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News Of The Depths

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4 trapped in Telangana Tunnel collapse located, 1% survival chance: Minister

Nagarkurnool: The rescue operations to pull out the eight persons trapped inside the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel here for a week saw a breakthrough on Saturday with the whereabouts of four of them being located, though a Telangana minister put the chances of their survival at "one per cent." State Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who attended a meeting with officials involved in the rescue operation along with Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, said there was lot of progress during the last couple of days. "In my view, the whereabouts of four persons have been located through radar," he told reporters at the tunnel and expressed hope they would be extricated by Sunday evening.

Scientists from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) used Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and detected some "anomalies" inside the tunnel, providing a crucial lead in the operation

Asked about the condition of the four whose whereabouts have been found, the minister recalled he had said on the first day itself that the chances of survival of the trapped persons are remote.

"I had said the chances (of survival) are very, very remote. I am not talking about it but waiting in view of one per cent possibility (for survival)," he said. Krishna Rao added desilting was being carried out manually where the whereabouts of four persons has been identified which is expected to be completed by Sunday evening.

Scientists from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) used Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and detected some "anomalies" inside the tunnel, providing a crucial lead in the operation. The other four appear to have been stuck beneath the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), the minister said. It may take some time to get a breakthrough about them, he said.

The 450 ft tall TBM was being cut, he said. The personnel of about 11 agencies, including Army, NDRF, rat miners, are involved in the operation.

Referring to the criticism of opposition parties that the operation is getting delayed, Krishna Rao said those involved in the endeavour are experts but the rescue work is complex in view of the conditions, including slush, inside the tunnel. The rescue personnel should not be put at risk, he said. The minister also said dewatering, repairing the damaged conveyor belt and other aspects of rescue work is going simultaneously.



Poet conference and honor ceremony held
Ujala Media Network organized a seminar

Have over 15-year-old vehicle in Delhi? You won't get to do this from April

New Delhi (Agency): Taking an important step to control pollution soon after coming to power in Delhi, the BJP government has ordered that vehicles older than 15 years will not get petrol at pumps. Making the announcement on Saturday, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, who took charge on Monday, said a team will be formed to identify such vehicles. "We are installing gadgets at petrol pumps which will identify vehicles older than 15 years and no fuel will be provided to them," Mr Sirsa said after holding a meeting with officials to discuss steps to combat air pollution in Delhi. Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) have a policy under which diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years are not allowed on the roads. An order in 2021 had also said that such vehicles would be impounded and sent to the scrapyard if they were found operating on the roads after January 1, 2022. Mr Sirsa said the government's initial focus will be on heavy vehicles entering Delhi and teams will check whether the laid-down rules are being followed.

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"He called Sanskrit world's best language": PM Modi on Sufi poet Amir Khusrau

New Delhi (Agency): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the Sufi tradition as India's shared heritage and praised its saints for their pluralistic message, saying they recited the verses of Quran and also listened to the Vedas. Speaking at the 25th edition of Jahan-e-Khusrau, which commemorates famous Sufi poet and scholar Amir Khusrau, PM Modi said the Sufi tradition has carved a unique identity for itself in India.

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Following a performance by Sufi artistes, PM Modi said their music is a shared heritage of Indians. People have lived this tradition together, he added. The prime minister named a number of Sufi saints and poets like Nizamuddin Auliya, Rumi and Raskhan, who was born a Muslim and wrote famous devotional poems dedicated to Lord Krishna, besides Khusrau, to praise their message of love and harmony.

He said the Sufi saints did not confine themselves to mosques and shrines. If they recited verses from the sacred Quran, then they also listened to the words from the Vedas, PM Modi noted. Khusrau, who was born in the 13th century, praised India as greater than any other nation, its scholars better than others and Sanskrit as the world's best language, he said, noting that the country's philosophy and mathematical discoveries had reached across the world.



PM Modi said Khusrau did not only mention this in his book but was also proud of it. When the period of slavery wreaked so much damage, he played a big role in introducing people to their heritage, the prime minister added. PM Modi said he fondly remembered Rumi when he visited Afghanistan's parliament in 2015 and recited a Hindi translation of the sayings of the mystic and poet.

Rumi had said he does not belong to any one place and belongs to every place, the prime minister noted, stressing that this philosophy is not different from the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is a family), an inscription from the Upanishads.

"These ideas give me strength when I represent India in different countries," he said and also recalled his visit to Iran during which he had quoted Mirza Ghalib's verse that pointed to the short distance between Kashi and Kaashan (an Iranian city) if one makes up his mind.

"When war is inflicting so much harm on humanity in today's world, this message can be of a lot of help," he said.

Expressing happiness at attending the event, curated by filmmaker and artist Muzaffar Ali, PM Modi said art and music are the expression of a country's tradition and culture. "In the Nazr-e-Krishna presented here, we saw glimpses of our shared heritage. There is a different fragrance in this event of Jahan-e-Khusrau. This fragrance is of the soil of Hindustan," he said. Wishing people for the coming Islamic holy month of Ramzan, the prime minister said Sufi traditions bridge not only the spiritual gap among people but also the worldly distance among them.

After Mamata Banerjee's "election manipulation" claim, a poll body reply

The response from the election authority came in the wake of Mamata Banerjee's announcement of a committee to scrutinise alleged irregularities in voter lists across West Bengal

New Delhi (Agency): West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has dismissed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's allegations of electoral manipulation, saying that the voter roll update process follows established legal protocols. The remarks came after Ms Banerjee accused the BJP of adding fake voters to influence elections in the state. The West Bengal CEO issued a statement on social media, outlining the procedures governing electoral roll updates.

"As per RP Act 1950, Registration of Electors Rules 1960 and Manual on Electoral Rolls, concerned BLOs, AEROs, EROs, DEOs, and CEOs in any State/UT work for the updation of Electoral Rolls," the post read. "This is done with active participation of Booth Level Agents appointed by political parties. Any specific claim or objections are to be made first before the concerned 80,633 BLOs, 3,049 AEROs and 294 EROs in West Bengal." The response from the election authority came in the wake of Ms Banerjee's announcement of a committee to scrutinise alleged irregularities in voter lists across West Bengal.

"Political parties are involved in every step of making the voter list. If there is any objection from any political parties on any step, it is heard immediately. Every objection to adding or deleting names is investigated by the electoral roll officer," election commission sources said. "The Congress raised questions about adding 48 lakh voters in Maharashtra after the elections in the state. But only one complaint made it to the CEO's office." On Thursday, Ms Banerjee accused the BJP of manipulating voter lists, drawing parallels with alleged electoral malpractices in Maharashtra and Delhi. She claimed that the BJP had employed similar tactics in other states and was now attempting to do the same in West Bengal.

"Sitting in the Election Commissioner's office, they have created a fake voter's list online, and in every district of West Bengal, fake voters have been added,"



Ms Banerjee said. "Using this trick, they have won elections in Delhi and Maharashtra. The opposition in Maharashtra could not find out these facts. Most of the fake voters are from Haryana and Gujarat. BJP is manipulating voters list with the blessing of EC, Bengal's culture gave rise to independence."

Ms Banerjee urged the people of West Bengal to verify their names on the voter list, warning that legitimate voters could be removed under the pretext of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

"The actual names can be removed any day in the name of NRC and CAA. It has two main objectives. One is to defeat TMC and to remove the names of persons on the list. This is being done with the blessings of the EC. Keep a watch on data operators. If anyone is at the grassroots, then it is TMC. In the 2026 Assembly polls, we have to hit the ball harder, and this would start from the voter's list. This has to be done at the booth level. District president would have to take care of this," she said.

To counter the alleged voter list manipulation, Ms Banerjee announced the formation of an IT Media cell, panchayat councillors, and a core committee to monitor the electoral rolls.

In response to Ms Banerjee's concerns, Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders initiated a door-to-door campaign to scrutinise the electoral rolls. The campaign, which began today, aims to identify any discrepancies in the voter list. Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim personally participated in the verification drive in South Kolkata.

"The BJP is trying to manipulate the electoral rolls by bringing in fake voters from other states. So, along with our party workers, we are on a door-to-door visit to verify the voter list," Mr Hakim said. Similar verification efforts were underway in Bhabanipur, the assembly constituency of Mamata Banerjee, with local TMC leaders actively participating. TMC leaders claimed that multiple individuals from outside West Bengal had been registered under the same Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number as genuine voters in the state. Ms Banerjee labeled these fraudulent entries as "ghost voters."

SC raps HC For "overstepping jurisdiction"

The Supreme Court was hearing an appeal filed by the NCB challenging an order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court

New Delhi: Frowning upon courts overstepping jurisdiction, the Supreme Court has set aside an order of the Allahabad High Court which directed the Director of Narcotics Control Bureau to pay Rs 5 lakh as compensation to a man for alleged wrongful confinement. A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Manmohan said the grant of compensation was without the authority of law. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) challenging an order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. In this case, in a joint operation, the NCB seized 1,280 grams of brown powder (allegedly heroin) from the possession of one Man Singh Verma and one Aman Singh. Accordingly, a criminal case was registered against Verma under Sections 8(C), 21 and 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and he was remanded to judicial custody. While awaiting results from the laboratory, the accused filed a plea before Special Judge, NDPS, Barabanki district, seeking bail, which was rejected. The accused approached the high court against the order. On January 30, 2023, the laboratory issued its report stating that the sample tested negative for heroin and other narcotic substances.



Amit Shah Directs Unhindered Movement in Manipur, Toughens Stance on Arms Surrender and Border Security

Imphal (Agency): Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level security review meeting on Saturday, instructing security forces to ensure the free movement of people across Manipur from March 8 and to take strict action against any attempts to obstruct roads. The meeting comes amid the ongoing ethnic conflict that has gripped the northeastern state for nearly two years.

Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13, following the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh. The prolonged unrest, which erupted in May 2023 due to clashes between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, has claimed over 200 lives and displaced tens of thou-



sands. Shah's directive also aligns with the Centre's broader strategy to restore law and order, dismantle insurgency networks, and prevent cross-border infiltration along the Indo-Myanmar border.

The security meeting followed the March 6 ultimatum issued by Manipur Governor urging individuals to surrender looted and illegal weapons.

During the seven-day deadline, over 300 firearms were surrendered, including 246 weapons from the Meitei radical group Arambai Tenggol in the valley districts.

However, thousands of arms, looted from police stations and armories during the initial phase of violence, remain unaccounted for.

Responding to public appeals from both hill and valley communities, the governor extended the surrender deadline to March 6 at 4 PM. Security agencies are also devising strategies to recover looted weapons from militant factions and armed civilian groups, ensuring that no group retains disproportionate firepower.

The ethnic violence in Manipur erupted in May 2023 over the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, sparking tensions with the Kuki-Zo tribal groups. The conflict quickly escalated into large-scale rioting, arson, and armed confrontations, leading to the formation of ethnic militias and the mass looting of arms from security forces. Despite multiple peace talks, the conflict has deepened fault lines between the valley-dwelling Meiteis and the hill-based Kukis, leaving Manipur in a state of prolonged crisis. The imposition of President's Rule is seen as an attempt by the Centre to directly administer the state and fast-track de-escalation efforts.

Haryana: Hooda demands high-level probe in Himani Narwal murder case

Chandigarh (Agency): Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Saturday expressed deep shock over the news of Himani Narwal's murder in Rohtak. "The murder of a girl in this manner and finding her body in a suitcase is extremely sad and shocking. This in itself is a blot on the law and order of the state," he said in a statement.



"There should be a high-level impartial investigation of this entire case and the culprits should get the harshest punishment as soon as possible," he said.

Hooda said that if any such incident takes place against women, the government and the entire law and order system should take exemplary action so that in future any person suffering from criminal tendencies thinks a thousand times before committing such an incident.

The former Chief Minister said this tragic incident has once again revealed that law and order has completely collapsed in the state.

"Criminals are committing such crimes without any fear. From the Central Government's Social Progress Index to the NCRB figures, it is evident that Haryana has become the most unsafe state in the country," he said.

"The BJP government has completely failed in providing security to women in particular. Every day, 3-4 murders, 4-5 rapes, 10-12 kidnappings and more than 100 incidents of theft, robbery, dacoity and ransom take place in the state," he said. "It seems that there is no elected government in the state, but jungle raj is prevailing. Criminals are committing all kinds of crimes without any fear and the general public is living in the shadow of fear," he alleged.

