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### HOLIDAY NOTICE

The offices of PEOPLE'S MAIL will remain closed on March 14, 2025 on account of Holi. There will, therefore, be no edition of this newspaper on 16 March 2025.

— General Manager

### GREETINGS

PEOPLE'S MAIL wishes its readers, patrons and advertisers a very happy Holi.

— Editor



### 7 killed as gas tanker hits 2 vehicles in MP's Dhar

**Dhar (Agency):** Seven persons were killed and three injured after a gas tanker collided with two four-wheelers in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place around 11 pm on Wednesday when the gas tanker was heading from the wrong side on a road near Bamansuta village on Badnawar-Ujjain highway.

## Self-help groups are the backbone of the rural economy, women will prosper only with their empowerment - Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

More than 62 lakh women are benefiting from 5 lakh self-help groups in the state

- Find new opportunities to increase the income of the groups, prepare a concrete action plan to make them self-reliant
- Roadmap will be prepared for better marketing and packaging of FPO product and one district-one product

**Bhopal (Agency):** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the state government is committed to the economic and social upliftment of women. Self-help groups are the backbone of the rural economy of our state. Their empowerment will not only strengthen the position of women, but will also ensure the overall progress of the state. He has instructed the officials to provide maximum encouragement and necessary resources to the

self-help groups, so that they become economically strong and self-reliant and move towards prosperity. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing an important meeting organized on the strengthening and empowerment of self-help groups at Samatva Bhavan (Chief Minister's residence) on Thursday. 5 lakh 3 thousand 145 self-help groups have been formed in Madhya Pradesh under the Women and Child Development Department

and Panchayat and Rural Development Department (MP State Rural Livelihood Mission) in the state. 62 lakh 30 thousand 192 women members are associated with these self-help groups and are benefiting from the livelihood development schemes of the government. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has also instructed the officials to ensure that effective steps are taken to connect the self-help groups to the market, provide training and financial assistance. Along with this, he also emphasized on exploring new opportunities to increase the income of the groups and preparing a concrete action plan to make them self-reliant. Panchayat and Rural Development and Labor Minister Prahlad Singh Patel, Women and Child Development Minister Ms. Nirmala Bhuria, Chief Secretary Mr. Anurag Jain, Additional Chief Secretary in

the Chief Minister's Office Dr. Rajesh Rajoura, Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Mrs. Deepali Rastogi, Principal Secretary Women and Child

Development Mrs. Rashmi Arun Shami, Commissioner Women and Child Development Mrs. Sufia Farooqui Wali, CEO of MP State Rural Livelihood Mission Mrs. Harshika Singh and senior officers of other related departments were present in the meeting. Various schemes and policies were also considered by the state government to



discussed. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav directed the concerned officials to link the women self-help groups with all the schemes of the government. Concrete steps should be taken to provide them loan assistance by providing bank linkage and also to take their products to the market. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that in accordance with the Gyan (GYAN) Sankalp of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, the state government is doing everything necessary to provide economic support to women and women empowerment. He asked the officials to prepare a proper action plan for marketing, branding and packaging of the products of self-help groups under the Livelihood Mission. He said that to fulfill the goal of making more and more rural women Lakhpati Didi, the range and quality of products prepared by nutrition food plants (take home ration plants) and farmer producer groups should be increased. This will meet the market demand and will also increase the income of women. In the meeting, the Chief Minister was informed that a large number of women self-help groups have been formed in Madhya Pradesh. With the work being given to these groups, more than 62 lakh women of the state are getting employment in their

villages. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that there is a need to change the test and quality of THR products produced in the nutrition food plants currently operating in Dewas, Dhar, Sagar, Mandla, Rewa, Shivpuri and Narmadapuram in the new environment. He directed the officials to conduct a fresh study to increase the benefits of women associated with the livelihood mission and prepare an action plan for reorganization in a month. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has said that Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) should be promoted with public cooperation in economically weak districts like Mandla, Dindori, Balaghat of the state. This will create employment opportunities for women and youth at the local level. Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Patel said that the objective of

### Siddaramaiah deputed Deputy CM Shivakumar to represent state and party at delimitation meet in Chennai

**Bengaluru (Agency):** Karnataka Chief Minister S Siddaramaiah has deputed his deputy, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, to represent the state and party at the delimitation meeting convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK supremo MK Stalin. In a letter to Stalin, the Karnataka Chief Minister said that due to prior commitments, he could not attend



the meeting, which is likely to discuss and finalise strategies to oppose the delimitation.

However, he said that considering the importance of the issue, he had requested Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar to participate in the discussions and deliberations.

"I have received the letter, which raises important issues of state autonomy with serious implications for the principles governing our polity, particularly the delimita-

tion of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies, Siddaramaiah said, adding, "Although I would like to attend the meeting, prior commitments prevent me from doing so."

Stalin had also sought formal consent for the formation of a Joint Action Committee (JAC), comprising Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka in the South, West Bengal and Odisha in the East, and Punjab in the North, to oppose the proposed delimitation.

Stalin also sought the nomination of a senior Congress leader who could serve on the JAC and help coordinate a unified strategy.

"The essence of India's democracy rests on its federal character. Today, I write with urgency as this balance faces a profound threat that could permanently diminish the influence of states like ours in shaping the nation's future," Stalin said, adding, "With the 2021 Census delayed, the delimitation exercise—originally expected after the 2031 Census—could now take place much earlier than anticipated. "This expedited timeline leaves us with very little time to protect our interests. The question is no longer whether delimitation will happen, but when—and whether it will honour the contributions of states that have advanced our national priorities," Stalin said.

### ED conducts raids across Karnataka in Ranya Rao smuggling case

**Bengaluru (Agency):** As part of the investigations into the starlet smuggling saga, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches at many locations across Karnataka to unravel the possible involvement of others — people from the film world, politics, business and social circles of the arrested actress Ranya Rao.

The CBI, which has begun the investigations, has filed a case based on which the ED searches began, to find further evidence in the case and also to detect and identify any more people involved in the smuggling racket.

The investigations are also expected to unravel any international ramifications of the case. With help from the CBI and DRI, the ED hopes to crack open any international network that was active in the gold smuggling case, in which Kannada actress Ranya

Rao was arrested on March 4 from Bangalore while she was walking out of the green channel with a huge cache of gold concealed on her person.

The gold was worth Rs 12 crore, and she is said to

helped the smuggling operations.

Her residence was also raided after her arrest, leading to the seizure of Rs 2.67 crore in cash and gold worth Rs 2.06 crore. Her other assets have also



been confiscated. The investigations have revealed that Rao, who is the stepdaughter of a senior police officer, had made 30 trips to Dubai over the past one year and brought in gold without paying any duties. Her accomplice, a business-

man, was also arrested after the analysis of her phone call records and other electronic devices seized from her.

The investigators are also combing the data from her devices to detect if any of the persons in her phone networks were involved in the case in any way.

Meanwhile, a special court reserved its judgement in a bail plea moved by Ranya Rao and the order is likely to be pronounced on March 14. On the other hand, the Karnataka government

withdrew the CID probe it ordered into the smuggling racket and said that since Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta is already probing the possible role of K Ramachandra Rao, IPS, stepfather of the actress.

Rao, currently the MD of Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation, had expressed shock over the activities of Ranya Rao and said that she lived separately since her marriage four months ago.

"If there is any violation of law on the part of Ranya, the law will take its course," he said. However, the BJP has been questioning as to why no action was taken against the police officer and has been alleging that two ministers of the Congress government were also involved in the case. An allegation dismissed by the Congress leaders, who says that investigations are under the control of Central agencies and that they were awaiting the reports of the investigations and only once they come can they make any comment.

### Mosques in four UP districts covered with tarpaulin to protect from Holi colours

**Lucknow (Agency):** The Uttar Pradesh police have gone on a high alert on Thursday on the eve of the festival of Holi coinciding with the Juma congregation of Ramadan in anticipation of any untoward incident. The police administration in UP is gearing up to deal with any situation that threatens to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the state. In 18 districts of the state, the time of Friday prayers has been changed or delayed to accommodate the Holi celebrations.

According to reports, in four districts — Bareilly, Sambhal, Shahjahanpur, and Aligarh — mosques have been covered with tarpaulin for protection from colour. In Bareilly alone, the report says, 109 mosques

have been covered with tarpaulin where Ram Barat procession was taken out on Thursday amid tight security cover.



the route of the Ram Barat were guarded by around 5,000 policemen. In Shahjahanpur, 67 mosques have been covered with tar-

paulin and the police are conducting a flag march in sensitive areas for the procession of Lat Saheb to be held tomorrow. More than 1000 police personnel have

been outsourced from other districts. At the same time, 10 mosques have been covered in Sambhal, three in Aligarh. Besides, drones are

being used in every sensitive area to monitor the law and order situation.

A report from Shahjahanpur said additional security has been ensured for tomorrow's Lat Saheb's procession where people throw shoes on a symbolic Lat Saheb, who sits on a buffalo cart.

Two processions of Lat Saheb are taken out in Shahjahanpur, which are called small and big Lat Saheb. Kotwal gives a salute to Lat Saheb. After this, the procession enters the Sadar Bazar police station area via Roshanganj, Beri Chowki, Anta Square. The procession ends at Baba Vishwanath Temple.

Around 67 mosques and mausoleums on the route of the procession of

Lat Saheb have been covered with tarpaulin so that they do not get disfigured by colours and gulal.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in Sambhal is already sensitive with a police force deployed outside the Jama Masjid. Around 10 mosques have been covered with the tarpaulin in the city. A police team is patrolling in sensitive areas. All are being appealed to celebrate the festival in a peaceful manner while Maulana Aftab of Jama Masjid has extended the time of namaz to 2 pm.

SP K K Bishnoi of Sambhal said, "The police team has been deployed at the place where the Holi procession will come out. A total of 49 susceptible sites have been marked.

### 17 Naxalites, including nine with Rs 24 lakh bounty, surrender in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

**Bijapur (Agency):** Seventeen Naxalites, nine of them collectively carrying a cash reward of Rs 24 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Thursday, a senior police official said. The cadres, including a couple, turned themselves in before senior police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officials here, he said.

The Naxalites cited disappointment with the "hollow" and "inhuman" Maoist ideology, exploitation of innocent tribals by senior cadres and increasing influence of security forces, Bijapur Senior Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said.

They were also impressed with the 'Niya Nellanar' (your good village) scheme under which security forces and administration have been striving to provide basic amenities and carry out development works in interior areas, he said. All the surrendered Naxalites were active in different capacities in the Gangaloor area committee of the out-

lawed Maoist organisation, he said. Of them, Dinesh Modiam (36), a divisional committee member of Maoists, was wanted in 26 cases in Bijapur district and carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh, the senior police official said.

Modiam's wife Jyoti Tati, alias Kala Modiam (32), and Dula Karam (32), both active as area committee members, carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh each, he added.

Six of the surrendered cadres carried a bounty of Rs 1 lakh each, he said. District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighters, Special Task Force, CRPF and its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) played a crucial role in the surrender of these Naxalites, Yadav said. The cadres were provided assistance of Rs 25,000 each and will be further rehabilitated as per the government's policy to integrate them into the mainstream, he added.

So far this year, 65 Naxalites have surrendered in Bijapur district of the state's Bastar range. Last year, 792 Naxalites had surrendered in the Bastar region, comprising seven districts including Bijapur.

# Expert Tips to Protect Your Tresses During Holi Celebrations

**Celebrated hair designer Darshan Yewalekar offers advice on how to protect your hair from harsh chemicals and heat**

New Delhi (Agency): Holi is a festival of celebration & joyful abandon but chemical-laced colours can play havoc with your hair and skin. Well-known hair designer Darshan Yewalekar who has styled stars like Salman Khan, Saif Ali Khan and Ranveer Singh recommends natural Holi colours and also offers hair care tips everyone can benefit from.

**Protect your hair with oil:**

Being seen in public with oily hair is not really common when it comes to celebrities but when someone like Deepika Padukone wears oil in her tresses, there is usually a very good reason. During Holi, a sleekly oiled style prevents colours from seeping into the roots of your hair by creating a protective sheath that

prevents damage. This also makes it easy to wash your hair later on. Additionally, your tresses feel adequately hydrated. Massage a generous amount of oil on your scalp and your hair strands a few hours before playing Holi.

**Braid your hair or wear buns:**

It is obvious that leaving your hair open during Holi can harm it so braids as well as buns work well if you want to avoid colour damage. Such styles also prevent tangles and protect hair from coming in direct contact with colours. Alia Bhatt has often sported this fuss-free look and anyone can experiment with French braids, Dutch braids, or even milkmaid braids for convenience and style. If you're feeling adventurous, you can weave



braids into a bun and accessorise the look with pretty flowers in quintessential Indian colours.

**Wear a scarf:**

Kareena Kapoor Khan has aced the scarf game and this is also a good way to keep Holi colours out of your hair. Scarves and bandanas also protect hair from UV rays and keep oiled tresses out of sight while looking stylish to boot. The best part is that scarves and bandanas are versatile and can go well with unobtrusive buns, braids or ponytails. They also add a bohemian touch to your look while shielding your hair from harm.

**Take post holi hair-care seriously:**

After washing colours out from your hair thoroughly, ensure that you take care of the post revelry frizz, brittle locks and scalp dryness. Choose a suitable deep conditioner to restore your hair's natural softness and shine. I also recommend different

hydrating masks made with eggs, aloe vera, honey, avocado, bananas, yogurt, argan oil etc. These masks lock in moisture and also soothe your scalp. Kiara Advani's healthy tresses glow with all the care she gives them by applying varied nourishing masks.

