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Crucial READ

Massive avalanche strikes Sonamarg in Jammu and Kashmir

Kolkata (Agency): A massive avalanche struck the picturesque Sonamarg region in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, triggering concerns about the region’s safety. No casualties or injuries have been reported so far. The incident, which took place in the Sarbal area, was caught on camera, and a video has since gone viral on social media.

BJP MLAs walkout of J&K House amid uproar over 1931 ‘martyrs’

Jammu (Agency): The BJP MLAs walked out of the J&K Assembly Wednesday after Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather announced expunging of “derogatory remarks” of the Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Sunil Sharma about the July 13, 1931 “martyrs” amid ruckus in the House. During a discussion on the motion of thanks to the address of L-G Manoj Sinha in the House, PDP legislator Waheed-ur-Rehman Para demanded the restoration of public holidays on July 13 in the memory of the “martyrs” killed by Maharaja Hari Singh’s forces in Kashmir, and December 5, the birth anniversary of National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. This prompted Sharma’s remark on the 1931 “martyrs”.

Cola wars 2.0: Pepsi crashes Coke’s ‘half-time’ party in soda smackdown

Delhi (Agency): The decades-old rivalry between Coca-Cola and PepsiCo has flared up once again, as the two beverage giants go head-to-head in a fresh advertising face-off. PepsiCo India’s latest campaign, “Anytime is Pepsi time,” is widely seen as a direct challenge to Coca-Cola’s recently launched “Half-time” campaign, which promotes Coke as the drink of choice during game breaks for the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy.

Rahul Gandhi Fined Rs 200 For Skipping Appearance In Savarkar Defamation Case

Lucknow (Agency): A court here on Wednesday imposed a cost of Rs 200 on Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for skipping appearance in a 2022 defamation case related to his alleged derogatory remarks on freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Alok Verma had in December 2024 asked Gandhi to appear in the court on Wednesday. However, he didn’t, and his legal team filed an application seeking exemption from personal appearance. The court imposed a cost Rs 200 on him and said the amount would be paid to the complainant’s lawyer. The next hearing was fixed for April 14. In the application filed during the day,



Gandhi’s lawyer said the Leader of the Opposition has had official engagements, including meetings with foreign dignitaries and other scheduled programmes, which prevented him from attending the court in-person. The defamation case stems from Gandhi’s comments on Savarkar made on November 17, 2022 during his Bharat Jodo Yatra at a rally in Maharashtra’s Akola district. Advocate Nripendra Pandey filed a complaint, accusing Gandhi of intentionally insulting Savarkar during the rally. The complainant alleged Gandhi’s remarks were part of a well-planned conspiracy to defame Savarkar, and the comments were broadcast widely across the media.



Bhopal (Agency): Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that Madhya Pradesh is also rapidly emerging as a strong start-up hub while working on Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for industrial development and employment generation in the country at GIS-Bhopal. The state government is adopting effective strategies towards developing a start-up culture in accordance with the aspirations of young entrepreneurs, giving priority to innovation, entrepreneurship and employment generation. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that our effort is to make Madhya Pradesh a center of start-ups and

innovation, where young entrepreneurs get a favorable environment and full support to convert their ideas into successful businesses. The ‘Future-Frontier: Start-up Pitching’ session organized at GIS-Bhopal has given wings to the start-up ecosystem of the state and made it global. In this era of modern technology, Madhya Pradesh has rapidly registered its presence in the start-up world of the country. The presence of more than 20 unicorn founders at GIS-Bhopal is proof of this. A total of 180 start-ups had registered to participate in the start-up focused session ‘Future-

Frontier: Start-up Pitching’. Out of these, 25 highly potential start-ups made presentations. After analyzing the presentations, they also got necessary guidance and investment opportunities. A total of 47 start-ups participated in this session. Out of these, 19 start-ups received Expression of Interest. IICE showed interest in 4 start-ups, SGSITs in 3 start-ups, Silver Needle Ventures in 3 start-ups, ITI Growth in 3 start-ups, Easyseed in 7 start-ups, CFund in 3 start-ups, Venture Catalysts in 10 start-ups, VASPL Initiatives in 4 start-ups, AIS-RNTU in 5 start-ups and Equanimity Investments in 5 start-ups.

Punjab farmers’ march to Chandigarh thwarted, protesters burn Mann’s effigies



Chandigarh (Agency): Several farmers heading towards Chandigarh for a ‘sit-in’ protest to press for fulfilment of their demands under the banner of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella farmer body that spearheaded the 2020-21 agitation, were on Wednesday rounded-up and stopped at different parts of

Punjab by the police. Members of farmer groups burned effigies of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to express their resentment. Elaborate security arrangements were in place in most of districts of Punjab, and security was beefed up in Chandigarh, with multiple barricades put at up at all entry points to the

Union Territory. Upset over not being allowed to march to Chandigarh, farmers were seen raising slogans against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led government at different locations. The SKM’s proposed protest was intended to be against both the ruling AAP in Punjab and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre. The SKM, in a statement, condemned what it termed “the repression unleashed by Punjab’s AAP government on farmers in Punjab including raids on houses of leaders and arrest of several farmer leaders”. The Morcha demanded that all leaders be released and permission be given for the protest in Chandigarh.

Manipur hit by 2 strong earthquake within an hour

IMPHAL (Agency): Two earthquakes of magnitudes 5.7 and 4.1 struck Manipur within an hour on Wednesday, according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Manipur centre. There were no reports of damage at the time of filing. The first earthquake hit around 11.06 am, while the second was reported around 12.20 pm. The epicentre of both earthquakes was identified as Kamjong in Manipur, said the IMD report. “Earthquake of magnitude 4.1 occurred on 05-03-2025, 12:20:43 IST, Lat: 24.70 & Long: 94.34, Depth: 66 km, Location:

Union Cabinet approves two ropeway projects at Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib



Delhi (Agency): Two ropeway projects at the religiously significant sites of Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib in Uttarakhand were approved by the union cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The cabinet also approved the revised livestock disease control scheme that focusses on vaccination and surveillance. With this 12.9 km ropeway, the pilgrims visiting Kedarnath will have an environment-friendly,

comfortable, and fast connectivity and reduce travel time in one direction covering 16 km from about 8 to 9 hours to about 36 minutes, benefitting the elderly and disabled, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said during his press interaction post the cabinet meeting. The route will have three stops at Sonprayag, Gaurikund and Kedarnath. The system will have a design capacity of 1,800 passengers per hour per direction carrying 18,000 passengers per day based on a tri-cable detachable gondola (3S) technology.

Trump address to Congress highlights

Donald Trump announces reciprocal tariffs against India, China from April 2

“Our country will be woke no longer,” Mr. Trump said in his joint address to the U.S. Congress

Delhi (Agency): “We are just getting started,” President Donald Trump said in his first major address to the Congress since he took over the highest office in the U.S. He set a record for the longest address to a joint session of Congress -- speaking for more than an hour and 40 minutes --

breaking the previous record set by President Bill Clinton, at 1 hour, 28 minutes and 49 seconds. Mr. Trump also recited a letter he received earlier Tuesday from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, saying that the wartime President wants to come back to the table after an explosive Oval office meeting last week broke down negotiations for a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine. Almost every line by the President got loud applause from Republican Party members, including on two

occasions when Mr. Trump singled out Mr. Musk, who stood up to salute the



Congress. But protests also began within minutes. One Democratic congressman, Al Green, was

ordered ejected because he refused to stop heckling, claiming Mr. Trump has no

mandate to dismantle healthcare programs, and shaking his walking stick at the President.

Mr. Trump also said the person responsible for killing 13 U.S. service members during the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 had been arrested with the help of Pakistan and was now on his way to the U.S. to face justice. Speaking about the trade war, the President said the United States economy is set to see some “disturbance” from tariffs. “Tariffs are not just about protecting American jobs. They’re about protecting the soul of our country,” Mr. Trump said.

Shaping Tomorrow’s Leaders: The Scindia School’s Approach to Global Education and Sustainability

Inputs by Ajay Singh, Principal, The Scindia School.

New Nelhi (Agency): How does The Scindia School integrate global perspectives into its curriculum to ensure students are prepared for a diverse, interconnected world? The Scindia School believes in preparing students for a globalized world by integrating diverse perspectives into our curriculum. We offer a wide range of international programs, exchange opportunities, and activities that expose students to different cultures and viewpoints. Through subjects such as Global Studies, International Relations and world history, we encourage critical thinking about global issues and foster an understanding of the interconnectedness of nations. In addition, our school collaborates with international institutions and organizes events like model UN conferences, cultural exchange programs, and global leadership initiatives. This allows our students to engage with peers from different backgrounds, broadening their horizons and helping them develop essential skills for navigating a diverse world. By combining academic rigor with a focus on cultural awareness, global citizenship, and international collaboration, we ensure that our students are not only knowledgeable but also empathetic and adaptable in a rapidly changing global landscape.

How Education at The Scindia School Empowers Students to Tackle Global Challenges

By promoting global awareness, collaboration, and a commitment to ethical leadership, we prepare our students to not only understand these challenges but to actively contribute to building a more equitable and sustainable world. At The Scindia School, we believe education is a powerful tool for equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time, such as climate change, inequality, and social justice.

Our curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and empathy, which empowers students to engage with these issues in a meaningful way. Through interdisciplinary learning, students explore the complexities of global challenges in subjects such as Environmental Studies, Social Sciences, and Ethics. We encourage them to think creatively about solutions, understand the root causes of issues like inequality, and become advocates for social justice.

In addition, our initiatives include:

- *The Biosphere Project & Water Conservation – The Biosphere serves a living laboratory where students can engage in experiential learning as they appreciate the indigenous flora of the region. Students also actively participate in water conservation efforts with local taals (ponds) to address local water scarcity with the aim to emerge as a water-positive school in the near future.
- *Zero Waste Initiatives – Our children understand the value of scarce resources and actively participate to ensure zero food wastage during mealtimes.
- *Recycled Materials in Art Workshops – Our Metal Art Department emphasizes the use of recycled materials, fostering sustainable creativity.
- *Community Service in Nearby Villages – Students engage in various service projects to support local communities, and imbibe empathy and a sense of social responsibility
- *Republic Day Parade Participation – Every year, our students have the unique opportunity to participate in the Republic Day Parade, showcasing their discipline and pride towards the school and the nation.

Balancing Academic Excellence and Emotional Intelligence

At The Scindia School, we believe that academic success and emotional intelligence go hand in hand. Our approach balances rigorous academics with life skills, mindfulness, and open conversations to support students' well-being. Activities like drama, music, and sports help build confidence and teamwork. One of the most integral aspects of emotional intelligence at Scindia is Astachal, a daily spiritual and reflective practice where students gather to foster inner peace and self-awareness. This sacred tradition instills values of introspection, resilience, and gratitude in students, making them well-rounded individuals. By nurturing both intellect and emotional strength, we prepare students to face challenges, build relationships, and make thoughtful decisions in life.

DM conducts surprise inspection of Composite School Madihan

Staff Reporter Madihan (Mirzapur), District Magistrate Priyanka Nirnanjan conducted a contingent inspection at Composite School Madihan around 01:45 pm this afternoon. Instructor Anoop Kumar Singh and instructor Chanchala Upadhyay were found absent when the District Magistrate arrived. Lack of teachers in schoolAfter the absence of both the instructors, the District Magistrate expressed strong displeasure and directed the District Basic Education Officer and said that their renewal should be banned. It was also informed that Assistant Teacher Kuldeep Soni has been made ARP and the co-worker IV employee has

been affiliated to Diet Patehra. On which the District Magistrate directed

with this school. During the inspection, a broken furniture was filled in the



District Magistrate Priyanka Nirnanjan conducting a sudden inspection of Composite School Madihan

the District Basic Education Officer and directedIt was done that the reading reading should not be affected due to lack of teachers in the school, so ARP should be associated

chamber near the principal's room and more chambers were also found empty, while two classes were being read and read in the same room, on which the Principal in-

charge Vinita Singh was directed by the District Magistrate that the District Magistrate was directed by Vinita Singh that the District Magistrate Classroom should be run in the room by providing empty and clean cleaning. During this period, the District Magistrate reached the class room and reached the class-04 and class-03 and solved the mathematics questions on the blacks and taught the Hindi book, although the rightly read by the said student, the District Magistrate directed the teachers to maintain the quality of education, that the presence of teachers should be done daily on inspection.Strict action will be taken if disturbances are found.