Himachal Govt launches CM Dashboard

Shimla (Agency): Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched CM Dashboard to monitor the progress and performance of 66 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of 8 departments here on Saturday. The dash board has been developed by the Department of Digital Technologies and Governance. He said that under this initiative, 8 KPIs of Rural Development, 8 KPIs of Public Works Department, 6 KPIs of Jal Shakti Vibhag, 7 KPIs of Revenue, 4 KPIs of Women and Child Development, 10 KPIs of Education, 5 KPIs of Tribal Development and 18 KPIs of Health Departments have been covered. Sukhu said that this step will go a long way in accelerating the pace of development and providing accurate information of the beneficiaries of different departments on one platform. He asked the depart-



ments to report accurate data to take precise decisions to ensure welfare of the people. Sukhu further said that he would personally monitor the progress of various welfare schemes through this Dashboard regularly. The Chief Minister said that this move of the government will enhance transparency and accountability in the governance besides streamlining data collection and analysis. "This will also reduce the administrative burden on officials. The CM Dashboard has data of above 11 lakh beneficiaries of the government departments," he said, adding that all the government departments would be brought under the ambit of CM Dashboard and the number of KPIs would also be enhanced.

"Once this process is complete, Boards and Corporations would also be incorporated on this platform," he said. The Chief Minister said that the state government is bringing reforms to ensure the welfare of the beneficiaries and modern technology can prove to be a key instrument in addressing the future challenges. "The government is focusing on good governance and the departments must make earnest efforts to provide quality services to the people of the state nearer to their homes," he said. He also launched the District Good Governance Index on the occasion. Earlier, he also inaugurated the beautification work of Armsdale Building phase-III.

Nadda kicks off week-long celebrations of Jan Aushadhi Diwas

New Delhi (Agency): Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda kicked off the week-long celebrations of Jan Aushadhi Diwas by flagging off vehicles carrying the information about Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) from Nirman Bhawan here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, in presence of Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel, Nadda urged the people to participate in these programs for wider awareness about this project of the government so that a Jan-Andolan is created for Jan-Aushadhi.



"Let us create a Jan-Andolan for Janaushdahi," Nadda, who is also the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers appealed to the people. In her address, Patel gave a brief about seven days week-long programs to be held across the country for celebration of 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas.

At the initiative of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the 7th of March is celebrated every year as "Jan Aushadhi Diwas" with a view to enhance awareness about the scheme and promote generic medicines.

A week-long events have been planned at various locations across the country from the 1st to the 7th of March. The vehicles that have been flagged off today will disseminate the information about PMBJP in the National Capital Region (NCR).

It may be mentioned that with an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, PMBJP was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Under this scheme, dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras are opened to provide generic medicines. As on 28 February, 15000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country. Product basket of PMBJP comprises 2,047 drugs and 300 surgical equipment which are sold at retail shops at 50 per cent to 80 per cent cheaper than branded medicines. Under PMBJP, the government has set a target to open 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by 31st March, 2027 across the country. The target of opening 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March, 2025 has already been achieved by PMBI on 31st January.

Somnath Temple; an eternal that rose from ruins

New Delhi (Agency): Standing tall on the shores of Gujarat in the Western part of India, the Somnath Temple is more than just a place of worship; it is a symbol of resilience, faith, and spirituality. Through centuries of invasions, plunder, and destruction, this sacred shrine has been rebuilt time and again, from its ancient origins in Hindu mythology to its modern reconstruction under independent India.

The pilgrimage site, is the first among the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva, is well connected with Air, Rail and roadways. The Nearest Airports include Keshod Airport, Diu Airport and Rajkot International Airport while the nearest train stations are Veraval and Rajkot.

Managed by Shri Somnath Trust with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its Chairman, the temple along with upholding the Sanatan practices also follows the mantra of sustainability development and empowering the local population.

To uphold the Sanatan dharma, the temple runs a Sanskriti pathshala wherein the students are enrolled in grade ninth till 12 who are taught about the religion, language, culture and also with technology.

Moreover, the trust also runs two gaushalas wherein they work in preserving the Gir breed of the cows. During this, they follow sattvik practices in which the calf's right over the milk is prioritized and the rest milk is used for the religious practices.

In the modern world of technology, the trust has also inducted digital pilgrimage where the devotees can have live darshan of the lrd shiva, can book pooja



and get a door-step delivery of Prasad.

Additionally, the trust provides employment to tribal women who weave fabric into clothes for the religious practices and are then converted into the kurtas which are distributed to the devotees.

The trust also follows the mantra of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the whole world is one family) that PM Modi has emphasized upon, providing live darshan to devotees who are based abroad in 21 countries including USA, UK and Canada among others.

Inspired by PM Modi's vision of sustainable development, the trust has undertaken many eco-friendly endeavors such as distributing saplings to the farmers as blessings from the lord that empowered over two lakh families especially the tribal population.

One of the highlights in this initiative is the nine layer filtration process of the sacred offerings. So far, Rs 2.5 crore has been invested by the trust for waste management and Rs 16.36 crore liters of water has been treated by the eight plants for agricultural usage.

The roots of the modern day temple goes back after India got Independence and it was completed under the orders of the first Home Minister of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The site of Somnath has been a pilgrimage site from ancient times on account of being a Triveni Sangam (the confluence of three rivers: Kapila, Hiran and Saraswati). Soma, the Moon god, is believed to have lost his lustre due to a curse, and he bathed in the Saraswati River at this site to regain it.

Vintage & Classic cars take part in prejudging for The Statesman VCCR 58th edition

New Delhi (Agency): Ahead of the iconic Statesman Vintage and Classic Car Rally 58th edition on Sunday, the timeless beauties rolled at the historic Modern School Barakhamba Road for an interesting pre-judging event. Over a hundred cars including classic saloons, luxurious Rolls Royces, Chevrolet Impala, the popular VW Beetle, Jeeps, Land Rover, FIATs and many unique cars took part in the pre-judging where the experienced judges gave them points as per the parameters based on the restoration, condition and other aspects.

This began on Friday and continued on Saturday as the enthusiasts lined up their prized possessions after readying them up for the important event for which they eagerly waited.

Pleasant weather marked the day as the cars moved slowly from one to another judging stations where the judges inspected them.

This event is a crucial part of the entire rally as the points that are given to the cars add up to their chance of winning different prizes under different categories after the completion of the rally. The parameters on which the eight judges examine the participating vehicles include, engine examination, checking mechanicals, restoration, authenticity, originality, interiors, exteriors, instrumentation, wheels, tyres and chasis.

All these parameters carry points as per the format, while more stress is given on the mechanical maintenance.

Those who examine the cars prior to the main rally include very experienced vintage and classic car experts who have immense knowledge regarding different aspects of the cars.

The event also becomes a place where the participants interact with each other prior to the main event and get a chance to ready up their vehicles before they take part in the main event.

LDF government in Kerala has failed to crack down on drug mafia: VD Satheesan

Thiruvananthapuram (Agency): Senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly VD Satheesan on Saturday accused the CPI-M-led LDF government in Kerala of failing to curb the unprecedented flow of highly dangerous narcotic substances in the state due to which Kerala has become a hub of drugs. He alleged that the drug mafia has been let loose in Kerala due to political patronage.

Speaking to media persons in Kochi on Saturday, Satheesan said the Pinarayi Vijayan government has utterly failed in cracking down on the drug mafia that has spread its tentacles rapidly across the state. "Drug gangs are roaming in campuses and schools. The murder of a student in Kozhikode is shocking. The government and its agencies, including the Excise Department and the police, have not yet been able to identify the source of highly dangerous narcotic substances being dumped into the state," he said.

He said the rampant cases of drug abuse and related crimes have triggered panic in society. "Parents sending children to schools and colleges live in fear. Kerala has gone to such an extent that parents are scared over the widespread use of drugs in the campuses and schools," he said. Stating that the government does not have a system to trace the drug trail, the Congress leader asked, "What's the use of police and excise if they can't contain the drug menace?" He alleged that the drug mafia in the state is enjoying political patronage. "In places like Alappuzha and Kollam, drug mafias are getting help from local politicians. That's why the government hesitates to act. I say this with responsibility," Satheesan said. Satheesan said that in colleges where SFI, the student wing of the CPI-M, has dominance, they are becoming drug agents. They have been accused in many drug-related cases, he added. Taking a jibe at state Excise Minister M B Rajesh for his comment that ganja consumption has reduced in the state, Satheesan said, "The minister is right. Now, more people have turned to synthetic drugs."

Exercise Desert Hunt 2025: Indian Tri-Service Special Forces conduct high-intensity combat drills

New Delhi (Agency): In a significant display of joint military preparedness, the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, recently. The integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise witnessed participation from the Indian Army's Para (Special Forces), the Indian Navy's Marine Commandos (MARCOS), and the Indian Air Force's Garud (Special Forces), working together in a simulated combat environment. The exercise focused on enhancing interoperability, coordination, and synergy among India's elite Special Forces units, ensuring a swift and effective response to emerging security challenges. Key drills included airborne insertion,



precision strikes, hostage rescue operations, counter-terrorism missions, combat free fall operations, and urban warfare scenarios.

Each phase of the exercise tested the combat readiness of the forces under realistic battlefield conditions, ensuring they are prepared for multi-domain operations. Senior military officials closely supervised the operations, validating joint doctrines and emphasising the need for seamless inter-service cooperation. Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 reaffirmed the Indian Armed Forces' commitment to strengthening national security through unified and synchronised military strategies. This joint exercise underscores India's growing emphasis on integrated warfare capabilities, ensuring its elite forces remain combat-ready for modern security challenges.

















Ujala Media Network organized a seminar

Poetry conference and felicitation ceremony organized



Ujala Media Network, the reputed media network of Prayagraj Sangam city, organized a seminar, kavi sammelan and felicitation ceremony after the successful completion of Maha Kumbh. The chief guest of this ceremony was Mamta Chaudhary, Assistant Commissioner of Food and Safety. In her speech, Mamta Chaudhary told about the work done in Kumbh Mela. Uttar Pradesh Information Commissioner P N Dwivedi, who was presiding over the ceremony, said that the name of India has been written in golden letters on the global platform in Maha Kumbh. While conducting the ceremony, national poet Shlesh Gautam said that such programs should be held.

On this occasion a kavi sammelan was organised in which

Rajesh Kumar
Mumbai
Renowned film writer and poet

Dr. Simmi Verma
Patna
Renowned singer and author

Dr. Shlesh Gautam
Famous poet, stage director and professor, Allahabad Degree College (Allahabad University)

Misbah Allahabadi
Well known young poetess

Mr. Devendra Rajbhar
Well known young poet and artist
Dr. Ajay Malviya and Muskan mesmerized the audience with their compositions.

EDITORIAL

RENEWABLES RACE

India's clean energy ambitions are bold and necessary, but the country faces an uphill battle in turning them into reality. With a target of reaching 500 GW of non-fossil power capacity by 2030, the pace of renewable energy deployment must accelerate dramatically. Despite record breaking solar and wind installations in recent years, fossil fuels continue to dominate power generation, highlighting the complexities of India's energy transition. The challenge is twofold: increasing the share of renewables while ensuring energy security in a rapidly growing economy. The continued expansion of coal-fired capacity, projected to rise by 80 GW by 2031-32, signals a pragmatic but contradictory approach. Coal remains the backbone of India's energy system, providing a stable base load supply that intermittent renewable sources cannot yet fully replace. However, if coal expansion continues unchecked, it could slow the transition to a cleaner energy mix and hinder climate commitments. One of the biggest roadblocks to scaling up renewables is infrastructure. India's transmission network has not kept pace with the rapid growth in solar and wind installations. Grid congestion, inadequate storage solutions, and delays in connecting new renewable projects to the system remain critical issues. Without significant upgrades in transmission infrastructure, even the most ambitious renewable projects will struggle to reach their full potential. Financing is another key hurdle. While solar and wind power costs have fallen over the years, high capital expenditures and financing constraints still pose challenges. Many renewable energy developers, especially smaller players, find it difficult to secure affordable long-term financing due to high interest rates and regulatory uncertainties.

