha's youth, especially local communities, in all upcoming industries. He stressed that industrial growth must directly benefit the people of the region. Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Jagatsinghpur MLA Amarendra Das, Additional Chief Secretary Hemant Sharma, Jagatsinghpur Collector J Sonal, Paradip Port Trust officials, and representatives from IOCL, JSW, and AMNS India attended the meeting.



In the digital era, lawyers should adopt new technologies to strengthen the justice delivery system : CM Nayab Singh Saini

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CHANDIGARH : Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that advocacy is not merely a means of livelihood, but a powerful responsibility towards justice, humanity, and public service. He stated that lawyers are important pillars of the democratic judicial system, who not only play a crucial role in ensuring justice for the weak, deprived, and needy sections of society, but also contribute significantly to social change, the establishment of moral values, and nation-building.

The Chief Minister was addressing a delegation of lawyers from Chandigarh and Pun-



jab on Sunday at his residence Sant Kabir Kutir.

The Chief Minister said that the field of law is not limited to legal knowledge alone, but is also a medium for ensuring justice, equality, and protection of rights in society. Call-

ing upon young lawyers, he urged them to dedicate their energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the welfare of society and not restrict their profession merely to personal success, but use it as a means of serving the nation. He said that Prime

Minister Sh. Narendra Modi has also inspired young lawyers to devote their energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the betterment of society.

The Chief Minister said that whenever he is among lawyers, he feels that he is among the

protectors of humanity. He added that it is a matter of great pride that India's 53rd Chief Justice, Justice Surya Kant, belongs to Haryana. He has reached the pinnacle of the judiciary from the soil of Haryana. This Bar Council has produced several judges of the Supreme Court, Union Law and Railways Ministers, Advocates General of Punjab and Haryana, Additional Solicitors General, the Member of Parliament from Chandigarh,

and Mayors.

He said that the Bar Council has a large number of lawyers from Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh, and the organization also encourages new lawyers and provides assistance to students studying law.

He further said that in today's digital era, rapid changes are taking place in the field of law as well, and new technologies are opening new opportunities for lawyers. The Chief Minister urged lawyers to adopt these technologies and actively contribute towards making the justice delivery process faster, more transparent, and more effective. He said that lawyers must always uphold their moral values.

Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurates Samriddhi Kendra under Samriddh Gram Phygital Services Initiative at Umri Village, Guna District, Madhya Pradesh

Integrated Phygital Service Centre will help to realize the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver healthcare, education, agriculture, financial and e-governance services in rural and remote areas

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Communications Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the Samriddhi Kendra, an Integrated Phygital (Physical + Digital) Service Centre, at Umri village in Guna district under the Samriddh Gram Phygital Services Pilot Initiative of the Department of Telecommunications.

The initiative leverages the high-speed broadband infrastructure created under BharatNet to transform digital connectivity into an integrated platform for delivery of citizen-centric services in rural areas.

The Samriddhi Kendra has been conceptualised as a single-window rural service hub bringing together



UNION MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA INAUGURATED THE SAMRIDDHI KENDRA, AN INTEGRATED PHYGITAL (PHYSICAL + DIGITAL) SERVICE CENTRE, AT UMRI VILLAGE IN GUNA DISTRICT UNDER THE SAMRIDDH GRAM PHYGITAL SERVICES PILOT INITIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

healthcare, education, skillings, agriculture, financial services, e-governance support, entrepreneurship facilitation and digital connectivity services at one location.

Converting Connectivity into Rural Empowerment Speaking on the occasion, Scindia said, "With the

launch of the Samriddh Gram initiative in Umri, Guna, we are bringing the world to our Umri. From education and agriculture to healthcare and government services, technology is placing new opportunities directly in the hands of our people."

Highlighting on the ben-

efits of initiative, the Union Minister said, "Farmers will be able to access real-time insights on soil moisture, nutrients, and crop health through digital tools, making agriculture smarter and more productive. Students will gain access to modern learning resources. Everyone in Umri will receive faster healthcare through on-site diagnostics and tele-consultation with doctors from Delhi and other states. Blood test reports will be produced in less than 30 minutes. Essential government services, from certificates to E-banking, will now be available within the Samriddh Gram itself. This is truly "a program of the future", one that ensures progress reaches every village and every citizen."

Union Minister Shri

Scindia said that BharatNet has created one of the world's largest rural broadband infrastructures and that the next phase of India's digital transformation lies in ensuring meaningful utilisation of this connectivity for improving the quality of life in villages.

The Union Minister highlighted that the integrated Phygital Service Centre will help to realize the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to deliver healthcare, education, agriculture, financial and e-governance services in rural and remote areas. He further noted that Samriddh Gram initiative represents a shift from providing connectivity alone to enabling integrated digital service delivery ecosystems in rural India.

'Doubts About His Patriotism': UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya Targets Opposition

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LUCKNOW: Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday criticised remarks made by an opposition leader, saying such statements raise doubts about the individual's patriotism and commitment to national interests.

Speaking to reporters in Lucknow, Maurya said that political leaders should exercise responsibility while making public statements, especially on matters related to the country's security and unity.

The senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party alleged that certain opposition figures are attempting to create confusion among the public through misleading narratives.

Maurya stressed that national interest must remain above political considerations and urged leaders across parties to maintain dignity in political discourse.

He further stated that the government remains committed to protecting the nation's integrity and will continue to counter



CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH, CRITICISED REMARKS MADE BY AN OPPOSITION LEADER, SAYING SUCH STATEMENTS RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S PATRIOTISM. HE URGED POLITICAL LEADERS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY, KEEP NATIONAL INTEREST ABOVE POLITICS.

can have on public sentiment and social harmony.

Maurya added that political debates should focus on development, governance and public welfare rather than creating unnecessary controversies. According to him, responsible leadership requires maintaining respect for the nation and its democratic framework.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the development initiatives being undertaken by the government in Uttar Pradesh, saying that the administration remains focused on improving infrastructure, employment opportunities and social welfare schemes for the people of the state.

He claimed that attempts by some opposition leaders to divert attention through controversial statements will not affect the government's commitment to development and good governance. Maurya concluded by urging political parties to work collectively in the nation.

Supreme Court Seeks Detailed Report on Encroachments Along Ganga

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court of India has directed the Government of India to submit a detailed report on alleged encroachments along the banks of the Ganga River, expressing concern over the growing pressure on the river's ecological and environmental balance.

A bench of the apex court sought comprehensive information regarding illegal constructions, land use changes and other activities taking place along the river's floodplains. The court asked the Centre to clarify the steps taken by authorities to identify and remove encroachments.

During the hearing, the court emphasised the need to protect



the river ecosystem and maintain the natural flow of the Ganga, which holds immense ecological, cultural and religious significance in the country.

The Centre has been asked to coordinate with concerned state governments and agencies to gather updated data on encroachments and submit a consoli-

dated report before the court.

The matter is part of ongoing proceedings aimed at ensuring long-term conservation and sustainable management of the river and its surrounding environment.

The bench also observed that unchecked encroachments along the floodplains could seriously affect the river's natural drainage system and increase the risk of flooding in nearby areas. It stressed that preserving the ecological health of the Ganga River is essential not only for environmental reasons but also for the millions of people who depend on the river for water and agriculture.

TERRORIST KILLED AS ARMY FOILS INFILTRATION ATTEMPT IN J&K

SRINAGAR: A suspected Pakistani terrorist was killed after an infiltration attempt was foiled by the Indian Army along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday. According to security sources, alert troops detected suspicious movement near the border and launched an operation to intercept the infiltrators. During the exchange of fire, one terrorist was neutralised while others are believed to have retreated towards the other side of the border. The operation took place in a forward area close to the Line of Control.

Adequate Fertiliser Stock Available for Kharif Season: Ashwini Vaishnaw

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NEW DELHI: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said that the country has sufficient stock of fertilisers to meet the demand during the upcoming kharif cropping season.

Addressing the media in New Delhi, the minister assured farmers that the Government of India has made necessary arrangements to ensure the timely availability of fertilisers across states.

He stated that the government has been closely monitoring production, imports and distribution to avoid any shortage during



Ashwini Vaishnaw

the crucial agricultural season.

According to Vaishnaw, coordination with fertiliser manufacturers and state authorities is being strengthened so that supplies reach farmers without delay.

The minister added that adequate stocks of key fertilisers such as Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate and NPK fertiliser have

been maintained to support farmers during sowing activities.

He emphasised that ensuring smooth fertiliser supply remains a priority for the government as agriculture continues to play a vital role in the country's economy and food security.

He further noted that the government has strengthened its logistics and monitoring systems to ensure smooth distribution of fertilisers to different parts of the country. According to Ashwini Vaishnaw, special attention is being given to timely transportation so that farmers receive the required inputs during the sowing period without facing delays.

The minister said that the authorities are regularly reviewing the supply chain and coordinating with state governments to assess ground-level demand.

This coordination aims to ensure that fertilisers are available at the district and village levels during the critical stages of the farming cycle.

Vaishnaw also highlighted that steps have been taken to prevent hoarding and black marketing of fertilisers. Strict monitoring mechanisms have been put in place so that farmers can purchase fertilisers at the prescribed prices without any difficulty. The government remains committed to supporting farmers through agricultural initiatives.

JAIRAM RAMESH CRITICISES BJP AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday took a swipe at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the announcement of the 2026 assembly election schedule by the Election Commission of India, alleging that the Model Code of Conduct has been reduced to what he termed "Modi's Code of Campaigning." The poll panel is scheduled to announce the election schedule for the legislative assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal at a press conference in New Delhi at 4 PM. In a post on X, Ramesh wrote, "The Election Commission will announce the schedule for the 2026 assembly elections at 4 PM today."

CBSE cancels Class 12 board exams in the Middle East amid the Iran-Israel-US war

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NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has cancelled all board examinations, including the previously postponed exams, in several Middle East countries amid the ongoing Iran-Israel-US war. The board exams were scheduled to be conducted from February 17 to April 10, 2026.

War tensions in the Middle East region have been continuing for several days. The latest escalation involved reports about the death of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which have been termed "fake" by his office.

According to an official notice released by CBSE, all board examinations scheduled to be conducted from March 16 to April 10 have now been cancelled in parts of the Middle East.



"All examinations of Class XII scheduled from 16.03.2026 to 10.04.2026 stand cancelled in case of students from Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE," the notice read.

The Class 12 board exams that were earlier notified to be postponed have also been cancelled.

"Examinations which were earlier postponed vide circular dated 01.03.2026, 03.03.2026, 05.03.2026, 07.03.2026 and 09.03.2026 shall also stand cancelled," the notice added.