**Avoid thermal hair styling:**

Flat irons, hair straighteners, hair dryers and curling irons use heat to style hair. They can weaken roots and cause hair fall. Post Holi, colour-drenched hair is already in a fragile state and heat can make the tresses even more brittle. Let your freshly washed hair dry naturally and use nourishing serums as well. Ananya Pandey's glossy mane is the result of a very disciplined hair care regimen and she also avoids harsh heat settings in styling tools.

## MLA city and District Magistrate solve water drainage problem

**A three-member committee constituted to submit a steam by conducting terrestrial inspection for drain/drain construction**



DM and City MLA inspecting water drainage of Naugwa and Ghamhiya village of development block city

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, The villagers have been demanding for the last several years in view of the solution of water drainage in Gram Sabha Naugwa and Ghumahia under Tehsil Sadar. MLA city to diagnose the above problem Pt. Ratnakar Mishra and District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan on Thursday along with Deputy District Magistrate Sadar Gulab Chandra and other revenue staff conducted

a terrestrial inspection. On this occasion, MLA Nagar Pt. Ratnakar Mishra said that the people of this village have been demanding a solution for the past several years regarding the problem of drainage, it was told by the villagers that there is a loss of crop due to the arrival of village proud water. SoThe demand for proper drainage system is going by the villagers. After inspection, the District Magistrate heard

the problems of the MLA and the villagers, in this context, suggestions were sought from the Ganga pollution officer present on the spot. To make drainage for proper withdrawal of, submit a terrestrial examination and submit an inquiry report with the steam. The District Magistrate said that after receiving the steamet, the problem of drainage will be solved by demanding a budget from the government.

## Holi celebrated by Aam Aadmi Party, appeals to celebrate Holi with mutual brotherhood

**Freedom fighter Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia's birth anniversary**



Officers of the Aam Aadmi Party celebrating the festival of Holi by putting Gula-Abir and feeding Gozhiya

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Today, the birth anniversary of the late Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia, who fights for the rights of social and deprived sections at the district office of Aam Aadmi Party B. Singh Academy Bharuhana, the birth anniversary of late Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia (13Recalling them on the occasion of March), he was resolved to raise the voice of backward under privileged and to follow his services as members of the Backward Classes Commission and follow their footsteps. After that, the workers greeted and congratulated all the activists on Bella before Holika Dahan by applying color to everyone. On this occasion, Aam Aadmi Party state secretary

Sunil Kumar Pandey Holi should also be done to strengthen this nation by working to celebrate everyone with mutual brotherhood. Dilip Singh Gaharwar Advocate District General Secretary, Satyam Tripathi, District President Youth Wing Santosh Soni, City President Youth Wing Anand Kumar Singh, District General Secretary Youth Wing Manbodh Dubey, city in -charge Ravindra Singh Chaddha, District PresidentTrade Cell Nasim Khan, District Senior Vice President Business Cell Shyam Babu Prajapati and other officials and workers were present.

Holi should also be done to strengthen this nation by working to celebrate everyone with mutual brotherhood. Dilip Singh Gaharwar Advocate District General Secretary, Satyam Tripathi, District President Youth Wing Santosh Soni, City President Youth Wing Anand Kumar Singh, District General Secretary Youth Wing Manbodh Dubey, city in -charge Ravindra Singh Chaddha, District PresidentTrade Cell Nasim Khan, District Senior Vice President Business Cell Shyam Babu Prajapati and other officials and workers were present.

## District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police gave Holi greetings



Staff Reporter Pratapgarh. District Magistrate Shiv Sahay Awasthi and Superintendent of Police Dr. Anil Kumar have wished the people of the district a happy Holi festival and wished them happiness and prosperity. District Magistrate Shiv Sahay Awasthi has appealed to all the citizens of the district to celebrate Holi together in a harmonious and peaceful environment. No person or group should do such a thing which hurts anyone's religious sentiments and creates disturbance in law and order. Do not throw mud etc. on anyone and also do not consume intoxicants. Superintendent of Police Dr. Anil Kumar has given his best wishes to the people of the district on the festival of Holi and said that strong security arrangements have been made to maintain peace on Holi. Strict vigil is being kept on anti-social elements. If any person or group tries to create disturbance in maintaining peace, then strict action will be taken against them.

**Celebrated Holi with wife in old age home**

District Magistrate Shiv Sahay Awasthi celebrated Holi with the elderly people in the old age home located in Mahuli of the city area on Thursday along with his wife Saumya Trivedi. The DM inquired about the well-being of the elderly people and distributed Gujiya to them. He greeted them and wished them Happy Holi by applying Abir-Gulaal on them. The District Magistrate's wife greeted the elderly mothers by hugging them. The elderly looked very happy with the District Magistrate and his wife playing Holi in the old age home. Forgetting their sorrows, they greeted the District Magistrate. They thanked him for remembering them in this festival.

## Divisional Commissioner & District Magistrate extends congratulations for Holi festival

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Divisional Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi and District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan have congratulated the citizens of Mandal and district on Holi festival on the occasion of Holi festival. Divisional Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi appealed to the Mandalites and said that mutual reconciliation and love for Holi festival and harmony Celebrate in peaceful environment. District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan said in a heartfelt greetings and

congratulatory message to the residents that Holi, the festival of Rangotsav, is a festival of happiness and love, to celebrate it in a cordial manner. He said that no such task should be done by any person and class, which hurts someone's religious sentiment. There should be no disruption in law and peace, itsAdequate magistrates, police officers and heavy police forces have been deployed in all areas taken. If there is disturbance and disruption during the prepared by someone, strict action will be taken against them.

# Apna Dal (S) Party celebrated Babu Shiva Dayal Singh Chaurasia's 122nd b'anniv day

**Babu Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia always fights for poor, laborers, Dalits and backward : Er. Ramloutan Bind**

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Advocate and former Rajya Sabha member Babu Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia in Patel Chowk (Bharuhana) district Mirzapur located in MP Public Relations Office under the leadership of Apna Dal (S) District President Er. Ramloutan BindThe 122nd birth anniversary was celebrated. On this sacred occasion of Jubilee Day, District President Engineer Shri Bind and other officials paid floral tributes on the photograph of Babu Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia. Apart from this, District

President Ramlotan Bind was honored by District President Anil Chaurasia and Dr. Ritesh Chaurasia with shrawls and flowers on the occasion. District President Engineer Ramloutan Bind toldThat former Rajya Sabha member Babu Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia always fought for poor, laborers, Dalits and backward. He fought for the poor for a lifetime. That's why backward society still remembers him. He said that Babu Shivdayal Singh Chaurasia always understood the suffering and pain of the poor and worked for him throughout his life.

He said that Babu Shivdayal Singh did the work to carry out the work that has done



Office of Apna Dal (S) celebrating 122nd birth anniversary of Babu Shivdayal Singh

towards the backward society.Need. This will be a true tribute to him. State Vice President IT

Manch Durgesh Patel said that in the course of time, when Shri Shiv Dayal Singh became MP, he amended the Indian Constitution in 1975 during his MP and paved the way for free legal aid by

joining Article 39A (03 January 1975) in the Indian Constitution. Current "Lok Adalat" Shri Shiv Dayal Singh Chaurasia ji itselfs a gift. Similarly, Union Minister of State Anupriya Patel has been working on prominent days to every great men of the society and have flowed a stream of development for the development of Mirzapur and the upliftment of the society. During this, State Vice President IT Manch Durgesh Patel, State Secretary Students Union Dilip Singh, State Secretary Ramvriksha Bind, Assembly guardvinamita Kesarwani,

Poonam Singh, Mrs. RenuBharatiya, District President Yuva Manch Uday Patel, District Vice President Radheshyam Patel, District Secretary Vijay Shankar Kesari, District Secretary Kuldeep Singh, District Media In -charge Shankar Singh Chauhan, Assembly Speaker Uma Shankar Kesarwani, Ratan Singh, Arif Ali Mansuri, Zone President Durga Prasad Kesarwani, Harshit Patel Pandit Vasambhar Pandey Anurag Pandey etc were present. The said intention was given by District Media in-charge Shankar Singh Chauhan.

## BRIEFS

### Tata Power Launches India's Largest Energy Literacy Movement



Staff Reporter Prayagraj: Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power companies and a leader in clean energy solutions, has launched 'Club Enerji Eco Crew'—India's largest energy literacy movement to create awareness about solar energy usage and promote eco-conscious practices among school students. Eco Crew seeks to reach over 5 lakh students across 1,000 schools in 24 towns, including key locations like Lucknow, Varanasi, Ayodhya, Meerut, Agra and Kanpur. The program is designed to instil a sense of environmental responsibility in students by educating them about the benefits of solar power viz adoption of rooftop solar and sustainable practices. Through engaging on-ground activations, students will participate in interactive workshops, energy audits, creative competitions, and hands-on projects focused on sustainability. Tata Power's sustainability buddy "Globe" - a real-life representation of a happy and healthy Globe that is powered by green energy solutions, is also at these workshops simplifying sustainability concepts for young students. These activities will not only raise awareness but also equip young minds with practical knowledge to protect the environment. By creating awareness and encouraging adoption of environment conscious solutions like solar energy, the initiative is supporting the PM Surya Ghar Yojana which envisions solarising 1 crore households across the nation, and the UP Government's support to this through top-up subsidies up to Rs1,08,000. Tata Power has also committed to empower 10 lakh homes with rooftop solar solutions by 2027 in alignment with the scheme. Eco Crew represents Tata Power's commitment to nurturing a generation of eco-conscious citizens capable of driving change in their communities. The initiative encourages students to extend their learnings beyond the classroom, influencing their families and neighbourhoods. It is a part of company's umbrella initiative Club Enerji which is one of India's largest energy awareness program Through Club Enerji's digital platform, students will engage in a 21-day challenge to build sustainable habits, leading to long-term behavioural change. Outstanding participants will be recognized as 'Eco Stars' and rewarded for their efforts. The program will culminate in celebratory events where Tata Power will felicitate students and schools demonstrating exceptional dedication to sustainability. Uttar Pradesh, with its vast population and dynamic youth, plays a critical role in India's green energy transition. Tata Power, a trusted partner in the state's progress, has been accelerating rooftop solar adoption through its 'Ghar Ghar Solar' initiative. The company has also joined hands with UPNEDA to accelerate solar rooftop adoption across in Uttar Pradesh. With the launch of Club Enerji Eco Crew, Tata Power is reinforcing its commitment to sustainability by educating and empowering young minds, ensuring a greener and more energy-efficient future for India.

**Akash was murdered due to the battle for supremacy**

Staff Reporter Pratapgarh, Kunda. Out of the nine accused involved in Akash's murder, police arrested six and sent them to jail. 19-year-old Akash Sarej, son of Amritlal, a resident of Badupur village of Kunda, was having a dispute with Sachin and Govind, residents of Nanda Ka Purwa village. There was tension between the two sides over this. On Tuesday afternoon, Qadir and Niaz of Badupur village called Akash and took him away. Akash was seriously injured in the dispute there. He was taken from Kunda to Prayagraj for treatment. Akash died late at night during treatment there. Angry relatives created a ruckus over the death. ASP Western Sanjay Rai, CO Kunda Ajit Singh, Kotwal Satyendra Singh and other officials pacified them by explaining. On the complaint of the elder brother, the police had registered a case against nine people under sections including murder. On Thursday, the police arrested six accused involved in the murder on the information of an informer. Crime Inspector Sanjay Singh says that the remaining accused are being searched and will be caught soon.

## BRIEFS

**IndusInd Bank's stock fell 27 percent, Hinduja Group called it "routine"**

New Delhi (Agency). IndusInd Bank's stock fell 27 percent due to discrepancies in the derivative portfolio. Due to this, the bank has feared a loss of 1,577 crores or about 2.35 percent of its total net worth. The fall of IndusInd Bank's stock affected other shares of Hinduja Group and 5 out of 6 stocks of the group closed with a decline on Tuesday. Due to this, the market capitalization of the group fell by 21000 crores. Hinduja called this problem "routine" and admitted that the investors' concern is right as to why they were not told earlier.

After the 27 percent fall in IndusInd Bank, Ashok Hinduja had told a TV channel that there is no need for shareholders to panic. He said that the discrepancies in the bank's derivative portfolio have not been caught by either the auditor or the regulator, but have been exposed by the IndusInd Bank management itself. He said that the promoters are waiting for approval from the RBI to increase their stake from 15 per cent to 26 per cent and as soon as the RBI approves, capital will be invested in the bank immediately. IndusInd Bank shares closed 27.02 per cent lower at 657.25 on the BSE on Tuesday. Earlier, IndusInd Bank was trading at a similar level in early November 2020. Ashok Leyland closed at 200, down 3.24 per cent. Hinduja Global Solutions Limited closed 3.68 per cent lower at 500.

**Ultraviolet Tesseract scooter gets 20 thousand bookings**

New Delhi (Agency). Ultraviolet Tesseract company's electric scooter has received more than 20,000 bookings in just 48 hours of its launch. This electric scooter can run up to 261 km on a single full charge.

It has a 20 HP electric motor, which enables it to reach a speed of 0 to 60 kmph in just 2.9 seconds. The scooter has a top speed of 125 kmph and the company claims that it can run up to 500 km for just Rs 100. Tesseract has advanced features like 7-inch TFT touchscreen, 34 liters of underseat storage, front and rear radar technology, blind spot monitoring, overtake alert, lane change assist and 14-inch large wheels. Earlier, the company launched its electric motorcycle F 77, which also received a great response. This new scooter from Ultraviolet is expected to bring a big change in the electric two-wheeler market. The starting price of the scooter has been kept at Rs 1.20 lakh, which will be applicable for the first 10,000 customers. Seeing the huge demand, the company has decided to extend this offer to 50,000 bookings. After this, the ex-showroom price will start from Rs 1.45 lakh.