A stronger push for green financing mechanisms, policy stability, and risk-mitigation strategies will be essential to sustain the momentum. The intermittency of renewables further complicates matters. Unlike coal or gas, solar and wind generation fluctuates based on weather conditions, making storage capacity crucial for maintaining a reliable supply. Battery technology has improved, but large-scale energy storage solutions remain expensive. India must accelerate investments in grid-scale storage, pumped hydro projects, and hybrid renewable models that combine solar and wind to ensure a more stable power supply. Despite these challenges, there is reason for optimism. India has consistently demonstrated its commitment to renewable energy through policy support, ambitious tenders, and international collaborations. Innovations such as solar-wind hybrid parks, floating solar farms, and decentralized renewable projects are gaining traction. Moreover, global shifts in green investments and technology advancements in energy storage present new opportunities for India to leapfrog traditional energy constraints. The next five years will be critical. Without an urgent scaling-up of renewable capacity, In dia risks missing its 2030 clean energy targets. This is not just about meeting climate goals but about securing longterm energy independence, reducing pollution, and fostering sustainable economic growth. A well-executed transition will require a balanced approach ~ one that aggressively expands renewables while addressing infrastructure and financial bottlenecks. If India can overcome these hurdles, it has the potential to become a global leader in clean energy, setting an example for emerging economies worldwide.

REFORM URGENT

India stands at a crossroads in the global clinical trials market. Despite its vast and diverse patient pool, cost-effective medical ecosystem, and expanding hospital network, the country holds a mere 8 per cent share in global trials, significantly lagging behind China's 29 per cent and America's 25 per cent. If India truly aims to establish itself as a global leader in pharmaceutical research, it must urgently reform its regulatory framework, streamline approval processes, and embrace innovative patient recruitment strategies. China's rise as a clinical trial hub is no accident. It strategically relaxed regulatory constraints, encouraged innovation, and aligned policies with global best practices. As a result, pharmaceutical companies flocked to conduct trials in China, fuelling its dominance in the sector. Australia, on the other hand used tax breaks to attract global pharma firms, making it another preferred destination for early-phase trials. India must adopt a similar forward-thinking approach. While the government revamped trial rules in 2019, the approval of just 160 trials over the past three years suggests that regulatory bottlenecks persist. Unlike China, where regulatory processes are structured for speed, India's framework remains cumbersome, often deterring sponsors. Speed is the single most crucial factor for pharmaceutical companies investing in clinical trials. Every delay in regulatory approvals or patient recruitment translates into higher costs and lost opportunities. Currently, India's approval time lines remain unpredictable, often stretched by bureaucratic red tape. Regulatory authorities must move towards a more dynamic model that prioritises swift approvals without compromising safety and ethical considerations.

A commitment to clear timelines, digital submission processes, and a dedicated task force for fast-tracking approvals could go a long way in making India a more attractive clinical trial destination. A major bottleneck in India's clinical trials landscape is patient recruitment. Unlike the US and UK, where sponsors can advertise on-going trials, India's restrictive policies mean that many patients remain unaware of potential opportunities to participate in groundbreaking research. For patients with rare diseases and limited treatment options, clinical trials can offer a lifeline. Allowing advertisements ~ within ethical guidelines ~ can help connect willing participants with researchers, enhancing recruitment efficiency. Misconceptions and fears around clinical trials also need to be addressed through public awareness campaigns, emphasising the rigorous safety measures in place. Beyond recruitment, India must ensure its trial sites meet international safety and quality standards. Many Indian hospitals still lack the infrastructure and trained personnel required for seamless execution of global trials. Investment in training, monitoring mechanisms, and accreditation can bridge this gap, reinforcing India's credibility in the global market. India can become a global hub for clinical trials, but that potential remains underutilised. With the global clinical trials industry projected to exceed $80 billion by 2030, India must act decisively. A regulatory overhaul, faster approvals, patient-centric recruitment strategies, and robust infrastructure will determine whether India can capitalise on this opportunity ~ or continue to lag behind.

Emperor Trump

DEVENDRA SAKSENA

After forcing the New York Governor to roll back congestion charges, US President Donald Trump posted on Truth Social: "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!"

Trump's social media post was accompanied by a mocked-up Time magazine cover with Trump wearing a crown, and grinning from ear to ear. There was some possibility that Mr Trump was joking, but soon enough the official White House account shared the same post. Probably, the fear he invoked in the minds of his opponents and compatriots, and the adulation of his followers, has convinced Trump that he is indeed the King. Even before Trump took over from Joe Biden, he proposed solutions to a number of intractable conflicts and problems; declaring interalia that he would end the Israel-Hamas conflict, Russia-Ukraine war, and reform the bureaucracy.

The alacrity with which the principal actors responded was truly remarkable; a ceasefire has been declared in Gaza, the RussiaUkraine war has lost its intensity, and Trump's friend, Elon Musk, is terrorising what is left of the bureaucracy. Domestically, Trump is ruling America by Presidential decrees, giving short shrift to the legislature. Trump says he is making America great again by freeing the bureaucracy of waste, fraud and sloth, but saner persons are afraid that Trump is wrecking the government structure, and paving the way for a Trumpian autocracy. The judiciary alone can stop Trump from overreaching; here Trump quoted Napoleon: "He who saves his Country does not violate any Law," hinting at a desire to confront the judiciary. As befits a monarch, Trump makes outrageous statements, and makes equally outrageous demands from leaders who come to pay homage to him. Later on, as is the wont of kings, Trump mellows down a bit, and allows himself to be persuaded to agree to somewhat more rational solutions. So, all those seeking an audience with Trump must come loaded with gifts. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who visited Trump on 4 February, had to agree, at least superficially, to Trump's proposal of the US taking control of Gaza, and turning it into the 'Riviera of the Middle East.'

Then came Japanese PM Shinjiro Ishiba, who had to pledge a US$1 trillion investment in the US, and agree to import more Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from the US. King Abdullah II of Jordan, who was the next in the Trump durbar, was forced to modify his country's stance on displaced Palestinians. PM Modi followed and reduction in tariffs from India and increase in US crude oil and defence exports to India, were some of the positive outcomes for the US. Now, three European leaders ~ Andrzej Duda, the president of Poland, President Emmanuel Macron of France, and Sir Keir Starmer of the United Kingdom ~ are headed to Washington to pay tribute to Mr Trump.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskky, has been summoned to the White House to sign away Ukraine's mineral wealth to Uncle Sam ~ probably in continuation of a minion's statement that Uncle Sam is not Uncle Sucker. One can divine the way the wind is blowing; the British ambassador to the US, Lord Peter Mandelson, who had earlier described Trump as a 'bully' and 'reckless and a danger to the world' has recanted his earlier statements, and admitted that his previous criticism of Trump was "ill-judged and wrong." However, much more is required from the European leaders; speculatively speaking they would be required to leave Ukraine to its own devices, or at least tone down their involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war ~ so that the US and Russia can divide up the hapless country. Trump's vocabulary is also that of a monarch, not that of a mere leader.

Thus, he unhesitatingly calls President Zelensky, till recently a staunch US ally, 'a moderate comedian', 'a dictator without elections.' He has labelled India as the 'tariff king.' What he said about world organisations like the WHO, and other countries is equally cringeworthy. For



example, while talking about ending the Russia Ukraine war, Trump wrote in his Truth Social post: "I'm going to do Russia, whose Economy is failing, and President Putin, a very big FAVOR." Like a true emperor, who does not follow precedent, Trump has turned US foreign policy on its head. President Nixon, in 1973, cosied up to China to break its alliance with the Soviet Union.

At that time, and till the second Trump Presidency, Russia was America's principal enemy. Now, Russia is almost a US ally, and China is Enemy No.1. The same about-turn can be seen in US-Western Europe relations. Once all-weather friends, Trump has signalled a reset in relations, with a not-so-subtle hint that Europe should look after its own security. Coming after Trump's ninety-minute phone call to Putin, Vice President JD Vance's speech at the Munich Security Conference in which he hardly mentioned security issues, and ac cu s ed European leaders of indulging in misinformation, disinformation, and suppressing the right of free speech, left his audience flabbergasted.

Incidentally, the Conference was called to focus on the war in Ukraine. With the Russian bear breathing down its neck, and American help elusive, Europe is feeling apprehensive, which is the reason for its top three leaders' visit to the US. The American policy Uturn about Ukraine had come about much earlier. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth had already indicated that restoring Ukraine's territory to its pre2014 status was "not realistic," Ukraine's joining NATO was out of the question, and there was no chance that US troops would protect Ukraine's borders when Russia invaded it next time. Claiming that Ukraine started the war, and not inviting Ukraine to the US-Russia talks on ending the war, has sent a clear signal to Ukraine about its expendability. Trump's latest statement: "Zelenskky better move faster.

He's not going to have a country left," can only be seen as designed to force Ukraine to agree to whatever may be dictated by Putin and him. However, seasoned political analysts see a method in Trump's madness and his policies as a continuation of the US aim to dominate other countries at any cost. The only difference is that earlier the dirty work was done by the CIA and other American agencies, while the US Government mouthed platitudes, like saving democracy and protecting poor countries from starvation. In the 1950s and 1960s after the US pressured Britain to free its colonies, CIA soon stepped in to remove inconvenient patriots from presidentship.

In fact, the US record of supporting, or even propping up dictatorships and monarchies, is unparalleled. John F Kennedy, the youngest US President, endowed with a leading man's good looks, brought glamour to the White House, and followed, in public, a policy of decolonisation and defending democracy. Yet, the same Ken nedy, thought nothing of destabilising unfriendly governments in Caribbean countries through the CIA. Trump subscribes to the same playbook ~ only the velvet gloves are off. Trump's seemingly daft statements like offering to purchase Greenland from Denmark, proposing to make Canada US's fifty-first State, getting Google to rename the Gulf of Mexico, preparing a migrant detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, instigating sweeping tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China, seeking to bring back plastic straws, opposing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) tenaciously and firing top US Generals are all aimed at establishing himself as the top dog in the world pecking order.

Trump has frequently resorted to downright lying to browbeat his opponents. He has gone so far as to claim that Ukraine started the Russia-Ukraine war. Speaking after a mid-air collision between a US military helicopter and an American Airlines flight, Trump publicly speculated that diversity hiring may have been a factor in the disaster. Trump wrongly claimed that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) website stated that persons with disabilities such as "hearing, vision, missing, extremities, partial paralysis, complete paralysis, epilepsy, severe intellectual disability, psychiatric disability and dwarfism" were "all qualified for the position of a controller of airplanes pouring into our country."

Thus, it would appear that the Making America Great Again initiative of Trump is a thinly disguised attempt to make himself Trump the Great. However, it is too soon to judge the issue. With an egotistic and outspoken person like Trump, all statements should be taken with a pinch of salt. As Mort Sahl, the comedian said: "I was on stage last night, and I gave a medical report about Donald Trump. I said he was hospitalized for an attack of modesty."

Security dynamics of the Siliguri corridor

LT GEN PRADEEP BALI RETD

THE turbulence and violence in the neighbouring Bangladesh reflect latent security threats and implications which may well spill over across the border, especially in the sensitive region of the Siliguri corridor. The geographical attributes and cartographic peculiarities of this area create vulnerabilities which can be exploited by inimical elements using non-conventional methods.

This corridor, which links India with eight of its states in the north-east, is formed due to the sudden decrease in width as the Indian territory extends eastwards across the land mass linking north Bengal with Assam and with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh hedging in this area from the west, north and south, respectively. The shortest expanse is 20 km, between Naxalbari on the India-Nepal border and Phansidewa on the India-Bangladesh border. Close to this is the 30-km transit route for third-party trade permitted by India between the border checkpoints of Kakarbhitta in Nepal and Banglabandha in Bangladesh. The Indian territory's width between Bhutan and Bangladesh is 43 km at its narrowest. Known as the 'gateway to the North-east', major communication arteries, including NH 17 and 27, broad gauge rail lines, oil and gas pipelines and the national power grid, pass through it. The strategic airfields of Bagdogra and Hasimara, important military formation HQs, and the large towns of Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar are located within this corridor.

In the north, this area is over 40 km from the Chinese territory of Chumbi Valley, across the undeveloped mountainous terrain of south Bhutan till the Indian border. However, all along its southern length, it is flanked by the undulating border with Bangladesh as it meanders across the riverine terrain and swampy areas.

Guarding such a border, primarily against illegal immigrants and smugglers, is a herculean task as it is also densely populated on either side.

