



Idol's Pranapratishta conducted in newly built Radha Krishna Temple



As US sanctions cast shadow on India's Russian oil imports, smaller suppliers from Africa, Latin America...

Kalpana Raghavendar dismisses suicide attempt rumours in new video message;...

P6

Crucial READ

Railways prepares new plan to prevent stampedes

Delhi (Agency): WALKIE TALKIES TO railway personnel manning platforms, new design uniforms, and appointment of senior officers as station directors with financial powers to stop ticket sales — these are some of the decisions taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in the wake of the February 15 stampede that killed 18 at the New Delhi Railway Station. “The Station Director, who will be a more senior officer, will be empowered such that he/she can take on-the-spot decisions for improving the situation at stations; and all concerned departments will report to the Station Director.

India, Bhutan discuss boundary-related work

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.

India urges UK to take action on security breach

Delhi (Agency): A day after the security breach by a pro-Khalistan protester outside Chatham House in London when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was leaving the think-tank, India Friday urged the UK to take action against the perpetrators, saying that the incident reflected the “licence” accorded to such forces. The Ministry of External Affairs had conveyed these concerns by calling a senior diplomat from the British High Commission in Delhi, and a similar message was conveyed in London as well.

Bodies of 3 missing people found in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua



Jammu (Agency): Bodies of three missing people were found on the upper hills of Biliwar in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir. These include a child as well. All of them went missing from the terror-affected area three days ago. They have been identified as Jogesh Singh (35 years), Darshan Singh (40 years)

Mohan Yadav said the government will introduce capital punishment in the Freedom of Religion Act for those involved in the religious conversion of girls.



wouldn't spare those behind illegal conversions.

“The government has resolved that it will deal strictly with such evil practices and wrongdoings,” Yadav added. The chief minister later took to X (formerly Twitter), saying that the Madhya Pradesh government is dedicated to the protection and self-respect of “daughters.”

“After (provision for) death penalty for those who rape (our) daughters, now provision for capital punishment will also be made in Madhya Pradesh for those who convert daughters,” he said. During the Women's Day event in Bhopal, the chief minister also digitally transferred ₹1,552.73 crore to the accounts of more than 1.27 crore beneficiaries of ‘Ladli Behna Yojana’, a monthly financial assistance scheme for women. He also transferred a grant of

‘Death penalty’

CM Mohan Yadav says govt to enforce stricter provisions for religious conversion of girls

₹55.95 crore to over 26 lakh eligible beneficiaries under the LPG Cylinder Refill Scheme, under which a subsidy of ₹450 is provided per cylinder a month. Congress leader Arif Masood has raised concerns over Yadav's announcement, urging him to first clarify what he means by forced conversion.

He also highlighted the government's inaction in addressing cases of missing girls in Bhopal.

“First, the chief minister should clarify what forced conversion means. Also, there are still missing girls in Bhopal. Recently, a girl from Itkheti went missing, and her family has been in distress for the past three days. The CM talks about strict action, but he has yet to locate her or the accused. If he takes action in such matters, we will welcome the decision, but otherwise, these are just announcements.

Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2021, prohibits unlawful religious conversions through misrepresentation, force, coercion, or any fraudulent means. The law also stipulates penalties, including imprisonment and fines, for offenders.

Every possible effort will be made for women empowerment under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav



Bhopal (Agency): Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that every possible effort is being made to make women capable and strong under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that only because of empowered women, the state and the country are not only becoming strong but also prosperous. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that giving rights to women brings positive changes in the society. India is the only country in the world which has been respecting the mother power since time immemorial. In Sanatan culture, power, wealth etc. have been expressed through goddesses. After the next Lok Sabha elections, the power of 33 percent reservation given to women in Parliament will be reflected and the country will be run by women. For women empowerment, reservation in government jobs is being increased from 33 percent to 35 percent in the state. Women have also been given a one percent discount in property registration. As a result, a large number of properties are being registered in the name of women. 44 percent of start-ups in the state are being run by women.

Violence on the first day of free traffic movement in Manipur

Manipur (Agency): Violence erupted as soon as free traffic movement started in Kuki and Meitei dominated areas of Manipur after about 2 years. As soon as buses started running on the roads connecting Imphal, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Vishnupur and Senapati on Saturday, people of the Kuki community started protesting against it. One male protester died while 25 others were injured in a clash between security forces and protesters. The deceased has been identified as Lalgothang Singnit (30 years). Lalgothang was injured by a bullet during the clash.

ED seizes business jet from Hyderabad airport

Hyderabad (Agency): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday seized a business jet from Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. According to sources, ED is investigating money laundering against Hyderabad's Falcon Group and its promoters. The case is related to the FIR registered by Cyberabad Police against Falcon Group (Capital Protection Force Private Limited) CMD Amardeep Kumar and others. The promoters are accused of cheating investors of Rs 850 crore.



The promoter fled abroad on January 22; accused of cheating of Rs 850 crore

It is alleged that Falcon Group collected Rs 1700 crore from investors through a fraudulent invoice discounting investment scheme. Out of the total funds, Rs 850 crore was returned. 6,979 investors were not paid. Amardeep absconded on January 22. The investigating agency believes that the jet

was purchased with the money from the Ponzi scheme. ED had sought information about the movement of the jet from the Customs Department. It was revealed that Amardeep along with another person had left the country on January 22 through the same plane. However, the vice chairman and director of the company have been arrested.

Israeli tourist, homestay owner gangraped in Karnataka

Accused threw 3 friends into canal, one's body recovered; 2 arrested



Bengaluru (Agency): A 27-year-old Israeli female tourist and a home-stay owner were gangraped by three men in Karnataka's famous tourist place Hampi. The incident took place on the banks of Tungabhadra canal at around 10:30 pm on March 6. The victim women were sitting on the banks of the canal. There were three other tourists with the women. One of them, Daniel, was from America, while the other two, Pankaj, were from Maharashtra and Bibas was from Odisha. The accused pushed these three into the canal before the

gangrape. Daniel and Pankaj swam out, while Bibas died by drowning. Police have arrested two accused. The search for one is on. Bibas's body was found two days later. Police started a rescue operation on the morning of March 7 to find Bibas from Odisha. Apart from the fire brigade, police and sniffer dogs were also deployed. However, no success was achieved. On March 8, i.e.

this morning, Bibas's body was found near the canal's power house, about two kilometers away from the incident spot. After dinner, they had gone to see the stars. The 29-year-old homestay owner told the police that after having dinner with her 4 guests, she had gone to see the stars with music on the banks of the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal. Then 3 people came on a bike.

‘Can pray at home or...’

Yogi Adityanath on Sambhal officer's Holi-Namaz remark

Noida (Agency): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday supported the remarks of a Sambhal police officer that while Holi comes once a year, Friday prayers take place every week. Adityanath said the official may have spoken as a “pehelwan”, but what the Arjun awardee said was correct. The chief minister, speaking at the India Today Conclave here, thanked religious leaders for deciding to hold Friday namaz after 2 pm.

He said namaz could be offered after 2 pm, and people who wish to do so before that can pray at home. Whoever wants to go to a mosque should mind the Holi colours, he said. Holi this year will be celebrated on a Friday. Sambhal Circle Officer Anuj Chaudhury had said that Holi is a festival that comes once a year, whereas Friday prayers take place 52 times in a year. If anyone feels uncomfortable with the colours of Holi, they should stay indoors on that day.



Sambhal had witnessed communal violence in November last year. The opposition Samajwadi Party has accused the police official of acting as an agent

of the BJP. Speaking at the event, Adityanath also rejected allegations that his government tried to hide deaths in the Maha Kumbh stampede, saying the priority

was to help the injured and ensure people who had taken a holy dip on Mauni Amavasya left the Sangam area easily. He said that once the administration took care of the injured and ensured the pilgrim rush had eased out, it briefed the media. As many as 30 pilgrims had died in the January 29 stampede. He also said the Maha Kumbh was a fine example of unity and a lesson for those who had questioned the congregation.

2 killed, 6 injured as SUV overturns on Samruddhi Expressway

Maharashtra (Agency): Two people were killed and six others injured after an SUV overturned and was hit by another vehicle on the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway on Saturday morning, police said. The accident occurred around 9 am when the SUV with devotees from Yavatmal was heading to Shirdi, an official from Sindkhed Raja police station said. He said one of the tyres of the vehicle burst, causing it to overturn, and it was hit by a car from behind.

BRIEFS

Women's Day was celebrated by Anuragini Sanstha



Staff Reporter Hamirpur. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Anuragini Sanstha organized a women's conference in village Galia of Rath development block of Hamirpur district. The chief guest of this program was Apna Dal's district president Abhilasha Mishra. While the program was presided over by Anuragini Sanstha's president Dr. Praveen Singh Jadoun. Apna Dal's district general secretary Pooja Soni was also present as a special guest in the program. On the occasion of Women's Day, Anuragini Sanstha distributed nutritional drinks to the women present in the conference in collaboration with Dabur India Limited. Chief guest Abhilasha Mishra said in her address that progress of society is not possible without women's empowerment. She called upon women to recognize their capabilities and move forward towards becoming self-reliant. Giving information about various schemes being run by the government, she inspired women to take advantage of them. Anuragini Sanstha's president Dr. Praveen Singh Jadoun, who was presiding over the program, said that to empower women, it is important to focus on education, economic independence and health. He told that Anuragini Sanstha is continuously working in this direction and is running various schemes for the upliftment of women. He also said that only when women become self-reliant, the overall development of society and country will be possible. On this occasion, District General Secretary Pooja Soni said that women are progressing in every field today, but many challenges still remain. She urged women to be aware of their rights and raise their voice against any kind of discrimination or injustice. She appreciated the efforts being made by Anuragini Sanstha and said that such events give new energy and inspiration to women. A large number of rural women, adolescents, members of self-help groups, social workers and panchayat representatives were present in the conference. Important topics like women's education, health, nutrition, self-employment and women's safety were discussed on this occasion. Women were informed about government schemes and were motivated to adopt self-employment. Information about various training and empowerment programs being run by Anuragini Sanstha for women was also given in the program. The organization expressed its commitment to provide the necessary resources and guidance to make women self-reliant. In the end, rural women appreciated this effort of Anuragini Sanstha and hoped that such events will continue in the future as well. This will give them better information about their rights, education and economic opportunities and they will be able to move forward strongly towards self-reliance. Women members associated with National Rural Livelihood Mission including Ram Autar Sahu, Ram Nareesh, Rajkishore Khare, Asha Devi, Poonam, Vibha, Rekha, Savita were present in the women's conference.

United Forum of Bank Unions demonstrated for various demands



Staff Reporter Banda. Disappointed with the indifferent and indecisive attitude of the Indian Banks Association and Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance and Government of India towards the important demands of bank employees and officers pending for many years, the United Forum of Bank Unions has blown the bugle of a 48-hour nationwide strike on 24 and 25 March 2025. Due to the huge dissatisfaction among the bank employees regarding this indifference, the strike program is the only option left for the United Forum of Bank Unions. Regarding all the demands, the United Forum of Bank Unions held a fierce demonstration in front of the main branch of Canara Bank located on Station Road on Saturday. The main demands of the employees include adequate recruitment in all cadres, regularization of all temporary employees, protection of permanent posts from outsourcing, implementation of five day working week in the banking industry, filling up of director posts of employees or officers in public sector banks, ensuring protection from physical attacks on employees and officers inside branches, stopping recovery of income tax on employee welfare benefits given to employees and officers at concessional rates, retention of 51 percent share in the bank by the government, resolution of pending issues etc. The main employees and officers who took part in the demonstration were comrades Rawendra Kumar Shukla, Narendra Kashyap, Shashikant Gupta, Kuldeep Yadav, Asif Najmi, Arun Ambedkar, Neeraj Tiwari, Ashutosh Tiwari, Naval, Deepak Gupta, Jitendra Sagar, Parag Verma, Shivani Gupta, Naina Pawar, Manisha, Santosh Savita, Jitendra, Ajit, Harsh Gaurav, Chunnulal, Mahesh Chourasia, Dilshad, Ajit, Kamal, Govind, Vinay Singh, Balendra Singh, Anand Singh, Chandra etc. The above information was given by the convener of United Forum of Bank Unions, Rawendra Kumar Shukla.