CBSE has said that the mode through which the results of the affected candidates will be

evaluated will be notified in due course. He reiterated that ensuring Assam remains infiltrator-free is a priority for the BJP and that strong administrative action will continue across the state and beyond if the party secures another term. According to Shah, previous governments allowed illegal migration to be normalised, creating long-term challenges for Assam's security and development.

The Union Minister also lauded the government's focus on education and employment schemes, pointing out that over 165,000 government jobs were provided in the last five years, exceeding the target of 100,000 set in 2021. He highlighted that this was done transparently, without bribes or political interference, setting a benchmark for governance.

Shah further praised the state administration's efforts in infrastructure development, including roads,

Kiren Rijju Praises MPs' 'TB Mukh Bharat' T20 Initiative, Calls It a Strong Message

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Kiren Rijju on Sunday lauded a unique initiative by Members of Parliament who organised a T20 cricket event in collaboration with the Delhi Police to promote the "TB Mukh Bharat" campaign.

Rijju said that combining sports with public health messaging sends a powerful signal to the public and helps create awareness about tuberculosis prevention, detection, and treatment.

The minister added that such innovative approaches, involving popular figures and local authorities, can inspire citizens to actively participate in national health campaigns and reinforce government efforts to eliminate TB.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Rijju said that engaging communities through cricket, one of India's most-followed sports, is an effective way to reach diverse audiences, especially young people, and instil public health awareness. He further expressed hope that



similar collaborations across other cities and states will strengthen the government's vision of a TB-free India, encouraging citizens to get tested, seek treatment early, and reduce stigma associated with the disease.

Rijju emphasised that tuberculosis continues to be a major public health challenge in India, and innovative awareness campaigns like the T20 initiative play a vital role in complementing clinical interventions noted that early detection and treatment adherence are crucial in achieving the government's target of making India TB-free by 2025.

Calls Raised for strengthening Hindutva, Social harmony & cultural preservation at Hindu unity conference

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DELHI/NCR: A 'Hindu Unity Conference' was organized on Sunday at the DC Model Senior Secondary School in Sector 9. Senior journalist and eloquent speaker from DD News, Ashok Shrivastav, attended as the keynote speaker. Furthermore, the event was graced by the presence of renowned industrialist and affiliate of various social organizations, Ajay Zoneja, MD of Zoneja Bright Steel Pvt. Ltd, who

attended as the Chief Guest. The program commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the singing of 'Vande Mataram'.

The event was presided over by Rakesh Gupta, MD of RK Forges Pvt. Ltd. On this occasion, the office-bearers of the 'Shri Ram Mandir Hindu Conference Committee, Sector 9, Faridabad' including Convener Arun Bajaj, Co-conveners Ram Lal Borad and Satbir Sharma, Treasurer Ajay Kumar Bhatia, and RWA President of Sector 9, Ranvir Singh wel-



comed all the distinguished guests in attendance by presenting them with shawls and mementos. School students presented a cultural program featuring religious and patriotic performances during the event. Earlier in the morning, a

'Kalash Yatra' (sacred pot procession) was organized, proceeding from the Shri Ram Mandir in Sector 9 to the venue; hundreds of women participated in this procession. In his address, keynote speaker Ashok Shrivastav

expressed his delight that a significant number of people had gathered for the event, even on a Sunday. However, he noted that the presence of the youth was notably low. He issued a call to action, urging the community to engage and awaken the youth to the greatest extent possible.

Ashok Shrivastav suggested that such Hindu conferences should be held twice a year. He stated that the sole objective behind organizing these conferences for Hindu unity and harmony is to foster social harmony,

strengthen Hindutva, and promote cultural consciousness. He warned that if the community does not take corrective measures now, it may be too late to recover later.

Speaking at the event, Ajay Zoneja asserted that an individual should not be evaluated based on their caste, language, wealth, or social status. He emphasized that the primary prerequisite for social unity is to eradicate discriminatory sentiments from one's mind and to embrace every individual as one's own.



Health

- Aam Aadmi Clinics: Medicines and diagnostic tests are provided entirely free of cost
- 2,661 new doctors, paramedics, and frontline staff have been recruited
- CM Di Yogshala: Lakhs of people are benefitted by free yoga classes organised by government

Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana

Free treatment worth ₹10 lakh for every family

Mukh Mantri Teerth Yatra Yojana

- All citizens above 50 years of age are availing facilities to visit sacred places
- Free AC buses and AC hotel accommodation are provided for pilgrims

Education – Punjab Ranked No. 1 in the Country

- Punjab secured Rank 1 in the National Achievement Survey
- Students from 305 government schools cleared JEE Main, and 845 students cleared NEET
- More than 15,000 new teachers recruited, and over 12,000 contractual teachers regularized
- Principals and teachers trained in Finland, Singapore, and IIMs
- Free school buses provided to students in government schools for the first time

Employment

- 65,264 youth received government jobs
- More than 5 lakh jobs created in the private sector

Yudh Nashean Virudh - 50,000+ traffickers arrested

- 50,238 drug traffickers arrested and 32,620 kg narcotics seized

50.12% Reduction in Road Accident Deaths

- India's first Sadak Surakhya Force established
- Road accident death rate reduced by 50.12%
- More than 47,000 people received timely assistance

Corruption-Free Punjab

- Anti-Corruption Action Line: 9501200200 launched
- More than 1,000+ corrupt individuals arrested

Free Electricity for 90% of Punjab Households

- 600 units of free electricity provided
- For the first time farmers are receiving uninterrupted daytime power for agriculture

Sports - 3,100 New Playgrounds

- Olympic medalists awarded ₹1 crore and a government job
- Special assistance up to ₹15 lakhs for athletes' training

Meri Rasoi Scheme

- 40 lakh poor families will receive 2 kg pulses, 2 kg sugar, 1 kg salt, 200 gm turmeric powder, and 1 litre mustard oil free

Agriculture - Highest Compensation in the Country

- Farmers receiving ₹20,000 per acre compensation
- Canal water supply reaching every field
- Highest sugarcane price in the country: ₹416 per quintal
- CRM machines available on subsidy
- Immediate procurement and payments within 24 hours

Mukh Mantri Mavan-Dhian Satkar Yojana

₹1,000 per month for every woman in Punjab | ₹1,500 per month for women from the SC Category

₹1 Crore Honorarium for Martyrs

- Families of martyr soldiers are being provided ₹1 crore as honorarium

Industrial Investment - ₹1.55 Lakh Crore

- ₹1.55 lakh crore investment attracted in Punjab in last four years
- New Employment opportunities for 5 lakh youth created
- Industrial and Business Development Policy-2026 implemented
- Strategic partnerships with the UK, Japan, and South Korea

Rural Development - 49,000 kms of Roads

- More than 49,000 kms of roads are being renewed
- Modern libraries built in rural areas
- Cleaning of ponds in more than 13,000 villages

Easy Registry/Jamabandi

- 'Easy Registry'- New System of Property Registration
- Registration process completed within 48hrs
- Transparent information of every step through WhatsApp

SHANDAAR
CHAAR SAAL
BHAGWANT MANN
DE NAAL



EDITORIAL

“THE SAME ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION: HOW WAR FUELS CLIMATE CRISIS”

The link between war and climate is more than statistical; it is moral and structural. Every bomb dropped, every tank fueled, every city razed contributes to a cycle that feeds the next conflict. It is not just a physical toll but a spiritual and civilizational one, a reminder that human violence does not occur in a vacuum. The climate crisis and militarization are both manifestations of the same unchecked hubris—a refusal to see beyond immediate self-interest. When nations mobilize armies or build arsenals, they often speak in terms of “protection” and “security,” yet what they are protecting is precisely the same ego that fuels both environmental destruction and perpetual war. This dual crisis exposes a fundamental flaw in modern governance: the prioritization of short-term, tangible threats over slower, systemic crises. Governments rush to respond to invasions, insurgencies, or terrorist acts with speed and force, while the climate, which operates on the scales of decades and centuries, receives token attention. Yet the cost of ignoring the slower emergency is cumulative, compounding, and often irreversible. By the time the consequences of climate inaction are visible, the world will be living amidst conditions exacerbated by the same policies that fueled military expansion. The disconnect between military expenditure and climate action is staggering. As Acharya Prashant notes, the same states that justify massive military budgets often claim resources are insufficient to protect vulnerable populations from climate disasters. This is a deliberate misalignment of priorities, a structural choice that sanctions destruction while postponing repair. The rhetoric of security masks the very threats it creates: militarized carbon emissions destabilize regions, fuel migration, and exacerbate resource scarcity, generating the conditions for the next cycle of conflict. Education and public awareness are critical tools in breaking this loop. Citizens are conditioned to see war as heroic and urgent, while climate change is abstract and distant. The media reinforces this division, covering each crisis in isolation, and policymakers treat them as unrelated. Yet the evidence is clear: these are intertwined phenomena. Teaching this interconnectedness, at the civic and academic level, can reshape the public's understanding of national security to include environmental resilience as a core concern. Economic incentives further entrench the system. Military-industrial complexes, fossil fuel corporations, and national defense bureaucracies thrive on perpetual conflict. They employ millions, drive GDP growth, and generate political influence, all while simultaneously accelerating the climate emergency. In contrast, investments in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, or climate adaptation generate fewer immediate profits for entrenched elites, even though they produce far greater long-term societal benefit. The imbalance is not accidental; it is engineered to favor the ego's short-term imperatives over long-term survival. Conflict also produces long-lived legacies that extend beyond the battlefield. Cities destroyed in war release the carbon embedded in concrete, steel, and fuel; displaced populations strain resources elsewhere; and ecosystems suffer collateral damage that is rarely accounted for. Every reconstruction effort consumes energy, materials, and labor, generating a delayed carbon footprint that is invisible in conventional reporting. The cycle of war and reconstruction becomes a hidden engine of climate disruption, feeding back into the conditions that will provoke the next conflict. Individual responsibility mirrors the systemic problem. Citizens in democratic nations enable militarization through taxation, political support, and cultural normalization of conflict, just as they indirectly drive emissions through consumption patterns. The ego that justifies war on a national scale is the same ego that ignores carbon-intensive lifestyles on a personal scale. Recognizing this continuity is uncomfortable, yet it is the only way to confront the full scope of the crisis. The ethical challenge is not simply to demand government action but to examine how each choice—military, industrial, and personal—participates in a system of compounded harm. International law is another crucial factor. Treaties like the Paris Agreement, while well-intentioned, fail to address the elephant in the room: the emissions embedded in war and military preparation. Without mandatory accounting for military activity, global climate targets are inherently incomplete. Likewise, legal frameworks for conflict, from the Law of Armed Conflict to UNCLOS, rarely integrate environmental costs into adjudication or sanctions. The separation of military and environmental law is a structural oversight that allows states to wage war with near impunity for the ecological consequences. The cycle is also intergenerational. Today's wars and military expenditures shift the climate burden onto future generations, creating ethical debt that will be impossible for tomorrow's policymakers to fully repay. Children born today inherit both the atmosphere destabilized by emissions and the geopolitical instability produced by unresolved conflicts. They will face the compounded effects of environmental degradation and ongoing militarized disputes, trapped in crises that were created before they had agency or voice.