**Derivative portfolio discrepancies: IndusInd Bank takes 2.35% potential hit on net worth**

Mumbai (Agency). IndusInd Bank on Monday disclosed that an internal review of its derivative portfolio has revealed a potential 2.35 per cent adverse impact on its net worth. This will have an approximate impact of Rs 2,100 crore on the bank, the management said in an analyst call. The review was conducted in response to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) directives issued in September 2023, pertaining to the investment portfolio of lenders and the accounting treatment of 'Other Asset and Other Liability' accounts of the derivative portfolio. Internal derivative trades were not in compliance with rules enforced by the Reserve Bank from April 2024. "The bank noted some discrepancies in these account balances," the bank said in an exchange filing. "The bank's detailed internal review has estimated an adverse impact of approximately 2.35 per cent of bank's net worth as of December 2024," it said. The bank has also appointed a reputed external agency to independently review and validate the internal findings. "A final report of the external agency is awaited and basis which the Bank will appropriately consider any resultant impact in its financial statements," it said. The bank said its profitability and capital adequacy remains healthy to absorb this one-time impact. "We can confirm that there will be no internal trades in our book... we have not entered into any internal trades," Deputy CEO Arun Khurana said on a conference call. The internal trades that were there prior to that period, which were existing before April 1, have been unwound and all according mark-to-markets taken, he said. The bank's shares fell 3.60 per cent to Rs 900.60 on the BSE on Monday. Meanwhile, IndusInd Bank received the Reserve Bank of India's approval on March 7 to reappoint Sumant Kathpalia as its chief executive officer and managing director. However, the central bank has only approved Kathpalia's tenure extension for one year, from March 24, 2025, to March 23, 2026.

**Jio signs deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX to offer Starlink internet services in India**

New Delhi (Agency). Jio Platforms Wednesday said it has signed a deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX to bring Starlink's internet services to India, a day after close rival Bharti Airtel announced a similar deal. Similar to Airtel, this deal is contingent upon SpaceX receiving its own authorisations to sell Starlink in India. Jio Platforms is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries. Jio and SpaceX, so far, had been on the opposite side of the debate on how spectrum for satellite communication should be assigned to companies – with Jio calling for an auction, but SpaceX insisting on the administrative route. The government has decided to go with administrative allocation.

SpaceX has applied for a security clearance with the Indian government, but it is understood that its application is undergoing review at the Home Ministry.

The agreement, Jio said, enables it and SpaceX to explore how Starlink can extend Jio's offerings and how it can complement SpaceX's direct offerings to its consumers and businesses. Jio will make Starlink solutions available through its retail outlets as well as through its online storefronts. "Through this agreement, the parties will leverage Jio's position as the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic and Starlink's position as the world's leading low Earth orbit satellite constellation operator to deliver reliable broadband services across the country, including the most rural and remote regions of India," Jio said in a statement. Apart from offering Starlink equipment in its retail outlets, Jio will also establish a mechanism to support customer service installation and activation. "Starlink complements JioAirFiber

**Donald Trump's steel and aluminium tariffs take effect, sparking global trade fears**

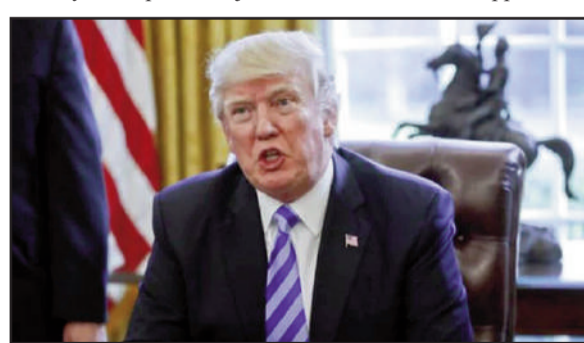
**Donald Trump Tariffs On Steel and Aluminium: Trump has removed all exemptions from the tariffs he enacted in 2018, increasing the tariff on aluminium from 10% as part of a broader initiative to disrupt and transform global trade.**

New Delhi (Agency). President Donald Trump's decision to impose sweeping tariffs on steel and aluminium imports officially took effect on Wednesday, raising duties on all such imports to 25 per cent, up from the 10 per cent previously imposed on aluminium. This latest move is part of Trump's ongoing efforts to reshape global trade and bolster domestic manufacturing. However, the

escalation is likely to have far-reaching implications for global trade dynamics, particularly for countries like India, whose steel sector is already grappling with rising imports and fears of a market glut. Trump has removed all exemptions from the tariffs he enacted in 2018, increasing the tariff on aluminium from 10% as part of a broader initiative to disrupt and transform global trade. He has also implemented separate tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China, with plans to impose similar taxes on imports from the European Union, Brazil, and South Korea, effective April 2. Trump, addressing CEOs at the Business Roundtable on Tuesday, maintained that the tariffs would encourage foreign companies to invest in US manufacturing, bringing factory jobs back to American soil. "The higher it goes, the more likely it is they're going to build,"

Trump stated, reiterating his belief that the tariffs would lead to a resurgence of U.S. industrial capacity. Reacting to the move, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the tariffs were "entirely unjustified" and "against the spirit" of the nations' "enduring friendship". Australia was exempt from similar tariffs implemented during Trump's first term. "This is not a friendly act," said Albanese. US stock markets have been hit hard, with the S&P 500 declining 8 per cent over the past month as fears of a trade-driven economic slowdown grow. Economists, meanwhile, have voiced concerns that while the tariffs may provide a short-term boost to US steel and aluminium producers, the increased costs could be detrimental to the wider manufacturing sector, which relies heavily on these metals. "The higher it goes,

the more likely it is they're going to build," Trump told the group. "The biggest win is if they move into our country and produce jobs.



That's a bigger win than the tariffs themselves, but the tariffs are going to be throwing off a lot of money to this country." He also threatened to put tariffs of 50% on steel and aluminium from Canada, but he chose to stay with the 25% rate after the province of Ontario suspended plans to put a surcharge on electricity sold to Michigan, Minnesota and New York. Reacting to Trump's tariff threat,

investors sold shares of steel manufacturers in Asian markets including India. Steel Authority of India (SAIL) shares on BSE slipped 4.67

per cent lower, shares slipped 3.11 per cent lower, JSW Steel slipped 2.20 per cent and Jindal Steel And Power Ltd declined 0.72 per cent. The Ministry of Steel in India had last year asked the Union Ministry of Commerce to impose a 25 per cent duty on steel products, citing a 80 per cent surge in steel imports from China to 1.61 million tonnes between January-July 2024. The European Union said it will also impose

counter tariffs on 26 billion euros (\$28.33 billion) worth of US goods from next month in response to US tariffs on steel and aluminium, the European Commission said in a statement on Wednesday. Official data showed that India's exports of primary steel to the US in 2024 was \$450 million. The US imported only \$2.83 million worth of steel pipes, tubes, and related products from India last year. Exports of aluminium and related products to the US in 2024 reached \$820 million. Amid already rising steel imports in the country, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has already begun a safeguard duty investigation on December 19 as major steel manufacturers under the Indian Steel Association (ISA) argued that there has been a sudden and sharp increase in volume of imports ever since US President Donald Trump imposed 25 per cent duty on steel in his

first term. In its letter to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Indian Steel Association (ISA) said that beginning with the imposition of a 25 per cent duty under Section 232 by the US under its Trade Expansion Act, 1962, several countries have introduced multiple trade remedy measures against steel product imports. "The evidence indicates that 129 trade remedy measures were imposed by various countries against steel products between 2019 and 2023," ISA said. Reuters reported that the largest sources of US steel imports are Canada, Brazil, and Mexico, followed by South Korea and Vietnam, according to government data and the American Iron and Steel Institute. By a large margin, hydropower-rich Canada is the largest supplier of primary aluminium metal to the US, accounting for 79 per cent of total imports in the first 11 months of 2024.

**India 'super important' market, to discuss potential partnerships with IndiGo, Air India: Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas**

New Delhi (Agency): Saudi Arabia's ambitious new airline Riyadh Air considers India a "super important" market and will explore potential partnerships with Indian carriers IndiGo and Air India in addition to its plans of operating flights between the two countries as passenger flows between India and Saudi Arabia are growing rapidly, Riyadh Air's Chief Executive Officer Tony Douglas said Wednesday. Saudi Arabia expects India to become its largest source market for

tourism by 2030, and Indian nationals are already the biggest non-Saudi resident

part of a Riyadh Air delegation for meetings with India's aviation regulator



group in that country, making India a lucrative market for Riyadh Air. Douglas is in New Delhi as

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to discuss the requisite permissions and support for launch of the

airline's India operations. Douglas is also slated to meet top executives of IndiGo and Air India to discuss possible partnerships. The Riyadh-based full-service airline, which is Saudi Arabia's second national carrier alongside Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) and is slated to start commercial operations later this year, has already forged partnerships with various global airlines including Delta Air Lines, Singapore Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, China Eastern, Air China,

and Egypt Air. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is the force behind Riyadh Air, which aims to fly to over 100 destinations by 2030. The airline has 39 wide-body Boeing 787 aircraft on order, with an option to expand the order size to 72 jets, in addition to 60 Airbus A321 narrow-body planes. According to Douglas, Riyadh Air currently has two major gaps in its airline partnerships — North-Western Europe and India — and it wants to cover those.

**India's growth rate will be 6.5 percent in the next financial year: Rating agency**

New Delhi (Agency). Rating agency Moody's said on Wednesday that India's growth rate is likely to be 6.5 percent in the next financial year. At the same time, the Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.3 percent in the current financial year. The rating agency said that anticipating a stable scenario for the banking sector, the operating environment of Indian banks will remain favorable in the next financial year, but after substantial improvement in recent years, there will be a slight decline in their asset quality and there will be some pressure on unsecured retail loans, microfinance loans and small business loans. Banks will remain in a

profitable position as the decline in net interest margin (NIM) is likely to be



marginal amid a slight rate cut. Factors such as increase in capital expenditure by the government, increase in consumer demand due to tax cuts and reduction in interest rates can accelerate the growth rate. Government capital expenditure, tax cuts for middle class income groups to boost consumption and monetary easing will

keep India's real GDP growth above 6.5 percent in FY 2025-26. It is estimated to be 6.3 percent in the current financial year. It is worth noting that the Finance Ministry's Economic Review has estimated the GDP growth rate for the next financial year to be 6.3-6.8 percent. According to official estimates, the GDP growth rate will be 6.5 percent in the current financial year. The country's real GDP growth rate slowed to 5.6 percent in the July-September 2024 quarter, rising to 6.2 percent in the next quarter. Moody's expects India's average inflation rate to come down to 4.5 percent in FY 2025-26 from 4.8 percent last year.

**India continues to engage US: Govt to House amid fears of reciprocal tariff**

New Delhi (Agency): Amid fears among exporters of higher tariffs in the lucrative US market from April 2 when reciprocal tariffs are set to come into effect, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry told Lok Sabha Tuesday that the government is engaging with the US to eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers and improve trade. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal concluded his US visit last Saturday and the Ministry plans consultations with exporters this week.

Representatives from sectors including automobiles, leather, textiles, electronics and pharmaceuticals, among others, are expected to present their stance on tariff concessions that may be offered to the US during trade negotiations.

Concerns over concessions grew after US President Donald Trump said last Friday that India had agreed to cut tariffs after being "exposed" for being restrictive from a trade perspective and making it difficult for American companies to do business in India. US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick also said that India's agriculture sector "must open up" for US products.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha Tuesday, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said the "Indian government continues to engage with the United States" to enhance and broaden bilateral trade ties in a mutually beneficial and fair manner.

Responding to a question by Congress MP K Sudhakaran and TMC MP Sayani Ghosh on the impact of reciprocal tariffs, Prasada reiterated that the US had not yet implemented reciprocal tariffs on India and that both countries would focus on "increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and enhancing supply chain integration."

"The US issued a Memorandum on Reciprocal Trade and Tariffs on February 13, 2025, instructing the Secretary of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative to investigate harm to the US from any non-reciprocal trade agreements adopted by trading partners. A report with detailed proposed remedies for each trading partner is to be submitted, based on which US action could then be undertaken under relevant US legislation. As of now, reciprocal tariffs have not been applied by the US on India," he said in his reply. "The Government of India continues to engage with the Government of the United States to enhance and broaden bilateral trade ties in a mutually beneficial and fair manner."

EDITORIAL

# Lifeline for WFI

Wrestling body must set its house in order

THE Sports Ministry's decision to revoke the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has ended a prolonged spell of uncertainty for wrestlers as well as administrators. The move comes amid the hearing of a plea filed by top wrestlers in the Delhi High Court, demanding that the federation's 2023 elections be declared illegal. The WFI has been in the news in recent years mostly for the wrong reasons. The charges of sexual harassment against then federation chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh not only hit its credibility but also demoralised young entrants to the sport. Though Brij Bhushan is no longer at the helm of affairs, he is presumed to be still calling the shots through his aide and successor Sanjay Singh.

The ministry, which had suspended the WFI in December 2023 over "lapses in governance and procedural integrity", has said that it is satisfied with the corrective measures that have been taken. However, the government cannot afford to assume that everything will be hunky-dory from now on. Constant monitoring is a must to ensure that the federation's top brass prioritises players' interests over political one-upmanship.

The inescapable truth is that politicians have controlled sports federations in the country for decades. The cash-rich cricket board has been headed by the likes of Nationalist Congress Party stalwart Sharad Pawar and BJP MP Anurag Thakur. It is a good sign that the Indian Olympic Association is currently helmed by a distinguished Olympian, PT Usha, but deep-rooted politicisation continues to impede India's ambition of becoming a sporting powerhouse. Administrators ought to serve as facilitators for the players, not as power-drunk predators. The WFI has been given an opportunity to redeem itself. But that alone is not enough to stem the rot. The Brij Bhushan case should be fast-tracked, while the possibility of holding fresh elections needs to be explored.

