

Patience bore fruit: In PM's remarks on US trade deal, a message for Opposition

Addressing the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, PM Modi said the landmark India-US trade deal had created a favourable economic environment and demonstrated the government's steady approach to global trade talks.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told NDA MPs that India's landmark trade agreement with the US was the result of sustained patience, noting that earlier criticism over tariff negotiations had now given way to a positive outcome. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi received a hero's welcome on his arrival at the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting. In his address, he said the trade deal had created a favourable economic environment and reflected the government's consistent and measured approach to global trade negotiations. "People criticised the tariffs, but we remained patient, and the results are now visible," PM Modi said.

"The world order is changing, and its trajectory is increasingly tilting towards India. I have been saying this at various global platforms, and today we are seeing India benefit even amid trade tensions across many countries," he added. Ahead of the meeting, the Prime Minister said in a post on X that confidence is the driving force behind all progress. "This strength of our citizens will play a crucial role in realising the dream of a developed India," he added. Further in his remarks at the NDA gathering, PM Modi also urged MPs to ensure full attendance in Parliament and actively participate in discussions, stressing the importance of effectively communicating the government's



work to the public. He asked party leaders to reach out to citizens and highlight the key achievements outlined in the Union Budget. Emphasising the economic opportunities ahead, he said the trade agreement should now translate into a boost for domestic manufacturing and higher-quality production, aligning

with the broader push to strengthen India's industrial growth.

INDIA - U.S TRADE AGREEMENT

After a phone call with Prime Minister Modi on Monday, President Donald Trump announced that India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent from the current 25 per cent.

Following Trump's announcement, PM Modi described the development as a major boost for Indian exporters and thanked the US leader for the decision. He said cooperation between two of the world's largest

democracies and economies would unlock significant opportunities and benefit people in both countries. He also praised Trump's leadership, saying it was important for global peace, stability and prosperity, and reiterated India's support for efforts aimed at maintaining international peace.

On his part, President Trump said the US would immediately reduce its reciprocal tariff rate on Indian goods from 25 per cent to 18 per cent, describing the move as a gesture of friendship and respect for PM Modi. The President expressed confidence that the agreement would further deepen ties between the two countries, saying both leaders shared a track record of delivering results.

India, US Trade Deal Unlocks Huge Opportunities For Farmers: Piyush Goyal

India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from current 25 per cent.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the India-US trade agreement will open up huge opportunities for domestic farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers and promote Make in India initiative. India and the US have agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from current 25 per cent, US President Donald Trump said on Monday after a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Goyal said it will help India get technology from the US.

"This agreement unlocks unprecedented opportunities for farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers to Make in India for the world, Design in India for the world, and Innovate in India for the world," Goyal said in a post on social media.

He added that the development reflects the power of two like-minded, fair-trading democracies working together for shared

prosperity. "Both India and US are natural allies and our partnership will co-create technologies, co-develop solutions, and work together for peace, growth, and a brighter future for India and US," he added. Terming it a



"landmark trade deal", Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal too said that it will unlock shared prosperity, innovation and growth for two natural democratic partners.

"Congratulations to the people of India and the US," he said. The announcement is important as several labour-intensive

sectors like textiles, apparel, leather and marine were facing challenges to export goods to the US as they face 50 percent tariffs. Exporters and experts are waiting for the USA's executive order to get a more clear picture about the deal. Think tank

GTRI said clarity is required on which products are covered under the deal and the applicable timelines.

Hailing the pact, Aqeel Panaruna, Chairman, Florence Shoe Company and Director, Grand Atlantia Panapakkam SEZ Pvt Ltd, said it will strengthen India's global leadership.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan said that it would be a game-changer for the competitiveness of Indian exports vis-a-vis other Asian suppliers.

"It is expected to lead to an immediate and substantial release of orders that were earlier put on hold, particularly in labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, textiles, leather and footwear, where global buyers typically look in summer season sourcing by December," Ralhan said.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday

said the trade deal between the US and India will elevate strategic partnership between the two countries, paving the way for stronger trade ties and mutual growth. In a post on X, Shah said the deal will greatly benefit both

nations and their people with business between India and US set to flourish further.

"A big day for India-US relations as the trade deal has been locked with a significantly reduced tariff of 18 per cent, paving the way for stronger trade ties and mutual growth," he said.

Congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump for the "historic deal", Shah said it will "elevate our strategic partnership and greatly benefit both nations and their people. Business between India

and US set to flourish further." India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from current 25 per cent, President Trump said on Monday after a phone conversation with Prime Minister Modi.

The prime minister said he was delighted that "Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent".

"Wonderful to speak with my dear friend

President Trump today. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement," PM Modi said.

The prime minister said when two large economies and the world's largest democracies work together, it benefits the people and



"unlocks immense opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation".

"President Trump's leadership is vital for global peace, stability, and prosperity. India fully supports his efforts for peace," he said on X. PM Modi noted that he looked forward to working closely with Trump to take the bilateral partnership to unprecedented heights, without mentioning many of the other issues that figured in Trump's post on social media.

**Members can quote documents if relevant to business:
Parliamentary expert on Rahul citing from 'memoir'**

New Delhi .(Agency)

Amid a controversy over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi quoting from an unpublished memoir of former Army chief M.M. Naravane in the Lok Sabha, an expert on parliamentary procedure has said that Rule 349, cited by the Speaker to disallow the reference, does not distinguish between published and unpublished material. Former Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary told PTI on Tuesday that Rule 349, which sets out "rules to be observed by members in the House", bars members from reading any book, newspaper or letter except in connection with the business of the House. The rule, however, is silent on whether the material must be published.

Mamata Banerjee may appear before Supreme Court today if SIR case is listed

New Delhi .(Agency)

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee is expected to appear before the Supreme Court of India tomorrow for the hearing of her petition challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state, sources said.

According to sources, Banerjee is expected to attend the proceedings in connection with her plea against the Election Commission of India (ECI), which is likely to be taken up along with other petitions questioning the validity of the SIR process in the state. The Supreme Court's security wing has reportedly granted clearance for her visit.

Banerjee is a Z+ category protectee. Sources said the matter is scheduled to be listed on Wednesday. The case titled Mamata Banerjee versus Election Commission is reflected in the court's computerised cause list for February 4. Two days ago, it was shown in the list for February 6.

CHALLENGE TO ELECTION COMMISSION'S SIR PROCESS

Banerjee had filed her petition on January 28, challenging the legality of the ongoing SIR process for the revision of voter lists in West Bengal. In her plea, she has raised objections to the manner in which the revision is being carried out, alleging



political bias and an authoritarian approach by the Election Commission. In a letter written to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday evening,

Banerjee raised concerns about the "immense inconvenience and agony to the people" caused by the SIR, claiming that the process had led to "as many as 140 deaths" across the state. She alleged that the SIR was being conducted in "blatant violation" of existing laws, "in total disregard of human rights and basic humanitarian considerations."

DEPLOYMENT OF MICRO OBSERVERS

Banerjee pointed out that, for the first time in India's electoral history, the Election Commission had deployed around 8,100 micro observers in West Bengal during the SIR process.

"Trust, Transformation and Timely Delivery under the rule of Law have become UP's identity,": CM Yogi

The Sikh Times

Lucknow: February 3: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday inaugurated the global congregation of investors and entrepreneurs 'Uttar Pradesh Pharma Conclave 1.0' at Hotel Taj, Lucknow. He said that Uttar Pradesh today is not just a state but has become a guarantee of trust for investors. The state government provides every investor with a complete guarantee of 'Triple S-Safety, Stability and Speed'. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a role model of 'Trust, Transformation and Timely Delivery'. The Chief Minister said, "Rule of law is being implemented with full strength in Uttar Pradesh. No

one has the liberty to play the same language. This is the Chief Minister stated, with the law. If anyone the new Uttar Pradesh, "Uttar Pradesh had become

more than 900 riots took place in the state. Hardly any trade and healthcare had to pay 'gunda tax'. Due to lack

were compelled to migrate. Leaving the land where one has grown up is painful for anyone, but insecurity made it inevitable. This was not the pain of a single entrepreneur but the collective suffering of every trader, every investor and every citizen." Talking about the 'Zero Tolerance Policy', CM said, "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi entrusted me with this responsibility, the biggest challenge was to strengthen law and order and instill confidence among citizens. The government adopted a zero-tolerance policy and made it clear that the law would apply equally to everyone, irrespective of influence. Today, the results are evident. Major festivals are being celebrated

UP to become a global manufacturing hub in the pharma sector: JP Nadda

During the programme, the video message of Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda has been shared. In the message, he said, "Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a key state, strengthening India's global leadership in the pharma and healthcare sector. Under the leadership of PM Minister Narendra Modi, UP's role is decisive in India's transition towards an entrepreneurship- and innovation-driven economy. The Bulk Drug Pharma Park' in Lalitpur, the 'Medical Device Park' in the Yamuna Expressway region and the State Pharmaceutical Policy 2023 are positioning Uttar Pradesh as a reliable manufacturing hub. With better connectivity, strong infrastructure, skilled human resources and an investor-friendly environment." He further added that UP is becoming the preferred destination for pharma investment. The policy vision of the Centre and the ground-level efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government are rapidly advancing the state towards becoming a global center for pharma and biopharma manufacturing.

Attempts to challenge the law, where governance is not synonymous with insecurity, weak but decisive." Referring to the situation before 2017, Between 2012 and 2017,

anarchy and mistrust was not imposed. People associated with industry, of security, even established industries were forced to leave the state and the youth



Contd.....page 7

News box

3 zonal officers found flouting orders in surprise inspection, suspended**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Three zonal officials of the traffic department were suspended on Monday after a surprise inspection carried out by DCP (traffic) revealed violations of traffic rules and non-compliance with departmental orders in multiple parts of the city. DCP Rajesh Mohan visited areas of Daulatabad, Kapadiwas and New Colony and found that the zonal officers posted in these areas were not following instructions on the mandatory use of body-worn cameras while conducting challan proceedings.