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IRIS DENA SINKING HIGHLIGHTS FRAGILE MARITIME ORDER IN INDIAN OCEAN

The Supreme Court has intervened following reports of rampant illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary, which threatens the survival of endangered gharials. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta noted that even areas where Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav had released gharials are affected. The sanctuary, spanning Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, is home to gharials, red-crowned roof turtles, and Ganges River dolphins. The court has directed the matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India for further action.

The recent sinking of the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena near Sri Lanka has exposed the vulnerabilities of the current maritime framework in the Indian Ocean. The incident, caused by a torpedo strike from a US submarine, has underscored that even heavily trafficked and strategic sea lanes remain susceptible to military confrontation.

The attack, which occurred on 4 March 2026 as the frigate was returning from joint naval exercises hosted by India, marks a historic moment: it is the first time since World War II that a US submarine has sunk an enemy warship in combat. Rescue operations by Sri Lankan authorities saved several sailors, though many remain missing, revealing both human and strategic consequences.

Experts note that the Indian Ocean has emerged as a critical theater of global naval competition. Beyond the immediate geopolitical stakes, the sinking of IRIS Dena raises pressing questions about maritime governance, legality, and the ability of international law to prevent such incidents in high-traffic zones critical to global trade and energy flows.

For centuries, the principle of freedom of the seas has guided maritime conduct. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), adopted in 1982, attempted to codify a legal framework for navigation, resource use, environmental protection, and dispute resolution. Yet enforcement remains challenging, especially when major powers, like the US, operate outside formal ratification while wielding overwhelming naval capability.

The strategic corridors around India and Sri Lanka are vital for global shipping, linking the Persian Gulf to East Asia and Europe. Any military clash in these waters



PROFESSOR SANTHOSH MATHEW EXAMINES IMPLICATIONS OF NAVAL CLASHES ON GLOBAL TRADE, SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

has ramifications beyond regional security, affecting international commerce, undersea infrastructure, and the global economy.

IRIS Dena's sinking demonstrates the fragility of maritime order when strategic rivalries intersect with crowded sea lanes. Questions arise about whether the strike occurred in international waters, whether it violated exclusive economic zones, and what rights neighboring neutral states possess during armed encounters.

The Indian Ocean's strategic importance is compounded by ongoing military activity from multiple powers, highlighting the risk of miscalculation. Recent sightings of American vessels near India's Lakshadweep region reinforce concerns about jurisdictional boundaries and the potential for conflict escalation.

Historically, naval supremacy has shaped global power dynamics. Alfred Thayer Mahan's theory that “whoever rules the waves rules the world” continues to hold relevance. However, the twenty-first century requires a balance between sea power and robust

maritime governance to prevent unregulated confrontations.

Oceans serve as lifelines for trade, fisheries, and global communication networks, including undersea cables essential for the internet. Disruption due to conflict threatens not only national security but the functioning of the worldwide economy, emphasizing the importance of enforceable international rules.

The IRIS Dena tragedy should act as a wake-up call. Strengthening UNCLOS, enhancing international cooperation, and ensuring adherence to maritime law are essential steps to prevent future incidents and maintain stability in the increasingly contested waters of the Indo-Pacific region. The sinking of IRIS Dena has triggered urgent discussions among strategic analysts about the adequacy of existing maritime security protocols in the Indian Ocean. While UNCLOS provides a framework for territorial claims and dispute resolution, the convention relies heavily on voluntary compliance and lacks strong enforcement mechanisms. This incident illustrates that legal frame-

works alone are insufficient when powerful naval actors are willing to operate outside the established norms. Experts argue that multilateral agreements backed by real-time monitoring, joint naval patrols, and transparent communication channels could help prevent similar confrontations in the future. India's role in the Indian Ocean has never been more critical. As a regional power with extensive maritime interests, New Delhi faces the dual challenge of safeguarding its shipping lanes while navigating the complexities of strategic rivalry among global powers. The IRIS Dena incident emphasizes that India must not only strengthen its naval capabilities but also invest in diplomatic initiatives to build consensus on maintaining a rules-based order across its maritime zones. Failure to do so could make the region a flashpoint for unintended conflict with global ramifications.

The economic stakes of such naval confrontations cannot be overstated. The Indian Ocean facilitates nearly one-third of global trade, including crucial oil shipments

from the Persian Gulf to Asia. Any disruption to this corridor could trigger spikes in energy prices, affect supply chains, and create economic instability worldwide. Shipping companies and global trade bodies have already expressed concern about the risk of militarization of commercial sea lanes, noting that increased naval presence and sudden strikes could force vessels to reroute, adding both time and cost to international commerce. In addition to commercial concerns, maritime conflicts pose severe environmental risks.

The sinking of warships carries the danger of oil spills, chemical leaks, and damage to fragile marine ecosystems. Sri Lanka's coast, for example, is home to diverse marine life and supports the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen.

A military confrontation in such areas could devastate local economies, highlighting the need for international mechanisms that integrate environmental safeguards into maritime security planning. The IRIS Dena episode also raises questions about the future of submarine warfare and stealth operations. Submarine strikes are inherently difficult to monitor and can happen without warning, creating asymmetrical threats in busy sea lanes.

Analysts warn that as underwater capabilities continue to advance, conventional surface fleets may become increasingly vulnerable, necessitating new protocols for communication, identification, and accountability among navies operating in the same waters. Diplomatically, the incident has intensified scrutiny of US-Iran relations and their wider implications for regional stability.

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PENT-UP ANGER TOPPLES NEPAL'S OLD GUARD: RSP SECURES HISTORIC MANDATE

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Kathmandu, Mar 15 – Nepal's 2026 general elections have delivered a remarkable political mandate, with the four-year-old Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) securing a near two-thirds majority in Parliament, falling short by only two seats. Observers have hailed the result as one of the most significant democratic shifts in recent Nepali politics. While some have described it as a “Gen Z-led political wave,” analysts say the outcome reflects deeper societal anger and dissatisfaction accumulated over decades of misgovernance.

The elections come after a turbulent year marked by unrest in March and September 2025, which exposed weaknesses in democratic institutions, law enforcement, and media accountability. Despite violence, destruction, and fatalities during these periods, the electorate delivered a decisive verdict, favoring new leadership and alternative political representation. RSP's rise builds on earlier victories in 2022, including mayoral wins in Kath-



BEYOND A GENERATIONAL SHIFT, DECADES OF FRUSTRATION AND MIS-GOVERNANCE FUEL A TRANSFORMATIVE POLITICAL WAVE, CHALLENGING INSTITUTIONS AND TESTING THE RESILIENCE OF NEPAL'S DEMOCRACY.

mandu, Dhangadhi, and Dharan, setting the stage for the current historic mandate.

Experts note that Nepal today exists in a state of fragile stability. Two decades of post-conflict political transition saw unstable coalitions, unaccountable leadership, and growing regional inequalities. Urban centers such as Kathmandu and Pokhara dominated development discourse, while cities like Birgunj and Janakpur remained neglected. Youth frustration over limited domestic opportunities and

the proliferation of social media as an outlet for dissent intensified public anger, culminating in the widespread mobilization witnessed during last year's unrest.

The fall of established parties played a key role in RSP's success. The Nepali Congress struggled with internal fissures and generational tensions, eroding its traditional support base, while the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) under K.P. Sharma Oli failed to connect with voters, despite renewed engage-

ment with China's Belt and Road Initiative. Public dissatisfaction over handling of unrest, controversial social media restrictions, and lack of institutional accountability provided fertile ground for the RSP's rise.

Looking ahead, the new leadership faces the challenge of restoring trust in weakened institutions, improving governance, and addressing long-standing inequalities. Analysts warn that while elections mark a historic transition, Nepal's democratic journey remains

a work in progress. Success will depend on the ability of the RSP to strengthen institutions, rebuild citizen confidence, and bridge the gap between political elites and ordinary citizens. The RSP's immediate challenge will be translating electoral success into effective governance. Analysts warn that parliamentary dominance alone will not guarantee policy outcomes unless backed by strong bureaucratic coordination and administrative reforms. Many civil servants remain accustomed to navigating party loyalties rather than focusing on merit-based governance, a factor that could slow reform implementation.

Restoring trust in institutions is particularly crucial in sectors such as law enforcement, judiciary, and anti-corruption agencies. Past years have seen a perception that political interference weakens oversight mechanisms, leaving the public skeptical of official accountability. Observers note that without credible institutional reform, even popular policies may fail to gain traction among citizens.

The economic landscape presents additional hur-

dles. Nepal continues to face uneven development, with urban-rural disparities and limited industrialization. Foreign remittances have sustained household incomes but have also created dependency, while domestic entrepreneurship remains constrained. Economic policy under the RSP will need to prioritize inclusive growth to address these long-standing structural issues.

Education and employment remain central concerns for Nepal's youth, who were instrumental in driving voter turnout for the RSP. Critics argue that previous governments prioritized political patronage over creating sustainable career pathways.

The RSP has promised reforms in vocational training, skill development, and higher education, signaling a potential shift in long-term national priorities. Geopolitically, Nepal continues to navigate delicate relationships with India and China, while maintaining engagement with global partners like the United States, Japan, and the European Union. Analysts suggest that the RSP will need to balance domestic priorities with regional sensitivities.

OPINION

“In an Age of Political Opportunism and Polarization, Rediscovering Moral Leadership and the Enduring Lessons of Gandhi and Ethical Statesmanship”

In today's world, politics often seems synonymous with power games, polarization, and short-term calculations. Yet, history reminds us that leadership can be guided by principle as much as by ambition. Figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. once exemplified this ideal, showing that ethical conduct and courage could define political action. Their enduring message: the highest form of politics is rooted in doing what is right.

The modern political landscape, however, often feels disconnected from such ideals. Global conflicts escalate, social tensions rise, and decisions are frequently driven by strategy rather than ethics. In such times, the need for leaders who prioritize human welfare, justice, and long-term societal good is more pressing than ever.

India, too, has seen leaders who drew inspiration from ethical frameworks. Shankar Dayal Singh, for instance, carried

Gandhi's principles into public service. His early encounter with Gandhi in 1947 left a lasting impression, shaping a life defined by simplicity, integrity, and moral courage. Singh's tenure in the Fifth Lok Sabha reflected this commitment, demonstrating that politics could remain honorable even in turbulent times.

