English Daily

UJALA SHIKHAR

News Of The Depths

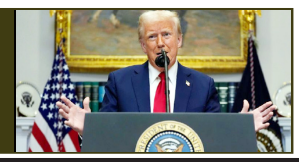
VOL. 02, NO. 199, MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ PRAYAGRAJ SUNDAY, 26 JANUARY 2025 PAGES 8, PRICE RS. 2.00



2 'People waiting for that famous dip in...



4 Trump rewrites US ties with Russia...



7 Padma Bhushan for PR Sreejesh, Ashwin gets...

'One Nation One Poll' can promote consistency in governance, reduce financial burden: President Murmu

New Delhi (Agency): President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday strongly backed the 'One Nation One Election' proposal, saying simultaneous elections can promote consistency in governance, prevent policy paralysis, mitigate resource diversion, and reduce the financial burden, apart from offering many other benefits. Addressing the nation on the eve of the 76th Republic Day, Murmu praised India's economic growth rate and said the country's economy influences global economic trends.



"In recent years, the economic growth rate has remained persistently high, creating job opportunities for our youth, putting more money in the hands of farmers and labourers, and also lifting more people out of poverty. The bold and far-sighted economic reforms will sustain this trend in the years to come," she said, adding that India is taking leadership positions in international forums.

The president noted that initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, MUDRA, Stand-Up India and Atal Pension Yojana have been expanded to provide more people access to a variety of financial support schemes.

Murmu claimed that the government has redefined the notion of welfare, making basic necessities such as housing and access to drinking water a matter of entitlement. "Every effort is being made to extend a helping hand to the marginalized communities, particularly of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes," she said.

The focus on physical infrastructure development, including roads and railways, ports and logistics hubs, over the past decade has created a platform to support growth for the decades to come, the President said in her address.

Murmu termed the decision to replace the Indian Penal Code with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita as a key attempt to change the colonial mindset. "Based also on Indian traditions of jurisprudence, the new criminal laws place the delivery of justice instead of punishment at the centre of the criminal justice system. Moreover, the new laws grant top priority to countering crimes against women and children," she said.

BISHOP CONVENT SCHOOL
(English Medium Co-Educational C.B.S.E. Curriculum)
Nursary to Class XIIth Step by Step
Registration open
HAPPY Republic Day
School Bus Facility Available



Mrs. Alka Pathak
The Manager
Mrs. Ruchi Mishra
The Principal
For Details Contact
Director: Sanjay Pathak
Mo. 8299774806, 9919102165
C-Block-World Bank, Pal Chauraha, A.D.A. Colony Naini, Prayagraj

Osamu Suzuki, Sushil Modi, R. Ashwin among Padma awardees

Former Suzuki chief, folk singer Sharda Sinha and Malayalam writer M.T. Vasudevan Nair were awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously

New Delhi (Agency): On the eve of the 76th Republic Day, President Droupadi Murmu approved 139 Padma awards including seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri.

Former Suzuki chief Osamu Suzuki, folk singer Sharda Sinha and renowned Malayalam writer M.T. Vasudevan Nair were awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

Others who were honoured with India's second-highest civilian honour included Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy (medicine), Justice (Retd.) Shri Jagdish Singh Khehar (public affairs), Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia (art) and Lakshminarayana Subramaniam (art).

Former Bihar Dy Chief Minister Sushil Modi, economist Bibek Debroy, gazal singer Pankaj Udhas former Maharashtra CM Manohar Joshi (both posthumously) were honoured with Padma Bhushan. Prasar Bharati ex-chairperson A. Surya Prakash, Sadhvi Rithambara, film-maker Shekhar Kapur Actor Anant Nag and Assam's folk culture exponent Jatin Goswami, Tamil actor Ajith Kumar, actress Shobana and hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh were also awarded Padma Bhushan. Dinamalar publisher Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaiyer was awarded Padma Shri for literature, education and journalism. Other notable faces to receive Padma Shri included former SBI chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya, and cricketer R. Ashwin. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated all the Padma awardees and said each awardee was synonymous with hard work, passion and innovation, which has positively impacted countless lives.

"Congratulations to all the Padma awardees! India is proud to honour and celebrate their extraordinary achievements. Their dedication and perseverance are truly motivating. Each awardee is synonymous with hard work, passion and innovation, which has positively impacted countless lives. They teach us the value of striving for excellence and serving society selflessly," he wrote on X.



India proud to honour extraordinary achievements of Padma awardees: PM Modi

New Delhi (Agency): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated all Padma awardees and said India is proud to honour and celebrate their extraordinary achievements. A total of 139 Padma awards, including seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri, have been announced. "Congratulations to all the Padma awardees! India is proud to honour and celebrate their extraordinary achievements. Their dedication and perseverance are truly motivating. Each awardee is synonymous with hard work, passion and innovation, which has positively impacted countless lives. They teach us the value of striving for excellence and serving society selflessly," Modi said on X. Congratulations to all the Padma awardees! India is proud to honour and celebrate their extraordinary achievements. Their dedication and perseverance are truly motivating. Each awardee is synonymous with hardwork, passion and innovation, which has positively impacted countless…Former Suzuki chief Osamu Suzuki, folk singer Sharda Sinha and renowned writer M T Vasudevan Nair have been awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

फैन्सी साड़ियों व लहंगा चुन्नी का अनुपम संग्रह
शगुन
साड़ीज़ व फैब्रिक्स
Raymond
Suitung,Shirting, Suit, Cotton
चौक घंटाघर,प्रयागराज



मेजा ऊर्जा निगम प्रा॰ लिमिटेड
(एनटीपीसी लिमिटेड एवं उ.प्र.रा.वि.उ.नि. लि. का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
गणतंत्र दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ
सामुदायिक विकास और पर्यावरण संरक्षण को समर्पित
निशुल्क रोजगारोंमुखी प्रशिक्षण
कम्बल वितरण कार्यक्रम
सिपेट लखनऊ में प्रशिक्षित को प्रशिक्षण प्रमाण पत्र एवं नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण
मियावाकी वृक्षारोपण
बालिका सशक्तिकरण मिशन (जीईएम) कार्यक्रम
पंजीकृत कार्यालय: एनटीपीसी भवन, 7, इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली–110003
साइट ऑफिस : मेजा थर्मल पावर प्लांट, कोहड़ार, तहसील – मेजा, प्रयागराज–212308
CIN:U74900DL2008PTC176247; Phone: 05322693126; Email: munplit@ntpc.co.in: Website: https://munpl.co.in

Tahawwur Rana's extradition clearence a shot in the arm for NIA

BUT CHALLENGES LIE AHEAD

If Rana completes his sentence in the US in 2027 and returns to Canada, India may have to pursue the matter afresh

New Delhi (Agency): The US Supreme Court on Saturday paved the way for Mumbai attack convict Tahawwur Rana's extradition to India, giving a shot in the arm to the National Investigation Agency probing the larger conspiracy behind the 26/1 Mumbai terror attacks. The court's decision to dismiss the review petition filed by the Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman came after the US government supported India's request for his extradition last year. The key is quick extradition. Rana is serving a 14-year sentence in the US prison for supporting a Pakistani terror group and plotting a terror plot in Denmark which ends in 2027.

What has worked in India's favour so far is the diplomatic cooperation offered by the US government, from former President Joe Biden to US President Donald Trump, who took charge on January 21. The decade-long effort, insiders reveal, began with close collaboration between the investigators in India and the United States in 2014 and 2015, which has turned out to be crucial in India's 26/11 investigations.

A senior Mumbai police officer, Atulchandra Kulkarni, then joint Commissioner of police in Mumbai, accompanied by Ujjwal Nikam, special public prosecutor in the 26/11 case, quietly flew to the US and met senior officers of the FBI and the state department. The aim was to secure their cooperation for the testimony of Lashkar-e-Taiba operative David Coleman Headley, who was in American custody.



The American sleuths asked them why Headley's deposition was needed if he was not present in Pakistan or India at the time of the attacks. If Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving terrorist, did not meet Headley, why his cooperation was required, asked the FBI sleuths. To New Delhi's dismay, Headley had entered a plea bargain agreement with the US government shutting doors for his extradition to India or Pakistan for his involvement in 26/11.

The duo succeeded in explaining why Headley's testimony was required before a Mumbai court. This paved the way forward for a successful partnership between the two countries that brought Headley to the courtroom in Mumbai, where he spilled the beans on the role of key accomplice and friend Tahawwur Rana. Headley also said the entire conspiracy was hatched by the LeT with the active assistance of some officers of the Pakistan army.

What also worked in India's favour was that Rana's extradition case was being fought by the US authorities on its behalf, which is rare, particularly in extradition matters related to another country. The legal collaboration was effective, senior government officials said.

The fact that the US has been supporting India's stance on bringing the 26/11 perpetrators to book, has been reassuring for investigators. Unlike Headley, the Americans were not interested in keeping Rana on their soil. He did not enjoy any immunity. The NIA was quick to follow up. Investigators realised that if Rana completes his sentence in the US-his sentence ends in 2027-and returns to Canada, India may have to pursue the matter afresh.

But bigger challenges lie ahead. Rana was not named in the chargesheet filed by the Mumbai Police but was only an accused in the bigger 26/11 conspiracy.

The ball is now in the NIA's court to firm up enough evidence. If the extradition comes through, Rana might spill the beans on key terror conspirators hiding in Pakistan, like LeT patron Hafiz Saeed, the "project manager" of the 26/11 attacks Sajid Mir and LeT commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi among others. The NIA hopes that the extradition process will receive a boost from diplomatic efforts in Washington.

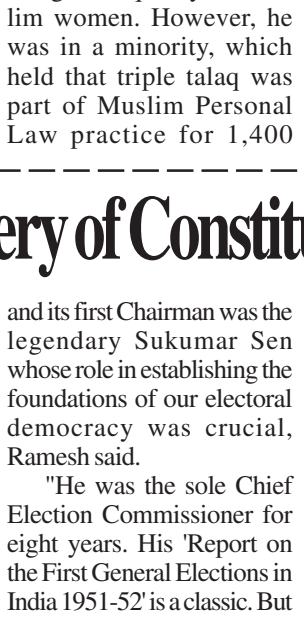
Padma awardee Justice J S Khehar had offered to mediate in Ayodhya dispute

Justice Khehar headed the five-judge Constitution Bench which restored the Collegium system by quashing the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act in 2015

New Delhi (UNI): Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar, the first Sikh Chief Justice of India who was on Saturday chosen for the Padma Vibhushan, had once offered to mediate to find an amicable solution to the Ayodhya dispute.

Maintaining that a negotiated settlement of the Ayodhya dispute was a better option, Justice Khehar had in March 2017 offered to play a mediator to solve the contentious issue, if parties agreed to it. However, later the issue was decided by a five-judge Bench led by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi in November 2019. He headed the five-judge Constitution Bench which restored the Collegium system by quashing the 99th Constitutional Amendment and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act in 2015.

Justice Khehar headed a nine-judge Constitution Bench which, in a landmark verdict delivered on August 24, 2017, declared the right to privacy a fundamental right under the Constitution, saying it was "the constitutional core of human dignity". In a unanimous verdict, it had said, "The right to privacy is protected



as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III (Fundamental Rights Chapter) of the Constitution."

Justice Khehar also headed the five-judge Constitution Bench which declared the age-old controversial practice unconstitutional on the ground that it was arbitrary and violative of right to equality of Muslim women. However, he was in a minority, which held that triple talaq was part of Muslim Personal Law practice for 1,400 years.

Justice Khehar was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court on September 13, 2011. He served as the 44th Chief Justice of India between January 4, 2017, and August 27, 2017.

Born on August 28, 1952, he graduated in science from Government College, Chandigarh, in 1974 and was awarded the LLB degree by Panjab University in 1977. He went on to acquire the LLM degree from the same university in 1979. He was awarded the gold medal for having stood first in the university in the LLM examination.

He was enrolled as an advocate in 1979 and practised mainly in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, the Himachal Pradesh High Court, Shimla, and the Supreme Court. He was appointed as a judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana on February 8, 1999. Justice Khehar was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court twice —from August 2, 2008, and again, from November 17, 2009 — before being elevated as the Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court on November 29, 2009. He also served as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court before being elevated to the top court.