"The use of body cameras during enforcement drives was made compulsory to ensure transparency and accountability, and failure to comply with these directions amounted to indiscipline," officials of the traffic department said.

Taking note of the lapses, the DCP ordered immediate suspension of assistant sub inspectors (ASI) Suresh, Ramrichpal and Satish. Another violation that came to light during the inspection was that ASI Suresh, posted at Daulatabad Chowk, was found using a temporary number plate on his personal vehicle despite having a valid registration number. The vehicle was challaned on the spot under relevant provisions of traffic rules.

Senior traffic police officials said the action was meant to send a message that traffic laws and departmental instructions applied equally to everyone, including police personnel entrusted with enforcement duties.

"Any negligence, misconduct or indiscipline at any level would invite strict action. Surprise inspections and enforcement checks would continue in the future to ensure discipline within the force and to improve the credibility of traffic policing," said a release issued by traffic police. Departmental proceedings against the suspended officers will follow as per service rules, it added.

BTech graduate poses as interior designer, cheats clients from Noida of Rs 94L**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 35-year-old BTech graduate was arrested for allegedly defrauding people by posing as an interior designer and cheating them of large sums of money on Monday. He is part of a five-member gang that operated behind a facade of an interior design firm, police said.

The accused, identified as Guddu Alam, a native of Bihar currently residing in Chipyana Khurd in Bisrakh, was arrested by Sector 63 police. Six computer systems and a mobile phone were recovered from his possession.

According to central Noida additional deputy commissioner of police Santosh Kumar, Alam and his associates posed as interior designers under the banner of a company named i Home Master Private Limited. The gang allegedly entered into contracts with around 20 clients for interior work but failed to execute the projects. When clients demanded refunds, they were allegedly abused and threatened with dire consequences. In one case, the accused took Rs 10 lakh for interior work at a flat in Greater Noida but did not begin the work. When the customer sought a refund, the accused allegedly resorted to threats and intimidation, following which a complaint was registered.

During interrogation, Alam claimed to be the director of the company. Police said he would take 50–60% of the total project cost as advance from clients. He would then deploy labourers to vandalise the property and deliberately delay work. During this period, he would look for new clients, collect advances from them and abandon earlier projects to prevent customers from approaching other interior designers. Police further said that the accused used social media promotions and completed limited work initially to gain customers' trust. He later attracted more clients through phone assurances. The money collected was allegedly spent on personal hobbies.

2 risk spots identified during checks, GNIDA told to fix them**Noida.(Agency)**

After the death of a software engineer in a flooded pit in Sector 150, the Noida administration has begun identifying accident-prone and vulnerable locations and flagging safety gaps to authorities.

The sub-divisional magistrate (SDM), Sadar, conducted inspections in several areas across the district on Sunday and wrote to Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), seeking immediate cognisance and remedial measures. In letters dated Jan 31 and Feb 1, the SDM flagged two specific locations in Sadar tehsil where infrastructure deficiencies could lead to accidents. A water tank on plot number 168 in Sakipur village, under GNIDA limits, was marked as a key concern due to its deteriorated condition. "Built by the Jal Nigam nearly 38 years ago, the structure is now in a dilapidated and unusable condition and poses a risk to local residents. The administration sought its removal," said an official from Sadar tehsil. At a road in Ecotech 6 near Bhati Chowk in Kasna village, damaged stretches and the absence of proper barricading increased the risk of accidents at the spot. District magistrate Medha Roopani told TOI that all departments of the district administration had received instructions to carry out inspections within their respective jurisdictions and place details of vulnerable spots before the administration. "All departments, including PWD, education department, revenue department and others, received directions to identify such vulnerable points in the district and submit them in the next road safety meeting," she said. According to the DM, while development authorities are responsible for carrying out corrective measures, the district administration will act as a coordinating body. "The district administration can assist by compiling such vulnerable spots and forwarding them to the concerned authorities for action," she said. The departments have received instructions to focus on sector-specific risks, she said, adding, "The education department should identify unsafe spots near schools, the industries department can look at areas around factories in industrial sectors, and the revenue department's SDMs will inspect vulnerable locations in their respective tehsils."

Just 15% of large construction sites in Gurgaon comply with dust-control rules**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Construction dust remains one of the biggest pollution sources, but only around 15% of large projects in the city comply with mandatory air quality monitoring norms. Data from Haryana's dust-control web portal shows that only 461 construction projects measuring 500 square metres or more have registered so far, against an estimated 3,000 sites in the city. This indicates that nearly 85% are operating outside the official monitoring framework. Registration on the portal is mandatory under directions issued by Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). These directions also require such projects to install PM2.5 and PM10 sensors linked to a live dashboard for real-time pollution tracking. The system is intended to help regulators remotely monitor dust mitigation measures at construction sites across NCR.

Officials said enforcement has been

stepped up against non-compliant projects. "We issued notices to all large units and won't allow them to operate if they don't follow the norms. Inspections are being conducted at construction sites which haven't yet registered on the portal," said Akansha Tanwar, regional officer of HSPCB, urging project proponents to complete registration at the earliest. Warning of strict action, she said, "We will stop construction activities at these projects, impose penalties and prosecute them in the environmental court. They are responsible for adding pollution to the environment." Haryana launched the portal in Jan 2024 to enable real-time monitoring of pollution levels at construction sites. The platform includes a live dashboard displaying ambient air quality at individual projects and was rolled out in line with CAQM directions issued on Oct 1, 2021.

The directions make registration compulsory for all construction projects on plots of 500 square metres or more, along with installation of PM2.5 and PM10 sensors connected to the portal. Project proponents must also implement



video fencing with remote connectivity to enable round-the-clock surveillance of dust-control measures. Despite the framework being in place for more than

three years, low registration numbers point to a persistent compliance gap, even as Gurgaon continues to face poor air quality and repeated pollution spikes linked to construction activity. Asked about steps to ensure compliance and registration, the HSPCB official said the board has requested civic agencies to share building plan data, allowing it to "cross-reference with environmental clearance documents and identify non-registered sites". Civic bodies have also received a checklist to monitor compliance with dust mitigation measures in NCR, to be implemented through the online mechanism. The prescribed dust control and mitigation measures include use of anti-smog guns, water pills, water cannons, hoses, fire hydrants, and sprinklers.

Haryana taps ecoacoustics to detect early ecological stress in wetlands, protected parks**Noida.(Agency)**

Haryana on Monday started recording natural sounds such as those of insects, wind, water and bird calls in select wetlands and parks across the state. This marked the state's dive into ecoacoustics to monitor ecosystems.

The initiative kicked off on World Wetlands Day, alongside Haryana's first bird festival, which will go on till Feb 21 at Sultanpur National Park.

Officials said the initiative will help create acoustic baselines for protected areas, allowing scientists to track seasonal and long-term changes in biodiversity and detect early signs of ecological stress. Such audio datasets are also used globally as a non-invasive tool to assess habitat health, species presence, and ecosystem wellbeing. The curated recordings will be uploaded to the 'sounds of parks' platform to support nature-based monitoring as well as public engagement. With this, the state has become the first in India to join the ecoacoustics platform. Launching the programme, Haryana environment minister Rao Narbir Singh said, "Wetlands are among the state's most valuable natural assets, supporting biodiversity, water security, and livelihoods while also carrying deep cultural significance." He said, "The festival aims to take conservation awareness to communities across Haryana, particularly students and youth," he added. PCCF-cum-chief wildlife warden Vivek Saxena said, "The festival is designed as a statewide movement combining field-based learning with community outreach," adding that soundscape monitoring will help build a broader understanding of ecosystem health over time. The statewide bird festival is organised by the forest, wildlife and environment department in collaboration with an NGO named CMS Vatavaran, and is endorsed by the international union for conservation of nature under its #NatureForAll initiative. Aligned with the World Wetlands Day theme of this year, 'Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage', the programme will feature guided bird walks.

Footpaths, fencing, crossings: Revamp for service roads in Gurgaon's new sectors soon**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

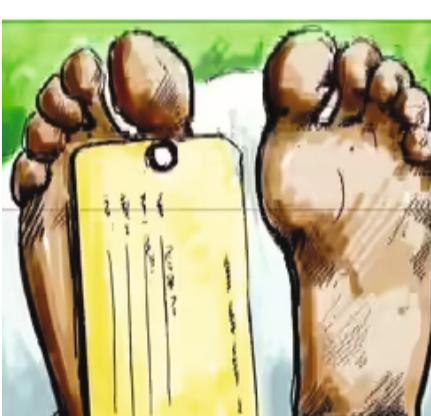
Service roads along the three master roads will soon be revamped to restore connectivity and ease traffic congestion along key stretches. Around 7.5km of service roads will be taken up under the plan. GMDA said the aim is to ensure "through-and-through" connectivity so that commuters can travel seamlessly along these parallel roads without broken links or unusable patches. A tender for the work was already floated, and GMDA is hoping to begin execution by March. The repair work is expected to be completed within six months once the project is started. The project has an estimated cost of around Rs 20 crore. "We have invited bids for repair work. The repair will help distribute traffic better and reduce the burden on the main carriageway, improving overall flow and safety. We are hoping to complete the tendering process soon and start the work by March," the

senior official of GMDA said. Under the plan, service roads along sectors 51-57, 52-57 and 51-52 will be resurfaced. The roads handle a steady flow of vehicles coming from the Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park and towards Ambedkar Chowk and Nirvana Country road, with the stretches remaining busy through the day. Apart from strengthening and road resurfacing, GMDA will undertake drainage improvement to address recurring waterlogging issues along these stretches. As part of the plan, green spaces between the main carriageway and the service road will be lowered by cutting down the earthen portion. Officials said this is being done to reduce the risk of water accumulation and ensure smoother flow of rainwater during monsoon showers. Footpath repair works will also be carried out alongside the service roads to improve pedestrian safety. Officials said damaged and uneven footpaths will

be fixed to make the corridors safer for residents who walk to nearby markets. In addition, fencing will be installed along the green spaces to prevent encroachment and ensure that the landscaped areas remain protected. Residents have welcomed the move. "Traffic pressure on the roads increased sharply over the years, and the service roads are crucial because they cater to local traffic. Right now, during school hours, it becomes a real challenge to cross these roads. If the service roads and footpaths are repaired properly, it will ease congestion and make the stretch safer for pedestrians," said Pawan Kumar Yadav, RWA president of Sushant Lok 2 and 3. Additionally, GMDA is also planning to revamp around 10km of service roads along three other stretches — Ardee City-Sohna Road, the sector dividing road between sectors 49 and 50, and the sector dividing road between sectors 30 and 31.

