



**Justin Trudeau gave a strong message to Trump, seems to be getting benefit in the election**



**Nitin Gadkari blames faulty DPRs, poor civil engineering for increasing road accidents**

**Alia Bhatt shares her 'creepy' habit when she's having a bad day: 'I look into other people's...'**

## Chief Minister and State President performed Bhoomi Pujan for expansion of Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav is realizing the dreams of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- **Development of capital Bhopal and state will be in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- **Bhopal got an important gift as the first project of the Union Budget**
- **New Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center will become a center of attraction**

**Bhopal (Agency):** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav and State President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma performed Bhoomi Pujan for expansion of Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Center (Minto Hall) on Friday. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the organization of Global Investors Summit in Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya was successful. On this occasion, the need of an international level convention center was felt in Bhopal. Within a few days of the announcement of setting up such a center, its approval has been received from the Government of India. In this way, it has emerged as the first important project of the new Union Budget and soon the development work of

Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre will begin. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with development in various fields, important work is being done to expand public facilities in cities. The development of the capital Bhopal and the state will be in accordance with the vision of the Prime Minister. BJP State President MP Vishnudutt Sharma said that the foundation stone of a historic international level convention centre has been laid today in Bhopal. This centre will prove useful not only for the people of the state but also for the people of the entire country. This centre was needed in Bhopal for a long time, which has started today with the Bhoomi Pujan. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav is

working to make the dreams of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a reality.

State government minister Chetan Kashyap also

Centre (Minto Hall) and the new convention centre. He said that tourism is the identity of Madhya Pradesh. The natural beauty of Bhopal was a topic of



addressed the program.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the kind of convention centre that was needed for big events in the state capital Bhopal will be fulfilled by the expansion of Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention

discussion among the participants of the Global Investors Summit held recently in Bhopal. The state is getting a new identity in wildlife tourism. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers in the country. Madhav National Park has

been declared the 9th Tiger Reserve in the state. A unique example of co-existence of humans and wildlife can be seen in the capital Bhopal, where the distance of Jhiri-Dwar of Ratapani Sanctuary is just 4-5 kilometers from the city. Looking at the number of tigers here, Bhopal can be considered the Tiger Capital. Gharials can also be found in Bhopal's lake. Madhya Pradesh is the only state in our country where there is a settlement of cheetahs, a Gharial Sanctuary in the Chambal region and many Tiger Reserves in the state. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done the work of realizing the saying of Swami Vivekananda, in which the 21st century was predicted to belong to India. Prime

Minister Modi has made unprecedented efforts in all areas of development. India has left England behind as an economic power. In accordance with the vision of the Prime Minister, many important steps have been taken for tourism development in Madhya Pradesh. Khajuraho was the first airport in the state. Now air services will be expanded rapidly in the state. The business sector will benefit greatly from this. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav expressed happiness over the participation of representatives of industry and business world, especially people associated with hotel and tourism industry in the Bhoomi Pujan program. The new center will prove useful for the people of the country and the state - Vishnudutt Sharma

### Crucial READ

**India, Bhutan discuss boundary-related work**

**New Delhi (Agency):** India and Bhutan have reviewed fieldwork along the border between the two countries and finalised a work plan for the next "three field seasons". This was discussed at a two-day meeting in New Delhi that concluded on Friday. "India and Bhutan enjoy unique ties of friendship and cooperation, underpinned by mutual trust, shared values, and utmost goodwill at all levels," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said about the meeting on the boundary-related work. The Indian side at the talks was led by Surveyor General Hitesh Kumar S Makwana.

**WhatsUp? Scams galore**

**New Delhi (Agency):** The call came early in the morning on Thursday. A neighbour of over two and a half decades, now in her mid-70s, asking for help. Her phone, she said, had been hijacked. Someone had seized control of her WhatsApp account. She could see messages coming in, but couldn't reply. Even the housing society's WhatsApp group—normally an endless stream of messages about plumber visits and festival donations—had gone silent. The settings had been changed.

**SC to hear Pegasus snooping case on April 22**

**New Delhi (Agency):** The Supreme Court on Friday said it will on April 22 hear a bunch of petitions related to the Pegasus snooping case. The matter relates to allegations that the Pegasus spyware was used to target Indian politicians, activists, journalists, and businesspersons. The case was last effectively heard in August 2022. A bench of justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh deferred the hearing as it took up journalist Paranjoy Guha Thakurta's petition. It noted several petitions about the same matter were not listed with Thakurta's plea.

## 'Huge and scary': PM Modi flags rise in obesity, cites report estimating 44 crore people obese by 2050



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that obesity poses a serious threat to public health and called on everyone to take proactive steps to address the issue.**

**New Delhi (Agency):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday drew attention to the alarming rise in obesity rates in India, citing a report that warns nearly 44 crore people may be obese by 2050. He called the statistic "huge and scary" and stressed the importance of taking action to curb the growing health concern. On the first day of his two-day visit to Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth ₹2,587 crore in the region. He also launched a food security saturation campaign in Surat. Addressing rallies in Silvassa, the administrative headquarters of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and later in

Surat, Modi highlighted obesity as the root cause of numerous health issues. He urged people to combat the condition by engaging in regular physical exercises and reducing edible oil consumption by 10 percent. "Diseases linked to our lifestyle are posing a huge risk to our health today. Obesity is one of them because it is the root cause of many diseases. According to a recent report, nearly 44 crore people in India may be obese by 2050. This figure is huge, and it is equally scary," said PM Modi.

PM Modi warned that, according to the report, one in every three people in the country could be suffering from obesity by 2050 if the findings prove accurate. He added that obesity poses a serious threat to public health and called on

everyone to take proactive steps to address the issue. "I have already made an appeal that people should reduce their edible oil consumption by 10 percent. I want all of you to take a pledge that you will buy 10 percent less oil. Regular exercises and cycling will also help you in reducing obesity," Modi told the gathering.

The Prime Minister announced that the government plans to open 25,000 new Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country, aiming to provide medicines at affordable prices.

He claimed that middle-class and low-income citizens have saved nearly ₹30,000 crore so far by purchasing medicines from these government-run, subsidised outlets.

The Prime Minister appealed to local residents to work together in transforming the Union Territory into a developed region similar to Singapore.

He said, "There was a time when Singapore was just a small fishing village. But through the determination of its people, Singapore became what it is today. If the people of this UT show the same commitment, I will stand by you in your efforts."

## 5 takeaways from J&K's first budget in 6 years, which Omar Abdullah presented today

**Srinagar (Agency):** From free electricity to the most vulnerable to boosting mobility for women to bolstering press freedom — there were several takeaways as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday presented the first budget for Jammu and Kashmir in six years. Five key ones: **Support for women:** Starting April 1, all women in J&K will be granted free ridership on government-owned public transport, including eBuses. This is the first such initiative for J&K. Expected to ease financial burdens and enhance access to education and employment, the government aims to increase women's mobility, boost

workforce participation, and foster greater independence by removing transport costs. Additionally, under the 'Lakshmi Didi' scheme, the government will support 40,000 women in launching micro-startups, ensuring a sustainable annual income of ₹1 lakh and further advancing economic independence across the UT. **200 units of free electricity for AAY families:** As a poll promise of the National Conference, the chief minister had proposed 200 units of free electricity per month to all Antyodaya families in J&K. Integrated with the PM Suryaghar Bijli Yojana, the initiative will enable installation of grid-connected solar systems,

generating the required power and eliminating electricity bills. With an investment of ₹750



crore spread over five years, the chief minister said, this will also reduce AT&C losses and promote sustainable energy. With the power sector under stress due to high AT&C

## Essential supplies airlifted to avalanche-hit Pangri in Himachal, wet spell expected from March 9

**A fresh Western Disturbance is expected to affect the western Himalayan region from March 9, bringing a wet spell to Himachal Pradesh until March 12.**

**New Delhi (Agency):** Essential supplies, including blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen utensils, solar lights, shoes, warm clothes, food items, and medicines, were airdropped in the avalanche-hit Kumar village in Pangri



tehsil of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh on Thursday, officials said.

The aidrop was carried out by the district administration and the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) after an avalanche on Wednesday blocked roads, leaving residents in

need of essential services, they said. The Chamba-Tissa main road was also blocked near Pukhri on Thursday due to a landslide, further impacting connectivity, they added. The situation has been particularly tough for patients in the remote Pangri area. A 53-year-old man,

Sher Singh of Hudan Batori village, who fell unconscious, had to be carried on a makeshift stretcher for 16 km on snow by local youths from Pangri to Killar, where he was hospitalised, reports reaching here said.

It took the villagers 10 hours to cover the snow-laden stretch, highlighting the dire situation caused by the weather conditions, officials said. Meanwhile, Himachal Pradesh experienced dry weather in the past 24 hours. Moderate fog was observed in Mandi, while gusty winds swept through Tabo, the meteorological office said.

**India's Got Latent row**

## 'Simply not acceptable', says NCW after Ranveer Allahbadia, Apoorva Mukhija issue apology

**New Delhi (Agency):** YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia and Apoorva Mukhija have submitted written apologies to the National Commission for Women (NCW) over their offensive remarks made on the "India's Got Latent" show, panel chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar informed the press reporters on Friday, asserting that their comments were "simply not acceptable". Addressing a press conference, Rahatkar

said the NCW will not accept the use of inappropriate language.



A day earlier, Allahbadia, Mukhija, show producers Saurabh Bothra and Tushar Poojari appeared before the NCW in Delhi, wherein the

two YouTubers were quizzed for hours.

"Four people appeared before the commission — Tushar Poojari, Saurabh Bothra, Apoorva Mukhija and Ranveer Allahbadia. The commission will not accept the use of inappropriate language. Such remarks are simply not acceptable," the NCW chief said.

Rahatkar added that the individuals expressed regret over their remarks.

## Jaguar fighter aircraft from Ambala air base crashes in Panchkula, pilot ejects safely



**Chandigarh (Agency):** A Jaguar aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Morni hills of Panchkula district Friday afternoon after taking off from Ambala air base in Haryana. The pilot managed to eject from the aircraft safely.

A statement issued by the IAF said that the crash took place during a routine training sortie, after encountering a system malfunction. "The pilot maneuvered the aircraft away from any habitation on ground, before ejecting safely. An inquiry has been ordered by the IAF, to ascertain the cause of the accident," the statement said. The IAF has experienced several incidents involving its fleet of SEPECAT Jaguar aircraft in recent years, highlighting the challenges of maintaining an aging fleet. The Jaguar, a British-French supersonic jet attack aircraft, has been a mainstay of the IAF since the late 1970s, primarily used for deep penetration strikes and ground attack roles.



Celebrating women's resilience in insurance sector on Int'l Women's Day

**Staff Reporter Varanasi:** This International Women's Day, PBPartners proudly embraces the global theme "Accelerate Action", reaffirming its commitment to promoting financial inclusion and leadership opportunities for women in the insurance industry. As more women take charge in various sectors, the insurance landscape is witnessing a remarkable transformation, with increased female representation in leadership roles. By leveraging digital adoption and the Point of Salespersons (PoSP) model, PBPartners is bridging gender gaps and empowering women agent partners, particularly in tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India. They are creating opportunities for women across smaller cities and towns—whether as agent partners, employees, or associates. With over 50,000 women agent partners registered in India, the company remains committed to their success through extensive training, advanced technology, and career development initiatives. "Women agent partners are making a remarkable impact in the insurance sector, not only achieving financial independence but also developing trust and awareness within their communities. We are

Why more women agent partners are choosing PBPartners?