Comfy surpasses Rs 100-cr mark

Staff Reporter Varanasi: Amrutanjan Healthcare, a leader and pioneer in pain management, launched the ‘Comfy’ brand in 2011, recognizing the need for superior and affordable feminine hygiene products. Today, Comfy is a 100-crore brand, empowering millions of women with a complete range of period care solutions, including Sanitary napkins, Tampons, Menstrual Cups, and Period Pain Roll-Ons, at a competitive price. Only 36% of India's 355 million menstruating females currently use sanitary napkins. Behind these statistic are real women and girls, especially from rural areas, who often have limited access to quality menstrual care products. Comfy was

inspired by their stories and designed to address their needs. S. Sambhu Prasad, Chairman & Managing Director, Amrutanjan Healthcare Limited says, “Comfy today is a billion rupee (₹100 crore) brand. Our women’s hygiene business continues to grow in the high double-digits, owing to h i g h e r acceptance of our uniquely d e s i g n e d sanitary pads. In line with our strategy to grow the sanitary napkin business, we are investing to build a world-class sanitary n a p k i n

manufacturing plant. Our mission has always been to make superior and affordable menstrual care accessible to every woman.” In collaboration with Bella Premier Happy Hygiene Care Private Limited, a leader in feminine hygiene, the team developed a product that promises 80% better absorption than other leading brands in India, using imported pulp from North America. But technical superiority wasn't enough – it needed to be affordable. However, technical

excellence alone wasn't enough—it also had to be affordable. Comfy's competitive pricing has made quality menstrual care accessible to women across diverse economic backgrounds. He further added, “Through our grassroots initiatives like Project Disha, we remain committed to driving awareness, and empowering women to embrace life with confidence and dignity. We are also embracing digital transformation and technology by expanding our online footprint through e-commerce platforms, leveraging our social media engagement, and introducing apps such as the “Comfy Period Tracker” to strengthen our connection with consumers.”

Professor Rekha took over as Dean of social science faculty, vidyapith

Staff Reporter Banaras: As per Section 27 (4) and Regulations Section 2.9 of the Uttar Pradesh State University Act, 1973, in the order of seniority in rotation and as per the order of the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Anand Kumar Tyagi, Professor Rekha took over as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Professor Rekha was educated at Kashi Vidyapeeth and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. She was a brilliant student of MA Psychology and Sociology, securing the highest position in graduation. She has obtained B.Ed., NET, PhD and D.Litt. Her

specialization is rural sociology, social demography and social research.



Her teaching journey started from Lucknow University, Lucknow in 2001. While being on various committees of the university, she has been performing her duties

faithfully, including Chairperson, Committee for Prohibition of Sexual Harassment of Women,

Coordinator, Anti-Ragging Committee, and currently, she is also the Chairperson of the SC ST Cell of the university. So far, six books of Professor Rekha have

been published and 13 PhD and 30 MPhil students have received their degrees under her guidance.

Professor Rekha has received national honors for her active participation in social work, which include Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Lifetime Achievement Award 2010, International Women's Day Lifetime Achievement Award 2011 and Dr. Ambedkar Fellowship National Award 2021 received by the Indian Dalit Sahitya Academy, Delhi. On this occasion, Chief Proctor Prof. K.K. Singh, Professor Bharti Rastogi, Professor Tej Bahadur Singh, Professor Sushil Kumar Gautam,

Professor Surya Bhan Prasad, Professor Rajiv Kumar, Professor Shaifali Thakral, Doctor Surendra Ram, Doctor Dinesh Jai Prakash, Doctor Saumya Yadav, Doctor Rahul Gupta, Dr. Suryanath, Dr. Satyendra, Dr. Ravindra Kumar Mishra, Dr. Praveen Pilot, Dr. Anish Sonkar, Doctor Ashok Kumar Srivastava, Doctor Surendra, Doctor Manisha, Doctor Sanjay Sonkar, Doctor Chandrashekhar, Doctor Rakesh Tiwari, Doctor Mukesh Pant presented mementoes. Along with this, Doctor Gaurav, Pankaj, Satish, Priyanka, Shilpi, Pooja Bharti, Smriti, Nandlal etc. were present.

Mandalayukta holds meet to provide water from Sonpump Canal to Dogiya and Ahraura Dam

There is no problem for drinking water and irrigation during summer

Department. In the meeting, District Magistrate Mirzapur said that the problem of irrigation and drinking water becomes serious due to the water level going down in the hilly areas during summer



days, the hill of Sonbhadra and Mirzapur district through Son Pump Canal located in Sonbhadra districtThe dam located in the area is filled, which solves the problem of drinking water and irrigation. On this occasion, detailed information was taken along with officials of irrigation/canal block department/Son Pump Canal and Electricity Department of both the districts. Mandalayukta said that in view of the heat, the people of the mountainous areas of both the districts do not have

any problem regarding drinking and irrigation.Action should be ensured. It was told by the District Magistrate Mirzapur that he has been demanded by him to fill the Dogiya and

Ahraura Dam of Mirzapur, on which in the meeting, Mandalayukta said that in view of the availability of water in Son Pump Canal, water should be provided with full capacity and providing water to Dogian and Ahraura Dam. The District Magistrate said that at present water for irrigation etc.The demand is low and the availability of water in the Son River is sufficient. Therefore, action should be taken to fill the damo by running the pumps in the month of March and April

itself. It was told by the officials of the pump canal that there is currently 05 pump operating on the Son Pump Canal, in which a pump will be filled with 04 pumps on the third and fourth stage, dogin and Ahraura Dam will be filled. District Magistrate MirzapurTold that the capacity of Dogiya is 28 MCM, against which at present there is only 12 MCM water availability. Similarly, only 06 MCM water is available in Ahraura against 60 MCM capacity. He informed that a demand letter has been sent to provide 300 cusecs of water to Dogia, Ahraura and Upper Khajuri. District Magistrate Sonbhadra was told that even during the days of Crysis, 04 pumpsAfter running, water will be sent to both the districts according to the availability of water in Son Pump Canal. Directing the officials of all the canal blocks, the Mandalayukta said that the canal also continued to inspect the canals so that leakage and illegal harvesting would not be done from anywhere.

Member National Commission for Women Archana Majumdar listened to fair-sex complainants



Archana Majumdar, a member of the National Commission for Women, hearing the problems of the victim women and girls

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Senior Superintendent of Police Somen Burma, Chief Development Officer Vishal Kumar, Additional District Magistrate (F/R) Shiv Pratap Shukla, Additional Superintendent of Police Operation Om Prakash Singh were chaired by Archana Majumdar, member of the National Commission for Women, Archana Majumdar and women crime related cases were done and Necessary guidelines were given to the concerned. In the women's public hearing, the member

directed the concerned officer and the department while disposing of the applications. Along with this, the members, National Commission for Women, reviewed the disposal of applications received in the last month's public hearing and the officers present were directed that the quality of the applications received in the women's public hearing While disposing, also inform the inferiority. During this District Probation Officer Shakti Tripathi, and other concerned officers should be present.

BRIEFS DM gives patient hearing to complainants in Collectorate Janata Darshan



Staff Reporter Mirzapur, In view of speedy disposal of public problems and justice to the public mind coming from far flung, the District Magistrate Priyanka Nirnanjan reached out to each people to be held in the Janata Darshan to be held in the Collectorate and heard the problems. Sent to the officials concerned, directed to ensure quick quality, satisfactory disposal by paying attention to the public problems with full seriousness and sensitivity to public problems. He said that the effort should be made that the complainant does not have to visit the tehsil and collectorate again for that problems.

UP CM emphasizes spiritual, social, and economic significance of Maha Kumbh

Staff Reporter Lucknow: UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised the Maha Kumbh for its spiritual, social, and economic benefits, highlighting the importance of the enormous religious gathering. He emphasized the Namami Gange project's effectiveness in cleaning the Ganga and attacked opposition parties for earlier neglecting to address river pollution. Speaking before the legislative council, Adityanath highlighted that no sewage currently runs into the Ganga from Kanpur, a previous significant pollution source. He chastised the opponents for spreading 'misinformation' about the river's cleanliness, while complimenting the project's positive achievements. In his remarks, Adityanath referenced global media shock at the commitment and discipline demonstrated during the 45-day Maha Kumbh, which drew millions of bathers to Sangam. He said that the event's success conveyed a powerful message to opponents, fostering togetherness and emphasizing India's respect for its religious traditions.

Man booked for posting video threatening to attack UP CM

Staff Reporter Basti: A First Information Report (FIR) has been filed against a person suspected of distributing a video threat directed at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. On Wednesday, police verified the situation. Abhishek Dubey, the administrator of the WhatsApp group 'Sanatan Dharma Sarvopari,' made a complaint on Tuesday night, prompting the police to register the FIR at Gaur. The claimed video was released by one of the group's members, which prompted the complaint. Accusations include remarks promoting public mischief under section 353 (1), criminal intimidation under section 351 (4), and a breach of Section 66 of the IT Act.

BRIEFS

Saudi Aramco's profit falls to \$106 billion



Dubai (Agency). Saudi Arabia's public sector giant oil company Aramco's profit fell 12 percent to \$106.25 billion in 2024. In a report to Riyadh's Tadawul stock market, the oil company, formally known as Saudi Arabian Oil Company, had revenue of \$436 billion in 2024. Aramco reported an annual profit of \$121 billion in 2023, down from 2022 profits due to low energy prices. Aramco said the decrease was mainly due to lower revenue and other income related to sales, higher operating costs, as well as lower finance and other income. Aramco is the sixth most valuable company in the world after Apple, Microsoft, Nvidia, Amazon and Google's parent company Alphabet, with a market valuation of \$1,740 billion.

JSW Energy to add 159 MW wind power capacity

Delhi (Agency). JSW Energy on Tuesday announced the addition of 159 MW of wind power in the March quarter. With this, the company's operational power generation capacity crossed 8,400 MW. The company said that this additional capacity is available ahead of the wind season and is ready to meet the growing energy demand during peak conditions, which will significantly contribute to a sustainable power supply. With this increase, the company's total operational wind capacity has increased to 2,826 MW. JSW Energy is actively expanding its renewable energy portfolio with 8.0 GW of capacity under construction. The company aims to achieve a total installed generation capacity of 20 GW before FY 2030.

Demand for relaxation in long term capital gains tax rates

Delhi (Agency). Amid the ongoing decline in Indian stock markets and heavy selling by foreign investors, big market traders, investors and experts have demanded the government to relax the rates of Long Term Capital Gain Tax (LTCG). Since India is one of the few countries that taxes foreign portfolio investors on profits from shares, some market participants said that a reduction in these taxes could make Indian equities more attractive to these investors. According to the report, at the global level, very few countries impose capital gains tax on listed securities, there has always been a demand to remove it.

The country's IT sector under pressure again, preparing to cut the salaries of employees



Mumbai (Agency). Working in TCS, Infosys, one of the largest IT companies in the country, is the dream of every tech professional. Lakhs of Indians work in both these companies. Recently, the company has taken a big decision regarding the salary of these employees. The country's IT sector has come under pressure again, its effect is going to be seen on the salary of the employees as well. The report states that TCS is going to give a lower salary hike of between 4 to 8 per cent this year, while the country's second largest IT company Infosys will also be able to give a salary hike of between 5 to 8 per cent. Lakhs of employees work in both these companies and this news can definitely shock them. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will also announce a lower quarterly variable pay for October-December 2024. Junior and mid-level employees will get 100 per cent variable pay, while senior employees can get variable pay between 20 to 40 per cent. This means that the company is going to make a big cut on the bonuses given to its senior employees. The salary hike for TCS employees in the new financial year has been the lowest in the last 4 financial years. TCS had increased salaries by 10.5 per cent in FY 22, 6-9 per cent in FY 23 and 7-9 per cent in FY 24. This year the low salary hike is happening when the company has reduced its employee count by 5,370 to 6,07,354 in the December 2024 quarter. TCS may have been stingy in increasing salaries, but in the third quarter of the current financial year, its net profit has increased by 5.5 percent on an annual basis to Rs 12,380 crore, which is more than the estimates of experts. The company's revenue also increased by 5.6 percent to Rs 63,973 crore. Infosys also has 3.23 lakh employees, who will get the benefit of 6 to 8 percent salary hike this year.

Misue Ice Cream & Tea becomes the world's largest food-and-beverage chain, beating McDonald's and Starbucks




Beijing (Agency). China's Misue Ice Cream & Tea has won the title of the world's largest food-and-beverage chain, beating giant brands like McDonald's and Starbucks. The valuation of Misue Ice Cream & Tea has now reached \$10 billion. Misue is famous for its cheap and delicious ice cream and sweet drinks, which cost less than \$1 (about Rs 87). With more than 45,000 stores, the chain is now growing rapidly in Asia and Australia. Misue was started in 1997 by Zhang Hongchao in Henan province. Initially it only sold shaved ice, but today it is known for its red-colored branded stores, which are usually near mobile repair shops or dumpling stores. Mishua's menu includes signature ice cream cones, several variants of bubble tea and a special lemonade. According to the report, the company has become the biggest buyer of lemons in China. The number of Mishua's stores has doubled in just three years. The biggest reason for this is tasty food on a low budget - which has become people's choice amid China's economic slowdown. Mishua's brand has a unique style! Its mascot is 'Snow King', seeing which you may remember Frosty the Snowman and the Michelin Man. It attracts customers a lot. Mishua keeps its franchise fee very low. Because of this, even small investors can become a part of it. Due to cheap franchise, the number of the company's stores has increased rapidly.