Meeting organized regarding Holi and Ramzan



Staff Reporter Maudaha. A peace committee meeting was organized in the town's police station regarding the ongoing holy month of Ramadan of the Muslim community and the important festival of Sanatan culture Holika Dahan and the festival of colors Holi, which is falling next week. This meeting was jointly chaired by the sub-district magistrate and the area officer. The peace committee meeting held in the town's police station on Saturday afternoon was jointly chaired by the sub-district magistrate Raj Kumar Gupta and the area officer Vinita Pehal. During this, discussions were held regarding the important festival of Sanatan culture Holi, which is falling next week, as well as the important month of Ramadan of the Muslim community. During this, when Ramadan falls on Friday on the second day of Holi, both the communities

Appeal to celebrate drug-free and accident-free Holi

were asked to celebrate Holi on Friday by establishing harmony. Along with this, special vigilance was to be taken and police deployed at 69 places in the town and the area, and it was said to reduce the height of the pot for the important event Matki Phod to be held at the end of the festival, so that accidents can be avoided. Whereas, the Jama Masjid located at Ragaul, Malikuan Chauraha, and National Chauraha of the town was closed for Friday prayers. The police asked to stop playing Holi for two hours. On which the police asked both the parties to celebrate the festival with mutual consent. Retired spokesperson Jaiprakash Tripathi, Dr. Mubin Khan, Shadab Hussain Bittu, Uttam

Singh, Chaudhary Naseem Alam and councilor Nawab etc. expressed their views. During this, Circle Officer Vinita Pahal said that the festival is yours and you have to celebrate it, we are a third person but are ready to help you 24 hours a day. Sub-District Magistrate Rajkumar Gupta said that festival means happiness and joy, so celebrate the festival with joy and try to celebrate the festival without intoxication and without accidents. We are always there for you, wherever we are needed, our phones are open 24 hours a day and we are also going to promote through autos. We need your cooperation but we are also ready to deal with every situation. During this, Circle Officer Trainee Krishna Kant Tripathi, Kotwali in-charge Umesh Kumar Singh, JE Municipality Tota Ram, Dhani Ram Gupta of Vyapar Mandal, Gram Pradhan Chhimouli Hundreds of eminent citizens including Milu Nishad, Village Head Sijnauda Prahlad Nishad, Village Head Chirka Mukesh Prajapati, Hafiz Rafiq, Kaushalendra Singh, Ravindra Parcha, Chandrika Yadav Parcha, Bauwa Parcha were present.

Questions raised on the safety of railway bridges due to reel-baaz



Staff Reporter Maudaha. At present, railway bridges are becoming the first choice of reel players, although a case was registered against the reel player girl after the reel made on Yamuna Bridge went viral recently, but this time again a reel has gone viral in which a young man has made a reel on the bridge of Chandrawal river of Maudaha. Which is going viral on social media since Friday. In the viral reel, the reel player youth is said to be a resident of Haidaria of Maudaha. In this regard, the police station in-charge said that the reel player is being identified while the case and action is to be done by the railway police.

Peace committee meeting was held under the leadership of DM and SP



Problems heard on Samadhan Diwas

Staff Reporter Baberu. A peace committee meeting was held on Saturday in Baberu Kotwali premises under the leadership of District Magistrate J Ribha and Superintendent of Police Ankur Agarwal regarding the festivals of Holi and Ramzan and information was taken from the villagers about the problems that may arise. At the same time, everyone was instructed to celebrate the festival of Holi and Ramzan together in a cordial manner. People of Hindu and Muslim community present in the meeting said that there is never any kind of problem in our Baberu area, Hindus and Muslims celebrate the festival of Holi and Ramzan together. Immediately after the meeting of the Peace Committee, the problems of the complainants were heard by District Magistrate J Ribha and Superintendent of Police Ankur Agarwal on the police station resolution day. In which most of the cases have come up regarding land disputes and assaults. Regarding the complaints

received on the police station resolution day, District Magistrate J Ribha has reprimanded the Lekhpals and also directed that most of the applications related to revenue have come, somewhere you are negligent. And if a complaint comes from you people this time, action will be taken against you. The received complaint letters have been handed over to the concerned accountant and police personnel and directed to dispose them off as soon as possible. On this occasion, Baberu Police Area Officer Saurabh Singh, Sub-District Magistrate Naman Mehta, Kotwali In-charge Inspector Balram Singh, Electricity Department SDO Ejaz Rasool along with public representatives, Vivekanand Gupta, Vijaypal Singh, Ajay Singh Patel, Vishweshwar Pandey, Bachcha Singh, Saurabh Shivhare, Neeraj Pandey, Pradhan Zahid Khan, Hari Kalyan Singh, Councilor Akash Chaurasia, Shiv Shankar Soni, Shiv Prakash Malik, Rinku Rajput, Kuldeep Singh, entire staff of Kotwali and Revenue Inspector, Accountant including village head of Kotwali area and other people of Hindu Muslim community were present.

Due to unknown reasons, the farmer committed suicide by hanging himself, causing uproar due to his death

Staff Reporter Rath. A tragic incident has come to light in Nauranga village of the tehsil area. Here 26-year-old farmer Ashish committed suicide by hanging himself with a sari on the roof of his house. Apart from his wife Rama, the deceased's family includes 8-year-old son Shivank

and 2-year-old daughter Shivanshi. Ashish used to support his family by farming. According to the family members, he was addicted to alcohol. Due to this, his health was also bad. When the family members saw him hanging from the noose, there was chaos in the house. The deceased's

mother Saroj and his sisters Raman, Mandakini, Pushpa, Rekha, Suman and Kaushalya are crying inconsolably. According to the Majhgawan police station in-charge, the Panchnama of the dead body has been filled and sent for postmortem. The police is taking legal action in the case.

SP's Jan Jagran Abhiyan: Demand for caste census and social justice intensifies

Staff Reporter Pratapgarh. Samajwadi Party's PDA i.e. Backward-Dalit-Minority Alliance raised a strong voice. In the public meeting held in Dilippur, the leaders said that Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar worked to provide justice to the exploited society for centuries through the Constitution.

But even today some forces are conspiring to weaken his ideas. In the public meeting, the speakers emphasized that the PDA society will have to get its political power. So that by conducting caste census, every section of the society can get rights on the basis of their population. The leaders said that now the time has come for the society to fight for its self-respect and rights and ensure its



participation in power. On this occasion, Samajwadi Party MP Dr. Shivpal Singh Patel expressed his commitment to speed up various development works in the district.

He said that every effort is being made to overcome road construction, housing schemes and drinking water crisis in rural areas including Block Baba Belkharanath Dham. The

government is fully trying to provide the benefits of government schemes to the eligible people. Prominent leaders and workers of Samajwadi Party participated in the Jan

Panchayat organized in Dilippur. During this, various issues were discussed and a strategy was made to advance social justice. Many big leaders and workers were present on this occasion. Samajwadi Party has started a new initiative called 'PDA Parcha' to make the PDA society aware and maintain the respect of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Under this campaign, people will be made aware about the issues related to the constitution and social justice by going door to door. In the program, the leaders said that if the Samajwadi Party government is formed, the backward, Dalit and minority class people will get justice and their rights will be protected. He said that the fight for social justice and economic equality will be taken to the final goal at all costs.

Literate gen biggest need of the hour for accelerating progress of nation: Pramod Tiwari

Staff Reporter Pratapgarh, Lalganj. Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Pramod Tiwari has said that the country should be empowered by providing education that makes the future generation understand nationalism. He said that for progress, having a strong literate generation is the biggest need of the hour. There can be no bigger social mission than providing education to the people for the protection of their rights and to fight against oppression. Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said these things while speaking at various programs organized in Rampurkhas assembly constituency on Saturday. He said that in Rampurkhas, he along with MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona is firm on the resolution to make it a strong hub of education for happiness, peace and development. Addressed the people at the Pratibha Samman ceremony at Kamala Shiksha Niketan near Ramganj Bazaar. He handed over the gift of computer set, solar light and hand pump to the school on behalf of regional MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona. Inaugurated the newly constructed room.



Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari also honored the meritorious students of Savitri Singh Public School located in Rajmatipur of Sangipur by giving them laptops and certificates on behalf of MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona. A gift of two lakh rupees from the fund was also announced by MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona for the room. On this occasion, a large number of people including Ashok Singh Bablu, Chandrabali Singh, Jitendra Singh, MP representative Bhagwati Prasad Tiwari, Ashish Upadhyay, media in-charge Gyanprakash Shukla were present.

Teacher dies in road accident

Staff Reporter Pratapgarh. Satya Narayan Singh, a resident of Gajaria village of Baba Belkharanath Dham block area, died in a car accident on Saturday. He was posted as the in-charge headmaster in the Upper Primary School Sheikhpur Athgawan of the block area. On Saturday morning, his uncontrolled car overturned in a deep ditch near Belwar village of Jaunpur district and he died.



It was told that he was returning home from a relative's place in Jaunpur district on Saturday morning when his car met with an

accident. There is an uproar among the family members on the death of the teacher. Basic teachers are also saddened by the incident.

Unruly elements broke into shop and set it on fire, causing loss of lakhs

Staff Reporter Pratapgarh, Kunda. Shiv Darshan Saroj, a resident of Arron of Sangramgarh police station area, has opened a shop of footwear, bicycle and garage parts in the market, five hundred meters away from his house. On Saturday morning around 4 o'clock, miscreants broke into the shop from the back side and set the shop on fire. When people saw the flames of the fire and informed Shiv

Darshan, he rushed to the spot, where flames were emanating from the shop. The fire brigade personnel who reached the spot after receiving the information, controlled the fire after a lot of hard work. By then goods worth lakhs of rupees had been burnt to ashes. Shiv Darshan said that due to the fire, goods worth about 13 lakh rupees were burnt to ashes. The victim has given a written complaint to the police about the incident.

BRIEFS

Gensol Engineering shares in lower circuit

Mumbai (Agency). Shares of Gensol Engineering, a solar energy solutions provider, are under heavy selling pressure. The stock has fallen more than 42 per cent in eight trading sessions, with consecutive lower circuits in the last three trading days. Meanwhile, news of the resignation of the company's Chief Financial Officer has surfaced. The company informed about this in an exchange filing late Thursday evening, according to which his resignation has become effective from March 6. A new CFO has been appointed in his place, who has played roles like corporate finance, risk management and investor relations in the Gensol Group. Rating agencies CARE and ICRA reduced the credit rating of Gensol Engineering due to delay in payment of loan installments, which created tremendous selling pressure on its shares.

Jiostar will lay off 1,100 employees

Mumbai (Agency). Jiostar is preparing to lay off 1,100 employees. Its flagship company Viacom18 merged with Walt Disney in November 2024. This increased the number of employees in some departments. However, those being laid off will be given salary for six months to one year. As part of the restructuring after the merger, layoffs in the company started in February, which will continue till June. The company will lay off unnecessary people in the distribution, finance, commercial and legal departments. If an employee has joined the company a year ago, he will get a full salary of one month. The rest of the employees will also get it accordingly. There will be a notice of one to three months. After the merger, Jio has become the largest entertainment network in the country. The deal was done for Rs 70,352 crore. Disney-Reliance Entertainment now has 75 crore viewers. Reliance has invested Rs 11,500 crore for this joint venture.

Premature closure rate of SIP accounts is 48 percent

Mumbai (Agency). Despite the rapid increase in Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) registrations in the domestic mutual fund industry, the rate of premature closure of SIP accounts is also increasing. There were 3.48 crore new SIP registrations in the year 2023, but by the end of 2024, only 1.82 crore of these SIP accounts remained active, making it clear that about 48 percent of SIP accounts were closed within two years of registration. In comparison, 42 per cent of the 2.57 crore SIP accounts registered in 2022 were closed by the end of 2023. These figures have been obtained from the monthly report of the Association of Mutual Funds in India. Regarding SIP, industry and investment experts say that given the benefits of investing for the long term, it is considered ideal to maintain investments for more than 3 years.