One of the biggest challenges women face is balancing their professional ambitions with personal responsibilities. Understanding this, PBPartners provides flexible work opportunities that allow women to manage their careers without compromising on family or personal commitments. Also, becoming an agent partner with PBPartners requires no upfront financial investment, ensuring accessibility for all women. Additionally, PBPartners provides early career opportunities, enabling women to start their insurance journey at 18, helping them achieve financial independence from an early stage.

committed to continuously supporting their growth through training, professional development, and meaningful opportunities that ensure they remain at the forefront of industry trends and customer needs," said Dhruv Sarin, Co-founder of PBPartners. "

Protests continue across 100th day province in protest against privatization of electricity

Central officials of Sangharsh Samiti decided to intensify the movement

**Staff Reporter Mirzapur,** Protests continued on all districts and projects on the 100th consecutive day on the call of the Electricity Employees Joint Conflict Committee, Uttar Pradesh. Central officials of Sangharsh Samiti will be decided to intensify the movement in the meeting being held in Lucknow on March 08. The officials of the Sangharsh Samiti said that it is a matter of great misfortune that the power workers have been protesting continuously for the last 100 days, but the management did not hold talks with the Sangharsh Samiti once during this period. According to the decision of the Sangharsh Samiti, electricity workers are holding protest meetings during food leave or after office time, so that There is no disruption in the work, but it seems that the management has adopted the attitude of



Electrical engineers and employees protesting against the privatization of the electricity department

persistence. He said that this mantra has always been the Sangharsh Samiti - 'Reform and Conflict'. Following this mantra, the Sangharsh Samiti made a record of the best power supply in Mahakumbh along with protests in the past and worked with full power in the success of the OTS campaign. Electricity personnel improvement even in the month of March They are trying to make their campaign a record of maximum revenue collection. He informed that on March 08, a joint meeting of all the constituents of the Sangharsh Samiti in Lucknow has been called by the central officials of the labor associations/service organizations, the convenor and co-ordinator of all the districts and projects. In this meeting, the schedule of protests going on for the last 100 days will be reviewed and the next programs of the struggle were set. Will go

Today, Lucknow, Varanasi, Agra, Meerut, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Basti, Aligarh, Mathura, Etah, Jhansi, Banda, Bareilly, Deopatan, Basti, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Bulandshahr, Saharanpur, Harduaganj, Paricha, Obra, Pipri and Anupara were held. In today's protest meeting, Engineer Deepak Singh, Engineer Vineet Mishra, Ajay Kumar Dubey, Rajesh Kumar Gautam, Surendra Kumar Maurya, Maheshwar Singh, Engineer Pradeep Kumar Maurya, Sanjay Kumar Maurya, Sandeep Chaurasia, Sanjay Kumar Singh, Ram Sajeevan Singh, Shailendra Kumar, Deepak Kumar, Anupam Singh, Tribhuvan Singh, Brijesh Dubey, Prabhat Kumar Maurya, Dinanath Pal, Panchuram, Santosh Kumar, Ravindra Kumar Singh, Prabhat Singh, Rajesh Kumar Bind, Shiva Kumar Singh, Santosh Kumar Singh, etc were present.

Inebriated man kills mother, arrested in UP

**Staff Reporter Shahjahanpur:** A 25-year-old man reportedly murdered his mother with a spear after she interfered in a disagreement between him and his wife here, according to police on Friday. He was arrested. According to Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh S, the event occurred on Thursday night in Ganpatpur village, which is located under the Nigohi police station. Vinod Kumar, who frequently got into domestic conflicts after drinking alcohol, was assaulting his wife. When his mother, Naina Devi, 60, interfered, he assaulted her with a spear, killing her, according to SP. Police arrived at the scene after getting information about the occurrence, took charge of the corpse, and detained the accused, according to the officer. A murder charge has been filed in the case, and the body has been transferred for post-mortem investigation, according to police. Another incidence occurred late Thursday night, when the corpse of a 55-year-old man named Asaram was discovered on the roadway outside Kajjar Bojhi hamlet in the Jalalabad police station area, according to authorities.

BRIEFS Investment in People stands on three pillars – Education, Skill and Healthcare”: PM Modi



**Staff Reporter Varanasi:** Post-budget webinar on "Investing in People" was conducted on March 5 for which Department of Higher Education was the Lead Department along with MSDE. MSDE organized a Breakout session, on "National Centres of Excellence for Skilling", announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, bringing together representatives from state governments, industry, international organizations and academia to discuss the roadmap for effective implementation of the budget announcement.

During the webinar, Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi said, that the vision of investment in people stands on three pillars – education, skill and healthcare. Since 2014, we have provided skill training to over 3 crore youth, announced plans to upgrade 1000 ITIs, and are establishing five Centres of Excellence with global partnership to ensure that our youth can compete at the global level. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also stated that the PM Internship Scheme is providing fresh opportunities and practical skills to the youth by collaborating with industries.

In his closing remarks, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt of India highlighted "the government's commitment to equipping India's youth with future-ready digital competencies. He said that the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship is developing Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Program, aimed at integrating AI literacy with vocational training from as early as Class 6. The Minister emphasized that SOAR aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's vision of skill-based education and aims to foster computational thinking, problem-solving, and industry-aligned AI skills. Through stackable micro-credentials, digital platforms, and partnerships with global tech leaders, students will be able to seamlessly transition from foundational AI learning to advanced careers, strengthening India's position as an AI powerhouse. He further noted that as technology evolves rapidly, India is not just preparing its workforce for AI-driven industries but shaping the next generation of AI innovators and leaders, ensuring inclusive growth and global competitiveness."

As we approach closer to the International Women's Day, the Minister also reaffirmed government's commitment to provide greater opportunities for women in education, skill development, and entrepreneurship.

Olympic medallist Lalit Upadhyay takes home his MG Windsor EV



**Staff Reporter Varanasi:** JSW MG Motor India celebrated the delivery of the MG Windsor to Olympic medallist Lalit Upadhyay, a striker for the Indian men's hockey team. This event reinforces the company's consistent commitment to honouring India's sportspersons and their sporting achievements. This spirit was previously showcased at a large-scale event in Chandigarh last November, where all Olympic medal-winning athletes received the groundbreaking MG Windsor EV. The Windsor, India's best-selling EV for five months in a row, has also contributed to the overall growth of the EV segment in India.

Rakesh Sen, Director, CEM, JSW MG Motor India, said, "Lalit and the entire national hockey team made our nation proud at the Olympics. In recognition of his inspiring journey, we are honoured to present him with the MG Windsor for his extraordinary accomplishments, which reflect and echo MG's spirit of innovation and distinction, inspiring others to push beyond limits and redefine possibilities." Talking on the occasion, Lalit Upadhyay added, "Representing your country at a global event such as the Olympics is an exceptional honour, and being recognised for the wins and accomplishments there by iconic brands like MG makes the journey even more rewarding. I am confident that the Windsor CUV which I have had the pleasure of receiving today will forever symbolise the pride of our team's achievement and the tangible representation of the bond between excellence in sport and innovation in mobility. Thank you, MG, for celebrating this milestone with us."

Advocates important part of our dept, their advice and cooperation incomparable: Mithilesh Shukla

Addl Commr Grade 1, Varanasi Zone visited GST State Office and assured to solve problems

**Staff Reporter Mirzapur,** Additional Commissioner Grade 1, Varanasi Zone Mithilesh Shukla arrived at the GST state office located at Shivala Mahant. He was accompanied by Joint Commissioner (Administration), Varanasi

Zone Anil Singh. Both The officials inspected the state tax office and held a meeting with the officers and discussed various topics. In the meeting, Mr. Shukla appealed to the advocates to provide relief to more and more traders during the stipulated period, promoting the Eminesti Scheme. Advocates also found the big officer of the Varanasi zone and demanded the solution of many departmental problems in which the local stateIssues include issues of office private buildings, dilapidated generators of the office, condition of files scattered here and there,



intervention in judicial work by the state's big administrative officer,

notices being issued incorrectly, firing notices by outside elements (non-

advocates). Additional Commissioner (Grade 1) Varanasi Zone took all the

problems of advocates seriously and to resolve as soon as possibleGave Assurance. During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Durgesh Yadav, Satyaprakash, Assistant Commissioner Nirbhay Mishra, Omprakash Shukla, Sagir Ahmed and Commercial Tax Officers were present, while Manoj Maini, Krishnakant Gupta, Sharda Prasad, Sanjay, Rajesh Gupta, Krishnanand, Anil Singh, Suresh Chandra, Sanjeev Shrivastava, Kush Mishra, Kush Mishra, Kushra Shrivastav Gupta, Ram Ji,People like Rupesh Kumar etc should be present.

Free Medical Camp organized at Bharat Ratna Sardar Patel Hospital Madihan



Trained and eligible doctors doing free check and treatment



Dr. Jagdish Singh Patel and other doctors of the institute giving information regarding free medical treatment

**Staff Reporter Madihan (Mirzapur),** A free camp was organized for medical facilities to the people of the area at Bharat Ratna Sardar Patel Hospital in Madihan under the most backward and plateau area tehsil of the district. In which all the women and men of the area are reaching and taking advantage of medical counseling facility. Bharat Ratna in this regardDr.

Jagdish Singh Patel, director of Sardar Patel Hospital, said that this camp has been organized in the direction of providing health to the people of the area and to check and treat their diseases. In which investigation and treatment is being done by good and trained doctors. He also informed that Ayushman card of people who have completed 70 years are also

being made. So that their fields of medicineCan benefit from Ayushman Card. Dr. Jagdish Singh said that this area was far away from the field of education and medicine as the plateau area and tribal dominated and the people here were forced to go outside the Mirzapur Sadar or district to get treatment. He said that this isTypes also remained very untouched in the field of education. In order to get education, talented students had to go out and go out and bound students to get education could not go due to wealth, due to which their talent would die. He said that seeing this misconduct, the spirit was awakened in me, due to which he tried to develop education and health in this field and today The milestone is being done in the field of field education and health. He said that I am constantly trying in this regard and today in the field of medical and education, it has been successful in supporting the plateau region like Madihan. In the free Chikisa camp, diseases like medicine, singing, liver, ortho, gastro, dental etc. were tested and treated by trained and qualified doctors.

Div Commr holds 50th meeting of Shaktinagar Special Area Authority (SADA)



Shaktinagar Special Area Development Authority meeting and giving instructions to Mandalayukta Balakrishna Tripathi

**Staff Reporter Mirzapur,** The 50th board meeting of Shaktinagar Special Area Development Authority, (SADA) was convened in the Commissioner's Office Auditorium under the chairmanship of Mandalayukta Vindhayachal Mandal/Chairman Sada Balakrishna Tripathi. In which District Magistrate, Chief Development Officer, Associate Planner, Chief Treasurer District Mirzapur, Superintending Engineer Water Corporation, State Government K.K.C.C. Jain and Dharmveer Tiwari, NGO NGOs in Shaktinagar Special Area Development Authority, (SADA) Board, and General Manager Anpara Atemical Project, General Manager Obra Thermal Project as well as Executive Engineer, Provincial Block Public Works Department Sonbhadra, Executive Engineering, Construction Block Public Works Department Sonbhadra, Observatory Engineering, Construction Block-2 Public

Department, Construction Block-2 Public DepartmentThe Executive Engineer, Rural EngineeringThe Sonbhadra participated. In the above meeting, compliance report of the last board meeting of Shaktinagar Special Area Development Authority (SADA) was presented. On which consent was provided with some suggestions, in addition to the above, the construction and development works of about Rs 14.00 crore under the Sada Development area, along with the construction of Sada, on the land located in Gajraj Nagar Obra Sonbhadra Approval was given to construct the boundary wall and under the Bharat Government Amrit 02.0 scheme, it was agreed to nominate the main city and village employer Lucknow to prepare the selected Obra and Anpara to prepare the selected Obra and Anpara in the standards of population with more than 50,000 population.