Hero's motorcycle got a total of 3,52,312 new customers



Delhi (Agency). Last month, Hero's motorcycle got a total of 3,52,312 new customers. However, during this period, Hero Motorcycle sales declined by 19.37 percent on an annual basis. Whereas exactly 1 year ago i.e. in February 2024, a total of 4,36,929 people bought Hero's motorcycle. On the other hand, Hero's scooter sales showed a boom last month. Hero MotoCorp sold a total of 35,756 units of scooters during this period with an annual increase of 13.58 percent. On the other hand, Hero MotoCorp did wonders in exports. Let us tell you that last month Hero MotoCorp exported a total of 30,722 units of two-wheelers with an annual increase of 32.69 percent. Whereas exactly 1 year ago this figure was 23,153 units. If we talk about domestic and export combined, then Hero sold a total of 3,88,068 units of two-wheelers last month. Let us tell you that Hero's two-wheelers are very much liked among Indian customers. Once again last month i.e. in February, 2025, Hero's two-wheelers got more than 3 lakh new buyers in the domestic market. Let us tell you that last month Hero MotoCorp sold a total of 3,57,296 units of two-wheelers. However, during this period, Hero's sales saw a decline of 19.76 percent on an annual basis. Whereas exactly 1 year ago i.e. in February, 2024, this figure was 4,45,257 units.

With world looking for a reliable partner, Indian industry should not remain a mere ‘spectator’, says Prime Minister Modi



Delhi (Agency): At a time when the world is looking for a reliable partner for high quality products with a dependable supply chain, the Indian industry must find a role for itself and carve out opportunities, and not remain a mere “spectator”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday. Addressing a post-Budget webinar, Modi assured the industry of the government’s support, saying that it stands “shoulder to shoulder” with them at a time when the world is viewing India as a key growth centre. “Today the world needs a reliable partner from where high quality products come out and the supply is reliable. Our country is capable of doing this. All of you are capable. This is a huge opportunity for us. I want our industry not to see these expectations as a spectator, we cannot remain spectators. You have to find your role in this, you have to move ahead and carve out opportunities for yourself,” the Prime Minister said. “It is much easier today than it was earlier. Today the country has friendly policies to take advantage of these opportunities. Today the government stands shoulder to shoulder with the industry,” Modi said, adding that if the industry scouts for opportunities in the global supply chain with a strong resolve and objectivity, accepts the challenge, and moves forward one step at a time, India can go many miles ahead. The Prime Minister assured the country’s manufacturing and export sectors that the government will continue on the path of reforms and consistency, which over the past 10 years has “brought new confidence in our industry”. “In the last 10 years, India has shown its commitment towards reforms, financial discipline, transparency and inclusive growth...I assure every stakeholder associated with manufacturing and export that this continuity will remain the same in the coming years. With all my faith, I urge you to move ahead with full confidence and take big steps. We should open new avenues for manufacturing and export,” Modi said, as he listed various steps taken by the government towards having a stable policy and business environment in India. The Prime Minister reiterated that the government is working further in that direction, and referred to the Budget announcement of the formation of a committee to review regulations in the non-financial sector with the aim of making them “modern, flexible, people-friendly and trust-based”.

Why Trump’s tariff on Canada, Mexico raises questions about India deal

Delhi (Agency): Laying to rest speculation that US President Donald Trump’s tariff threat against Canada and Mexico was merely a negotiating tactic, Washington on Tuesday began imposing steep tariffs on nearly \$1 trillion worth of goods coming from Mexico and Canada annually, despite having a long-standing trade agreement with the neighbouring countries. This assumes significance for India, which is in talks with the US to sign a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) by the end of the year, as the 10 per cent tariffs on energy imports and 25 per cent on the rest of the items from Canada and Mexico violate the terms of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which came into effect during Trump’s first presidency in 2018-19. Trade experts said that the

tariffs on Canada and Mexico indicate America’s disregard for trade deals signed in line with the norms laid down by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and raise questions about the adherence to the legal trade agreement that the US plans to enter into with India. Notably, Indian trade officials plan to seek concessions on sweeping tariffs announced by Trump. “North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the trade deal between the US, Canada, and Mexico, had been in place since January 1994. However, Trump was dissatisfied with its terms and, during his first term, replaced it with USMCA in 2018-19. Trump’s tariffs on Canada and Mexico violate USMCA and highlight his disregard for negotiated trade agreements,” former trade officer and head of think tank Global Trade and

Research Institute (GTRI), Ajay Srivastava, said. US tariffs that disregard a number of WTO principles and expose India to future uncertainty come as the new



US 2025 trade policy states that the WTO has “lost its way” and requires reform. The new trade document also criticises concessions and carve-outs sought by developing countries such as India under special and differential treatment (SDT) provisions of WTO.

“SDT status provides several benefits, including generous transition periods, higher tariff bindings, and the ability to use prohibited subsidies. Under the current system, countries

can obtain SDT benefits by merely self-declaring as ‘developing’—regardless of their per capita gross national income or their income classification according to the World Bank,” the US 2025 trade policy, released on March 3, stated. The new US trade policy document said

that at the time of its establishment, the WTO’s purpose and direction were clear, as parties expressed their determination to participate “in the world trading system, based on open, market-oriented policies”. But 30 years later, the “viability and durability” of the WTO is increasingly in question. “When China abandoned the market-oriented reform path on which its 2001 accession was premised and embraced state-led, non-market economic practices, the WTO was neither able nor willing to address China’s economic system, which is fundamentally incompatible with the open, market-oriented direction envisioned by WTO members and is contrary to the original principles of the WTO and its agreements,” the US trade policy stated.

Govt slaps RIL, partners with \$2.8-billion demand notice in decade-old natural gas migration dispute

Delhi (Agency): Following a favourable order from the Delhi High Court in an old natural gas migration dispute, the government has raised a demand of \$2.81 billion on Reliance Industries (RIL) and its partners, the refining-to-telecom conglomerate announced Tuesday. RIL said that it is legally advised that the Delhi High Court judgement and this provisional demand raised by the Petroleum Ministry are “unsustainable”, and the company is taking steps to challenge the judgement. The conglomerate added that it does not expect any liability on account of the demand notice. On February 14, the Division Bench of the Delhi HC had overturned the ruling of an international arbitration tribunal that had held that RIL and its partner BP were not liable to pay any compensation to the government for the natural gas they sold from their KG-D6 block in the Bay of Bengal. The government had contended that part of the gas that RIL and BP sold from the block had in fact been extracted from state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation’s (ONGC) adjoining block KG-DWN-98/2. In 2016, the government had raised a demand of \$1.55 billion on RIL and its partners for sale of gas that allegedly migrated from ONGC’s block. RIL took the case to an international arbitral tribunal, which ruled in its favour in 2018. Five years later, in 2023, the government appealed the arbitral award before the Delhi HC. While at first a single judge ruling of the court upheld the arbitral award, upon appeal, the Division Bench set aside that order and ruled in favour of the government. “Consequent upon the abovementioned Division Bench judgment, the Ministry of Petroleum and

Natural Gas has raised a demand of US \$2.81 billion on the PSC (production sharing contract) Contractors namely Reliance Industries Ltd, BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd and NIKO (NECO) Ltd. The letter of demand was received by the Company at 11:30 a.m. on March 3, 2025,” RIL said Tuesday in a stock exchange filing. “The Company is legally advised that the Division Bench judgment and this provisional demand are unsustainable. The Company is taking steps to challenge the judgment of Division Bench of Hon’ble Delhi High Court. The Company does not expect any liability on this account,” RIL added. Earlier, RIL had 60 per cent stake in the deep-water block KG-D6, while UK-based BP and Canada’s Niko held 30 per cent and 10 per cent interest, respectively. Later, however, Niko exited the block, which led to RIL’s interest rising to 66.6 per cent

and that of BP rising to 33.3 per cent. The dispute first came to light over a decade ago in 2013 when ONGC moved the Delhi HC seeking compensation for losses arising from RIL’s alleged sale of gas that the state-owned energy major believed was actually from its KG-DWN-98/2 block. ONGC had argued that at least four wells that RIL drilled in its KG-D6 block drew natural gas from the neighbouring block. In 2014, the Delhi High Court directed the government to take a call on a matter on the basis of an independent study. Global consultant DeGolyer and MacNaughton (D&M) carried out the study. In its report, which was finalised in November 2015, D&M said that its analysis “indicated connectivity and continuity of the reservoirs across the blocks” operated by ONGC and RIL. A month later, the government

Govt slaps penalty on Reliance for missing battery cell plant deadline

The government has slapped a penalty on a unit of Reliance Industries Ltd for failing to meet the deadline for setting up a battery cell plant for which it was granted production-linked incentives, the firm said on Tuesday. In a stock exchange filing, Reliance said its step-down subsidiary, Reliance New Energy Battery Storage Ltd on March 3 received “a letter from the Ministry of Heavy Industries levying liquidated damages at the rate of 0.1 per cent of the performance security (Rs 50 crore) for each day of delay

from January 1, 2025.” The penalty was for the “delay in achievement of Milestone 1 under the programme agreement executed with MHI in connection with 5 GWh manufacturing capacity awarded under the Performance-Linked Incentive Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell,” it said. The liquidated damages or penalty computed till March 3, 2025 was Rs 3.1 crore. “RNEBSL has requested for an extension of time for achievement of the said Milestone 1,” it said. The firm, however, neither

disclosed the reasons for the delay nor the new timelines for meeting the target. RNEBSL had in 2022 signed an agreement to build 10 gigawatt-hour (GWh) battery capacity with production-linked incentives for an estimated USD 400 million. The contract was part of government initiatives to get domestic manufacturing for a new energy supply chain developed in India. Besides RNEBSL, Rajesh Exports and the unit of Ola Electric Mobility Ltd too had won bids to build the battery cell plants.

constituted a single-member panel under former Delhi High Court Chief Justice AP Shah on the issue. The panel in its report said that the government, not ONGC, was entitled to

compensation from RIL since the CPSE did not own the block, and all mineral resources of the country are owned by the Government of India. Basis the Shah panel report, the government in

November 2016 slapped RIL and its partners with a total demand of \$1.55 billion. After that, RIL and its partners decided to go for arbitration, which eventually went in their favour.

EDITORIAL

Starmer’s Test

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s visit to Washington was important for transatlantic diplomacy. It was his first official engagement with President Donald Trump, a leader known for his forceful style and unpredictable rhetoric. The meeting highlighted the delicate balancing act Mr Starmer must perform ~ asserting British interests while navigating Mr Trump’s transactional approach to international relations. One of the most striking moments came when Mr Starmer handed Mr Trump a letter from King Charles III, inviting him for a second UK state visit. The gesture was diplomatically as tute, signaling Britain’s intent to maintain strong ties with Washington regardless of political shifts. It was also a pragmatic move, appealing to Mr Trump’s appreciation for personal recognition and grandeur. In an era where soft diplomacy can be just as impactful as policy discussions, this invitation set the tone for a more cordial engagement. However, the meeting also underscored Mr Trump’s characteristic dominance in diplomatic settings. He took control of the conversation, setting the agenda and choosing which reporters would ask questions. Mr Starmer, despite his composed demeanor, found himself adjusting to Mr Trump’s style rather than leading the discourse. This dynamic is unsurprising, given Mr Trump’s preference for positioning himself as the central figure in any interaction.