Markets decline in early trade amid unabated foreign fund outflows

New Delhi (Agency): Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty faced volatile trends in early trade on Friday as uninterrupted foreign fund outflows and uncertainties over global trade war dampened investors' sentiment.

After two days of breather, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex declined 243.51 points or 0.33 per cent to 74,096.58 in the morning trade. The NSE Nifty dipped 53.35 points or 0.24 per cent to 22,491.35.

From the Sensex pack, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Zomato, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Infosys, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

On the other hand, Tata Motors, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro, and Axis Bank were the gainers.

"Trump dilly dallying on tariffs with the latest decision to postpone imposition of tariffs on Canada and Mexico to April 2nd is being viewed by markets seriously. Markets feel that Trump is keen to negotiate deals rather than stick to high tariffs for the long term," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

In Asian markets, Tokyo and Seoul were trading lower, while Shanghai was flat. Hong Kong stock markets was quoting in the positive zone. US markets ended lower in overnight deals on Thursday.

According to Vijayakumar, this acknowledgement of the fact that high tariffs for long term will impact the US economy, too. The sell-off in the US stock markets also is an indication that Trump's policies might impact growth and earnings in the US. "China and Germany are implementing reforms to stimulate their domestic economies from Trump's policies.

New Sebi chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey vows to improve trust, plans to disclose conflict of interest in its board to public

Mumbai (Agency): Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Friday said the market regulator will come out with a plan to disclose any conflict of interest of its board members to the public as a step to improve trust and transparency. Pandey, who took over as the chairman on March 1, said that the capital markets regulator will engage with foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to understand their difficulties and improve ease of

operation for them. "We need to not only create trust of all stakeholders in us (Sebi) but we also need to maintain that trust. To that extent, we need to be more transparent, including on various other measures such as conflict of interest of the (Sebi) board and so on. We will be coming forward with our own plan to further transparently reveal this conflict of interest to the public," Pandey said while addressing an event in Mumbai. It was his first public appearance after taking over as Sebi chairman.

The statement comes as Pandey's predecessor Madhabi Puri Buch came under attack from US-based short-seller Hindenburg



Research, which has now shut shop, for having conflict of interest. Hindenburg had alleged that Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, "had stake in obscure offshore entities used in the

Adani money siphoning scandal". The Buchs had denied the allegation. Pandey reiterated that trust and transparency, teamwork, and technology will shape the future of domestic markets. "We must use technology to enhance transparency and ensure market institutions operate with integrity. For that, we need teamwork. Teamwork is not just within Sebi but also with others — Sebi plus all stakeholders. Together, we can build a more conducive ecosystem," he said. The chairman further

said that increasing participation by domestic institutional investors (DIIs), including mutual funds and pension funds, has resulted in greater domestic ownership and made Indian markets more resilient. He, however, emphasised the need for having both domestic and foreign capital to support the growth momentum. The presence of such long-term foreign capital would further support infrastructure growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship in India, Pandey noted.

Indian agriculture sector must open up, says US Commerce Secretary

New Delhi (Agency): United States' Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on Friday said that the Indian agriculture sector must open up for US products but indicated that the US would be open to accepting quotas and limits where there are sensitivities.

Speaking at the India Today Conclave, Lutnick said that the US is interested in a broad-based trade deal where "everything", including agriculture, is on the table and that the US is keen on a "macro, large-scale, broad-based trade agreement with India that takes everything into account".

"It will require a different kind of thinking—big

thinking," he said. "The Indian market for agriculture has to open up. It can't just



stay closed. Now, how do you do that, and at what scale? Maybe you do quotas, maybe you set limits. You can be smarter when you have your most important

trading partner on the other side of the table."

Think tank Global Trade and Research Institute (GTRI), responding to Lutnick's comments, said that while these proposals were framed as mutually beneficial, most serve US interests at the cost of India's economic and strategic priorities.

"From pushing for a comprehensive trade agreement to demanding lower tariffs and greater market access, these suggestions could weaken India's trade position if accepted uncritically. India's response must be firm, data-driven, and aligned with national priorities to ensure balanced trade relations with the US," GTRI said.

Donald Trump establishes US Bitcoin reserve: What is it, how will it work?

New Delhi (Agency):

United States President Donald Trump has signed an executive order, which establishes a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and a stockpile of other digital assets — a measure he had promised to fulfil during his Presidential bid last year. "Bitcoin is the original cryptocurrency," the executive order said. "Because there is a fixed supply of BTC, there is a strategic advantage to being among the first nations to create a strategic bitcoin reserve."

The reserve will be capitalised with bitcoin owned by the Department of Treasury that was forfeited as part of criminal or civil asset forfeiture proceedings. Other agencies will evaluate their legal authority to transfer any bitcoin owned

by those agencies to the Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, the order said.

It did not have a positive impact on the price of Bitcoin, however, as the virtual coin was trading over 4% lower at the time of publishing.

The executive order also established a US Digital Asset Stockpile, consisting of digital assets other than bitcoin owned by the Department of Treasury that was forfeited in criminal or civil asset forfeiture proceedings.

A fact sheet prepared by the US White House said that currently, no clear policy exists for managing these assets, "leading to a lack of accountability and inadequate exploration of options to centralise, secure, or maximise their value". "It is estimated that the U.S.

government owns about 200,000 bitcoin; however, there has never been a complete audit. The E.O. directs a full accounting of the federal government's



digital asset holdings," David Sacks, the White House czar for AI and cryptocurrency, wrote in a post on X.

The United States will not sell bitcoin deposited into this Strategic Bitcoin Reserve, which will be maintained as a store of

reserve assets. The Secretaries of Treasury and Commerce have been authorised to develop budget-neutral strategies for acquiring additional bitcoin,

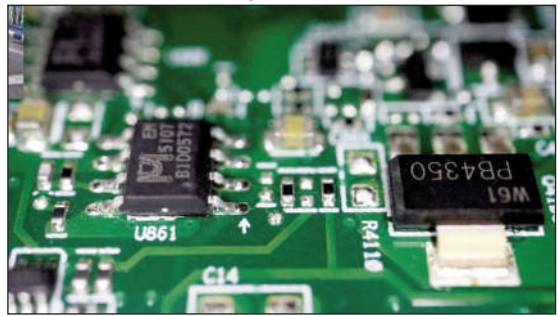
provided that those strategies impose no incremental costs on American taxpayers.

"With a fixed supply of 21 million coins, there is a strategic advantage to being among the first nations to create a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve. The United States currently holds a significant

amount of bitcoin but has not maximized its strategic position as a unique store of value in the global financial system. Premature sales of bitcoin have already cost U.S. taxpayers over \$17 billion," the fact sheet said. Last week, Trump had mentioned four other coins apart from Bitcoin which would be part of this stockpile — Ethereum, XRP, Solana and Cardano.

The White House said that the US government will not acquire additional assets for the US Digital Asset Stockpile beyond those obtained through forfeiture proceedings, similar to the Bitcoin reserve.

"The Secretary of the Treasury may determine strategies for responsible stewardship, including potential sales from the U.S. Digital Asset Stockpile.

Next phase of chip incentive scheme in the works, says IT Secretary Krishnan

Gandhinagar (Agency): The government is currently working on the contours of the second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission, with the design and outline of the scheme finalised and discussions with the industry underway, a senior government official said Thursday.

"The next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is currently in the works. We had preliminary discussions with many stakeholders as to how to design the programme. The design and the outline is currently ready and is undergoing detailed discussion internally within the government," IT Secretary S Krishnan said at the Gujarat SemiConnect.

Krishnan said that under the second phase of the ISM, the government will also look to provide some support to raw materials, equipment, gases and speciality chemicals needed in semiconductor manufacturing.

Under the renewed scheme, the government was planning to offer capital support for raw materials and gases used in chip manufacturing, this paper had reported. The first phase had an outlay of \$10 billion, and was approved in December 2021 to kickstart India's chip industry.

"We have to now figure out how to make it a completely sustainable ecosystem and also how do we move up the value chain as time goes along. While the legacy nodes are important and they have considerable demand, there are also risks of over capacity and capacity from other geographies," Krishnan said.

The government is also making some changes to the design linked incentive scheme for chips in order to encourage more fabless semiconductor companies to join and more ambitious projects and innovations are supported through incentives, he said.

"There is also (chip) packaging design which needs to go alongside and we have to look at how advanced packaging can be supported through the design linked scheme as well," Krishnan said.

The country had so far attracted investment worth \$18 billion till date under the first phase of the India Semiconductor Mission. The Tata-PSMC fab, being built at a cost of roughly \$11 billion, is among the five semiconductor projects the government has greenlit under the India Semiconductor Mission.

As US sanctions cast shadow on India's Russian oil imports, smaller suppliers from Africa, Latin America cash in

New Delhi (Agency):

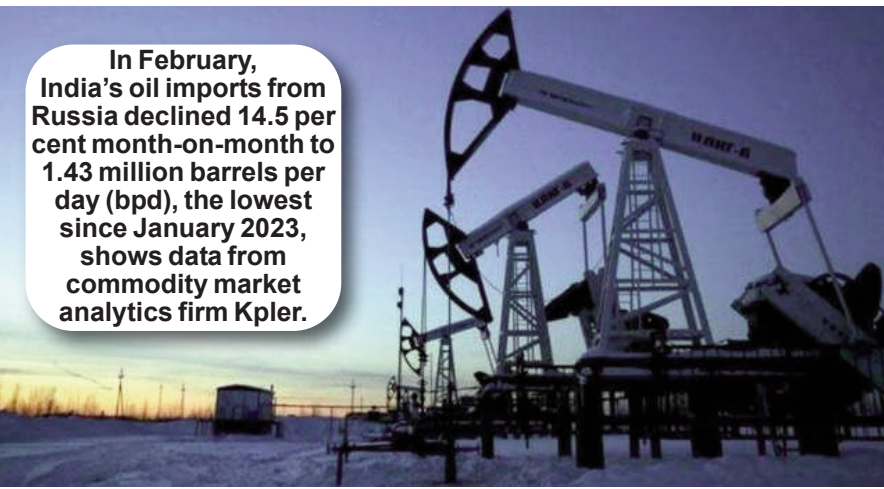
Recent American sanctions on Russia's oil trade have started to have an impact on India's crude oil imports from Moscow, which fell to an over two-year low in February. To make up for the lost Russian volumes for now, Indian refiners are actively diversifying their crude oil sources by turning to relatively smaller suppliers from regions like Africa and Latin America, per vessel tracking data.

In January, just before demitting office, the US's Joe Biden administration announced sweeping sanctions against Russia's oil trade. It sanctioned as many as 183 tankers—a sizable part of the so-called shadow fleet that had kept Russian oil flowing—apart from sanctioning two Russian oil majors and Russian insurance companies, among others involved in the Russian oil sector and trade. The sanctions have made it difficult for Indian refiners to secure enough cargoes of

Moscow's crude, and they are being forced to look elsewhere to cover the gap.

In February, India's oil imports from Russia declined 14.5 per cent month-on-month to 1.43 million barrels per day (bpd), the lowest since January 2023, shows data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler. Russia's share in India's oil imports declined to around 30 per cent in February, down significantly from the 2024 average of around 38 per cent. But India's traditional West Asian oil suppliers failed to cash in on the opportunity, while a few smaller players collectively saw their oil supplies to India rise notably to make up for the shortfall in Russian oil volumes.

With the exception of Iraq, which is India's second-largest supplier of crude, oil imports from the other key imports from the other oil suppliers—Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—declined sequentially. Oil imports from Iraq in



In February, India's oil imports from Russia declined 14.5 per cent month-on-month to 1.43 million barrels per day (bpd), the lowest since January 2023, shows data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler.

February rose 5.5 per cent sequentially to 1.09 million bpd, while imports from Saudi Arabia declined over 6 per cent to 679,372 bpd. India's oil imports from the UAE fell over 22 per cent in February to 342,076 bpd.