BRIEFS

Bandhan Mutual Fund launches debt index fund

**Mumbai (Agency).** Bandhan Mutual Fund has launched a new fund called Bandhan CRISIL-IBX 3-6 Month Debt Index Fund. This fund is an open-ended constant maturity index fund and is designed to provide investors with a structured short-term fixed-income investment opportunity. Investors can invest in this NFO from Rs 1,000 and continue investing in multiples of one rupee. Investment can also be started with a minimum SIP of Rs 100. There is no lock-in period and no exit load in this scheme. According to the fund house, the objective of this NFO is to help investors adopt a passive investment strategy to achieve.

Service sector recovered from 26-month low

**Delhi (Agency).** The country's service sector recovered from a 26-month low in February 2025 due to new orders from domestic and international markets. Rapid expansion in production and substantial increase in employment led to service sector activity rising to 59. The HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index had fallen to a 26-month low of 56.5 in January. A chief India economist of HSBC said, global demand, which grew at the fastest pace in six months, played a major role in increasing the pace of production for India's service sector. Service sector companies received more orders from Africa, Asia, Europe, America and Central Asia. Service sector companies continued recruitment drives to handle growing new business and reduce capacity pressure. Employment saw the fastest growth in 20 years since December 2005.

Exports of engineering products from India to America increased

**Delhi (Agency).** Exports of engineering products from India to America increased by 18 percent year-on-year to \$ 1.62 billion in January 2025. This figure shows that India's engineering exports have increased marginally. According to the data released by the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC), engineering exports to the US reached \$ 15.60 billion from \$ 14.38 billion a year ago. Exports to the winning country UAE also saw an increase. Exports of engineering products from India increased to Germany, Mexico, Turkey, South Africa, France, Japan, Nepal and Bangladesh, while there was a decline in the UK, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, China, Italy and Spain. EEPC said that despite the increase in India's engineering exports, the growth has decreased in January. He also said that India's engineering exports are registering positive growth for the ninth consecutive month.

Over 30,000 taxpayers declare foreign assets worth Rs 29,208 crore



**Delhi (Agency).** Over 30,000 taxpayers declared foreign assets worth more than Rs 29,000 crore after a special nudge campaign by the Income Tax Department that began in November 2024, government sources said. About 24,678 taxpayers reviewed their income tax returns (ITRs) and 5,483 taxpayers filed belated returns for assessment year 2024-25, declaring foreign assets worth Rs 29,208 crore and additional foreign income of Rs 1,089.88 crore, they said.

In addition, 6,734 taxpayers revised their residential status from resident to non-resident. Around 62 per cent of nudged taxpayers responded positively, voluntarily revising their ITRs to declare foreign assets and income, sources said.

In November last year, citing compliance with global disclosure norms, the Income Tax Department had urged them to disclose details of foreign assets and income correctly in their income tax returns and file revised returns by December 31, if there was a requirement to update the information. The Department had also started an e-campaign in the next few days to facilitate filing of details of foreign assets and income by taxpayers.

“The number of taxpayers disclosing foreign assets and income on a voluntary basis has steadily grown from 60,000 in AY 2021-22 to 2,31,452 taxpayers in AY 2024-25. This year, due to extensive outreach and awareness efforts, voluntary disclosures witnessed a significant 45.17 per cent growth compared to AY 2023-24,” a source said, adding that the focus is on the ‘Trust First’ approach.

“Instead of immediate verification or intrusive actions, the Department has trusted taxpayers first, giving them ample opportunity to make true and complete disclosures of their foreign income and assets,” the source said.

Nitin Gadkari blames faulty DPRs, poor civil engineering for increasing road accidents

**Delhi (Agency):** Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said that road accidents and fatalities in India are increasing and “the most important culprits are civil engineers”, substandard detailed project reports (DPRs), consultants, and concessionaires . In his address at the two-day Global Road Infratech Summit & Expo (GRIS), Gadkari said: “The most important culprits are civil engineers. I do not blame

everybody, but after 10 years of my experience, I have come to this conclusion.



Culprit are those who are making DPRs. Because of small civil engineering

mistakes, there are hundreds of deaths.”

He further said that even

though there are mistakes, no one is held accountable. “Even small things like the

Two-wheeler sales decline by 6% annually

**Mumbai (Agency).** Retail sales of vehicles fell by 7% year-on-year to 18,99,196 units in February 2025 due to falling demand for various types of vehicles including cars and two-wheelers. A total of 20,46,328 vehicles were sold in February 2024. According to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), retail sales of cars last month fell by 10% to 3,03,398 units from February 2024. A total of 13,53,280 two-wheelers were sold during this period. This figure is 6% less than the 14,44,674 two-wheelers

sold in February 2024. Commercial vehicle sales declined 9 per cent year-on-year to 82,763 units, while tractor sales also declined by 14.5 per cent. Dealers' inventory levels are still at 50-52 days. A FADA official said in a statement that a broad decline was seen across all categories in February. Retailers started raising concerns about vehicles being sent to them without their consent. Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) should avoid burdening retailers with excessive consignments. Hyundai

Motor India, which has long been the second largest vendor in the domestic passenger vehicle market in terms of vehicle sales in March, slipped to the fourth position in terms of retail sales in February. FADA data shows that the company sold 20 per cent fewer vehicles in February. With this, its domestic market share declined to 12.58 per cent. Maruti Suzuki is at number one with 38.94 percent. Mahindra & Mahindra is at second place with 13.15 percent and Tata Motors is at third place with 12.75 percent.

As countries race to develop quantum technology, NITI Aayog flags national security risks

**Delhi (Agency):** Countries that develop quantum capabilities will secure an “unprecedented strategic edge”, which can “jeopardize” national security and economic competitiveness, NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub said in a quarterly release Wednesday. Quantum technologies can crack modern encryption, destabilize financial markets, and transform military capabilities, hence India needs to assess vulnerabilities, adopt post-quantum cryptography, and forge bilateral partnerships for technology access, the release said. Unlike classical computers, which process information in binary (0s and 1s), quantum computing uses quantum bits (qubits) that can exist in multiple states at the same time, allowing it to perform certain tasks much

faster. A sufficiently powerful quantum computer can also break public-key encryption algorithms, in turn making modern internet security, online banking, and secure communications obsolete. Public sector investment in quantum development has increased rapidly, with over \$40 billion pledged by more than 30 governments. China leads with a \$15 billion commitment, the United States has invested \$5 billion, and India plans to invest \$750 million, primarily through the National Quantum Mission (NQM) launched in 2023, the release noted. On India's lower public spending compared to China and the US, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam pointed to the country's success in “frugal innovation”. “If you throw

some money, you won't necessarily get a good solution. I don't think the billions matter. Again, our mission to Mars was the cheapest in the world. We landed on the south pole of



the moon. I am sure that India can genuinely come up with very economical solutions,” Subrahmanyam said. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow at NITI Aayog and chief architect of the Frontier Tech Hub, said, “The quantum race hasn't even started. It's

very early days, and I'm glad that we have got a foot in the door with the quantum mission. We are at least thinking about it and building a foundation.” The NQM, with a budgetary

427 crore to Rs 86 crore in the latest Union Budget. For 2025-26, it is projected to rise to Rs 600 crore. “The Indian quantum mission caught the trend very early and they started the investment early. They had a specific goal, which was to address the hardware issue, because that is going to be a key limiter in quantum. Later on, we'll realize how important that is going to be, not right now. The mission also started growing the startup ecosystem,” Ghosh said. “Companies are increasingly focusing on producing ultra-high purity materials, cryogenic systems, specialized lasers, and control electronics tailored for quantum computing,” the release noted, highlighting the growing importance of specialized quantum hardware.

Donald Trump: High tariffs by India and others unfair, reciprocal tariffs from April 2

**Delhi (Agency):** CRITICISING THE high tariffs imposed by India and other countries as “not fair”, US President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2. Trump's remarks, in an address to the Joint Session of the US Congress, signalled that negotiations for a trade deal may not yield concessions for New Delhi on sweeping duties. He singled out the auto sector, where, he said, India charges tariffs of over 100 per cent. “Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada — have you heard of them? And countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them,” Trump said. “It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs higher

than 100 per cent.” “India charges us 100 per cent tariffs; the system is not fair to the US, it never was. On April 2, reciprocal tariffs kick in. Whatever they tax us, we will tax them. If they use non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we will use non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market,” Trump said. This comes weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US raised hopes in the Indian industry that a trade deal could help India secure relief from sweeping US tariffs in exchange for market access for US products. India had proactively slashed tariffs on a number of items, such as bourbon whiskey, even before negotiations began. Meanwhile, efforts to soften the impact of reciprocal tariffs are ongoing. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal began his US trip on Monday to meet the new United States Trade

Representative (USTR), Jamieson Greer, who has been tasked with implementing Trump's tariff plan. Greer was also part of Trump's first administration, which broadly targeted China, helping create export opportunities for India, particularly in the electronics sector. Trade experts said the US has long been pushing other countries to lower tariffs during multilateral negotiations and that reciprocal tariffs represent a more aggressive attempt to achieve a longstanding US goal. Abhijit Das, a former trade negotiator and an expert in international trade policy and the WTO “They wanted all countries to reduce their bound tariffs, which would have been less ambitious than what the US is attempting now. At that point, under the Doha Round, the US failed to achieve its goal. But through Trump's threat of reciprocal tariffs, he might achieve much more than what the US

wanted during the Doha Round. Beyond pushing for lower tariffs, he may also gain concessions on government procurement and Intellectual Property



Rights (IPRs),” he said. India's high tariffs on automobiles Trump's remarks on high tariffs on automobiles are particularly significant, as India exports nearly 30 per cent of its total auto parts and accessories to the US, its largest export market in this category. In FY24, India exported \$2.12 billion worth of “parts and accessories of motor vehicles” to the US, out of a

total of \$7.20 billion in exports for this commodity classification. Notably, India's auto component exports have been on the rise, primarily

driven by the US market, due to the US-China trade war that Trump initiated during his first term. Total auto component exports jumped from \$4.8 billion in FY19 to \$7.2 billion in FY24, with exports to the US rising from \$1.3 billion to \$2.12 billion over the same period. The Indian automobile industry had hoped to sustain this growth over the next five years, as India currently

road signages and marking system are very poor in the country. These can be copied from countries like Spain, Austria and Switzerland and implemented here,” Gadkari said. He also said that the Indian Road Congress (IRC), the premier body for road & highway standards in India, has become a “pleasure trip organisation”. “Our people are taking advantage of IRC. It is just a part-time organisation. You need continuous

research and find out what is best available in the world and on the basis of that you have to recommend us. Now my target is how many person I am going to suspend, how many contractors to blacklist...Nobody is ready to rectify the mistakes,” said Gadkari. He said that the industry and the government should collaborate to find solutions for building safer infrastructure in place of just holding seminars and discussions.