'People waiting for that famous dip in Yamuna': Amit Shah's swipe at Kejriwal

New Delhi (Agency): Union Home Minister Amit Shah took a jibe at Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kwjriwal over his "unfulfilled promise" of cleaning up the Delhi stretch of the River Yamuna. Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Shah re-



called that the former chief minister had said he would take a dip in the Yamuna after cleaning up the river.

"He (Kejriwal) had promised to clean the Yamuna River in seven years, making it as clean as London's Thames River, and said he would take a dip in front of the people of Delhi. Kejriwal ji, the public is waiting for that famous dip of yours," Shah said. The home minister took aim at the AAP leader over a slew of issues including corruption and said the Delhi government makes only promises, but fails to fulfil them.

"In my political life, I have never seen anyone who lies so clearly," said Shah in a sharp attack on the former CM ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. He said Kejriwal had promised not to take a government bungalow but spent over Rs 51 crore to build a 50,000-square-foot 'Sheesh Mahal.' He also accused the AAP of opening liquor shops near schools and Gurudwaras. "He talked about a corruption-free government, but Kejriwal himself, along with many of his ministers, went to jail over corruption cases. He only got bail, and using bail as a clean chit does not absolve him from the accusations," Shah said, referring to the excise policy scam. The most serious issue in Delhi is the level of corruption which, Shah said, had never been as high as it was under Kejriwal.

"There have been scandals like the Liquor Scam, a 28,400 crore scam in the Delhi Jal Board, a 5,400 crore scam in ration distribution, a 1,300 crore scam in school classrooms, and a 571 crore scam in CCTV installation," he said. The AAP and the BJP are engaged in a bitter war of words over several issues as campaigning for the February 5 assembly elections gathers steam in Delhi. While the AAP hopes for a third straight term in the capital state, the BJP aims for a strong comeback to power. In the last assembly elections, Kejriwal's party bagged 62 of the seats while the BJP managed to win only eight. The Congress, the third player, drew a blank.

ICICI Bank's Q3FY25 net profit rises by 14.8% to Rs 11,792 crore

Mumbai (Agency): ICICI Bank reported a 14.8% year–on–year (Y-o-Y) increase in net profit to Rs 11,792 crore in the quarter-ended December (Q3FY25), due to steady growth in net interest income (NII) and a robust increase in non-interest income, according to an official release. The bank's net interest income rose by 9.1% Y-o-Y to Rs 20,371 crore in Q3 due to robust growth in advances during the quarter. However, its net interest margin (NIM) – a measure of the profitability of banks – dropped marginally by 2 basis points (bps) to 4.25 percent in Q3 compared to 4.27% in the previous quarter. Notably, its net interest margin (NIM) was down by 18 bps over the same period last year, the release stated.

The bank's non-interest income was up by 12.1% Y-o-Y to Rs 6,697 crore in Q3, driven by fee income, which was up by 16.3% Y-o-Y to Rs 6,180 crore during this period. The bank saw higher gross non-performing asset (NPA) additions in Q3, with gross slippages in the quarter at Rs 6,085 crore compared to Rs 5,073 crore in Q2FY25 and Rs 5,916 crore in Q1FY25.

"Poll body making a mockery of Constitution": Cong

New Delhi: The Congress hit out at the Election Commission on Saturday, saying the "self-congratulation" on National Voters' Day would not obscure the fact that the poll panel as it has been functioning makes a "mockery" of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves. The opposition party also alleged that over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been "severely compromised" by the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Even as we celebrate National Voters' Day, the ceaseless erosion of the institutional integrity of the Election Commission of India, in the last ten years, is a matter of grave national concern." "Our Election Commission of India and our Parliamentary Democracy, despite widespread doubts, over the decades, turned out to be impartial, independent and ideal to emulate globally," he said. The realisation of universal adult suffrage, extending to the grassroots levels of panchayat and urban local bodies embodies the vision of our founders, he said. The National Voters' Day has been celebrated for the past 15 years to mark the inception of the Election Commission (EC) on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a republic. In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "There will be a lot of self-



congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves." "Today has been celebrated as National Voters Day since 2011 to mark the day on which the Election Commission came into being 75 years ago on Jan 25th, 1950," he noted. The Election Commission is a Constitutional body and its first Chairman was the legendary Sukumar Sen whose role in establishing the foundations of our electoral democracy was crucial, Ramesh said.

"He was the sole Chief Election Commissioner for eight years. His 'Report on the First General Elections in India 1951-52' is a classic. But the preparations of the draft electoral roll for the first elections had been completed before Sen took over," he said. The story of this historic endeavour and of the people involved in it is narrated very finely by Ornit Shani in her definitive 'How India Became Democratic', Ramesh pointed out. There have been other distinguished CECs, among whom TN Seshan stands tallest and whose contributions were seminal, he said.

"Sadly, over the past decade, the professionalism and independence of the Election Commission has been severely compromised by the PM-HM duo," Ramesh alleged.

"Some of its decisions are now under challenge in the Supreme Court. Its stand on the concerns raised on the recent assembly elections in Haryana and Maharashtra has been shockingly partisan," Ramesh said. "There will be a lot of self-congratulation today but that will not obscure the fact that the Election Commission as it has been functioning makes a mockery of the Constitution and is an insult to the voters themselves," he said.

In another post on X, Ramesh said? "As we celebrate National Voters' Day, it is instructive to recall what the RSS weekly Organiser had written on Jan 7, 1952 in the midst of the first general election. It hoped that Jawaharlal Nehru would live to 'confess the failure of universal adult franchise in India'." "It rebuked Nehru who, it said, 'all along lived by slogans and stunts' for not listening to others and insisting that ALL citizens over the age of 21 should have the right to vote. This was, of course, reduced to 18 in 1989," Ramesh recalled.

President Murmu approves gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces personnel

New Delhi (Agency): President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday approved gallantry awards to 93 armed forces personnel, including two Kirti Chakras and 14 Shaurya Chakras on the eve of Republic Day. The Kirti Chakras -- India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award -- have been awarded to Major Manjit from 22 Rashtriya Rifles, and posthumously to Naik Dilwar Khan, 28 Rashtriya Rifles. The president approved 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumously. The Shaurya Chakra awardees are Major Ashish Dahiya 50 RR, Major Kunal 1 RR, Major Satender Dhankar 4 RR, Captain Deepak Singh 48 RR (Posthumous) and Assistant Commandant Eshenthung Kikon, 4 Assam Rifles. Subedar Vikas Tomar, 1 Para, Subedar Mohan



Ram, 20 JAT Regiment, Havildar Rohit Kumar Dogra (Posthumous), Havildar Prakash Tamang 32 RR, Flight Lieutenant Aman Singh Hans, Corporal Dabhi Sanjay Hiffabai Essa, Vijayan Kutty G (Posthumous), Vikrant Kumar, Deputy Commandant of CRPF and Jeffrey Hmingchullo, Inspector, CRPF were also conferred Shaurya Chakras.

The defence ministry said President Murmu approved gallantry awards to 93 armed forces and central armed police forces personnel.

"These include two Kirti Chakras, including one posthumous; 14 Shaurya Chakras, including three posthumous; one Bar to Sena Medal (gallantry); 66 Sena Medals, including seven posthumous; two Nao Sena Medal (gallantry) and eight Vayu Sena medals (gallantry)," it said. The President also approved 305 defence decorations to Armed Forces and other personnel.

These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 10 Yudh Seva Medals, one Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 43 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 15 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), four Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 132 Vishisht Seva Medals.

"Avoid fake narratives, disruptive campaign": Poll Panel Chief to parties

New Delhi (Agency): CEC Rajiv Kumar on Saturday requested political parties to avoid "disruptive campaigning" and "fake narratives", saying it might cause disillusionment among youngsters regarding the electoral process. He was addressing the 15th National Voters' Day event here in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and representatives of political parties. At the same time, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kumar assured political parties that the Election Commission (EC) would respond in writing to concerns flagged by them on the electoral process and the suggestions made by them to improve the system.



His remarks came on a day the opposition Congress hit out at the EC, saying its "self-congratulation" on the occasion would not obscure the fact that the poll panel's functioning had made a "mockery" of the Constitution and insulted the voters.

Kumar also flagged the "dangerous trend" all over the world of misinformation and fake narratives, calling them the single-biggest threat to democratic processes worldwide.

"I would also urge them to avoid disruptive campaigning so that our youth do not get disillusioned and move away from the electoral process," Kumar said.

"We assure them, with all respect and humility, that whenever they ask any question or give any suggestion to improve the electoral process, we will look into it with all sincerity, make improvements and also give them a written response. But we must avoid fake narratives, I would like to add," he added. National Voters' Day is being celebrated for the last 15 years to mark the inception of the EC on January 25, 1950, a day before India became a republic.



During the Kumbh Mela, on Saturday, the day of Ekadashi before Amavasya, devotees were stuck in traffic jam for hours on Daraganj Nagavasuki Road.

AN Sinha, IG/ RPF/NC Rly awarded Prez's Police Medal

KULDEEP SHUKLA

Prayagraj Prayagraj: Inspector General (IG) of Railway Protection Force, North Central Railway (NCR), AN Sinha, has been awarded the President Police Medal for his distinguished service on the occasion of Republic Day 2025. Sinha was earlier conferred with the Indian Police medal for meritorious service in 2012 and the national award for Outstanding Service by the minister of railways in 2009.

He served in different parts of the country after being selected through UPSC in 1989. Presently, the officer is involved in ensuring security arrangements in railway areas during the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj.

During his service in RPF he was posted all over India- Lumding and Tinsukia in Assam, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Kharagpur in West Bengal, Hyderabad and Secunderabad in Telangana, Bengaluru in Karnataka, Additional Chief Security Commissioner in Chennai, Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner in Konkan Railway/Maharashtra, Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner in Bilaspur/Chhattisgarh. Many criminals in Lumding division, who were involved in theft of booked consignments, were arrested during raids conducted directly under his personal supervision. In 1994, he was transferred to Tinsukia division when his predecessor was threatened by the extremist outfit, ULFA. But he boldly led the force and recovered more than 250 bullets during an operation at Dimapur railway station in Nagaland.



During the period 1996-2000 as Divisional Security Commissioner/Waltair, theft cases reduced from more than 500 cases a year to less than 50 a year. In Bengaluru and Kharagpur Divisions, Shri Sinha contributed to the removal of many encroachments from Railway land, thereby saving land worth several crores of rupees.

As Deputy Chief Security Commissioner/ Secunderabad, he initiated several innovative measures to improve RSF Training Centre/Moula-Ali for which the officer was awarded the National Award for Distinguished Service. He led the force during Telangana agitation in Secunderabad Division and ensured smooth running of trains. In South East Central Railway, Shri Sinha effectively coordinated with the police in Left Wing Extremism affected areas of Chhattisgarh without any major incident of violence. At present, the officials are busy ensuring security arrangements in the railway areas during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

Second day of making 1.25 crore earthen Shivlingas in Prayagraj

On the second day, 73 lakh 2 thousand 8 Shivlingas were constructed

UJALA SHIKHAR

*** A total of 1 crore 4 lakh 2 thousand 722 Shivlingas were made in 2 days**
*** The biggest area of sector number 9 became Shivamay**
*** Members of the Guru family from all over India reached Prayagraj with their families**
*** Thousands of devotees took bath in Daddaji Ghat built in the holy river Ganga near the pandal**

Prayagraj: In the Sangam city of Prayagraj, with the infinite grace of Anant Shri Vibhushit Param Pujya Gurudev Pt. Dev Prabhakar Shastri "Dadda Ji", revered "Jiji", under the guidance of revered "Bade Bhaiya" householder Saint Dr. Anil Shastri Ji, on the second day of the 136th 1.25 crore earthen Shivlinga construction Maharudra Yagya Maha Rudrabhishek, being held in Sector Number 9 of Prayagraj, 73 lakh 2 thousand 8 Shivlingas were constructed. Today, since morning, devotees have been constructing Shivlingas and Rudrabhishek was performed in the afternoon, after which the Shivlingas were immersed in the holy river Ganga.

2,500 drones illuminate sky in a spectacular show on National Tourism Day

Drones showcases 'Samudra Manthan' for second consecutive day at Mahakumbh

A confluence of divinity and technology graces the skies of Prayagraj

Mahakumbh Nagar: Prayagraj witnessed a breathtaking spectacle on Saturday evening during the Mahakumbh 2025 as 2,500 drones lit up the sky, delivering a special performance on the occasion of National Tourism Day. The event, held along the Sangam coast, showcased the epic tale of 'Samudra Manthan' through dazzling lights and religious symbols, captivating audiences with a blend of tradition and technology.