On the other hand, oil imports from relatively smaller sources of India's oil imports, like Brazil, Nigeria, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Qatar, Oman, Alegria, Republic of the Congo, Libya, and Gabon, rose in February. Some of

these smaller suppliers exported oil to India after a gap of a few months. February also saw Argentina appearing on the map of India's crude oil import sources by supplying around 25,000 bpd.

For instance, India's oil imports from Nigeria rose to around 76,000 bpd in February from around 40,000 bpd in January, a jump of nearly 90 per cent. Oil import volumes from Colombia jumped 146 per cent sequentially to 71,500

bpd and those from Brazil rose 60.6 per cent to over 145,000 bpd. Imports from Qatar jumped nearly 60 per cent sequentially to around 74,000 bpd, and supplies from Venezuela were higher by 44.4 per cent at over 93,000 bpd.

Suppliers like Gabon, Libya, Algeria and the Republic of the Congo featured on India's oil import sources list in February after being absent for varying periods. India's oil imports from these countries ranged

between 35,000 bpd and 55,000 bpd in February.

"India is actively diversifying its crude sources, increasing imports from (various countries including) Angola, Brazil, and West African producers, to reduce dependency on Russia and mitigate geopolitical risks... India's crude imports have remained strong to meet rising domestic needs, reinforcing India's position as a key driver of refined product growth despite expectations of a slower pace compared to 2024," said Sumit Ritolia, senior oil refining analyst at Kpler.

Industry insiders expect Indian refiners and Russian oil suppliers and traders to adjust to the latest sanctions and devise ways to buy Russian oil without any sanctions risk in the near to medium term. Indian refiners have stated that they are ready and willing to buy Russian oil as long as the transactions, suppliers, traders, shippers, and

insurers involved are not under sanctions.

The impact of the recent US sanctions on India's Russian oil imports has been limited so far. And while Russian oil volumes could drop further in the coming months, industry watchers expect the slide to be range-bound, and Russia to remain India's largest source of crude in the medium term, unless there are more sudden disruptions or abrupt shifts in trade flows. A lot will depend on the stance the new Donald Trump administration in Washington takes on Ukraine war-related sanctions on Russia, the discounts available on Russian oil, and how competitively other major suppliers price their crude. In the meantime, India's strategy of diversifying its source of crude oil is expected to gather steam. Indian refiners are also understood to be looking at raising oil imports from West Asia, provided the oil is competitively priced.

EDITORIAL

Hathras stampede

The Hathras stampede of July 2, 2024, which claimed 121 lives, stands as yet another grim reminder of administrative negligence, lack of planning and the perils of unregulated mass gatherings. The judicial inquiry report, tabled in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday, exposes glaring lapses in crowd management, haphazard permissions and a troubling abdication of responsibility by the authorities. The most damning revelation is the mechanical approval of the event. The permission process, completed in a day without any site inspection, reeks of bureaucratic complacency. The organisers estimated 80,000 attendees, yet over 2.5 lakh devotees swarmed the venue. Despite this, no proactive crowd control measures were in place. Water tankers stationed near a muddy highway created a treacherous ground and sevadars — rather than trained personnel — were tasked with managing the crowd.

The report also hints at a conspiracy angle, suggesting attempts to misdirect the probe through suspicious affidavits and misleading narratives. Yet, in its reluctance to directly indict Bhole Baba, the panel leaves room for ambiguity. The absence of his name from the FIR and charge-sheet raises uncomfortable questions — does faith shield individuals from accountability? The recommendations, including mandatory videography, stricter permission protocols and the use of drones for crowd-monitoring, are welcome. But the real challenge lies in ensuring their implementation. In a country where religious gatherings at times morph into stampedes (Maha Kumbh being the latest), will this tragedy serve as a wake-up call or merely be buried under bureaucratic inertia? The Hathras disaster wasn't an accident; it was an avoidable catastrophe. Holding mid-level officials accountable while letting powerful organisers off the hook cannot be the takeaway. The state must move beyond damage control and enforce real, systemic reforms.

Tariff tangle

India is racing against time to stop or at least slow down Donald Trump's tariff juggernaut. In line with his 'America First' policy, the US President has announced tit-for-tat action from April 2 against India and other nations that have been imposing higher levies on imports from the US. New Delhi is looking to find an amicable solution to the vexing problem under the framework of a mega trade deal with Washington. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is already in the US, holding negotiations regarding the deal, which is expected to be finalised by the year-end. The million-dollar question is: Can India delay the inevitable, and for how long? After their meeting last month, Trump had lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "better, tougher negotiator", but he also made it clear that India would not be exempted from reciprocal tariffs. His clinching argument was that "nobody can argue with me" on this issue. However, Delhi continues to hope that Team Modi will pull a rabbit out of the hat in the form of a mutually beneficial outcome.

India's diplomatic approach is to play it safe and not infuriate Trump, unlike the belligerent stand adopted by countries like Canada and China. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called American tariffs "very dumb" and accused the US President of appeasing Russia, while Beijing has warned that it is ready to "fight till the end" if the US is hell-bent on waging a tariff or trade war. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's nightmarish experience at the Oval Office has taught India that things can easily go from bad to worse if you are in Trump's bad books. The US was India's largest trading partner in 2022-23, with the bilateral trade amounting to \$190 billion; the two sides are keen to raise it to \$500 billion by 2030. The long-term picture might prompt Delhi to bite the tariff bullet.

Kerala High Court lawyers to boycott Justice A Badharudeen's court for insulting late lawyer's wife

Kochi (Agency): Lawyers of the Kerala High Court, under the aegis of the Kerala High Court Advocates Association (KHCAA), boycotted Justice A Badharudeen's court on Friday, demanding an apology for insulting deceased lawyer Alex Scaria's wife, Saritha Thomas, in the court on Thursday. They also resolved to continue the boycott until he tenders a public apology for his harsh interaction with the widow of the late Advocate Alex M Scaria. A large number of lawyers assembled in Justice Badharudeen's court on Friday morning, seeking an apology in open court for the insult to Advocate Saritha Thomas, wife of the late Alex Scaria. However, Justice Badharudeen did not attend court on Friday. A notice was later issued, stating that he would not be holding court during the forenoon session. It also stated that urgent matters listed before him would be taken up by Justice Johnson John.

The lawyers alleged that Justice Badharudeen insulted Saritha Thomas and even asked, "who is Alex Scaria?" when she sought time to file a vakalatnama in her name. Alex Scaria passed away on January 7, 2025. The incident occurred on March 6 when advocate Saritha Thomas requested the court to grant her some more time to change the vakalatnama, as her husband had passed away in January this year. Her husband, Advocate Alex Scaria, had earlier undertaken to file a vakalatnama but passed away before he could do so. After the judge's interaction with the late lawyer's wife, Ad-

vocate Saritha Thomas, Senior Advocate George Poonthottam and several other lawyers practising before the court moved a resolution calling for an urgent general body meeting of the Kerala High Court Advocates' Association (KHCAA). The resolution stated that Justice Badharudeen reacted extremely uncharitably and rudely to the lawyer's request. He even asked her, "Who is Alex Scaria?" the resolution said. Such conduct is not only unbecoming of the Bench but also disrespects the memory of the late Scaria, warranting an apology from Justice Badharudeen, the lawyers argued.

In a discussion with the KHCAA, the judge rejected the demand for an apology in the open court but agreed to express an apology in his chambers. However, the Advocate's Association insisted on an apology in the open court. Following this, Kerala High Court lawyers decided to boycott Justice Badharudeen until he tenders a public apology for his harsh interaction with the widow of the late Advocate Alex M Scaria.

As the protests intensified, the Chief Justice intervened in the matter and sought time to study it. He has called the leaders of the High Court Advocates Association for a discussion.

This is not the first time lawyers have protested against Justice Badharudeen's conduct. In February last year, the KHCAA wrote a letter to the Chief Justice, complaining about the judge's misbehaviour and demanding video recording of court proceedings.

Trump vs Zelenskyy: White House spat could reshape security, not just for Europe but US too

Ramvilas Sharma

The understanding that military bases in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East serve as outposts to prevent threats from reaching American soil will now need to be rested in favour of early warning from wars and skirmishes where the US would not commit itself unless provoked beyond measure.



The recent "spat" in the White House between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the President and Vice President of the United States, Donald Trump and J D Vance, brings all kinds of ominous thoughts to mind. The 30-day roller-coaster initiation of Trump 2.0 has touched upon a plethora of sensitive issues, opened up wounds and disrupted many assumptions on international geopolitics. However, the "spat" caps it all. It therefore forces one to take a deep dive into Europe to understand how the potential new dynamics can work — a European front, sans the US.

In his previous avatar, Trump threatened more than he acted, although most NATO nations finally resorted to spending the mandated 2 per cent of their budget on refurbishing and strengthening their defence. In 2020, Trump ordered the withdrawal of approximately 12,000 US troops from Germany, arguing that Germany was not paying its fair share for defence. The move was widely criticised, and the Biden administration later reversed the decision.

This time, Trump isn't testing the waters because he has a war to contend with. Resolving this will place him in the league of statesmen. That is why he is hell-bent on a deal under which a ceasefire comes about, on an "as is where is" basis, but with an advantage to the US. The broad provisions are that Ukraine postpones its aspirations to join NATO, addressing one of Russia's primary security concerns. While the proposal does not require Ukraine to formally cede territories occupied by Russia, it acknowledges that these regions would remain de facto under Russian control during negotiations. The Trump administration

has proposed that the US receive a significant share of Ukraine's mineral and oil resources as "payment" for American support. However, this proposal has faced resistance from Ukraine due to concerns over inadequate security guarantees in return. Following the establishment of a ceasefire, the proposed plan outlines further steps. These include initiation of negotiations between Ukraine and Russia to address territorial disputes, security arrangements, and political considerations. There is demand for provision of US security assurances to Ukraine, which may include continued military aid and strategic support. The complexities of the future of European security which, of course, needs to be preceded by an agreement on Ukraine, needs to be evaluated in this context. The threat perception of Europe and the capability appreciation of Russia should reveal that war could be an unlikely factor in the future; it's only the threat of war which will remain. Russia, after its dismal military performance against Ukraine knows it cannot militarily, economically or demographically sustain a war against Europe's power houses — Germany, France, Italy and the UK, especially with their combined strength. These nations also know that the US may withdraw its troops and detach itself from NATO. US perception of its strategic security prevails with the notion that the oceans are its ultimate defence; it runs deep in American strategic thought, shaped by geography, history, and military doctrine. Its essential theme of "forward defence" falls in line with the universal dictum of war — defence in depth. In this case, Europe facilitates the depth.

A military defeat of Europe at the hands of Russia, if at all, would imply the most serious threat to the US mainland. It would be good to remind ourselves what the plight of the US would have been had Pearl Harbour not occurred on Dec 7, 1942, which brought the US directly into the war on both flanks; it would have been the next natural objective of Japan and Germany. The US can remain outside a European security agreement on the presumption of the unlikelihood of a major war between Russia and Europe. In the remote contingency of a war, a late entry like in 1942 may be perceived by US policymakers as feasible. Of course, it would save the US a couple of billion dollars from its current European commitment and allow it to focus on the Indo-Pacific region where its current real threats lie, from China.

Arguing in favour of such an American policy, it is assumed that threat from a demographically weakened Russia will progressively recede. All Russia will wish for are its bottom-line strategic compulsions; no obstacles in the control of the Black Sea and its coast, and a comfortable offset away from NATO's "lean on" alignment. The latter implies that its borders remain at a distance from NATO's. An American withdrawal automatically means that its 100 B61 nuclear bombs deployed in Europe under NATO's nuclear-sharing arrangements at air bases in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey are withdrawn and a compensatory arrangement is made by British and French assets. This complicates the issue further. The understanding that military bases in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East serve as outposts to prevent threats from reaching American soil will now need to be rested in favour of early warning from wars and skirmishes where the US would not commit itself unless provoked beyond measure. Trump's defence establishment will undoubtedly need time to transform through this rollback and there is no certainty that after four years any of this will survive.