IndiGo to foray into long-haul segment with flights to Manchester, Amsterdam from July



**Delhi (Agency):** Manchester and Amsterdam will be the first long-haul destinations for India's largest airline IndiGo, with flights expected to be launched in July using the wide-body Boeing 787-9 aircraft that the carrier recently took on damp lease from Norse Atlantic Airways. “The flights to Manchester (3x weekly) and Amsterdam (3x weekly) are expected to commence in July 2025, subject to completion of all operational preparedness and regulatory approvals. With the arrival of additional aircraft from Norse later this year the frequencies could further grow, and in parallel, IndiGo is evaluating multiple other important markets across Europe to further expand its long-haul footprint,” the airline said in a release. In addition to the damp-leased aircraft that has already been inducted by IndiGo, the airline will be taking three more Boeing 787-9 jets from Norse Atlantic on damp lease in the second half of this year. The already-inducted wide-body jet is initially being used to operate flights between Delhi and Bangkok, and will be deployed for flights to Amsterdam and Manchester, most likely from July. As part of its “internationalisation strategy”, IndiGo plans to induct extra-long-range narrow-body Airbus A321 XLR aircraft and wide-body Airbus A350 planes to operate medium- and long-range international flights. While IndiGo will start receiving the A321 XLRs from 2025-26 and the A350s from 2027, the carrier evidently does not want to wait for them to further fuel its international expansion. Therefore, it has decided enter the long-haul market using damp-leased planes. The airline is understood to be in the market for more wide-body leasing opportunities. After dominating the Indian skies with a market share of over 60 per cent, IndiGo has been making concerted efforts as part of its strategy of internationalisation, which entails a rapid expansion of its international network—including foraying into the long-haul segment—given the robust overseas travel demand from India. Over the past two to three years, IndiGo has expanded its international network by adding destinations in regions including Central Asia and the Caucasus, Southeast Asia, and Africa using its narrow-body fleet. Europe, where Air India is the only Indian carrier that operates direct flights, was expected to be the next frontier for IndiGo.



EDITORIAL

Language Politics

Tamil Nadu’s political landscape is once again dominated by a familiar debate – Hindi imposition. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has revived the decades-old resistance against the language, making it a central theme ah ead of next year’s assembly elections. His party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), has historically positioned itself as the guardian of Tamil identity, and this controversy plays directly into its hands. The Centre’s actions, how ever, raise questions. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been trying to gain a foothold in Tamil Nadu, with its state president K. Annamalai emerging as a vocal opposition leader. Yet, by engaging in a public confrontation over language, the BJP risks alienating Tamil voters further. The decision to withhold Samagra Shiksha funds due to nonim plementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) only strengthens the DMK’s narrative of Delhi suppressing Tamil Nadu’s interests. The irony is that the three-language formula is not a BJP creation ~ it dates back to the policies of Indira and Rajiv Gandhi. NEP 2020 does not even mandate Hindi as the third language. Tamil Nadu could opt for Kannada, Telugu, or any Indian language. Yet, Mr Stalin’s rhetoric frames it as a direct assault on Tamil identity, ensuring that language politics remains a potent electoral tool.

Beyond the political theatrics, the real concern is the state of education in Tamil Nadu. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 presents troubling data ~ only 12 per cent of third-grade students can read a seco – nd-grade Tamil text. By eighth grade, a third of students still struggle with basic Tamil reading skills. While Mr Stalin positions himself as the protector of the Tamil language, the se statistics indicate that his government is failing to ensure Tamil literacy among young students. Instead of only opposing Hindi, the state government should prioritise improving Tamil literacy first. Stronger foundational education in Tamil will empower students, regardless of the languages they choose to learn later. The economic reality of India demands multilingualism. Tamil Nadu’s en trepreneurs, engineers, and professionals increasingly in teract with Hindi-speaking counterparts in business and employment. Tech entrepreneur Sridhar Vembu recently pointed out that not knowing Hindi is a disadvantage for Tamil Nadu’s workforce. While resisting Hindi imposition is valid, denying students the option to learn it ~ if they choose ~ could limit their opportunities.

The BJP, too, must reconsider its approach. If it truly believes in linguistic inclusivity, it should implement the Kothari Commission’s re commendation ~ introducing Tamil and other southern languages in Hindi-speaking states. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promoted cultural exchanges like the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, but real inclusivity requires policy action, not just symbolism. As Tamil Nadu heads toward elec tions, the Hindi debate will remain politically useful for both Mr Stalin and the BJP. Yet, the people of Tamil Nadu deserve more than just symbolic battles. A focus on strengthening Tamil education, while also giving students the freedom to learn additional languages, would serve them far better than another cycle of political posturing.

Nepal Policy

India’s relationship with Nepal has always been complex, shaped by historical, cultural, and geographical factors. As a landlocked nation with India on three sides and China on the fourth, Nepal’s strategic significance can not be overstated. However, India’s approach toward Nepal often swings between two extremes ~ either deeply engaged, risking perceptions of interference, or completely disengaged, allowing external players to fill the void. Nei-ther approach serves India’s long-term interests. A balanced, pragmatic policy is the need of the hour. One of the strongest yet underutilised aspects of the India-Nepal relationship is their deep-rooted military connection. The tradition of the Chiefs of Army Staff in both countries being honorary generals in each other’s armies is a unique arrangement that fosters goodwill and enhances mutual understanding. This relationship should be leveraged more effectively to strengthen strategic ties, beyond symbolic gestures. The Gorkha connection, in particular, has long been a bridge between the two nations, yet India’s Agnipath scheme has created uncertainty for Nepalese Gorkhas seeking service in the Indian Army. Addressing Nepal’s concerns while ensuring a steady recruitment pipeline can prevent unnecessary friction.

Border disputes, particularly over the Kalapani region, have also been a recurring irritant. While political leaders often use such disputes to rally nationalist sentiment, ground realities suggest a more practical approach. Local communities on both sides share cultural and economic ties, and their daily lives are rarely disrupted by the political tensions surrounding border claims. Engaging in backchannel diplomacy and people-to-people initiatives can help de-escalate tensions and build consensus. Track 2 dialogues, involving retired officials and experts, could pave the way for formal negotiations to avoid the public posturing that often hardens positions. India must also reassess its economic engagement with Nepal. While Nepal remains dependent on India for essential goods and fuel, Chinese investments and trade have been steadily increasing. Instead of viewing China’s presence with suspicion, India should focus on competing more effectively. Strengthening Nepal’s economic ties with India through better infrastructure, trade incentives, and cross-border connectivity will naturally counter external influence. Indian companies need to adapt to changing market dynamics, particularly in sectors where Chinese firms are making in – roads, such as electric vehicles and consumer goods. Nepal, for its part, wants to maintain good relations with both India and China while safeguarding its sovereignty. This is a realistic approach, and India should respect Nepal’s strategic balancing act rather than react defensively. Overreacting to Nepal’s engagement with China only pushes it further away. Instead, India should ensure that its ties with Nepal remain strong through military co-operation, economic engagement, and cultural diplomacy. A pragmatic, steady approach ~ neither overbearing nor indifferent ~ will serve India’s interests best. By focusing on shared history, strategic interests, and economic opportunities, India can reinforce its position as Nepal’s most trusted partner, ensuring stability in a region where external influences are constantly at play.

Here’s what the Hindi baiters don’t get

Ramvilas Sharma



I am both sad and outraged by the diatribes against Hindi by those who speak in Indian English and shout against “Hindi imposition”. They include many educated Indians from the Hindi heartland. This is a cop-out. The English used here, one can see, has segued smoothly from being the language of India’s former colonial masters to being the code that identifies the UN-certified thought leaders in India, from science to the arts, philosophy to warfare.

India before the 20th century was a deeply multilingual nation. Each region had a language, each language had its own tradition of oral literature and area dialects that fed into the pool. And then there was a particularly fractious history of Hindi vs Urdu. For long, Hindi, Hindvi or Hindustani in spoken form had been the people’s language in the area. Controversy and bitterness first began to be crystallised after the Bhakha Munshis appointed by the British carved out two languages from Hindustani. One was Hindi written in Devanagari (or Nagari for short) script borrowed from Sankrit. The other was Urdu, in a slightly indigenised version of the Persian script. Hindi and Urdu thereafter were propagated through school books and g o v e r n m e n t a l correspondence as the languages of Hindus and Muslims, in that order. The term bhasha that the anti-Hindi lobbyists are using

freely to underscore its Hindu roots (backed perhaps unknowingly by the venerable JLF) is baffling. Bhasha or bhakha has always been the term for an inclusive mélange of dialects spoken in the northern plains: Braj, Awadhi, Kauravi, Maithili, Bhojpuri et al. Around the 13th century, this prototype of Hindi had begun trickling slowly down south, thanks to a two-way movement that Ramanand introduced the north to (“Bhakti Dravid upji laaye Ramanand”). No one saw it as an “imposition” either in the north or the south. Since then, there was a regular flow of pilgrims and sadhus chanting and singing the poems of the northern Bhakti poets. Classical musicians singing the kritis (output) of a hundred poets and vaggeyakaras, the Deccani poets, gave it more muscle and as Mumbai became the capital of visual entertainment, this hybridised Hindi entered Bollywood and TV. Like Elizabethan English the Hindi-Urdu mix in films like Mughal-e-Azam and Garam Hawa has always been more of a liquid bubbling with steam, fumes and a certain fury against a system deemed divisive and supremacist. The real difference between this easy camaraderie of the early Independence years when my generation in the north studied in the Hindi medium, and our present diglossia is that today English enters the minds of Indian children before they have finished setting down their first language. So they end up not with a mother

tongue learnt at home and a language learnt simultaneously in school, but a single competence that is less optimised for picking up local lore and streetmart phraseology and more suited for the ultimate aim — a well paid job. It is a short route for the rich, a long one for the poor. It is this diglossia that is killing local dialects, most of which had no script (except Kaithi and Maithili, now mostly dead in those areas). The Hindi that the government today wishes to crown as the national language is a different kettle of fish. It is firmly moored to a Sanskrit with all its casteist baggage intact. And its highly associational vocabulary is being used to purge thousands of words it assimilated through the centuries from dialects, Islamic and European languages to create the ultimate template for a shuddh, sanitised Hindi. It is ironic that while daggers are being drawn on both sides over the language issue ever since the BJP reignited it, the young in the Hindi belt are abandoning Hindi en masse for English. The parents, including most vociferous supporters of the BJP leadership and Hindi, when it comes to their own children, will root for an English medium education in relatively expensive private schools.

Critics of Hindi must talk more to Hindi writers, journalists and educationists. They will then begin to see that whatever is being made to look real and permanent today was not there yesterday and will be gone tomorrow. But India is well on its way to becoming the world’s largest diglossic speaker of English where the young are fast being reduced to a mob of cultural ignorants on social media. Many simply throw away books and talk about the Hindu faith as though they are Shankaracharyas.