Yet, Mr Starmer’s willingness to engage and his ability to push forward key UK concerns ~ particularly on trade and security ~ showcased his diplomatic resilience ~ nee. Trade was a focal point, with Mr Starmer attempting to secure assurances that the UK would not face new tariffs under Mr Trump’s administration. Mr Trump ackno ~ w ledged Mr Starmer as a “tough negotiator” but stopped short of concrete commitments, merely suggesting that a trade deal was possible. This reflects the broader uncertainty surrounding US-UK economic relations. While Mr Trump thrives on deal-making rhetoric, his unpredictability makes long-term agreements difficult to pin down. Mr Starmer will need to continue pressing for commitments to protect British economic interests. Beyond trade, the discussion touched on the UK’s negotiations over the Chagos Islands, where the US maintains a key military base. Mr Trump signaled a willingness to support the UK’s agreement with Mauritius, a potential shift from Republican opposition. While this may seem like a minor diplomatic win, it highlights the broader geopolitical considerations Britain must navigate under an America-first administration. Mr Starmer faced a challenge when the issue of free speech arose. US Vice President J.D. Vance had recently criticized the UK and Europe for allegedly curbing speech freedoms. Mr Starmer responded firmly, defending Britain’s long history of upholding free expression. His direct rebuttal was a rare moment where he seized control of the conversation, underscoring his ability to push back when necessary. In the end, Mr Starmer’s visit was less about securing deals and more about laying the groundwork for future engagement. His challenge will be to assert Britain’s interests without being overshadowed by Mr Trump’s forceful diplomacy.

Yogi’s rise

The recently concluded Maha Kumbh has not only reinforced Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s political dominance in the state but has also positioned him as a key contender in any post-Narendra Modi succession debate. As the massive gathering of devotees unfolded, it became clear that the event was being shaped into a grand spectacle of religious and administrative prowess ~ one that placed Mr Adityanath firmly at the centre of the BJP’s future. The scale of the Maha Kum ~ bh, with its staggering claim of 66 crore attendees, provid ~ ed the UP CM with an unparalleled stage to solidify his image as a leader deeply embedded in Hindu religious sentiment. Unlike past Kumbh Melas, which were largely seen as spiritual gatherings, this edition bore the unmistakable imprint of a political project aimed at reinforcing the chief minister’s brand. His near-daily presence ensured that devotees associated the seamless administration of the event with his leadership, bolstering his image as a decisive ruler. This development is significant because it marks a departure from the BJP’s traditional leadership dynamics. While the party has long been defined by Mr Modi’s towering presence, the question of succession will gather relevance in coming years. Mr Adityanath’s growing stature makes him an inevitable factor in this conversation, particularly when contrasted with other potential contenders. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, often seen as Mr Modi’s most trusted lieutenant, remains powerful within the party’s organisational framework. However, his influence is largely derived from his proximity to Mr Modi rather than an independent mass base.

Unlike Mr Modi, who built his career as the unchallenged leader of Gujarat before stepping onto the national stage, Mr Shah does not command a state of his own. This distinction is crucial, as the BJP’s rise has in recent times been driven by leaders who have proven their mettle through state-level governance before making the national leap. Mr Adit ~ yanath, on the other hand, has cultivated a personal following that extends beyond party structures. His aggr e ~ ssive governance style, emphasis on law and order and staunch Hindutva positioning, have made him a rallying figure for a section of the BJP’s base. More importantly, his control over Uttar Pradesh ~ the state that sends the highest number of MPs to Parliament ~ gives him strategic leverage. While the Modi-Shah duo remains the fulcrum of the BJP’s national leadership today, the emergence of a leader with an independent power base within the party could signal friction ahead. Mr Adityanath’s rise suggests that the post-Modi BJP may not be as straightforward as a handover to a central leader. Instead, it could evolve into a contest where state-level heavyweights begin asserting their influence, challenging the centralized command structure that has defined the party in recent years. The Maha Kumbh was not just a religious event ~ it was a political moment that reinforced this shift. Whether Mr Adityanath’s ascent is fully embraced by the BJP’s national leadership or leads to internal power struggles remains to be seen. What is certain, however, is that Mr Adityanath is now a formidable player in the BJP’s national future.

India can be the world leader in textiles. Here’s how

Ramvilas Sharma

“We have a lot going for us — a relatively stable economy and government, good relationships with the world’s leading nations, a centuries-old textile tradition and a young population



One goal that India must prioritise if it has to become Viksit Bharat by 2047 is job creation. The textiles and apparel industry is India’s second-largest employer after agriculture, providing direct employment to 45 million people. The sector is expected to motor on at an annual growth rate of 10 per cent and become a USD 250 billion market by 2030, with the potential to add millions of more jobs. If our exports grow from the current USD 45 billion to the targeted USD 100 billion, and if the economy grows at 6-7 per cent a year, textiles can add up to one million jobs every year from now to 2030 — 10 per cent of what the country needs. This is all very good. But we have an opportunity to be great. China, Bangladesh and Vietnam, the world’s three leading textile exporters, are undergoing shifts for reasons ranging from geopolitics to internal turmoil. Global markets are increasingly looking towards India. We have a lot going for us — a relatively stable economy and government, good relationships with the world’s leading nations, a centuries-old textile tradition and a young population. The government has been forward-looking in its support of the industry. It has approved various schemes with outlays of several thousand crores that incentivise the sector — such as the Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA)

Parks, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme and the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme. The USD 100 billion Indian textile market presents a huge domestic opportunity. A burgeoning middle class is driving demand and this trend is further amplified by Gen Z. The mainstreaming of e-commerce, and the emergence of quick commerce, has eased people’s access to apparel and fashion. While there are lulls during a crisis like Covid or during recessionary phases, Indians retain a healthy consumption appetite. With so many pieces of the jigsaw ready, how do we ensure labour efficiency and thereby generate more jobs and increase market share? India suffers a 15-20 per cent cost disadvantage compared to competing countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam. A big component of this is lower efficiency in the labour-intensive garment manufacturing process. How do we remedy this? These are some of my suggestions. Often in India, if the jobs are in one hub, the workers are elsewhere. Even Tiruppur, the apparel mega-hub in Tamil Nadu, has a labour shortage because industries there are growing fast and workers quit often. On the other hand, in places like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, where jobs need to be created, there’s barely any industry. India will have to

create jobs where they are required. That is why it is important to build the PM MITRA parks in areas where labour is available. The rate of attrition in our textile industry is as high as 10 per cent. Workers often have to spend a big part of their salary in transport and accommodation and are liable to leave their present employer even for a small wage hike. Many of them tend to be migrants. This has a huge impact on production and eventually the bottom-line. Implementing industrial housing policy can be a game-changer. It could be a combination of a grant, easing FSI regulation or giving GST exemptions for industrial housing. Creating living quarters for workers near factories, as is done in countries like China, could reduce absenteeism, improve staff retention, and lead to higher productivity. It will also increase the amount of take-home salary for the workers. Textiles are a low-margin business, however. Manufacturers alone cannot pick up the tab for such huge infrastructure. It will need to be supported by the government. A defining feature of the garment industry is that women represent 90 per cent of its blue-collar workforce. Stable jobs in safe environments empower women. It can bring them into the formal economy and take the nation forward. Automation is often associated with efficiency and reduced manpower. However, technology and human talent will continue to coexist. When efficiency goes up, the industry will grow, creating more jobs. The challenges may seem formidable but are surmountable given India’s demography and economic heft. With a little recalibration, India can seize the opportunity and establish itself as a giant in the global textile landscape, where the Indian tiger roars while the dragon cedes market share.

Crypto currency will sink the world economy

US President Donald Trump had announced during the presidential election that he would set up a crypto strategic reserve. All the crypto currency platforms around the world will be included in it. The crypto reserve includes Bitcoin, Ethereum, XRP Solana and ADA cryptocurrencies. This decision of America will have an impact on the dollar and stock markets around the world. US President Donald Trump has launched a campaign to promote digital currency to strengthen the US financial system. He has started calling it an option to deal with the economic recession. President Trump says, this will increase the stability of the dollar. The talkative Trump said, he will make America the crypto capital. A crypto currency summit is going to be held at the White House on Friday. Solana’s platform operates other cryptocurrencies including Trump Coin launched by Trump. After this decision of US President Donald Trump, crypto currency has seen a rise of about 62 percent. As per Trump’s instructions, the US Treasury Exchange is preparing norms for stabilization. Through this, it is being said that a balance will be created between the reserves of crypto currency and the dollar reserves. After Trump’s announcement, Cardano crypto currency jumped by 62 percent. The game that US President Donald Trump is playing with crypto currency is expected to have an impact on the stock markets around the world. Apart from this, the dollar currency, which was till now a globally accepted currency, is also expected to be adversely affected. Trump is trying to make crypto currency parallel to the dollar for global trade. It is being said that global trade will be done with crypto currency. The US economy is going haywire. In view of this, US President Donald Trump has started promoting crypto currency keeping in mind his personal business interests more than America. This is Trump’s last term. He wants to take full advantage of it. Before becoming the President, Trump has launched Trump Coin in the market. Through this, they have accumulated a lot of money. Till now, the dollar was recognized as the global currency. Donald Trump is now promoting digital currency. This system has not yet been accepted by the countries of the world. The dollar and the currency of other countries are determined by the gold reserves of those countries, foreign exchange and other international standards. Crypto currency is a digital currency, whose owner is God. The value of crypto currency is determined on the basis of purchase and sale like the stock market. The actual value of the share is Rs 10. The company sells shares to investors at many times higher prices by adding its premium. At the same time, the stock trades in the stock markets around the world at a price many times higher than the actual value and premium value based on demand and supply. The way betting is done on the basis of perception in the stock market, the same is the situation with crypto currency. US President Donald Trump wants to realize the dream of the golden age through crypto currency. This is being considered an event of US President Donald Trump all over the world. It is believed that by promoting crypto currency, morality and real form and corruption will increase on a large scale. Crypto currency is in controversies due to the direct interest of US President Donald Trump being linked to crypto currency. At present, its effect is certain to be seen in the stock markets. Dollar still dominates the global business. Crypto currency gets global acceptance, in such a situation, the dollar currency is believed to be at the greatest risk. President Donald Trump’s policies have started facing large scale opposition in the US states and European countries. The way Trump is increasing his relations with Russia and China. The reason behind it is to get the recognition of China and Russia for crypto currency.

Blue Economy vision and ecological responsibility

India’s ambitious Blue Economy vision is reshaping the way the country engages with its vast marine resources.

Ramvilas Sharma

India’s ambitious Blue Economy vision is reshaping the way the country engages with its vast marine resources. At the heart of this transformation is Kerala, with the Quilon Fish Bank emerging as a crucial player in sustainable fisheries. However, recent concerns over large scale dredging, resource extraction, and the long-term impact on marine biodiversity have raised important questions about balancing economic growth with ecological stability.

The Quilon Fish Bank, known for its rich biodiversity and high productivity, is among India’s most significant fishing grounds. Spread across Kollam and Alappuzha districts, this region is a vital breeding ground for numerous fish species and shrimp. Kerala’s fisherfolk have long depended on these waters for their livelihood, making sustainable fisheries management crucial for the state’s economy and food security. However, recent developments, such as the planned dredging of 242 square kilometers of the seabed in Kollam, have sparked widespread concern. Reports indicate that India’s Geological Survey has identified 7.45 billion tonnes of sand in Kerala’s coastal and offshore areas. While the government sees this as an opportunity for economic development, local communities fear it may lead to habitat destruction, loss of fish stocks, and increased coastal erosion. The controversial dredging project is part of a larger Blue Economy initiative aimed at tapping into the ocean’s resources for economic growth. While this approach has potential, questions remain about its long-term sustainability and impact on Kerala’s delicate marine ecosystem.

The Blue Economy concept emphasizes responsible and sustainable use of marine resources to drive economic progress. India, with its vast coastline and rich maritime heritage, has identified the Blue Economy as a critical driver of growth in the 21st century. The government’s policy framework seeks to integrate economic growth with environmental conservation. While large-scale resource extraction, such as sand mining and deep-sea fishing, forms part of this vision, efforts are also being made to minimize ecological disruption. Scientific research, eco-friendly technologies, and strict regulations are being implemented to

ensure sustainability. One of the key objectives of India’s Blue Economy plan is to modernize the fisheries sector. Investments in advanced fishing infrastructure, cold storage facilities, and alternative livelihood programmes, such as seaweed farming and mariculture, are providing fishermen with new income opportunities. These initiatives aim to reduce dependence on overfished species and promote a more balanced marine ecosystem. Despite the promising aspects of the Blue Economy, concerns remain about its impact on marine biodiversity. The Quilon Fish Bank is a prime example of this dilemma. Dredging and sand mining, while economically lucrative, have the



potential to disrupt fish breeding cycles, alter ocean currents, and increase vulnerability to coastal erosion. The fragile balance of Kerala’s coastal ecosystem is already under stress due to climate change and unregulated fishing practices. Further extraction of marine resources could push it to a tipping point, endangering not just marine species but also the livelihoods of thousands of fishing families. Experts warn that Kerala’s geographical location ~ between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats ~ makes it particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation. To address these concerns, the government has been expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard critical habitats. These conservation zones play a vital

role in replenishing fish stocks and maintaining biodiversity. Additionally, advanced monitoring systems are being introduced to track fish migration patterns and regulate fishing activities, ensuring long-term marine health. India’s approach to the Blue Economy is also being shaped by global collaborations. By aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 14 on ocean conservation, India is reinforcing its commitment to responsible marine resource management. Countries like Norway, Japan, and Australia have successfully implemented sustainable fisheries policies that balance economic interests with conservation. Learning from these models can help India refine its own Blue Economy strategy. Kerala’s government has also taken steps to enhance coastal resilience.