Singh's courage was particularly evident during the Emergency, when he quietly supported and protected fellow leaders at per-



sonal risk. His actions exemplified a key lesson from Gandhi: that true leadership some-

times means defying power in favor of justice and principle. Through his writings, Singh

also highlighted the contrast between moral vision and political expediency. He noted how Mahatma Gandhi sought to bridge social divides, live among the underprivileged, and promote inclusivity, while contemporary political practices often deepened societal fractures. Singh's advocacy for khadi, swadeshi goods, and the promotion of Hindi reflected a vision of unity and ethical engagement rooted in culture, not exclusion. Yet, in an era dominated by

media spectacle, social media narratives, and rapid consumption of news, figures like Singh are often forgotten. Today's politics tends to elevate controversy and scandal over service and integrity. The challenge is clear: can society recognize and reward moral leadership before it fades from collective memory?

Even Gandhi, often lauded as a moral compass, faces renewed scrutiny. Critics examine his actions and views, sometimes judging

him harshly by modern standards. Yet, this does not diminish the transformative impact of his ideas, which emphasized non-violence, civic responsibility, and collective empowerment over coercion or force. Citizens, too, bear responsibility. Elections often reduce complex moral choices to narrow self-interest or party loyalty. Voters frequently ask which politician benefits them most in the short term, considering whether policies are sustain-

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Issue Threat Against Israeli PM Netanyahu

IRGC dismisses assassination rumours but warns it will "hunt down" Israeli leader amid escalating regional tensions

AGENCY

TEHRAN: Amid swirling speculation on social media regarding the safety of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Iran's powerful paramilitary force, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has issued a sharp warning, declaring that it will relentlessly pursue the Israeli leader.

In a statement circulated through Iranian state media on Sunday, the IRGC accused Netanyahu of committing crimes against civilians and described him as a "child-killer". The group asserted that if the Israeli premier is alive, it will continue its efforts to track him down with full force.

The statement came shortly after Netanyahu's office rejected viral claims on social media suggesting that the Israeli leader had been assassinated. Officials from the Prime Minister's Office clarified that the reports were



IRGC ACCUSED NETANYAHU OF COMMITTING CRIMES AGAINST CIVILIANS AND DESCRIBED HIM AS A "CHILD-KILLER"

completely false and confirmed that the prime minister is safe.

Rumours had intensified online following a video posted on Netanyahu's account on the social media platform X. Some users alleged that the footage appeared manipulated after viewers claimed the prime min-

ister seemed to have six fingers in the clip, leading to speculation that the video might have been artificially generated.

However, the platform's artificial intelligence assistant, Grok, later dismissed these claims, stating that the unusual visual was merely an optical illusion and

not evidence of manipulation.

Additional rumours also circulated online regarding Netanyahu's son, Yair Netanyahu, with some users claiming his social media inactivity signalled a possible family crisis. These claims, however, remain unverified.

Rising tensions in the region. Hostilities between Israel and Iran have intensified over the past few years, particularly following the large-scale assault on Israel by the militant group Hamas on October 7, 2023. Israel accuses Iran of backing the group, which Tehran denies while supporting Palestinian resistance movements.

The rivalry further escalated last year when both countries became involved in a brief but intense 12-day conflict that also drew in the United States.

During that period, joint strikes carried out by the US and Israel reportedly killed Iran's supreme leader.

Trump Warns Iran of More Strikes on Strategic Kharg Island

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has warned that American forces could launch additional attacks on Iran's key oil terminal, Kharg Island, saying previous strikes had already caused severe damage to the country's military infrastructure.

In remarks issued on Sunday, Trump claimed that earlier US operations had "completely destroyed" strategic facilities on the island, which plays a crucial role in Iran's oil exports. He indicated that further military action could follow if disruptions to international shipping routes in the region continue.

The US president said that if threats to maritime traffic persist, American forces may target Iranian oil hubs again. He suggested that further strikes could be carried out "a few more times," signalling Washington's willingness to escalate pressure on Iran. Focus on global shipping routes. Trump also urged allied nations to join efforts to secure the vital



maritime corridor of the Strait of Hormuz, through which a large portion of the world's crude oil shipments pass. He called on international partners to deploy naval vessels in coordination with the United States Navy to ensure the safe movement of commercial ships.

The US administration believes that increased naval presence in the region would deter attacks on oil tankers and prevent disruptions to global energy supplies. The warning adds to tensions between the United States and Iran, which have been locked in a prolonged geopolitical standoff involving military threats, sanctions and disputes over regional influence.

EAM JAISHANKAR TO BEGIN TWO-DAY VISIT TO BRUSSELS

New Delhi: India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will undertake a two-day official visit to Brussels, Belgium from March 15 to 16 to hold discussions with leaders of the European Union and foreign ministers of EU member states. The visit is being held at the invitation of EU High Representative and Vice-President Kaja Kallas. During the trip, Jaishankar will participate in the EU's Foreign Affairs Council meeting, where he will interact with foreign ministers from the 27 EU member countries. In addition to the council meeting, the minister is expected to hold bilateral discussions with senior EU leadership as well as counterparts from Belgium and other European nations. These talks will focus on enhancing cooperation in areas such as diplomacy, security, trade and global strategic issues. According to officials, the visit comes soon after the recent India-EU summit and is expected to further deepen India's strategic partnership with the European bloc. Diplomatic engagement between India and the European Union has expanded in recent years, with both sides seeking closer collaboration in areas including economic cooperation, global security, technology and energy. The Brussels visit is expected to reinforce this growing partnership and strengthen political dialogue between New Delhi and European capitals.

Family Alleges Enforced Disappearance of Youth After Detention in Balochistan

AGENCY

Quetta: A fresh case of alleged enforced disappearance has surfaced in Pakistan's restive province of Balochistan after a young man reportedly went missing soon after being detained by security personnel, according to his family members.

Relatives of the youth claimed that he was picked up during a security operation in the area and has not been seen since. The family says they have been unable to obtain any information about his whereabouts despite approaching local authorities.

The incident has sparked concern among rights activists who have long accused



RELATIVES CLAIM YOUNG MAN WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY SECURITY PERSONNEL AND HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE

security agencies of detaining individuals without formally acknowledging their custody. Such cases are often referred to as "enforced disappearances," a practice frequently high-

lighted by advocacy groups. Local residents and activists have demanded that authorities clarify the situation and either produce the missing individual before a court or disclose his location.

Allegations of enforced disappearances have been a recurring issue in Balochistan, Pakistan's largest but least populated province, which has witnessed decades of political unrest and separatist insurgency.

Human rights organisations, including Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, have repeatedly called on the government to investigate such cases and ensure accountability.

Authorities in Pakistan, however, often state that many individuals reported missing may have joined militant groups or left their homes voluntarily, a claim frequently disputed by families and activists.

WHO Chief Condemns Attacks on Lebanon's Healthcare System

AGENCY

Geneva: The head of the World Health Organization has strongly criticised the continued attacks on healthcare facilities in Lebanon, warning that the country's already fragile medical system is facing severe strain amid the ongoing conflict.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that at least 14 healthcare workers have lost their lives in recent incidents, describing the situation as an unacceptable assault on medical services and humanitarian principles.

In a statement, Tedros emphasised that hospitals, clinics and medical staff must be safeguarded during conflicts, stressing that healthcare workers risk their lives daily to treat the injured and sick.

He urged all parties involved in the hostilities to respect international humanitarian law



and ensure that medical facilities remain protected zones.

Concern over collapsing health services. The WHO warned that repeated attacks on healthcare infrastructure could severely disrupt treatment for thousands of civilians. Damage to hospitals and the loss of trained medical staff may also hamper emergency response efforts.

According to the global health agency, protecting healthcare facilities is vital to ensure that patients continue receiving life-saving care, particularly during times of war and humanitarian

crises.

The organisation reiterated its appeal to the international community to push for immediate safeguards for health workers and medical institutions in conflict-affected areas.

The World Health Organization noted that repeated attacks on medical facilities not only endanger the lives of healthcare professionals but also deprive thousands of civilians of essential treatment. Many hospitals in conflict-affected areas are already struggling with shortages of medicines, equipment and trained personnel.

Health officials warned that continued violence around medical centres could lead to the closure of critical departments, including emergency and trauma units.

Saudi Air Defences Shoot Down Four Drones Targeting Riyadh

AGENCY

RIYADH: Security forces in Saudi Arabia successfully intercepted and destroyed four drones that were reportedly heading toward the metropolitan region of Riyadh, according to official statements released on Sunday.

Authorities said the unmanned aerial vehicles were detected by the country's air defence systems and neutralised before they could reach their intended targets. Officials confirmed that no casualties or damage were reported following the interception.

The incident highlights the continued security challenges faced by the kingdom as it strengthens surveillance and defence systems to protect critical infrastructure and populated areas.

Military officials stated that the rapid response by air defence units prevented any potential threat to residents of the capital. Security forces have been placed on heightened alert to respond to any further aerial threats. Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in



advanced air defence technology in recent years to counter drone and missile attacks, particularly amid ongoing regional tensions. The attempted drone strike comes at a time of increased instability in parts of the Middle East. Several countries in the region have reported security threats linked to escalating geopolitical rivalries and conflicts.

Authorities in Saudi Arabia reiterated their commitment to safeguarding civilians and maintaining the security of key cities, including Riyadh, which serves as the nation's political and administrative centre. Officials also stated that investigations are to determine the origin of the drones.

Kim Jong Un Watches Rocket Test With Teenage Daughter

AGENCY

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was seen observing a rocket launch alongside his teenage daughter, drawing international attention to both the country's advancing missile programme and the growing public role of the young family member.

State media images showed Kim monitoring the launch at a test site while standing next to his daughter, believed to be Kim Ju Ae. Analysts say her repeated appearances at military events have sparked speculation that she may be gradually introduced to the public as part of the country's future leadership narrative. According to official reports,



the rocket test was conducted to evaluate the performance and reliability of North Korea's strategic weapons systems. Authorities claimed the launch achieved its intended objectives. The demonstration comes as

North Korea continues to prioritise strengthening its missile and defence capabilities. Over the past few years, the country has carried out multiple tests aimed at improving the range and accuracy of its

rockets and ballistic missiles. Experts believe the latest launch is part of Pyongyang's broader effort to modernise its military arsenal and signal deterrence against perceived external threats.

Observers have noted that Kim Ju Ae has increasingly appeared alongside her father at key military events, including missile launches and defence exhibitions. Her presence has fuelled speculation about succession planning within the ruling Kim family.

However, the government in North Korea has not officially commented on any future leadership plans. For now, analysts say the appearances are likely aimed at projecting the continuity and stability of the ruling family's authority.

The rocket test is also being closely watched by neighbouring countries and global powers, as such launches often heighten tensions in the region. Governments in South Korea and Japan

have frequently criticised these tests, saying they pose a threat to regional stability and violate international sanctions.