Reserve Bank has invested one lakh crore to stop the fall of the stock market



I t has been more than 5 months, due to the continuous fall in the stock market, investors have suffered a loss of more than 92 lakh crore rupees. Looking at the continuous fall, now the Reserve Bank has taken the charge. Due to the intervention of the Reserve Bank, the stock market has been seen on the green mark for the last two days. The Reserve Bank has announced the issuance of government bonds worth Rs 1.1 lakh crore. The Reserve Bank will invest in the stock market in two phases. The Reserve Bank is going to auction a rupee-dollar buy-sell of \$ 10 billion on March 24 to stop the stock market from falling. The biggest reason for the continuous fall in the stock market is being told to be the selling by foreign portfolio investors. The condition of the banks was getting very weak. To improve the condition of the banks and increase the liquidity of cash in the banks. For this, the Reserve Bank has opened its treasury. Due to the imposition of capital gains on the income of the stock market, the interest of investors has ended from the Indian stock market. Due to the continuous irregularities in the stock market and no action taken by the regulatory body SEBI, foreign investors no longer have any faith in the Indian stock market. Due to which foreign investors are withdrawing their investments and investing in other countries. In such a situation, the Reserve Bank has had to come forward to support Indian banks and stock market. The Reserve Bank will invest Rs 100000 crore in the open market through banks on March 12 and March 18. It will auction USD INR worth 10 billion dollars. The Reserve Bank has come forward to strengthen the stock market. There is an atmosphere of disappointment among domestic and foreign investors regarding the Indian stock market. The country's economy is in the most disappointing phase of these two. Industrial production is at its lowest level in 14 months. Domestic and foreign debt is increasing. Inflation and unemployment are affecting the market. Demand and production are decreasing. The effect of tariff hike by America is being seen in exports and stock market. In the last few months, efforts have been made by banks and Indian financial institutions to stop the decline in the stock market. Whatever investment was made in the stock market in the past, it has disappeared from the market in no time. For the last few years, there have been continuous irregularities in the transactions of the stock market. The market was artificially boomed. Big capitalists have taken advantage of this. Indian investors have also invested their money abroad by booking profits from the Indian stock market. India's foreign exchange reserves are continuously decreasing. Due to global instability, investors have lost faith in the Indian stock market.

Restrictive step that will alienate many

Ramvilas Sharma

In a move that is bound to reignite debates over national identity, immigration, and inclusivity, US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order declaring English as the official language of the United States. This is a historic first as, despite the country’s 250-year history, the US has never had a national language, as is the case in India. While English is undoubtedly the dominant language in American life, this executive order is far from a neutral administrative decision. It must be considered in the context of Trump’s broader political agenda, especially his steps to disassemble diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. The question before us is not just about language but about the fabric of a multicultural and multilingual society and whether such action supports harmony or leads to division. Some people may consider the decision to make English the official language as a good step. The logic is that English is already the de facto language of government, law and business in the US. Supporters argue that making it a de jure language also would help promote national unity and streamline government functions. However, such a perspective overlooks the ulterior negative implications of this decision.

At its core, language is not just a means of communication; it is a marker of identity, history, and culture. The United States, a nation built by immigrants, is home to more than 350 languages, according to the US Census Bureau. Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Arabic are among the most spoken languages besides English. The decision to impose English as the official language sends a clear message: linguistic and cultural diversity is no longer welcome. This move does not occur in isolation. It aligns with Trump’s broader crackdown on DEI programmes, which were created to address historical inequities and ensure greater representation for minorities in education, employment, and governance. His administration’s aggressive stance – eliminating equity-related grants, contracts, and requiring federal contractors to disavow DEI initiatives – suggests that this executive order is not merely about language, but about erasing policies that acknowledge diversity as a strength.

Ironically, many of the earliest settlers who laid the foundation of the United States were non-English speakers. German, French, Dutch and indigenous languages flourished alongside English in colonial America. The unwillingness of past governments to execute an official language originated from the belief that America was

unique specifically because it adapted diversity rather than enforcing uniformity. Even founding figures of the USA like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison never tried to impose English as the national language. The United States thrived for centuries without such a law because language assimilation occurred naturally over generations, without coercion. The assumption that an official language is necessary for national unity is therefore historically unfounded as evident from the situation in India which does not have a single official language but a total of 22 to respect the multilingual cul-



ture. Moreover, multiple studies have shown that immigrants in the US overwhelmingly embrace English. According to research by the Pew Research Center, more than 90 per cent of second-generation immigrants speak English proficiently, and by the third generation, native languages often disappear entirely. If language assimilation is already occurring organically, what purpose does this order serve, if not to stigmatise linguistic minorities? Declaring English as the only official language could have farreaching consequences for millions of non-English speakers in the US. It may pave the way for restrictive policies, such as reducing the availability of government documents and public services.

Such measures could disproportionately affect Latino, Asian, and indigenous communities there, who already face fear of systemic barriers to equal participation in civic life. The economic implications of this move are also worth noting. The US economy benefits significantly from its multilingual workforce. Industries such as healthcare, education, tourism, and

international trade depend much on employees who can communicate in multiple languages. An English-only policy could inadvertently undermine these sectors by discouraging multilingualism rather than embracing it as an asset. The debate over language policy is not unique to the United States. Many countries have grappled with similar questions, and their experiences offer valuable lessons which the US must consider. India, for instance, has a total of 22 officially recognised languages and over 1,600 dialects are spoken in different parts of the country.

Despite a huge linguistic diversity, English serves as a crucial link language alongside Hindi. Rather than enforcing a national language, India has adopted a pragmatic approach that allows multiple languages to co-exist peacefully in governance, education, and daily life. This policy has helped maintain unity in a diverse nation, even as linguistic disputes occasionally flare up. In contrast, the countries that try imposing monolingualism often meet with backlash. In Canada, the imposition of English in historically French-speaking Quebec led to huge political tension, ultimately resulting in a bilingual national policy.

Similarly, in Spain, the suppression of Catalan and Basque languages under Francisco Franco’s regime fuelled resentment and separatist movements that persist to this day. Trump’s executive order will not be final on this issue. Legal challenges are almost certain, particularly if the order is used to restrict access to government services for non-English speakers. Civil rights groups, advocacy organisations, and pro-immigrant lawmakers are likely to push back against any measures that disproportionately harm minority communities. Outside the courtroom, the real trial will be whether American nationals will accept or negate the idea of a monolingual country.

The US has long prided itself on being a land of opportunity, where people from all backgrounds can contribute to society without being compelled to leave their identities. This order disagrees with that intent, substituting it with a narrow, exclusionary definition of American identity. Ultimately, the strength of a country is not determined by the language it mandates, but by the values it upholds. The United States must decide whether it will embrace the pluralism that has defined it for centuries, or retreat into a dividing vision that seeks to erase the very diversity that has made it great. The world, and history, will be watching.







An artist of Sambha School dancing during the carnival in Riare de Janeiro.

## The condition of Bangladesh is bad, people are suffering the consequences of Yunus's wrong decisions

Foreign investors are now reluctant to invest, inflation and unemployment are at their peak

**Dhaka (Agency).** Bangladesh is also now moving towards poverty. The economic crisis in Mohammad Yunus' Bangladesh is increasing. The people of the country are troubled due to Yunus's wrong policies. Yunus is unable to understand how to get Bangladesh out of the economic crisis. The people of Bangladesh are struggling



to get food. Yunus is stuck in his own decisions. Foreign investors are now reluctant to invest in Bangladesh. The prices of food items are skyrocketing. Unemployment is at its peak. Mohammad Yunus is not able to handle Bangladesh. In a media report, sources say that Switzerland has also stopped giving money to

Bangladesh. In the last six months, there has been a huge decline of 71 percent in foreign investment. The inflation rate of food items has reached 10.72 percent, while the inflation rate of other things is 9.32 percent. The Bangladesh government has stopped printing notes. Due to this, there is a cash crisis in the market.

## Accidental bomb drop by South Korean fighter jets in civilian area injures 8 persons

**Seoul (Agency):** Two South Korean fighter jets accidentally dropped eight bombs on a civilian area during training on Thursday, injuring eight persons, officials said. The MK-82 bombs released by the KF-16 fighter jets fell outside a firing range, causing civilian damage, the air force said in a statement. The air force said it would establish a committee to investigate why the accident happened and examine the scale of the civilian damage. It said the fighter jets were taking part in the air force's joint live-firing drills with the army. An unidentified air force official told local reporters that a pilot of one of the KF-16s put in a wrong coordinate for a bombing site. An unidentified Defence Ministry official also told reporters that more investigation was needed to find why the second KF-16 also dropped bombs on a civilian area. The contents of the officials' briefing were shared with foreign media. The air force apologised and expressed hopes for a speedy recovery of the injured people. It said it will actively offer compensation and take other necessary steps. The accident happened in Pocheon, a city close to the heavily armed border with North Korea. In a televised briefing, Pocheon Mayor Paek Young-hyun called the bombings "awful" and urged the military to halt drills in the city until it formulates reliable steps that can prevent a recurrence. He said that Pocheon, a city of 1.40,000 people, provided three major firing ranges for the South Korean and US militaries. The military said it had decided to suspend live-fire drills in Pocheon. Paek described Thursday's training as a joint drill with the US military. But the South Korean Defence Ministry couldn't immediately confirm that. Pocheon's disaster response centre said six civilians and two soldiers were injured and were being treated at hospitals. Four of the injured — all civilians — were in a serious condition, the centre said. Two of the seriously injured are foreigners — one from Thailand and the other from Myanmar.

**Brussels (Agency):** Facing the prospect that the United States might cut them adrift under President Donald Trump, European Union leaders launched a day of emergency talks Thursday in a bid to beef up their own security and ensure that Ukraine will still be properly protected. Friedrich Merz, the likely next chancellor of Germany, and summit chairman Antonio Costa discussed over breakfast in Brussels ways to fortify Europe's defences on a short deadline. Merz pushed plans this week to loosen the nation's rules on running up debt to allow for higher defence spending. Meanwhile, the 27-nation bloc was waking up to news that French President Emmanuel Macron would confer with EU leaders about the possibility of using France's nuclear deterrent to protect the continent from Russian threats. It all underscored the sea change that has taken place in the two months since Trump took office

## Justin Trudeau gave a strong message to Trump, seems to be getting benefit in the election

**Ottawa (Agency).** General elections are to be held in Canada this year, the countdown for which is going on. The chair of the current PM Justin Trudeau seems to be in danger, whether his government will remain or not, only time will tell, but before that there is a good news for the ruling Liberal Party. Khalistani-loving party Liberal seems to be getting the benefit of US President Donald Trump's tariff war. According to media reports, Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party seems to be getting an edge in the new survey. According to the report, a few months ago

Justin Trudeau's ruling Liberal Party seemed to be losing the 2025 elections. In opinion polls, PM Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party was 26 percent behind the opposition Conservatives. Due to inflation crisis and anger against Justin Trudeau, the support of the Liberal Party had decreased. People were against him. Not only this, before the upcoming elections, the demand for Trudeau's resignation had increased, but now the tables seem to be turning. Experts say that the political atmosphere of Canada is changing due to many

reasons. US President Donald Trump is repeatedly

that the people of Canada are happy. This is the reason why



threatening Canada with a tariff war. Trudeau seems to be benefiting from Trump's threats to Canada, the way Trudeau is responding to US President Trump, it seems

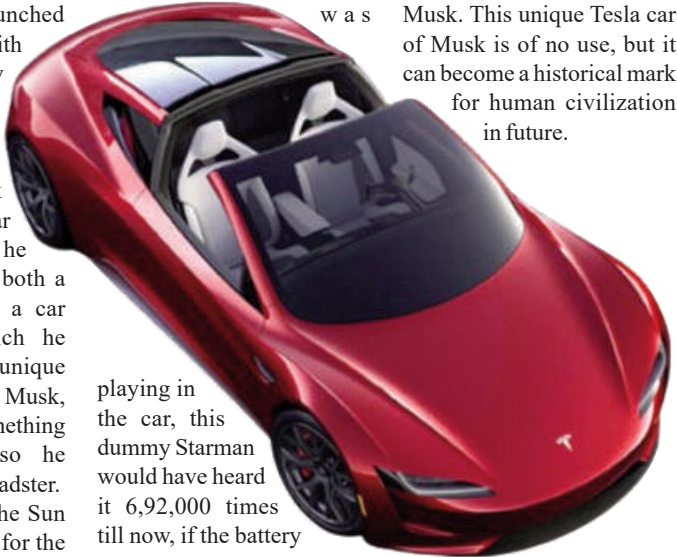
people are coming in favor of the Liberals. A recently released survey has shown that Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party was behind the Conservatives till now but

now it has reduced this gap. According to a report released last week, Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party has been shown to be gaining an edge over the Conservatives for the first time since 2021. Trudeau's party seems to be making a comeback in the survey. Surprisingly, the Liberals were surrounded till two months ago. The Liberal Party has moved ahead in the survey. Experts believe that the way Trudeau is responding to Trump's tariff war, the people of Canada are again standing with him and Trudeau may benefit from this in the elections.