Talking about women's respect in a world plagued by discriminatory prejudices

Today, the world is showing solidarity by lining up in such a way to celebrate Women's Day, as if the dark night of oppression and tyranny is about to pass and the morning sun is about to give all women their rights of equality as well as the right to security and respect. If we think about it for a moment, we will find that if this happens, more than half of the world's problems will end in a jiffy. We have come a long way from that era when the birth of a daughter in the family was considered a curse. As soon as a daughter was born, she was strangled. Illiteracy and criminal tendencies prevalent in the society have been said to be the reason behind this crime. Centuries have passed, circumstances have also changed, but the respect and equality that women and girls deserve have not been achieved till date. This is the reason why the theme of International Women's Day 2025 is also reminding all women and girls of rights, equality and empowerment. Before this, all the religious scriptures have told that where women are respected, there God will reside. What does heaven under the feet of mother mean? Is this not an ancient sentence that stamps the respect and rights of women? If only these were implemented, then perhaps more than half of the crimes against women would have ended. The scriptures say- Yatra naryastu pujiyante ramante tatra devataah. Yatraitastu na pujiyante sarvaastrophalah kriyaah. That is, at the place where women are worshipped and respected and honored, Gods always reside happily there and where this does not happen, all religions and deeds become futile. Woman is not called the basis of the entire creation for nothing. She infuses new life, is the embodiment of love and is synonymous with the indomitable power that improves relationships in the family. In Indian culture, there is a law to worship women in many forms including power, affection and sacrifice. It is clear from this that for centuries the importance and respect of women has been highlighted, but when it comes to finding the truth on the ground, the same saying of 'Dhak ke teen paant' comes true. Therefore, International Women's Day seems to be reminding us to strive for a world free from prejudice and discrimination. It is being said once again that to achieve gender equality, along with tireless efforts and continuous action, awareness and policy changes are required in the society. There is no doubt that the women of today's modern society have progressed in every field, and are constantly trying to move forward, yet there are many challenges that stand as a hindrance in the way of their progress. It would not be wrong to say that even in today's educated society, women are victims of domestic violence. Along with gender discrimination in home, family and workplace, inequality in education is also seen. Evil practices like dowry system have not been completely eradicated, nor have evils like child marriage been completely destroyed. Despite this, those women who have earned fame at the national and global level through their good deeds and made the world accept their strength are saluted. Such Nari Shakti serves as an inspiration for the present and future generations. Such Nari Shakti guides important policies, programs and investments in areas such as education, health, participation in politics, economic empowerment and elimination of violence against women. These powers must be respected. Amidst all this, the campaigns being run by the United Nations Women's Organization on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration have their own utility. In such a situation, it would not be wrong to say that since 1995, women's rights have improved a lot, but even today women's freedom and equality are under threat in many places. In such a situation, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2025, we all have to take a pledge that we will continue our efforts to protect women's rights.

Giving cricket a communal spin

It's not surprising that Hindutva enthusiasts use an India-Pak match as a pretext to incite hatred

Ramvilas Sharma

My friend, Mahesh Narayan Singh, whom I meet every morning while doing exercise, was visibly impressed by our Prime Minister's knowledge of Sufi beliefs and practices. MN, as I call him, felt that PM Narendra Modi was very eloquent, enthusiastic and conciliatory during his recent address to a gathering of Muslims. That is a great change in attitude that Modi should share with his followers in India and even abroad.

The hate and divisiveness that have been the hallmark of the ruling dispensation since Modi took charge of the government in 2014 will take much time and effort to eradicate. They manifest themselves almost daily in one corner or the other of the country. The earlier intention may have been to win elections and usher in the rule of Hindutva, but Modi, being an intelligent mass leader, has realised that disunity will destroy India in the long run. Lately, he has been trying to correct the imbalance, especially after his numerous visits abroad.

I am doubtful if a leopard can change its spots at any time. When it needs the shelter of fo-

liage to hide those spots from its prey, it will adjust its tactics accordingly. Our Prime Minister has introduced the hug, or the embrace, if you want to call it that, as a form of greeting when meeting other heads of state. That form of greeting has gone down well with rulers of Gulf nations that are overwhelmingly Islamic.

But the "modus vivendi" that once characterised relations between our Hindu and Muslim compatriots in India has suffered severe jolts in the last decade. In Mumbai, Mohalla Committee members, representing both major communities, continue to meet every month to foster understanding and friendship, but each has noticed the shift in attitudes and thinking of their brethren in their respective communities.

That is not surprising. Modi's followers have targeted the minority community where it hurts the most — their very livelihood. Butchers and cattle traders have been put out of business, but even those who sell only vegetables, fruits or other commonly hawked goods have been specifically prevented from

doing so at fairs, though they have been frequenting those places for generations.

In a small town on the outskirts of Mumbai, a person passing by a house on February 23, when the India-Pakistan cricket



match was being played in Dubai, reported to the police as well as to his friends in the locality that a Muslim boy in that house was rooting for Pakistan. That prompted swift action by cops, who are often accused of lethargy. The 15-year-old boy was detained and despatched to the reformatory for 'correction', while his parents were arrested

for allegedly abusing the complainant.

The punitive action did not end there. The improvised shed which the boy's parents had constructed to keep scrap (the father is a scrap dealer) was demolished by the panchayat without the 15-day notice mandated by the Supreme Court in a recent judgment. So great was the public anger, according to the authorities, that a similar shed constructed by the man's brother was also reduced to rubble.

If such instances of rough and ready 'justice' are not mani-

festations of the new India proclaimed by the BJP, then what are? Wherever the BJP holds sway, the police, who are often slammed for inaction or belated action when children in schools are molested or young women raped, rush in when VHP or Bajrang Dal operatives complain of 'anti-national' activity of Muslim neighbours, as happened in this case.

On February 23, I was torn between my love for horse racing and cricket. I chose the latter simply because our team was taking on Pakistan. On Sundays, my immediate family meets over lunch. I rushed back home from my daughter's dining table to see the first ball being bowled. (Incidentally, I could not reach home in time — one over had been bowled before I switched on the television).

On my way from my daughter's home, I found the streets deserted. This happens whenever Indian and Pakistani teams meet on the cricket field. It is satisfying to assert our superiority in sports. The ancient Greeks thought on those lines when they introduced the Olympic Games, with Zeus, their prin-

cipal god, looking down from heaven as the chief guest. Presumably, residents of Sparta, Crete and Macedonia, all Greek-speaking, were among the participants. In view of the emotions that an India-Pakistan match evokes, it is not surprising that Hindutva enthusiasts, whose dislike of Muslims surpasses their enthusiasm for cricket, misuse the occasion to incite hatred. What is unacceptable is that the police go to the extent of ignoring the law of the land, which has not criminalised the support of a lad for the underdog as an anti-national manifestation. Further, the action of the sarpanch and the officials who participated in the demolition of the irregular construction without following the proper procedure will surely attract "contempt of court" provisions even if it is felt that the police action of arresting the Muslim couple prevented communal riots.

The least that the government can do now is to carry forward Modi's new agenda of better inter-community relations by allotting slivers of land to the father and uncle of the boy who was rooting for the losing team.

THANA SAMADHAN DIWAS

Commr and IG heard public problems, directed for quality and time-bound disposal



Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi and IG R. P. Singh listening to the complaint on the police station resolution day

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: On Saturday, on the occasion of police station resolution day, Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi of Vindhyachal Mandal Mirzapur and Inspector General of Police of Vindhyachal Zone R. K. Singh attended the Samadhan Divas at the police station Lalganj of Mirzapur district and the problems of the complainantsIt was heard

and the officer of the concerned revenue and police departments present there was instructed to go to the spot to resolve the complaints 100 percent and quality. He directed all the officials present on the occasion to meet the expectations of the public, listening to their grievances, problems carefully and should ensure quality verification by going to the spot and settling

AAP taking to road against atrocities on fair-sex: Sunil Pandey

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, Aam Aadmi Party will work to struggle from road to House for the injustice, atrocities, exploitation against women and women and girls in the whole country and Uttar Pradesh.Will always stand with them. The above views expressed the above views while addressing the seminar held at the office of Aam Aadmi Party Mirzapur on the occasion of World Women's Day on Saturday as the chief guest, while addressing the seminar on the occasion of World Women's Day on Saturday, today on the occasion of World Women's Day on Aam Aadmi Party's district office Mirzapur, party state secretary Sunil Kumar Pandey Advocate and DistrictMiradevi Prajapati, Aarti Yadav, Hiravati Devi, Sita Devi, Sita Devi, Sita Devi, and District President of Aam Aadmi Party Mahila Wing, Meeradevi Patel were greeted by Chairman Professor B Singh. Today, Aam Aadmi Party District President Professor B. Singh

appointed Kamlesh Kumar Bharti, the new block president of the hill block to strengthen the organization. Common man addressing the



Officials of the Aam Ademi Party honoring women on Women's Day

program on this occasionState Secretary and District In -charge of the party Uttar Pradesh Sonbhadra Sunil Kumar Pandey Advocate said that World Women's Day is celebrated on March 08 to honor the struggle of women in the world and to honor the struggle of women for the appropriate place. Aam Aadmi Party is honoring women on the occasion of Women's Day in the entire

state and country today by BJP government of Delhi on March 08 On the occasion of World Women's Day, the BJP government has failed today

District President of Aam Aadmi Party Mirzapur, Professor B. Singh said that no distinction can be made between men and women in society today, women are working with family and country for the welfare of society and country. We are proud of our women's power and we are proud of our women's powerOn this occasion, women activists associated with Aam Aadmi Party were welcomed by garlanding the occasion. On this occasion, mainly Dilip Singh Gaharwar District General Secretary Mirzapur, Aarti Yadav, Meeradevi Patel, Hiravati, Sita Devi, Santosh Soni, Santosh Pandey, Kamal Singh, Raju Tiwari, Gulabchand Maurya, Kamlesh Kumar Bharti, Anand Kumar Singh, Santosh Soni, Srikanth Tripathi, Chhotalal Tiwari, Lakhani Patwa, YasinHundreds of workers were present, Khan, Ramavadh Maurya, Harishankar Sharma, Ramesh Kumar Maurya, Raj Bahadur Maurya etc.

UP Board Exam: ATS intercepted two solver gangs, 16 apprehended

Staff Reporter
Hardoi: A concerted operation by the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force resulted in the arrest of 16 people engaged in the preparation of the Class 10 English test paper for the UP Board. According to police,

these people were apprehended during two separate operations in Hardoi. The task force's initial raid targeted a group of people working on the solving exam paper at the home of a school administrator. Many of the

14 persons there were apparently from the school, including a teacher. The second instance had two ladies being caught outside another school in the district while attempting to solve the paper. Authorities have sealed the

exam materials that were confiscated. As investigations proceed, school and district officials may face disciplinary punishment. The event raises worries about the state's exam security and integrity.