Large-scale coastal protection projects, such as artificial reefs and mangrove restoration, are being undertaken to mitigate the impact of erosion and habitat loss. However, these efforts need stronger support from the Central government to ensure long-term effectiveness. The future of the Quilon Fish Bank and Kerala’s fisheries sector hinges on finding a middle ground between economic growth and environmental sustainability. While resource extraction and development projects are necessary for progress, they must be undertaken with strict environmental safeguards.

A multistakeholder approach involving the government, local fishing communities, environmentalists, and global experts is essential. Policymakers must prioritize scientific research and ecological impact assessments before approving large scale marine projects. Empowering local communities with alternative livelihood options, enhancing conservation efforts, and enforcing stricter regulations on resource extraction can help ensure a sustainable future for Kerala’s fisheries. India’s Blue Economy vision holds immense promise, but its success will ultimately depend on how well it balances development with ecological responsibility. With continued investment in research, conservation, and community welfare, the Quilon Fish Bank can serve as a model for sustainable fisheries, ensuring that Kerala’s fisherfolk have a bright and resilient future in India’s evolving maritime economy.

BRIEFS

Family of 20 wives, 104 sons and daughters and 144 grandchildren

Tanzania (Agency): Maji Ernesto Muenchi Kapinga's family lives in Tanzania. Kapinga has 20 wives. He has 104 children. His children's sons and daughters together have 144 grandchildren. Kapinga remembers the names of his children and wives. He does not remember the names of the rest. His family looks like a small village.

Russia's air terror continues, we need more help: Zelensky

Kiev (Agency). President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Ukraine is fighting for the normal and safe life it deserves. We want this war to end. But Russia does not want that. He claimed that Russia's air terror continues. Zelensky said, more than 1,050 drones, about 1,300 aerial bombs and more than 20 missiles were fired on Ukraine in the past week to destroy cities and kill people. The Ukrainian President said, those who want dialogue do not deliberately attack civilians with ballistic missiles. To force Russia to stop its attacks, we need more collective strength from the world. Zelensky said that strengthening our air defense, supporting our army, and ensuring effective security guarantees that make the return of Russian aggression impossible - this is what we should focus on. Justice must prevail. We believe in the power of unity, and we will certainly restore lasting peace. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian President returned to Kiev on Monday after three busy days. On Friday, he had a tense and public confrontation with Donald Trump and JD Vance in Washington which was watched by the whole world. He was warmly welcomed in London over the weekend, where he was welcomed by the Prime Minister outside Downing Street. He also met King Charles III. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer made a big announcement to help Ukraine.

Big statement by Mohammad Yunus: Bangladesh is compelled to maintain good relations with India

Dhaka (Agency). Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of Bangladesh Mohammad Yunus has given a big statement about India. He said that Bangladesh has no other option but to maintain good relations with India, as both the countries are highly dependent on each other. Yunus, who has previously been making aggressive statements about India, now seems to be changing his tune. During an interview, he admitted that some propaganda has caused tension in India-Bangladesh relations, but Bangladesh is now trying to clear these misunderstandings. Yunus' statement has come ahead of the BIMSTEC summit to be held in Thailand on 3-4 April. During this time, a bilateral meeting is likely to take place between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Advisor of Bangladesh's interim government Mohammad Yunus.

‘US will be woke no longer’: Donald Trump wages war against ‘wokeism’ in fiery Congress speech

New Delhi (Agency): Addressing a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night, US President Donald Trump said that the country “will be woke no longer,” urging that hirings will be done on the basis of merit. In an unfiltered comeback to House of Representatives, Trump reiterated that his administration has ended the “tyranny” of diversity and inclusion. Waging war against ‘wokeism’, Donald Trump said in the House of Representatives, “Our country will be woke no longer. We believe that whether you are a doctor, an accountant, a lawyer or (an) air traffic controller, you should be hired and promoted based on skills and competence, not race or gender.” “Wokeness is trouble, wokeness is bad, it’s gone and we feel so much better for it, don’t we?” the US President added. Trump’s stance on ‘wokeism’ remained firm throughout his presidential campaign and the first six weeks of his term, where he decided to discard several major Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programmes from industries and educational institutes. During his address, Donald Trump recalled his list of executive orders, including one ordering a crackdown on gender

dysphoria. The US President made it clear that there are only two genders in America – male and female. He further called on Congress to pass a bill “permanently banning and criminalising sex changes on children,” saying that his administration is now working on permanently pushing out wokeness from US schools, military and society. Trump said, “I want Congress to pass a bill permanently banning and criminalizing sex changes on children and forever ending the lie that any child is trapped in the wrong body. This is a big lie and our message to every child in America is that you are perfect exactly the way God made you. Because we are getting wokeness out of our schools and out of our military and it’s already out and it’s out of our society.”



The term woke, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, means “aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues (especially issues of racial and social justice)”. ‘Wokeness’ in the United States mainly refers to being well informed regarding gender spectrum, racial bias, and cultural issues. The dictionary traced the origins of the word to African American English, gaining momentum during the Black Lives Matter movement. It further said that by the end of 2024, the word “is also applied by some as a general pejorative for anyone who is or appears to be politically left-leaning.” Donald Trump, in one of the first executive orders signed by him, moved to dismantle the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) policies initiated by his predecessor Joe Biden. Since 2016, Trump has rigorously backed the agitation against DEI policies in schools, industries and the military, which as seen as ‘anti-white’ policies by a section of conservative American citizens. One of the most prominent DEI policies banned by Trump during his second term as President is titled “Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing.”

‘If war is what US wants...’: China vows to ‘fight till the end’ as tariff tensions escalate



China issued a warning to the United States Monday amid escalating trade tensions, vowing to “fight till the end” after Washington doubled tariffs on Chinese imports. Beijing dismissed US concerns over fentanyl trafficking as a mere pretext for economic pressure, accusing the Trump administration of using the opioid crisis as a bargaining chip in an ongoing trade war. “If war is what the US wants, be it a tariff war, a trade war, or any other type of war, we’re ready to fight till the end,” the Chinese Embassy in Washington declared on X, formerly Twitter. The latest trade escalation follows US President Donald Trump’s decision to increase tariffs on

Chinese imports from 10% to 20%. China swiftly responded on Tuesday with countermeasures, imposing tariffs of up to 15% on a wide range of US agricultural products, including soybeans, chicken, and cotton. Beijing also expanded its list of US companies facing export controls, signaling a broader economic standoff. China’s Foreign Ministry defended its actions as “legitimate and necessary” and rejected accusations that it has failed to curb the supply of fentanyl precursors, which US officials say fuel the opioid crisis. “The US, not anyone else, is responsible for the fentanyl crisis inside the US,” the ministry said in a statement.

Fire broke out again in America, panic in two states, people forced to flee to save their lives

Washington (Agency). Another fire has broken out in America which is causing havoc. Flames are rising above the trees in the forests. There is so much panic about the fire that people are being forced to flee to save their lives. Forest fires caused massive destruction in North and South Carolina states on Sunday amid dry weather and strong winds. People from many areas have been evacuated to safer places. The US National Weather Service has issued a warning about the dangers of fire in the region, as the fire is spreading rapidly due to dry trees and low humidity. A massive fire was seen in California last month. South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster on Sunday declared a state of emergency in the country to deal with forest fires. Open burning has been banned across the state. People from many areas were evacuated to safer places after a fire broke out in the Carolina Forest area west of Myrtle Beach. According to Horry County Fire Rescue, people in Carolina Forest were allowed to return home by Sunday afternoon.

Race to go to the south pole of the moon, India has already created history

NASA's Dr. Fox said - The moon is an incredible place for science

Florid (Agency). There is a race to go to the south pole of the moon, where there may be ice in permanently shadowed lunar craters. The south pole of the moon is a destination full of mysteries for future crewed Artemis missions and robotic explorations, but Blue Ghost and its scientific instruments were

intended to land elsewhere, said Dr. Nicola Fox, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate. Let us tell you that India has already done the feat of landing on the south pole of the moon. In August 2023, Chandrayaan-3's lander Vikram made history by soft landing on the south pole of the moon. Dr. Fox said that the moon is an incredible place for science. We do not want to go to the same place every time because we want to know more about the moon. It is like going on vacation. You would not want to go to the same place every time. As we prepare to send astronauts back, we want to



make sure we understand all the areas of the moon, and we are studying it for the safety of the astronauts, but we are also looking at where and which are the most interesting areas.

He said that the 10 instruments aboard the Blue Ghost are like a suite, perfectly selected for the area where we are going. The Blue Ghost mission landed near an ancient volcanic feature

called Mons Latreille, located just north of the equator on the far eastern edge of the visible face of the moon. Dr. Fox said that you know that your delivery service, you choose where you want to send your package, and that is what we did with Firefly. Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lunar lander successfully landed in the Mare Crisium region of the Moon. The mission began with a launch on January 15, 2025 via a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and ended with a precise landing on Sunday. Firefly Space is a Texas-based American private sector aerospace firm that designs, manufactures and launches space vehicles.

According to NASA, the commercial company's Blue Ghost lunar lander has safely delivered 10 NASA scientific instruments and technology demos to the Moon. According to NASA, during Blue Ghost's mission, the agency's scientific instruments aim to test and demonstrate lunar subsurface drilling technology, regolith sample collection capabilities, global navigation satellite system capabilities, radiation tolerant computing and lunar dust mitigation methods. The data captured can also benefit humans on Earth, as it can explain how space weather and other cosmic forces affect Earth.

Women were treated cruelly in comfort stations

Tokyo (Agency). The arrangement of comfort women by the Japanese army during the Second World War was an extremely cruel and inhuman act. Comfort women were bound to fulfill the desires of Japanese soldiers. During the war, this practice spread to Korea, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and other Pacific islands. This disgusting practice started in 1932 during the Sino-Japanese War, when the Japanese army set up comfort stations for soldiers in their cantonments. Thousands of women were forcibly recruited, most of whom were from poor families. They were either deceived by giving false promises of jobs or were kidnapped. Especially girls from Korea, China and Malay regions were used as 'comfort girls'.

Samba school artists performing traditional dance at a carnival in Rio de Janeiro.

Children up to 16 years will not be able to access social media platforms

Sydney (Agency). In Australia, children below 16 years of age will not be able to access social media platforms. Actually, its purpose was that children should stay away from objectionable content. Now a similar tool has been introduced by Apple. With its help, children will also be kept away from social media. This security will be turned on without tampering with user privacy. Apple said that after this, the parents of the children will be given full access and they can manage the account of the children according to their own. That is, it is going to be easy for



them to manage what the children watch online? Also, what content can be presented to them. Also, in this, the parents of the children

will be able to decide which apps they can install in the iPhone and what apps they cannot access. That is, the entire control of the

phone will not be in the hands of the children but in the hands of their parents. Children will see the app according to their age. If they search for an app that does not allow their age, they will not see it. That is, Apple's entire ecosystem will work in a completely different way. All companies are now completely focused on such tools. The entire process is being done by the developers to complete it. Apple said that the online system remains a threat for children. We are working on creating tools for this. These steps are being taken to make the online process safe.

Baloch National Army is ready to trouble China and Pakistan



Lahore (Agency). Currently, the situation in Pakistan is bad. Not a single day passes when the funerals of Pakistani security forces are not held. Baloch rebels are creating terror in Balochistan, TTP is creating terror in the Khyber region. Now another face of Pakistan's trouble has been prepared. Its name is Baloch National Army. Small and big groups active in Balochistan and Sindh province have now come together. According to intelligence reports, Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front, Baloch Republican Guards (BRG), and Sindh Desh Krantikari Sena (SRA) are preparing to start a joint operation against Pakistan and China. According to intelligence reports, a new strategy was made in a meeting that lasted for three days and this front was given a new name 'Baloch National Army'. For the first time, Baloch militant organizations have formed an organization together. Its purpose is to fight together for the freedom of Balochistan in Pakistan. To stop China's

exploitation of resources in Balochistan along with Pakistan. A big meeting of Baloch Raji Azoi Organization (BRAS) was held. A statement was issued after the meeting. In this, information was given about the future plan of this organization. The purpose of the meeting was to bring all the Baloch rebel organizations on one platform. It was decided in the meeting that the operation against Pakistan and China will be made more lethal. Guerrilla operations will be carried out under modern military warfare. BRAS is going to fight the war using new technology. By blocking all the important roads of Balochistan, the logistics and economy of the Pakistani army will be hurt. A plan was prepared to take the horrific face of Pakistan and China against Baloch citizens and resources to international forums. It has been decided in the meeting that BRAS will soon take the form of Baloch National Army. Workers and leaders of different organizations will be brought into an integrated military structure.