## Tesla Roadster car orbiting the Sun for 7 years

**Washington (Agency).** The Tesla Roadster car sent into space 7 years ago by SpaceX, the company of the world's richest industrialist Elon Musk, is still orbiting the Sun. This car was launched on 6 February 2018 with a Falcon Heavy rocket, in which a Starman dummy was also seated in the driver's seat. Musk decided to send this car into space because he could do it! He had both a space company and a car company, with which he carried out this unique mission. According to Musk, he wanted to send something the most stupid, so he launched the Tesla Roadster. This car is orbiting the Sun and it takes 557 days for the

Roadster to complete one revolution. So far this car has traveled 3.5 trillion miles. During the launch, David Bowie's famous song Space Oddity was



playing in the car, this dummy Starman would have heard it 6,92,000 times till now, if the battery

### How is this car

Tesla Roadster is an electric car which was made in the year 2010. At the time of launch, the car was permanently mounted in an inclined position on top of the payload adapter on the rocket. Tubular structures were added to mount the front and side cameras. Pictures of the car were released before payload encapsulation. Starman is seated in the driver's seat, which is a human dummy in a SpaceX pressure spacesuit. This dummy is placed with its right hand on the steering wheel and the left elbow on the open window sill. The mannequin was named after David Bowie's song Starman.

## Couples are succeeding in saving their relationship with the help of AI

**Washington (Agency).** Since the introduction of ChatGPT, its trend has increased in America. People have started taking advice from ChatGPT for their relationship as well. Earlier, people used to resort to traditional therapy to solve this problem. In this, a fee of more than \$ 400 has to be paid. In such a situation, ChatGPT has emerged as an affordable option. However, ChatGPT is still in its early stages and it needs to be kept in mind that the advice given by it is often general and limited.

## EU leaders open emergency summit on defence and Ukraine aid as US security support wanes



**Limited room to increase spending:** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed a plan to loosen budget rules so countries that are willing can spend much more on defence. Her proposal is underpinned by 150 billion euros (\$162 billion) worth of loans to buy priority military equipment. Most of the increased defence spending would have to come from national budgets at a time when many countries are already overburdened with debt. France is struggling to reduce an excessive annual budget deficit of 5 per cent of GDP,

after running up its total debt burden to 112 per cent of GDP with spending on relief for businesses and consumers during Covid and the energy crisis that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Five other countries using the euro currency have debt levels over 100 per cent of GDP: Belgium, Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Europe's largest economy, Germany, has more room to borrow, with a debt level of 62 per cent of GDP. **Pressing security needs:** Part of any security plan is also to protect the increasingly beleaguered position of Ukraine. A Rus-

sian missile killed four people staying at a hotel in Zelenskyy's hometown overnight. He said that a humanitarian organisation's volunteers had moved into the hotel in Kryvyi Rih, in central Ukraine, just before the strike. The volunteers included Ukrainian, American and British nationals, but it wasn't clear whether those people were among the 31 injured. Early this week, Trump ordered a pause to US military supplies to Ukraine as he sought to press Zelenskyy to engage in negotiations to end the war with Russia, bringing fresh urgency to Thursday's summit. Thursday's meeting is unlikely to address Ukraine's most pressing needs. It is not aimed at urgently drumming up more arms and ammunition to fill any supply vacuum created by the US freeze. Nor will all nations agree to unblock the estimated 183 billion euros (\$196 billion) in frozen Russian assets held in

a Belgian clearing house, a pot of ready cash that could be seized. Still, the Europeans underlined the importance of the moment. "Europe faces a clear and present danger on a scale that none of us have seen in our adult lifetime. Some of our fundamental assumptions are being undermined to their very core," von der Leyen warned in a letter to the leaders ahead of their meeting. But perhaps the biggest challenge for the EU will be to take a united stance at a moment when it's fractured, since much of what the bloc does requires unanimous support. Hungary is threatening to veto part of the summit statement on Ukraine. Even if the challenges are so daunting, Thursday's summit is unlikely to produce immediate decisions on spending for Ukraine or its own defences. Another EU summit where the real contours of decisions would be much clearer is set for March 20-21.

## Global Terrorism Index 2025: Pakistan becomes world's second-most terrorism affected country

**Islamabad (Agency):** According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2025 report, Pakistan has now become the second-most terrorism-affected country in the world, moving up from its previous position at fourth, as reported by Geo News. The country saw a dramatic 45 per cent increase in terrorism-related fatalities, with deaths rising from 748 in 2023 to 1,081 in 2024. This sharp surge marks one of the highest increases globally. Additionally, the number of terrorist attacks more than doubled, jumping from 517 incidents in 2023 to 1,099 in 2024. This marks the first time since the inception of the GTI that attacks surpassed the 1,000 mark, as reported by Geo News. According to Geo News, this troubling rise in terrorism coincides with a

recent terrorist attempt on the Bannu Cantonment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where security forces suc-

cessfully thwarted an intrusion by killing all 16 militants involved. However, the attack resulted in the deaths of five soldiers and 13 civilians, as confirmed



cessfully thwarted an intrusion by killing all 16 militants involved. However, the attack resulted in the deaths of five soldiers and 13 civilians, as confirmed

Afghanistan's territory in fueling terrorism in Pakistan. It links the escalation in attacks to the rise of the Afghan Taliban's power in Kabul. Militant groups, par-

ticularly the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have intensified their operations, especially along the

Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The TTP remains the deadliest group, responsible for 52 per cent of all terrorism-related deaths in Pakistan. In 2024, the TTP

carried out 482 attacks, resulting in 558 deaths -- a sharp 90 per cent increase from the previous year, Geo News reported. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been identified as the most heavily affected provinces in Pakistan, with these regions bearing the brunt of the ongoing terrorist violence, as reported by Geo News. The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) has released the Global Terrorism Index 2025, offering an in-depth overview of terrorism trends and patterns over the past 17 years. The report ranks 163 countries, representing 99.7 per cent of the global population, based on the impact of terrorism. Key indicators considered include the frequency of terrorist attacks, fatalities, injuries, and the number of hostages.

## French President says Russia's aggression "knows no borders"

**Paris (Agency):** French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday said Russian aggression "knows no borders" and is a direct threat to Europe as European Union leaders prepare to hold emergency talks in Brussels in the wake of the Trump administration's stance on transatlantic ties, Al Jazeera reported. "Who can believe that this Russia of today will stop at Ukraine?" Macron said in a televised address late on Wednesday, as per Al Jazeera. In a post on X, Macron said, "Our generation will no longer receive the peace dividend. It is up to us to ensure that our children reap the dividends of our commitments tomorrow. So we will face it, together." Macron warned that Europe must be prepared to stand alone in the face of Russian aggression. "I want to believe the US will stay by our side," said Macron. "But we have to be ready if that isn't the case." "The future of Europe does not have to be decided in Washington or Moscow," he added. Macron added that he plans next week to hold a meeting of army chiefs from

European countries willing to send troops to Ukraine after any eventual peace deal with Russia, as per Al Jazeera. Macron also said he would discuss with his European partners extending French nuclear deterrence to other countries on the continent, but that the decision and control would continue to remain in the French president's hands. "France will follow only one course: that of the will for peace and freedom, faithful to its history and its principles. The homeland needs you and your commitment," Macron said in a post on X. As per Al Jazeera, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Macron's speech in which he called Russia a threat to France and Europe was "extremely confrontational". The speech indicates that France is thinking about "continuing the war". Macron did not say anything about NATO's expansion towards Russia's borders, as per Kremlin. "One can conclude that France thinks more about war, about continuing the war," said Peskov.





end her life. This statement was echoed by her daughter, who met the media outside the hospital. The daughter told reporters, "Please do not manipulate any information without proper validation. There are no problems in my family, and they are happy as a couple, and I am happy too. My mother is perfectly fine, and she will be back home in a few days."



## Ready for the final against India: Mitchell



**Dubai (Agency).** New Zealand batsman Daryl Mitchell said that his team will play with full strength in the ICC Champions Trophy match to be held on Sunday. Mitchell Said that there is no pressure on his team due to the defeat against the Indian team in the league match because this is a new match. New Zealand has made it to the final of the Champions Trophy by defeating Pakistan by 50 runs in the second semi-final held at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. At the same time, the Indian team defeated Australia in the first semi-final. Mitchell said, 'The final will be a new match and we are really excited to face this tough challenge and adjust to the conditions. Hopefully we will be able to put pressure on the Indian team. Regarding India getting the advantage of playing at one place, Mitchell said, 'This is the nature of international cricket. We have traveled a lot and now we have become used to it. It is not my job to prepare the schedule of the tournament. I am excited about reaching the final of the ICC tournament and am eagerly waiting for the next match. The Kiwi team has defeated South Africa by 50 runs by scoring 362 runs in the semi-final.



*Gianluca Mancini of AS Roma and Nicolo Picilli in action with Ander Herrera of Athletic Bilbao during the AS Roma vs Athletic Bilbao match in the first leg of the Round of Europa League Soccer Football.*

## This strange coincidence about the Indian team is making Indian sports lovers worried

**New Delhi (Agency):** The final match of the Champions Trophy will be played in Dubai on March 9. India will face the New Zealand team. But before the final match, such a coincidence has happened, which has blown the senses of Indian sports lovers. In fact, so far it has happened twice, when in ICC events, India has played the final against the same team that it defeated in the league match. And both times the Indian team has had to face defeat in the final. It is worth noting that in the Champions Trophy 2025 also, India has

defeated New Zealand in the league stage. Now both are face to face again in the final match. India's streak of losing against Pakistan in the 2017 Champions Trophy league stage and losing in the final started in 2017. Then India and Pakistan were in Group B. In the league match, India batted first and scored 319 runs for 3 wickets. Rohit, Shikhar, Virat and Yuvraj played good innings. After this, Pakistan was all out for 164 runs. But when these two teams played in the final, the story changed completely. Batting first, Pakistan set a huge target of

338 runs. In front of this, the Indian team was all out for 158 runs. Only Hardik Pandya could save some respect by playing an innings of 70 runs. A similar case happened in the ODI World Cup played in the year 2023. This match between Australia and India was the 5th match of the ICC World Cup. Australia batted first and scored 199 runs. At the same time, India won this match by scoring 201 runs. For India, Kohli scored 85 runs and KL Rahul scored 97 runs. While Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer were out on zero.