The conventional threats to the Siliguri corridor appear overhyped. Whether it is the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) through Bhutan or the Bangladesh forces from the south, the Indian armed forces can deter them and may well carry the battle across in the unlikely scenario of hostilities breaking out. The real threat lies in the unconventional domain. The high volume of illegal crossings driving a rapid demographic change, ethnic assertion turning to insurgency and support for both from across the borders — these are the actual security challenges. Illegal immigration from Bangladesh has always been the bane of this region. It has impacted the ethnic composition of the populace in towns and villages. It has built up over the years in the garb of labour, domestic workers and petty businesses, including trans-border smuggling. All this provides a human resource for creating unrest in a vital part of India. A strong vein of Islamic fundamentalism had existed in East Bengal even before and after 1947, when it became the East of Jinnah's Pakistan. 1971 did not exorcise these elements. Pakistan recognised Bangladesh in 1974. Ironically, Pak PM Bhutto got a hero's welcome in Dhaka barely three years after the Pakistan army's infamous Operation Searchlight in 1971,



which led to the Bangladesh liberation war.

Khaleda Zia's tenure from 2001 to 2006 was the high noon of Pakistan/ISI influence with radical Islamists in government. Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami ran terror operations, targeting Indian interests with impunity. Sheikh Hasina did focus on this common enemy, but she could not eliminate the powerful strain of opinion.

Post the regime change in Bangladesh, the emerging alignment between Bangladesh and Pakistan does not augur well for peace and stability in the adjoining regions. The fundamentalist elements who have come to fore in the post-Hasina era would find mutuality of interests with a rogue state like Pakistan, whose ISI, for one, would like to get involved in this part of the sub-continent. This could create turbulence in the adjoining Indian territory that is under favourable ethnic conditions, structured on illegal migrants, with support bases in Bangladesh.

The recent interceptions of suspicious radio signals across the border point at jihadis in Bangladesh working in cohorts with Pakistan's ISI for nefarious designs against India. A readily available recruitment base of Rohingya refugees gives a further impetus to the launch of anti-India terrorist operations.

The role of guarding the 4,096-km long border with Bangladesh, including the Siliguri corridor, is performed by the Border Security Force (BSF). The largest among the central armed police forces, the BSF is well-structured and well equipped. While there are a few military stations near Siliguri, no army units are deployed opposite Bangladesh, though some formations may have a dual task role on this border.

The Director General-level talks between the BSF and the Border Guard Bangladesh held in New Delhi last week focussed on the contentious issue of erecting border fencing in the remaining areas, attacks on BSF personnel, movement of illegal immigrants, curbing anti-India insurgent groups and smuggling of arms and drugs into India. But all this is as repetitive as it is inconclusive.

The BSF, while doing a stellar job on this border, feels sandwiched between Bangladesh and the Indian villages and towns populated by Bangladeshi illegals and their Indian sympathisers. Any strong check on human trafficking and animal and drug smuggling is strongly resisted.

The focus should be on all issues of concern in this vital corridor. The BSF must be further empowered. The BSF also has the legal sanction to check border-related crimes within 50 km of the IB and this should be done with blazing publicity.

Deterrence and signalling are clear indicators of intent. The army units in the region must carry out public training exercises near the border to give a clear message. This should be done in concert with the BSF. It will be a morale booster for the forces.

Above all, our intelligence agencies need to get their act together, with an ear to the ground. Intelligence failures have often led to initial debacles, leading to blame game. This can be obviated by adopting a thoroughly professional approach in this aspect.

The Bangladesh situation's possible fallout in the most sensitive part of India must be taken in all seriousness. It cannot be left to the ambiguous and non-tangible confabulations of diplomacy alone. Indian hard power has to be in clear display to protect safety and deter any kind of threat, especially non-conventional threat.

Bharat Vikas Parishad distributed 1L biscuit packets to bathers

Prayagraj: In Maha Kumbh 2025, Bharat Vikas Parishad distributed 100000 biscuit packets to the devotees walking from far and wide to reach Sangam at Medical College Square. Even at the end of Kumbh Mela, a huge crowd of people are walking with enthusiasm, hungry and thirsty, in their own tune, with a single purpose. Many small children and elderly women are also walking with them. Dedicated to the nation, Bharat Vikas Parishad did service work with a spirit of service. In which, provincial president Anupchand Jain, Arun Jaiswal, Nisha Jaiswal, Sunil Dhawan, Triveni branch president A.S. Darbari, secretary Kanhaiya ji Agarwal, Lalu Mittal, Rakesh Kumar Goyal, K.K. Srivastava, Asim Mukherjee, Anoop Singh etc. were prominently present. Lalu Mittal said that one lakh biscuit packets were distributed in front of the huge crowd.



DM-SSP inspected Jarasandha's fort

Praised the work of EO and gave instructions to remove illegal encroachments.

REPORT PRAVENDRA VASHISHTHA

Jalesar/Etah: On Saturday, District Magistrate Premranjan Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shyamnarayan Singh inspected the dilapidated fort of King Jarasandh situated between the police station and the Municipal Council offices. During the inspection, both the officers appreciated the construction work being done for the protection of the fort by the Executive Officer of the Municipal Council Pradyumna Kumar. Along with this, the SDM, CO, EO and Kotwali Inspector incharge were directed to immediately remove the illegal encroachments on the government land of the Municipal Council. The DM also



expressed strong displeasure over the illegal encroachments being done by cutting the ditch of the fort. EO Pradyumna Kumar said that the Municipal Administration has said that action will be taken soon against those who have done the illegal encroachment. During this - SDM Bhavna Vimal, CO Nitish Kumar, EO Pradyumna Kumar, Kotwali Inspector in-charge Sudhir Kumar Raghav, SFI Mahesh Yadav and many other officers were present.

Jain saints gave a big message on Panch Kalyanak Prana Pratishtha Mahotsav

Digambar Jain Acharya gave a big message to the world about non-violence and peace

Mumbai Shrikesh Choubey: Before Borivali Panch Kalyanak Prana Pratishtha Mahotsav, Param Pujya Acharya 108 Shri Vishuddha Sagar Ji Maharaj Saheb and Param Pujya Bhaktaambar Baba Dr. Acharya Shri 108 Pranam Sagar Ji Maharaj Saheb gave the message of non-violence and peace to all the citizens of the world including Mumbai through media.

When asked about Digambar Jain Gurus, Acharya Ji said that the work of Digambar Jain saints is to do the welfare of people through sacrifice and penance. Digambar Jain saints, after sacrificing everything, even the clothes of their body, work for the welfare of the people. A grand Panch Kalyanak Prana Pratishtha Mahotsav program was organized at Teen Murti Jain Temple, Borivali East Magathane Poladpur. On this occasion, a large number of devotees attended and took the benefit of seeing the national saints. This information was given by senior social worker Bharatbhai Shah.

Pre-wedding: Haldi-Mehndi ceremony of 11 disabled girls held

PRESENTATION OF MUSICAL EVENING PROG MESMERIZES THE GATHERING

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: On Saturday, the Haldi and Mehndi ceremony of the marriage of 11 handicapped girls, to be held tomorrow on Sunday, at the Rajarshi Tandon Seva Kendra, Bank Road, was held under the chairmanship of the National President of Lok Sevak Mandal, Mr. Rajkumar Chopra, and the lamp lighting was done by the chief guest, Mrs. Jamnotri Gupta and the wife of Honorable Justice Mr. Vipin Dixit, Mrs. Kanti Dixit, Dr. Bina Singh. In the program, well-known dignitaries of the city along with social workers and eminent women of the city gifted eleven girls by applying turmeric and henna with their own hands.

Addressing the program, National President of Lok Sevak Mandal, Shri Rajkumar Chopra said that the work being done for the handicapped is a meaningful initiative to integrate them into the mainstream of society for the last several years. Senior social worker Shri Yogesh Kumar Shukla said that Prayagraj has just hoisted the flag of Sanatan Dharma on the world stage and this type of event is a part of it, which is showing the tenacity and sensitivity of the organizer Shri Narayan Yadav. The programme was conducted by social worker and educationist Brahmaprakash Tiwari and the vote of thanks was given by senior social worker and employee leader Ravishankar Mishra.

In the evening program, a kavi sammelan was organized in the name of the handicapped in which the national poet Javed Siddiqui recited along with other poets - No one should come and kiss your hands,



Till then how about applying mehendi on hands... got lots of accolades. The above information was given by senior social worker and employee leader Ravi Shankar Mishra. People who helped in the program include Mrs. Subhash Rathi, Mrs. Dr. Bina Singh, Mrs. Kavita Tripathi Yadav, Dr. Sweety Maurya, Mrs. Premlata Shukla, Mrs. Rashmi Poddar, Mrs. Madhu Yadav, Ms. Anuradha, Shikha, Dr. Sudha Pandey, Mrs. Anita Pandey, Ghanshyam Master, Bhagat Singh, Anant Kumar Chaudhary, Lavlesh Singh, Deep Chand, Sunita Jaiswal, Padma, Farida Parveen, Rinku Yadav, Rahul Banerjee, Hina Khan, Saadab Khan, Arpit Prajapati, Sujit Prajapati, Irshad Ahmed etc.

Science fair organized at School No. 62, Patherli Municipal Corporation on the occasion of National Science Day!

Mumbai Shrikesh Choubey: Under the guidance of Deputy Education Commissioner Sanjay Jadhav, Administrative Officer Ramesh Chavan and Education Officer Vijay Sarkate, Apoorva Vigyan Mela was organized yesterday at Acharya Bhise Guruji Vidyalaya, School No. 62, Patherli, Kalyan Dombivali Municipal Corporation on the occasion of National Science Day. All the students of class 1 to 8 of the school participated enthusiastically in this unique science fair. Students of class 1 to 4 presented various experiments related to science in their daily life.

Students of class 5 to 8 explained various science concepts and terms using various science replicas in the interactive science lab provided to their school by Gharda Chemicals Company under its CSR initiative. All the students participated with great enthusiasm in this extraordinary science fair and expressed their respect to Sir Dr. C.V. Raman.

MLA Sulabha Gaikwad discussed pending development projects with the commissioner

Mumbai Shrikesh Choubey:-MLA Sulabha Gaikwad held an important meeting with Kalyan-Dombivali Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Indurani Jakhad in which pending development projects of Kalyan East constituency and immediate problems of citizens were discussed in detail. In the meeting, priority was given to major issues like U-type road (Tisgaon Naka to Katemanivali Naka), water supply crisis, action on illegal construction, establishment of Shiva Memorial, and cleaning of water sources. The commissioner directed to take immediate measures to solve the problem of water supply in areas like Chinchpada, Ashele, Dwarli, Manere, Nandivali and Vasar, as well as strict action against unauthorized constructions and to take forward the proposal of construction of modern hospital and sports complex near 100 feet road. In the meeting, clear instructions were given to the administration to take strict legal action against those stealing water, immediate demolition of illegal constructions, and strict punitive action against irresponsible officials. The positive results of this review meeting will soon accelerate the development work and solve the problems of the citizens.

Moon sighted, first fast today, Tarawih begins

IRSHAD ULLAH EXTENDS GREETING

Prayagraj: Heartiest greetings of the holy month of Ramadan to all the citizens of the city. May this month bring happiness, peace and blessings to all of you. The month of Ramadan is a symbol of worship, patience and brotherhood. In this month, let us all help the needy and live with love and harmony with each other. Irshad Ullah

In Islam, all festivals are decided on the basis of moon. So, regarding Ramzan, the organizations of Shia and Sunni community have confirmed the sighting of moon. After the sighting and announcement of moon, the holy month of Ramzan was welcomed by bursting crackers in Muslim dominated areas, while the people also got a glimpse of the beginning of the month of Ramzan and becoming spiritually pure. According to Syed Mohammad Askari, General Secretary of Ummul Baneen Society, the moon was sighted in Gulf countries on Friday, the first fast of the month of Ramzan was on Saturday.

In India, the moon was sighted in most of the places on Saturday, so the first fast of the holy month will be on Sunday. Regarding the fast, the timetable of Sehri and Iftar has been issued by the religious organizations. Central Moon Committee and all the religious gurus announced the sighting of moon on Saturday 30th Shaban late in the evening. Shia religious leader Maulana Jawadul Haider Rizvi said that in the holy month of Ramzan, people should pray a lot, recite the holy Quran and pray for the welfare of every Muslim during the fast-



ing period, and earn Sawab-e-Jaria by helping the needy people around them in every possible way. He said that this is the holy month in which Allah has ordered to keep the devil in captivity, so do as many good deeds as possible and gain acceptance in the court of Allah, recite Tauba and Istighfar. Maulana Shamsher Azam of Dayra Shah Ajmal Khanqah said that Taraweeh started with the sighting of the moon. From Janamaz to Wuzu arrangements have been completed for the Rozadars and Namazis.