Daredevil Born Again to release in India on this date: Where to watch and what to expect?



It has been almost seven years since we saw Matt Murdock put on that mask and turn into Daredevil. The wait is now finally over as Daredevil: Born Again is releasing in India on March 5. Fans have been groaning and vying for another season of the hit Marvel show since its 3-season run ended back in 2018. It is arguably considered the studio's best show ever, and Marvel has been dealing with increasing pressure from the audience. Especially because the character has played small parts and cameos in other series and films such as Spider-Man: No Way Home and She-Hulk.

To give context to MCU fans who haven't dabbled in Marvel TV shows, Daredevil is a lawyer who was blinded by radioactive chemicals as a kid. The chemicals heightened all his other senses to a superhuman level, and he took the mantle of Daredevil to protect his neighborhood, Hell's Kitchen.

Though for the most part we have seen Matt Murdock be a model of resolve and sensibility, the new trailers tell a different story. He will be facing his arch nemesis Kingpin (Vincent D'Onofrio), but he looks and feels different on the screen. The trailers and teaser seem to portray that Matt has finally reached that phase in his life, where usually all superheroes find themselves at least once. The phase where the good guy stops pulling his punches.

Fans are certainly excited to see what has inspired this change in our blindfolded superhero and also what other characters will be joining him on this long-awaited journey. Marvel TV shows have faced a lot of scrutiny in recent times and most of those times. Almost all shows are compared to the first three seasons of Daredevil, which was without a doubt a hit straight out of the park.

Kerala film body rejects blame for adversely affecting society: 'Cinema reflects societal conditions, doesn't create any'

Cinema is an influential medium that has created quite an impact in society throughout its history. It has created fandoms, fiefdoms, fanatics, and political supremos across the world. However, it is also seen as the easiest scapegoat for the powers that be whenever a conversation arises about the negative aspects of society.

Recently, some politicians, lawmakers, and youth associations in Kerala blamed Malayalam cinema for violent crimes in society. However, the Film Employees Federation of Kerala (FEFKA) took offence to these blanket statements, and categorically denied such links between violence in cinema and violence in society. In a



strongly worded statement, the film body pointed out that these claims were completely

unfounded. "Some of the most violent movies have been made in Japan, but it has

one of the lowest rates of violence in the world due to its robust legal system and social security frameworks," read an excerpt from the statement. FEFKA also pointed out that it is important to look at the deeper reasons for violence instead of blaming cinema for the same. "Society plays a very important role in shaping people. We still live in places where parents or society are

unwilling to address mental health issues among young people. Violence is not a spontaneous act triggered by films but is shaped by long-standing social conditions, economic insecurities, alienation and marginalisation," read the statement, which also pointed out there is an explosion of information thanks to the digital era.

Vir Das pokes fun at Indian award shows, takes dig at India's Got Latent row: 'It's hard to do an edgy joke...'

Actor and stand-up comedian Vir Das recently poked fun at Indian award shows, remarking that delivering an edgy joke becomes difficult after hosts spend the opening moments listing a long lineup of sponsors. Vir also took a subtle dig at the India's Got Latent row, wondering why Indian award shows don't use modern stand-up comedians. His remarks come in the wake of the recent Academy Awards ceremony, which was hosted by Conan O'Brien.

In a post on Instagram, Vir wrote, "While watching a major entertainment awards show. I'm pretty sure a few fellow Indian comedians play a game in our head. We wonder why Indian awards shows don't use modern stand-up comedians at major awards. Then....we think of some of the jokes we would do, the utter shitstorm that would follow, then we think it's probably for the best."

opening monologue is at the top of the show, which logically requires showing up on time, and staying for the whole show, which again reaffirms....probably for the best also just rhythm wise...it's hard to do an edgy joke after saying "Manikchand pan pasand fun flips Zorro plus zandu bandu MDH MCD motorola parivar..."

Last month, Vir Das took to his Instagram Stories to slam the media's approach toward the India's Got Latent controversy, calling it "a bunch of irrelevant mainstream media anchors bordering extinction coming together to take down new media that gets million more views."



In his latest Instagram post, actor and stand-up comedian Vir Das poked fun at award shows in India. Vir also took a subtle dig at the ongoing India's Got Latent controversy.

Australian cricketer David Warner to make his acting debut in Robinhood



One of the more shocking takeaways of the latest Indian Premier League auction was Australian batsman David Warner remaining unsold. With no takers for the enterprising cricketer, it was a sad state of affairs for his fans, who not only enjoyed his cricketing abilities, but also developed a fascination for his histrionics in the form of reels and dance videos. Such has been his fame that he has not only received warm responses from Allu Arjun for breaking a leg to the "Butta Bomma" song, but also featured in an advertisement with RRR director SS Rajamouli. Nevertheless, even if he won't be satisfying his cricket fans this IPL season, it has now come to light that fans of Warner's entertaining acts on camera have a reason to be happy.

Mythri Movie Makers, who backed the blockbuster film, Pushpa 2, are ready with their next, Robinhood. In a promotional event, the makers revealed that Warner is set to make his big screen debut with the Venky Kudumula film, headlined by Nithiin and Sreeleela.

Avengers: Doomsday concept art leaked, fans get first glimpse into Robert Downey Jr's return as Dr Doom

Concept art for Marvel's upcoming film Avengers: Doomsday that brings Robert Downey Jr to the MCU as Dr Doom wasb leaked online.

Concept art for Avengers: Doomsday has just been leaked, giving fans a sneak peek into one of Marvel's most anticipated projects in recent times. Marvel announced Robert Downey Jr. is going to return to the MCU as Dr. Doom at Comic Con, sending fans into a spin. The audience has been waiting for updates since that announcement, but much to Marvel's dismay, this update did not come on their own accord.

Marvel Illustrator Mushk Rizvi apparently uploaded concept art on ArtStation by mistake. While the images were quickly taken down, it was not before fans got a glimpse of what all might unfold in the film. A user on X posted the concept art.

The first image shows Starlord and White Vision having a few drinks and watching television together. Two other images show Wakanda and a glimpse of the Black Panther and an entire village filled

with hulk. The fourth and the most talked about image is one where Dr.Doom is sitting on a throne surrounded by court members. Sue Storm seems to be standing beside him, while Reed Richards (Mr. Fantastic) is bound in chains.

Another leak showcases the Young Avengers in a restaurant. The images open up a lot of possibilities and give rise to a lot of speculations, especially for avid comic book readers. While all the leaks have been 'nuked', fans have ensured that the concept art goes viral.

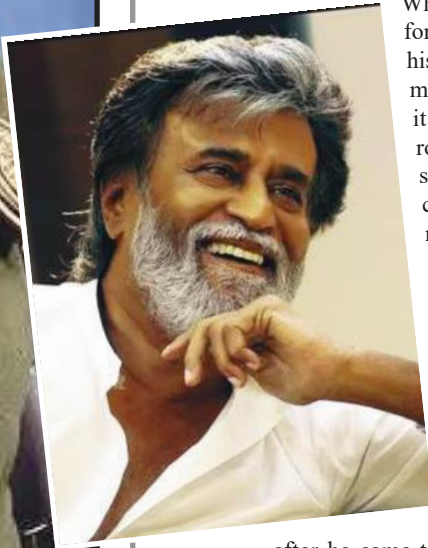
Among all the projects which are in the pipeline for Marvel Studios, Avengers: Doomsday is under the biggest spotlight. Well this extra attention is not without merit, the movie is bringing two essential things to the screen, one of the most prolific villains in comic book history, Dr Doom, and Marvel's first MCU hero, Robert Downey Jr, in a very different light.

Avengers: Doomsday will be releasing in 2026, while Avengers: Secret Wars will be coming out in 2027.



When Rajinikanth tried to impress women during his bus conductor days: 'I used to finish it in ten minutes...'

Superstars may come, and superstars may go, but some superstars stand the test of time, and it is but understood that their legacy is written in stone. One such superstar is Rajinikanth, who in his fiftieth year as an actor, continues to be the flavor du jour in Indian cinema. How does he manage to continue to be the superstar of all seasons, and even in 2025 sets the cash registers ringing as loudly as it did in 2015, 2005, 1995, 1985, and 1975?



While Rajinikanth is known for many things, one aspect of his persona that stands out the most is his style statement. Be it the way he flips his hair, rolls his sleeves, toys with his sunglasses, flicks his cigarette, and basically moves... everything has become a style statement for the ages. But where did it all begin? During a cultural show organised by the Nadigar Sangam in 2018, Rajinikanth opened up about his bus conductor days, and whether the style statements were changes incorporated after he came to cinema, or did it have a different story altogether. "Naturally, I am a stylish person," said Rajinikanth, adding that it was moulded during the days he spent as a bus conductor in Bengaluru. "This was a time when a conductor used to take around 30 minutes to distribute the tickets for all the passengers. I used to finish it in ten minutes."

Apart from just the inbuilt speed and innate style, there was another aspect of his job that provided him more impetus to work on his speed and style. "In those days, women used to sit in the front rows, and the men used to sit in the back rows in Karnataka buses. Generally, the conductor would finish giving the tickets, and stay in the back. But I used to stand right in the front. I used to have a lot of hair, and when the breeze rustled through it, and it started getting unruly, I would just flip my hair back in place. And in every stop, I used to say ticket, ticket, right from the front. So yeah, I always imbibed the style, I guess," said Rajinikanth reminiscing on his good old days.

Letting the excited audience know that it was this style and speed that caught the eye of director K Balachander, who introduced him to cinema through the 1975 Tamil film, Aboorva Ragangal, Rajinikanth said, "He told me to hold on to this aspect of my persona very dearly. He warned that the cinema industry will ask me to change to conform to the already established standards, and urged me to never change.

Prithviraj Sukumaran moves to next after wrapping up Empuraan; wife Supriya says, 'You have a wife and a child'

Malayalam cinema audience are waiting with bated breath to see what actor-filmmaker Prithviraj Sukumaran has cooked up in L2: Empuraan, the much-awaited sequel to Lucifer. But before that, with the film wrapped up, and ready for release on March 27, Prithviraj has stepped into his original profession of being an actor.

In a recent social media post, Prithviraj, who finally removed his beard, shared a photo with him sporting a simple thick moustache, and wrote, "Finish and hand over film and all marketing assets on your directorial (Check). Get into appearance for your next as an actor (Check). Realise you have long monologues in a language that's not native to you and start becoming nervous



(Check)."



have been speculations about what is the project that has

got Prithviraj, a consummate actor who has starred in various films across languages like Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi, to be nervous. Some started believing that it was a soft launch of his long-sSpeculated presence in SS Rajamouli's next with Mahesh Babu, tentatively titled SSMB 29. These speculations have been doing the rounds for a

few months now, and Prithviraj has been unable to escape questions regarding this news irrespective of which film he has been promoting over the same phase. Meanwhile, there were also speculations that Prithviraj has backed out of the film, which also stars Priyanka Chopra, and has since been replaced by her Dostana co-star John Abraham.

Jiostar hopes to reach one billion viewers in IPL



New Delhi (Agency). Preparations are in full swing for IPL 2025 starting on March 22. Jiostar, the official broadcaster and streaming partner of IPL for this tournament, aims to reach one billion viewers. Along with this, it has also increased the advertising rates. The last IPL was watched by 525 million people on TV on Star Sports working under Jiostar. At the same time, 425 million people joined it through digital platforms. This time Jiostar is making its network even stronger. Advertising rates increased by 20-30 percent in IPL 2025. This year a fee of Rs 18 lakh to Rs 19 lakh will be charged for a 10-second advertisement. The reason for this is the growing popularity and viewership of IPL. Jiostar is confident that IPL 2025 will be the biggest event ever, and it will be watched by billions of viewers. One of its officials said, there is tremendous momentum among advertisers for IPL 2025. Just like the India-Pakistan Champions Trophy match was watched by crores of people on digital platforms, the same is expected to happen in IPL as well.

Surya will be seen captaining in the first match of IPL!