The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department is organizing the grand drone show from January 24 to 26, marking it as the largest drone display to date. The event beautifully merges tradition with modernity and will conclude on Republic Day, January 26.

Jaiveer Singh, Uttar Pradesh's Minister of Tourism and Culture, highlighted the significance of the event, stating, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Mahakumbh area has been transformed into a world-class pilgrimage site. The drone show exemplifies the union of Indian culture and spirituality with cutting-edge technology by depicting the story of 'Samudra Manthan' and the origin of Mahakumbh." The drone show featured special presentations on UP Foundation Day on Friday and National Tourism Day on Saturday. The performances not only entertained spectators but also celebrated India's vibrant cultural heritage and technological advancements.

In addition to the drone show, a joint event was held by the Tourism and Culture Department at Awadh Shilpgram in Lucknow on Saturday. Activities included cultural presentations, a meet-up for travel influencers, and discussions on eco-tourism, aiming to elevate Uttar Pradesh's recognition as a premier global tourist destination.

Tourism Minister also emphasized the expansion of facilities in Prayagraj, including healthcare, transportation, and enhanced safety measures for women. These developments ensure the city can accommodate the needs of millions of devotees visiting Mahakumbh.

The drone show, featuring 2,500 drones emitting blue lights and forming religious symbols, has become the highlight of Mahakumbh 2025. Spectators described the breathtaking display as an unforgettable moment, symbolizing the perfect blend of spirituality and innovation.

Ganga exhibition informative and imp for public: Vibhanand Giri

Prayagraj: Ganga and Yamuna water pollution prevention exhibition, research dissemination, nature conservation and environment public awareness campaign, which has been organized continuously in Kumbh Mahakumbh and Magh Mela since 1981, was inaugurated. On this occasion, the country's renowned Sadhvi and Pragya Peethadhishwar Shri Maa Swami Vibhanand Giri Ji Maharaj of Shri Shambhu Panchdasnam Avahan Akhara Prayagraj said that the Ganga exhibition is amazing and very informative. Certainly a source of inspiration for all Indians. In this, all the informative things related to the environment have been told and the model made from the origin of Ganga and Yamuna till their merger in Ganga Sagar is very attractive. This is very important for the studying students. This program started by Prodinanath Shukla Deen is no less than a milestone in the direction of environmental protection.

Sringeri Peetham Shankaracharya's arrival enhances grandeur of Mahakumbh: CM Yogi

UJALA SHIKHAR

Mahakumbh Nagar: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during his visit to Prayagraj, met and honored Shankaracharya Jagadguru Shri Shri Vidhushekhar Bharti Ji Maharaj of Sringeri Peetham, South India. Expressing his joy, the Chief Minister said, "It is a matter of immense pride that the revered Shankaracharya of Sringeri Peetham has graced Prayagraj with his presence. The Mahakumbh feels complete with your arrival." In a traditional southern welcome, the Chief Minister was presented with a coconut, symbolizing the Kumbh. In return, CM Yogi draped a shawl over the Shankaracharya and offered him fruits as a gesture of respect.

The Chief Minister noted that Sringeri Peetham's formal participation in Mahakumbh after a long gap has significantly enhanced its grandeur. "Your five-day stay is a blessing for us. The state government and district administration are deeply grateful for your presence, which adds immense value to making the Mahakumbh grand and divine."

CM Yogi also briefed the Shankaracharya about the arrangements for Mahakumbh, the participation of saints, and the global attendance expected at this sacred event.

The Shankaracharya of Sringeri Peetham expressed his joy upon learning about the Mahakumbh arrangements from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He commended the meticulous planning and excellent facilities and offered his blessings to everyone dedicated to making the event a success. The Shankaracharya also shared insights about the tradition of Dakshin Peetha, mentioning that 48 years ago, his Guru's Guru had visited to take a sacred dip during Amavasya in Kumbh. However, it was after 150 years that a Shankaracharya from the South was formally participating in Mahakumbh.

He informed the Chief Minister that during his 5-day stay, he would engage in 'Shastrartha' (intellectual debate) and take a holy dip in Triveni Sangam on Amavasya along with other Shankaracharyas. He also provided details of his stay and planned activities. In response, the Chief Minister invited the Shankaracharya to hold a 'Shastrartha Sabha' and deliver a discourse during his visit to Kashi. The Shankaracharya graciously agreed to this and also consented to participate in a program at the Annapurna temple. On this occasion, Rakesh Shukla, in-charge of the Shankaracharya's Kumbh visit and other officials were present.

Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the ashram of Shri Kalyan Seva Ashram, Amarkantak, located in Sector 19, where he met Sadgurudev Baba Kalyan Das Ji Maharaj for a personal discussion. During the meeting, the Chief Minister shared insights about the arrangements and facilities provided by the government for Mahakumbh.

The discussion, which lasted about 10 minutes, highlighted the spiritual and administrative efforts undertaken to make the grand event successful. After the meeting, the Chief Minister proceeded to his next engagement. Kalyan Seva Ashram, situated in the sacred city of Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, has been actively serving the public since 1977. With a focus on public service, social welfare, spirituality, and religious activities, the ashram continues to inspire devotion and community welfare.

EDITORIAL

Peace Gamble

The second inauguration of Donald Trump has brought with it a dramatic shift in American rhetoric on the war in Ukraine. By threatening severe economic penalties against Russia and urging President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the conflict, President Trump has thrust himself into the global spotlight as a would-be peacemaker. However, while his approach is undeniably bold, it raises questions about the feasibility of his ambitions and the complexities of achieving peace in such a deeply entrenched war. Mr Trump's ultimatum to Russia centres on leveraging economic sanctions and tariffs to compel Moscow to the negotiating table. His framing of these actions as a "favour" to Mr Putin adds a strategic twist, painting his proposed deal-making as mutually beneficial rather than purely punitive. This posture reflects Mr Trump's signature style of negotiation ~ confrontational yet couched in rhetoric that appeals to the self-interest of his counterpart. For a Russia grappling with economic strain and an increasingly protracted conflict, the pressure could be significant. However, the core issues that have perpetuated the war remain unresolved. Russia insists on the recognition of its territorial gains in Ukraine and demands that Kyiv forego any thoughts of Nato membership. Ukraine, on the other hand, refuses to accept the loss of sovereignty over its occupied territories, even temporarily, while demanding guarantees of security.

These starkly opposing positions underscore the challenges of brokering any deal, regardless of external pressure. Peace, as history has often shown, cannot be dictated; it must be built on mutual concessions, a scenario that currently appears distant. Ukraine's leadership, while welcoming tougher stances against Russia, has expressed scepticism about whether rhetoric will translate into meaningful action. The Ukrainian government has called for tangible support, such as robust sanctions, military aid, and even peacekeeping forces that include US troops. For Kyiv, strength and deterrence are paramount, as past peace deals with Russia have often been short-lived or poorly enforced. Meanwhile, signs of shifting narratives within Russia suggest a potential, albeit slim, opening for dialogue. Discussions in Moscow hint at a readiness to halt fighting along current frontlines, though such proposals remain controversial among hardline factions. If this internal debate evolves, it could create an opportunity for the new American President's approach to gain traction. However, any concessions by Russia would likely be framed as temporary, complicating the prospects for lasting peace. Ultimately, Mr Trump's intervention may succeed in raising the stakes for Russia, but true peace will require navigating a minefield of geopolitical realities. A sustainable resolution must address the legitimate security concerns of both Ukraine and Russia while ensuring mechanisms to enforce any agreement. As Mr Trump's tenure unfolds, the world will watch closely to see whether his threats and promises translate into substantive progress ~ or remain another chapter in the rhetoric of war. Europe, although reduced to a tangential role in Mr Trump's scheme of things, must hope that any peace formula takes on board its security concerns.

Everest Dilemma

Nepal's decision to increase permit fees for climbing Mount Everest signals a critical shift in its approach to managing the world's tallest peak. While the hike in fees ~ from $11,000 to $15,000 during the peak season ~ will undoubtedly bolster Nepal's revenues, it also raises pressing questions about sustainability, overcrowding, and the ethics of commercialisation on one of the world's most revered natural wonders. For Nepal, the economic stakes are significant. Mountaineering and trekking form a crucial pillar of its economy, contributing over 4 per cent to the national GDP. The revenue generated from climbing permits supports infrastructure, local livelihoods, and development in remote regions. By raising fees for the first time in nearly a decade, the government aims to ensure a fair return on the resources and risks involved in facilitating these expeditions. However, this increase must be paired with a broader strategy to address the mounting challenges facing Everest. Overcrowding on Everest has become an alarming issue, with hundreds of permits issued annually. This influx of climbers has led to dangerous bottlenecks at critical points on the mountain, turning the summit into a high-altitude traffic jam.

These delays not only jeopardise lives but also exacerbate the environmental toll. Everest, often referred to as the world's highest garbage dump, has suffered from years of mismanagement, with climbers leaving behind tons of waste and even human remains. Despite periodic clean-up drives, the scale of the problem remains daunting, with an estimated 200 bodies still scattered across the mountain. A higher permit fee could act as a deterrent for less serious climbers, potentially reducing congestion. However, it is unlikely to curb the aspirations of wealthy adventurers or commercial expedition companies. What is needed is a more comprehensive regulatory framework that caps the number of permits issued each year, ensures climbers meet stringent experience requirements, and enforces strict waste management protocols. The recent order from Nepal's Supreme Court to respect the carrying capacity of its peaks is a step in the right direction, but its implementation remains uncertain. The increased fees also raise ethical considerations. Mountaineering has long been a pursuit of passion and endurance, but the commercialisation of Everest risks turning it into a luxury experience accessible only to the elite. This exclusivity undermines the spirit of exploration and raises questions about whether Nepal's iconic mountain is being reduced to a mere commodity. Nepal faces the dual challenge of preserving Everest's sanctity while maximising its economic potential. The new permit fees, though necessary, must be part of a larger effort to protect the mountain's fragile ecosystem, ensure climber safety, and honour the legacy of the countless mountaineers who have risked their lives to stand on top of the world. By balancing revenue with responsibility, Nepal can set an example for sustainable tourism on the world's most iconic peaks. Evidence, though, suggests that may be a forlorn hope.

Trump rewrites US ties with Russia & China

Using India as a balance to keep China in its place suits President Trump, just now. India, in turn, still needs US cooperation

G PARTHASARATHY

At his end-of-the-year news conference in December, 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared: "I must say that the situation is changing dramatically." He added: "There is movement along the entire frontline every day."

Putin is given to choosing his words very carefully. It is now clear that it is only a matter of time before Russia achieves its territorial objectives of forcing Ukraine out of residual Russian territory, that Moscow now wants to soon regain and control. This is the territory that Moscow had historically controlled, along its southern shores. It now appears likely that Ukraine will be forced out of the territory it took control of prior to the conflict. Russia is, even now, recovering territory that it lost, since the conflict began.



Also, there is no doubt that this has been a case of the young and inexperienced Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, being encouraged by the Biden administration and its NATO allies to enhance control of its south-eastern shores.

It is now evident that unlike the Biden administration, the Trump administration will not back the Ukrainians in their military operations to take on Putin's soldiers. In the process, the US seems to have forgotten that one of the main aims of the Russians has historically been to retain control of and unfettered access to the "warm waters" across their shores. Joe Biden did not evidently take note of the importance that Russia attached to the territories it controlled in its east, which provide it with access to the sea, especially across Ukraine.

The most important change being seen with the advent of Trump is that a serious effort is underway for resolving these issues, to ensure that Moscow's access to the sea is fully secured. Moreover, there are signs that in eastern Ukraine, the Russians are carefully seizing control of territory across the Donbas region.

President Trump, however, appears to be deliberately oblivious of European concerns on Russia's territorial claims. He has described Putin's territorial claims as: "This is genius. Putin declares a big portion of Ukraine as independent. That is wonderful." This is astonishing as one could not have expected Washington to support Moscow's territorial claims!

Regarding US-China relations under President Trump, while India is making efforts to end tensions on its borders with China, there appears to be little possibility of any serious breakthrough happening in Trump's relations with China. Trump has not hesitated to allude to his differences with China's policies. This has been reinforced by his appointment of Senator Marco Rubio as his Secretary of State and of Representative Mike Waltz as National Security Adviser.