Man dies by suicide in Gurgaon, FIR against wife and her friend**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 55-year-old man allegedly died by suicide after shooting himself with an unlicensed pistol at his residence in Gandhi Nagar on Saturday. The victim was identified as Shailesh Kumar Karan, who ran a private primary school on the ground floor of his house. The post-mortem report, conducted on Sunday, confirmed that he died due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Moreover, officials said the origin of the illegal firearm used would only be clarified once Sujata was taken into custody. A suicide note was recovered from Karan's pocket and a personal diary from the house, police said. According to the note, he blamed his wife, Sujata, and her friend, Kulbir Beniwal, for his decision to end his life. He stated that he was unable to cope after his wife left him around two years ago. Based on a complaint filed by the victim's brother,



Nilender Kumar Karan, police said Sujata and Kulbir allegedly subjected the victim to mental harassment over property-related matters. In the note, Karan wrote that his home was being destroyed because of Kulbir, police sources said. The

couple did not have any children. According to a relative of the victim, Sujata came in contact with Kulbir after she joined a network marketing company. After allegedly developing a relationship with Kulbir, she left the victim and started living in a flat in Sector 37. Based on a complaint filed by Kumar's family members, Shivaji Nagar police registered a case against Sujata and Kulbir of Hansi. Both were booked under sections 108 (abetment of suicide), 3(5) (act done by multiple persons) of BNS and 25 (possessing, carrying, manufacturing, or selling illegal firearms, ammunition, or prohibited weapons without a valid license) Arms act. A police officer said that the body was handed over to Kumar's brother and other relatives following the post-mortem examination. "We have registered the case and are conducting an inquiry to apprehend the accused," a cop said.

Noida techie death: No bail, plot owner moves High Court**Noida.(Agency)**

A chief judicial magistrate (CJM) court on Monday denied bail to Abhay Kumar, a director of MZ Wiztown Planners Private Limited, who was arrested in connection with the death of software engineer Yuvraj Mehta. The court extended Kumar's judicial remand by 10 days and fixed the next hearing for Feb 13.

Even as the lower court declined relief, Kumar's lawyers approached the Allahabad high court, filing a habeas corpus writ petition and getting it listed for hearing on Tuesday. Counsel Swastik Verma said the arrest by Greater Noida police did not follow "basic legal provisions" and was "violative of Articles 21 and 22 of the Indian Constitution", which deal with personal liberty and safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention. Verma, along with lawyer Shrey Sinha, alleged that police did not issue an arrest memo, "the grounds on which their client was arrested remain unknown". The lawyers also



detention is illegal when police did not follow mandatory DK Basu guidelines enforced by the Supreme Court during arrest of any individual," Verma said. He added that without an arrest memo, "the grounds on which their client was arrested remain unknown". The lawyers also

alleged discrepancies in the police general diary entry and sought Kumar's immediate release from "illegal detention". "The matter has been listed for Tuesday for hearing," Verma said. Kumar was arrested on Jan 20 for culpable homicide not amounting to murder due to

negligence and under other BNS sections. On his way back from office, Mehta drowned after his car plunged into a roadside ditch filled with water. Police said a preliminary probe found the pit had been left without any danger marking or demarcation by the

plot owner of an under-construction project.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob: 9654077232, 9971359517

Website: www.thesikhtimes.in
Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

MCD allocates Rs 10 cr for stray dog management

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has allocated Rs 10 crore in its latest budget for the management and welfare of stray dogs in the national capital, amid continued judicial scrutiny over rising dog-bite cases and implementation of animal welfare rules. Explaining how the funds will be utilised, Standing Committee chairperson Satya Sharma said the civic body's approach is aligned with the Supreme Court directions. "In accordance with the SC rulings, we are cooperative with our street dogs. We have to vaccinate them and place them in shelter homes. Under a new shelter home scheme, about Rs 10 crore has been provided. At least one dog shelter will be established in every zone so that stray dogs receive safe shelter, treatment and care," she said. To strengthen the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme and anti-rabies vaccination drive, the MCD also plans

to set up additional dog kennels at five new cen-

civic body has also identified 735 designated feed-

large dog shelter is under construction in Dwarka,



tres. Kennels will also be constructed at five existing sterilisation centres to speed up the sterilisation process. A mass anti-rabies vaccination campaign is planned with the aim of controlling fatal diseases such as rabies. The

ing points for stray dogs in compliance with the Supreme Court orders. However, MCD officials said the functioning and effectiveness of these feeding points were still being assessed. In addition, a

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS UDITA KHATIAN D/O PRADEEP AGRAWAL R/O E-10, KALINDI COLONY, SRINIWAS PURI, PO-EAST OF KAILASH PHASE-1, DISTRICT-SOUTH, DELHI, DELHI-110065 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS UDITA PATEL.

NAME CHANGE
IT IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION THAT I, TAMANNA KHAN W/O TASWIAUR ALI KHAN, R/O 123, NO-7, RANGPURI ROAD, NEAR LABOUR CHOWK, MAHIPALPUR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110037, DECLARE THAT NAME OF MY HUSBAND HAS BEEN WRONGLY WRITTEN AS TASAWWAUR ALI KHAN IN MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAMELY SUMAYA KHAN AGED 17 YEARS IN HER 10TH AND 12TH CLASS EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS, AND HER BIRTH REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE NO. MCDR0119-007333876. THE ACTUAL NAME OF MY HUSBAND IS TASWIAUR ALI KHAN.

NAME CHANGE
I, TRIPTA W/O BALDEV RAJ R/O 404, GROUND FLOOR, YOGA VIHAR, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TRIPTA KHANEJA PERMANENTLY.

NAME CHANGE
I, PRAMOD S/O BHAGWAN DASS R/O H.NO-1936, 3RD FLOOR, GALI NO-9, KRISHNA GALLI, CHUNA MANI, PAHAR GANJ, DELHI-110055 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEHA GARG FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHIVA RAM S/O RAJARAM R/O H-436, 3RD FLOOR, GALLI JAHANIYA, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS SHIVA RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, TRIPTA W/O BALDEV RAJ R/O 404, GROUND FLOOR, YOGA VIHAR, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TRIPTA KHANEJA PERMANENTLY.

NAME CHANGE
I, PRAMOD S/O BHAGWAN DASS R/O H.NO-1936, 3RD FLOOR, GALI NO-9, KRISHNA GALLI, CHUNA MANI, PAHAR GANJ, DELHI-110055 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEHA GARG FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS LALOO RAM.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS LALOO RAM YADAV W/O TIHAR RAM YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-1237, TYPE-I, R.K. PURAM, SECT-5, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110022 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND

NEWS BOX

Pakistan Faces Crunch As Demand For China-Developed JF-17 Jets Surges

KYIV. (Agency)

Pakistan says it has fielded requests for its JF-17 fighter from five countries in recent months - a surge of interest that could overwhelm its capacity to jointly produce the jet with China. In the past month, Iraq, Bangladesh and Indonesia have expressed interest in acquiring the JF-17 Thunder, according to Pakistan's Armed Forces. Saudi Arabia and Libya are also exploring the aircraft, Reuters reported separately, after Pakistan hailed the performance of its Chinese-made jets during its conflict with India in May 2025. Pakistan makes fewer than 20 JF-17s per year, and almost all go to its own air force. It's not clear whether Islamabad can expand capacity to meet the sudden demand - key to boosting its ambitions of being an arms maker for the developing world and extending Beijing's influence in the weapons market.

The JF-17 is seen "as a market disruptor due to its affordable price tag and, more importantly, its recent success in combat," said Manoj Harjani, research fellow at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. "Not hard to imagine the JF-17 becoming more widely adopted, especially by militaries that cannot afford fighters produced by Western companies." If Indonesia and Saudi Arabia end up purchasing JF-17s, it would represent a major shift, as both nations have long relied on more Western platforms. Indonesia recently took delivery of three Dassault Aviation SA Rafales as part of a defence deal with France, and it agreed with Boeing Co. in 2023 to buy 24 F-15 jets. Saudi Arabia similarly relies on US and European aircraft, and has sought to purchase F-35s.

Competing on Price

Conceived in a 1999 deal, the JF-17 Thunder is a lightweight, all-weather fighter jointly produced by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, located in Kamra, northwest of Islamabad, and China's AVIC Chengdu, in the country's southwest. Pakistan manufactures 16-18 JF-17s per year, former Air Commodore Khalid Chishti said in a video on production of the fighter.