41490 cases disposed of in National Lok Adalat, total Rs 8.48 lakh charged



District Judge Arvind Mishra II inaugurating the National Lok Adalat by lighting the lamp

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, District Judge/Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Arvind Kumar Mishra, under the direction of National Legal Services Authority, Supreme Court and Uttar Pradesh Legal Services Authority Lucknow. Santosh Kumar Gautam DLSA Secretary/Additional District Judge Vinay Arya and all the judicial officers jointly inaugurated the

Dead people and injured passed compensation of Rs 02.85 cr

National Lok Adalat program in the Civil Court campus by lighting the wreath and lamp on the statue of Maa Saraswati. District Judge Arvind Kumar Mishra. Necessary meeting with all judicial officers and bank

Details of settled cases			
District Judge Arvind Kumar Mishra disposed of a total of 04 arbitration execution cases and passed Rs 1.85 lakh Arbitration Award. Chief Justice Family Court Sanjay Kumar Shukla disposed of a total of 29 cases Released and disposed of marital matters of printing through reconciliation. Additional District Judge III Santosh Kumar Gautam disposed of a total of 33 cases of final disposal (FR). Additional District Judge / Secretary DLSA Vinay Arya settled 438 bank loan pre-litigation cases on the basis of reconciliation and assigning about 4.80 crores by compromising the defaulters at Rs 4.80 crore. Special Judge Poxes Mr. Surendra Kumar Rai disposed of cases. Special Judge SCST Act Chandragupta Yadav disposed of 02 arbitration cases. Chief Judicial Magistrate Pragya Singh made a total of 1582 cases Rushed and Rs 03 lakh 66 thousand 350 rupees. Civil Judge	(C.D.) Vikas Singh disposed of total promises. First Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Pallavi Singh recovered a fine of a total of 468 cases. Additional Civil Judge (CD) Lalita Yadav disposed of 244 cases and recovered a fine of Rs 25850. Civil Judge (C.D)/ FTC Anjum Saifi disposed of 147 cases andA fine of Rs 1390. Civil Judge (Ju D) Chunar Sampadyamitra disposed of 08 original promises. Village Court Madihan Preeti disposed of 72 cases and fined Rs 720. Zeenat Parveen Village Court Lalganj disposed of 118 cases and fined Rs 12100. Additional District Magistrate (F/R)/Nodal Officer National Lok Adalat With the good efforts of Shiv Pratap Shukla, the city magistrate,A total of 29074 cases were settled by the courts of the sub-officers and the Tehsildar/Naib Tehsildars, Consolidation Courts. The municipal council disposed of 1980 cases.	Divided 107 pre-litigesh cases of the Electricity Department. 3680 challans of e-challan traffic were disposed of and 11 lakh 72 thousand rupees were fined online and the Assistant Labor Commissioner disposed of 08 cases and 75.03 lakh rupees were given to the victims. The Chief Medical Officer disposed of 3255 pre -induction medical cases. RTO department disposed of 2675 challans and charged Rs 155.26 lakh mitigation fee. B. S. 06 bills were disposed of by the NL department and Rs 86326-00 was charged. ADJ-First Baljor Singh, Special Judge Poxo Surendra Kumar Rai, Special Judge in National Lok Adalat, SCST Act Chandragupta Yadav, Senior Advocate Badri Vishal, Computer Operator Ranjit Kumar, PLV Jai Prakash, Om Prakash, Satish Yadav, Om Prakash, Krishna Kumar, Pradeep Srivastava and all judicial officers were present and supported.	

officials and the success of the National Lok AdalatsTo help the purpose and the poor, their cases were directed to dispose of maximum numbers and provide maximum convenience to the litigants.

2 dumper and JCB seized on info of illegal mining

Staff Reporter

Mirzapur: Despite the lakhs of warnings and action of the administration and administration, illegal mining people are not deterred from mining separate areas to fulfill their intention by throwing dust in the eyes of the administration. "Tu dal-dal, me paat-pat" While making the saying, illegal miners and abstracts are succeeding in carrying out the mining work by dodging the district administration, due to which the other is also leaving no stone unturned to lime the administration and governance by being involved in illegal mining. On the complaint being received in the district administration, District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjnan took strong stand and Additional District Magistrate Finance and RevenueShiv Pratap Shukla has been issued strict instructions to ban illegal mining and transportation and directed action. In the order of the said instructions,



SDM Sadar Gulab Chandra raiding illegal mining and ability in Kachwan police station area

Strict action against illegal mining and transporters: SDM Sadar

Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Shiv Pratap Shukla formed a team under the leadership of SDM Sadar and directed to take strict action immediately. In the order of the above, SDM Sadar Gulab Chandra Kachwan reached the spot with the police station and there is two dungeer he managed to catch a JCB

Have become. While some Danfar and JCB managed to flee. In this regard, SDM Sadar Gulab Chandra informed that immediate action is taken on receiving information about illegal mining and transport. In whose order this action has been taken today. He said that on receiving information about illegal mining transport, strict action will be taken against illegal mining and transporters. Such mining and malpractices will not be spared at any cost and in illegal work Strict action will be taken against the people involved.

Idol's Pranapratishta conducted in newly built Radha Krishna Temple



Additional Superintendent of Police Operation Omprakash Singh inaugurating the newly constructed Radhakrishna Temple

Staff Reporter
Rajgarh (Mirzapur), The idol installation of the newly constructed Radhakrishna Temple in the local police station area complex was installed on Friday morning with chanting and havan puja. The temple was inaugurated by Additional Superintendent of Police Om Prakash Singh. It is a different importance to be inside the Radha Krishna Temple police station premises. Because a recognition is thatShri Krishna was born inside the jail. Therefore, it is seen connecting to the police department and is also considered for justice for love. There was no temple in this newly constructed police station to celebrate Shri Krishna Janmashtami. Whose first thought came by former police station president Amit Kumar Prajapati and a meeting of the people around and appealed for cooperation and the establishment of the temple started. Their only days after installationAfter the transfer was done, the new station president Mahendra Patel completed the outstanding work of the temple by public support. Which was released today. Folklore singers Saurabh Pandey and Surendra Kumar along with their team drenched people with devotional songs. On this occasion, jurisdictional Munendra Pal Singh, Police Station President Mahendra Patel, Sub -Inspector Ramkishore Yadav, Ramji Yadav, Kamlesh Yadav, Gorakh Nath Yadav, Purnjay Choubey, Hundreds of people including Head Constable Ranjit Singh, Upendra Yadav, Manoj Yadav, Bhanu Yadav Afroz Khan, Dinesh Kumar Verma, Sanjay Singh, former chief Dinesh Singh Patel, Nandlal Singh, Subhash Yadav, singer Surendra Kumar, Santveer Maurya, Jaswant Yadav, Santosh Pathak, Major Singh, Gram Pradhan Devendra Nath Mishra, Dr. Dwarka Prasad Singh were present.

BRIEFS

IWD: Honouring SuPoshan Sanginis for combating malnutrition & anaemia



Staff Reporter
Varanasi: Adani Wilmar Limited (AWL), one of India's largest food and FMCG companies, is honouring SuPoshan Sanginis on this International Women's Day by launching a compelling four-video series titled 'Stories of Sanginis: A Tribute to Their Strength'. The series will showcase the contribution of different Sanginis, who are the village volunteers for the Fortune SuPoshan initiative in different parts of India and have garnered positive impact amongst the locals by educating them on health & nutrition. Launched in 2016, the Fortune SuPoshan program is an initiative of Adani Wilmar, implemented by Adani Foundation, the CSR arm of the Adani Group. The project has been making a significant impact on countless lives with its unique approach that involves active engagement with stakeholders, including gram panchayats, local governing bodies, healthcare facilities, and ASHA workers.

Commenting on the newly launched video series, Mr. Angshu Mallick, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Adani Wilmar Ltd., "The SuPoshan Sanginis are true architects of change, driving transformation at the community level. Their tireless dedication to improve health and nutrition for all communities exemplifies the spirit of empowerment. The Fortune SuPoshan project is deeply meaningful to us, and we take immense pride in its progress toward combating malnutrition and anemia. We are honored to showcase their relentless efforts through this inspiring video series and hope their stories inspire many more to take charge of their well-being and uplift those around them."

The Fortune SuPoshan initiative proudly honors the unsung heroes of our communities—the SuPoshan Sanginis—who are fostering positive change through their dedication and resilience. These women have emerged as pillars of strength, guiding families toward better nutrition, health, and overall well-being at the grassroots level. The first video in the newly launched series titled 'Stories of Sanginis: A Tribute to Their Strength,' follows a Sangini as she conducts health check-ups, leads nutrition awareness sessions, and trains a group of women, all while sharing stories of her own transformation while being a part of the project. A compelling voiceover underscores her pivotal role in reshaping lives at the grassroots level.

The video series will be heavily promoted on digital platforms like Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. And the company has also planned an all-India print advt. to highlight the role played by the SuPoshan Sanginis and recognize their efforts towards building a healthy and growing nation.

Castrol Activ with new campaign featuring SRK

Staff Reporter
Prayagraj: Castrol India Limited, the country's leading lubricant manufacturer, has relaunched Castrol Activ, its flagship two-wheeler engine oil brand. Castrol Activ is the category leader in India's two-wheeler engine oil market. As part of the relaunch, Castrol Activ has seen a product upgrade (API SN) and a packaging refresh with Shah Rukh Khan on the pack label. The campaign takes Castrol Activ's promise of 3X protection to the next level by ensuring protection against engine overheating. Addressing the growing need for heat protection: India has nearly 235 million two-wheelers on the road (source: Kline). In 2024 two-wheeler sales in India grew by 14.8% (including EVs) adding nearly 20 million two-wheelers through the year. As urban and rural mobility increases so do challenges like extreme heat and stop-and-go traffic. Engine overheating is a major concern for riders, especially during peak summer months, affecting both bike performance and rider comfort. Castrol Activ's new Actibond™ Technology provides 50% better wear protection at start-up (vs API SN standard), offering enhanced protection across different riding conditions, including city traffic, highways, and off-road terrains. The 3X protection promise ensures performance across: 1. Start-up: Protects the engine from excessive wear upon start., 2. Running: Fights against oil thickening under tough conditions to help dissipate heat better. 3. Shutdown: Protects the engine from corrosion when turned off.

"Overheating is a key biker pain point which is especially relevant for India where summers are harsh and long commutes can put excess stress on the engine," said Rohit Talwar, Vice President & Head of Marketing, Castrol India. "This campaign not only reinforces Castrol Activ's promise of 3X protection but also deepens our connection with bikers across the country by singularly addressing one of their biggest pain points."

Campaign and availability: To support the relaunch, Castrol India has rolled out a new marketing campaign, #GarmiMeinBhi3xProtection, featuring Bollywood star and brand ambassador Shah Rukh Khan. In the TVC, set in the heat-scorched landscapes of Rajasthan, Khan plays a determined cop in pursuit of criminals. As the chase intensifies, his bike—protected by Castrol Activ—endures the extreme conditions, while the rival bike, powered by ordinary engine oil, overheats and stalls.



can do? India can do a lot," he said. Akshay then spoke about his films like *Airlift* and *Mission Mangal* and said that these were unique Indian stories. He also spoke about his recent release *Sky Force*, also starring *Veer* *Pahariya* and said, "I know that such films don't do much business because people want to watch entertainment but let me tell you, I make these films because my heart says so."

Royals launch Pink Promise jersey on International Women's Day

Jaipur (Agency). Rajasthan Royals on Sunday launched the Pink Promise jersey on the occasion of International Women's Day. The Royals launched this pink jersey for their match in IPL 2025. The Royals aim to support women-led change in Rajasthan by launching this jersey. Taking this commitment to the biggest stage, the Royals team will also host the Pink Promise match against Mumbai Indians on May 1 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. The Royals said about this, Royals' CSR arm Royal Rajasthan Foundation (RRF) also celebrated International Women's Day with the launch of a powerful Pink Promise campaign film, Aurat Hai To Bharat Hai.

It is worth noting that last year, the Pink Promise campaign illuminated the lives of thousands of people by bringing light to more than 250 homes with the support of Luminous company. Regarding this, Kumar Sangakkara, Director of Cricket, Rajasthan Royals, said, "Through Pink Promise, we strive to make a lasting impact - not just on individuals, but on their families and communities, inspiring change that spreads far and wide.

Tim Southee supports Shami, says ban on saliva on ball should be lifted

New Delhi (Agency). Former New Zealand fast bowler Tim Southee has supported Indian bowler Mohammed Shami's call to lift the ban on the use of saliva on the ball in international cricket. Southee believes that this will help bowlers achieve reverse swing and make the game more exciting. It is worth noting that the ICC temporarily banned the use of saliva on the ball in May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was made permanent in September 2022. Recently, after India's victory against Australia in the semi-finals of the

Champions Trophy, Shami had demanded the removal of this ban. Shami had said, we are trying to achieve reverse



swing, but the use of saliva is not allowed. We are constantly appealing that bowlers should be allowed to use it, so that there is balance in the game. Now supporting

this statement of Shami, Tim Southee appealed to the ICC to give some advantage to the bowlers. During a program,



Southee said, this rule was brought due to Kovid, but now the circumstances have changed. As a bowler, you want that you also get some benefit. Currently teams are

scoring more than 300 runs easily, so bowlers should also get some help. If this is possible with the help of saliva, then I don't think there is any risk in bringing it back. This experienced Black Caps fast bowler also told that the use of saliva is more effective in red ball cricket than in white ball. He said, swing with the white ball is limited only to the initial overs, but with the red ball it can be effective for a long time. Apart from this, sweat is not produced enough in some parts of the world, whereas the use of saliva is possible in every situation.