# Smogged out

The relentless battle with air pollution

INDIA's cities continue to choke. The latest IQAir report once again this year delivers the grim reality check — 13 of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Bymahatopping the list and Delhi remaining the most polluted capital for the sixth consecutive year. Delhi's PM2.5 concentration of 91.6 µg/m³ is nearly unchanged from last year. This underscores the stagnation in efforts to combat urban pollution. Air pollution is also a public health emergency. The World Air Quality Report confirms that the average citizen's life expectancy is cut short by over five years due to hazardous air. This crisis is fuelled by industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, construction dust and seasonal crop burning. While policymakers often tout a decline in the country's overall PM2.5 concentration, a 7 per cent reduction does little when 35 per cent of the cities still exceed the WHO's safe limit by tenfold.

Meanwhile, the economic ramifications of pollution are mounting. A 2021 study by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air found that air pollution costs India around Rs 7 lakh crore annually in healthcare expenses and lost labour productivity. Another report by The Lancet (2020) estimated that 1.67 million deaths in India in 2019 were directly linked to air pollution-related diseases. However, political discourse around air pollution remains mired in blame games. Every winter, Delhi's crisis is reduced to a partisan slugfest, with leaders trading accusations over stubble burning, industrial emissions and urban planning failures. They must abandon political posturing and treat pollution with the same urgency as economic growth and infrastructure development. The lack of long-term policy vision and stringent enforcement is as lethal as the pollution itself. The government must implement stronger regulatory measures, incentivise clean energy transitions and enforce emission norms strictly.

# FREEMANS joins Lucknow Super Giants as the 'Official Tools Partner' for IPL 2025.

Goarakhpur: Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) are excited to welcome FREEMANS, a renowned name in Measuring Tools, Hand Tools, and Power Tools, as their Official Tools Partner for the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

This exciting collaboration brings together two brands synonymous with precision, performance, and excellence. As part

of this sponsorship, the FREEMANS logo will prominently feature on the back of the Lucknow Super Giants' helmets, reinforcing the brand's commitment to supporting champions both on and off the field.



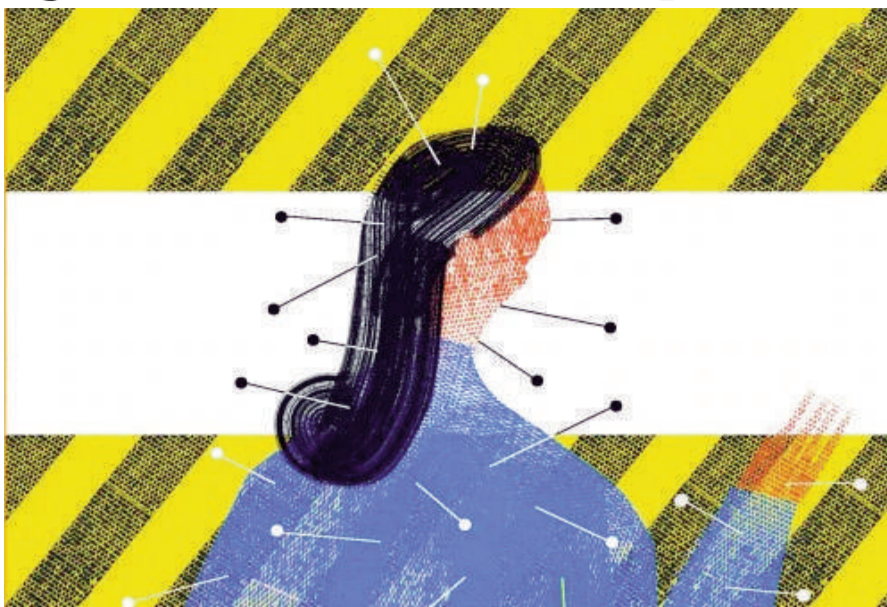
look forward to a fantastic IPL season." Vinay Chopra, COO, Lucknow Super Giants, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership: "We are delighted to welcome FREEMANS into the LSG family. Their legacy of precision and accuracy aligns perfectly with the values we uphold as a team. This collaboration is a testament to our shared com-

mitment to excellence." FREEMANS, a trusted name in Measuring Tools, Hand Tools and Power Tools, has been an industry leader for over seven decades. With a reputation built on accuracy, durability, and innovation, the brand sees this partnership as an opportunity to deepen its connection with millions of cricket fans across the country. As the Lucknow Super Giants gear up for an action-packed IPL season, this collaboration with FREEMANS promises to bring together the best of sport and innovation, setting new benchmarks for excellence.

Sahil Nayar, Executive Director, FREEMANS, commented: "Cricket is a game of fine margins, where precision makes all the difference—just like in our business. Partnering with the Lucknow Super Giants allows us to celebrate accuracy, performance, and the relentless pursuit of perfection. We are excited to be part of LSG's journey and

# The shaky state of 'manosphere'

Ramvilas Sharma



“Since the days of Cleopatra, the mystique of the ambitious, independent woman has been seen as a threat. Today, there's a Cleopatra, everywhere.”

Last week, a 25-year-old techie from TCS died by suicide after making a video blaming his estranged wife for harassment, amid threats to embroil him in a prolonged legal battle. Recently enough, another similar suicide made headlines: of Atul Subhash, 34, whose two-hour video before taking that drastic step highlighted in excruciating detail what a nightmare a contested divorce can be. Caught between allegedly false criminal cases and denied access to his son, Sharma had declared bitterly that his ashes shouldn't be immersed if justice isn't served, rather they be thrown in the gutter around the court that had made his last years a living hell. Are these tragedies simply aberrations by fragile men of unsound mind who can't handle the fallout arising from failed marriages? Because, plenty of people are trapped in terrible situations but they don't all go around offing themselves. Or, is it indicative of a wider problem, that a sizable number of men become victims of frustrating court protocol, their unheeded despair pushing them to this extreme step? It is worth noting, the narrative around acrimonious separations is shifting: a quiet pushback is gaining momentum, both by citizens and courts, questioning laws and biases that manipulate opinion, typically, painting women as hapless victims of galling

men. The magazine <http://www.voiceformenindia.com> carries the latest news in rulings on POCSO and Sections 498A (domestic violence). There are videos with important information for young men on their rights when a consensual relationship turns into an accusation of rape by a spurned lover. In a ruling last month, the Orissa High Court quashed rape charges against a man acknowledging that non-culmination of a relationship into marriage can be a "personal grievance" but "failure of love is not a crime". (A welcome judgment, but the process is the punishment since the accused has had to live with the ignominy of being deemed a rapist since 2012.) At the same time, a baffling order by the Allahabad HC directed a 26-year-old rape accused to marry the 23-year-old victim within three months. Indian Purush, a popular page on Linked In, clearly run by an embittered man, vows to fight suchlike #legalterrorism and has organised what they're calling a "satyagraha for men", a march to Jantar Mantar on April 19, drawing attention to these suicides. It doesn't need to be said that in a hopelessly patriarchal society, laws protecting women from dowry demands and violence are critical. But it bears acknowledgment that while the constructs of sex and marriage remain legally intertwined, the scope for formidable deceit is also

huge. Going by the anguished comments posted on various handles of male rights' crusaders on X and YouTube — men are floundering, completely out of their depth dealing with emancipated women who have the law and public sympathy on their side. No wonder the modern wife has been recast as a pitiless femme fatale, the (toxic) Indian male no match for her cunning wiles. The blunt truth, however, is comically simple: marriages lasted when women didn't have money. When they match men financially, their expectations rise and their tolerance dips. Men, stuck in some time warp, are still reeling in befuddlement that women aren't interested in doubling up to perform the traditional roles their mothers did. Actually, the twin forces of women's empowerment and male entitlement have sounded the death knell for marriages. The issue of casual sexism is hilariously addressed in a Netflix show, Alpha Males, about four middle-aged amigos navigating the changing world of masculinity. One loses his job and becomes an assistant to his influencer wife, another is shattered by his wife wanting an open marriage. Since the days of Cleopatra, the mystique of the ambitious, independent woman has been seen as a threat. Today, there's a Cleopatra, everywhere.

# New normal of crime without punishment

Ramvilas Sharma

"Dhan ke hathon bikae hain sab kanoon. Ab kisi jurm ki saza hi nahin," wrote Krishna Bihari Noor some years ago.

One might not agree with the sweep of this damning poetic generalisation, but it comes dangerously close to the contemporary reality. One may disagree with what drives this wave of impunity, but the instances where illegality goes unpunished are increasing.

Take the flurry of pardons granted by the then US President Joe Biden to pre-empt indictment and by the current US President Donald Trump to those already charged. Biden provided a shield against possible vengeance; Trump exonerated those who had acted violently to seek revenge. Forgiveness for deeds not done and forgiveness for serious crimes against public order exemplified that mercy was indeed "twice blest", as Shakespeare wrote: "It blesteth him that gives and him that takes." Trump became the first ever former or sitting President to be formally convicted of felony in a hush money criminal case. The judge gave him "unconditional discharge", letting him off without any punishment. He explained that his leniency was to "the office of the President of the United States" and "not the occupant of that office", reminding one of Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* skilfully permitting Shylock a pound of flesh without a drop of blood.

The verdict made Trump triumphantly proclaim that the unconditional discharge "proves... there is no case, there was never a case, and this whole scam fully deserves to be dismissed." That surely is a new low when the constitutional Head of the State calls the judicial system a scam. Contrast this with an incident narrated by Gandhi in the chapter 'How a Client was Saved' in his book *My Experiments with Truth*. Gandhi advised his client Rustomji, who admitted to smuggling, to submit before the law and face the consequences, which could be a fine or jail. He told his client: "I am of the opinion that the shame lies not so much in going to jail as in committing the offence. The deed of shame has already been done. Imprisonment you should regard as a penance. The real penance lies in resolving never to smuggle again." As the case against Rustomji was compromised, he paid the penalty and "reduced to writing the facts of the whole case, got the paper framed and hung it up in his office to serve as a perpetual reminder to his heirs and fellow merchants."

Rustomji faced the punishment inflicted by law and demonstrated his contrition; Trump benefits by the leniency of the judge and traduces the system. Consider the Anil Masih case, where the Supreme Court of India took the extraordinary step of investigating the video to determine the illegality in tampering with the ballot papers in the Chandigarh mayoral election. In an unprecedented move, it instantly cured the effect of that illegality and restored justice. Yet, a year later, the culprit hasn't been brought to book. No punishment for a blatant violation of law detected by the highest court of the land!

Contrast this with yet another incident recounted by Gandhi in the same book in the chapter titled 'Stealing and Atonement', where he describes his stealing a piece of gold and then volunteering to write a confession to his father. He hands over the note to his father not only confessing his guilt but also asking for "adequate punishment for it." "A clean confession, combined with a promise never to commit the sin again, when offered before one who has the right to receive it, is the purest type of repentance."

We know that Masih hasn't been punished; we don't know whether he is penitent. In the Babri Masjid demolition judgement, the SC observed that the destruction of the mosque and the obliteration of the Islamic structure was "an egregious violation of the rule of law" and "constituted a serious violation of the rule of law."



Yet, those responsible for the violation went unpunished. In the case involving the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly that saw a change in government in June 2022 amidst the emergence of two Shiv Sena factions, a Constitution Bench of the SC held that the Maharashtra Governor did not act in accordance with the law in calling for a floor test as the Constitution does not "empower the Governor to enter the political arena and play a role (however minute) either in inter-party disputes or in intra-party disputes." However, the action of

# There is a crisis of leadership in the Middle East

Last month, when US President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by his side, announced that Palestinians could not live amidst war debris and would wish to leave the Gaza Strip, making way for the establishment of a "riviera" which would be taken over by the US, he set the proverbial cat among the pigeons. The extraordinary proposal, largely criticised by the global community, has been rejected by the Palestinians and provoked Arab stakeholders.

Netanyahu said the proposal to relocate Gazans and preparations for a post-Hamas phase deserved attention. It consolidated his right-wing support base, and some saw this as the grand prize after a prolonged conflict. Israel's position on the ongoing truce with Hamas has hardened, with calls for the immediate return of the remaining hostages and for not proceeding to the second phase, which entailed the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. Israeli intelligence agencies, however, are cautious, fearing backlash after Ramadan.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio later explained that Washington's proposal was aimed at encouraging countries with economic and technological capacity to help with the rebuilding, that Gazans might have to relocate in the interim and that there was no intention to station US troops in Gaza. Significantly, the White House waded into direct contact with Hamas, to set the parameters for peace, without involving the Israelis.

As US pressure mounted, Egypt and Jordan stoutly rejected Trump's proposal. They insisted Palestinians would stay on their land and there would be no forced deportations. When the King of Jordan said he would host 2,000 sick Palestinian children, he was criticised by the rest of the Arab world. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, leveraging his position as recent host to US-Russia talks, hosted seven Arab leaders in Riyadh to emphasise unity in the Arab ranks.

Egyptian and Qatari mediators found that the mood had changed — Hamas was unhappy Israel had delayed the release of prisoners and was blocking international relief, while Israel sought to press on without promising withdrawal. The lack of trust has exposed the fragility of the truce. At the Arab summit, Egypt presented a reconstruction plan for Gaza. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi emphasised the right of Palestinians to rebuild, guaranteeing their existence on their land.

The reconstruction plan envisages three phases, till 2030, at a cost of \$53 billion. The first phase of six months would focus on the de-mining and clearing of debris, when Palestinians would be provided shelter in temporary camps within Gaza. Egypt would host an international funding conference. The second phase of about three years would focus on construction, especially of public infrastructure, housing and sources of livelihood. In the final stage, connectivity and industry would be developed and the Palestinian Authority would assume control over both Gaza and the West Bank.