Military analysts believe the demonstration was intended to showcase technological progress and reinforce North Korea's deterrence capabilities. The country has consistently maintained that its weapons development is necessary to defend itself against what it calls hostile policies from the United States and its allies.

The latest test comes amid ongoing diplomatic tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes. Despite repeated international calls for restraint, the government led by Kim Jong Un.

WORLD BRIEFS

ZELENSKY ACCUSES RUSSIA OF EXPLOITING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AS FRESH ATTACKS HIT UKRAINE

Kyiv: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has accused Russia of taking advantage of the escalating conflict in the Middle East to intensify military operations against Ukraine. Speaking after a fresh wave of strikes across several Ukrainian regions, Zelensky said Moscow appeared to be exploiting global attention on the Middle East crisis to carry out new attacks on Ukrainian territory. According to Ukrainian officials, Russian forces launched missiles and drones targeting infrastructure and urban areas overnight. Air defence systems were activated in multiple cities as authorities worked to intercept the incoming threats. Infrastructure under renewed attack: Emergency services reported damage to several facilities following the barrage, though officials are still assessing the full extent of the destruction. Power infrastructure and transportation networks were among the likely targets of the strikes. Local administrations in affected regions urged residents to remain in shelters during air raid alerts while rescue teams responded to incidents caused by the attacks. War enters another tense phase: The renewed bombardment comes as the conflict between Ukraine and Russia continues with no immediate signs of de-escalation. Ukrainian authorities say such strikes are part of a broader strategy to weaken the country's infrastructure and morale. Zelensky reiterated his call for stronger international support, urging global partners to maintain pressure on Moscow and continue providing defensive assistance to Kyiv.

Air India, Air India Express Cancel Some India-UAE Flights; IndiGo Curbs Dubai Operations

New Delhi: Indian carriers Air India and Air India Express have cancelled several ad-hoc flights operating between India and the United Arab Emirates, while IndiGo has restricted some of its services to Dubai amid ongoing operational adjustments. According to airline statements, the cancellations primarily affect additional or temporary flights that were scheduled to operate outside regular timetables. Officials said the move was taken due to operational considerations and the evolving situation in the region. Passengers booked on the affected services have been advised to check their flight status before heading to the airport and to stay in contact with airline customer service for updates regarding rescheduling or refunds. The carriers indicated that regular flight operations are continuing on several routes, but some schedules have been revised to ensure safety and operational efficiency. Airlines are also monitoring the situation closely and may make further adjustments if required. The disruption comes as airlines across the region review flight paths and schedules in response to changing geopolitical and airspace conditions. Travellers planning to fly between India and the United Arab Emirates have been urged to remain updated through official airline notifications. Authorities say passengers should arrive at airports only after confirming their flight details to avoid inconvenience. Airlines have assured customers that efforts are being made to accommodate affected travellers on alternative flights wherever possible. Airlines also said that passengers whose flights have been cancelled or rescheduled will be offered options such as rebooking on the next available service or a full refund, depending on the airline's policy. Customer support teams have been activated to assist travellers facing inconvenience due to the sudden schedule changes. Industry experts noted that flight disruptions between India and the United Arab Emirates can affect a large number of travellers, as the route is among the busiest international corridors, connecting business travellers, tourists and a large expatriate workforce.

Financial Crisis in Pakistan Railways Casts Shadow on Eid Travel

Islamabad: Mounting financial difficulties at Pakistan Railways have raised concerns about travel arrangements for thousands of passengers planning journeys ahead of the upcoming Eid al-Fitr celebrations. Officials acknowledged that the state-run rail network is facing serious economic strain, affecting its ability to operate additional trains and manage the surge in demand that typically occurs during the festive season. Many travellers rely on rail services to return to their hometowns to celebrate the holiday with family. Sources within the railway department indicated that shortages of funds, rising operational costs and maintenance challenges have complicated preparations for the Eid rush. Concerns over travel disruptions: Passengers across several cities in Pakistan have expressed anxiety over possible cancellations or delays if the situation is not resolved quickly. Ticket demand has already begun rising as people plan their holiday travel. Railway officials said efforts are underway to maintain regular services and minimise disruptions, while exploring measures to manage the heavy passenger load expected during the Eid period. Government under pressure: The financial troubles have also placed pressure on the government to step in and ensure that essential transport services continue smoothly. Analysts say that any large-scale disruption could create significant difficulties for travellers during one of the busiest travel periods of the year. Authorities have assured the public that steps are being taken to stabilise operations and keep trains running as scheduled during the festive season. Meanwhile, transport experts have urged authorities to introduce temporary measures such as special trains and improved scheduling to handle the surge in passengers during Eid al-Fitr, warning that any major disruption could leave thousands of travellers stranded across different parts of Pakistan. Officials from Pakistan Railways said they are coordinating with relevant government departments to secure resources and ensure smoother operations.

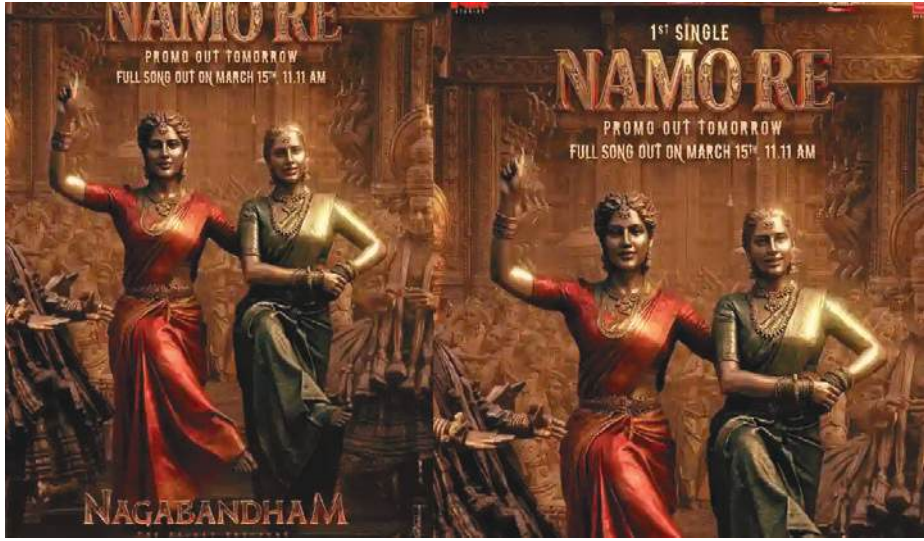
10 **Filmy**

When Devotion Meets Spectacle: First Single 'Namo Re' from Pan-India Film 'Nagabandham' Released

The devotional-themed song sets the stage for a cinematic epic, blending mythology, grandeur and modern musical sensibilities to captivate audiences nationwide.

The film, which features an ensemble cast of celebrated actors, has been described by industry insiders as a "pan-Indian spectacle," combining high production values with a narrative that appeals to both traditional and contemporary audiences. The release of the single is seen as the first major promotional milestone, building anticipation ahead of the movie's theatrical debut.

Music critics have praised 'Namo Re' for its rich orchestration and the way it merges classical elements with modern cinematic flair. Fans on social media have responded enthusiastically, sharing snippets and reactions, making the song an instant talking point.



According to the production team, 'Nagabandham' has been crafted with meticulous attention to detail, with elaborate sets, visual effects, and choreographed sequences that aim to deliver an immersive experience. The film's makers hope that the single will give audiences a taste of the epic journey that the

THE MAKERS OF THE PAN-INDIA FILM 'NAGABANDHAM' HAVE RELEASED THE FIRST SINGLE, 'NAMO RE', A DEVOTIONAL-THEMED TRACK THAT BLENDS MYTHOLOGY WITH MODERN MUSICAL FLAIR.

movie promises to offer. The film's director expressed excitement over the release, stating that 'Namo Re' embod-

ies the soul of the story and the devotion that drives its characters. "We wanted a song that not only entertains but also inspires, and we believe 'Namo Re' captures that essence perfectly," the director said.

Alongside the music launch, the marketing team revealed plans for additional songs, teasers, and promotional events across India. The multi-lingual approach of the film aims to reach audiences from different regions, making it one of the most ambitious cinematic projects in recent times.

Fans have taken to social media to share their excitement, with hashtags related to the film trending nationwide. Many have praised the choreography, musi-

Raashii Khanna Warns West Asian Conflict Could Hit Film Industry, Predicts Bigger Role for OTT

Actor Raashii Khanna, who is currently promoting her upcoming Telugu release Ustaad Bhagat Singh, has raised concerns about the potential impact of the ongoing conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran on the Indian film industry. Speaking to Gulte, she cautioned that if tensions escalate, rising inflation could make movie-going a luxury few prioritize. "I was discussing with a friend how films might be affected by this war. People will have less disposable income, and cinema is often a luxury for the middle class," Raashii said. She added that while blockbuster releases may continue to draw audiences, small and medium-budget films are likely to struggle. "OTT platforms will gain more prominence; that seems to be the future," she noted.

Her remarks echo recent trends in regional cinema,



RAASHII KHANNA WARNS WEST ASIAN CONFLICT COULD HIT FILM INDUSTRY, PREDICTS BIGGER ROLE FOR OTT

where films without star power or significant marketing often fail to make a noticeable impact at the box office. Even in Telugu, Bengali, and Malayalam industries, smaller productions are facing budget constraints, partially aggravated by recent LPG shortages that affected production logistics.

Raashii also reflected on her own busy slate of work. In 2025, she appeared in the Tamil film Aghathiya, the Telugu film Telusu Kada, and the Hindi film 120 Baha-

dur. Ustaad Bhagat Singh, directed by Harish Shankar, will see her sharing the screen with Pawan Kalyan and Sreeleela, and is set for a March 19 release. Early benefit shows in Andhra Pradesh will start at 4 AM, coinciding with Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar: The Revenge in Telugu markets.

Looking ahead, she has several projects lined up, including the Tamil film Rowdy and Co, Hindi films Talaakhon Mein Ek and Bridge, and an untitled

Asha Parekh Remembers Nasir Hussain as the Only Man She Loved

Bollywood icon Asha Parekh recently opened up about her unique and enduring bond with legendary filmmaker Nasir Hussain, describing him as the only man she ever truly loved. Speaking in a heartfelt interview, she emphasized that their relationship was built on trust, respect, and unwavering companionship rather than conventional romance. "She was clear that Nasir was unlike anyone else in her life," the actor said. "Our connection went beyond love; it was a rare understanding that lasted decades." Parekh credited Hussain for shaping much of her career in the film industry, noting that his guidance, encouragement, and belief in her talent were invaluable. Despite working closely on numerous films, including classics of the 1960s and 70s, Parekh explained that their bond was entirely platonic.