Rubio and Waltz are both characterised as "staunch China hawks" in Washington. Rubio has been banned twice in 2020 from entering China. One wonders if the bans are still in place. Both these Trump appointees would not exactly be welcome in China.

Yet, another Trump ally, multi-billionaire Elon Musk, has a huge commercial interests in China, running into scores of billions of dollars. Trump is evidently keeping Beijing uncertain about his intentions.

Despite the rhetoric, Trump is quite obviously keeping his options open with China. Using India as a balance to keep China in its place suits President Trump, just now. India, in turn, still needs US cooperation in areas ranging from high-tech, defence production and space to other spheres of security exchanges and economic cooperation. This is occurring amidst a growing, highly educated Indian population in the US, which is currently estimated at 5.1 million. The US-China relationship has, however, been heading for hard times, arising from the substantial mutual distrust and dislike between the leaders of the two powers. The restoration of trust and cooperation would take time, especially as the tone of the Trump rhetoric would have shocked people in the 'Middle Kingdom'. But, Trump can always use the good offices of Elon Musk to address differences with China, given the vast relationship and vested interests that Musk shares with the 'Middle Kingdom'. Already, there is speculation that China is considering a plan for Elon Musk to acquire TikTok's US business. Indians who find occasion to deal with Musk must bear this in mind.

Another important factor that one cannot ignore is that Trump has a good relationship with President Putin. And countries across the world understand this clearly. The person to be hit the hardest by these developments is Ukraine's besieged President Zelenskyy. He has made the rather serious miscalculation of believing that he could take on Putin's Russia in a territorial dispute, with backing by the US, led by Joe Biden. Sadly, Biden's successor Donald Trump is in no mood to back Zelenskyy.

A negotiating tool that Trump has at his disposal is the battery of punitive sanctions imposed on Russia, led by the US. One of the final acts of the outgoing Biden administration has been the levy of a comprehensive sanctions package targeting Russia's energy sector, effective January 10, 2025. Trump has frequently expressed scepticism about the effectiveness of sanctions as a standalone tool and signalled a willingness to use their reduction or removal as leverage in negotiations with Moscow. This approach may include offering a relief in sanctions in exchange for Russian concessions on Ukraine, such as agreeing to a ceasefire or territorial compromises in contested 'independent' regions, like Donbas.

For India, which has significantly increased its imports of discounted Russian crude despite the tightening noose of sanctions, any potential easing could be a significant relief, stabilising global energy markets and recalibrating supply chains. In fact, two Indian companies have been included in the January 10 sanctions list, embargoed for their alleged involvement in managing LNG carriers that transported cargo from Russia's Arctic LNG 2 project. Given these emerging dynamics, India will need to carefully recalibrate its geopolitical and geostrategic ties, ensuring its interests are safeguarded while adapting to the evolving contours of the US-Russia and US-China relations under President Trump.

India's museums reflect government apathy to heritage

Museums and excavations cannot be used for a triumphant national identity. Museums tell us the story of our migrations that doesn't sit well with the revisionist history.

KISHALAY BHATTACHARJEE

In February 2024, Home Minister Amit Shah, at an event in Mysuru, claimed that PM Narendra Modi had not only brought back respect for India's cultural heritage on the global stage but also revived "centres of cultural consciousness."

For centuries, museums have served as culture hubs. Early museums may have begun as private collections of kings and wealthy families who had art and natural objects and artefacts. Emperor Jahangir had an enviable collection of animals, plants and other oddities from around the world. It is believed that the world's earliest museum was built 2,500 years ago by a Babylonian princess, Ennigaldi-Nanna, dating from c. 530 BC.

My earliest memory is of an Egyptian mummy displayed in the Indian Museum in Kolkata. I recently revisited this amazing assembly of art, antiquities, fossils and zoological and botanical collections.

Established in 1814, the Indian Museum is the Asia-Pacific region's oldest museum. It was conceived as the "Asiatic Society Museum" under the Asiatic Society of Bengal and curated by Nathanial Wallich, a Danish botanist. In 1865, the imperial government provided the finest site for this museum in Chowringhee.

It has been highlighted as one of the pioneering national institutions in the Constitution of India. Since then, the country has established hundreds of museums. Five of them are directly under the Centre's Ministry of Culture, 142 administered by departments like the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Railways and 300 are under state governments.

My first reaction on entering this grand museum is of dismay, followed by muted anger and helplessness. It is not uncommon in India to find antiquity being treated with indifference and restoration and documentation are inadequate. But to walk into a place of national significance where priceless exhibits are covered with dirt and are vulnerable to defacement was a horror.

As one enters and approaches the right flank, one finds the imposing Lion Capital of Ashoka, India's state symbol. Coated with dust and a torn curtain serving as the backdrop, this symbol of national pride presented a picture of shame. Almost a decade ago, another Ashoka Lion — a third century BCE sandstone Rampurva in this museum — was broken while shifting. It was reportedly repainted and put back on its pedestal using epoxy adhesive.

City residents claim that several artefacts here have been damaged and some may even have been stolen. In 2004, a fifth century sandstone Buddha half-bust was stolen.

As one wanders ahead, the disappointment gives away to frustration. My memory of the mummy couldn't be refreshed as the Egyptian section was closed. The security across the galleries was lax and the documentation poorly displayed. The light was flickering, making it difficult to view the displayed objects and some corners were not even lit. Cobwebs covered large sections of the building and museum staff were not available. The staff at the rundown gallery shop (that sold only faded monographs and art prints) claimed that the authorities were aware of the situation, but they were understaffed.

The museum has a history of apathy. In 1974, a large collection was stolen. A 2005 CAG report states that "there was no mechanism to assess the genuineness of these artefacts. Shoddy documentation of the acquired artefacts and the inability of the institutions to modernise their documentation systems with the help of digital technology, coupled with the absence of any physical verification during the last five years make the artefacts vulnerable to loss."



The ruling party believes that under Modi, India has undergone "cultural rejuvenation." The 2020-21 Budget allocated Rs 3,000 crore to the Ministry of Culture. It earmarked Rs 109 crore for setting up new museums and Rs 180 crore for developing and "re-curating" existing museums, starting with the Indian Museum in Kolkata.

The government has been trying to highlight India's ancient heritage rather than curate with museum experts in a field that has the potential to use digital technologies transforming museums from being mere exhibition spaces to those of interaction and engagement. An effort is underway to decolonise museums. In 2021, the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, London, decided to decolonise their collections that were pigeonholed as East India Company or Company Painting, erasing the names of the painters. This is an important way forward to acknowledging a nation's past, even if it is a dark one.

It is true that there has been historical inequality in remembrance and commemoration. Since the 1990s, the return of human remains is part of the curatorial practice in UK museums. The Pitts Rivers Museum in Oxford has decided to return the human remains of Naga tribes to the Nagas.

But decolonisation can be misinterpreted as a culture war between those who subscribe to the Hindutva idea of history and those who do not. Like, the ASI has suddenly gotten busy excavating places of worship based on claims. The wheeled chariot excavated in Sinauli in Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh has been linked to the 'Mahabharata' and, thus, to a martial Hindu past.

Museums and excavations cannot be used for a triumphant national identity. Museums tell us the story of our migrations that doesn't sit well with the revisionist history. The BJP is reluctant to accept that ancient populations and languages were mixed and that the Aryans may have been invaders. It wants a victorious Hindu past.

So, who will tell our civilisational story? Certainly, the nationalist Indian government cannot be the guardian of our history. But it could and must protect and preserve whatever has remained from the past, a duty it seems to have forgotten.

Museums serve as one of the most secular spaces and help challenge perspectives while connecting to heritage. Heritage can help bring communities together because it holds our collective memory and through that kind of storytelling, it not only takes us to where we came from but also prepares us to go into the future. Technology is

If everyone exercises their right to vote in the democratic process, it will help strengthen democracy!

Municipal Commissioner Dr. Indu Rani Jakhar

Mumbai Shrikesh Choubey:- If everyone exercises their right to vote in the democratic process, it will help strengthen democracy, said Municipal Commissioner Dr. Indu Rani Jakhar at a program held at the Municipal Corporation premises on the occasion of National Voters' Day.

Today, as per the instructions of the government, National Voters' Day was celebrated today at the Municipal Corporation headquarters premises. On this occasion, a collective voting oath was taken by the officers and employees present on the occasion of National Voters' Day. On this occasion, Additional Commissioner Harshal Gaikwad, Deputy Commissioner of Election Department Ramesh Misal, Deputy Commissioner Prasad Borkar, Atul Patil, Sanjay Jadhav, Municipal Secretary Kishore Shelke, Executive Engineer Ghanshyam Nawangul and other officers and employees also took the oath on the occasion of Voters' Day. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Election Department Ramesh Misal appealed to all officers and employees of the Municipal Corporation to exercise their right to vote in line with the government's theme of "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for sure".

Teacher capacity increase training for expert teachers across the state

Mumbai -shrekesh Choubey :-Teacher capacity building training is being completed at Sinhagad Engineer College Kusgaon Budruk Lonavala and in this training National Education Policy 2020 is implemented in the academic year, State Curriculum Plan 2020 Infrastructure Level 2023 Discussion by giving detailed information about School Education 2024 This is done at this time School Quality Assessment and Assurance Plan Introduction and Structure Area No. 1 to 6 and Appendix 2 to 2 Significant changes are mentioned in capacity based study teaching process and assessment execution and capacity based question type and question formation skill thinker questions, new holistic progress sheet level wise and Changes in new evaluation methods The state level 5 days training is being completed by taking in-depth guidance on changes. A team of expert guides has been formed at the district level and they will be a guide to provide 5 days training at the taluka level. These training will be given in two groups. Through this training, the changes in various fields at the global level will have to be prepared to face the challenges, as well as changes in the study and teaching process. There is academic research. And Training Council Pune has expressed that the lecturer of Diet and S.C. R. T. The senior lecturer of 16 teachers including 9 from secondary section and 9 from primary section in Thane district have been selected for state level training for state level training. The said training will be given to all the teachers in the state of Maharashtra. For training for Thane district, under the guidance of Thane Diet Principal Mr. Sanjay Wagh Saheb, Dr. from Thane district. Dinanath Patil, Mr. Bhupendra Mahajan, Shri. Pragya Bapat, Shri. Yogita Patil, Mr. Devendra Patil, Mr. Balaji Ghuge, Shri. Suman Bandgar, Mr. Sunil Sharma, Mr. Shyam Shelar and Shrim Harshal Sable from primary department, Shrim Sudarshana Shirude, Dr. Sunita Bedse, Shrim Sangeeta Bhere, Dr. Shubhangi Gadegaonkar, Mr. Ajitkumar Gaikwad, Shri Shahabulak Siddiqui have been selected.

Homeopathic welfare camp inaugurated

Mahakumbh Nagar: A free medical camp was inaugurated by Ideal Homeopathic Welfare Organization Prayagraj in Sector No. 6 Kumbh Mela area. The chief guest was SDM Phoolchand Yadav and National Executive Member Dr. Bhanwar Singh. Dr. Akhil Nigam, Dr. Anand Prakash Singh, Dr. Santosh Yadav, Dr. Ankit Jaiswal presented Kumbh Kalash as a memento to the chief guests. Camp in-charge Dr Sunil



Patel said that the camp has been set up till Maghi Purnima. In which the devotees coming to the Kumbh Mela area will be treated and medicines will be distributed free of cost. Dr. Rajesh Srivastava expressed his gratitude to the visiting chief guests and doctors. Dr. GK Shanglu, Dr. BB Mishra, Dr. Kapoor Kesarwani, Dr. Bhagwan Keshari, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Dr. SN Mishra, Dr. Sagar, Dr. Pankaj Vishwakarma, Rajkumar Vinod Kumar Yadav etc. were present in the function. This information was given by Dr. Akhil Nigam.

All vehicle passes to remain invalid till Feb 3

Mahakumbh Nagar: From January 25 to February 3, all vehicle passes in the Mahakumbh area will be invalid. During this period, the Mahakumbh area will be designated as a no-vehicle zone. Considering the heavy crowd and public safety, the police have implemented necessary route diversions for traffic management. To reach the Media Center or International Media Center, please park your vehicle at the nearest parking facility and follow the GPS location to proceed further. It is essential to adhere to these guidelines for convenience and safety.