US Lowers Tariffs On Indian Exports To 18%: Where Other Countries Stand

World. (Agency)

The new trade deal between India and the United States reduces tariffs on Indian exports to 18 per cent from what was effectively 50 per cent. India will reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers on US products to zero, President Donald Trump announced on Monday. Earlier, the US tariffs included a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty, which Washington linked to India's continued purchase of crude oil from Russia despite US objections. The new tariff structure makes Indian exports cheaper and more competitive in the US market.

Where other countries stand

With the new tariff system, India is now in a better position than many other countries that export goods to the US. Because India faces lower import taxes, its products become cheaper for American buyers. Countries like China, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Vietnam still face higher tariffs. How other countries compare

According to the White House, Brazil faces the highest US tariff at 50 per cent, followed by Myanmar and Laos at 40 per cent each, China at 37 per cent, and South Africa at 30 per cent. Developed economies, including the European Union, Japan, South Korea, and Switzerland, enjoy lower tariffs of 15 per cent, while the United Kingdom faces just 10 per cent.

Compared to Southeast Asian countries, India now has lower tariffs, with Bangladesh and Vietnam at 20 per cent and Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Pakistan at 19 per cent.

Piers Morgan reacts strongly as Candace Owens' podcast sparks outrage over Erika Kirk jokes and Charlie Kirk theories

World. (Agency)

The online fight around Charlie Kirk took a sharp turn after Piers Morgan publicly called out comments made on Candace Owens' podcast. Morgan said it was wrong to joke about Erika Kirk. The backlash started after Bassem Youssef appeared on Owens' show on January 29. During their talk, they discussed a leaked Zoom call involving Erika Kirk and Turning Point USA staff. Candace Owens questioned Erika Kirk's behavior during that call, focusing on her facial expressions and tone. Soon after, a short clip from the podcast went viral. In that clip, Youssef made a remark that many viewers felt crossed a line. Piers Morgan reacted strongly, saying humor should never target a woman already facing public pressure. His comments added fuel to an already heated debate that had moved far beyond facts and into speculation. Piers Morgan slams Candace Owens and Bassem Youssef over Erika Kirk remarks. After the clip spread on X, Piers Morgan responded directly to Youssef. He wrote, "Why do you find it so funny to mock a young widow who has been dragged into public attacks? It is disgusting." Morgan has repeatedly said that claims about Charlie Kirk are not supported by verified evidence. Youssef fired back at Morgan online. He questioned the credibility of official explanations and accused public figures of pretending to care while ignoring what he called unanswered questions. In his reply, Youssef criticized how grief is judged in public and suggested people do not trust investigations, though he provided no new proof.

Palestinians allowed in to Gaza and patients are evacuated to Egypt as the Rafah crossing reopens

CAIRO. (Agency)

A dozen Palestinian returnees were allowed into Gaza from Egypt late Monday after the long-awaited reopening of the Rafah border crossing was marred by delays. Their arrival came hours after a small group of medical evacuees was ferried from the territory into Egypt. The reopening of the crossing marked a key step in the Israel ceasefire but mostly a symbolic one, with few people allowed to travel and no goods allowed to pass through. The limitations were apparent Monday as crossings fell well short of the 50 people officials had said would be allowed to move in each direction. About 20,000 Palestinian children and adults needing medical care hope to leave the devastated territory via the crossing, according to Gaza health officials. Thousands of other Palestinians outside the territory hope to enter and return home. The crossing had been closed since Israeli troops seized it in May 2024. The number of travelers is expected to increase over time if the system is successful. Israel has said it and Egypt will let people for exit

and entry. Ambulances queued for hours at the border before ferrying patients into Egypt, the state-run Al-Qahira News satellite television channel showed. Just before midnight, a bus arrived in Gaza carrying Palestinian returnees who had fled the fighting early in the war. As the vehicle entered the compound of a hospital in Khan Younis, a girl wearing barrettes and an older woman stood just inside the front door, waving to relatives anxious for their return. Before the war, Rafah was the main crossing for people moving in and out of Gaza. The territory's handful of other crossings are all shared with Israel. Under the terms of the ceasefire, which went into effect in October, Israel's military controls the area between the Rafah crossing and the zone where most Palestinians live.

Violence continued across the coastal territory Monday. Gaza hospital officials said an Israeli navy ship had fired on a tent camp, killing a 3-year-old Palestinian boy. Israel's military said it was looking into the

incident. Egypt prepares to receive the wounded. Rajaa Abu Mustafa stood outside a Gaza hospital where her 17-year-old son Mohamed awaited evacuation. He was blinded by a shot to the eye last year as he joined desperate Palestinians seeking food



crossing is separated from Cairo by a six-hour drive. The Egyptian Red Crescent said it has readied "safe spaces" on the Egyptian side of the border to support those evacuated. More than 10,000 patients have been evacuated from Gaza since the war began, according to the World Health Organization. But Israel's seizure of the Rafah crossing brought the pace of evacuations to a crawl, with an average of 17 patients a week leaving for most of the time since. Israel has banned sending patients to hospitals in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem since the war began, cutting off what was previously the main outlet for Palestinians needing medical treatment unavailable in Gaza.

U.N. officials on Monday called on other countries to take in more patients from Gaza "so that everyone receives the treatment they need." With the crossing reopened, Gaza residents looked forward to the return of family members who fled earlier in the war.

UAE Ramadan 2026 prayer timings and full fasting schedule for the entire month is here

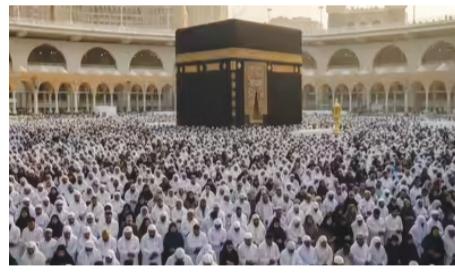
PARIS. (Agency)

As the Islamic calendar turns toward the most sacred month of the year, residents across the Emirates are preparing for a unique "Winter Ramadan." According to the Emirates Astronomical Society, the crescent moon of Ramadan 1447 AH is predicted to be visible on the evening of February 18, making Thursday, February 19, 2026, the likely first day of fasting. Ibrahim Al-Jarwan, Chairman of the Society, notes that this year's fasting hours will be remarkably pleasant, starting at approximately 12 hours and 45 minutes and gradually increasing as the month progresses toward spring.

UAE: Ramadan 2026 timings

To help you plan your worship, family gatherings, and work schedule, here is the comprehensive daily timetable for the UAE. Note that these timings are based on astronomical calculations for

Dubai; residents in Abu Dhabi should add approximately 4 minutes, while those in Fujairah can subtract about 4



minutes. Note: 30th day subject to moon sighting, Eid Al Fitr is expected on Friday evening or Saturday

Laylat al-Qadr and Eid Al Fitr

The final ten days of Ramadan are the most spiritually intense. Laylat al-Qadr (The Night of Power) is traditionally sought on the odd-numbered nights, with the 27th night

expected on March 16/17, 2026) being a focal point for late-night prayers at landmarks like the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

Following the completion of the 29 or 30 days of fasting, the Moon Sighting Committee will convene to announce Eid Al Fitr, which is astronomically predicted for Friday, March 20, 2026. This will mark the beginning of a long weekend of celebration, gift-giving, and family gatherings across the nation.

Conclusion

As we tuck this timetable into our daily lives, let's remember that Ramadan is not merely a race against the sun, but a journey toward the soul. In the words of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): "Ramadan is the month whose beginning is mercy, its middle is forgiveness, and its end is freedom from fire."

Deal with India will export more American farm products, help counter Russian aggression: US leaders

World. (Agency)

Top American leaders said the trade deal announced by US President Donald Trump with "close partner" India will export more farm products from America to the massive Indian market and the agreement will also help counter Russian aggression.

"Congratulations to President Trump for a superb accomplishment on today's trade agreement with India," Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Senator Jim Risch said in a post on X Monday. He said he is "very glad to learn that the world's oldest and largest democracy has agreed to reduce trade barriers with the United States." Describing India as a "close partner" of the US, with a prominent diaspora in America, Risch said New Delhi is an integral partner in countering China's "malign influence" in the Indo-Pacific. "Now, under this new agreement India has pledged to buy American. It will also help the US counter Russian aggression and in its work to bring an end to Russia's war against Ukraine by cutting off India's support of the Russian energy sector," Risch said. US Secretary of

Agriculture Brooke Rollins thanked Trump for "once again" delivering for American farmers. "New US-India deal will export more American farm products to India's massive market,



lifting prices, and pumping cash into rural America," she said in a post on X. Noting that in 2024, America's agricultural trade deficit with India was \$1.3 billion, she said India's growing population is an "important market" for American agricultural products and the deal will go a long way to reducing this deficit. "America First victory on top of the dozens of deals for agriculture," she said.

Describing Trump as "Dealmaker in Chief", Secretary of the Department of

the Interior and Chairman of the National Energy Dominance Council Doug Burgum said the US President "continues to bring in record investment from US energy purchases.

This is energy diplomacy at work, strengthening international relationships and bolstering the US economy!" In a post on Truth Social, Trump announced Monday morning that India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will charge a reduced reciprocal tariff on Delhi, lowering it from 25 percent to 18 percent. Senator Lindsey Graham said India "has more than earned" this reduction.

"Well played, President Trump. I think your message about ending this war -- by having (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's customers who prop up his war machine have to recalculate -- is working," Graham said on X.

"Through their behaviour, India has more than earned this reduction. I'm hoping that the other big nations that buy Russian will follow India's direction. Putin will only come to the table when the pain is so great. We're not there yet."

Clinton's agree to testify in House Epstein investigation before contempt of Congress vote

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton agreed late Monday to testify in a House investigation into convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, but the Republican leading the probe said an agreement had not yet been finalized.