Mutawalli of Masjid Qazi Sahab Bakshi Bazaar Shahrukh Qazi told that to ensure that the Namazis do not face any difficulties, thick carpets, Janamaz, Tasbih, Sijdgah along with lights, water and fans and coolers have been arranged in the mosque. On the other hand, with the announcement of moon, the Sunni community started the special Namaz of Taraweeh after Isha Namaz which continued till late night in the court of God.

BJP workers' felicitation ceremony today

Prayagraj: BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar will organize a ceremony to honor and felicitate workers on March 2 at 4:00 pm in the BJP office Civil Lines. Mahanagar President Rajendra Mishra said that the Bharatiya Janata Party will honor and reward those workers who have served the devotees under the Kumbh Mela by organizing night shelters, Prasad Bhandara, medical camps, mobile charging centers, free vehicle services, devotee welcome camp through BJP Seva Civil.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra Free Health Checkup Camp will be organized on 2nd March at 11:00 am in Manfordganj

Marriage of 11 Divyang girls today



Prayagraj: Marriage of 11 Divyang girls by Anam Sneh Parivar on 2nd March 2025 at 12:00 noon. Event Venue - Rajarshi Tandon Seva Kendra Bank Road Prayagraj, informed Ravi Shankar Mishra, Employee leader/Media incharge Anam Sneh.

Graduation & Lamp Lighting Ceremony at Nazareth Hospital School of Nursing today

Prayagraj: Graduation Ceremony of the 31st Batch of Final year Nurses and the Lamp Lighting Ceremony of the 35th Batch of 1st year Nursing Students will be organised on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. in the Nazareth Hospital School of Nursing Premises. Chief guest Justice MANJU RANI CHAUHAN, Allahabad High Court, President Most Rev. LOUIS MASCARENHAS Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Allahabad Chairman, Nazareth Hospital Society, guest of honour Rev. Fr. ROYAL ANTHONY, Education Director, Diocese of Bareilly, Principal, Bishop Conrad Senior Secondary School, Bareilly will grace the occasion with their august presence.

Media personnel honoured with "Mahakumbh ki Shaan" award

Prayagraj: After the successful completion of Mahakumbh 2025, a grand program was organized by Kashish Media in the auditorium of Kumbh Mela Media Center established in Sangam city Mahakumbh Nagar in honor of media personnel, in which all the media personnel of Prayagraj were honored with "Mahakumbh Ki Shaan" for their excellent writing in Mahakumbh. At the same time, after the program, everyone showed their participation in the feast and left after thanking each other. Let us tell you that more devotees than expected registered their presence in the world's largest Mahakumbh 2025 of faith organized in Prayagraj, while whether it was day or cold night, the media personnel of the city did the work of reporting every area with great diligence and reaching every news related to Mahakumbh to the people living in the country and abroad without any discrimination through print and electronic media. To honor the people, Kashish Media organized Journalist Meet and Kumbh Ko Shaan Samman in the huge auditorium of the Media Center established in the Mahakumbh area. The function was held with great pomp in the auditorium where hundreds of journalists had gathered. Mayor of Prayagraj Ganesh Chand Kesarwani was present as the chief guest in the function who felicitated the journalists on the stage. Among the speakers present on the stage were the convener of the Electric Media Club and senior journalist of ANI Virendra Pathak, senior journalist Sudhir Sinha, Kundan Srivastava, Anupam Shukla, District Information Officer Indramani Pandey, former District Information Officer J.N. Yadav, R.N. Singh. They described it as memorable and shared their experiences of the Maha Kumbh. While sharing his experiences, the chief guest, Mayor Ganesh Chand Kesarwani said that such a huge event was completed smoothly, which will be considered as the mercy of Maa Ganga, Yamuna and Maa Saraswati ji, Nagar Devta, Kotwal of the city, in which the commendable role of journalists cannot be denied.

Concern grows over traffic chaos in Dombivali, demand to restore towing van service

Dombivali, March 1 - Shrikesh Choubey: In view of the increasing problem of traffic chaos and illegal parking in Dombivali city, local citizens and public representatives have demanded the Police Commissioner to immediately restore the towing van service. Former corporator Shailesh Rameshchandra Dhatrak wrote a letter to the Police Commissioner expressing concern on this subject and said that due to the closure of this service for the last 83 days, chaos has increased in the traffic of the city.



Problems increasing due to illegal parking: In the absence of towing van service, incidents of illegal parking have increased in Dombivali East and West, causing great inconvenience to citizens, senior citizens, women and students. Due to this, the problem of traffic jam is becoming serious, especially in the railway station and major market areas.

Service stopped after four days: The towing van service was started in the city on February 1, 2025, but just four days later, on February 4, it was stopped again. The reasons behind this have not been clarified, due to which resentment is increasing among the common people.

Accusation of ignoring the administration: Former corporator Shailesh Dhatrak and his wife Manisha Dhatrak discussed this matter with senior officials and the traffic department, but they did not get a satisfactory answer. He expressed apprehension that the administration is not ignoring this matter or this service has been kept closed under some pressure.

Public demand - Action should be taken soon: Taking this problem seriously, the local citizens have demanded from the administration that the towing van service should be restored immediately to solve the problem of traffic control and disorderly parking. It is expected that the police administration will soon take action on this subject so that the traffic system in the city can be smooth.

Public outrage due to delay in action over complaints against retired Lekhpal

Why are Chief Minister's orders not being followed? | It is necessary to check land records before 1980

Bhadohi, Gyanpur: Dozens of complaint letters have been sent against the famous land mafia retired accountant Kamla Shankar Mishra of Gyanpur tehsil. But why is no action being taken? This is raising questions on the working style of the tehsil administration.

Despite Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's instructions to take strict action against land mafias, the reign of terror of land mafias is becoming more dreadful than before in Gyanpur tehsil. The gang of retired accountant Kamla Shankar Mishra and his associates have spread terror in Gyanpur tehsil. These people capture the land of the farmer they want by manipulating the government records. The people of this gang have captured the lands of many farmers. But due to the tehsil administration not taking any action against this land mafia, there is a lot of anger among the people. The local public says that retired accountant Kamla Shankar Mishra is an active member of the gang of the famous mafia don of the state.

Earlier he had only 10 Biswas of land. Today he has become the owner of 20 bighas of land. Since the time he joined the mafia gang, he has created a huge empire of black money by occupying the land of farmers and on the strength of that black money, he is making everyone dance to his tune.

These people got a fake affidavit made in the name of the disabled Dalit Mallu of the area and occupied the land of the poor man. Complaints of this illegal occupation were made to the Chief Minister, DM and SDM but instead of taking action on the complaint letters, these people are not



conducting a fair investigation nor are they getting the old records of the land.

People say that if the complete Khasra Khatauni of land revenue and land records before 1980 is collected and investigated, it will automatically be proved that how land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra, with the help of his associates, transferred the land of so many people from one place to another. The people of this gang work in a very cunning manner. First they identify simple farmers. After identifying the land of those farmers, they get fake records prepared in the tehsil and after preparing fake records, they occupy the land of innocent farmers with the help of their goons. If someone opposes them, they threaten to kill him. By intimidating him, they stop him from complaining.

The case of Divyang Dalit Mallu in Gyanpur Tehsil has been a topic of discussion for the last several years. On one hand, the government says that the poor will get justice. But when will Divyang Dalit Mallu get justice? There is no one to tell this! Divyang Dalit Mallu met the District Magistrate of Bhadohi several times and submitted complaint letters and also gave all the evidence to the officials. But till now neither the government land has been vacated from the possession of the land mafia nor the possession of the former Lekhpal on the land of Divyang Dalit Mallu has been removed. People say that illegal possession has been made on people's lands by manipulating the records. If the records of the land of the land mafia before 1980 and today's record are matched regarding that possession, then this fake promise will be revealed automatically.

Not only this, Kamla Shankar Mishra has illegally occupied the land of Gram Samaj Panchayat Bhawan and public roads and built a very big building. He has got recognition for four schools from the address of this building. The land should be registered in the name of the schools for which he has got recognition. But there is no registration of any land. He has also got the recognition wrongly by committing fraud with the officials of the Education Department. Due to this, Gyanpur Tehsil has become a den of corruption. Here people's land is being transferred from here to there through corruption. Gyanpur Tehsil administration was informed about all these incidents many times. But till now no action has been taken against land mafia Kamla Shankar, due to which people are losing faith in the Tehsil administration. People say that till the District Magistrate Bhadohi does not take strict action in this matter, the victims will not get justice. The victims say that if they do not get justice soon, they will go and protest in front of the Chief Minister's residence. The image of the Yogi government is being tarnished due to the corrupt activities of land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra and his associates. On one hand, Yogi is giving instructions to run a campaign against land mafias. But his instructions are not being followed in Gyanpur tehsil. Contrary to the orders of the Chief Minister, the rule of mafia kingpin Kamla Shankar Mishra is going on in Gyanpur tehsil. Whatever he wants, that work is done in the tehsil. Shifting people's land from here to there and then occupying it is a child's play for him. Due to this, there is an outcry among the public. People are upset. People of the area are very sad. But due to no meaningful action being taken by the Pargana Officer Gyanpur against retired Lekhpal Kamla Shankar Mishra, the rule of criminals has been established in Gyanpur tehsil.

Sanatan only global religion and rest are sects: Ram Ratan Das Ji Maharaj

Lord Shani Dev inspires us to follow path of religion: Dr Sushil Sinha

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: Today, in the famous Shri Chitragupta Dham complex located in Prayagraj Civil Lines, under the guidance of Shivanand Saraswati, the Pran Pratishtha of the beautiful idol of Lord Shani Dev was done with full grandeur with rituals and Vedic mantras. The worship, archana and aarti were performed with full devotion by the chief host Trust's President Dr Sushil Sinha and his wife Dr Ritu Sinha. Thereafter, the procession was completed with full decoration, DJ, band music and devotees singing beautiful bhajans and dancing. All Shani devotees also took food prasad.



The procession was inaugurated by the most revered Ram Ratan Das ji Falahari Baba by showing the flag and in his speech while addressing the devotees, he said that in the whole world, Sanatan is the only religion and the rest are paths, a vivid example of this is the Maha Kumbh held in Prayagraj. He termed the people who had evil eyes on the Maha Kumbh and those who made baseless statements as demons.

He said that we all are believers of Sanatan whose fame is going to spread all over the world. Dr Sushil Sinha, President of Kayastha Pathshala Trust, while addressing the devotees said that Lord Shani Dev, son of Lord Surya and Chhaya Ji, is the God of justice and inspires people to follow the path of religion and he loves truth a lot. Lord Shani Dev was also said to be the God who gets pleased quickly by the worship and prayers of his devotees. On the said occasion, General Secretary Veer Krishna Srivastava, Vice President Yogendra Srivastava, Gopi Krishna Srivastava, Praveen Srivastava, Arun Srivastava, Dr. Rituraj Srivastava, Akhilesh Srivastava, Spokesperson Pawan Srivastava, Kalpana Srivastava, Anuradha Srivastava, Aparna Srivastava, Anita Srivastava, Shobha Srivastava, Anupam Srivastava, Shubhendu Srivastava, Manish Srivastava, Neeraj Srivastava, Ratan Khare and many devotees were present.

Mahakumbh infra to stay up and running till Ardh Kumbh

Prayagraj: The 45-day Mahakumbh 2025, the biggest religious gathering on the globe of over 66 crore devotees, may have concluded last month, however, the show will continue, welcoming tourists from across the globe, be it the water laser show or the facade lighting of six prominent points in the city, including four ancient temples. With an eye on the 2031 Kumbh Mela or Ardh Kumbh, the state government has a five-year agreement with private agencies providing the service. For example, the facade lighting of six prominent points in the city, installed with a budget of ?25 crore before Mahakumbh 2025, will continue to remain illuminated for the next five years till next mela. Also the contract of water laser show at Kaali Ghat on the banks of Yamuna, established at a cost of ?21 crore, will continue non-stop between 7pm and 7.45pm, till the commencement of the next 2031 Kumbh Mela. Further, sources in the department of tourism informed that the state government was planning to develop the riverfront area around Boat Club, located near Akbar's Fort at Sangam till Ardh Kumbh 2031, the blueprint of which was soon to be prepared and forwarded to state government by Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA).