Results Declared for Arabic Calligraphy Competition at HGDC

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The Department of Arabic, Hamidia Girls' Degree College (HGDC), Prayagraj, in collaboration with AgelessPen, successfully organized an Arabic Calligraphy Competition at both inter-school and inter-collegiate levels. The results were announced on 25th January 2025, with the winners receiving cash prizes, certificates, and mementos.

Winners of the Competition: Inter-School Level - First Prize: Adiba Afroz, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Cantt, Allahabad, Second Prize: Rahma Khan, Hamidia Girls' Inter College. Third Prize: Tuba Fatmi, Girls' High School, Prayagraj

Inter-Collegiate Level - First Prize: Arbia Israr, University of Allahabad, Second Prize: Insha Khan and Shaima Afaf, S.S. Khanna Girls' Degree College, Third Prize: Nida Ansari, University of Allahabad, and



Sumayya Khalid, M.A. English, Hamidia Girls' Degree College. Consolation Prizes: Aisha Shameem, M.A. Arabic, Hamidia Girls' Degree College,

Afifa Bano, B.A. III Year, Hamidia Girls' Degree College.

During the event, Prof. Naseha Usmani, Principal of Hamidia Girls' Degree College, delivered an inspiring address, emphasizing the vast opportunities and career prospects in Arabic calligraphy. She encouraged students to approach this art form with dedication and hard work. Certificates, mementos, cash prizes, and consolation prizes were distributed by Prof. Naseha Usmani, Prof. Erum Farid Usmani, Dr. Nudrat Mahmood, and Dr. Siddeeqa Jabir, who also coordinated the event. The competition saw enthusiastic participation from students representing various schools and colleges, celebrating the timeless cultural heritage and artistic significance of Arabic calligraphy. Faika, the director of AgelessPen, also graced the occasion with her presence, adding to the event's vibrancy and success.

Family drama where two opposites fight one storm in 'Ram Bhavan'

Varanasi: Every house has its stories, but in a unique role reversal, COLORS open the doors to a mansion bursting with power struggles in its new show, 'Ram Bhavan'. The upcoming family drama pulls back the curtains on an explosive feud of pride, wit, and egos within the walls of this tumultuous abode. Welcome to Ram Bhavan, where Om, the rebellious self-styled 'hisaab ka bada pakka', struts around with a prideful swagger, but yearns for a life built on his knack for jugaad. Isha, unlike Om, is patient and grounded, determined to work her way up the status ladder with a resilience forged from a fall from riches. With nothing in common, Om and Isha find themselves with a shared enemy - Gayatri, Om's manipulative bhabhi and Isha's ruthless boss. Starring Mishkat Varma as Om, Khushi Rajendra as Isha, and Samiksha Jaiswal as Gayatri, 'Ram Bhavan' premieres on 29th January and thereafter airs every night at 8.30 pm only on COLORS.

Essaying the role of Om, Mishkat Varma says, "Om is a character brimming with pride and an unshakeable sense of justice. Born into a family that once had it all, he's now caught in the struggle to reclaim their lost



respect, all while battling Gayatri's power trip. His ambition to carve out his own path, away from her shadow, is driven by his love for his family and his dream to make his parents proud by securing a government job. Playing Om, I had to own his jugaadu spirit-finding unconventional solutions, all while showing the softer side of his heart. I worked on giving Om a distinctive walk, a swag, and a unique way of speaking to bring his mischievous, unpredictable nature to life. It's been both a challenge and an incredible journey of growth, and I hope viewers find themselves rooting for Om as much as I did while portraying him."

Expressing her sentiments about embodying Isha, Khushi Rajendra says, "I'm thrilled to be seen playing the role of Isha, who is a picture of grace under pressure. Despite losing the luxury she once knew, she remains grounded and compassionate, treating everyone with warmth. Dealing with the challenges of a demanding office under Gayatri, a toxic boss and balancing Om's fire in confronting her, was a fascinating contrast to explore for me as an actor. Isha's ability to maintain her patience and resolve in the face of adversity is rare, and that's what makes her such an admirable character. COLORS has always set high standards in storytelling, and it's an honour to bring this role to life in this exciting new project."

Sharing her thoughts about portraying the role of Gayatri, Samiksha Jaiswal says, "It is a treat to play Gayatri, who's a fascinating blend of power and vulnerability-a woman who commands every corner of Ram Bhavan yet grapples with her own insecurities beneath that tough exterior. She rules her sasural and workplace with an iron fist and is determined to keep control, but it's the constant rebellion from Om and Isha that makes her role so gripping. Gayatri's journey of power and arrogance, coupled with her hidden fears, adds real tension to the story, driving conflict and pushing the other characters toward change. Returning to COLORS feels like coming home; the channel consistently delivers stories that spark conversations and make viewers reflect on life. For an actor, there's nothing more fulfilling than being part of such meaningful and relatable content."

Financial Planning Conclave 'Samanvay' Enhances Military-Civil Coordination in Lucknow

Emphasizing the critical need for synergy

Lucknow: The Financial Planning Conclave 'Samanvay,' hosted by Surya Command, today brought together military and civil officers in Lucknow to improve defence finance across eight states within the command's area of responsibility. The event focused on fostering collaboration and enhancing operational readiness in defence spending.



Key speakers SG Dastidar, Financial Advisor Defence Services, and Lt Gen Ulhas Kirpekar, Director General of Financial Planning, provided valuable insights into the complexities of defence finance, emphasizing the critical need for synergy between military and civil establishments. Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command, stressed the importance of collaborative efforts among various institutions. He highlighted the necessity for optimal budget utilization to ensure the armed forces remain operationally prepared for contemporary and future warfare challenges. The conclave was inaugurated by Chief of Staff, Central Command Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha, who set the stage for productive discussions around financial planning within the military framework. 'Samanvay,' which translates to 'coordination,' is an annual initiative aimed at strengthening the relationship between civil and military authorities in financial matters, thereby strengthening the defence apparatus of the nation. This year's gathering reaffirmed the commitment of all involved to work towards a cohesive financial strategy that aligns with the operational needs of India's fighting forces. The successful commencement of the conclave is expected to yield positive outcomes not just in fiscal planning but also in laying a solid foundation for future cooperative endeavors in India's defence sector.

Dorf-Ketal Chemicals India Limited files DRHP with SEBI

Varanasi: Dorf-Ketal Chemicals India Limited, an R&D and innovation-focused global manufacturer and supplier of specialty chemicals across the hydrocarbons and industrial supply chains, including the oil and gas, refining and petrochemicals industries, and customers with diverse applications across industrial segments, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India .

The IPO comprises of a fresh issue of equity shares of face value of ?5 each aggregating up to ? 1500 Crores and an offer for sale of equity shares of face value of Rs. 5 each aggregating up to ? 3500 Crores. The total issue comprises of equity shares of face value of ?5 each aggregating up to ? 5000 Crores. The offer for sale comprises of equity shares of face value of ?5 each aggregating up to ? 3500 Crores by Menon Family Holdings Trust

Established in 1992, Dorf-Ketal Chemicals India Limited is one of the major producers in the development, commercialization and application of specialty chemicals in India. The company offers products across two categories - specialty chemicals for hydrocarbons and industrial specialty chemicals. The specialty chemicals for hydrocarbons category includes oil field, refinery chemicals and petrochemicals, fuel additives and modified acids as key sub-categories and the industrial specialty chemicals category includes organometallic titanates and zirconates, polyvinyl formamide ("PVF"), OBA and lubricant additives as key sub-categories. As at October 31, 2024, the marquee customer base included Reliance Industries, Petronas, Indian Oil Corporation, PPG Industries, Clariant, Liberty Energy, Italiana Petroli, and Vedanta.

During the six months ended September 30, 2024, the company had 1,322 customers. In 2023, the company ranked first by revenue market share in India and Brazil in oil field, refinery chemicals and petrochemicals and fuel additives as well as ranked first by revenue market share globally in modified acids, organometallic titanates and zirconates and PVF and were among the top five companies globally in fuel additives, according to the F&S Report.

Arshad Ali made in-charge of Delhi Assembly polls



Prayagraj: Congressmen congratulated AICC Minority Department on making Minority Congress City President Arshad Ali co-in-charge for Delhi Assembly elections. Among those who congratulated were PCC member Fuzail Hashmi, PCC member Harikesh Tripathi, former District President Kaushambi Talat Azim, District Spokesperson Haseeb Ahmed, Parvez Siddiqui, Haji Sartaj, Mahfooz Ahmed, Talib Ahmed Mohd Haseen, Tabrez Ahmed Mukhtar Ahmed Zahid Neta, Ghulam Waris, Mohd Laiq, Mohd Akmal, Shakeel Ahmed etc. congratulated.

Unique confluence of folk dance and music at Kalagram

Prayagraj: Along with Suramai evening, classical dance Odissi and folk dances on Mridang, flute and veena spread rainbow colors in the cultural programs of Kalagram.

On Saturday, the sentiments of folk and scriptures were enhanced with dance performances and the evening of Sangam was brightened by the tunes of Awadhi folk songs.

In the cultural evening of Kumbh organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, people were enthralled with the dance performances of Odissi dance and folk dances. The colorful presentations enthralled the audience. Renowned Odissi dancer Reela Hota enthralled the audience with her expressions and art. The highlight of his presentation was the Mangalacharan which was based on Vedic hymns dedicated to the prime sustainers of fire, water and life and the Vedas on the role of a woman's emotions in shaping the quality of the child. Swagatika Sahu, Kiran Majhi, Shobhana Subhadrashini and Swati Swapnali Behera accompanied Reela Hota in this dance style.



In the series of folk dances, Chari dance of Rajasthan, Samai-Dekhani dance of Goa, Gendi dance of Chhattisgarh, Natua dance of Jharkhand, Dangi dance of Gujraj, Theyyam dance of Kerala, Domahi Kikan dance of Assam, Bhangra dance of Punjab and Sangeeta Ahuja performed Got a lot of applause from the audience by performing dance on the song Ram Bhajan Shri Ram Chandra Kripalu Bhajman and Raghav Ji's Gauva Bada Neek Laage. Kalagram Pilgrims coming from far-flung areas are enjoying seeing the diverse cultural tableau of the country and are also encouraging the artists with thunderous applause. The program was conducted by Sanjay Pursharthi.

Unity will keep country indivisible: CM Yogi

Yogi attends VHP's Sant Sammelan at Mahakumbh

CM pledges to spread remarkable energy of Sanatan Dharma across world

UJALA SHIKHAR

Mahakumbh Nagar: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, emphasized the need to strengthen the unity and integrity of Sanatan Dharma. Addressing saints and religious leaders from across the nation at Mahakumbh, he hailed the event as a testament to Sanatan Dharma's vibrant energy and rich cultural heritage, vowing to share its profound message of spiritual and cultural unity with the world.

Speaking at the Vishva Hindu Parishad's (VHP) grand Sant Sammelan, he said, "Mahakumbh is the world's largest spiritual gathering. It is not just a religious celebration but a testament to the grandeur and divinity of the Sanatan tradition." Highlighting its cultural and spiritual significance, he stated that over 10 crore devotees have already taken a holy dip in Sangam, and the number is expected to reach 45 crores by the end of the 45-day event.

The Chief Minister underlined the depth of Sanatan Dharma, stating that it transcends sects, castes, and regions, offering equal respect to all forms of worship. He credited Sikh Gurus, Jain monks, and followers of various traditions for their sacrifices in protecting Sanatan Dharma. He described Sanatan Dharma as a vast banyan tree that cannot be divided based on caste, region, language, or sect. Remembering the sacrifices of Guru Gobind Singh, Guru Teg Bahadur, and other great saints, the Chief Minister said that they dedicated their lives to protecting and upholding the values of Sanatan Dharma.

The Chief Minister attributed the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the transformation of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, and the grandeur of Prayagraj's Mahakumbh to the collective efforts of the government and revered saints.

He mentioned that while the Ram Temple now stands completed in Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath Dham has emerged in a renewed form before the world. Additionally, the magnificence of the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj has captured global attention. He credited



these achievements to the inspiration and unwavering commitment of saints toward Sanatan Dharma. The Chief Minister highlighted the blessings of saints as the foundation of India's progress. He emphasized that the construction of Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya was made possible through their guidance and determination.

Sharing figures, he said, "In 2016, Ayodhya saw 2.36 lakh devotees, while in 2024, this number surged to 12-15 crore." He also attributed the continuous and clean flow of the Ganga River to the spiritual dedication and efforts of these revered saints.