Rep. James Comer, the chair of the House Oversight Committee, was advancing criminal contempt of Congress charges against both Clintons Monday evening for defying a congressional subpoena when attorneys for the Clintons emailed staff for the Oversight panel, saying the pair would accept Comer's demands and "will appear for depositions on mutually agreeable dates." The attorneys requested that Comer, a Kentucky Republican, agree not to move forward with the contempt proceedings. Comer, however, said he was not immediately dropping the charges, which would carry the threat of a substantial fine and even incarceration if passed by the House and successfully prosecuted by the Department of Justice. "We don't have anything in writing," Comer told reporters, adding that he was open to accepting the Clintons' offer but "it depends on what they say."

The last-minute negotiating came as Republican leaders were advancing the contempt resolution through the House Rules Committee — a final hurdle before it headed to the House floor for a vote. It was potentially a grave moment for Congress, the first time it could have a former president in contempt and advance the threat of prison time. Comer earlier Monday rejected an offer from attorneys for the Clintons to have Bill Clinton conduct a transcribed interview and Hillary Clinton submit a sworn declaration. He insisted that both Clintons sit for sworn depositions before the committee in order to fulfill the panel's subpoenas. A letter from the committee to attorneys for the Clintons indicated that they had offered for Bill Clinton to conduct a 4-hour transcribed interview on "matters related to the investigations and prosecutions of Jeffrey Epstein" and for Hillary Clinton to submit a sworn declaration. "The Clintons do not get to dictate the terms of lawful subpoenas," Comer said. The former president and secretary of state had resisted the subpoenas for months after the Oversight panel issued subpoenas for their testimony in August as it opened an investigation into Epstein and his associates. Their attorneys had tried to argue against the validity of the subpoena. However, as Comer threatened to begin contempt of Congress proceedings, the Clintons started negotiating towards a compromise. The Republican-controlled Oversight committee advanced criminal contempt of Congress charges last month. Nine of the committee's 21 Democrats joined Republicans in support of the charges against Bill Clinton as they argued for full transparency in the Epstein investigation. Three Democrats also supported advancing the charges against Hillary Clinton.

Judge blocks Trump administration from ending protections for Haitians

SPRINGFIELD. (Agency)

A federal judge on Monday blocked President Donald Trump's administration from ending temporary protections that have allowed roughly 350,000 Haitians to live and work in the U.S. U.S. District Judge Ana Reyes in Washington granted a request to pause the termination of temporary protected status for Haitians while a lawsuit challenging it proceeds.

The TPS designation for people from the Caribbean island country was scheduled to expire Tuesday. "We can breathe for a little bit," said Rose-Thamar Joseph, the operations director of the Haitian Support Center in Springfield, Ohio. "It is not a final victory, because a judge cannot redesign a country for TPS or extend the TPS, but it means a lot for us." Earlier Monday, two dozen faith leaders and hundreds of congregants in Springfield sang and prayed together in support of Haitian migrants who feared their protected status could end this week. They were hopeful that the federal judge might intervene. Reyes said in an

accompanying 83-page opinion that plaintiffs were likely to prevail on the merits of the case, and that she found it "substantially likely" that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem preordained her termination decision because of "hostility to nonwhite immigrants." "During the stay, the Termination shall be null, void, and of no legal effect," the judge said in her two-page order, adding that for now, the termination has no bearing on their ability to work and to be protected from detention and deportation. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin denounced the ruling as "lawless activism." "Haiti's TPS was granted following an earthquake that took place over 15 years ago," she said in a statement. "It was never intended to be a de facto amnesty program, yet that's how previous administrations have used it for decades."

DHS says Haiti has improved, but community leaders say it's still unsafe. Temporary Protected Status can be granted by the Homeland Security secretary if conditions in home countries are deemed unsafe for return due to a natural disaster, political instability or other dangers. While

more people eligible for deportation. The moves are part of the administration's wider, mass deportation effort.

In addition to the migrants from Haiti, Noem has terminated protections for about 600,000 Venezuelans, 60,000 people from Honduras, Nicaragua and Nepal, more than 160,000 Ukrainians and thousands of people from Afghanistan and Cameroon. Some have pending lawsuits in federal courts. "If the termination stands, people will almost certainly die," attorneys for Haitian TPS holders wrote in a court filing in December. "Some will likely be killed, others will likely die from disease, and yet others will likely starve to death." They say the decision to end Haiti's status was motivated by racial animus, and Noem failed to consider whether there was an ongoing armed conflict that would pose a "serious threat" to personal safety, as required by law. DHS said conditions in Haiti had improved. In a court filing in December, attorneys for the administration said.



It grants TPS holders the right to live and work in the U.S., it does not provide a legal pathway to citizenship. Haiti's TPS status was initially activated in 2010 after a catastrophic earthquake and has been extended multiple times. The country is racked by gang violence that has displaced hundreds of thousands of people. The Trump administration has aggressively sought to remove the protection, making

NEWS BOX

Rickshaw driver stabs wife, kills self after fight at home in Koyambedu

CHENNAI. (Agency)

A 42-year-old autorickshaw driver died by suicide after allegedly stabbing his wife during a domestic quarrel at their residence in Koyambedu on Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Devakumar of Nerkundram in Koyambedu. His wife, Sathy (37), who works as a security guard, sustained serious stab wounds and is currently undergoing treatment at the Government Kilpauk Medical College Hospital.

Police sources said Devakumar is an alcoholic, which frequently led to disputes at home. On Sunday night, he returned home in an intoxicated state, leading to a heated argument with Sathy. In a fit of rage, Devakumar picked up an 8-inch knife and stabbed her in the abdomen.

Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and found Sathy bleeding. They immediately rushed her to the hospital and shifted the couple's two children — a daughter in Class 12 and a son in Class 11 — to a relative's house for safety. Meanwhile, Devakumar locked himself inside a room. Upon being alerted, Koyambedu police entered the house, forced open the door, and found his body. A case has been registered and further investigation is under way.

11 held for auto racing on Puzhal-Tambaran bypass

CHENNAI. (Agency)

The Avadi police have arrested 11 individuals for allegedly engaging in illegal autorickshaw racing on the Puzhal-Tambaran Inner Ring Bypass Road. The incident, which took place on January 15, came to light after videos of the race went viral online.

According to police, a group of men were engaged in autorickshaw racing at dangerous speeds near the Porur tollgate, endangering other commuters while performing dangerous overtakes. Accomplices on motorcycles followed the racers, filming the event on mobile phones and cheering them on.

A detailed investigation by a special team from the Avadi Traffic Investigation Wing, led to the arrest of 11 persons. Police also seized three autorickshaws and three motorcycles used in the race. All 11 accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

School van overturns on Maduravoyal flyover, three injured

CHENNAI. (Agency)

A school van carrying two students overturned on the Maduravoyal flyover on Monday morning, briefly disrupting traffic along the busy stretch. The driver and both students inside escaped with minor injuries.

Police identified the driver as Harish, a resident of Ayapakkam near Ambattur, who runs a private van service for schoolchildren. Around 8 am, he was taking two students to a private school in Anna Nagar.

Sources said that, while going down the Maduravoyal flyover towards Koyambedu on the Poonamallee High Road, the driver lost control of the vehicle. The van swerved and overturned in the middle of the flyover. Passersby rushed to the spot and helped rescue the driver and the two students from the van. All three were given first aid and were out of danger, sources added. The accident caused traffic congestion for nearly 30 minutes before police cleared the vehicle. Police said a major tragedy was averted as there were no vehicles immediately behind the van. Further inquiry is under way.

GHMC's 1st steps towards common water, power and property tax bill

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

As the state government is mulling introducing a common bill for electricity, water/drainage and property tax, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation has begun a joint survey to update mobile numbers linked to Property Tax Identification Numbers.

The exercise is being carried out by GHMC bill collectors in coordination with Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited meter readers. The updated mobile numbers will be mapped in handheld



machines. Deputy municipal commissioners have been instructed to complete the survey by February 15. During a review meeting on January 12, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed officials to examine the proposal for a common bill. Subsequently, at a meeting chaired by the MAUD special chief secretary on January 27, it was decided to integrate mobile numbers associated with PTIN with those of the power utility. Officials were directed to conduct a joint door-to-door survey from February 1 to complete the mobile number integration process by February 15.

Sivankutty inaugurates robotics kit distribution

The advanced kits are expected to empower students to build IoT (Internet of Things)-based devices.



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

Marking a new milestone in the state's education sector, General Education Minister V Sivankutty inaugurated the state-level distribution of Advanced Robotic Kits to state's public schools on Monday. The minister launched the programme by presenting the robotics kits to Little KITES IT

Club members from six schools here. Implemented by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), as many as 2,500 advanced robotic kits are being distributed as part of the initiative.

With the inclusion of robotics in Class X ICT curriculum from this academic year, over 4 lakh students will benefit from this,

KITE officials said. The advanced kits are expected to empower students to build IoT (Internet of Things)-based devices. "These kits are designed to help our students transition from basic automation to mastering IoT and real-world AI applications, fostering a culture of innovation in schools," KITE CEO K Anvar Sadath said. The robotics kit will

comprise ultrasonic distance, soil moisture, PIR motion, and line-tracking sensors, along with a 4WD smart car chassis, a submersible mini water pump, and a rechargeable lithium-ion battery pack, adding a level of creativity and uniqueness to the projects. With this, students will get hands-on training to develop projects like line-following robots, automatic plant watering systems, motion-sensing security alarms, smart walking sticks for the visually impaired, air quality monitoring systems, and smart weather stations.

Along with project development, students will also learn about electronic circuits and get practical experience in programming languages like Block Coding, Python, and C.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by general education secretary K Vasuki, general education director N S K Umesh, and KITE CEO K Anvar Sadath. The robotics distribution is expected to be completed by February 7 and 8.