New governance structures would be established in Gaza — Hamas would have to cede power to an independent team of Palestinian experts and technocrats for this purpose, a World Bank supervised trust fund would manage the financial pledges for reconstruction, and the UN Security Council would call for the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by Arab leaders, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

government formation that followed this illegal act was effectively legitimised.

The electoral bond case similarly left one wondering how easy it is in our system to get away with letting a law be declared "unconstitutional" by the SC and yet continue to be benefited by such unconstitutionality, akin to being allowed to enjoy the proceeds of crime after conviction.

The Election Commission, the supreme monitor of the Model Code, admitted after the 2024 General Elections that it overlooked the violations of superstar campaigners of both the national parties. As per a report by Ayush Tiwari published in the Scroll on June 3 last year, the Chief Election Commissioner told Scroll that having deliberated over poll code violations at length, the EC "decided to not admonish two top leaders each from the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Indian National Congress" because "we deliberately decided — this is such a huge nation — that the top two people in both the parties we did not touch. Both party presidents we touched equally.... Why did we leave two this side and two that side? The persons in position in this huge country also have responsibility. We reminded them of their responsibility."

The EC appears to have taken a leaf out of Gandhi who refused to file a complaint against those who assaulted him when he returned to South Africa. In the chapter 'The Calm

After the Storm', he writes: "It is my conviction that I should not prosecute the assailants" because "I am sure that when the truth becomes known, they will be sorry for their conduct." One needs to check the conscience of the star campaigners to see if they realised that their speeches were violations of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code. Gandhi's act of forgiving by abdicating his right to complain had a larger purpose because, in his view, a personal act of seeking action against the assailants would trigger a vicious chain of social vendetta. But the EC's approach seemed to perpetrate unequal treatment by law. In a society governed by the rule of law, punishment follows detection of wrong as the purpose of punishment is both retribution and deterrence. Admission of wrongdoing, repentance, atonement is part of social ethics and a personal code. The EC introduced the element of 'forgiveness' in a rule-bound system. It invoked Gandhi in its press note dated June 6, 2024 that reads: "Our inspiration behind this pledge to keep the electoral exercise free from violence was the Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi. He championed equality amongst human beings and espoused democratic rights for all." The modern version of the statue of justice is no longer blindfolded. Should we be prepared for some new experiments with 'truth' and a phase of crime and no punishment?

# Ex-judge Ganediwala, who gave controversial verdicts, to get pension on par with HC judge

Mumbai (Agency): The Bombay High Court on Thursday said that Pushpa Ganediwala, the former HC judge who had faced flak over a series of controversial judgments in POCSO Act cases, was entitled to receive pension on par with a high court judge.

Ganediwala was demoted as district sessions judge at the end of her additional judgeship on February 12, 2022, following an uproar over some judgments passed by her on the interpretation of what constitutes a sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

She had ruled that there has to be "skin-to-skin contact with sexual intent" in order for the act to be

considered as an offence of sexual assault under the POCSO Act, and that "holding hands of a minor girl and opening of zip of his (accused) pants" does not fall under the definition of 'sexual assault' of the Act.

In July 2023, Ganediwala filed a petition before the high court, challenging a communication dated November 2, 2022 issued by the HC (original side) registrar declaring that she was not eligible/entitled for pension of a HC judge and other benefits.

Ganediwala had sought for pension as HC's additional judge, contending it should be irrespective of the fact whether she voluntarily retired or superannuated after attaining a specific age.



On Thursday, a division bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Bharati Dangre quashed the November 2022 communication to fix her pension along with 6 per cent interest from February 2022 within two months from today," the court ordered.

The tenure ended in February 2022. This meant Ganediwala would be demoted back to the district judiciary as district sessions judge at the end of her additional judgeship on February 12, 2022.

With neither an extension granted to her tenure as additional judge nor an appointment as permanent judge of the high court, Ganediwala tendered her resignation.

"I have not been getting any pension. The entire approach on part of the respondents in denying pension is arbitrary and unsustainable in law," Ganediwala said when she filed her petition, and said Ganediwala was entitled to pension on par with an additional judge of the HC from February 2022.

"We direct the registry following the problematic judgments in January and February 2021, the Supreme Court Collegium had withdrawn its recommendation to appoint Ganediwala

as a permanent judge and instead extended for one year her tenure as additional judge.

The plea claimed the petitioner (Ganediwala) worked as HC's additional judge for close to three years.

She had applied for pension with the HC registry. However, a decision was taken that since Ganediwala had not retired as HC judge, she was not entitled for the same rank pension.

The previous AAP government had devised its own scheme and had refused to implement AB-PMJAY. The BJP won the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections returning to power in the city after over 26 years. The AB-PMJAY provides health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.37 crore families constituting economically vulnerable bottom 40 per cent of India's population. On October 29, 2024, the Union Government had expanded the AB-PMJAY to provide free treatment benefits of up to Rs 5 lakh per year to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

## Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme set to be implemented in Delhi

New Delhi (Agency): The Delhi Government is all set to sign an MoU with the National Health Authority to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) on March 18, official sources said on Thursday. With this, Delhi will become the 35th state/UT to implement the health insurance scheme. West Bengal will remain the only state to not have adopted the



The MoU will be signed on March 18 in the presence of Union Health Minister JP Nadda and five families will be given AB-PMJAY cards making them beneficiaries of the scheme," the sources said. The implementation of the scheme was one of the major promises of the BJP for the Delhi Assembly elections.

## ED conducts raids in gold smuggling case involving Kannada actor Ranya Rao

Bengaluru (Agency): The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday raided multiple locations in Bengaluru and some other places as part of a money laundering probe linked to probe "larger conspiracy" into an alleged gold smuggling racket in which an actor was recently arrested by the DRI in Karnataka, official sources said. A case has been filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) taking cognisance of a recent Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR and a Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) case in which actor Ranya Rao was arrested, the sources said. The probe aims to look at the larger conspiracy of gold smuggling through airports and the generation of proceeds of crime by various people, including influential persons, government officials and "politically exposed persons", they said. Multiple locations in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, are being searched, according to the sources. The DRI had arrested Rao after seizing gold bars worth Rs 12.56 crore from her at the Kempegowda International Airport here after she arrived from Dubai on March 3. The actor is the stepdaughter of senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, who currently serves as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited. The police officer has denied any links with her alleged illegal activities.



## Partnerships orchestrated by PM to buy goodwill with Trump: Congress on Airtel, Jio deals with Starlink

New Delhi (Agency): With both Airtel and Jio announcing partnerships with Starlink, the Congress on Thursday alleged that these have been orchestrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi "to buy goodwill" with US President Donald Trump through Starlink's owner Elon Musk.

The opposition party also said many questions remain and the most important one relates to national security.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that within literally 12 hours both Airtel and Jio have announced partnerships with Starlink, seemingly overcoming all their objections to its entry into India - which they have been voicing for quite some time.

"It is abundantly clear that these partnerships have been orchestrated by

providers also be permitted and on what basis?" the Congress leader said on X.

And, of course, the much larger question of Tesla manufacturing in India remains, he added. Is there some commitment to it now that Starlink's entry into India has been facilitated, Ramesh asked.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms struck a deal with SpaceX, the aerospace company led by Musk, to bring Starlink's broadband internet services to India, a surprise move that follows months of bickering over how Musk's venture should be granted spectrum rights.

The deal with Musk - considered the right-hand man of US President Trump



## Class 12 students missing exam due to Holi to get another chance: CBSE

New Delhi (Agency): The students of CBSE Class XII who are unable to appear for their Hindi exam scheduled on March 15 on account of Holi will get another opportunity to write the paper, the board announced on Thursday.

"It has been informed to CBSE that, though the festival of Holi would be celebrated on March 14 in most parts of the country, in some places either the celebrations would take place on March 15 or would spill over to the latter date," said Sanyam Bhardwaj, CBSE examination controller.

He added that after the feedback, it had been decided that while examination would be held as per schedule, the students who find it difficult to appear on March 15 may choose to write the paper on a later date.

"It has been decided that such students would be given an opportunity to appear along with those participating in national or international sports events — for whom a special examination is conducted as per the policy of the board," he said.

## Court schools Azmi over Aurangzeb remarks, cautions him to exercise restraint during interviews

Mumbai (Agency): Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi has been cautioned by a Mumbai court to exercise restraint during interviews as any "irresponsible" statement by a senior politician like him can spark riots. While granting anticipatory bail on Tuesday in a case filed against the SP legislator for his remarks praising Mughal ruler Aurangzeb, Additional Sessions Judge VG Raghuvanshi schooled Azmi.



The offence concerns some statements made during an interview and it means police do not need custody for seizure of any article or interrogation, the court said in the order — a copy of which was made available on Thursday. Noting that Azmi is a politician and businessman and it was improbable that he would run away from the course of justice, the judge said it was a "fit case to exercise discretion" in his favour.

"Before parting with the order I would like to caution the applicant to exercise restraint on himself while giving interviews, with regard to prevailing circumstances. Any irresponsible statement can flare riots and create law and order problems," the court said. "I hope the applicant, being a senior politician, will understand his responsibility," it added.

A case was registered

last week against the MLA, who represents the Mankhurd-Shivaji Nagar constituency in the metropolis, over his remarks eulogising the medieval-era Mughal emperor.

He was booked under Sections 299 (deliberate and malicious act insulting the religious beliefs of any group of people), 302 (hurting someone's religious feelings) and 356(2) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

While talking to the media, Azmi — who is also the Samajwadi Party's Maharashtra unit president — had said that during Aurangzeb's reign, India's borders reached Afghanistan and Burma (Myanmar). "Our GDP accounted for 24 per cent of the world's GDP and India was called a golden sparrow," the opposition legislator had claimed.

Asked about the fight between Aurangzeb and Maratha warrior king

Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, Azmi had termed it a political battle. The remarks were made in the backdrop of the Hindi film Chhaava's release — based on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.

Seeking anticipatory bail, Azmi, who has been suspended from the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly till March 26, submitted in the court that his statements were made to the press "spontaneously without any premeditated intention to insult any personality or hurt the religious feelings of any person".

Azmi's lawyer Mubin Solkar had submitted before the court that the FIR did not disclose any offence against the SP legislator. "The allegations didn't show he had made the statements, deliberately and with malicious intentions of outraging religious sentiments," Solkar had argued. The prosecution had opposed his plea, saying that after the release of a movie, religious sentiments of people are volatile and in such circumstances the applicant made controversial statements in his interview.

After hearing both sides, the court said that the investigation was at the primary stage and "therefore it would not be fair to comment upon the interview given by the applicant".

Further, the judge said that he was surprised to hear that the investigating officer did not have the video recording of the alleged interview till today and he registered an offence without watching it.

## Rajasthan college principal accused of sexually exploiting students arrested

Jaipur (Agency): The principal of a government polytechnic college was arrested for allegedly sexually exploiting female students, the police said on Thursday.

This comes a month after a complaint was lodged with the Technical Education Secretary by students and some staff members against Principal Syed Mashkoor Ali. He was then suspended following the complaint on February 3.

The police said Ali is alleged to have molested several students and sent inappropriate messages to them. On Monday, a probe

team set up by the technical education secretary visited the college but faced protests by the students. The protesting students were demanding a new investigation. Reacting to the development, a police team reached the spot and registered a case on the students' complaints. SHO Pratap Nagar police station was given charge of the police probe and Ali was detained on Tuesday. The next day, the victim students gave their statements in court and Ali was arrested after that, said DCP (East) Tejaswini Gautam.

## HC quashes complaint against Kailash Kher for hurting religious feelings

Says there was no deliberate or malicious intent on Kher's part, who had only sung the song 'Babam Bam'

Mumbai (Agency): Intolerance and dissent from the orthodoxy have been a bane of Indian society, the Bombay High Court said, quoting author A G Noorani, while quashing a complaint against singer Kailash Kher for allegedly hurting religious sentiments with a song on Lord Shiva. A division Bench of Justices Bharati Dangre and S C Chandak said there was no deliberate or malicious intent on Kher's part, who had only sung the song 'Babam Bam', to hurt anyone's religious sentiments or feelings. A copy of the order of March 4 was made available on Thursday. The complaint was filed by one Narinder Makkar before a local court in Ludhiana seeking registration of a case against the singer under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 295A and 298, concerning outraging religious feelings

necessarily lead to outraging religious sentiments," the court said.

The Bench quoted author A G Noorani and said, "Intolerance of dissent from the orthodoxy of the day has been the bane of Indian society for centuries. But it is precisely in the ready acceptance of the right to dissent as distinct from its mere tolerance, that a free society distinguishes itself."

In the order, the Bench said that to attract the offence under IPC section 295A, there has to be a deliberate attempt by the person to outrage someone's religious feelings.

The court said the only accusation against Kher is that he is dancing with some scantily dressed girls in the



The high court while quashing the complaint filed before the Ilaka judicial magistrate in Ludhiana said the lyrics of the song sung by Kher is nothing but praise of Lord Shiva and the attributes of his mighty character. "Every action which may be to the dislike of a class of people may not

video which according to the complainant is vulgar and hence hurt his religious feelings and emotions.

The offence is not made out against Kher as there is no deliberate and malicious intention on his part, who is just singing the song, HC said.

Kher had moved HC in 2014 when the complaint was lodged in the Ludhiana court in Punjab. At that time, the HC had in an interim relief said no coercive action should be taken against the singer.

In his plea filed through advocate Ashok Sarogi, Kher said he was only the singer of the song and that the video was choreographed by another company through Sony Music Entertainment. Sarogi had argued that the video of the song was released only after it was granted clearance by the Central Board of Film Certification.