Oscars 2026 Priyanka Chopra Joins Star-Studded Presenter Line Up as Sinners and One Battle After Another Lead the Race

As Hollywood's biggest night approaches, Indian star Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been confirmed as one of the presenters for the 98th Academy Awards, adding to a glittering roster of global talent on the Dolby Theatre stage. The ceremony — hosted once again by Conan O'Brien — will air live on Sunday, with viewers around the world tuning in for one of cinema's most anticipated events.

Chopra's presence adds an international flavour to the evening, as the Oscars continue to honour diversity and global contributions to film. She will be joined by a long list of celebrated presenters, including established Hollywood names who are expected to hand out key awards and share memorable moments on stage.

At the centre of this year's race are two critically acclaimed films that have dominated awards season: Sinners and One Battle After Another. Sinners, directed by Ryan Coogler,



leads the nominations with a record-breaking haul of 16 nods — the most in Oscars history — while Paul Thomas Anderson's One Battle After Another has also been recognised in major categories and remains a strong contender.

Industry insiders say this year's awards night could be one of the most unpredictable in recent memory, with no clear frontrunner across all major categories. Both films are expected to compete fiercely for the top honours, including Best Picture and key acting awards.

As nominations were announced earlier this year, One Battle After Another and Sinners also earned praise

from critics and audiences alike, helping to shape a compelling narrative for awards season. Other acclaimed performances from films such as Hamnet and Marty Supreme have added further depth to the competition.

Beyond the competitive races, this year's Oscars ceremony is set to weave in a range of performances and tribute segments, celebrating both cinematic achievement and the history of film. Organisers have promised memorable moments that reflect both classic traditions and contemporary cultural influences.

Security has been heightened around the event.

Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu Congratulates Newlyweds Allu Sirish and Nayanika Reddy

Amid celebrations in the Telugu film fraternity, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu personally met actor Allu Sirish and his bride Nayanika Reddy to congratulate them on their marriage. The CM praised the couple for their achievements in the film industry and wished them a life filled with happiness and success. The meeting, described as warm and cordial, took place at the CM's residence in Amaravati. Both Allu Sirish and Nayanika expressed gratitude for the CM's gesture and blessings, noting that it was a memorable moment for them and their families. Sirish, known for his versatile roles in Telugu cinema, recently tied the knot with Nayanika in a private ceremony attended by close friends and family. The couple's wedding had captured public attention, drawing congratulations from fans and industry peers alike. CM Naidu highlighted the significance of family values and cultural traditions, remarking that public figures like the newlyweds.

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU PERSONALLY MEETS TOLLYWOOD ACTOR ALLU SIRISH AND HIS BRIDE NAYANIKA REDDY TO EXTEND HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS, PRAISE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO TELUGU CINEMA, AND WISH THEM A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS



Alia Bhatt Celebrates 33rd Birthday as Mother Soni Razdan Shares Heartwarming Tribute Highlighting Love, Pride, and Mother-Daughter Bond



Bollywood star Alia Bhatt turned 33 on March 15, 2026, and her mother, actress-director Soni Razdan, took to social media to share a touching birthday message that reflects the deep bond between them. In a heartfelt note, Soni expressed her pride in Alia's journey as an actor, a daughter, and a public figure, celebrating both her achievements and her personal growth.

Soni Razdan's post included a candid photograph of Alia along with a warm caption, describing her as "my sunshine, my pride, and my heart in human form." She went on to acknowledge the dedication, resilience, and kindness that Alia has demonstrated in her life and career, noting that she continues to inspire everyone around her. Fans and industry col-

leagues quickly joined in to wish Alia a happy birthday, flooding the comment section with messages of love, admiration, and appreciation. Many highlighted her evolution as an actress, her philanthropic initiatives, and her ability to maintain grace and humility despite immense fame.

Alia Bhatt, who has become one of the most celebrated and versatile actors in contemporary

Bollywood, responded to her mother's note with gratitude and affection, sharing that such gestures make birthdays "even more special."

Her social media post reflected both her playful side and the closeness she shares with her family.

This birthday comes amid a busy year for Alia, with several high-profile projects in the pipeline, including upcoming films and brand collaborations. Fans are



eagerly anticipating her future ventures, while the warmth of Soni Razdan's note serves as a reminder of the family support that continues to shape Alia's life both on and off the screen. In addition to acting, Alia has been actively involved in social

causes and advocacy. She continues to support campaigns around mental health awareness, women's empowerment, and education, using her platform to influence and inspire younger generations beyond the silver screen. The film fraternity



celebrated her birthday in private gatherings as well, with close friends and co-stars sharing glimpses of their celebrations on social media. These posts captured moments of laughter, camaraderie, and affection, highlighting Alia's close-knit relationships within the industry.

Alia's fans also organized online tributes, trending hashtags in her honour, sharing fan art, videos, and messages that reflected admiration for her performances and personal ethos. Social media buzzed with wishes that emphasized her versatility, charm, and enduring

appeal across different age groups and regions.

Looking ahead, Alia is set to feature in several major releases, including high-profile projects that promise to expand her range as an actor. With a blend of talent, family support, and a growing international presence, Alia Bhatt's 33rd birthday marks not only a celebration of her life but also a reflection on her journey as one of the defining stars of her generation. "As she steps into another year, Alia Bhatt continues to shine both on-screen and in life, inspiring fans loved ones alike with her talent, grace, and heartfelt



11 Business

Geopolitical tensions may keep markets volatile; experts advise selective investing

Our Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Escalating tensions between the United States and Iran are likely to keep financial markets volatile in the near term, with market experts highlighting both risks and potential opportunities for investors amid the uncertainty. N. ArunaGiri, CEO of TrustLine Holdings, said that historical trends suggest markets often witness the sharpest corrections in the initial days of geopolitical conflicts.

"Almost without exception, in most crises, the bulk of the price damage—particularly in the Indian markets—tends to happen within the first few days of the outbreak of the conflict. After the initial shock, markets may remain volatile for some time, but historically the sharpest correction usually occurs in those early days," he said. According to him, the current tensions between the United States and Iran could follow



ESCALATING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ARE LIKELY TO KEEP FINANCIAL MARKETS VOLATILE IN THE NEAR TERM, WITH MARKET EXPERTS HIGHLIGHTING BOTH RISKS AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS AMID THE UNCERTAINTY

a similar pattern, though volatility may be higher due to the strong link between the crisis and global crude oil supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz. "The current crisis triggered by the US-Iran tensions may not be very different in that sense. However, since the situation has strong linkages to crude oil prices via the Hormuz Channel, the volatility could be more intense this time around," ArunaGiri said. He added that the worst of the price damage may have already

occurred during the initial phase of the crisis.

"Having said that, it is quite likely that the worst of the price damage may already have played out in the initial phase. What may follow from here is continued volatility, but not necessarily sustained or deeper price declines, particularly in the broader small and mid-cap space," he said. ArunaGiri also noted that geopolitical crises have historically presented investment opportunities for long-

term investors. "But if history is any guide, almost every geopolitical crisis has eventually turned out to be a compelling buying opportunity, especially in the broader small and mid-cap segments in the Indian context," he said.

"It is time to invest, not to time the bottom. However, the approach needs to remain selective, bottom-up, and gradual. In the current environment, disciplined stock pickers are almost spoilt for choice, with no dearth of compelling opportunities emerging across the broader market," he added. Meanwhile, Aditya Agrawal, CFA and Chief Investment Officer at Avis Wealth Creators, said the escalating tensions between Iran and the United States could influence investors through several channels beyond the immediate impact on oil prices. "Escalating tensions between Iran and the United States can influence investors in multiple ways beyond just oil prices,"

Agrawal said. "First, market swings—geopolitical unrest triggers immediate 'risk-off' behaviour, leading to short-term equity volatility as investors seek clarity," he said.

He further noted that rising crude prices could fuel inflationary pressures and affect monetary policy. "Second, inflation and rates—rising oil prices drive up inflation, often forcing interest rates higher and hurting both stock and bond returns," Agrawal said. Highlighting trade risks, he said threats to the Strait of Hormuz could disrupt global supply chains. "Third, trade bottlenecks—threats to the Strait of Hormuz spike shipping costs and disrupt global supply chains, slowing overall economic growth," he said. Agrawal added that geopolitical tensions also tend to trigger capital outflows from emerging markets. "Fourth, currency shifts—foreign capital often flees emerging markets like India for 'safer'.

Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy visits mine closure process at Murpar underground mine

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CHANDRAPUR: Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy today visited the mine closure process of the Murpar Underground Mine of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) on the second day of his visit to Chandrapur district. During the visit, the minister reviewed various activities and the progress related to the closure of the Murpar Underground Mine. Coal production at the mine began in 2003, and operations were discontinued in 2022, after the area was declared part of the Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.

Addressing the gathering, Reddy said that mine closure should not be viewed as the end of a project but as the beginning of a new phase aimed at sustainable development. He emphasised that the closure process must be carried out in a scientific and systematic manner so that the environmental balance in the region can be restored and natural resources conserved after mining activities cease. He also stressed that the interests of local communities must be given priority in mine closure plans. According to him, through vari-



UNION MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES G. KISHAN REDDY TODAY VISITED THE MINE CLOSURE PROCESS OF THE MURPAR UNDERGROUND MINE OF WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED (WCL) ON THE SECOND DAY OF HIS VISIT TO CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT

ous initiatives promoted by the central government, efforts are being made to transform closed mines into assets that are socially, economically and environmentally beneficial.

Providing details about the Murpar Underground Mine, WCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Harish Duhan said the mine, located in Chimur tehsil of Chandrapur district in Maharashtra, produced approximately 9,95,926 tonnes of coal since its inception. The Final Mine Closure Plan for the mine

was approved by the WCL Board on January 19, 2026. Around 426 employees working at the mine have been redeployed to other mines in the Umrer Area. Duhan further said that all mining infrastructure at the Murpar Mine has been dismantled in accordance with regulations, while the Manager's Office and the Canteen Building have been retained for social use on the recommendation of the district administration.

All physical mine closure activities, along with three years of environmental monitoring, have already been completed. As part of environmental protection initiatives, plantation will be carried out over five hectares of land in the mine area between June and September 2026 in collaboration with the Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur.

India's Gem and Jewellery Exports Shine Despite Global Challenges, Industry

AGENCY

MUMBAI: India's gem and jewellery sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, continuing to perform strongly even as global economic uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and fluctuating consumer demand affect international trade. Despite challenges in major markets such as the United States and Europe, the country's exports of gems and jewellery have remained robust, highlighting the strength of India's manufacturing base and the global trust in its craftsmanship.

According to industry data released by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), India's gem and jewellery exports have managed to sustain momentum through strategic market diversification, technological innovation, and strong demand for high-quality diamonds and gold jewellery. The sector, which is one of the country's most significant export industries, continues to play a vital role in boosting India's foreign exchange earnings and supporting millions of jobs across the value chain.