Half-mark row stalls TET 2025 results, lakhs of teachers left in limbo

Mumbai. (Agency)

LAKHS OF candidates who appeared for the state's Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) 2025 continue to wait for the final results due to a half-mark discrepancy in the qualifying criteria for reserved category candidates. While the prescribed passing requirement for them is 55 per cent, or 82.5 out of 150 marks, the interim result declared last month treated candidates scoring 83 as pass and those with 82 as failed, prompting widespread objections.

This was the first TET conducted after the Supreme Court made the examination mandatory for in-service teachers, significantly raising the stakes for thousands of educators. Under the ruling, TET clearance is compulsory not only

for new appointments but also for in-service teachers with more than five years of service remaining. Those who fail to clear the test within two years face compulsory retirement. Teachers with less than five years of service can continue in their jobs but will not be eligible for promotions.

Fears of potential job loss led to a record turnout of nearly 4.7 lakh candidates for the examination held in November 2025. Although the interim result was announced on January 16, candidates remain stuck without the final result, which is now required to be submitted by teachers for official purposes.

"With such high stakes, TET candidates do not want to leave

any room for confusion. As a result, several reserved category candidates have raised objections over interim result. The fault lies with Exam Council which did not

clearly declare the notification on passing criteria, which is expected before the exam," said Suresh Sawale, joint secretary of the Spardha Pariksha Samanvay

Samiti, an organisation representing competitive exam aspirants.

Apart from concerns over the transparency maintained by the examination council, Sawale said the ambiguity could be challenged in a court of law if the final result does not address the issue.

Sources in the Maharashtra State Examination Council said discussions are underway to resolve the confusion over qualifying marks for reserved category candidates. "The final result is almost ready and is expected to be out on Tuesday or Wednesday," said a senior official, requesting anonymity.



Section of Anna University PhD scholars excluded from convocation

Scholars who completed their viva after this date will be awarded degrees at a separate function later in February, the date of which is yet to be announced.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

A section of PhD scholars from Anna University who completed their viva-voce after June 2025 have expressed strong disappointment over the university's decision to hold a separate degree-awarding function for them in February, instead of including them in the 46th annual convocation scheduled for February 4.

According to a circular issued by the university, only scholars who successfully defended their PhD viva-voce on or before June 30, 2025, will be permitted to receive their degrees in person at the main convocation ceremony. Scholars who completed their viva after this date will be awarded degrees at a separate function later in February, the date of which is yet to be announced.



The decision has left many scholars upset, as the February event will feature a chief guest or the governor, who is traditionally the chancellor of the

university. "For many of us, convocation is the most memorable day of our academic life. We worked for years with the hope of receiving the degree on stage in a grand event in front of a chief guest. A separate, low-key function takes away the emotion and recognition associated with that moment," said a PhD scholar who completed her viva in July 2025. University officials, however, defended the move, citing logistical constraints. A senior varsity official said the last convocation was held in 2024 and the number of eligible scholars this year has risen sharply. "We can accommodate only about 750 candidates in a single convocation ceremony. Given the large backlog and venue limitations, it is not feasible to include

Bengaluru eyes Rs 100 crore incentive for municipal bonds to boost infrastructure



BENGALURU. (Agency)

To incentivise municipalities and develop urban areas, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that an incentive of Rs 100 crore would be provided for a single bond issuance of more than Rs 1,000 crore. Will this help Bengaluru, which is highly dependent on funds, especially from the state government, to raise money for big-ticket infrastructure? It should be noted that Bengaluru was the first city in India to issue the country's first-ever municipal bond in 1997 through the erstwhile Bangalore Municipal Corporation, raising Rs 125 crore which was used to improve the city's infrastructure. Civic evangelist V Ravichandar said

that in general, the municipal bond market as a source of funding is huge in developed countries. He, however, said we need to think along these lines with fiscal responsibility on utilisation and plans to service the bonds.

"The Central government incentive will goad cities to consider bonds," Ravichandar said, and added that they should be need-based and structured carefully. Former bureaucrat K Jairaj, who served in different capacities including Commissioner of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, said, "In 1997, Bengaluru was the first city to raise funds through municipal bonds. They were used for the development of major arterial roads."

Road and rail connectivity works see steady progress at Vizhinjam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

With the temporary road transit link and land acquisition for rail transit at the Balaramapuram side nearing completion, the construction of the auxiliary services in connection with the Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL) is progressing at a steady pace. The provisional permission of access to connect the port approach road to the existing highway service roads was given by the NHAI regional officer on January 16, Ports Minister V N Vasavan informed the assembly on the other day.

As a permanent solution, the authority has suggested a top-quality intersection solution, called 'Cloverleaf Solution', to connect the NH66 with the Port road and outer ring road. The proceedings for this are currently ongoing. The land acquisition for the rail connectivity is nearing completion in the Balaramapuram area, and is progressing



steadily in the Vizhinjam end. The DPR for the special rail line connecting it with the Southern Railways has already been prepared by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, with necessary government,

railway and environmental sanctions already availed. A sum of Rs 193 crore has already been allocated towards this project, which is expected to be completed by December 2028.

Of the 10.7 km rail stretch connecting the port to Balaramapuram railway station, around 9.43 km will be through underground tunnels. The EPC tender documents for the rail line have already been drafted and are awaiting final approval.

Remarkably, the slow pace of auxiliary service development in connection with the port was criticised by Leader of Opposition V D Satheshan during the inauguration of the second phase works of the sea port held in January. In addition to this, over Rs 114.30 crore has already been spent as livelihood compensation in Vizhinjam. The construction of the solid waste management centre has been completed here. Along with this, a skill development centre, drinking water facilities, playgrounds, community health centre, renovation of fishing harbour, and the construction of a new one are also taking place.

Roy was dealing with stress, depression, finds SIT



BENGALURU. (Agency)

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the death by suicide of Confident Group chairman Chiriankandath Joseph Roy, popularly known as CJ Roy, has found that he was dealing with severe mental stress and depression, and undergoing counselling by a psychiatrist. A day before Roy took the extreme step, he is said to have met the psychiatrist in Jayanagar. When SIT officers visited the scene of crime, they found Roy's room was soundproof. When Roy shot himself around 3.15pm Friday, none of his employees in the office heard the gunshot. A team of IT officers at the scene of crime was reportedly questioned by the SIT. The IT officials have been instructed not to leave the city without permission from the Investigating Officer.

The SIT is also recording statements of Confident Group staff and Roy's family members. The family will be questioned to ascertain if Roy had any professional threats. The statements of 63-year-old TA Joseph, managing director of Confident Group, the complainant in the case, is also being recorded.

Unnecessary speculation: HM Home Minister G Parameshwara told the media that unnecessary speculation should not be made in the suicide case. Responding to allegations by Roy's close associates, claiming the suicide was due to harassment by Income Tax officials, Parameshwara said the government formed an SIT to stop speculation. The SIT report will throw light if anybody has a role in the suicide. The government on Saturday constituted the SIT comprising officers from Bengaluru City Police, with Joint Commissioner (West) C Vamsi Krishna as its head.

Touchstones: Remembering Bindra Saab and Mark Tully

Where does one even begin to document all that has happened in our own country and the world in just a month of this momentous year? Davos, Trump's latest fatwas, our own Republic Day, and a tragic air crash that has shaken every Indian. Thank god for the snowfall in our hill states, after the driest winter in years, because at least our rivers will have some water later in the year as this snow melts. Cousins from Uttarakhand have sent delightful photos of snow-covered courtyards and the glorious Himalayan vistas, in fresh white snow. Of course, this has also meant that foolish tourists have flocked to play snowball-snowball, make snowmen and generally live out their filmi fantasies in reels sent to all and sundry. However, when one hears of the long queues of cars stuck on the freezing snow-covered roads and buses plunging into gorges, reality hits these dreams. Opening up our hidden Himalayan picturesque villages and small towns to promote tourism must factor in the consequences of this dramatic promotional flourish. Mountainsides blasted to widen roads have disastrous side-effects that may never be reversed, but when did our intrepid tourism promoters ever listen to the warnings that ecologists have been giving for years?

When I reflect upon these follies, I am forced to remember another generation of civil servants and mediapersons who were more mindful of reckless 'development' and who cared so deeply for the country that they took on bosses and political leaders fearlessly. Mr IS Bindra, who passed away on the same day as our beloved Mark Tully (January 25), was my husband's first boss when he joined the Punjab cadre as an SDM in Samrala. Mr Bindra, then DC of Ludhiana, was already well-known as a man who cleaned up Ludhiana's notorious civic mess and went out personally to remove encroachments and yell at traffic violators. He became my husband's mentor and gave him the support to do good, even if it meant confronting powerful local worthies. Among the many lessons he taught my husband was that he should avoid sharing a drink in his sub-division, as the relationship with someone one shares a drink with is very different from a cup of chai. This meant that we would land up (in a PRTC bus, mind you, not the official jeep) at his home in Ludhiana where my husband could let his hair down (he had some then). Those were some of the happiest times we spent and Mr Bindra became an extension of our own family even when we came to Chandigarh and Bindra Saab went to Patiala to run one of the most prominent cities of Punjab then. Later, when he became Home Minister Giani Zail Singh's special assistant, he cleaned up the DDA and became a respected member of his team.