CM Yogi described the welfare programs implemented by the Central and State governments as a modern-day embodiment of Ram Rajya. Highlighting the initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he highlighted that 4 crore poor families have been provided homes, 12 crore farmers have received financial support through the Kisan Samman Nidhi, 10 crore families have been given free LPG connections, and 80 crore people have benefited from free ration. "These efforts a testament to India's economic and social progress," he added. The Chief Minister further mentioned that India is advancing rapidly through significant development projects.

"Major infrastructure initiatives, including highways, expressways, railways, and metro systems, are underway. Additionally, world-class institutions and industries are being established, while top-tier universities are being constructed", he remarked. He also highlighted welfare schemes aimed at uplifting the underprivileged, such as free food distribution programs, as crucial steps toward inclusive growth.

Remembering the contributions of Ashok Singhal and other saints, the CM said that their inspiration enabled the Vishva Hindu Parishad to bring Sanatan Dharma to a global platform. "The construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the grandeur of Prayagraj's Mahakumbh are the outcomes of their blessings and leadership," he added.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister mentioned that the Mahakumbh is not merely a religious event but a medium to convey the message of unity, tolerance, and integrity inherent in Sanatan Dharma to the entire world. He highlighted how every aspect of this event showcases India's cultural strength. He urged all saints and devotees to use this occasion to share the energy of Sanatan Dharma and India's rich cultural heritage with the global community.

Vijayasai Reddy resigns from Rajya Sabha, 4th YSRCP MP to quit since 2024 Assembly poll rout

New Delhi (Agency): YSRCP leader V Vijayasai Reddy on Saturday resigned as a member of Rajya Sabha and announced he was quitting politics due to "personal reasons", the fourth party MP to short-terminate their terms in the Upper House since its rout in the 2024 Assembly election. He met Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at his residence and submitted his resignation. Reddy, a chartered accountant by profession who represented Andhra Pradesh in the House, later told reporters he still had three-and-half-years left in his second six-year term, but he was resigning due to personal reasons. He said he would be focusing on agriculture and delivering guest lectures at universities henceforth. "I have submitted my resignation to the Vice president and the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and he has accepted it," Reddy told reporters after meeting Dhankhar.

"I, hereby, voluntarily resign from my seat in the Rajya Sabha with immediate effect as a member representing Andhra Pradesh from the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress party (YSRCP). Requesting you to kindly accept my resignation," his short resignation letter to the Vice President stated. The Rajya Sabha later notified Reddy's resignation.

"Shri V Vijayasai Reddy, an elected Member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), representing the State of Andhra Pradesh, resigned his seat in the Rajya Sabha and his resignation has been accepted by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha w.e.f, 25th January, 2025," Rajya Sabha Secretary-General PC Mody said in the notification.

In a post on X, Reddy also shared pictures of his meeting with the Vice president "Today, I submitted my resignation to the Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji. Hon'ble Chairman of Rajya Sabha is pleased to accept the resignation with immediate effect duly recording the proceedings," he posted.

Reddy said that before accepting his resignation, the Vice President asked him specifically what are the reasons he was submitting his papers, and if it was voluntary or is there any coercion or undue influence. "I have explained to the chairman that my resignation is voluntary, spontaneous and there is no coercion, pressure or no undue influence and I have given my resignation only due to personal reasons," he said.

Asked whether he had spoken to YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, he said, "Yes, I have spoken to my party president Jagan Mohan Reddy Garu yesterday. I have explained to him in detail the reasons why I have taken the decision to quit politics. And he has advised me not to do so. "Despite the fact that he asked me not to do so, I have continued with my decision and I have submitted my resignation. And I will be quitting politics," he added. On his future plans, Reddy said his interests are being agriculture and giving guest lectures in various universities and sharing his knowledge with the youth and students. "I am a chartered accountant and I have wide experience in capital markets and I have reasonably good experience in Parliament. The limited knowledge that I have gained in my 67 years of life, I would like to share it with others, because obtaining knowledge is one thing and giving knowledge to others is also equally important," he said.

SP to hold discussion on PDA in all assemblies

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: On the call of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and State President Shyam Lal Pal, Samajwadi Party will campaign to discuss Sector-wise PDA in the three assembly of metropolis. Socialist in this regard will hold meeting under party's metropolitan president Syed Iftekhar Hussain and the conduct of Metropolitan General Secretary Ravindra Yadav Ravi, a meeting of the assembly booths and sector officials was called at the Georgetown District Office, in which it was told that the respected Akhilesh Yadav Gi PDA's right and the battle of Hukuk was ready and Fighting is fighting with strong will. Ravindra Yadav said that from January 27, for a month from January 27, in the three assembly of the city, the Samajwadi Party will make



the metropolitan PDA to the Metropolitan PDA and the sector -wise campaign of their rights and Hukuk will make Akhilesh Yadav aware of the views, while the BJP's center and state will inform them about the idea of Akhilesh Yadav ji. The issue of atrocities and unemployment of youth will also be discussed by the governments of double engine with backward Dalits and minorities. Other speakers also expressed their views in the meeting. Syed Iftekhar Hussain, Ravindra Yadav Ravi, Babban Dwbe, Mahendra Nishad, Rajesh Kumar Gupta, OP Pal, Santosh Yadav, Ravi Gupta, Mrityunjay Pandey, Harishchandra Srivastava, Mohammad Yusuf Ansari, Viru Pasi, Shakeel Ahmed, Pramod Yadav, Shyam Babu Yadav, Jai Bharat Prasad, Sharad Singh Patel, Shashi Bhushan Pandey, Mohammad Saud, OP Yadav, Santosh Kumar Nishad, Syed Mohammad Hamid, Mohammad Hasib, Gaurav Verma, Jeetu Yadav, Syed Asif Hussain, Varun Kumar Sonkar, Chaudhary Devi Lal , Jaishankar Bablu Rawat, Sunil Kushwaha, Prabhat Kumar etc. were present.

Urvashi Rautela's pop stunner with Jjust Music's 'Faraari'

Lucknow: Actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani is busy embarking on new trajectories right at the onset of 2025. His company Jjust Music is all set to raise the bar of excellence with the worldwide release of the brand-new song, 'Faraari' today. The vibrant desi pop song made its debut on Jjust's official YouTube channel on 23rd January and has been voiced by Bhojpuri musical sensations Akshara Singh and Raja Hasan. Fans are thrilled with the way Akshara has done justice to the song with her refreshing, youthful voice. It is composed by Tanishk Bagchi, the talent behind sensational foot-tappers like 'Dholida'.

The stunning video of this potential chartbuster features the well-known actor and former Miss Universe India Urvashi Rautela along with Sanam Johar of 'Dance India Dance' fame. The video is directed by Rahul Shetty, who has also beautifully designed the choreography.

"Jjust Music strives to create a unique space where diversity is the keynote and India's multiple musical streams come together as one to unite communities. Our latest offering, 'Faraari,' is a true representation of the desi pop genre, blending traditional Bhojpuri-Hindi rhythms with modern appeal, making it captivating for today's youth. The song's production and presentation also have a broad appeal, positioning it to become a trending hit," says Jackky Bhagnani.

People are shocked by the illegal activities of retired lekhpal

Illegal recognition of four different schools from same campus, same address!

DEMAND FOR ACTION AGAINST LAND MAFIA AND FAMOUS EDUCATION MAFIA

UJALA SHIKHAR

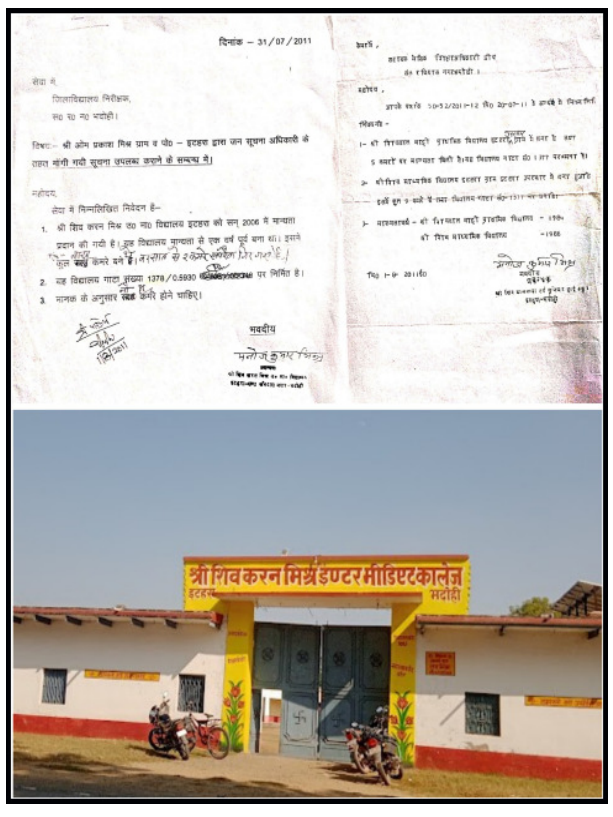
Prayagraj, Bhadohi, Gyanpur: There is a very long list of illegal activities of retired accountant Kamla Shankar Mishra, who was posted in Gyanpur tehsil of Bhadohi district. He has got recognition for four schools in the same campus under different names. Regarding this fraud, the education department officials have demanded that this matter be investigated and a primary case be registered against him.

Upon investigation, it was found that retired Lekhpal land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra, in connivance with the famous mafia kingpin of the district, has usurped the land of Bhole farmers in Gyanpur tehsil.

By manipulating the records of old lands of poor, farmers and Dalits, he gets their land registered in his name and takes possession of it. He took over the lands of village society, Panchayat Bhawan, public land, children's playground etc. and by making fake Khasra Khatauni entries of the land, he got it registered in the name of his father, brother and his family.

After illegally occupying 20 bighas of land, he built a big school building on this land and has obtained recognition for four schools at the address of that building. Whereas there is no land in the name of any school. Education department officials say that unless the land registration papers in the name of a school are submitted in the office, that school is not given recognition. But this land mafia has obtained recognition for many colleges in the same campus and he has not submitted the land registration papers in the name of any college.

Taking cognizance of this point, the officials should investigate and take strict action against this education mafia. People say that he is not only a land mafia but also a very big education mafia of the area. Cheating takes place in his school and teachers do not get their salaries on time. Not only this, he has made plans to loot the remaining land of the village society and is trying to capture all the government land. Sources say that when retired accountant Kamla Shankar Mishra was posted in Gyanpur tehsil, during his posting, he made his own village his working area and got posted in his own village as a light accountant. Whereas the accountant is not posted in the village to which he belongs. While working on the post of accountant, how was he given the charge of his own village by the Pargana Officer? If an investigation is conducted, the suspicious role of the SDM can also come to the fore and due to the corruption of Lekhpal Sarvesh Shukla and Kanungo Indu Tiwari working as his assistants, there is an uproar in the entire Gyanpur tehsil. Despite repeated complaints against them, no action has been taken against these two, due to which there is a lot of anger among the farmers. People have demanded strict action from the District Magistrate by suspending these two.



During this period, he got 20 bighas of land registered in the name of his brothers by committing fraud on the land of village society, Panchayat Bhawan, children's playground, public land etc. He illegally occupied the land of the disabled Dalit Mallu of the same village. To occupy his land, he got a fake affidavit prepared and then he occupied Mallu's land and made him homeless.

Dalit Mallu, who is handicapped in both eyes, sent complaint letters to the higher authorities. When God took away Dalit Mallu's eyes, this retired Lekhpal took away his land. His cruel acts are increasing very rapidly and since the news against him has started being published in various newspapers, he has become nervous. Now he is using various tricks to save his mafia empire. To save his mafia empire, he is now trying to intimidate the complainants with the help of the mafia kingpin. Due to which there is a lot of anger among the local people. This land mafia and his associates Kanungo Indu Tiwari, Lekhpal Sarvesh Shukla, Pankaj etc. are now trying to suppress the fourth pillar and silence the journalists. Since the news has started being published against him, the District Magistrate has taken it very seriously. The education department officials are also very uncomfortable after reading the news that how four schools are running in the name of a single campus.

The police administration has started taking action regarding the encroached land. Information about it is being collected by the local police information unit. People also say that if ED and CBI investigate its black deeds, then a very big mafia racket can be exposed.

Therefore, he has built a huge empire through black money and he gets the complaints against him hushed up on the basis of the illegal money he has earned through bribery and corruption. But this time the district administration has adopted a very strict attitude and strict instructions have been given to the Pargana Officer Gyanpur that the land of Gram Samaj, Gram Panchayat, children's playground, public pond etc. should be vacated from the possession of this Bhumiya and the illegal possession of the land which he had occupied during his tenure should be removed.