Mumbai (Agency). Mumbai Indians' first match in IPL 2025 will be against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on 23 March at MA Chidambaram Stadium. Mumbai captain Hardik Pandya, however, will not be able to play in this match. The reason for this is the one-match suspension imposed on him last season. In such a situation, Suryakumar Yadav can be seen captaining Mumbai in the first match. Mumbai Indians' performance was very poor last season. Then Hardik Pandya was fined Rs 30 lakh for slow over rate after the final group stage match with Lucknow Super Giants and due to this he was also suspended from the franchise's first match in IPL 2025. Mumbai lagged behind in over rate for the third time in the season, due to which their captain

Pandya was also banned for one match. This is the reason why Hardik will not be seen playing in the first match this time. Although the franchise has not yet announced who will take over the command of the team in his place, it is believed that Suryakumar Yadav can take over the command of the team in place of Hardik. Suryakumar Yadav is also the captain of the Indian T20 team. CCI released the schedule of the 18th season of IPL on Sunday. According to BCCI, a total of 74 matches will be played at 13 venues in this season of IPL. Indian Premier League 2025 will begin with a match between defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore on March 22 at Eden Gardens.

Indian team will create a world record as soon as it enters the final of the Champions Trophy



Dubai (Agency). The Indian cricket team will create a world record as soon as it enters the final of the ICC Champions Trophy on Sunday. Along with this, the Indian team will play the 14th ICC final. In this way, it will also break Australia's record of playing 13 finals. Australia has reached the finals of ICC Cricket World Cup, T20 World Cup, World Test Championship and Champions Trophy the most number of times. Australia has entered the finals of a total of 13 ICC events, while the Indian team has also reached the finals of ICC tournaments the same number of times. However, the Indian team will become the first team to play 14 ICC tournament finals. The Indian team will play the final of the Champions Trophy on March 9. This will be India's 14th final in any ICC tournament.

At the same time, the Australian team will play its 14th ICC final in the World Test Championship in June. Then it has to face South Africa. At the same time, the England team is at number three in terms of playing finals. It has played the final 9 times. West Indies has played the final 8 times while Sri Lanka has played 7 times and Pakistan has played only 6 times. Australia has played 8 World Cup finals, 2 T20 World Cup finals and 2 Champions Trophy finals. Apart from this, the team has played the World Test Championship final once and this time also the team is in the final. On the other hand, India has played four finals in ODI World Cup, 3 finals in T20 World Cup, 2 finals of World Test Championship and 4 finals of Champions Trophy so far. India is in the final for the fifth time.



Borussia Dortmund and Lille teams playing in Champions League football in Germany.

Rohit, excited by the victory against Australia, gave the players a day's rest

Dubai (Agency). Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma looked very happy after the victory in the Champions Trophy semi-final against Australia. Rohit also gave the players a day's rest to refresh themselves. After this, the team will start practice for the final to be held on Sunday. Rohit praised Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya for their brilliant batting in the semi-final. Rohit said, nothing is certain until the last ball is bowled. This is how the game is. After the first innings, we felt that this was a decent score. This is because the pitch was preventing us from playing according to our will. We performed very well with the bat. We were calm and composed even while

defending the target. Regarding the team, captain Rohit said, the conversation going on in our group is about playing good cricket, understanding the situation and then moving forward, not thinking too much about the pitch. There are a lot of experienced players in the group, we leave it to them to make decisions once we get on the field. Talking about bowling options, Rohit said, this is something I really wanted, six bowling options and also how I can keep batting till number 8. It was a bit challenging as well. When we were making the team, we talked in detail about how we can have six bowling options and also bring depth in batting. The players are there to know what is expected of them. Praising Virat Kohli,

the captain said, he (Kohli) has done this for us for so many years. When we were batting, we were very calm. We wanted a big partnership between Shreyas and Virat, which was really good. Then the small partnership between Akshar and Virat and then KL and Virat and then the match-winning partnership was important. In the end, it doesn't look like big runs, but the shots hit by Hardik Pandya in the end were very important. Rohit has admitted that the players are in form and this is important before the final. He said, when you are in the final, you want all the players to be in form. All these players have made an impact whenever they have got the chance and this has given us a lot of confidence.



Steve Smith dismisses theory that India had edge because of playing all games in Dubai



Delhi (Agency). Did the Indian cricket team have an unfair advantage at the ongoing Champions Trophy? The are after all the only team to play all their games at the same venue in Dubai while the rest of the countries had to play theirs at multiple venues in Pakistan besides a game in Dubai against India? Australian stand-in skipper Steve Smith does not think so, disagreeing with some pundits and players who have voiced their concerns about the hybrid model. After Smith's team lost to India by four wickets in the semi-finals on Tuesday at the Dubai International Stadium, the stand-in skipper conceded that they had been "outplayed" by a superior team.

"I'm not buying into it (India's familiarity with pitch and condition). India obviously played some really good cricket here. The surface kind of suits their style with the spinners that they've got," Smith said during the post-match press conference on Tuesday night. "And they have the seamers at their disposal for a wicket like that. They played well, they outplayed us and they deserve the victory." Smith added that Australia could have crossed the 300-run mark after being 198/4 at one stage. But they had lost the way, and ended up setting a 265-run target for India. "We had our opportunities throughout to post something up above 300. We were probably just that one wicket down too many at a

FiatPay signs deal with Mumbai Indians



Mumbai (Agency). Preparations are in full swing for IPL 2025, which begins on March 22. IPL has now become a big business along with a sport. Technology has also been added to it along with the thrill of cricket. Along with the team, the spectators coming to the ground will also get good services for fast payment as FiatPay, a renowned digital payment company, has signed a deal with Mumbai

Indians. This partnership will not be limited to just branding. It will focus on speed, accuracy and excellent service. FiatPay is known for fast and secure transactions in the field of digital payments. Now it will look after the payment matters inside and outside the field with Mumbai Indians. FiatPay has made digital payments simple and easy across the country. The company believes that every

transaction should be a hassle-free experience, just like a great stroke in cricket comes off the bat without any hassle. Mumbai Indians is counted among the most successful teams in IPL. They are known not just for winning, but for understanding the nuances of the game, taking strategic decisions and giving their best in every match. This is the value that FiatPay also provides to its

customers through digital payments. The company believes that when a Mumbai Indians batsman hits a four or a six on the field, FiatPay completes your money transaction with the same speed and accuracy as he sends the ball across the boundary. FiatPay hopes that it will benefit greatly from this agreement as the number of fans of five-time champion Mumbai Indians is very large.

This time in IPL, punishment will be given as per ICC rules



Mumbai (Agency). Breaking discipline in IPL 2025 to be held next month will cost the players heavily. This time a lot of changes will also be seen in the teams. Many teams have even changed captains. Last time's winner Kolkata Knight Riders captain Shreyas Iyer will captain Punjab Kings this time while Rishabh Pant, who captained Delhi

Capitals last time, will play for Lucknow Super Giants this time. The IPL management has made many rules related to the discipline of players on the field more strict than before. Now the Code of Conduct of the International Cricket Council will be followed in the IPL. This important decision was taken in the Governing Council

meeting. Under this, players will be punished as per ICC rules for violation of Level 1, 2 and 3. Earlier the league had its own rules, but now the Code of Conduct prescribed by the ICC will be implemented. The IPL 2025 season will start from March 21. That is, the opening match of the tournament will be played on this day while the final match will be played on May 25. On the other hand, the impact player rule will continue in IPL. However, there was a lot of uproar last year regarding the impact player rule. Players like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli criticized this rule. Despite this, the impact player rule will continue in the upcoming season.

Varun has become mentally strong after his comeback: Suryakumar

Mumbai (Agency). Indian T20 team captain Suryakumar Yadav has praised Varun Chakravarthy, popularly known as mystery spinner. Suryakumar said that after his comeback in the game, he has emerged as a different kind of player. The reason for this is that he has become mentally strong. This is the reason why he does not

seem to be under stress. Varun has impressed with his performance in both the matches, playing against New Zealand and then South Africa in the Champions Trophy. He took 5 wickets against New Zealand and two wickets against Australia. Surya said that the way he has made a comeback, two different Varuns are seen in it.

Now he looks more mentally mature than before. This is the reason that no matter what the situation is on the field, there is a smile on his face. He takes every situation easily. This is a positive thing for any player. Varun did not get a place in the final 11 in the first 2 matches of the Champions Trophy but his performance against New Zealand ensured his place.

Rohit became the player to hit the most sixes in ICC ODI tournament

Dubai (Agency). Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has now become the player to hit the most sixes in ICC ODI tournament. Rohit achieved this feat by hitting a six in the semi-final against Australia. Rohit now has 65 sixes to his name and with this he has also broken the record of 64 sixes of West Indies' Chris Gayle. Rohit has the most sixes in all formats of international cricket. He has hit 633 sixes while Gayle has 533 sixes while Pakistan's Shahid Afridi is at number three by hitting 467 sixes. New Zealand's Brendon McCullum is at number four by hitting 398 sixes and New Zealand's Martin Guptill is at number five by hitting 398 sixes. At the same time, Pakistan's Shahid Afridi has the most sixes in ODIs with 351 sixes while India's Rohit has 341 sixes and West Indies' Chris Gayle has 331 sixes.

The second phase of Khelo India Winter Games will start from March 9



Gulmarg (Agency). The second phase of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWTG) 2025 in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir will now be organized from March 9 to 12 this month as per the new schedule. Earlier these games were scheduled in February but due to less snowfall, their organization was postponed then. In a statement issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, it has been said that it has made full preparations to host Khelo India Winter Games 2025 from March 9 to 12. Top players from all over the country will participate in this tournament. This is the second phase of the Winter Games where skiing and snowboarding competitions will also be organized. Earlier, the first phase of the games was organized in Leh district of Ladakh in January this year where ice-skating and ice-hockey events were organized.

Virat Kohli rises to No 4 spot, Rohit Sharma drops two spots after Champions Trophy semi-final

Indian cricketer Virat Kohli rose to number 4 spot in the ICC ODI rankings for batters after his match-winning knock against Australia in the semi-final of the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy in Dubai on Sunday. Thanks to Kohli's knock, India defeated Australia by four wickets to enter the final of the event where they will await the winner of the second semi-final between South Africa and New Zealand. While Kohli rose one rank in the ODI batting charts, India captain Rohit Sharma fell two spots to No 5. Sharma has focussed on giving India blistering starts in the Champions Trophy. Kohli has scored 217 runs in four matches at the Champions Trophy is also No 4 in the top run-scorers at the tournament. Sharma is 25th in the top run-scorers list with 104 runs in four games. His highest score at the event is 41. Meanwhile, India vice-captain Shubman Gill stays on top of the ICC ODI run-scorers list, followed by Pakistan's Babar Azam at second. Meanwhile, Axar Patel rose to No 13 in the all-rounders' list in ODIs with a career-high 194 rating points in the latest release. India's pace spearhead Mohammed Shami also rose in the rankings for bowlers by three positions to reach 11th with 609 rating points. With eight wickets so far in the Champions Trophy, Shami moved up New Zealand's Matt Henry (649) and claimed the third spot after moving up three positions among bowlers behind Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana at the top spot and South Africa's Keshav Maharaj at second.



Chief Minister Dr. Yadav realized the spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' in Global Investors Summit



The delicious food of the summit became a medium to express the prosperity, cordial and all-inclusive behavior of the state

- **Sweet memories of the summit will become the basis of long-term relations**
- **The lunch-dinner session of the summit attracted representatives from the country and abroad**
- **The taste and aroma of the dishes served reached every corner of the world**
- **Guests from the country and abroad appreciated the hospitality arrangements made under the direction of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav**

Bhopal (Agency): Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav had said in the session focused on tourism and culture of the Global Investors Summit that the meaning of fair is to increase interaction and the Global Investors Summit is an effective medium to increase

interaction between industrialists-investors-entrepreneurs and the government and the people of the state. Prominent industrialists, investors, young innovators, public representatives and officials from the country and world participated in the

Global Investors Summit organized for the first time in Bhopal. As per the intention of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, the welcome and hospitality of all the guests coming to this Maha Kumbh of investment, the feeling of Indian culture 'Atithi Devo Bhava' came true in GIS. His idea was that this event should be held with mutual harmony, goodwill and pleasant feeling and the sweet memories of the summit should become the basis of long-lasting relations. Therefore, in this global event, there was special sensitivity from the very beginning towards the transport, accommodation and food arrangements of the guests.

In the global conference, representatives from different parts of our diverse country as well as about 60 countries of the world participated. Food is the basic need of everyone, but due to different social-cultural-geographical environment, people's habits, interests and requirements for food are

different. Arranging food for these distinguished people coming from different areas was a challenge. In a diverse gathering, arranging food as per the taste and satisfaction of everyone was like giving



proof of our efficiency. Food is a medium to express our prosperity, cultural diversity and rich heritage. It is believed that food has a wonderful ability to connect people. This ability of food increases further with good taste, aroma, touch and attractive presentation. The food of Madhya Pradesh, which is situated in the heart of the country, is a symbol of assimilating new changes with harmony. Swarochoi Bhojans have the ability to create mutual harmony. The

lunch dinner sessions of the Global Summit became a medium to express the prosperity of the state and cordial and all-inclusive behavior. The banquets hosted by Chief Minister Dr.