His most abiding legacy was what he did to cricket and while that has been documented by many, I am so glad that the state-of-the-art stadium he built in Mohali (then a mere village) bears his name. His funeral on Republic Day was a fitting tribute to a man who exemplified the best traditions of the civil services and who taught by example what it was to be a proud Indian. What can I say of Mark Tully that others have not already said beautifully? We came to know Mark and his wonderful partner, Gillian Wright, sometime in the 1970s when Punjab was on the boil. Many journalists would come to gather news and information and somehow land up at our house in the evenings. When Bhindranwale was shot inside the Golden Temple complex, there was a complete lockdown and no one knew what was happening there. I will not reveal names here, but the pilot of the plane who flew the Army Chief out of Amritsar told his wife, who called friend who called me. So even before it was officially announced, our little adda got to know and Le Monde (whose India correspondent was staying with us at the time) was the first international newspaper to break the news. After we came to Delhi, Mark's beautiful home in Nizamuddin was a favourite venue with many and we met so many interesting people. Gillian, whose knowledge of Hindi and Urdu is amazing, became a friend at another level as a translator.

India's economic policymakers should reform the process of economic growth itself to ensure inclusive and sustainable development

India and the European Union have signed a long-awaited free trade agreement, a crucial and a major achievement for both parties, especially amid global uncertainty. There couldn't have been a better time than a day after we celebrated our 77th Republic Day. The agreement was also a reprieve for Europe as it is looking to reduce its economic dependence on the US after Trump raised the Greenland issue, writes senior financial journalist Sushma Ramachandran in her Edit piece Litmus test for India-EU bonhomie. Though there is mutual recognition of the value of a close partnership, sustaining deeper ties will entail compromises on both sides in the long run. Both Brussels and New Delhi must go all out to reduce the red tape. The present bonhomie in India-Europe relations will be tested on the ground in the coming days, she avers. The US National Defense Strategy was released by the US Department of War on January 23. The National Security Strategy (NSS) document also issued by the US White House recently is focusing on the Indo-Pacific. It leaves Europe vulnerable and Asia uncertain, says former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran in his Edit piece NDS confirms the Trumpian playbook. The NSS and the NDS have relegated Europe to the geopolitical margins and made it clear that Europe will have to look after its own security. Like Europe, India is vulnerable too. Associations like the Quad and the AUKUS, the nuclear submarine alliance of Australia, the UK and the US, do not figure in the NSS document. The NATO allies were served up insults and abuse and threatened with another round of tariffs. The US has become unusually conciliatory towards China 'if it keeps its demands reasonable and cabined' and the NDS makes no mention of Taiwan. With this background, India should take Canadian PM Carney's suggestion seriously — that the 'middle powers' should work together to shape a new international order, he writes.

India possesses significant latent leverage — its market size, its strategic geography and its role in balancing China — but this has not always been translated into bargaining power, writes ORF's Distinguished Fellow Manoj Joshi in his Op-Ed article Why strategic autonomy still matters. The current US approach is overtly transactional, and India is no longer automatically viewed as a strategic bet worth sustained concessions. The danger for India lies in mistaking comfort for trust, he writes. India must uphold its autonomy which does not mean isolation. Rather, it has meant the ability to engage widely without being constrained by the preferences of any single power, he writes. Meanwhile, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled in Parliament, India's economy is



projected to expand at a rate of 6.8 to 7.2 per cent in the fiscal year 2027. Faster GDP growth will not improve the well-being of India's billion-plus citizens, writes former Planning Commission member Arun Maira in his Edit piece There's more to growth than GDP. With the present pattern of growth, India's GDP must grow at 12 per cent per annum for the next few years to generate enough employment. Rather than the goal of climbing higher than other countries on the GDP ladder, India's economic reformers should reform the process of economic growth itself, he suggests. One of the solutions is to change the design and governance of a business enterprise. Workers must be the owners of the enterprises so that they earn the profits made from their work and increase their own wealth, rather than passing on the profits to increase the wealth of financial investors. Another solution requires more people to live and work in rural areas, and engage in smaller agriculture, manufacturing and service enterprises. This will require a reversal of migration from urban/formal enterprises to rural/informal ones, India can't afford to continue with the urban-industrialisation model.

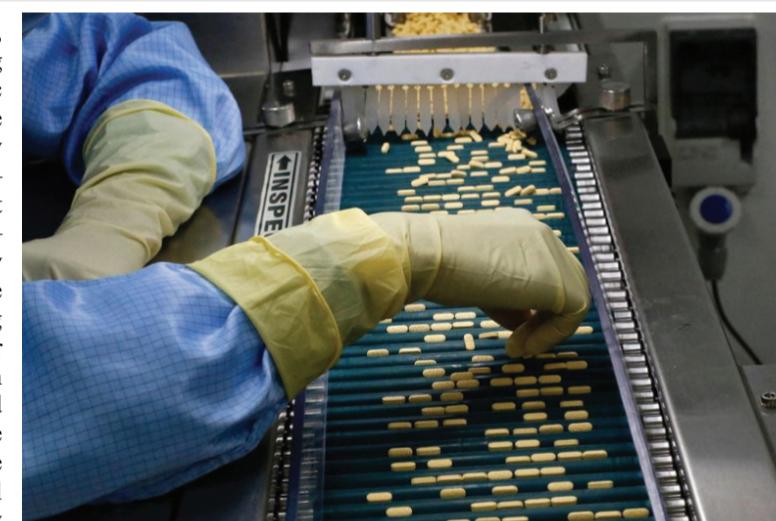
In her weekly column The Great Game, Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra writes about Amitav Ghosh's latest book

Ghost-Eye. It is a story of love without limits, without pretence; he mixes fact and fiction and makes it his own, she writes in her article The fact-fiction brew of Amitav Ghosh. She takes the reader through many of his works like *River of Smoke*, *The Glass Palace*, *Gun Island*, *The Hungry Tide* and *Sea of Poppies* and links them wonderfully to the present day, and in some cases historical events. When one reads Ghosh, it redeems the connection between books, reading, education and learning, she avers. 2026 has opened with an unusually long chain of elections in India's neighbourhood — Myanmar completed its three-phased elections in January; Bangladesh and Thailand go to polls in February; and Nepal in March. This means India will have to engage with a variety of new political faces in its eastern neighbourhood. Whoever takes on power, including so-called anti-India forces, Delhi will have to find pragmatic ways to double down on its regional economic and connectivity strategy. The future health of bilateral relations will hinge on New Delhi's ability to engage with a new generation of leaders, writes Constantino Xavier, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress in his Op-Ed article Ballots and uncertainty in the eastern neighbourhood.

Easing drug trials: Cutting red tape must not risk safety

The Tribune Editorial: The Central government aims to reduce regulatory friction and accelerate pharmaceutical innovation.

REGULATORY relaxation carries inherent risks, especially in a sector as sensitive as drug development, where public health, scientific integrity and commercial interests intersect. The Union Health Ministry's amendments to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials (NDCT) Rules, 2019 — easing trial norms and removing the requirement of test licences for several research activities — must therefore be assessed as much for what they loosen as for what they promise to deliver. The intent behind the reforms is clear. By replacing prior approvals with a system of intimation for low-risk research, waiving permissions for certain bioavailability and bioequivalence studies and shortening approval timelines where licences are still required, the government aims to reduce regulatory friction and accelerate pharmaceutical innovation. For an industry long hampered by procedural delays that added little to safety, these changes could shorten development cycles and lower costs, particularly for generics and early-stage research.



Yet faster approvals must not translate into weaker scrutiny or reduced accountability. India's reputation as a

reliable supplier of affordable medicines rests on the credibility of its regulatory oversight. Any perception that safeguards are being diluted in the name of ease of doing business risks eroding public trust and inviting global scepticism about the robustness of India's drug approval process. The shift from a permission-based system to post-intimation places a heavier burden on regulatory vigilance. It demands stronger monitoring mechanisms, transparent reporting and enhanced institutional capacity at the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation. Without effective audits, real-time data scrutiny and meaningful penalties for violations, regulatory relaxation could open gaps rather than improve efficiency. These reforms, therefore, represent a critical test of balance. If supported by rigorous oversight and accountability frameworks, they can encourage innovation while protecting patient safety. If not, they risk substituting speed for science.

A Site of Syncretic Histories

Historically, Champaner flourished as the capital of the Gujarat Sultanate during the late 15th and early 16th centuries under Sultan Mahmud Begada

When my young, beautiful, and talented dancer friend, Arupa Lahiry, the Regional Director of IGNCA, invited me to the Champaner-Pavagadh Heritage Festival 2025, I was over the moon. Why? Primarily because I had always wanted to visit Champaner. I first encountered Champaner through two photographic exhibitions many years ago at the India Habitat Centre—one by Karan Grover and another by bureaucrat Varun Maira. What stayed with me was the profound sense of syncretic culture—the layered coexistence of Hindu and Muslim traditions—that Champaner seemed to embody. Over the years, Champaner kept resurfacing in my cultural memory. While writing my book on Devi and Her Avatars, I devoted a chapter to the Devi of Pavagadh, identifying the site as one of the Shakti Peethas, also mentioned in my book The 51 Shakti Peetha. Upon arriving in Champaner, I was not disappointed. The moment I entered the spaces where the academic sessions and the Heritage Festival were to unfold—beginning from the ramparts of the Champaner Fort precinct—the setting established a dialogue between history, architecture, and contemporary engagement. The architectural ensemble anchored the festival's programming with remarkable sensitivity.

The Baradari, where Gauri Diwakar later offered a glimpse of her Kathak performance, and the Kevada Masjid precinct, where the morning academic sessions were held, revealed how thoughtfully the festival had been embedded within the architecture. Historically, Champaner flourished as the capital of the Gujarat Sultanate during the late 15th and early 16th centuries under Sultan Mahmud Begada. The architecture of this period reflects an elegant synthesis of Islamic spatial planning with earlier Hindu and Jain craft traditions.