Girls' High School & College organized Grandparents' Day

Grandparents are family's greatest blessing, founders of loving legacy, greatest storytellers and keepers of traditions

Prayagraj: Grandparents play an indispensable role in a child's life. They are not only their best friends but also the pillars of love and wisdom, creating cherished memories with their special care and affection. To honour and celebrate these beloved family members Girls' High School & College organized Grandparents' Day. The event commenced with a warm address by our beloved Principal, Rev. Dr. (Mrs.) Vinita Eusebius, who expressed her gratitude to the grandparents for their presence and emphasized their invaluable role in shaping young minds. The event was filled with joy, laughter and heartfelt moments as students and staff came together to make this day memorable for the grandparents. The program began with a Staff Choir presenting a soulful song, setting the tone for the celebrations. Following this, the Nursery students delighted the audience with their dance performance, "Best Superheroes," capturing the essence of admiration and love. Continuing with the theme of innocence and joy, the Nursery children presented Rhymes under the title "Bridge of Love," which resonated deeply with the audience.

Adding a cultural touch, A Hindi poem recitation was performed that showcased the talent of the students and brought smiles on the grandparent's faces. The event also included several fun and engaging activities for the grandparents, ensuring their active participation and enjoyment.



These activities included: Moments to Share: Grandparents shared precious memories and experiences. Lemon Race: A thrilling game that brought out their competitive spirit. Name Writing Challenge: Grandparents wrote their grandchild's name while balancing a balloon an exciting and laughter-filled activity. Ramp Walk: Grandparents graced the ramp with style, earning applause and admiration. As a heartfelt takeaway, each grandparent received a mounted photograph of themselves with their Grand Child, a beautiful memento to cherish forever.

Ranji Trophy: Jammu and Kashmir shock star-studded Mumbai by 5 wickets

J&K now have 29 points from six games and lead group A with a match left against Baroda

Chandigarh (Agency): Unfancied Jammu and Kashmir continued their glorious run in the ongoing Ranji Trophy, beating star-studded defending champions Mumbai by five wickets in a group A league match to almost confirm their knock-out berth. It was after a decade that Jammu and Kashmir beat the 42-time champions, having last won in December 2014 at the Wankhede Stadium.

It wasn't a mean achievement with Mumbai squad comprising of India Test and ODI skipper Rohit Sharma, former captain and 80-plus Test match veteran Ajinkya Rahane, ODI regular and IPL winning skipper Shreyas Iyer, star opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, seasoned all-rounder Shardul Thakur and off-spinner Tanush Kotian, who was a part of Border-Gavaskar squad.

Rohit's return to Ranji Trophy after a decade yielded only 31 runs across two knocks and he looked very much out of form, shaky and not ready to grind it out for long hours.

J&K now have 29 points from six games and lead group A with a match left against Baroda, where they need to get just one point.

Baroda (27 from 5 games) are currently playing Maharashtra. If Baroda get a first-innings lead against J&K in their last game, Mumbai (22 from 6 games) would be knocked out of the group league phase even if they win with bonus points versus Meghalaya.

On the day, needing 205 to win, opener Shubham Khajuria (45) and one down Vivrant Sharma (38) laid the



foundation with a 75 runs stand for the second wicket.

IPL star Abdul Samad (24 off 20 balls) smashed five boundaries but it was left-handed Abid Mushtaq (32 not out) who finished the match with a couple of huge sixes off Kotian. The first one was down the ground and the second was a winning hit over 'Cow Corner' as the dug-out celebrated wildly.

The Indian skipper Rohit was seen applauding the J&K players even as he tried to hide his disappointment.

The Mumbai camp looked desolate despite a fine fightback in the second innings that saw them get to 290, thanks to Shardul Thakur's (119) brilliant rearguard hundred.

Jammu and Kashmir medium pacers—Yudhvir Singh (7 wickets), Umar Nazir Mir (6 wickets) and Auquib Nabi (6 wickets) -- scalped 19 out of the 20 Mumbai wickets on a BKC track that offered some help during first two mornings, largely due to the underlying moisture. Batting became easier during the post-lunch session on second day as was evident from Shardul-Kotian stand.

On the final day, there was some turn, bounce and grip available as Shams Mulani (4/54 in 15 overs) gave it his all but Mumbai's opening bowlers Shardul (0/45 in 8 overs) and Mohit Avasthi (1/33 in 10 overs) didn't seem potent enough once the nip off the surface was gone after first 30 minutes.

All Jammu and Kashmir needed were two good partnerships - one they got because of Khajuria and Vivrant. Also opener Yawer Hassan (24) got some quick runs. The second one was 48 runs for the sixth wicket between Abid and Kanhaiya Wadhawan (19 not out).

The Mumbai bowlers bowled too many boundary balls -- 25 fours and three sixes which was unpardonable while defending a small total. But it was poor first innings batting by Mumbai (120) that became decisive in the end.

Brief Scores:

In Mumbai:

Mumbai 120 and 290 (Shardul Thakur 119, Tanush Kotian 62, Auqib Nabi 4/80, Yudhvir Singh 3/63).

Jammu and Kashmir 206 and (target 205) 207/5 (Shubham Khajuria 45, Vivrant Sharma 38, Abid Mushtaq 32 not out, Shams Mulani 4/54). J&K won by 5 wickets. Points: J&K 6; Mumbai 0.

In Shillong:

Meghalaya 198 and 221 for 6 (Sumit Kumar 51, Jaskirat Singh Sachdeva 53, Rajesh Mohanty 3/49, Sunil Roul 3/48). Odisha 548/7 (Govinda Poddar 121, Rajesh Dhuper 102, Nafees Siddique 3/91).

In Agartala:

Tripura 212 and 140/2 (Bikramkumar Das 75 batting, Mandeep Singh 15 batting).

Services 294 (Shubham Rohilla 65, Rajat Paliwal 52).

In Nasik:

Maharashtra 297 and 464/7 (Saurabh Nawale 126 batting, Ruturaj Gaikwad 89, Ramakrishna Ghosh 99).

Baroda 145.

Rohit named skipper of ICC Men's T20I of year, Bumrah, Pandya, Arshdeep also in squad

Dubai (Agency): India captain Rohit Sharma, who led the team to their second ICC T20 World Cup title last June, has been named skipper of the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024.

The team dominated by Indians also features star pacer Jasprit Bumrah and left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh, along with all-rounder Hardik Pandya. Rohit had an unforgettable 2024, both as a leader and a batter. The seasoned opener amassed 378 runs in 11 matches at an impressive average of 42.00 and a strike rate of over 160. Rohit played a pivotal role in India's triumphant T20 World Cup campaign, with three half-centuries, including a sensational 92 against Australia in the Super Eight stage. His astute leadership was instrumental in guiding a young Indian side through high-pressure situations, cementing his legacy as one of India's greatest T20I captains.

Pandya reaffirmed his stature as one of the world's finest all-rounders, playing a crucial role in India's successful campaign.

In 17 matches, Pandya scored 352 runs and claimed 16 wickets, finishing as the top-ranked ICC Men's T20I all-rounder.

His standout performance came in the T20 World Cup final against South Africa, where he defended 16 runs in the last over, securing India's title victory. His best bowling figures of 3/20 in the final underlined his ability to deliver under pressure.

Bumrah made a remarkable return to T20I cricket in 2024, leading India's bowling attack with precision and consistency.

He claimed 15 wickets in eight matches at an astonishing average of 8.26, making him a nightmare for opposition batters.



His lethal yorkers and impeccable control at the death overs played a pivotal role in India's success, and his performances earned him a nomination for the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy as ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

Young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh emerged as India's most prolific wicket-taker in 2024, scalping 36 wickets in 18 matches at an average of 13.50.

Arshdeep's ability to swing the ball early and deliver pinpoint yorkers in the death overs made him indispensable to the Indian squad. His standout performance came against hosts USA in the T20 World Cup, where he returned figures of 4/9.

Apart from the Indian players, the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year includes standout performers from other nations. Australia's Travis Head, England's Phil Salt, Pakistan's Babar Azam, West Indies' Nicholas Pooran, Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, and Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga complete the line-up.

Men's T20I team of 2024

Rohit Sharma ©, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh (all Indians); Travis Head (Australia); Phil Salt (England); Babar Azam (Pakistan); Nicholas Pooran (wk; West Indies); Sikandar Raza (Zimbabwe); Rashid Khan (Afghanistan) and Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka).

Padma Bhushan for PR Sreejesh, Ashwin gets Padma Shri

Padma Bhushan is the third highest civilian honour after Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan

New Delhi (Agency): Former men's hockey captain P R Sreejesh was chosen for the Padma Bhushan, while recently-retired cricket star Ravichandran



Ashwin was among the Padma Shri winners as four athletes and a para-coach figured in the list of 139 finalised for the coveted civilian awards on Saturday.

Legendary Indian footballer I M Vijayan, and India's first Paralympic gold medal-winning archer Harvinder Singh too were named for the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour. Para athletics coach Satyapal Singh, who mentored Paris Paralympics gold-winning and Khel Ratna-awardee high-jumper Praveen Kumar, would also be bestowed with the Padma Shri. The 36-year-old Sreejesh, who retired after winning a second successive Olympic bronze with the national team in Paris, is currently the head coach of the junior men's team.

Ashwin, 38, bid adieu to international cricket during the Border-Gavaskar series in Australia, finishing as India's second highest wicket-taker in Tests with 537 scalps in 106 games.

The five were picked for the Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on the eve of the 76th Republic Day.

Padma Bhushan is the third highest civilian honour after Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan.

The Padma awards are given for distinguished services to public across fields. This year's annual honours' list comprises seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri award-winners.

Gukesh holds Abdusattorov; Praggnanandhaa stays in lead

Seven rounds are still left in the first major tournament of the year

Wijk Aan Zee (Agency): World champion D Gukesh played out a draw with overnight joint leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, while R Praggnanandhaa signed peace with defending champion Wei Yi of China in the sixth round of the Tata Steel chess tournament here. With only decisive game in the 14-players round-robin tournament at the De Morian on Saturday, Abdusattorov and Praggnanandhaa continued to share the lead on 4.5 points out of a possible six and Gukesh is right on the toes of the leaders with four points. Seven rounds are still left in the first major tournament of the year.

P Harikrishna, Alexey Sarana of Serbia and Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia share the fourth spot on 3.5 points each and are within the striking distance of the leaders. Gukesh held his ground in a challenging endgame against Abdusattorov, escaping with a draw after 64 moves.

The game began with the Italian Opening, leading to an equal middlegame. However, as complications arose, Abdusattorov seized a persistent advantage and handled the position skillfully. In the endgame, Gukesh was forced to concede a pawn, and the situation worsened when Abdusattorov sacrificed his knight for three pawns, putting the Indian under significant pressure.



Despite being in a difficult position, Gukesh once again showcased his defensive resilience, capitalising on an inaccuracy by his opponent to salvage a hard-fought draw.

Praggnanandhaa tried to make a foray with white pieces against Wei Yi out of a Ruy Lopez opening.

The Chinese always had the desired counterplay and the game was drawn after 58 moves.

P Harikrishna raised vision with his two extra pawns against Jorden van Foreest of Holland but the latter used his bishop pair well to draw level.

Arjun Erigaisi who has been under pressure right from the first round, decided to play it very safe with white and drew quickly with top rated Fabiano Caruana of the United States in a Berlin defence game.

Arjun just followed the routine theory and exchanged pieces to reach a dead-drawn minor piece endgame.

Leon Luke Mendonca also drew with Max Warmerdam of Holland out of a Queen's pawn opening game to reach 1.5 points like Arjun.

In the challengers section, R Vaishali could not get much against tailender Irina Bulmaga of Romania and the draw was agreed to vide repetition in a rook and pawns endgame while 11-year-old Faustino Oro of Argentina defeated Divya Deshmukh.

Results (Round 6)

Masters: Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4.5) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 4); Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 1.5) drew with Max Warmerdam (Ned, 2.5); Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 1.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 3); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4.5) drew with Wei Yi (Chn, 3); P Harikrishna (Ind, 3.5) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 2.5); Alexey Sarana (Srb, 3.5) beat Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 3.5).