DJVM Receives Third World Record Recognition from Int'l Book of Records

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: After achieving two historic world records at Prayagraj, Mahakumbh 2025, Divya Jyoti Ved Mandir (DJVM) has now been honored with its third world record recognition. On February 26, 2025, the International Book of Records officially awarded DJVM for its monumental achievement. The award ceremony took place in Nurmahal, Punjab, where official adjudicators from the International Book of Records Mr. Pankaj Vij and Mrs. Preeti Vij, presented the honor to DJVM representatives-Sadhvi Deepa Bharti Ji, Sadhvi Bhakti Priya Bharti Ji, along with Brahm Gyani Ved Pathi-s.



Divya Jyoti Ved Mandir, set a record for organizing the Largest Rudri Path Relay by Vedic Scholars. From January 14, 2025 to February 16, 2025, many Vedic scholars came together for a RudriPath relay named 'The Akhand RudriPath Maha Divya Anushthanam: A Triveni Sangam of Dharma, Science, and Culture', organised in the Mahakumbh, 2025, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

In this uninterrupted chanting ritual, a total of 26,42,409 mantras were chanted for a total of 794 Hours and 33 days, encompassing 11,151 Rudri Path Renditions. Aligning with the UN-SDGs and the objectives of India's Ministry of AYUSH, the chants promoted environmental purification and mental well-being, as confirmed on February 16, 2025.

With this, DJVM has successfully completed its world record attempt and secured three prestigious world record recognitions- one from the Asia Book of Records, second from the India Book of Records, and now, the third from the International Book of Records. This milestone reaffirms DJVM's commitment to preserving and promoting the Vedic heritage on a global scale.

Robin Hood Army reaches out to devotee from Assam

His leg was cut off by train at Prayagraj Junction

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: Ayan Dutta, 14 years old, who came from Assam, after taking bath in Prayagraj Sangam Mahakumbh with his mother, maternal aunt, while boarding the train from Prayagraj Junction to Assam, slipped and got hit by the train. He was immediately admitted to Swaroop Rani Hospital by the Robin Hood Army and Railway Police and doctors. After the incident, Ayan's maternal uncle contacted Prayagraj Robin Hood Army City Ramp Gaurav Yadav. In connection with the incident, Gaurav, Nishita Singh, Shubham Singh, Saurabh Tiwari, Avnish Pandey, Abhilash Kesarwani (Kranti) of Robin Hood Army formed a team and immediately reached Swaroop Rani Hospital, met Ayan's family, donated blood to them and assured them of all possible help.



ICSE schools suffering salary crunch, teachers' rage on boil

Salary crisis in Mary Lucas School & College, Jamuna Basic School Gau Ghat and BISHOP JOHNSON SCHOOL & COLLEGE

UJALA SHIKHAR

Prayagraj: Bishop Johnson School is experiencing a wage issue, and teachers are outraged. Yamuna Basic School, located in Gau Ghat, is experiencing a wage difficulty. Mary Lucas School & College is likewise dealing with a wage dilemma. Even in the Diocese of Lucknow institution, class IV employees' outstanding salary of almost 24 months has not been paid. When asked, they respond that payment will not be provided until the NCLT court is opened. The court accepts all contributions, but the employees are hoping for a raise and their delayed wages. Employees of the Diocese of Lucknow and the LDTA institution are paid below the minimum wage. Medical facilities are not available to Class IV personnel. Employee wages have money withheld from them. Where should the workers file complaints?

Teachers at MG Marg Civil Lines schools and colleges are always battling



with a wage dilemma. The instructors stated that not receiving a wage for several months has made it difficult for them to support their families. Furthermore, several instructors at the school are continually accusing the principal and the management of financial misappropriation, while the school administration is wiping its hands of these charges while refusing to reveal where and how the school fees were spent. On the other side, several employees have claimed that wages are being given to those close to the Principal through backdoor. Teachers are outraged over the non-payment of their salary.

Retired teachers and principals from the Diocese of Lucknow Church of North India Allahabad High School Society exacerbate the situation. On the one hand, there is a lack of funding in schools; on the other hand, many instructors in such institutions have retired years ago but are being offered consecutive extensions due to their proximity to the principal and administration.

Such instructors' salaries are also far greater than those of other teachers, despite the fact that Christian students are walking from door to door in search of work, but the sycophantic officers refuse to change their attitude. These schools are afflicted by a financial dilemma of unpaid pay. Even during Holi, instructors and fourth-class laborers roam about looking for their wages.

Day-3 of UP Board exams: 10 FIRs, 5 impersonators caught, 1.81L skip

Prayagraj: The third day of the UP Board exams witnessed strict action against unfair practices, with 10 FIRs lodged, including five against individuals caught impersonating registered candidates. Meanwhile, over 1.81 lakh students were absent across both shifts of the High School and Intermediate exams. On Saturday, High School students appeared for the mathematics exam in the first shift, while Intermediate students took their vocational course exams. In the second shift, High School students had exams in automobile and commerce, whereas Intermediate students appeared for civics. The exams were conducted across 8,140 centres. Of the 24,54,536 students registered for these exams, 18,52,425 took the first shift, and 4,20,436 appeared in the second. However, 1,81,675 students remained absent, with 1,54,755 missing the first shift and 26,920 absent in the second. During a surprise inspection at RK Yaduvanshi Inter College in Prayagraj, a suspected individual with a laptop was found near the examination centre. To ensure fair conduct, the Board replaced the existing centre superintendent, external superintendent, and static magistrate. An FIR was filed against three unidentified individuals at Nawabganj police station. The Board reported a total of 10 FIRs on Saturday, five of which were against fake examinees. With these, the total number of FIRs filed so far against unfair practices in the ongoing exams has reached 24.

Kumbh service became national service for one & all: Ex-MP Joshi

Workers engaged in Kumbh Seva work honoured

Prayagraj: Felicitation ceremony organized by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi Seva Samiti in office of Councilor Ashish Dwivedi in George Town. On this occasion, Chief Guest of the program, outgoing MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi honored all the workers engaged in the service work of the Kumbh Mela and said that the service work done for the devotees coming to the Kumbh Mela area through the service project under the leadership of the Committee's Chairman Anil Bhatt was commendable. She said that the divine and grand digital Mahakumbh Mela organized under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath established Prayagraj as a world form and was decorated and beautified in accordance with the dignity and glory of Prayagraj and said that 66 crore people took a dip in the Sangam and the people of Prayagraj served them. In fact, the Kumbh service of the people became a unique example of national service. On this occasion, Dr. LS Ojha and Rajesh



Kesarwani praised the service work done by the workers. While presiding, the Committee Chairman Anil Bhatt said that with the inspiration of former Union Minister Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, service was done for the devotees who came to the Kumbh Mela area. On this occasion, he welcomed the religious, social, business, committee and BJP workers engaged in the Kumbh service by showering flowers, wearing Ang Vastram and giving certificates.

Test of bench, trial against spin

Already in Champions Trophy SF, India, NZ face off in final Group stage contest

New Delhi (Agency): Having secured their places in the ICC Champions Trophy semifinals after registering comprehensive victories in their opening two Group Stage matches, India and New Zealand will lock horns in what has now turned into a rather inconsequential contest at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Keeping that in mind, both teams are expected to field their second-line players in order to test their bench strength against quality spin-bowling. A win in their last league match will help India top the Group A. But that position hardly matters as they are set to face either Australia or most likely South Africa in the last four, and both of them have handy spin units at their disposal.

The Indians have not been really comfortable against spin despite two victories thus far in the event, and New Zealand, boasting of wily customers in Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell, alongside the part-time off-spin of Glenn Phillips, could offer them a tough challenge.

The star Indian batters were focusing more on playing out Bangladesh spinners Mehidy Hasan Miraz (0/37) and Rishad Hossain (2/38) without taking risks, and they followed the same approach against Pakistan leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed (1/28).

The memories of facing Santner and Phillips in the Test series at home late last year, which they lost 0-3 could haunt the Men-in-Blue but the top order, comprising the likes of Shubman Gill, India's standout batter in ODIs of late, batting icon Virat Kohli, who made a morale-boosting 100 against Pakistan, Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul, have been a well-oiled unit and will be expected to tackle spin well in familiar territory.

Given that the pitches in Dubai are tired after the venue hosted the ILT20 recently, spin bowlers have had the upper hand during India's both outings against Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The selection of five spinners — Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy, Washington Sundar — did raise a few eyebrows in the lead-up to the event, but the nature of the wickets vindicated the selection call to a large extent.



The three tweakers India employed so far — Jadeja, Axar and Kuldeep — have bowled as per the conditions, making it tough for their opponents. The trio has managed to keep the opposition batters in check in the middle overs, as none of them have given in excess of five runs per over in this event. Against Pakistan, Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel managed to put up an 100-plus stand but were never able to accelerate between the 11th and 34th over — a phase when Indian spinners applied the brakes remarkably well. But they might just face a different scenario against New Zealand as batters such as Kane Williamson, Will Young, Tom Latham, Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra are excellent against spin.

Rest for Rohit, Shami?

With the outcome of the contest having no real impact in the tournament, India will be tempted to give skipper Rohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami some more time to hit the peak ahead of the semifinals.

Rohit had experienced some discomfort during the match against Pakistan and stayed away from the field for some 20 minutes before returning. He batted too without any obvious struggle.

There will also be discussion on resting Mohammed Shami because he had struggled with his calf during the match against Pakistan, and thus could be given an extended recovery break ahead of the semis on March 4.

In the scenario of Rohit missing the game, vice-captain Shubman Gill will be leading the Indian team in an ODI for the first time in his career. In Rohit's absence, Rishabh Pant could get his first match of the tournament, while Arshdeep Singh could come in for Shami, and the in-form Chakravarthy might replace Kuldeep as he is also coming off an injury lay-off.

Squads:

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakaravarthy

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (c), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Kane Williamson, Will Young, Jacob Duffy.

WPL: Shafali, Jess shine as Delhi Capitals reach playoffs, RCB handed fourth successive loss

Bengaluru (Agency): Exceptional knocks by Shafali Varma and Jess Jonnasen and fantastic spells from Shikha Pandey and Marizanne Kapp pushed Delhi Capitals to a nine-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in their Women's Premier League (WPL) match at Bengaluru on Saturday, earning them a place in playoffs. RCB ended their home run in the WPL without any win, having lost all four of their matches successively, which has made their race to playoffs tougher. DC is at the top, with five wins in seven matches, giving them 10 points. After being put to field first, RCB lost their skipper Smriti Mandhana early for eight. Partnerships followed between Danni Wyatt-Hodge (21 in 18 balls, with three fours and a six) and Ellyse Perry (60* in 47 balls, with three fours and three sixes) a 44-run stand, and a 66-run stand between Perry and Raghvi Bist (33 In 32 balls, with two sixes), but RCB could make just 147/5 in their 20 overs.



Kapp (1/18 in four overs), Shikha (2/24 in four overs) and Shree Charani (2/28 in four overs) restricted RCB well. What followed later was an onslaught RCB did not see coming. After Renuka Singh got skipper Meg Lanning early for two, Shafali (80* in 43 balls, with six fours and four sixes) and Jess (61* in 38 balls, with nine fours and a six) unleashed a barrage of hits in their 146-run unbeaten stand, winning the game with 27 balls left. While DC has arrived to playoffs, RCB can redeem themselves with a win against UP Warriorz on March 8 and Mumbai Indians (MI) in their final league stage game on March 10 at Lucknow.

IML: Rahul's hat-trick inspires India Masters to 8-wicket win against South Africa Masters

Vadodara (Agency): The Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) Stadium in Vadodara -- the venue of the second leg of the inaugural International Masters League 2025- played host to India's spin domination, headlined by a historic hat-trick from leg-spinner Rahul Sharma that helped India Masters convincingly beat South Africa Masters by eight wickets.

Beyond the nostalgia, one thing remained unchanged -- the competitive fire refused to fade. The reflexes may not be as quick, but the desire to win burns just as fiercely. Every run, every wicket, every dive carried the same passion that once enthralled millions. And with the iconic Sir Vivian Richards in attendance, it turned out to be a special evening for the jam-packed crowd.

While age may have caught up, but the spirit of battle never will. The rivalries were renewed, the passion was intact, as Saturday's proceedings began with Sachin Tendulkar electing to bowl, and his spin bowlers taking full advantage of the conditions to restrict a strong South Africa Masters line-up to a meagre 85 in less than 14 overs.

In anticipation of the God of Cricket, Tendulkar, coming out to lead India's run-chase of 86, the stadium was filled to capacity, cheering every shot from the batting genius's blade, even as South Africa Masters' skipper Kallis chose to open the bowling with his spinners. The move paid off as off-spinner Thandi Tshabalala dismissed the master blaster with a rather simple caught-and-bowled chance to silence the crowd.