In recent years, global markets have faced multiple



INDIA'S GEM AND JEWELLERY EXPORTS GREW BY 3.86% IN FEBRUARY, REACHING USD 2,680.79 MILLION. DESPITE GLOBAL CHALLENGES LIKE GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES AND US TARIFF POLICIES, THE INDUSTRY SHOWED RESILIENCE THROUGH MARKET DIVERSIFICATION

economic pressures, including inflationary trends, supply chain disruptions, and changing consumer spending patterns. However, Indian exporters have successfully navigated these challenges by expanding into emerging markets while maintaining their strong presence in traditional destinations such as the United States, United Arab Emirates, and Hong Kong.

Industry experts say the sector's ability to quickly adapt to evolving market dynamics has been key to its continued growth. Exporters have increasingly focused on value-added products, innovative jewellery designs, and sustainable sourcing practices,

which have strengthened India's competitive position in the global market.

Cut and polished diamonds remain the backbone of India's gem and jewellery exports, with the country processing nearly 90 percent of the world's diamonds by volume. In addition, demand for handcrafted gold jewellery and studded ornaments has remained steady across international markets.

India's skilled workforce, advanced polishing technology, and established trading networks have allowed exporters to maintain quality and cost competitiveness even during uncertain economic conditions. Cities such as Surat and Mumbai continue to serve as major global hubs for diamond processing and jewellery manufacturing.

The industry has also benefited from policy support and export promotion initiatives by the Government of India, including efforts to strengthen manufacturing infrastructure and simplify trade procedures. Programs aimed at boosting exports, encouraging innovation, and expanding trade partnerships have helped Indian exporters stay competitive.

Market valuation of top 10 firms erode sharply by Rs 4.48 lakh Cr.



AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Last week, the combined market valuation of top 10 domestic firms eroded sharply by Rs 4.48 lakh crore. Banking majors including State Bank of India and HDFC Bank took the biggest hit. The market valuation of State Bank of India tumbled Rs 89,306.22 Cr. to Rs 9,66,261.05 Cr. while the HDFC Bank faced an erosion of Rs 61,715.32 Cr. to Rs 12,57,391.76 Cr. The valuation of Bajaj Finance dived Rs 59,082.49 Cr. to Rs 5,32,053.54 Cr. while the market capitalisation of ICICI Bank dropped by Rs 42,205.04 Cr. to Rs 8,97,844.78 Cr. The M-cap of LIC diminished by Rs 31,245.49 Cr. to Rs 4,88,985.57 Cr. The valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tanked Rs 53,312.52 Cr. to Rs 8,72,067.63 Cr. and that of Infosys declined by Rs 24,230.96 Cr. to Rs 5,06,315.58

LAST WEEK, THE COMBINED MARKET VALUATION OF TOP 10 DOMESTIC FIRMS ERODED SHARPLY BY RS 4.48 LAKH CRORE. BANKING MAJORS INCLUDING STATE BANK OF INDIA AND HDFC BANK TOOK THE BIGGEST HIT

Cr. Hindustan Unilever's M-cap dipped by Rs 15,401.57 Cr. to Rs 5,07,640.94 Cr. while that of Reliance Industries' valuation fell by Rs 33,289.88 Cr. to Rs 18,68,293.17 Cr.

In a rank-wise analysis, Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, TCS, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and LIC. On Friday, the bears were leading as the Nifty was dragged below 23,150 intra-day amid broadbased selling. At close, the Sensex was down 1,470.50 points or 1.93pc at 74,563.92, and the Nifty was down 488.05 points or 2.06pc at 23,151.10.

LPG SHORTAGE SPARKS PROTESTS IN MADHYA PRADESH

RAISEN (TIT NEWS): In Madhya Pradesh's Raissen district, a wave of discontent surged among consumers as they blocked a road outside an LPG gas agency, frustrated by the delayed distribution of LPG cylinders. The wait stretched from early morning to late morning, prompting action from local officials. Hundreds of customers gathered outside the agency, situated on Sagar Road, after their demands for timely distribution were unmet. The agency's late opening led to a spontaneous protest, with many women joining in, voicing grievances about their inability to prepare meals due to depleted LPG supplies. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Manish Sharma intervened by opening the agency and ensuring staff began distributing the cylinders. Sharma admonished the agency operator, warning of severe repercussions if such delays occurred again. The agency attributed the delay to tech-



BUSINESS BRIEFS

U.S.-CHINA TRADE TALKS IN PARIS: A BATTLE FOR ECONOMIC STABILITY

NEW DELHI: On Sunday, U.S. and Chinese economic leaders initiated critical trade talks in Paris, paving the way for President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Beijing. The discussions aim to negotiate longstanding trade challenges between the two countries, including tariffs and resource flow. Led by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and China's Vice Premier He Lifeng, the negotiations are part of ongoing efforts to facilitate smoother trade operations between the world's two largest economies. However, with the U.S. focus also drawn towards issues like the escalating situation with Iran, achieving a major breakthrough remains uncertain. Amid international tensions, the talks strive to maintain existing viability in trade relations and prevent further deterioration. Both sides emphasise commitments from a previous trade truce, covering areas like U.S. soybean exports and rare earth material access. Observers note a cautious optimism as negotiators work to stabilize global economic relations.

BOOSTING INDIA'S ECONOMY: THE IMPACT OF THE INDO-US TRADE DEAL

JAMMU: Union Minister Ramdas Athawale strongly criticized the Congress for opposing the recently signed India-US trade agreement, underscoring its potential to boost employment and fortify MSMEs. Addressing concerns over potential fuel shortages amid ongoing West Asia conflicts, he reassured that no immediate crisis looms due to strategic stockpiles. The minister dismissed opposition claims about the agreement harming farmers, attributing such assertions to misinformation campaigns led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

NHAI ANNOUNCES HIKE IN FASTAG ANNUAL PASS FEE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1

NEW DELHI: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Sunday announced a revision in the fee for the FASTag Annual Pass, increasing it from Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,075 for the financial year 2026-27. The revised fee will come into effect from April 1, 2026, and has been implemented in accordance with the provisions of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. According to NHAI, the FASTag Annual Pass has witnessed growing adoption among private vehicle owners, with more than 56 lakh users currently availing the facility. The revised rate will apply to eligible non-commercial vehicles with a valid FASTag seeking the Annual Pass facility at around 1,150 fee plazas located on National Highways and National Expressways across the country. The FASTag Annual Pass allows users to make a one-time payment for a validity of one year or up to 200 toll plaza crossings, eliminating the need for frequent FASTag recharges. NHAI said the pass is activated within two hours on the existing FASTag linked to the vehicle after payment of the one-time fee through the Rajmarg Yatra App or through the NHAI website. The FASTag Annual Pass was launched on August 15, 2025, to provide a cost-effective travel option for highway users across India.



U.S.-CHINA TRADE TALKS IN PARIS: A BATTLE FOR ECONOMIC STABILITY

WASHINGTON: On Sunday, U.S. and Chinese economic leaders initiated critical trade talks in Paris, paving the way for President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Beijing. The discussions aim to negotiate longstanding trade challenges between the two countries, including tariffs and resource flow. Led by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and China's Vice Premier He Lifeng, the negotiations are part of ongoing efforts to facilitate smoother trade operations between the world's two largest economies. However, with the U.S. focus also drawn towards issues like the escalating situation with Iran, achieving a major breakthrough remains uncertain. Amid international tensions, the talks strive to maintain existing viability in trade relations and prevent further deterioration.

AI ADOPTION COULD UNLOCK OVER USD 3 TRN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA'S MSMEs BY 2047

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NEW DELHI: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to significantly transform India's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), unlocking economic opportunities worth over USD 3 trillion by 2047, according to a joint report by PwC India and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

The report "Unlocking the AI Edge for MSMEs" highlighted that India's MSMEs play a crucial role in the country's economic and industrial landscape and could emerge as a major driver of manufacturing growth with the adoption of advanced technologies such as AI. "If India succeeds in increasing manufacturing's share of GDP to 25pc, and MSMEs raise their contribution to India's manufacturing gross value added (GVA) from 35.4pc in



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SIGNIFICANTLY TRANSFORM INDIA'S MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs), UNLOCKING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WORTH OVER USD 3 TRILLION BY 2047, ACCORDING TO A JOINT REPORT BY PWC INDIA AND THE OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ORF).

FY 2023-24 to 50pc by 2047, they stand to unlock growth opportunities in the range of USD 3.13-3.21 trillion by 2047" it said. According to the report, MSMEs currently contribute 35.4 percent of India's manufacturing value added and about 48.6 percent of the country's total exports, while employing more than 33 crore people across the country. The sector, therefore,

holds significant potential to support India's ambition of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

The study noted that if manufacturing expands to account for 25 percent of India's GDP and MSMEs increase their share in manufacturing value added to 50 percent by 2047, the sector could generate economic opportunities worth USD

3.13 trillion to USD 3.21 trillion. Artificial Intelligence, the report said, could act as a powerful enabler for MSMEs by improving operational efficiency, strengthening decision-making processes and enhancing product quality. AI-driven technologies such as predictive maintenance, intelligent supply chain management, demand forecasting and automated quality inspection could help businesses reduce costs and boost productivity.

The report estimated that AI adoption alone could contribute USD 135.6 billion to USD 149.9 billion to the growth of manufacturing MSMEs by 2035, provided the sector strengthens its participation in India's manufacturing ecosystem. It also pointed out that the rapid expansion of AI infrastructure, including data centres and computing systems, could create an additional

USD 100 billion to USD 150 billion demand opportunity for MSMEs involved in supplying components, cooling systems and other industrial equipment required for AI ecosystems. However, the report observed that several barriers continue to hinder the widespread adoption of AI among MSMEs.

These include limited digital readiness, lack of technical expertise, high costs associated with new technologies and concerns about the reliability and long-term returns of AI investments. To address these challenges, the report suggested a structured adoption model that focuses on improving access to AI tools, building awareness and acceptance among business owners and workers, integrating AI solutions into operational workflows and eventually embedding them into core business processes.



Gambhir Backs Sanju Samson's Return to India's T20 World Cup XI

NEW DELHI: Gautam Gambhir has explained the decision behind bringing Sanju Samson back into India's playing XI during the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup, saying the move was based on team balance and the player's recent form.

Speaking about the selection, Gambhir said the team management wanted to give Samson a defined role in the batting order so that he could contribute with greater confidence.

He noted that Samson has shown the ability to accelerate the scoring rate and adapt to different match situations, which makes him a valuable option in the middle order.

According to Gambhir, the management closely analysed recent performances and felt that Samson deserved another opportunity in the playing XI. He also pointed out that the wicketkeeper-batter brings flexibility to the lineup as he can play multiple roles depending on the requirements of the match.