## Telangana: 4-year-old boy dies after getting stuck in lift gate in Hyderabad

Hyderabad (Agency): A four-year-old boy, the son of a watchman, lost his life after getting trapped in a lift gate at Muktaba Apartments in Hyderabad, said the police on Thursday. According to the Asif Nagar police, the incident took place around 10 pm when the child, identified as Narender, was playing near the elevator. "While he was inside the lift gate, someone pressed the lift button, causing the elevator to ascend with Narender stuck in the gate.

## Drake warns fans his 'next chapter' may leave them 'feeling uneasy' in cryptic post alluding to Kendrick Lamar beef



Drake's up to something, and if his latest Instagram post is anything to go by, it's big. The Canadian rapper dropped a cryptic message on Monday, teasing a "next chapter" that, in his own words, "may leave (fans) feeling uneasy." Whether he's hinting at his ongoing beef with rapper Kendrick Lamar, a future project, or something completely new, Drake is keeping everyone guessing.

The post comes months after his infamous feud with Kendrick. Standing in a lavish, stained glass-decorated room, the 'Hotline Bling' singer struck a pensive pose in a black embellished jacket. "U know I grew up non-confrontational and always treated this game as a sport where my pen won gold," he wrote. "But these days, the podium has been hard for all of us to ignore."

Drake seems to be acknowledging the weight of the competition, possibly alluding to the intense back-and-forth with Kendrick. He went on to add, "I understand that this next chapter may leave you feeling uneasy, but I hope you see my honesty as clarity, not charity... especially about the unanswered texts you've been sending me."

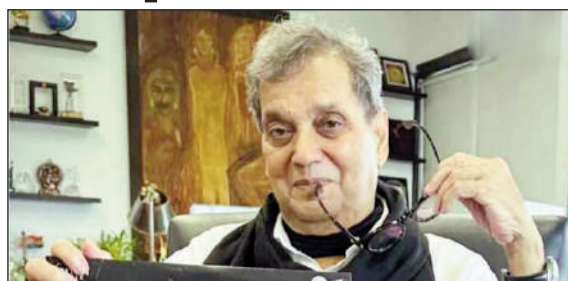
This cryptic message follows months of lyrical back-and-forth between Drake and Kendrick. Their sparring heated up last year when Kendrick dropped "Not Like Us," a track that quickly became an anthem, topped Spotify charts, and ultimately grabbed a Grammy. But if that was not enough Kendrick also performed the song at the 2025 Super Bowl halftime show, taking a high-profile jab at Drake in front of millions. The rivalry between Drake and Kendrick didn't transcend the world of music. It spilled over into pop culture and had everyone talking. Even during the 2025 Oscars, host Conan O'Brien took a jab at their feud during his opening monologue.

The tension between Drake and Kendrick started back in 2013 when Kendrick dropped his verse on Big Sean's 'Control,' calling out several rappers, including Drake.

## Subhash Ghai reveals he has 'stopped making films', says people write scripts and dialogues on Whatsapp

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai, who delivered some of Bollywood's most iconic films in the 80s and 90s, including Khalnayak, Pardes, Taal, and Ram Lakhan, recently spoke about the declining passion for cinema in the Hindi film industry. He expressed his disappointment over how filmmaking has become just another job for many, rather than an artistic pursuit.

Citing personal experiences, Ghai also revealed why he stopped making films. Speaking on the YouTube channel Game Changers, Ghai said, "I stopped making films because I don't see the love for cinema anymore—not in people, not even in my own team. They are all just working." He shared an incident about a writer he



approached for a script, highlighting how the process had become purely transactional rather than creative. "I gave an idea to a writer and asked him to

develop a story. He told me he would finish it in 15 days, deliver the first draft in three days, and even demanded his full fee upfront. He gave me exact dates—when the story would be ready. I asked him, 'Tu rotiyan paka raha hai?' (Are you making chapatis?) How can I work with someone like that? The industry itself has trained him to think this way," Ghai lamented. He further criticised the current approach to filmmaking, stating that while skills are being purchased, true creative collaboration is fading. "They say, 'You send me on email, that is enough.' Whatsapp mein toh script aur dialogue likhe hai aaj kal (People write script and dialogues on Whatsapp these days)," he said.

## Aamir Khan got 400 offers after QSQT's success, cried at home every day after his films started flopping: 'I was a one-hit wonder'

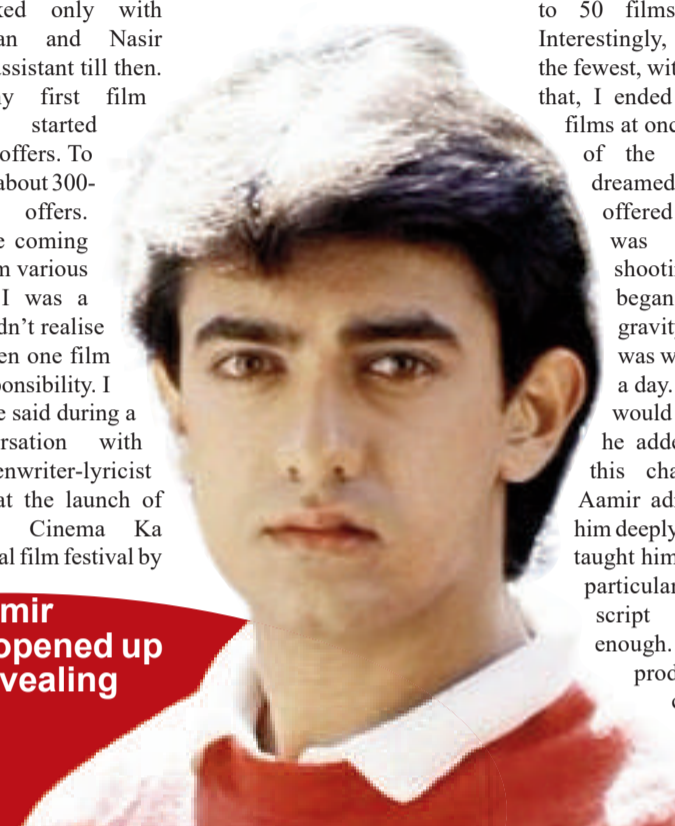
Although he has never been entirely on board with the sobriquet, if there is any Bollywood superstar worthy of being called "Mr Perfectionist," it is Aamir Khan. With a repertoire filled with widely recognised titles and diverse characters, all of which have earned him significant acclaim, Aamir Khan ranks among the finest and most successful actors in Bollywood. However, his rise to the top did not happen overnight and it was the result of years of perseverance and hard work.

Recently, Aamir himself opened up about his journey, revealing that he was initially unimpressed with his film choices and often heartbroken. The Bollywood icon also shared that after the blockbuster success of Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak (QSQT), which marked his first major role as

a lead actor, he received around 300 to 400 film offers in no time, leaving him confused as to what to choose. "I had worked only with Mansoor Khan and Nasir Hussain as an assistant till then. But once my first film succeeded, I started getting a lot of offers. To be honest, I got about 300-400 film offers. Producers were coming to meet me from various places. Since I was a newcomer, I didn't realise that signing even one film was a huge responsibility. I had no idea," he said during a recent conversation with legendary screenwriter-lyricist Javed Akhtar at the launch of Aamir Khan: Cinema Ka Jadugar, a special film festival by

PVR INOX. While producer-director Nasir Hussain was Aamir's uncle, Mansoor was Nasir's son and

directed films such as QSQT, Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, Akele Hum Akele Tum and Josh. "Back then, actors worked on 30 to 50 films simultaneously. Interestingly, Anil Kapoor did the fewest, with 33 films. Seeing that, I ended up signing 9-10 films at once. However, none of the directors I had dreamed of working with offered me any roles. It was only once the shooting of these films began that I realised the gravity of my mistake. I was working three shifts a day. I was not happy. I would go home and cry," he added. Reflecting on this challenging period, Aamir admitted that it left him deeply disturbed but also taught him valuable lessons, particularly that a good script alone wasn't enough. The director, producer and their convictions mattered just as much.



Aamir Khan recently opened up about his journey, revealing that he was initially unimpressed with his film choices and often heartbroken.

## Korean singer Wheesung dies at 43



South Korean singer and songwriter Wheesung was found dead at his home in northern Seoul, police said on Monday. He was 43.

According to local entertainment website Soompi, the police and fire authorities arrived at the singer's house at 6.29 pm KST (2.59 pm IST) after receiving a report from his family. Authorities are currently investigating the cause of death of the artist, whose full name was Choi Whee-sung, the report further stated.

Wheesung's talent agency, Tajoy Entertainment, also issued a statement confirming his death. "We are deeply sorry to share such heartbreaking and tragic news. On March 10, our beloved artist Wheesung passed away. He was found in a state of cardiac arrest at his home in Seoul and was subsequently pronounced deceased.

"The sudden loss has left his family, fellow artists at Tajoy Entertainment, and our entire staff in profound grief. It pains us deeply to deliver this devastating news to the fans who have always supported and loved Wheesung. We ask that you keep him in your thoughts and prayers so that he may rest peacefully," it said in the statement.

## BTS' J-Hope reveals if he would ever collaborate with Kendrick Lamar, announces two new singles post Jimmy Fallon show

After dropping "Sweet Dreams," BTS' J-Hope took to Weverse to tease two new singles and opened up about holding off on an album.

BTS' J-Hope is back and wasting no time. After his grand appearance on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon and in the middle of his packed promotional schedule for his new single, "Sweet Dreams," Hobi had one more surprise up his sleeve. The singer descended on Weverse for an impromptu live and ended up teasing fans with a simple but playful, "I have big news." That was all it took for ARMY to start speculating. Was it a new album? A tour? A comeback? Turns out that the spontaneous live was because he "just missed ARMY." But that wasn't all. After entertaining fans with his goofy moves on "Despacito," mid-chat, J-Hope revealed that he's releasing two new singles, following the buzz surrounding "Sweet Dreams," his latest solo track featuring American singer-songwriter Miguel. While some fans were caught off guard, longtime ARMYs know by now to expect the unexpected from BTS.

J-Hope explained that while fans have been waiting for a full length album, he's choosing to focus on singles for now. The

rapper got real about why he's holding off on dropping a full album anytime soon. He shared that he's still figuring things out as an artiste and doesn't want to rush the process. For him, an album isn't just a random collection of songs; it needs a clear theme and direction, and he's taking his time to get it right.

Following the announcement, fans took to social media to share their opinions. To them, it shows just how much J-Hope cares about his music and where he's headed as an artiste. And when he does decide to put out a full-length album, you already know it's going to be something special. Though surprising, fans said it gave them déjà vu vibes, like when Suga randomly announced his first solo world tour during an unplanned live.

J-Hope's latest single "Sweet Dreams" which dropped on March 7, is already giving a taste of what's to come. For the unversed, it's his first solo release since Hope on the Street Vol. 1.

On March 10, 2025, J-Hope hit The Tonight Show stage, where he and host Jimmy Fallon talked about his new single, "Sweet Dreams," his recreation of Kendrick Lamar's dance moves, and whether Hobi might one day collaborate with the rapper.



## Govinda reveals why he came late on set: 'I was a disciple of Dilip Kumar'

Govinda may be one of the greatest actors in India, but he was infamous for coming late on set. Many even consider that as one of the reasons behind his downfall in the 2000s. Now, Govinda has revealed his reasons for the lack of punctuality. He proclaimed himself as a disciple of legendary actor Dilip Kumar, and said he wouldn't come on set until his tuning was right.

In an interview with Mukesh Khanna for his YouTube channel Bheeshm International, Govinda said, "Dilip sahab ka chela tha main. Late-vate mein mera vishwas nahi hai. Main apne sur-taal mila ke jata tha. Aapne kabhi classical gaane ka program dikha hai? Sur-taal mila ke tuning karte the. Jab tak mere sur-taal sahi na ho jaye, main set par pahuchta hi nahi tha. Aaj tak dhokha hi nahi dia maine (I was a disciple of Dilip Kumar. I didn't believe in 'late.' I tuned myself well. Have you ever attended a classical music concert? They tune themselves well before performing. Till I didn't tune myself well, I didn't reach the set. I've never



betrayed that till date.") He added that around 40 of his films were on floor at the same time. "Yahan se wahan jau, wahan se wahan jau. Wo bhi main unpadh insan main film line ke hath lag gaya na main. Agar Dilip saab nahi mile hote toh maar dia hote mujhe. Pachees filmein chhudwayi. Main tha ki, 'Sir, itni filmon chhudwayi toh paise lautane padenge' (laughs). 'Kahin se dilwa deta hu main tujhe, tu chhod de. Meri gal maanega na tu?' Maine kaha, 'Theek hai, chhodta hu main.' (I would go from one film set to another. The industry got hold of an uneducated guy like me. They would've killed me had I not met Dilip Kumar. He made me leave 25 films. I told him, 'Sir, if I leave so many films, I'd have to return my fees.' He said, 'I'll get you money from somewhere else. You leave these films. You'll listen to me, right?' I said, 'Okay, I'll leave these 25 films.")

When Govinda consulted a financier, he asked Govinda not to listen to Dilip Kumar because he'd just risen above poverty. But Govinda considered the veteran actor as a true well-wisher because no one else was concerned about his health when he worked for 16 days in a row. Govinda further defended himself coming late on set because he had to finish the dozens of films he'd committed to in time. Govinda and Dilip Kumar shared screen space in K Bapaiah's 1990 film Izzatdaar, which also starred Madhuri Dixit, Anupam Kher, Shakti Kapoor, and Asrani. Dilip Kumar passed away in 2021 at the age of 98.