Ben Stokes can become the new ODI captain of England

London (Agency). After the resignation of Jos Buttler, England's star all-rounder Ben Stokes can take over the command of the team in limited overs cricket. England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) director Rob Key has said that not considering Stokes' name would be a big mistake. Stokes, who has proved his strategic skills in Test cricket, can now get a chance to lead the ODI team. The Champions Trophy 2025 was very disappointing for England, where the team could not win a single match. Due to this poor performance, Butler decided to leave the captaincy in the middle of the tournament. Earlier, England also had to face defeat in the ODI series against India. Ben Stokes could not play in the Champions Trophy due to a hamstring injury and has been away from ODI cricket since the 2023 World Cup. However, he had earlier also made a comeback in ODIs by reversing his decision to retire. Praising Stokes' captaincy, ECB director Key said that he has proved himself to be a great strategist in Test cricket and has the ability to get the best performance from the team players. He said, Stokes is a player who becomes the



shield of the team in pressure situations and gives confidence to his teammates. Stokes is currently with the England Lions practice group in Abu Dhabi and will be fit before the Test series against India in June-August. Key believes that under Stokes' leadership, England's ODI team can bring new energy, as he did with the Test team. He also has a good rapport with England Test coach Brendon McCullum, which makes his claim stronger. However, given the recent performance of England's limited overs team, questions are also being raised on the coaching staff. Under McCullum's supervision, England have lost 10 out of 11 ODIs so far, while since 2022, England have won 32 out of 35 Test matches. Now it will be interesting to see whether the ECB hands over the responsibility of captaining the ODI team to Stokes or some other player gets this opportunity.

India and New Zealand to face off in Champions Trophy cricket today

Dubai (Agency). The Indian team will face New Zealand on Sunday in the final of the ICC Champions Trophy cricket. Both teams will put in all their effort to win. This time the Indian team has made it to the final by defeating Australia in the semi-finals while New Zealand has defeated South Africa. The Indian team has won all its matches in this tournament so far. New Zealand had to face defeat against the Indian team at the league level. If we look at the statistics, the Kiwi team has the upper hand as it has won the three ICC knockout matches before this. The performance of both the teams in the ICC tournament in the last few years has been impressive. There has been consistency in the New Zealand team. On the other hand, the Indian team has shown its dominance and has won the most matches in ICC tournaments since 2011. The Indian team has won 70 out of 86 matches in more than a decade, while New Zealand has won 49 matches out of 77. It is clear from this that in terms of winning matches, the Indian team is far ahead of its opponent, but when it comes to winning the trophy, both Team India and New Zealand have not been as successful as expected. There have been 14 ICC tournaments since 2011, in which India has failed to reach the knockout stage only twice. India has played four semi-finals during this

Both teams are as follows

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

New Zealand- Mitchell Santner (captain), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, William O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Kane Williamson, Will Young, Jacob Duffy, Kyle Jamieson.

period and the team has been runner-up five times. India has succeeded in winning the trophy thrice. At the same time, New Zealand has also shown consistency and has entered the knockout stage eight times during this period. It has played four semi-finals and has been runner-up three times. It has also defeated India in the World Test Championship in the year 2021. These figures of both the teams are excellent. No other team has reached the semi-finals so many times in this period. Among the teams that have played the most knockouts since 2011, the Indian team is at the top with 12 matches so far. At the same time, New Zealand played ICC knockout matches 8 times in

this period and after India, it remains in second place in this matter, while the Australian team, which is at the top in terms of winning the trophy, has played only 6 knockout matches during this period. Talking about the ODI format, India has played 38 group stage matches since 2011, in which it has lost only three times and one match was tied. This figure is much better than all the other teams. In the 2019 ODI World Cup, India was defeated by New Zealand in the semi-finals. Therefore, the Indian team will have to be cautious and perform at its best in the knockout against New Zealand. Both the teams have better batsmen and spinners, so the match is sure to be exciting.

Champions Trophy 2025The race for the Golden Ball will be exciting in the final

New Delhi (Agency). The final match of the Champions Trophy 2025 will be played between India and New Zealand on Sunday. In this great match, both the teams are fully prepared to capture the trophy. This match is going to be very special for cricket lovers, where every run and every wicket will have value. The Indian team has been in great form throughout the tournament, while the New Zealand team has also reached the final with its strong performance. In this title match, while on the one hand Team India will try to win the title on the basis of its strong batting order, New Zealand will make a strategy to stop the Indian team with its deadly bowling. In this



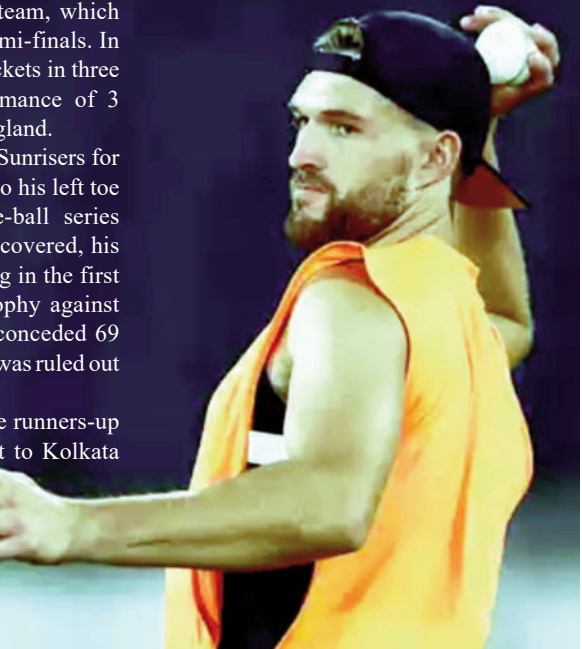
match, along with the victory of the teams, individual achievements will also be at stake. Especially in the race for the Golden Bat and Golden Ball Award, a tough competition can be seen between some players. The Golden Ball Award is given to the bowler who has taken the most wickets in the entire tournament. At present, New Zealand fast bowler Matt Henry is leading the race for the Golden Ball. He has taken 10 wickets in four matches so far. He is followed by India's experienced fast bowler Mohammed Shami, who has taken eight wickets in four matches. At the same time, the mystery spinner of the Indian team, Varun

Chakraborty, has surprised everyone by taking seven wickets in just two matches. New Zealand captain and all-rounder Mitchell Santner is also in this race, who has taken seven wickets in four matches so far. In the final match, all the bowlers will try to perform well for their team. Matt Henry and Mohammed Shami are the main bowlers of their respective teams and will have the responsibility of giving a strong start. At the same time, spinners Varun Chakraborty and Mitchell Santner can also play a decisive role. The pitch is likely to help the spinners, due to which everyone's eyes will be on the performance of Chakraborty and Santner.

Vian Mulder joins Sunrisers in place of injured Brydon

Mumbai (Agency). England fast bowler Brydon Carse has been ruled out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 due to injury. In his place, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have included South African fast bowler Vian Mulder in their team. Mulder will join SRH for Rs 75 lakh. 27-year-old Mulder has played 18 Tests, 25 ODIs and 11 T20 matches so far. Apart from taking 60 wickets in international cricket, he has also scored 970 runs. He was also part of South Africa's Champions Trophy team, which lost to New Zealand in the semi-finals. In this tournament, he took 6 wickets in three matches, including a performance of 3 wickets for 25 runs against England. Brydon Carse was bought by Sunrisers for Rs 1 crore, but his old injury to his left toe resurfaced during the white-ball series against India. Although he recovered, his injury worsened while playing in the first match of the Champions Trophy against Australia. In this match, he conceded 69 runs in 7 overs, after which he was ruled out of the entire tournament. Sunrisers Hyderabad were the runners-up of IPL 2024, where they lost to Kolkata

Knight Riders (KKR) in the final. The team is captained by Pat Cummins, who was injured during Australia's 3-1 win against India in the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Cummins is fully fit for IPL 2025 and will return to the league with the match between KKR and RCB at Eden Gardens on March 22. Sunrisers have strengthened their bowling by including Wiaan Mulder. It will be interesting to see how he performs in his first IPL season.



Sundar can get place in Team India in place of Kuldeep, Rahul can be promoted



Dubai (Agency). Indian cricket team will face New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy final on Sunday. In this, the Indian team can send KL Rahul up in batting along with Shreyas Iyer. At the same time, head coach Gambhir was also seen working late with Washington Sundar at the nets. In such a situation, he can also get Kuldeep Yadav's place in the team. The reason for this is that Kuldeep has not been able to perform as per expectations in this tournament so far. Rahul is looking in good form in this tournament, so the team management can also confirm his number in the batting order. It is believed that because of this, Rahul was made to bat in the top 5 set in the practice session. The way Rahul has rotated the strike on the Dubai pitch, the team management can also have this strategy that the wicket should be saved for the last 10 and then hit fast in the last over. The team can also make a strategy for an off spinner. In such a situation, the big question will be who can be left out. It is being said that the coach and captain are not very happy with Kuldeep Yadav's bowling and his fielding. Both Rohit and Virat were angry with him for his poor fielding against Australia. Kuldeep has not been able to impress in bowling so far. Kuldeep has taken only 5 wickets in 4 matches at an average of 36, that is why Sundar was kept in the first set at the nets, which indicates that this is the only change Team India can make.

Cricketer Nitish Rana is going to become a father

Mumbai (Agency). Cricketer Nitish Rana is going to become a father soon. Nitish has shared this information on social media with his wife Sachi Marwah. The couple said that after six years of marriage, happiness is going to come to their house as they are going to become parents of twins. Nitish's post has a picture in which he and Sachi are seen together. With this post, he wrote, from the stadium to the side visit, the biggest project of our life is going to start soon. The team is going to change to 3. Through this post, he indicated that his family is now going to be of three to 5 members. It is worth noting that Nitish and Sachi got married in February 2019. Sachi is an interior designer, and the couple often shares glimpses of their life on social media. Nitish plays for Delhi and is included in the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) team in the IPL. He has been bought by Rajasthan Royals for Rs 4.2 crore for the 2025 season. Apart from being an aggressive batsman, he is also a spinner.

Kazmi, Gaura came in defense of Shami

Saharanpur (Agency). Islamic scholar and writer Badar Kazmi of Deoband has said that the criticism of Indian cricket team's fast bowler Mohammad Shami for drinking energy drinks is wrong. Kazmi said that the people who are criticizing Shami's motive is to gain cheap popularity. He also said that every Indian Muslim is proud of Shami. He is representing India in the Champions Trophy and has impressed cricket lovers all over the world with his brilliant game. Earlier, Maulana Shahabuddin Rizvi of Bareilly, National President of All India Muslim Jamaat, while criticizing Shami, said that not keeping fasts in Ramadan is a sin and Shami is a criminal in the eyes of Shariat. He should not have done this. Rizvi said that Shami should have kept fasts following Shariat. While defending Shami, Kazmi said that fasting during the match was not mandatory according to Islamic beliefs. To gain cheap popularity, Bareilly Maulvi has wrongly criticized Shami.

Success in catching the gang that cheated people by cheating through online trading app

■ **06 accused arrested**
 ■ **Search for software developer and controller continues**
 ■ **Data base of about one lakh people found and information about transactions of about 05 crore rupees has come to light in statement analysis**

Bhopal (Agency): On 04.03.2025, the complainant Pushkar Patidar, father Rameshwar Patidar, age 36 years, resident of village Ranayra, submitted an application regarding cheating by trading through META TRADES 5 PRO

trading app by depositing about Rs 7,11,250 in three different accounts in the name of trading. On the said application, FIR No. 139/2025 under Section - 318 (4) BNS, 66 D IT Act was registered at Alot police station and investigation was taken up.

Considering the seriousness of the said crime, the Superintendent of Police immediately constituted a cyber cell and police station team and directed them to arrest the accused.