## Babar Azam out of the team, sad father has full hope of return

**New Delhi (Agency).** Babar Azam is facing the brunt of poor performance in the Champions Trophy 2025. He could score only 122 runs in 5 matches of the Champions Trophy being played in ODI format. For this reason, the Pakistan Cricket Board has dropped Babar from the T20 team released for the New Zealand tour. Due to poor form, Babar is facing criticism from cricket fans in his own country. Meanwhile, Babar's father also appeared sad after being dropped from the T20 team. Babar's father Azam Siddiqui posted that if someone answers, then the



former cricketers who criticize him will not be able to tolerate it. Azam questioned those whose own record is not good. Azam said how was his performance during his playing days? People say that a father speaks too much, but I am Babar's first and last coach. I am his spokesperson and mentor and his truest well-wisher. Azam Siddiqui said

that his son will return to the T20I team by performing well in PSL and National T20 Cup.

### Pakistan ODI team against New Zealand

Mohammad Rizwan (captain), Salman Ali Agha (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Akif Javed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Wasim Jr., Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Sufyan Moqim and Tayyab Tahir.

### Pakistan T20 team against New Zealand

Salman Ali Agha (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Nawaz, Jahandad Khan, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousuf, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim and Usman Khan.

## Indian team management can give chance to this bowler in place of Kuldeep



**New Delhi (Agency).** Indian cricket team will face New Zealand in the final of ICC Champions Trophy 2025. In the semi-finals, India defeated Australia to make it to the final, but now the team management is preparing for an important change. A new player can be included in the bowling lineup, which will strengthen the team's bowling. In the semi-final match against Australia, the Indian team won by 4 wickets, but some shortcomings were also revealed in the match. Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav did not look that effective, due to which the team felt the lack of an additional fast bowler. Keeping this in mind, Harshit Rana can get a chance in place of Kuldeep in the final match. Team India's opening pair will be Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill in the final against New Zealand as well. However, this pair could not

perform anything special in the semi-finals, but a big innings will be expected from both in the final. At the same time, Virat Kohli is in excellent form these days and was also the hero of the semi-finals. At the same time, Shreyas Iyer's place is confirmed at the fourth position. There will not be much change in the middle order of the team. Akshar Patel's place at number 5 is fixed, who is a useful spin all-rounder. At the same time, KL Rahul will play the role of wicketkeeper. Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja are going to be present in the team as all-rounders, who can perform effectively with both bat and ball. At the same time, the team management can give a chance to fast bowler Harshit Rana in place of Yadav. Apart from this, Varun Chakraborty will be included in the spin department, who can trouble

## Rohit will have to change his attitude in the power play to play a long innings: Gavaskar

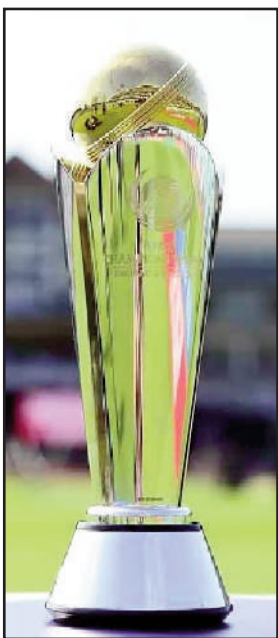


**Dubai (Agency).** Indian team captain Rohit Sharma has not been able to score big in the Champions Trophy so far. In such a situation, former captain Sunil Gavaskar believes that Rohit should play a long innings instead of being an aggressive batsman in the power play. At the same time, coach Gautam Gambhir has defended Rohit's aggressive attitude. Gambhir said that we do not look at average or runs, but look at

intent, while Gavaskar believes that the Indian team is in the final of the Champions Trophy 2025 and everyone will expect a big innings from Rohit. Gambhir had said after the semi-finals that the dressing room judges Rohit not on the basis of statistics, but on the basis of the impact created by his explosive start at the top. On the other hand, Gavaskar said that Rohit should reconsider his attitude, he

## If Team India wins on March 9, it will create history

**Dubai (Agency).** The final of ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is to be held. Team India has reached the final by winning all the matches. This title match will be held against New Zealand on March 9 at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. This time if Team India wins the title, it will make a special record in its name and leave the Australian team behind. In fact, as soon as it wins the final, Team India will make the record of winning the ICC Champions Trophy 3 times, the most in cricket history. This is the 9th season of the Champions Trophy which is being played under the hosting of Pakistan. So far Team India and Australia have won the title 2-2 times. India defeated the Kangaroo team in the semi-finals and dashed its hopes.



In such a situation, now Team India has a chance to make a record of winning the third title. Team India first became the champion in this third i.e. 2002 season played

in Sri Lanka. Then Team India and Sri Lanka jointly won the title. Whereas in the 2013 season, the team won this title under the captaincy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni. After 2013, the Champions Trophy was also held in England in 2017. Then

Pakistan became the champion for the first time by defeating India. After this, the tournament was to be held in 2021, but it was postponed due to the Corona epidemic. Now after about 8 years, this tournament is being held again.

### Teams that won the Champions Trophy

#### Year Winner Result

1998 South Africa beat West Indies by 4 wickets  
2000 New Zealand beat India by 4 wickets  
2002 India-Sri Lanka joint winner match ended in a draw  
2004 West Indies beat England by 2 wickets  
2006 Australia beat West Indies by 8 wickets  
2009 Australia beat New Zealand by 6 wickets  
2013 India beat England by 5 runs  
2017 Pakistan beat India by 180 runs

#### Indian team in Champions Trophy 2025

Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakraborty, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh and Washington Sundar.

## This is the reason why Virat scores big



**Dubai (Agency).** Before the Champions Trophy, questions were being raised on the form of the experienced Indian batsman Virat Kohli, but Virat has given a befitting reply to his critics as soon as the tournament started. Virat scored a century in the crucial match against Pakistan in this

strike. As soon as he comes on the pitch, he starts taking one or two runs. He keeps rotating the strike, which keeps the scoreboard moving forward. This is the reason why he puts pressure on the opposing team while chasing the target. Virat's ability to rotate the strike is also behind his success. This can be estimated from the fact that Virat has taken one or two runs more in his innings than former cricketer and current coach Gautam Gambhir. Gambhir has scored a total of 5238 runs in 147 ODIs. On the other hand, since the year 2000, no one has matched Virat in terms of taking single runs in ODIs. Virat has taken a total of 5868 runs by running. His fitness can be estimated from this. He has proved that matches can be won even without hitting many boundaries. Only Eoin Morgan (6957) and Joe Root (6859) have taken more single runs than Virat in ODIs.

## Champions Trophy: Stir in advertising market, rates at record level



**New Delhi (Agency).** The result of the big match of Champions Trophy 2025 against New Zealand on March 9 is awaited, but even before that there has been a stir in the advertising market. According to reports, the prices of a 10-second advertising slot for the final match have exceeded Rs 40 lakh. Ahead of this high-voltage match, advertising rates on TV and digital platforms have reached record levels, which is likely to give huge profits to broadcasters and digital platforms. Advertising rates on digital platforms have reached Rs 725 per thousand impressions (CPM). At the same time, during other matches of India, these rates were up to Rs 500 per 10 seconds, but due to the final it has increased rapidly. The rates of Run of Site (AOS) advertisements have also reached Rs 575. According to advertising industry experts, the audience is looking at the Champions Trophy, which is returning after eight years, as a mini World Cup, which has led to a huge increase in the number of viewers. Vivek Menon, managing partner of NV Capital, said that India's reaching the final has led to a tremendous boom in the advertising market. Advertising rates were seen rising in the first few matches of the tournament, but as India progressed, brands increased their investment amount. During the India-Pakistan match, the prices of advertising slots had reached Rs 50 lakh per 10 seconds, which are now almost at the same level for the final. According to media reports, the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) said that the India vs Pakistan match had recorded 60.2 crore views, which was the biggest attraction of the tournament. The first three matches of the Champions Trophy itself attracted 11 crore TV viewers. According to the information, advertising revenue of about Rs 1,500 crore is expected from the entire tournament.



# Compensation scam in the construction of Kundaliya Dam Project on Kalisindh River between Rajgarh and Agar-Malwa districts

Displacement allowance issued in the name of minors, 5.85 crores defrauded

**Lokayukta filed FIR against 107 including 9 officers**

**Bhopal/Ujjain (Agency):** Ujjain Lokayukta has filed FIR against 107 people in the case of withdrawing Rs 5 lakh each in the name of children from the rehabilitation allowance given to displaced people in the dam construction. These include 9 officers as well. Who, in collusion with people, caused a loss of more than 5 crores to the government.



Kundaliya Dam Project has been constructed on Kalisindh River between Rajgarh and Agar-Malwa districts at a cost of Rs 3448 crore. Due to which 1,30,639 hectares of area will be

irrigated. Construction of Kundaliya Dam was approved in 2017 in Nalkheda village Bhandav. People coming under the dam construction were to be displaced. Under this, a

special rehabilitation allowance of Rs 5 lakh was fixed for displacement of men above 18 years of age and unmarried women above 18 years of age. It is worth mentioning that earlier, the District Collector had an inquiry conducted into the matter of getting compensation worth crores by declaring minors as adults and tampering with their birth dates in the documents in village Bhandav and 3 surrounding villages falling in the submergence area of Kundaliya Dam, in which a scam of about 5 crores was exposed. After this, instructions were given to register an FIR against the concerned.

## Allowance was obtained by tampering with the documents

Lokayukta DSP Rajesh Pathak said that the scrutiny of the applications of the people getting the allowance and the necessary documents related to identity and age was to be done by a joint committee of Women and Child Development Project Officer, Block Education Officer, Revenue Inspector, Patwari, Gram Panchayat Secretary, Anganwadi Worker. The people of village Bhandav, in collusion with 9 officers, made illegal gains of Rs. 5 lakh each against the rules by making alterations in the identity and age related documents like mark sheet, Aadhar card, etc. along with the application forms of their minor children below 18 years of age and showing the minor children as adults with the help of the officers and middlemen of the said committee.

## Payment of Rs. 5.85 crore without investigation

The documents were not verified by the committee. Due to which ineligible minor beneficiaries received illegal payment of Rs. 5.85 crore under the special rehabilitation allowance of Kundaliya Dam displacement. In this case, Ujjain Lokayukta has registered an FIR against 107 people including 9 officials, middlemen and beneficiaries under section 7B 13 (1), 13 (2) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (Amendment Act 2018) and section 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of Indian Penal Code.

## Investigation was going on since 2016

Lokayukta has been investigating the scam in land acquisition and other compensation cases of Kundalia Dam since 2016. Apart from 3 collectors, 4 deputy collectors and 3 tehsildars including patwaris, many officers of the water resources department were included in the scope of Lokayukta investigation. Some of them have even retired. While some have been transferred to other districts. But the scams of their time are coming to light now. Lokayukta has also obtained information from the District Treasury of Agar district about how much money has been given to whom in the name of compensation in Kundaliya Dam between 2016 and 2024.