## When a 'guilty' Suriya believed he wasn't a great father: 'Jyotika created a beautiful home... played the dad to my young kids'

If you look at the recent interviews of Jyotika, who was part of the Netflix series, Dabba Cartel, it is clear that she adores Suriya, and respects his body of work. Suriya shares the same sentiment, as evident from an old interview he gave to Vanitha TV right around the time Jyotika made her much-awaited big screen comeback in 2015 after their marriage in 2006. "Jyotika was a wonderful



homemaker, and she also took on the father's responsibility in the family," said Suriya, who opened up about how they had a discussion about her restarting her career. "We thought it was time. She took on the responsibility of creating a beautiful home, and it's at that time the Malayalam film, How Old Are You? came our way, and we thought it would be a wonderful comeback for Jyotika." But Suriya candidly

admitted that the film, which was made in Tamil as 36 Vayadhiniley, was an eye-opener on so many fronts. "Both men and women can feel inspired by the film. It is about respecting women and I believe even married couples don't speak from their heart in their own homes. We take things for granted," said Suriya, adding, "We don't completely value what the women do at home. It is not about them losing their wings, but not even seeing the sky." Taking some blame on himself, Suriya pointed out that he was happy to produce the film because Jyotika was

always a source of tremendous inspiration and support. "In fact, I was also feeling guilty for some time. Somewhere, men are responsible for women not doing what they want, or chasing the dreams. Then there was a realisation," said the Kanguva actor, who reiterated that Jyotika was a good mom, and a good wife, who understood what it meant to be holding the family together.

**Coach Gambhir will now focus on the Test series against England**



**Mumbai (Agency).** After the victory in the Champions Trophy, now the goal of Indian cricket team coach Gautam Gambhir will be to win the Test series against England. After the Test, the second big challenge for Gambhir will be the T20 World Cup to be held in India and Sri Lanka in 2026, where the Indian team will defend its title under the captaincy of Suryakumar Yadav. The last and third biggest challenge will be the 2027 ODI World Cup to be held in South Africa. If Gambhir's coaching is seen in different formats, then he has already prepared a group of core players who will play for the T20 team under the captaincy of Suryakumar. That is why even after the retirement of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja, their absence was not felt in the T20 team. The kind of aggressive cricket the Indian T20 team has played recently. It is being liked all over the world. Gambhir has promoted an aggressive player to open the innings in the form of Abhishek Sharma.

**Coach Dravid arrived to see the preparations of Rajasthan Royals despite plaster on his leg**

**Jaipur (Agency).** Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid arrived at the team's practice camp despite being injured, in view of the IPL starting from March 22. Dravid had injured his left leg during a club match in Bangalore a week ago. The Royals have also shared a picture on social media. In this, Dravid is seen wearing a plaster on his left leg. In this, he wrote, head coach Dravid, who was injured while playing cricket in Bangalore, is now recovering and joined us in Jaipur today.



Dravid has been with the franchise for five seasons from 2011 to 2015. He started his coaching career

with the Royals in 2014. At that time he was the mentor of the team. Dravid was to play with his younger son Anvay in the KSCA Group I, Division III league match in the Nasoor Memorial Shield on February 22. Dravid and his son Anvay came out for Vijaya Cricket Club (Malur) in a 50-over match against Young Lions Club. Dravid batted at number 6 and scored 10 runs off eight balls, during which the father-son duo shared a 17-run partnership for the fifth wicket. Dravid played his second match of the tournament in the semi-final

against Jayanagar Cricketers. When Vijaya Cricket Club was reduced to 12 for three in the seventh over, Rahul came to the crease with his son Anvay. He felt pain in his leg after playing two balls but he kept playing. He scored 43 runs off 66 balls with Anvay for the fourth wicket. He kept playing until he was asked to leave the field. Dravid was in Guwahati for Rajasthan Royals' recent pre-season camp before coming to Jaipur. He will also be in the Royals' match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on March 23 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

**Bangladesh veteran cricketer Mahmudullah retires**

**Dhaka (Agency).** Bangladesh veteran cricketer Mahmudullah has also announced his retirement from ODI cricket. 39-year-old Mahmudullah spoke about his retirement through a post on social media. The all-rounder retired from Tests in 2021 and T20s in 2024. Now he has said goodbye to all formats. This cricketer played many important innings during his 18-year career. Mahmudullah wrote on his official Facebook page, I have decided to retire from international cricket. I would like to thank all my teammates, coaches and especially my fans who have always supported me. Many thanks to my parents, my in-laws, especially my father-in-law and most importantly my brother Imdad Ullah who has been with me since childhood as my coach and mentor! He is the only batsman from Bangladesh to score three centuries in the ODI World Cup. At the same time, this cricketer's record against India is quite good. This cricketer scored 347 runs in 10 innings of 5 matches against the Indian team in his Test career. His highest score was 96 not out. He was successful in scoring three half-centuries against India. In the year 2010, he scored 96 runs even while coming at number eight on the Mirpur ground, although he could not save his team from defeat. In ODIs, he has managed to score 476 runs in 18 matches against India at an average of 36. He has scored 3 half-centuries and his highest score is 77. He has also remained unbeaten 4 times against India. In T20 Internationals, he has 248 runs in 15 T20 matches at an average of 20. His highest score has been 41.



brother Imdad Ullah who has been with me since childhood as my coach and mentor! He is the only batsman from Bangladesh to score three centuries in the ODI World Cup. At the same time, this cricketer's record against India is quite good. This cricketer scored 347 runs in 10 innings of 5 matches against the Indian team in his Test career. His highest score was 96 not out. He was successful in scoring three half-centuries against India. In the year 2010, he scored 96 runs even while coming at number eight on the Mirpur ground, although he could not save his team from defeat. In ODIs, he has managed to score 476 runs in 18 matches against India at an average of 36. He has scored 3 half-centuries and his highest score is 77. He has also remained unbeaten 4 times against India. In T20 Internationals, he has 248 runs in 15 T20 matches at an average of 20. His highest score has been 41.

**The Indian team will not play any series for the next three months**

**Mumbai (Agency).** After winning the ICC Champions Trophy, the Indian team will not play any tournament for the next three months. In such a situation, the Indian team will not play any tournament or series for 3 months, but even during this time the players will not get rest. The reason for this is that now they have to play the Indian Premier League IPL from March 22, whose final



will be played on May 25. Like last time, 10 teams will

participate in IPL this season as well. A total of 74 matches including the final will be played between these teams in 65 days. All these matches will be held at 13 venues in the country itself. In such a situation, the players will also have to travel a lot. In this way, the team's schedule is very busy and it will not get any opportunity to rest. The Indian team has to play its next series after 3 months

in June-July 2025. Then the Indian team will tour England. Where a 5-match Test series will be played between them. The first Test will be played in Leeds from June 20. The second Test will be played from June 20-24, the first Test at Hedingley, the third Test at Lord's from July 10-14, the fourth Test at Manchester from July 23-27 and the fifth at The Oval from July 31-August 4.

**Pandya wants to win five to six ICC trophies**

**Mumbai (Agency).** Indian cricket team's all-rounder Hardik Pandya has said that he is very happy to win the ICC Champions Trophy title. Pandya said that now his goal is to win the T20 World Cup to be hosted by India. Along with this, he wants to win five to six more ICC trophies in the coming time. Pandya said that this time's victory was important because it helped him recover from the defeat in the 2017 Champions Trophy. Then in the title match, he was run out while batting with Ravindra Jadeja. Pandya said that the work which was not completed then has been completed now. Hardik also said that he wants his team to win at all costs. It does not matter where he comes in. Be it bowling or batting, he wants the best performance for

his team. The all-rounder said, the most important thing in my cricket journey is how I can ensure that my team wins and for me every time I step on the field it is a very satisfying, very calm and happy moment, even if I am not able to contribute to my team's victory, I think this is the most beautiful feeling for me. He said, this time everyone showed their class at the same time and the confidence they have is extraordinary. I like such matches where everyone plays with their heart.



**Dhoni and Rishabh were seen singing 'Tu Jaane Na' at the sangeet ceremony**



**Dehradun (Agency).** Former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Suresh Raina and many other cricketers and Bollywood stars attended the wedding of Team India's wicketkeeper batsman Rishabh Pant's sister Sakshi Pant. Dhoni was also seen singing the song Tu Jaane Na with Rishabh at the wedding sangeet ceremony, in which Sakshi Dhoni is also seen. A video of this has also gone viral on social media. Dhoni along with his wife Sakshi Dhoni and Suresh Raina also reached this wedding ceremony with his wife.

Cricket world pays tribute

**Former Indian cricketer Syed Abid Ali dies in America**

**Mumbai (Agency).** Former all-rounder of the Indian cricket team Syed Abid Ali has passed away. He was 83 years old and was ill for a long time. Abid died in America. This legendary cricketer played 34 international matches for the Indian team. He originally played for



Hyderabad. The news of Abid Ali's death was shared by the North America Cricket League (NACL). NACL wrote in its post, "Sharing the news of the death of Indian cricketer Abid Ali. He was currently living in Tracy, California. His remarkable legacy inspires us to strive for excellence. It is worth noting that the North America Cricket League and the Northern California Cricket Association (NCCA) are grateful to him for his tireless efforts and contribution to the development of cricket in the Bay Area. Let us remember him in our prayers and celebrate his remarkable legacy." The cricket world paid tribute to his demise and remembered him as a dedicated guru, a team player and an extraordinary human being.

Former all-rounder Madan Lal wrote, "Sad news Abid Ali is no more. He was a great team player and a good human being. Heartfelt condolences to the family. Om Shanti." Former chief national selector and wicketkeeper MSK Prasad recalled Abid Ali's days as Andhra coach. Prasad said in his condolence message, "It is very unfortunate that Abid sir passed away. He was unwell for quite some time. During his tenure as Andhra coach, he taught us the art of winning." Abid made his Test debut against Australia in December 1967 at Adelaide and gave his career-best performance in the first innings by taking six wickets for 55 runs. In the same series, he also showed his batting ability and played innings of 78 and 81 runs in the Sydney Test. Abid Ali played 29 Tests for India between 1967 and 1974, scoring 1018 runs and taking 47 wickets. He was one of the finest fielders of his time.

**PCB did not make any profit even after spending crores on Champions Trophy**

**Lahore (Agency).** Organizing ICC Champions Trophy was a loss-making deal for Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). It spent crores of rupees on it but the team could not even reach the knockout stage. How much loss did PCB incur can be estimated from the fact that it spent thousands of crores of rupees to make three stadiums playable but the situation still did not change.

A total of 10 matches were played at 3 venues in Pakistan, out of which 2



matches could not be played due to rain. These two matches were to be played at Rawalpindi Stadium. The

drainage system installed to dry the water in the stadium also failed. Even instead of super sopper to dry the ground, wipers and sponges were seen to dry the water. According to a report, PCB had released Rs 1500 crore to build Rawalpindi Stadium. This included many other facilities including floodlights, main building, hospitality box and LED digital screen.

**Dubai Stadium has been lucky for Rohit**

**Mumbai (Agency).** Dubai International Stadium has proved to be beneficial for Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma. As captain, he has won the Asia Cup, IPL and Champions Trophy here. He has been successful in playing big innings in the finals of all these three. At the same time, he has not lost a single ODI match in Dubai. Rohit Sharma won the Asia Cup in Dubai in the year 2018, when the Indian team defeated Bangladesh in the final. After this, in the year 2020, Mumbai Indians won their fifth title in the IPL here under the captaincy of Rohit.

After this, now India has won the Champions Trophy under the captaincy of Rohit Sharma. Not only this, Rohit Sharma was successful in scoring the most runs for his team in the finals of these

tournaments. In the final of Asia Cup 2018, Rohit played an innings of 48 runs in 55 balls against Bangladesh, while in the final of IPL 2020, Rohit Sharma scored 68 runs in 51 balls against Delhi Capitals. Apart from this, this time Rohit scored 76 runs in the final of Champions Trophy 2025. In this way, it can be said that this ground is very lucky for Rohit Sharma but he has not been very successful on this ground in T20 cricket.



**Akashdeep seen in the colors of Holi**

**New Delhi (Agency).** Indian cricket team's young fast bowler Akash Deep is seen in the colors of Holi. A video of Akash Deep has surfaced on social media in which he is seen in a Holi program. In this, Akash Deep is seen singing a song while holding a mic while his face is heavily colored. People are surprised to see Akash Deep singing. Many people have praised his style. At the same time, many have trolled him. In the video, Akash Deep is singing a very old song of Pawan Singh. After listening to this song, the people present there are praising Akash Deep by saying wow wow. A fan wrote, 'Akash Bhai is intoxicated with cannabis.' Akashdeep made his Test debut against England in Ranchi last year. Since then, his performance has been very good.

**PCB made huge cuts in the match fees of the players**

**Lahore (Agency).** Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has made huge cuts in the match fees of the players as soon as the ICC Champions Trophy ended. PCB has reduced the match fees to less than half. With this, now the players participating in the National T20 Cup starting from March 14 will get 75 percent less fees than before. According to a media report, after this cut, the players will now get only 10,000 Pakistani rupees. With the PCB reducing the fees in this way, it is clear that the host of the Champions Trophy has suffered losses and its financial crunch has increased. At the same time, in the National T20 Cup last year, the players got 40 thousand Pakistani rupees as match fees, while the reserve player will get only five thousand Pakistani rupees. Earlier in the year 2022 also, there was a huge cut in the match fees of the players, then the players were getting 60,000 Pakistani rupees as match fees. The latest decision of the PCB is surprising because PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi had said that whatever money the PCB has will be spent for the betterment of the sport in the country. Pakistan's team's performance in the Champions Trophy hosted by them was very poor and they could not even reach the knockouts. A few days after his appointment as the chairman of the PCB last year, Naqvi had said, "We will try to provide the best for you."