After Tendulkar's departure, fellow opener Ambati Rayudu took charge of the chase in the company of Irfan Pathan (12), who was promoted up the order to take the spinners to task. The ploy worked for a while, with Pathan playing a couple of sweetly-timed boundaries before an attempted hoick off leg-spinner Eddie Leie saw him taking the long route back to the dressing room.

With India in a spot of bother at 27/2 inside the powerplay, Pawan Negi found himself elevated to No.4, and showed his batting prowess with a couple of boundaries and a six, as he combined with Rayudu for an unbeaten 62-run stand to put India over the line with 9 overs to spare. Rayudu remained unbeaten on a 34-ball 41, with the right-hander finding the fence on seven occasions.

Earlier, playing his first match of the tournament, wrist spinner Rahul was employed as early as the third over of the mandatory powerplay to contain the onslaught from the South African opening combo of Hashim Amla and Henry Davids, who gave the visitors a blistering 35-run start.

After warming up with a decent first over, Rahul accounted for the wickets of Amla (9), Kallis and Jacques Rudolph off the first three balls of his second over to not only apply the brakes on the scoring but also expose the South Africans' vulnerability against quality spin.

Rahul received great assistance from the other end, with left-arm spinner Pawan Negi trapping Farhaan Behardien before packing back the only South African batter to offer some resistance -- Davids, who top-scored for the side with a 28-ball 38, powered by four boundaries and a six.

Reduced to 63/5, South Africa Masters needed some solidity in the middle but India Masters skipper Tendulkar smartly used the spin-friendly conditions by throwing the ball to Yuvraj Singh, who responded to the faith shown on him with the wickets of Vernon Philander and Garnett Kruger for golden ducks off successive balls to further dent the visitors.

Yuvraj reminded the South Africans of his spin-bowling masterclass by castling a well-set Dane Vilas for his third wicket of the contest. The wicketkeeper-batter, who stuck a boundary off the previous delivery, perished while attempting another glory shot. Vilas's 15-ball 21 was the only other double-digit score from the tourists on Saturday.

Seam-bowling all-rounder Stuart Binny then completed the formalities in his only over of the day, claiming the wickets of Makhaya Ntini and Eddie Leie.

Karun Nair's dream domestic season continues, levels with VVS Laxman's record

Nagpur (Agency): India and Vidarbha batter Karun Nair's dream domestic season continued as he scored yet another century, his ninth of the season during the Ranji Trophy final against Kerala on Saturday.

Nair ended day four of the Ranji final at 132* in 280 balls, with 10 fours and two sixes. His strike rate was 47.14. His team leads by 286 runs in their second innings and with a day of action left, they have their one hand on the Ranji Trophy already.



His nine centuries (in 30 innings) are tied with legendary Indian batter VVS Laxman (nine centuries in 22 innings in 1999-2000) as second-highest number of centuries in a domestic season, with iconic Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar (10 centuries in 30 innings in 1994-95 season) at the top.

During the ongoing Ranji season, Nair is the fourth-highest run-getter with 860 runs in nine matches and 16 innings at an average of 57.33, with four centuries and two fifties and a best score of 132*. He has a chance to overtake his teammate Yash Rathod (960 runs in 10 innings with five centuries), who is the top-run-getter in the tournament.

A massive highlight of his season was the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day tournament, where he top-scored with 779 runs in nine matches and eight innings at a stunning average of 389.50 and a strike rate of 124.04, with five centuries and a fifty and best score of 163*. He played a massive role in his team's run to the finals, where they lost to his former team, Karnataka.

In the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 competition, Nair made 255 runs in six innings, averaging 42.50 at a strike rate of 177.08, with three half-centuries and the best score of 77. Overall, in 24 matches and 30 innings, Nair has scored 1,894 runs at an average of 82.34, with nine centuries and six fifties and the best score of 163* during this domestic season. This strong performance has re-ignited hopes for an India call-up for Nair, who last played for India in 2017. Nair was the only Test triple centurion for India after legendary opener Virender Sehwag.

ISL: Mumbai City hold Mohun Bagan Super Giant to 2-2 draw

Mumbai (Agency): Mumbai City FC drew 2-2 against Mohun Bagan Super Giant at the Mumbai Football Arena in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 on Saturday. The Islanders moved to 33 points from 22 games as a consequence of this comeback and are now one point away from qualifying for the playoffs.

There were a spate of chances created in the opening half hour by the Mariners, with players from Jamie Maclaren to Deepak Tangri taking the onus in the final third to discover openings past the Mumbai City FC defence. The Islanders whisked past a couple of close calls before Maclaren provided another testament of his finishing instinct with a precise and powerful finish with his right foot into the bottom left corner from the centre of the box. The forward lapped upon a loose ball and dispatched it past a crowded home side defensive third to bag the breakthrough in the 32nd minute. The visitors kept probing the Islanders in a similar way as the might of their offensive strength came together to function cohesively and push Petr Kratky's men further behind on the field. Mumbai City FC arguably missed the composed presence of Mehtab Singh at the heart of the backline as Dimitrios Petratos made them pay for the lack of organisation with a stunning strike from inside the 18-yard area with his right foot into the centre of the net to double the lead in the 41st minute.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant disrupted the neat rhythm through which the Islanders often build up their offensive endeavours, and their clinical finishing ensured that they headed into the break with a two-goal advantage.

To their credit, Mumbai City FC were successful in regaining their footing in the opening phase of the second half. Brandon Fernandes used his creative acumen to find pockets of space from where he could trouble the Mariners' backline and Liston Colaco, tracking back for defensive duties, conceded a corner in the 57th minute.



Brandon took the kick, and Hmingthanmawia Ralte's right-footed effort from the right side of the box was blocked in time by the Mohun Bagan Super Giant defence. However, indecisive clearance led to Jon Toral getting the ball at very close range in the 57th minute to nudge it into the bottom left corner and cut the deficit to one goal.

The strike provided a spark to the Mumbai City FC unit as they began producing a flurry of chances soon afterwards. Bipin Singh broke into the Mariners' half and served Yoell van Nieff a delivery at the edge of the box, which the midfielder shot firmly only for it to be saved at the top centre of the goal by Vishal Kaith in the 62nd minute.

In some ways, Mumbai City FC embraced the Mohun Bagan Super Giant offensive strategy in the second half. There was a missing sense of cohesiveness in the attacking gameplay, by piling numbers ahead, capitalising on a disarrayed defence, and some efficient finishing ensured that they got something out of the encounter. Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) graduate Nathan Rodrigues, positioned deep inside the six-yard box, similarly headed a second ball into the middle of the net in the 89th minute to eventually eke out a draw.

Champions Trophy: South Africa hammer England by 7 wickets, qualify for semi-finals

Karachi (Agency): Rassie van der Dussen and Heinrich Klaasen smashed commanding fifties after a superb show by the bowlers, led by Marco Jansen, as South Africa secured their place in the Champions Trophy semi-finals after hammering a struggling England by seven wickets in the last Group B match here on Saturday. South Africa first dismissed England for just 179 before comfortably chasing down the target with 20.5 overs to spare. England, already eliminated from the semifinal race, needed a victory by at least 207 runs to give Afghanistan a chance of qualifying for the last-four stage based on net run-rate. However, South Africa quickly quashed any hopes, bundling out their opponents for the lowest total of this edition in just 38.2 overs. Marco Jansen (3/39) shone with the new ball, while Wiaan Mulder (3/25) and Keshav Maharaj (2/35) applied pressure throughout the middle overs, ensuring that South Africa's knockout berth was secured even before the run chase began.

South Africa completed the chase with ease, reaching 181/3 in 29.1 overs, thanks to impressive fifties from Klaasen (64) and van der Dussen (72 not out). Klassen and van der Dussen added 127 runs for the third wicket.

With this victory, South Africa joined Australia in the semi-finals from Group B. The Proteas topped the group with five points from three matches ahead of Australia (4 points).

The semi-final line-up will be confirmed after the final Group A match between India and New Zealand on Sunday. Asked what would be South Africa's plans if they play their semi-final against India in Dubai, stand-in captain Aiden Markram said, "We have to see whether that's the case and what the conditions will be like. We have a big squad to choose from." Chasing 180 for a win, South Africa lost opener Tristan Stubbs (0) early, with Jofra Archer cleaning him up. Ryan Rickelton (27) played a quick-fire knock, smashing five boundaries to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Once Rickelton was dismissed by Archer, van der Dussen and Klaasen settled in and built a vital partnership, taking South Africa closer to the target. Klaasen, returning to action after missing earlier matches due to a soft tissue injury to his left elbow, played an aggressive knock, hitting 11 boundaries in his 56-ball innings. Van der Dussen hit six fours and three maximums during his unfinished innings. Six runs from the target, Klassen was caught by Saqib Mahmood off Adil Rashid (1/37) for a consolation wicket. David Miller then clobbered a six to knock off the winning runs and seal the victory.

In his final game as England's ODI captain, Jos Buttler won the toss and chose to bat, but the decision backfired as Jansen wreaked havoc early, reducing England to 37 for 3 by the seventh over. Opener Phil Salt (8) top-edged a rising Jansen delivery, while Jamie Smith (0) failed to handle a short ball and followed Salt back to the pavilion. Ben Duckett (24) then perished to a caught-and-bowled effort by Jansen, as England's top-order collapsed. Harry Brook (19) and Joe Root (37) attempted a recovery with a 62-run stand, but just when the partnership seemed to gain momentum, South Africa struck twice in quick succession. Brook fell to Maharaj as Jansen took a superb catch in the deep while Root's off-stump was sent cart-wheeling by Mulder. England's woes continued as Liam Livingstone (9) and Jamie Overton (11) quickly fell, leaving the side in disarray at 129-7 in the 26th over. Buttler (21) and Jofra Archer (25) added some respectability to the total with a partnership of 42, but Archer was dismissed by Mulder, and the England skipper was then removed by Lungi Ngidi with a slow ball.

Oval Office showdown: European partners rally behind Ukraine while White House touts support for Trump

New York (Agency): After a remarkable showdown in the Oval Office between US President Donald Trump and his Ukraine counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine's European partners as well as other global leaders rallied behind Zelenskyy while the White House touted support for Trump's "American First strength".

Zelenskyy departed the White House on Friday after an unprecedented verbal clash in the Oval Office between him and Trump and Vice-President JD Vance. The heated exchange between Trump and Zelenskyy and the resulting outpouring of support for the Ukrainian leader highlighted the deep fissures that have emerged between America and Europe over Ukraine.

Zelenskyy's timeline on X was filled with messages of support from European allies and other countries from across the world. His response to all messages was "Thank you for your support."

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, who was in India on Friday for an official visit, said in a post on X, "Your dignity honours the bravery of the Ukrainian people. Be strong, be brave, be fearless. You are never alone, dear President @ZelenskyyUa. We will continue working with you for a just and lasting peace."

French President Emmanuel Macron, who met Trump at the White House just this past Monday, said in a post on X there is an aggressor: Russia. "There is a victim: Ukraine. We were right to help Ukraine and sanction Russia three years ago — and to keep doing so…

"By we, I mean the Americans, the Europeans, the Canadians, the Japanese, and many others," Macron said. "Thank you to all who have helped and continue to do so. And respect to those who have been fighting since the beginning — because they are fighting for their dignity, their independence, their children, and the security of Europe," Macron said.



Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, a close Trump ally, said she would call for an EU-US summit to get diplomacy back on track. "What is needed is an immediate summit between the United States, European states and allies to talk frankly about how we intend to deal with the great challenges of today, starting with Ukraine, which together we have defended in recent years," she said in a statement.

Friedrich Merz, Germany's likely next chancellor, wrote on X, "Dear Volodymyr @zelenskyyua, we stand with #Ukraine in good and in testing times. We must never confuse aggressor and victim in this terrible war."

Prime Minister of Estonia Kristen Michal said his country stands united with Zelenskyy and Ukraine in its fight for freedom. "Always. Because it is right, not easy," Michal said.

The White House, meanwhile, put out a statement 'Support Pours in for President Trump, VP Vance's America First Strength' and added that Trump and Vance "made clear to the world that the United States will not be taken advantage of — a sentiment echoed by the cabinet and members of Congress from across the country." The statement carried quotes from several lawmakers, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem.

"Thank you @POTUS for standing up for America in a way that no President has ever had the courage to do before. Thank you for putting America First. America is with you!," Rubio, who was seated next to Vance in the Oval Office during the bilateral meeting with Zelenskyy as the talks unravelled, said.