Yadav were successful in bringing the industrial groups of the country and abroad closer to Madhya Pradesh and in developing interest in the state in them and increasing mutual interaction. Representatives from countries from almost all continents including Japan to Germany and America, Australia, Africa were present in the global conference. Along with this, representatives of the business and industry world

from different states of the country were making this gathering full of diversity. In the lunch-dinner sessions of the Global Investors Summit, food was served according to the taste and nature of everyone, representing everyone's interest, culture and region. The food included major dishes of Madhya Pradesh and the country as well as European, Thai and Chinese dishes. Special attention was given to those who eat Jain food, vegan, millet and gluten free food. The help of the state's leading chefs, experts, artisans and representative organizations of this field was taken in preparing the food.

Among the dishes from Madhya Pradesh, under the Royal Cuisine of House of Sailana, Moti ke Daane, Dal Bafila, Ghuiyaan ki Sabzi, Singhade ki Chaat, Morena ki Gajak, Jhabua ki Malpua, Ujjain ki Kulfi, Hing Kachori, Rikamaj ki Sabzi, Indrahara, Mahua ka Meetha, Tethra ki Rabdi and Bhopali Gobi Musallam were special. Among the dishes from

different regions of the country, Amritsari Chole Kulche, Bihari Litti Chokha, South's Dosa-Uttapam, Meerut's Rotis and Parathas, Bengali Chow Chow and Kesar Angoori Rasmalai were served.

Among the international dishes, Pasta, Torte, Risotto, Gnocchi, Classic Opera, Baskin-Robbins' Ice Cream, Indo Chinese Wok, Noodles, Thai Curry and Dimsim were the center of attraction for the guests. Millet food included kutki kheer, ragi balushahi, millet khichdi, millet tikki, while Jain food included dishes without onion and garlic and millet thalipecth. Guests from different regions enjoyed the original dishes of their region as well as dishes from other regions according to their interest and curiosity. The lunch-dinner session of the Global Investors Summit presented wonderful scenes of food's fascination and integration with diversity.

The hospitality arrangements made under the direction of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav were

appreciated by guests from the country and abroad. The millet (Shri Anna) dishes served with innovation in various food sessions and the local cuisine of Madhya Pradesh were especially appreciated. Tourism activities are being continuously encouraged in the state, the welcoming of guests and satisfactory arrangements for their accommodation, food, transportation etc. have special importance in increasing tourism. The arrangements of the Global Investors Summit presented the efficiency and capability of the state in this field to the guests from the country and abroad. Due to this image of the state created in the minds of the guests from India and abroad, the echo of the arrangements of the summit and the taste of the dishes served has reached every corner of the world. This will definitely attract more tourists towards the state and the state will establish new dimensions in the field of tourism along with industry and trade.

BRIEF NEWS

Tightening grip on gangster Hashim Baba's second wife

Delhi (Agency): Police is preparing to clip the wings of Zoya Khan, the second wife of Delhi's notorious gangster Hashim Baba and famous as Lady Don. The North East District Police is preparing to impose MCOA (Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act) on Zoya. Zoya was arrested by the Special Cell on August 19 from Janta Colony with heroin worth Rs 1 crore. After this arrest, the Special Cell has arrested Zoya and taken her on remand in connection with the conspiracy to murder gym operator Nadir Shah in South Delhi last year. Two cases of murder conspiracy and providing protection to criminals, NDPS Act have been registered against her. In the year 2020, during the Corona period, the Special Cell arrested Hashim Baba in an encounter from Subhash Park area. At that time, the police had placed a bounty of Rs 6 lakh on the gangster. Police sources say that after Hashim went to jail, his second wife Zoya was running the gang in collaboration with Rashid Cable Wala, who is sitting abroad.

How will the government deal with stray dogs in Delhi

Delhi (Agency): On the rest of the problems of Delhi, CM Rekha Gupta said that many problems were pending in the previous government, especially water, pruning of trees, broken roads. In all the areas I visited today, the biggest problem there was water. Let us tell you that CM Rekha Gupta had made a surprise visit to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital. There, raising questions on the chaos, she said that the previous AAP government had purchased fake medicines during the Corona period. Machines worth 10 thousand were purchased by claiming to be worth lakhs of rupees. Rekha Gupta alleged that masks worth 10 rupees were purchased by saying they cost 150 rupees. Many equipment were purchased which were never used. In many states of the country including Delhi, the common people are troubled by stray dogs for the last few months. Stray dogs in the societies and streets of the capital Delhi have harmed many people. To deal with this, CM Rekha Gupta showed seriousness and said that we need to take the opinion of experts for this. We will also see that there is no problem on animal rights. There were many problems in Delhi including broken roads, water problems, CM Rekha Gupta is visiting the area to solve these problems. Today she was told about the problems caused by stray dogs. CM Rekha Gupta said in this regard that there is also a problem of dogs in Delhi. We need to work a lot on this, we need the opinion of experts. She further said that I think that there should be no problem on animal rights and we should be able to help the suffering people of Delhi.

Delhi women will get good news

Delhi (Agency): BJP had promised to give Rs 2500 to the women of Delhi. It was said that this amount would be given on March 8, Women's Day. 3 days are left for the 8th. Aam Aadmi Party is attacking BJP on this issue. The party put up posters on the streets of Delhi which said, just 3 more days are left for the women of Delhi to get Rs 2500. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had promised the women of Delhi that if it comes to power, it will give Rs 2500. BJP has come to power and women are waiting for Rs 2500. It was said that this money would be given on March 8, i.e. Women's Day. As this date is coming closer, Aam Aadmi Party's attack on BJP is increasing. The party put up posters on the streets of Delhi which said, just 3 more days are left for the women to get Rs 2500. AAP said that Prime Minister Modi had said on January 30 that as soon as BJP government is formed in Delhi, in the first cabinet meeting, he will pass a plan to give Rs 2,500 to women and on March 8, International Women's Day, he will transfer this amount to their bank accounts. Now only three days are left. Everyone wants to know when he will transfer this amount. Today, every woman in Delhi is waiting for Rs 2,500 to come in her account. Now the question arises whether women will get good news before the final of the Champions Trophy to be held on March 9. Will Rs 2500 come in their account? The final of the Champions Trophy will be played in Dubai. Team India has qualified for the title match by defeating Australia in the semi-finals.

MP Transco awarded with the prestigious 11th Governance-Now PSU Award for Operational Excellence



Bhopal (Agency): Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company (MP Transco) has been awarded with the prestigious 11th Governance-Now PSU Award at the national level for operational excellence in its transmission network. This award, dedicated to recognizing the impressive contribution of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) playing a vital role in the development of the country, has been given to Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company (MP Transco) for innovation and excellent implementation of cutting-edge technologies in the

Operational Excellence-“Automation and Digital Technology” category. This prestigious award was presented to MP Transco in Delhi by Satyapal Singh, former Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, which was received by Chief Engineer Sandeep Gaikwad. This event was organized by the prestigious organization Governance-Now. Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar and Additional Chief Secretary Neeraj Mandloi

First state in the country to do intensive patrolling of transmission lines with drones

It is noteworthy that Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company is the first state in the country to do intensive patrolling of transmission lines with drones due to the special efforts of retired Chief Engineer R.S. Baghel. This model of Madhya Pradesh was also adopted by other power utilities of the country. Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company did extensive analysis and investigation of the data obtained from drone patrolling and maintained the transmission lines accurately, due to which the breakdown of MP Transco lines could be reduced.

congratulated MP Transco on this achievement.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta reached Shalimar Bagh and listened to the problems of the people

Delhi (Agency): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta is in action mode. After inspecting the GTB hospital on Tuesday, he on Wednesday took stock of the civic problems being faced by the people of his constituency Shalimar Bagh and directed the officials of various agencies to take immediate action to resolve them. While inspecting the BW block of Shalimar Bagh, he stressed the need to carry out immediate restoration work wherever necessary and directed the officials to complete the tree plantation drive within a month. Gupta

said that even the smallest problems of the public will be resolved with full commitment. The



responsibility and accountability of every officer will be clearly defined, so that immediate solution can be ensured. In a post on X, the Chief Minister

said, reaching the site in BW block of Shalimar Bagh along with the officials of Jal Board, MCD and PWD, he

heard the problems of the local public and gave strict instructions to the officials to resolve them quickly. We are fully committed to redress even the smallest problem of

the public. The responsibility and accountability of every officer will be clearly fixed, and the speedy solution of every problem will be ensured. In another post on X, he wrote, "Reviewed the water supply system in AC Block, Shalimar Bagh, had important discussions with officials and heard the problems of local residents. Every necessary step is being taken to provide better water services to the public, and the improvement works will be completed soon. Ensuring clean and uninterrupted water supply in Delhi is our priority and responsibility."



Delhi (Agency): SK Bagga, two-time MLA from Krishnanagar assembly seat, passed away. He was ill for the last several months. He was suffering from many diseases including respiratory problems. Bagga defeated the first woman IPS Kiran Bedi in the election. Krishna Nagar Assembly constituency is

one of the seventy assembly constituencies of Delhi in North India. Krishna Nagar Assembly constituency is a part of East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. In the 2015 assembly elections, AAP's SK Bagga defeated BJP's CM candidate Kiran Bedi by 2277 votes.

AIIMS Bhopal nursing faculty and students excel at 9th World Qualitative Research Conference 2025

Delhi (Agency): Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, has always promoted a culture of academic excellence and knowledge-sharing among faculty members and students. Recently, Dr. Mamta Verma, Principal and Associate Professor, and Ms. Satyam Vada, M.Sc. Nursing (Pediatric Nursing, Batch 2022), were honoured for their outstanding contribution to international qualitative research. Their study, Difficulties faced by caregivers during pre-procedural fasting of children in selected tertiary care hospitals in Bhopal: A phenomenological study, was presented at the 9th World Conference on Qualitative Research (WCQR2025). The conference was held at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland from 4 to 6 February 2025. This phenomenological research was conducted by Ms. Satyam Vada, Dr. Mamta Verma, Kumaraswamy AP and Dr. Pramod Sharma. This marks a significant milestone as the M.Sc. Nursing research project received international recognition at such a prestigious global platform.

Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh emphasised the significance of this achievement and said: Research is the pillar of academic excellence and patient care. The recognition of our faculty team and students at this prestigious international conference shows that AIIMS Bhopal is committed to promoting advanced



research and applying it directly for the benefit of patient care and vulnerable groups. I heartily congratulate Dr. Mamta Verma, Ms. Satyam Vada and the entire research team for their dedication and success. The conference brought together researchers, authors and academic groups from over 40 countries to discuss and disseminate scientific advancements in qualitative research. It was also a matter of pride for the Institute that Dr. Mamta Verma was invited as the session chair for the session on Healthcare and Nursing Education. She conducted five diverse presentations, which included Action Research, Case Studies, Meta-Plans and Qualitative Evaluation of Large Scale Research. These presentations were attended by researchers from prestigious universities such as the Arctic University and Nord University, Norway; University of Debrecen, Hungary; University of A Coruña, Spain; RCSI University, Dublin and the University of Tanzania.

No work was done in the previous government, Minister Pravesh Verma spoke on cleaning of Yamuna

Delhi (Agency): Delhi Minister Pravesh Verma said that the BJP government is committed to cleaning the Yamuna. The 18 big drains that are falling into the Yamuna have to be cleaned. At the same time, he has launched a scathing attack on Arvind Kejriwal. Delhi Water Minister Pravesh Verma inspected the Yamuna Ghat on Wednesday. During this, he attacked the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. He said that Arvind Kejriwal never worried about cleaning Yamuna. No work was done in the previous government. He never thought that Yamuna ji has to be cleaned. Work was not visible even on the papers of that government. He said that the BJP government is determined to clean Yamuna. The 18 big drains that are falling into Yamuna have to be cleaned. There is chemical waste in Yamuna, we will work on it. Continuous work is going on to make Yamuna a front river. Prime Minister



Narendra Modi ji has a campaign that continuous work will be done on it. The government has money and we are also working. You will soon see the road measurement. Many tons of garbage has been lifted in the last few days. Minister Pravesh Verma said that work is going on to run a ferry for tourism, in which there will be only one pick up and one drop. The people of Delhi are appealed to cooperate in cleaning Yamuna. Many departments have supported in cleaning Yamuna and will continue in future too. That is why a double engine government was needed in Delhi. This time Chhath festival will be celebrated with great pomp.