Gambhir added that modern T20 cricket demands players who can shift gears quickly, and Samson possesses that attacking ability.

He said that consistency in selection often helps players perform better, as it



allows them to settle into their role within the team.

The coach further explained that team combinations are decided after considering factors such as opposition strengths, pitch conditions and overall balance.

He mentioned that Samson's presence also strengthens India's wicketkeeping options during high-pressure matches.

Gambhir emphasised that players are constantly evaluated during major tournaments and the management is open to making adjustments whenever required.

He said the coaching staff and selectors had several discussions before finalising the playing XI for the match.

The Indian team management believes Sam-

INDIA HEAD COACH SAYS TEAM MANAGEMENT WANTS STABILITY AND IMPACT AT THE TOP ORDER

son's aggressive batting can help maintain momentum during the middle overs of a T20 innings.

Gambhir also stated that players must be ready whenever an opportunity comes their way, especially in a tournament as competitive as the T20 World Cup.

He noted that Samson has worked hard on

improving his consistency and shot selection in recent months.

The coach added that the team environment encourages healthy competition among players for spots in the playing XI.

He said that such competition pushes every player to perform better and stay prepared for important matches.

Gambhir also praised the depth of talent available in the Indian squad for the tournament.

He pointed out that several players are capable of delivering match-winning performances when given the chance.

The management hopes that Samson's inclusion will add more firepower to India's batting lineup in crucial stages of the tournament.

Gambhir concluded by saying that the team's primary focus remains on performing well collectively and progressing deeper into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

He further said that tournaments like the ICC Men's T20 World Cup require players who can handle pressure and adapt quickly to different match situations. According to Gautam Gambhir, the team man-

agement believes that Sanju Samson has the temperament and skill set to perform on the big stage. He pointed out that Samson has gained valuable experience over the years by playing international cricket and leading in domestic and franchise tournaments, which has helped him mature as a cricketer.

Gambhir also highlighted that Samson's aggressive batting approach can be a major advantage for the team, particularly during the middle overs when maintaining the scoring momentum becomes crucial. He said that Samson has the ability to find boundaries regularly and rotate the strike effectively, which can put pressure on opposition bowlers. The coach added that the management is confident that Samson can play a key role in strengthening India's batting depth in tight contests.

He also stressed that the team management is focusing on building a balanced side where every player understands his responsibility. Gambhir explained that in modern T20 cricket, teams need players who can contribute in multiple ways, whether through batting, wicketkeeping or fielding.

Medvedev Upsets Alcaraz Sabalenka Marches into Indian Wells Final

INDIAN WELLS: Daniil Medvedev produced a stunning performance to defeat top seed Carlos Alcaraz and advance to the final of the prestigious Indian Wells Open, ending the Spaniard's strong run in the tournament.

Medvedev displayed remarkable composure and tactical brilliance throughout the match, countering Alcaraz's aggressive style with precise baseline play and sharp returns. The Russian maintained control during crucial moments to secure a memorable victory against one of the sport's most dominant players.

Alcaraz, who entered the match as a favourite after impressive performances earlier in the tournament, struggled to find consistency against Medvedev's defensive strength and intelligent shot placement. Despite moments of brilliance, the Spaniard could not regain momentum as the match progressed.

With the win, Medvedev booked his place in the championship match and will now aim to capture one of the biggest titles on the ATP calendar.

In the women's draw, Aryna Sabalenka delivered another dominant performance to reach the final of the Indian Wells Open. The Belarusian star controlled



her semifinal match with powerful groundstrokes and aggressive serving. Sabalenka maintained steady pressure on her opponent throughout the contest, winning key points during crucial games to seal her spot in the title clash.

The victory marks another impressive milestone in Sabalenka's season as she continues to establish herself as one of the leading players on the women's tour.

Tennis fans are now set for an exciting conclusion to the tournament as the finalists prepare to compete for the prestigious title in California. The victory was a significant moment for Daniil Medvedev, who has been working hard to regain peak form against the world's top players. Defeating Carlos Alcaraz on a major stage like the Indian Wells Open not only boosts his confi-

dence but also strengthens his position among the leading contenders on the ATP tour. Medvedev relied on his trademark defensive skills, deep groundstrokes and intelligent court coverage to neutralise Alcaraz's attacking game, turning several long rallies in his favour.

For Alcaraz, the defeat marked a rare setback in an otherwise impressive season. The young Spaniard has been widely regarded as one of the most exciting talents in world tennis and has consistently delivered strong performances in major tournaments. However, against Medvedev he found it difficult to maintain rhythm during key phases of the match, allowing the Russian to capitalise on crucial break points and ultimately seal the win.

Aryna Sabalenka's journey to the final has highlighted her aggressive style of play.

Kochi to Host Blue Tigers' Final Asian Cup Qualifier Against Hong Kong

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The India national football team, popularly known as the Blue Tigers, will play their final qualifying match for the AFC Asian Cup against Hong Kong national football team in the southern Indian city of Kochi. The match is expected to draw strong support from football fans in the region, where the sport enjoys significant popularity.

Officials confirmed that the fixture will be held at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium, one of India's major football venues known for hosting international matches and domestic league games. The stadium has previously witnessed large crowds during matches involving the national team.



The encounter will be crucial for the Blue Tigers as they aim to secure qualification for the continental tournament. The team management and players are hopeful that strong home support will provide an additional boost during the decisive fixture.

Football authorities believe hosting the match in Kochi will help attract enthusiastic supporters and create a vibrant atmosphere for the national side. The city has a long-standing football culture and has hosted several important matches in the past. Preparations for the match are already under-

way, with organisers working to ensure smooth arrangements for players, officials and spectators. Security and logistical plans are also being finalised ahead of the high-profile qualifier.

The clash between India national football team and Hong Kong national football team is expected to be a closely contested match, with both sides aiming to strengthen their chances in the qualification campaign. Football experts believe that the support of fans at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium could play a crucial role in motivating the India national football team during this important encounter. The stadium in Kochi has previously witnessed electrifying atmospheres whenever the national side has played.

Teen Sensation Antonelli Wins Chinese GP After Historic Pole

AGENCY

Shanghai: Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli celebrated a landmark moment in his young career by winning the Chinese Grand Prix on Sunday, delivering his maiden victory in Formula One. The 19-year-old Mercedes driver finished ahead of teammate George Russell, while Lewis Hamilton secured third place and his first podium since joining Scuderia Ferrari.

Antonelli had already created history earlier in the weekend by becoming the youngest pole-sitter in Formula One history at the Chinese Grand Prix. Starting from the front row at the Shanghai International Circuit, the young Italian converted his strong qualifying performance into a memorable race victory.

The race saw an unexpected twist even before the lights went out, as both cars from McLaren failed to start the race, dramatically altering the early race dynam-



ics. Antonelli briefly lost the lead during the opening moments but quickly regained control and began building a comfortable gap over the chasing pack.

Behind him, Hamilton made an impressive start and briefly moved into the lead during the opening corners, while Charles Leclerc also surged forward to challenge near the front. The top contenders exchanged positions several times before a safety car period early in the race reshuffled the order.

Once racing resumed, Antonelli managed the pace brilliantly and steadily increased his lead.

Regional tensions prompt organisers to shift race at Lusail Circuit to later in the season

AGENCY

DOHA: The round of the world championship scheduled in Qatar has been moved to a later date, with organisers deciding to stage the event in November due to the unstable situation across the Middle East.

Officials responsible for the MotoGP calendar said the adjustment was made after reviewing safety conditions in the region. The race, which is usually hosted at the start of the season, will now take place towards the end of the championship.

The competition is held at the Lusail International Circuit near Doha, a venue widely recognised for hosting high-profile international motorsport events under floodlights.

According to organisers, the change will allow teams, riders and support staff more time before travelling to the Gulf nation while the geopolitical environment stabilises.



Authorities stressed that ensuring the security of participants and spectators was the primary factor behind the decision.

Teams competing in the championship have been informed about the revised scheduling so they can adjust logistics and

training plans accordingly. Despite the postponement, the remainder of the MotoGP season will continue as planned in other countries, while preparations for the rescheduled race in Qatar are expected to continue over the

coming months. Motorsport analysts noted that shifting the race to November could significantly influence the dynamics of the MotoGP championship, as races held later in the season often play a decisive role in determining

the title standings. Teams may have to rethink their strategies, especially if the championship battle remains close when the paddock finally arrives at the Lusail International Circuit. Weather conditions during November are also

expected to be different from those earlier in the year, which could further affect race preparations and performance. The postponement highlights how global sporting events are increasingly influenced by geopolitical developments.

SPORTS BRIEF

JAIPUR POLO TEAM STORMS INTO SHREE CEMENT CUP FINAL

JAIPUR: Jaipur Polo Team secured a place in the final of the Shree Cement Cup after delivering a convincing performance in the semi-final. The team defeated their rivals Jaigarh Polo Team by a margin of 6-2 to move one step closer to lifting the trophy. Jaipur established control early in the match and quickly built momentum during the opening chukkers. Strong riding and coordinated teamwork allowed them to dominate possession and create scoring opportunities, leaving their opponents struggling to keep pace. Leading the charge was Padmanabh Singh, who delivered an impressive performance and emerged as the top scorer for the team. His attacking play proved decisive as he found the goal repeatedly, helping Jaipur maintain a comfortable lead throughout the contest. The team further strengthened its position through contributions from Pratap Singh Kanota, whose goals added to Jaipur's advantage and ensured the match remained firmly in their control. Despite a brief fightback attempt from Jaigarh in the later stages, Jaipur managed the game effectively to secure victory. With this win, the Jaipur Polo Team advanced to the final of the Shree Cement Cup and continued their strong run in the ongoing polo season. The team is now aiming to capture another trophy and maintain its impressive form in the tournament.

F1 CANCELS BAHRAIN AND SAUDI ARABIAN GRANDS PRIX AMID RISING REGIONAL TENSIONS

LONDON: Organisers of Formula One have officially cancelled the upcoming races in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia due to escalating tensions across the Middle East. The decision means that the Bahrain Grand Prix and the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix will not take place as scheduled in April. Officials said the move was made after assessing the evolving security situation in the region. According to the organisers, the safety of drivers, teams, officials and fans remains the top priority. After consultations with local authorities and international stakeholders, it was decided that cancelling the two races was the most responsible course of action. Both events are key fixtures in the Formula One calendar and usually attract large global audiences, with races held at the Bahrain International Circuit and the Jeddah Corniche Circuit. The cancellations are expected to impact the championship schedule as well as financial arrangements linked to hosting fees and event revenues. Formula One authorities are now reviewing possible adjustments to the racing calendar while continuing to monitor developments in the region. Officials from Formula One Group also indicated that discussions are underway with teams and race promoters to evaluate replacement events or schedule adjustments later in the season.