UN report says Lebanese children struggle with hunger, trauma, lost of education

New Delhi (Agency): The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released a report on Friday on the lasting negative impact on Lebanese children from the Israel-Lebanon conflict even after the ceasefire, calling for urgent support to help them rebuild their lives. In a survey conducted by UNICEF last month, 72 per cent of caregivers said their children were anxious or nervous during the war, and 62 per cent said they were depressed or sad, which "represents a surge from pre-war data collected in 2023"

According to the report, in the densely populated areas of Baalbek-Hermel and Bekaa governorates, repeated airstrikes took a toll on children's nutrition and health.

In Baalbek-Hermel, 51 per cent of children under two are experiencing severe food poverty. In Bekaa, the rate was 45 per cent, a dramatic increase from 28 per cent in 2023, the report said.

The report also pointed out the challenging education situation in Lebanon.

Despite the ceasefire, school attendance remains low. Over 25 per cent of children were still not attending school as of last month's survey, compared



to 65 per cent during the conflict. Meanwhile, financial barriers prevent many children from attending school. Two-thirds of families with children out of school report that the high costs of school fees, transportation, and materials are the main reasons, a number that has doubled since 2023.

The report added that schools were destroyed or heavily damaged in the war, and hundreds more were used as shelters for some of the 1.3 million people who were internally displaced due to the conflict.

UNICEF urged the global community to aid Lebanon's children by contributing to their 2025 appeal for $658.2 million, which aims to provide lifesaving assistance to 2.4 million people in the country, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Lebanon must receive the help it requires to restore vital infrastructure and services, ensuring that children have a future to look forward to," said Akhil Iyer, UNICEF representative in Lebanon.

"We call on all parties to abide by the terms of the ceasefire and to work with the international community to sustain peace and ensure a brighter future for children. We call on the country's new government to put children's rights and needs on top of the reform and recovery agenda," he added.

UK PM Starmer meets Ukrainian President Zelensky

New Delhi (Agency): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. During their meeting at Downing Street, Starmer said Ukraine has "full backing across the United Kingdom." He stressed Britain's "unwavering determination" to achieve a lasting peace. Zelensky thanked Starmer for the support Britain has shown to Ukraine since the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Xinhua news agency reported.



Zelensky's visit came ahead of a defence summit Britain is hosting, with European leaders gathering in London on Sunday to discuss a peace plan for Ukraine. Starmer has said he believes such a deal will have to involve the United States.

Zelensky said on social media X shortly before his plane touched down in London earlier Saturday that Ukraine is "ready to sign the minerals agreement" with the United States, but "a ceasefire without security guarantees is dangerous for Ukraine."

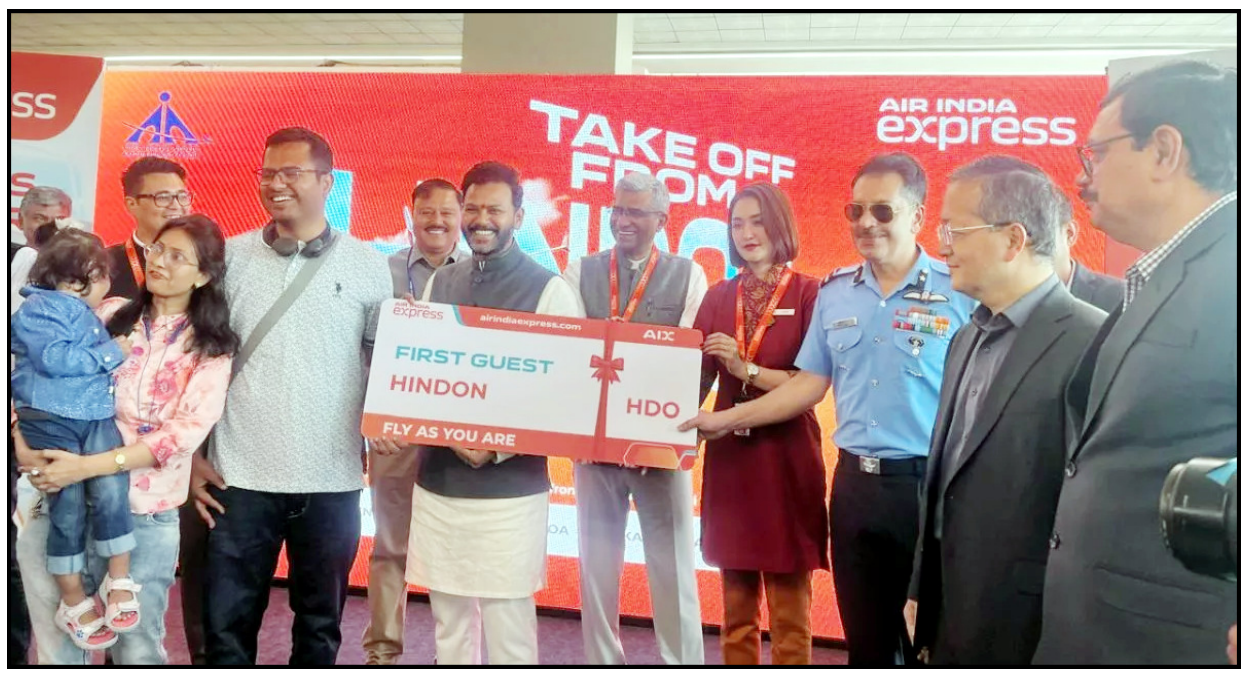
Zelensky's visit to Britain followed his meeting with US President Donald Trump on Friday evening in the White House, where a routine presence in front of a press pool erupted into an unexpected shouting match.

The fiery exchange between the two sides started with an interjection by US Vice President JD Vance, who demanded that Zelensky be thankful for Trump's efforts to get his country out of its three-year conflict with Russia.

After the public clash, Zelensky was eventually asked to leave the White House early, leaving the planned minerals deal between the two sides unsigned.

Kolkata-Hindon-Goa Flight Launched, Strengthening Regional Connectivity

New Delhi (Agency): In a landmark move to enhance regional air connectivity, the Civil Aviation Ministry launched its Boeing-737 flight on the Kolkata-Hindon-Goa route on Saturday. The project was inaugurated at Hindon by Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, highlighting the exemplary coordination between civilian and military aviation. Located in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Hindon Airport is a key strategic asset due to its dual-use capability, enabling both military and civilian air operations. The introduction of commercial flights from Hindon is expected to decongest air traffic in the National Capital Region (NCR) while improving accessibility to major destinations. This initiative is part of the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) scheme,

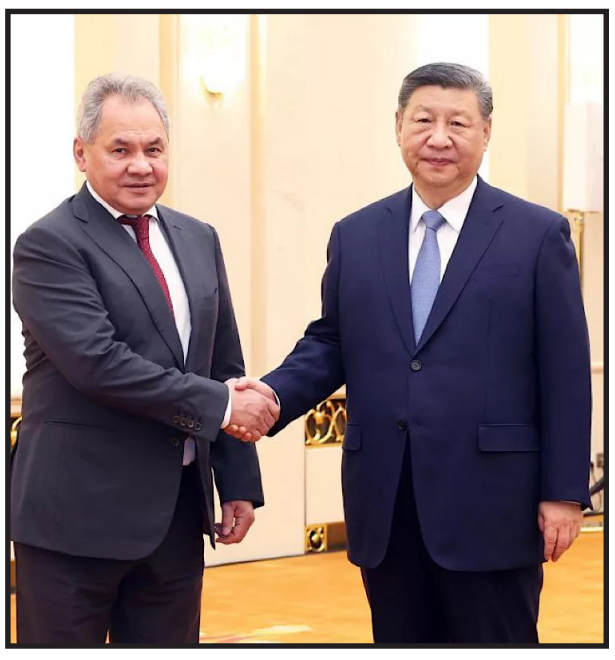


which aims to make air travel affordable and boost connectivity to underserved regions. The launch also underscores the Indian Air Force's (IAF) commitment to nation-building, as it actively supports such projects beyond its core mission of national security. "The Indian Air Force's involvement in facilitating civilian air operations is a testament to its dedication to both defence and developmental initiatives. Hindon's growing role in regional aviation will be instrumental in expanding India's air travel network," said an official from the Civil Aviation Ministry. With the operationalization of the Kolkata-Hindon-Goa flight, travellers now have an alternative route that promises better connectivity, reduced congestion, and enhanced convenience.

Chinese President meets Russian security chief in Beijing

New Delhi (Agency): Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, in Beijing on Friday. Noting that China and Russia are friendly neighbours and true friends, Xi said he and President Vladimir Putin have communicated twice this year, making overarching plans for the development of China-Russia relations and having in-depth exchanges on a series of major international and regional issues.

He said the two sides should maintain close communication at all levels to fully implement the consensus reached between the two heads of state and promote permanent good-neighborliness and friendship, comprehensive strategic coordination and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.



Shoigu conveyed President Putin's cordial greetings to President Xi, saying that President Putin highly values the sincere friendship and close contact with President Xi, Xinhua news agency reported.

The relations between Russia and China have reached an unprecedented high level and do not target any third party, Shoigu said. Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi also held a strategic dialogue with Shoigu on Friday.

Wang noted that under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, China-Russia relations will continue to remain rock-solid and unshakable.

Recently, leaders of both sides had a phone conversation after the video meeting at the beginning of the year and conducted communication on deepening strategic coordination and promoting the stability of the international situation. This fully reflected the high level and particularity of China-Russia relations and highlighted the responsible role played by the heads of state of the two major powers, Wang said.

He called on the two sides to stick to the implementation of the consensus reached by the two heads of state, maintain close coordination, and continue to deepen mutual trust and cooperation in strategic security.

Israel accepts US proposal for temporary ceasefire in Gaza during Ramadan, Passover holidays

New Delhi (Agency): Israel has accepted a US proposal for a temporary ceasefire in the Gaza Strip during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and Jewish Passover holiday, according to a statement issued by the Israeli Prime Minister's Office around midnight between Saturday and Sunday. The Muslim holy month of Ramadan began on Friday and will last until March 30, while the Jewish Passover week will be marked from April 12 to 20. According to the proposal by US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, on the first day of the extended ceasefire, about half of the 59 living and dead Israeli hostages held by Hamas in Gaza would be returned. At the end of the outline period, if an agreement is reached on a permanent ceasefire, the rest of the hostages would be released, Xinhua news agency reported.

The statement said that Witkoff proposed extending the ceasefire after he felt that bridging the parties' positions to end the war was impossible at this stage and that more time was needed for talks on a permanent ceasefire.

It added that "while Israel has agreed to the Witkoff outline to return our hostages, Hamas has so far stuck to its refusal to accept this outline." "While Hamas has repeatedly violated the agreement, Israel is not in violation," the statement reads. "If Hamas changes its position, Israel will immediately enter into negotiations on all the details of the Witkoff outline."

The statement also stressed that Israel may return to fighting if it believes that the negotiations are ineffective, as the first 42-day phase of the ceasefire-hostages agreement expired on Saturday.

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Omar meets L-G ahead of Budget Session of J&K Assembly

Jammu (Agency): Ahead of the budget session, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and discussed various issues pertaining to the Assembly. The discussions between the L-G and CM revolved around various issues relating to the forthcoming Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly, an official spokesman said. The Budget Session of the Assembly will commence on 3 March. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements made for the holy month of Ramadan, which commences tomorrow. The Chief Minister emphasized that people rightfully expect their elected government to take all necessary measures to ensure they do not face any inconvenience during this sacred month. "As the holy month of Ramadan begins tomorrow, the people rightfully expect the government to take all necessary measures to ensure they do not face any difficulties during this sacred month" the Chief Minister said.

He stressed that key departments under pressure must deliver service—particularly the power supply— which must be prioritized. "People want, and we must strive, to ensure that there are no power outages during Sehri and Iftar time. Any necessary shutdowns should be well-planned and curtailment could be made during the day time as per a proper schedule. On water supply, CM said that the recent spell of snow and rainfall had helped improve



the situation but stressed the need for supply of adequate potable water to house holds. The Chief Minister also directed officials to focus on cleanliness, particularly around mosques, shrines, traffic management, and making security arrangements. He noted that both IG Jammu and IG Kashmir have addressed the security concerns. To enhance public service delivery, he directed all Deputy Commissioners to set up a fully staffed and operational district control rooms to promptly address grievances.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantamanu, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, all Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Inspector General of Police Kashmir and Jammu, Deputy Commissioners and heads of key departments.