## BRIEF NEWS

### IFS officer commits suicide in Delhi's Chanakyapuri

**Delhi (Agency):** An IFS officer has committed suicide by jumping from a building in Delhi's Chanakyapuri area. The name of this IFS officer is Jitendra Rawat. Jitendra was in depression for a long time. He committed suicide at 6 am. A sensational case has come to light from Delhi. An IFS officer has committed suicide by jumping from a building in Chanakyapuri area. The name of this IFS officer is Jitendra Rawat. According to the information, Jitendra was in depression for a long time. He committed suicide at 6 am. Jitendra lived on the first floor of MEA's residential society in Chanakyapuri. Only his mother was at home. His wife and 2 children live in Dehradun. He was in depression and was undergoing treatment. As soon as the information about the case was received, Delhi Police and officials reached the spot. At present, it has been found out that the officer was in depression for the last few days. No more information has been obtained. Police is investigating the case from every angle. The officer has not found any suicide note from the spot. There are many diplomatic missions and government residences in Chanakyapuri. IFS is a diplomatic service under the Ministry of External Affairs of India. The police is also trying to find out why the officer was in depression. On this incident of suicide, a police officer said that an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer in Chanakyapuri area committed suicide by jumping from the fourth floor. The deceased has been identified as Jitendra Rawat, aged 35 to 40 years. We have started investigating the matter. There is no possibility of any foul play. Sources said that he was living on the first floor and went to the fourth floor and jumped.

### Aatishi wrote a letter to CM Rekha Gupta, reminded of PM Modi's promise

**Delhi (Agency):** Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly and MLA from Kalkaji Atishi has once again written a letter to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. She has written a letter to the CM regarding Mahila Samridhi Yojana in Delhi. Atishi has written in the letter that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that Rs 2500 will come in the accounts of women of Delhi on Women's Day. Now only one day is left for Women's Day. AAP leader Atishi has written a letter to CM Rekha Gupta on behalf of lakhs of mothers and sisters of Delhi. She said, I want to remind you that on 31 January 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised the mothers and sisters of Delhi in a rally held in Dwarka that as soon as the BJP government is formed, the plan to give Rs 2500 per month will be passed in the first cabinet meeting. Money will start coming into the accounts of women on Women's Day. Atishi further said, PM Modi had advised all women to link their mobile number to their bank account. So that when money comes into their account, they can get information about it on their phone. Now only one day is left for Women's Day. Women of entire Delhi are eagerly waiting for this day. They are hoping that the first installment will start coming into their accounts from March 8, as promised by the BJP. The Aam Aadmi Party has reminded the BJP of its promise by releasing a poster on its official X handle. The party has written in the poster that only one more day is left for March 8 to arrive. Modi ji will fulfill his guarantee and send Rs 2500 to the accounts of the mothers and sisters of Delhi. This poster has included photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National President JP Nadda, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, Minister Praveesh Verma and MP Manoj Tiwari, reminding the promise of giving Rs 2500 to the women of Delhi.

### Two Bangladeshis caught in Madipur were both looking for a hideout

**Delhi (Agency):** Police have caught two Bangladeshis citizens who were looking for a new hideout to hide in Madipur, Delhi. Both have been deported. Both had come to India on work visa and were living secretly in India even after the visa expired. The arrested Bangladeshis have been identified as Sajal Mian and Mohammad Ali. Western District Deputy Commissioner of Police Vichitra Veer said that the police is continuously running a campaign to identify and arrest illegal Bangladeshis. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the Punjabi Bagh police station received information about two suspects. On the information, the Madipur outpost police took both of them into custody. On interrogation, it was found that both are Bangladeshi citizens. They currently live in Madanpur Khadar area and had come to this area in search of a hideout to hide themselves.

## Take necessary steps for the conservation of Bhopal's Bada Talab: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

The discharge from industrial units should be treated in the plant itself

**Bhopal (Agency):** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that Bhopal's Bada Talab is a part of our rich heritage, necessary steps should be taken for its conservation by conducting a survey. Action should be taken against illegal constructions being done around the Bada Talab and structures blocking the water coming from Sehore to the Bada Talab. All responsible officers should be alert towards the construction activities being done around Bhopal Talab and take immediate action against them. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav gave these instructions in the review meeting of the Environment Department held at the Chief Minister's residence. Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Chief Minister's Office Dr. Rajesh Rajoura, Secretary Environment Navneet Mohan Kothari and other officials were present in the meeting. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that to keep the rivers and other water structures of the state free from pollution, there is a

need to be vigilant towards the industrial units around them. It should be ensured that the discharge from the industrial units is treated in the plant itself, this system should also be applicable to



big hotels. In the meeting, instructions were given to continuously monitor the quality of water of Kshipra and Kanh rivers in view of Simhastha-2028 and to run special activities for public awareness in this regard. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that universities should also be associated to study the condition of aquatic life, aquatic vegetation and water quality in water structures. It is necessary to control the mining activities taking

place around the rivers. Along with this, the responsibility of the urban body and Panchayat and Rural Development Department should be fixed to fill the pits left after

mining. The places left after mining can be developed as ponds, this will also improve the water level of the surrounding area. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that under the National Clean Air Program, special efforts should be made to improve the air quality of Indore, Ujjain, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Dewas and Sagar as well as Singrauli and Mandideep. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that to improve air

quality, a campaign should be run with the Environment Department and the Agriculture Department to motivate farmers not to burn stubble. To reduce dust and pollution in urban areas, special care should be taken in construction activities and the use of ready mix concrete should be encouraged. He also stressed the need to be alert towards pollution caused by old vehicles.

It was informed in the meeting that efforts are being made to notify 10 ponds of the state namely Bhoj Wetland Bhopal, Sirpur Wetland and Yashwant Sagar of Indore, Sakhya Sagar, Jadhav Sagar and Madhav Sagar of Shivpuri, Sita Sagar of Datia, Sindh Sagar of Ashoknagar, Amrit Sagar of Ratlam and Sagar pond of Sagar as per the provisions of wetland rules. Madhya Pradesh is among the first five states of the country in terms of number of Ramsar sites. According to Wetland Atlas-2021, the work of physical verification and demarcation of 13 thousand 565 wetlands in the state is in progress.

## Burn Holi away from transformers and poles: Energy Minister Tomar

**Bhopal (Agency):** Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar has urged common citizens and villagers to be careful while burning Holi. Burn Holi away from transformers and poles, so that no accident occurs. Also, there should be no damage to government property. He said that tampering with electric lines, equipment and poles is a punishable offense under the Electricity Act 2003. Energy Minister Tomar said that a little carelessness or tampering can cause big dangers. Therefore, common people should take some necessary precautions. If the lines carrying electric power suddenly break due to storm or other reasons, then do not take the risk by going near them and touching them. Immediately inform the nearest company officer or electricity employee about the line breakage. If possible, keep someone at that place to warn other passersby or inform by contacting 1912. While constructing a new house, maintain a proper distance from the electricity transmission or distribution line. This is also necessary from the point of view of law.

Consult the local electricity employee about the proper distance. Do not build tall haystacks, heaps of harvested crops, huts, houses, tents etc. under or very close to the electric lines in the fields and barns. Do not drive vehicles loaded with grains, straw etc. under the electric lines as there is a risk of fire and death. While celebrating Holi in villages and cities, a lot of wood is collected and Holika is burnt at the crossroads. If the electric lines are passing overhead, Holi should not be burnt under the wires. Because there is a possibility of aluminium wires melting and breaking due to the flames. In many places, children while playing kite or langar game, get various types of threads and strings stuck in the electric lines. Stop them from doing this. Never let children climb the pole to remove the kite stuck in the lines. Do not throw wires or bushes on the electric line and do not plant tall and fruit-bearing trees under the lines. If someone does this, then inform the nearest police station or the distribution center of the electricity company.

# Prices of fruits and vegetables rise between Holi and Ramzan in Delhi

**Delhi (Agency):** After Mahashivratri, now in the holy month of Ramzan, the prices of fruits and vegetables are skyrocketing in the markets of the capital Delhi. During Ramzan, the food items necessary for Iftar and Sehri have now become expensive, which is affecting the pockets of the common people a lot. Things like apples, bananas, grapes, watermelons, seasonal fruits, sapota, melon, chuku and dates are now becoming out of the reach of the people, due to which people are getting very upset. Every

year, the demand for fruits and vegetables increases during Ramzan after Mahashivratri festival, but this time inflation has increased the problems of the people. There is a tremendous jump in the prices of fruits and vegetables in the major markets of the capital, which has increased the troubles of the fasting people. The prices of fruits have increased rapidly in places like Karol Bagh, Rajendra Nagar, Patel Nagar, Moti Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Connaught Place,

Shadipur, Uttam Nagar and suburban Dwarka. Apples are being sold at a high rate of



more than Rs 200 per kg, bananas at Rs 80 to 100 per dozen, guava at Rs 150 per kg and grapes at Rs 120 to

160 per kg. It is now becoming difficult for daily shoppers to buy essential

items to keep fast. Now, along with the fasting people, other daily shoppers are compelled to buy fruits in

less quantity due to the increased prices, while some are looking for cheaper alternatives. People who came to shop in Delhi's markets say that the fruits which were earlier bought in kilos, now have to be bought in half a kilo or 250 grams. Abhishek Kapoor and Azad Kapoor, residents of Raghuvir Nagar, said, it has become difficult to buy dry fruits along with essential fruits during Ramadan. Earlier, the price of fruits used to be good, now even half of that amount is not available. The remaining gap

was covered by the increased prices of vegetables. Vijay, who sells fruits and vegetables in Uttam Nagar, said that the prices of vegetables are very high even in wholesale. He is buying vegetables at high prices and bringing them to sell, but customers are not coming. At the same time, Fatima, who had come to the market to shop for Roza, said, fruits are very important for Ifaar in Ramadan, but this time due to inflation, it has become difficult to shop as much as before.

## Congress leader Sandeep Dixit cornered Arvind Kejriwal



**Delhi (Agency):** Senior Congress leader Sandeep Dixit has once again cornered the Aam Aadmi Party. He has reacted to the question asked about the speculation of AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal going into Punjab politics. The Congress leader taunted that after losing power in Delhi, Manish Sisodia and Arvind Kejriwal have reached Punjab. Congress leader Sandeep Dixit said that we had spoken

about the hypocrisy of Aam Aadmi Party long back. When Bharatiya Janata Party used to pretend to be very close to Arvind Kejriwal. We used to tell their leaders that why are you hugging him so much, do you even know what kind of a man he is. Son of former Delhi CM Sheila Dixit further said that today BJP has accepted that the man whom they made a puppet and brought him into the country's politics. Today they are against him and have come to know his character and face. We will see who else goes to Punjab or not. He further said but it is certain that after losing power in Delhi, whether it is Manish Sisodia or Arvind Kejriwal ji, they have now reached Punjab. I don't know what they will do there. They do not have any official work right now, so they will deal and contest there. What they will do there, only time will tell.

## Crushed body of a woman found on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

**Delhi (Agency):** Police found the body of a woman on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway last night. The body has not been identified yet. The body of the woman is badly crushed. Police have registered a case and started investigation. The body of the woman has been kept in the mortuary of the Community Health Center of Nuh for identification. According to the information received from the police, between 1 and 2 o'clock on Wednesday night, the police received information that the

body of a woman was lying near the village Deola Nangli on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. After the information, the police reached the spot and took the body in their possession. The age of the woman is said to be around 35 years. She is wearing a green suit and salwar, gray jersey and the name Radha is written on her right hand. The body of the woman is badly crushed. Due to which the chances of an accident seem high. The expressway is quite high where the woman's body was

found and there is a railing on the side of the road. In such a situation, finding the woman's body is raising many questions. If the woman came on the expressway in a vehicle, then where is that vehicle? What was the woman doing there at such a late hour? Who is she, where does she live? Whether it is an accident or murder is also a matter of investigation. With all such questions, Jaishangpur outpost in-charge Rakesh said that the woman's face was badly crushed.