# Madhya Pradesh will be a leader in the country in terms of rich inclusion of Indian knowledge tradition in the curriculum: Higher Education Minister Parmar

■ The knowledge of ancestors will be seen in the new curriculum rich with Indian knowledge tradition  
■ Two-day state-level workshop organized for inclusion of Indian knowledge tradition in curriculum concluded

**Bhopal (Agency):** India's glorious history has been of valor, valor and knowledge. India has its own economic thinking and philosophy, that is why India was called prosperous and the golden bird. India was the leader on the world stage on the basis of its knowledge and science and was adorned with the title of Vishwaguru. India's knowledge is thousands of years old, which is visible everywhere in the world today. There is a need to

present Indian knowledge before the society in the right perspective, factually. For this, the National Education Policy-2020 has given an opportunity to get free from the deception done in Indian history with the right facts. In the implementation of National Education Policy-2020, inclusion of Indian knowledge tradition is important. The perspective of the authors is important in book writing, for this there is a great need of Indian vision in the authors. Keeping India at the center, the curriculum will have to be created with an Indian perspective. The feeling of Indianness should be reflected in the writing. The Indian knowledge tradition is unlimited, the factual inclusion of Indian knowledge in books is a comprehensive and continuous process. The solution to the questions of the society will be found only in the temples of education and there should be a comprehensive and positive discussion for the solution. This was said by Higher

Education, Technical Education and AYUSH Minister Inder Singh Parmar on Thursday, in the conference hall of the Higher Education Excellence Institute in Bhopal, while participating in the second day of the two-day state-level workshop organized for curriculum development on the subject of Indian Knowledge Tradition: Various References under the Higher Education Department. Minister Parmar congratulated and wished all the supporting educationists for the successful inclusion of the Indian knowledge tradition in the curriculum development and in the context of the National Education Policy-2020. Along with this, he also made aware of the necessary precautions for the implementation of this complex task and also asked to communicate with subject experts and re-examine the facts before finalizing the curriculum development. Higher Education Minister

Parmar said that the National Education Policy-2020 has been implemented, but adequate inclusion of Indian knowledge tradition was expected in it. Madhya



Pradesh has made the most efforts in the country to include Indian knowledge tradition in education and its positive results will be in front of the students. New courses enriched with Indian knowledge tradition, prepared by the hard work and efforts of educationists, will be available to the students of the state from the session 2025-26 itself. Parmar said that due to the efforts of educationists, now the students of future will be proud of the knowledge of

their ancestors and the sense of ownership towards Indian knowledge will be awakened in the students. Parmar said that the reasons and factual answers for the existence of

Minister Parmar said that in the context of India, the method of writing will be developed with an Indian perspective and the state will become a centre of inspiration for this across the country. Parmar said that in the perspective of National Education Policy-2020, Madhya Pradesh will be a leader in the country in terms of rich inclusion of Indian knowledge tradition in the curriculum. During the program, Minister Parmar released the book Bharatiya Gyan Parampara: Gyan Manthan. The entire activities including university and divisional workshops, literary and cultural activities organized by the Indian Gyan Parampara Cell in a year, starting from the college level to state level competitions and representation of the Higher Education Department in the Gyan Mahakumbh of Prayagraj, have been given place in the Gyan Manthan book. Minister Parmar also released the information

magazine created from the collection of activities of the Higher Education Excellence Institute. On this occasion, the students of the Chemcatalyst Cell of the Chemistry Department of the Institute presented natural gular prepared from various flowers in the laboratory to the guests on the stage.

Conch blowing was done to start the inaugural session of the second day's program as per Indian tradition. Thereafter, the guests on the stage lit the lamp and the program was started through Saraswati Vandana. The subject wise presentation of the second day was completed in the second ideological session in the Sandipani room of the Swami Vivekananda Central Library of the Institute. In this, new suggestions related to Indian knowledge tradition were included in the syllabus on the basis of suggestions received from educationists. After this, like the previous day, the chairpersons of 19 subjects presented the updated

inclusion of new suggestions related to Indian knowledge tradition in the syllabus of their respective subjects. This two-day workshop was successfully completed in obtaining the desirable conclusions for the creation of new syllabus and in the creation of study materials. On this occasion, Director of MP Hindi Granth Academy Ashok Kadel, Chairman of MP Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee Dr. Ravindra Kanhere, Educationist Professor from Surat (Gujarat), Psychology Dr. Rudresh Vyas and Regional Additional Director Higher Education (Bhopal-Narmadapuram Division) Dr. Mathura Prasad along with members of the study board, various educationists, various subject experts, Vice Chancellors of various universities, Principals of various colleges, professors and other scholars were present. Director of the Institute Dr. Prajnesh Agarwal expressed his gratitude.

## BRIEF NEWS

### AAP surrounded BJP through human banner on the promise of free cylinder on Holi

**Delhi (Agency):** Now one day is left for the festival of Holi. The opposition is constantly asking the ruling party when the promise of free cylinder will be fulfilled. BJP had promised to give free gas cylinders on Holi and Diwali in the assembly elections. However, no official announcement has been made about this till now. The opposition AAP is constantly raising questions about this. AAP workers are also protesting about this. Atishi posted a video of the protest on social media in which hoardings are being put up asking when will free cylinders be given. At the same time, Atishi also took a dig at CM Rekha Gupta government and asked, "People of Delhi are asking, Holi has come. When will free cylinders come?" As soon as BJP government was formed in Delhi, Atishi has been repeatedly raising the question that when will Rs 2500 reach the accounts of women and why the promise of free cylinder on Holi has not been fulfilled? AAP workers protested on the issue of free cylinders at 40 places in Delhi on Wednesday. AAP workers protested from Vikaspuri, Moti Nagar, Sadar Bazar, Karol Bagh, Mandi House, Dwarka, Palam, Malviya Nagar and Mangolpuri to Chandni Chowk. During this, Delhi Police also detained many workers. Raising questions on this, Atishi said, first Modi ji's guarantee of giving Rs 2500 per month to every woman of Delhi turned out to be a Jumla and now the guarantee of giving free gas cylinder on Holi is also proving to be a Jumla. He said, when AAP leaders are reminding BJP of these promises made to the public, they are being forcibly arrested by the police. Modi ji, will you fulfill the guarantee or will you put those who remind you of the promises in jail? On this matter, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said, Atishi and AAP do politics of lies, arrogance and confrontation, that is why the people of Delhi have shown them the way out. Now they are worried about the cylinder. I want to tell them that what BJP had written in the Sankalp Patra is our commitment and we will fulfill it, but to do every work according to the rules, some administrative permission is needed. Budget provision has to be made. They only want to do the politics of confrontation.

### Professor arrested for taking VIP protocol by posing as Oman's High Commissioner

**Delhi (Agency):** Ghaziabad's Kaushambi police station has arrested a professor who took VIP protocol by posing as Oman's High Commissioner. According to the police, the arrested accused has been the Vice Chancellor of four universities. Currently, he was associated with an NGO named India GCC Trade Council, but he was fooling the police and administrative officials by claiming himself to be from GCC (Gulf Countries Council). The accused's personal secretary used to issue protocol letters, so raids are being conducted to arrest him. DCP Trans Hindon Nimish Patil said that the arrested accused Dr. Krishna Shekhar Rana alias Dr. KS Rana is a resident of 13, National Park Road Lajpat Nagar-4, Amar Colony police station area, Delhi. KS Rana is originally from Agra. He worked as a professor in Agra University from 1982 to 2015. He has Krishna College of Science and Technology in Agra and a resort in Rajasthan. After retiring from the post of professor from Agra University in the year 2015, KS Rana worked as a consultant in the Appraisal Authority of the Ministry of Environment till the year 2018. After this, he worked as Vice Chancellor in Kumaon University Nainital from the year 2018 to 2020, Almora Residential University Uttarakhand from the year 2020 to 2021, Mewar University Rajasthan from the year 2021 to the year 2022 and Jaipur Technical University Rajasthan from the year 2022 to the year 2024. DCP Trans Hindon said that Dr. KS Rana was associated with an NGO named India GCC Trade Council in the year 2024.

### AIIMS Bhopal organised awareness programme on World Kidney Day, an important initiative by the Department of Pediatrics

**Bhopal (Agency):** Under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, AIIMS Bhopal organised an awareness session organised by the Department of Pediatrics on the occasion of World Kidney Day. The aim of the programme was to raise awareness about kidney health, encourage early identification of kidney diseases and take necessary measures for prevention. During the session, Dr. Disha and Dr. Athira highlighted the primary causes of kidney damage, including urinary tract infection (UTI), chronic kidney disease (CKD) and other preventable risk factors.

They underlined the importance of early diagnosis and lifestyle modifications to ensure better kidney health in children and adults. Dr. Girish Chandra Bhatt, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, highlighted a worrying trend—obese children are 25-40% more likely to develop high blood pressure (hypertension). He emphasised the need for early intervention and regular kidney disease screening to prevent long-

term health complications. A key feature of the programme was focus on an ICMR-funded pioneering study called 'DISHA', which is being conducted at five centres in India. 'DISHA'



(Deriving Ambulatory Blood Pressure Normogram in Indian Children, A Pioneer Study) is aimed at increasing health awareness among children and early detection of hypertension and cardiovascular risk in them. Also, the study is being conducted to develop an ambulatory blood pressure monitoring nomogram in children.

AIIMS Bhopal is playing a key role in this initiative, conducting screening not only in hospitals but also in

schools. Children in the age group of 5-17 years are being assessed for hypertension, sedentary lifestyle, screen time and dietary habits, ensuring holistic preventive healthcare. The study is

to directly interact with the experts and discuss their concerns. Dr. Shikha Malik, Head, Department of Pediatrics, shared important views on raising awareness about various chronic diseases affecting children. She emphasized the need for regular health checkups and lifestyle changes to prevent long-term complications in children. Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh underlined the importance of this event and emphasized the need to raise awareness about kidney health from an early age. He said, Awareness should start from the early stage of life. Education and proactive health care play a vital role in preventing chronic diseases. Through initiatives like 'Disha' and dedicated efforts in child health, we are taking important steps to ensure a healthy future for the younger generation. Important topics such as healthy dietary habits, early warning signs of kidney disease and prevention measures were discussed in the event. The program concluded with a strong message—kidney health should be a priority for everyone.

### Fight between shopkeeper Khurshid and rickshaw driver Sudhir in Delhi



**Delhi (Agency):** A shopkeeper and a rickshaw driver got into a scuffle in Delhi's Shahdara this evening, police said there was no communal angle to the incident. They said a PCR call was received at 5.30 pm, in which shop employee Sarita (31) informed the police about a fight in Gandhi Nagar area. Police found that there was a fight between shop owner Khurshid (26) and rickshaw driver Sudhir. A senior police officer said nearby shopkeepers intervened and calmed the situation. Police

said investigations revealed there was no communal angle to the incident. The officer said it was only a personal dispute between two people and legal action is being taken. Questions are constantly being raised about the rising crime incidents in the national capital Delhi. Several incidents of crime were reported in Delhi on March 12. On Wednesday, a young man was stabbed to death near Purana Qila Road in Delhi. In this case, Delhi Police arrested the accused delivery boy.

### BJP MP Manoj Tiwari's style is Holi 2025 special, brother



**Delhi (Agency):** Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Thursday (March 13) wished people a Happy Holi in the style of a song. He played Holi with party workers at his residence. He termed the Holi of 2025 as very special. The BJP MP claimed that preparations are on to paint Delhi in the colour of development. During this, he also took a dig at the opposition. Manoj Tiwari said that we are celebrating Holi with the workers at our residence. Our new government has been formed in Delhi under the leadership of Rekha Gupta ji. We assure the people of Delhi with this colour that we will paint Delhi in the colour of

development, this is the guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. When BJP MP Manoj Tiwari was asked what would he like to say to the opposition leaders who are continuously protesting? On this question, he said, now the opposition leaders are wondering how the Ayushman Bharat scheme was implemented in the first cabinet meeting itself. On March 8, the process of giving Rs 2500 to women in Delhi also started, categorization has been started. Who are the people who come in that category.

Who are the people who will get extra gas cylinders on Holi-Diwali. He claimed that we have started listing everything for Delhi and the entire list will be made in the next one and a half to two months. He will give happiness to Delhi for five years. If the opposition is worried, what can Manoj Tiwari do in this? We will also tell them not to worry, celebrate Holi, don't mind, it is Holi.

### Electricity consumers can pay bills of vigilance and other investigations online



**Bhopal (Agency):** Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company has provided online payment facility on the company's website portal.mpcz.in for payment of electricity consumers of 16 districts falling under Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Gwalior and Chambal divisions of the company's jurisdiction, who have been issued provisional/final bills by the vigilance and other investigation teams of the electricity company. Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company has informed that such persons or electricity consumers in whose premises, due to unauthorized use of electricity or any other irregularity, cases have been registered by the vigilance and other investigation teams of the electricity company and provisional/final bill has been issued to them, now for its payment, along with the company's zone/distribution center office, can also make online payment on the company's website portal.mpcz.in from home. The company has said that for payment of provisional/final bill issued by the company in vigilance and other investigations, the concerned person/consumer will have to go to the Vigilance bill option by clicking on View/Pay Bill given in LT Services on the company's website portal portal.mpcz.in. After going to this option, on selecting any one of the options from consumer number or panchnama/page number for online payment, the information of provisional/final bill of vigilance will be displayed.

### Second on-duty cop dies in road accident in six months

**Delhi (Agency):** An Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) of Delhi Police posted at Burari Police Station died in a road accident while responding to an emergency call, an official gave this information on Thursday. He said that the accident happened on Wednesday night when he was responding to the call of Police Control Room (PCR) about another road accident. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Raja Banthia said - After the accident, his body was taken to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital for post-mortem. Meanwhile, the Wazirabad police station has registered a case and investigation is underway. Singh, a 1989 batch officer, was due to retire in 2028. He is survived by his wife, a son and a disabled daughter.