Challengers: Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 3) drew with Frederik Svane (Ger, 2.5); Irina Bulmaga (Rom, 1) drew with R Vaishali (Ind, 3.5); Benjamin Bok (Ned, 4) drew with Nogerbek Kazybek (Kaz, 3.5); Arthur Pijpers(Ned, 2) drew with Miaoyi Lu (Chn, 3.5); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5) lost to Faustino Oro (Arg, 2.5); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze, 4) drew with Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 4.5); Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 2.5) vs Ediz Gurel (Tur, 2.5).

Australian Open: Keys upsets 2-time champion Sabalenka in women's final for 1st Grand Slam title

Keys, ranked 14th and seeded 19th, was playing in her second major final after being the runner-up at the 2017 US Open

Melbourne (Agency): Madison Keys of the United States upset two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in the Australian Open final on Saturday night to collect her first Grand Slam title at age 29.

By adding this win over the No. 1-ranked Sabalenka to an elimination of No. 2 Iga Swiatek in the semifinals on Thursday — saving a match point along the way — Keys is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2005 to defeat both of the WTA's top two players at Melbourne Park.

Keys, ranked 14th and seeded 19th, was playing in her second major final after being the runner-up at the 2017 U.S. Open.

She prevented Sabalenka from earning what would have been her third women's trophy in a row at the Australian Open — something last accomplished by Martina Hingis from 1997-99 — and her fourth major title overall.

When it ended, Keys covered her face with her hands, then raised her arms. Soon, she was hugging her husband, Bjorn Fratangelo — who has been her coach since 2023 — and other members of her team, before sitting on her sideline bench and laughing.

Sabalenka chucked her racket afterward, then covered her head with a white towel. The men's final is Sunday, with defending champion Jannik Sinner against Alexander Zverev. Sinner is seeded No. 1, Zverev No. 2.

Sinner eliminated American Ben Shelton in the semifinals, while Zverev advanced when 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic stopped playing because of an injury.

Keys is the oldest woman to become a first-time major champion since Flavia Pennetta was 33 at the 2015 U.S. Open. This was the 46th Slam appearance for Keys, which ranks as the third-most major tournaments before winning a trophy in the Open era, behind only Pennetta's 49 and Marion Bartoli's 47 when she won Wimbledon in 2013.

It was the more accomplished Sabalenka who was shakier at the outset. Keys broke three times in the first set, helped in part by



Sabalenka's four double-faults and 13 total unforced errors.

Don't for a moment think this was merely an instance of Sabalenka being her own undoing. Keys certainly had a lot to do with the way things were going, too. She compiled an 11-4 edge in winners in that first set, managing to out-hit the big-hitting Sabalenka repeatedly from the baseline.

For a stretch, it seemed as though every shot off the strings of Keys' racket — the one she switched to ahead of this season to protect her oft-injured right shoulder and to make it easier to control her considerable power — was landing precisely where she wanted.

Near a corner. On a line. Out of Sabalenka's reach.

Also important was the way Keys, whose left thigh was taped for the match, covered every part of the court, racing to get to balls and send them back over the net with intent. On one terrific defensive sequence, she sprinted for a forehand that drew a forehand into the net from Sabalenka, capping a break for a 4-1 lead.

Never one to hide her emotions during a match, Sabalenka frequently displayed frustration while trailing on the scoreboard, kicking a ball after netting a volley, dropping her racket after missing an overhead, slapping her leg after an errant forehand.

Sabalenka took a trip to the locker room before the second set, and whether that helped clear her head or slowed Keys' momentum — or both — the final's complexion soon changed. Keys' first-serve percentage dipped from 86% in the first set to 59% in the second. Sabalenka raised her winner total to 13 in the second set and began accumulating, and converting, break points.

When she sent a backhand down the line to force an error by Keys for a break and a 2-1 lead in the second, Sabalenka shook her left fist and gritted her teeth as she walked to the sideline. When she broke again to go up 4-1, Sabalenka marked the occasion with a long and loud scream while looking in the direction of her team.

By the time the last set arrived, the action was tight and tense, without so much as a single break point until its final game, when Keys came through with one last forehand winner.

Israeli forces to remain in Lebanon after withdrawal deadline

New Delhi (Agency): Israel will maintain forces in southern Lebanon beyond the Sunday deadline stipulated in the ceasefire agreement with Hezbollah, the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Friday. The agreement, signed on November 27, 2024, mandated a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon within 60 days, concluding this Sunday.

However, Netanyahu's office stated that Israel will not meet this deadline, asserting that the Lebanese military has not yet established full control of the region and that Hezbollah forces have not fully withdrawn north of the Litani River. "As the Lebanese state has not fully enforced the ceasefire agreement, the gradual withdrawal of Israeli troops will continue," the statement said, indicating a phased withdrawal rather than a complete pullout by the deadline.

The Israel Defense Forces' withdrawal is "contingent on the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon and its effective enforcement of the agreement, including Hezbollah's retreat beyond the Litani River," the statement added.

The decision has been coordinated with the United States, according to the statement, Xinhua news agency reported. A year of



escalating cross-border fire between Israel and Hezbollah, following Hamas' October 7 attack on southern Israel and Israel's subsequent retaliation in Gaza, culminated in an Israeli ground invasion of southern Lebanon in October 2024. Meanwhile, Kuwait's Foreign Minister and the head of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) visited Lebanon on Friday, offering pledges of solidarity and support as the war-ravaged nation seeks to restore ties with Gulf states and navigate an economic crisis.

Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, met with Lebanese President Michel Aoun at Baabda Palace in Beirut, where he reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to aiding Lebanon across various sectors, according to a statement from the Lebanese presidency. Al-Yahya stressed the importance of solidarity and called for the reactivation of joint committees to address Lebanon's mounting challenges.

Joining Al-Yahya was Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, the Secretary-General of the GCC, who highlighted that the visit followed an extraordinary GCC session dedicated to addressing the crisis in Lebanon and Syria.

Albudaiwi emphasised the bloc's unwavering support for Lebanon's sovereignty, underscoring the critical need for regional and international collaboration.

He also outlined a Gulf-backed development initiative aimed at supporting Lebanon's economic recovery, contingent on the implementation of key reforms. Aoun expressed gratitude for the support from Kuwait and the GCC, emphasising the importance of Arab unity in overcoming the nation's challenges and reiterating Lebanon's commitment to strengthening ties with its Gulf neighbours. The visit by Al-Yahya and Albudaiwi follows a landmark visit on Thursday by Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, the first such visit in 15 years. The developments are widely viewed as a sign of Hezbollah's waning influence in Lebanon, marking a potential shift in the country's political landscape.

Hamas releases four Israeli hostages in second swap

Jerusalem/Cairo/Gaza (Agency): The Palestinian militant movement Hamas released four female Israeli soldier hostages on Saturday, in return for some 200 Palestinian prisoners, in keeping with a ceasefire agreement aimed at ending the 15-month-old war in Gaza. The four hostages were led onto a podium in Gaza City amid a large crowd of Palestinians and surrounded by dozens of armed Hamas men. They waved and smiled before being led off, entering ICRC vehicles and being transported to Israeli forces.

Hundreds of Israelis gathered at the so-called Hostages Square in Tel Aviv, crying, embracing and cheering as they watched the handover on a giant screen.

The four soldiers - Karina Ariev, Daniela Gilboa, Naama Levy and Liri Albag - were all stationed at an observation post on the edge of Gaza and abducted by Hamas fighters who overran their base during the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

They were being reunited with their family at an Israeli military base near the Gaza border, Israel's military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said in a video. They will then be taken to a hospital in central Israel, the Israeli Health Ministry said.

Hamas said 200 prisoners will be freed on Saturday as part of the exchange. They include convicted militants serving life sentences for their involvement in attacks that killed dozens of people. Around 70 are set to be deported, Hamas said.



Saturday's planned exchange will be the second since a ceasefire began on Jan. 19 and Hamas handed over three Israeli female civilians in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners.

The ceasefire agreement, worked out after months of on-off negotiations brokered by Qatar and Egypt and backed by the United States, has halted the fighting for the first time since a truce that lasted just a week in November 2023.

In the first six-week phase of the deal, Hamas has agreed to release 33 hostages, including children, women, older men and the sick and injured, in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, while Israeli troops pull back from some of their positions in the Gaza Strip.

In a subsequent phase, the two sides would negotiate the exchange of the remaining hostages, including men of military age, and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, which lies largely in ruins after 15 months of fighting and bombardment.

After Saturday's release, 90 hostages remain in Gaza, according to Israeli authorities, who have declared around a third of them dead in absentia. Israel launched its campaign in Gaza following the Oct. 7 Hamas attack, when militants killed 1,200 people and took more than 250 hostages to Gaza, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, more than 47,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to health authorities there.

UJALA SHIKHAR
News Of The Depths
Published & Printed by Alok Malviya, Printed at Pratahkal printing press 79A-Motilal Nehru Road Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh 211002
&
Published from 1802/1040/29 Satti Chaura, Malviya Nagar Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh 211003.
Editor
Alok Malviya
Mob-9335153330
Co-editor-Piyush Pandey, Yamunapar bureau chief-Vineet Sethi, Karchhana in-charge-Abhay Singh, Jabalpur bureau chief-Uma Shankar Mishra
Email-alokallahabad@gmail.com
All dispute of news and publication by UJALA SHIKHAR are subject matter of Prayagraj Court jurisdiction only

Centre alerts citizens against fraudsters issuing fake summons for GST violations

New Delhi (Agency): The Centre on Friday cautioned citizens against fraudsters issuing fake and fraudulent summons for



Goods and Services Tax (GST) violations. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said it has been recently observed that some individuals with fraudulent intent are creating and sending fake summons to the taxpayers who may or may not be under investigation by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI). "The fake summons resembles very closely with the original due to use of Department's logo and Document Identification Number (DIN)," said the CBIC in a statement. However, these DIN numbers are fake and are used by the fraudsters to make the document look and feel genuine.

"It is once again clarified that taxpayers can easily verify the genuineness of any communication (including Summons) issued by any officer of CBIC by using the 'VERIFY CBIC-DIN' window on the CBIC's website," said the Ministry of Finance. In case of suspicion of bogus summons, taxpayers may immediately report to DGGI/CGST formations, it added.

On verifying the DIN, if any individual or taxpayer finds that the summon, letter, notice is fake, it may immediately be reported to the office concerned. This will enable the competent DGGI/CGST formation to take law enforcement action against the fraudsters for using fake summons/letter/notice to dupe the public. The government last year launched a special drive by Central and state GST formations to identify and weed out fake GST registrations that are being used for massive ITC (input tax credit) frauds. This drive will be undertaken in a coordinated manner between the Central and state formations. Based on certain identified risk parameters, close to 59,000 potential fake firms were identified for verification and further enquiry.

Youtuber's family accuses jail officials of cutting his hair by force; files complaints

Thrissur (Agency): The family of a YouTuber from Thrissur, who was arrested in an attempt to murder case, on Saturday accused the district jail officials of cutting his hair by force. The Youtuber was transferred to a mental health center after he experienced distress due to the cutting of his hair. Muhammad Shaheen Shah, a 26-year-old resident of Eranellur in Thrissur, known as 'Manavalan' (groom) on YouTube, was remanded to judicial custody for allegedly attempting to run over college students with a car, jail officials on Friday said.

The hair was cut as per the jail norms, said a top official. He was shifted to a hospital in Thrissur after he was seen experiencing distress and is currently under observation, the official added. However, his parents and brother claimed that his hair was cut forcibly and then he was sent to a mental health centre by the Thrissur District jail officials.

They said that some amount of time is given to even convicted prisoners to cut their hair, but in the Youtuber's case, an attempt was allegedly made to cut his hair within two hours of him being remanded to custody. The family also claimed that on the next day, his hair and beard were completely trimmed by force.

"His hair and beard were trimmed to such an extent that he has become unrecognisable. He had requested the officials to give him time to move an application against the cutting of his hair as he was expecting a role in a film and also due to his upcoming marriage. But they did not heed his request," the family claimed. They also rejected the jail officials' reported claim that the Youtuber agreed to the cutting of his hair, saying that if that was the case, then they would not have sent complaints to the court, Kerala Chief Minister and top police officers in the state.

The Thrissur Police had nabbed him from Kodagu in Karnataka where he was hiding, on Tuesday.

He had been on the run since the incident on April 19, 2024.

Subsequently, he was produced before a local court which remanded him to 14-day judicial custody in Thrissur District Jail.