Incident exposed – After technical analysis by the team, total 06 accused 1 Sonam resident Bhopal, 2 Aarti resident Itarsi, 3 Dinesh Sharma resident Shivpuri, 4 Raj Joshi Chachoda Guna, 5 Firoz Pathan Dewas, 6 Moin Khan Dewas were taken into custody. Detailed interrogation was done with the accused in a practical and



psychological manner in which Sonam Pardeshi was found to be the main mastermind of the said META TRADES 5 PRO trading app, who along with her maternal aunt's daughter Aarti Sonkar and her partner Firoz Pathan resident Dewas, bought the META TRADES 5 PRO server app for Rs. 55000 from the app developer as told by Firoz

Pathan and Moin and other partners working under Firoz opened demat accounts by calling people and phishing them as per the data given by Sonam Pardeshi and by sending the link of META TRADES 5 PRO trading app on WhatsApp, fraudulently made people buy shares and deposited money in the accounts. Money was deposited. The said accounts

were arranged by Dinesh Sharma, resident of Shivpuri, a partner of Sonam Pardeshi and by luring the account holders, money was deposited in their accounts and that money was withdrawn and delivered to Sonam Pardeshi. Sonam Pardeshi and Aarti Sonkar, along with other partner accused controlling the said META TRADES 5 PRO

server app, continuously increased or decreased the value of people's shares as per their wish and when any customer talked about withdrawing money for profit, the value of his share was reduced through the server app and he was told to hold the share or invest more money and the customer who pressured to withdraw money, his ID was removed from the app and his mobile was switched off, thus committing fraud.

On which the accused were arrested and after presenting them in the honorable court, PR was obtained and interrogation is being done.

Note - Earlier, he used to work in share trading companies, after the closure of which he has a database of about one lakh people.

Information about transactions worth around Rs 5 crore has come to light.

Names of the arrested accused-

1. Sonam father Ashok Pardeshi Kanojia husband Akash Chauhan age 32 years resident of Shafi Nagar Housing Board Colony house number 594 Bhanpur police station Shahjanabad district Bhopal, presently residing sector number 136 Indore, police station Lasudia district Indore,
2. Aarti father Mahesh Sonkar caste Khatik age 24 years resident of Redas Nagar Itarsi district Narmadapuram presently residing sector number 136 Indore, police station Lasudia district Indore,
3. Dinesh father Tej Pratap Sharma caste Brahmin age 30 years resident of Saboli police station Narwar district Shivpuri presently residing sector number 136 Indore, police station Lasudia district Indore,
4. Raj father Shankar Joshi age 23 years resident of village Pechi tehsil Chachoda police station Binaganj district Guna presently residing Sanjay Gandhi Nagar Indore,
5. Firoz father Sanawar Pathan age 35 years resident of 222 MG Road Dewas
6. Moin Khan father Ansar Khan caste Pathan age 21 years resident 2/8 Naya Abadi Dewas

Fugitive accused –

1. Software developer
2. Server app controller,
3. Phishing accused,
4. 02 other account holders in whose accounts fraudulent money was deposited

BRIEF NEWS

Delhi Police in action against Bangladeshi-Rohingya intruders

Delhi (Agency): After receiving instructions from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take action against illegal intruders, Delhi Police is in full action these days. During this, on Saturday, it conducted a verification campaign against illegal intruders in Jai Hindi Camp slum area in Vasant Kunj area of the national capital. Earlier on March 6, Delhi Police had also conducted a verification campaign to identify illegal Bangladeshi immigrants living in Sangam Vihar area. In the campaign conducted on Saturday, the police also checked the identity cards of the local people. Sub-Inspector Ravi Malik said that during the verification process, they are asking for their identity proof from the people and matching the information given by them. He said that if any suspect is found during the process, then his identity proof is sent to his respective district for verification. The police officer said, 'For verification, we ask for all their identity cards, if we find someone suspicious, then his identity cards are sent to the respective districts for verification. If we find someone living here illegally, he is deported... all his details are verified.' Earlier on February 28, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had called a meeting to review the law and order situation in the national capital. In which he said that the issue of Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltration is a national security issue and should be dealt with strictly. Union Home Minister Shah had said in the meeting that strict action should be taken against the entire network that helps Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators enter the country, get their documents made and live here. The issue of infiltrators is also related to national security and should be dealt with strictly. They should be identified and sent back to their country.

Delhi Traffic Police wrote a letter to the Education Department

Delhi (Agency): To reduce road accidents in Delhi, Delhi Traffic Police has recommended teaching traffic rules to students in schools. For this, Special Commissioner of Traffic Police Ajay Chaudhary has also written a letter to the Secretary of the Education Department. In this, he has said that traffic rules should be included in the curriculum of the schools of the capital. This will make the children aware of the road rules and when they go out to drive on the roads in Delhi, they will follow the rules in a better way. Special Commissioner Ajay Chaudhary has written in a letter sent to the Education Department that better rules have been made regarding road safety in the Motor Vehicle Act 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rule 1989. If the lessons of these rules are taught to school students, then it will give double benefit. On one hand, where school children will be aware of road safety, on the other hand, at an early age they will know what is the role of a responsible driver on the road. When these children drive on the road in future, they will follow the traffic rules in a better way. The more the observance of traffic rules increases on the road, the more the road accidents will decrease. Ajay Chaudhary has written in the letter that such a course on road safety is being taught in schools in Kerala. A similar plan has been prepared in the Maharashtra government and Chandigarh, in which children will be taught lessons related to road safety inside the school, so he requests the education department to prepare such a course and implement it for teaching in schools. The road safety cell of the traffic police runs continuous awareness programs in schools, but due to less time in this program, only general information is given to the students. Whereas every driver driving on the road should have complete information related to this. Therefore, the traffic police wants to include it in the curriculum.

Even 10% women inside Delhi will not get the benefit of the scheme

Delhi (Agency): Delhi CM Rekha Gupta has announced the implementation of Mahila Samridhi Yojana. Under this, women from economically weaker sections will be given Rs 2500 every month. After this, statements have started coming from the opposition party. Party leaders are constantly trying to surround the Rekha government. Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh has reacted to this. Sanjay Singh said that this promise is a kind of jumla of the Modi government. It is known that even 10% women will not get the benefit under this scheme.

SBI donates Rs 46.73 lakh for animal welfare



Bhopal (Agency): In a remarkable initiative under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), State Bank of India (SBI) Bhopal Circle provided a grant of Rs 46.73 lakh to Vrindavan Social Welfare Society, a Bhopal-based animal welfare organisation that is actively involved in the rehabilitation and care of rescued and injured animals. The amount will be used to enhance the quality of care for injured and rescued animals, purchase essential medical equipment, animal rescue vans and install solar power systems for animal

shelters. The project is based on the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which promotes sensitivity towards all living beings and the feeling of considering the earth as a common home. This ambitious CSR initiative of SBI will provide medical facilities, shelter and support to animals for their welfare, as well as raise awareness about animal welfare in society. The donation reflects commitment to initiatives that promote animal welfare and sustainable energy solutions.

The project aims to

strengthen animal health facilities, their rehabilitation and awareness in the society, which underlines SBI's commitment towards social responsibility.

On the auspicious occasion of International Women's Day, Ms. Meeta Nair, Founder and Chairperson of the organization received a cheque of Rs 46.73 lakh from Manoj Kumar, General Manager, SBI Bhopal Circle. The event was held at SBI's local headquarters in Bhopal, in which Union Finance Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman and top officials of SBI's Corporate Centre in Mumbai participated virtually. The Finance Minister virtually inaugurated 5 branches and 51 women-led CSPs (Customer Service Centers) located in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The event was attended by senior SBI officials of Bhopal Circle.

Women empowerment is happening through the schemes of the state government: Deputy Chief Minister Devda

■ **On International Women's Day, women performed Aarti and worshiped Lord Pashupatinath**
 ■ **Deputy Chief Minister wished the women power on International Women's Day**



Bhopal (Agency): On International Women's Day, women power took care of all the arrangements including the morning Aarti in the temple of Lord Pashupatinath established on the land of Mandsaur (Dashpur). Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda on Saturday performed Aarti and worshiped Lord Pashupatinath along with the women power. While wishing the women power on International Women's Day, he prayed to Lord Pashupatinath for happiness, peace and prosperity for the people of the state. On Saturday, on the occasion of International Women's Day, along with the morning Aarti of the temple, the day's Aarti, worship and all the events and arrangements of the temple were conducted by women. Deputy Chief Minister Devda said on International Women's Day that women power has always

been respected in India. Along with being worshipped as Adi Shakti, there is a tradition of Kanya Puja in every Sanatan family before any auspicious work. He said that both the Central and State Governments have been following this tradition. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has prominently included the 4 pillars of knowledge (GYAN), poor, youth, farmer and women empowerment for the development of the country. The state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has organized a cabinet meeting at the workplace of Punya-Shloka Rajmata Ahilya Devi in Maheshwar and started the Nari Shaktikaran Mission in her name. On the initiative of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, the state government has increased the reservation for women in government recruitments from 33 to 35 percent.

How to get the benefit of Mahila Samridhi Yojana

Delhi (Agency): The Delhi government has announced the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' to promote economic empowerment and financial independence of women. Under this scheme, women from economically weaker sections of the capital will be given financial assistance of Rs 2,500 every month. The government announced a budget of Rs 5100 crore for this scheme, which the government will pass in its first budget. For the successful implementation

of the scheme, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, which includes Minister Pravesh Sahib Singh, Minister Ashish Sood and Minister Kapil Mishra as members. This committee will ensure smooth implementation and monitoring of the scheme. Advanced technology will be used to ensure transparency, efficiency and seamless financial benefit distribution in the implementation of the



scheme. For this, Aadhaar-based e-KYC system will be used, which will facilitate identification and verification of eligible women.

The application process for Mahila Samridhi Yojana will start soon. Applications can be made through both online and offline modes. A special portal is being developed by the government for online application, where women can register through their Aadhaar number and mobile number. Application forms

will be available at the nearest government centers for offline application. BJP says that the aim of Mahila Samridhi Yojana is to empower women financially, so that they are able to meet the needs of their family. This financial assistance will help make women self-reliant and improve their standard of living.

Apart from this, this initiative will strengthen the role of women in society and promote gender equality.

No guarantee from Modi ji, just a jumla, Atishi's attack on BJP's Mahila Samridhi Yojana

Delhi (Agency): BJP's Rekha Gupta government has announced the implementation of Mahila Samridhi Yojana in Delhi. With this, lakhs of eligible women will get Rs 2500 every month under this scheme. Now the reaction of Aam Aadmi Party has also come on this. Leader of Opposition Atishi has termed this scheme as PM Modi's jumla. Atishi says that before the Delhi elections, PM Modi had promised women that from March 8, every month, Rs 2500 will be deposited in their bank accounts. He had said that this is Modi's guarantee. Today, women kept waiting for a message on their



phones. The BJP government proved that it was not Modi's guarantee but a jumla. Not just money, not even a scheme was not provided. Not even a portal for

registration was provided. Only a committee of 4 members was provided. Attacking the BJP, Atishi said there is a saying that digging a mountain to find a

mouse. Today the BJP government of Delhi has made it clear. PM Modi had lied to the women of Delhi. Perhaps this is a beginning. The people of Delhi will come to know in the future that the promises made in the manifesto on which people voted for the BJP will turn out to be lies. Atishi further said that the women of Delhi have been cheated a lot. They have been given a rattle. The BJP government has proved that Modi ji had lied to the women of Delhi. The BJP government is not fulfilling the promises with which it came to power. Now the people of Delhi are also getting to know the truth about this.

First approval from Rekha Cabinet then grand launch



Delhi (Agency): In a historic decision aimed at women empowerment and financial independence, the Delhi government has approved the Mahila Samridhi Yojana. This annual scheme of Rs 5,100 crore will provide direct financial assistance to women in Delhi. This is a big step towards ensuring economic stability and social upliftment for women, especially women from poor families. For the implementation of the scheme, a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, in which Hon'ble Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh, Hon'ble Minister Ashish Sood and Hon'ble Minister Kapil Mishra are members.