Following the morning sessions, we moved into conversations that were centring and beautifully conceptualised by Lahiry. The half-day seminar held at the Kevada Masjid precinct brought together an interdisciplinary range of discussions on heritage futures, public engagement, hospitality, community stewardship, archaeology, memory, and the reconstruction of historical narratives. The seminar positioned scholarly dialogue in direct conversation with the architectural and historical fabric of Champaner-Pavagadh. Seeing Diwakar dance was an immersive experience. Her Kathak responded

sensitively to architectural thresholds, arches, and spatial rhythms. Equally compelling was the Dastangoi performance Dastaan-e-Champaner by Sukrit Sen and Palash Chaturvedi, staged near the water bodies of the site. As the day progressed, workshops and student-led engagements unfolded across the ASI Office Sarai and Teen Kothri. Traditional practitioners conducted hands-on workshops on Pithora painting, bead-making, and Mata ni Pachedi, while tribal communities from Chhota Udaipur demonstrated indigenous skills including archery. We must know the past to understand the present and plan for the future—and this is precisely

what the Champaner-Pavagadh Heritage Festival achieved. Through movement, music, scholarship, craft, and collective participation, the festival presented Champaner-Pavagadh not as a static archaeological park, but as a living cultural landscape. It was particularly enlightening to witness the work and perspectives shared by scholars and practitioners, alongside insights into heritage-based initiatives in places like Murshidabad, and to see how these conversations were grounded through workshops conducted within the historic spaces of Champaner-Pavagadh itself.

Rs 2 cr solar plant to boost green energy in Shahpur's Gubbar village: Pathania

Shahpur. (Agency)

A 500-kilowatt solar power plant costing about Rs 2 crore will be set up at Gubbar village in Pargod panchayat under the Shahpur Assembly constituency of Himachal Pradesh. Shahpur MLA and Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania shared this information after inspecting the site identified for the solar project. He said the plant would generate around 8 lakh units of electricity annually, which would be procured by the state government at a rate of Rs 3.45 per unit.

Pathania said the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhia-led state government is giving top priority to green energy generation. As part of this initiative, several solar projects are being established across the state to promote environmental conservation and ensure energy self-reliance.

He expressed confidence that the project would accelerate development in the area while strengthening the push for clean and renewable energy. Officials from various departments, panchayat representatives, and residents were present on the occasion.

Zero tolerance drive yields results: Dehra Police tighten noose on drug traffickers

Dehra (Kangra). (Agency)

Under the Chief Minister's flagship "Drug-Free Himachal Campaign," the Dehra district police have intensified a sustained, result-oriented crackdown on drug abuse and trafficking, adopting a strict zero-tolerance policy. Dehra Police district superintendent of police Mayank Choudhary told UNI that, continuing last year's successes under the NDPS Act, Dehra police registered eight cases in January alone.

Of these, three cases involved 202 grams of charas, while five cases led to the seizure of 38.25 grams of heroin (chitta) and 32 intoxicating capsules.

He said that a total of 12 accused have been arrested, including six from Punjab and six from Himachal Pradesh. Notably, two local women are also among the arrested, reflecting impartial and strict enforcement of the law without discrimination.

SSP Mayank said that the use of drug detection kits at the spot enabled quick identification of narcotics and ensured swift legal action, further strengthening investigations.

The anti-drug campaign will continue with heightened vigilance, firmness, and continuity to dismantle drug networks at their roots. Dehra district police have appealed to the public to immediately report any suspicious drug-related activity to the nearest police station and actively support the Drug-Free Himachal Campaign to secure a safer future.

Shop gutted in early morning fire in Dharamshala, loss estimated at Rs 5 lakh

Dharamshala. (Agency)

A fire broke out in a shop on Gurudwara Road at the district headquarters, Dharamshala, early Monday morning, causing an estimated loss of around Rs 5 lakh.

According to information, the fire erupted around 4:45 am in a shop owned by a local youth, Simran, under unknown circumstances. A resident noticed the blaze and immediately alerted others, preventing the fire from spreading to the nearby market area and vehicles parked close by.

The flames spread rapidly, resulting in extensive damage to the shop. On receiving information, residents rushed to the spot and informed the Fire Brigade. The fire-fighting team reached the site promptly and brought the fire under control after considerable effort. Station Fire Officer Ashok Rana said that the Fire Station received information about the fire at around 4:45 am, following which a fire tender was rushed to Gurudwara Road near the Kotwali area, and the blaze was successfully doused. No casualties were reported.

Bhima Agriculture Exhibition to be held in Kolhapur from Feb 13

Kolhapur. (Agency)

Western Maharashtra's agriculture sector will take centre stage as the four-day Bhima Agriculture Exhibition, one of the region's largest agricultural events, gets underway from February 13 to 16 at the Merry Weather Ground. The exhibition is being organised by the Bhima Festival in cooperation with the Kolhapur Zilla Parishad and the state Agriculture Department.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, Rajya Sabha MP and exhibition convener Dhananjay Mahadik said that several allied exhibitions, including those of birds, domestic animals, horses, and rice, will be organised during the event.

Mahadik said that various seminars for farmers will be held at the exhibition venue, where agriculture experts will address and guide farmers. Around 1,000 high-quality animals from across Maharashtra, as well as from Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, will participate in the exhibition. A special attraction of the event will be an iguana lizard.

Two New Platforms Added to New Jalpaiguri Station

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 03rd February, Northeast Frontier Railway has constructed additional two new platforms at New Jalpaiguri station under Katihar Division. This passenger-oriented initiative marks a significant upgrade in station infrastructure and is aimed at enhancing passenger amenities, ensuring smoother boarding and deboarding, improving operational efficiency and facilitating better handling of the increasing number of long-distance train services at this vital junction of the Northeast Frontier Railway network. Furthermore, as per the revised numbering system the newly constructed platforms from the main entrance side of the NJP station have been named as Platform No. 1 and Platform No. 2. The existing platforms have been systematically renumbered up to Platform No. 8. The earlier platforms have been realigned as follows: existing PF-1A has been renumbered as PF-3, PF-1 as PF-4, PF-2 as PF-5, PF-3 as PF-6, PF-4 as PF-7 and PF-5 as PF-8. This rationalisation is intended to bring uniformity, reduce operational confusion and ensure smoother train handling. Several important long-distance trains have been nominated on the revised platforms at New Jalpaiguri station to ensure smoother passenger movement and efficient operations. Kamakhya - Howrah Vande Bharat Sleeper Express (27576 DN) and Guwahati - Rohtak Amrit Bharat Express

(15671 DN), Dibrugarh - New Delhi Rajdhani Express (12423 DN), Guwahati - Kolkata Garib (13245 DN) has been nominated on Platform No. 2, further strengthening rail connectivity



Rath Express (12518 DN) and Agartala - smvt Bengaluru Humsafar Express (12504 DN) have been nominated on Platform No. 6. Other important long-distance services include Dibrugarh - Chandigarh Express (15903 DN) and Kamakhya - Anand Vihar Terminal Express (15621 DN) nominated on Platform No. 5, New Jalpaiguri - Howrah Vande Bharat Express (22302 DN) nominated on Platform No. 4. Additionally, New Jalpaiguri - Ara Express

between the Northeast and major cities across the country. Passengers travelling through New Jalpaiguri station are advised to carefully check the updated platform numbers through station announcements, digital display boards, enquiry counters and official railway communication channels. The revised platform arrangement is expected to improve train regulation, passenger movement and overall safety at New Jalpaiguri station.

"Trust, Transformation and Timely Delivery under the rule of Law have become UP's identity,": CM Yogi

Contd.....Front page

The government's objective is not to intimidate industries but to facilitate them. About the investments, CM says, "Before 2017, around 14,000 factories were operational in the state, which has now increased to over 30,000. This reflects that the double-engine government is working at double speed. UP has received investment proposals worth 250 lakh crore so far, out of which proposals worth 20 lakh crore have already reached the ground-breaking stage and production has begun in several projects. Continuous dialogue between the government and investors is being maintained." The Chief Minister said that Uttar Pradesh is working with a clear vision and strong policy framework to become a leading center for pharmaceutical manufacturing and innovation. The 'Bulk Drug Pharma Park' being developed in Lalitpur will not be just an industrial unit, it is being developed on a hub-and-spoke model with state-of-the-art R&D facilities.

Pradesh leads the way. Currently, 16 airports are operational, including four international airports and the fifth Noida International Airport will soon be dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister. Assuring investors, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Uttar Pradesh government stands firmly with them in every situation. Zero political interference, transparent policies and time-bound incentive disbursement have been ensured. "Come, invest produce and receive incentives on time, this is the Uttar Pradesh model," he said. Uttar Pradesh is no longer a BIMARU state but a revenue-surplus state, fully prepared to play a leading role in realising the vision of a 'Vikas Bharat'. The Chief Minister said, "The Pharma Conclave is part of the resolution to establish Uttar Pradesh as a manufacturing and innovation hub in the pharma sector. The government is moving forward with full strength to promote AI, telemedicine, deep-tech, med-tech, health-tech and clinical

HPU Shimla clinches North Zone Men's Basketball title, beats PU Chandigarh 42-38

Kangra. (Agency)

The North Zone Men's Basketball Championship concluded on a high note with thrilling matches and exemplary sportsmanship at the sports ground of DAV College, Kangra.

The prestigious tournament witnessed participation from teams representing 85 universities of the North Zone, making the competition intense and highly competitive.

The final match turned out to be a nail-biting contest between Himachal Pradesh University (HPU), Shimla, and Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh. Displaying remarkable grit and teamwork, HPU Shimla defeated PU Chandigarh by a close margin of 42-38 to lift the championship trophy.

The third-place match saw Punjabi University, Patiala, dominate the proceedings, as it registered a convincing 78-35 victory over Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar to secure the third position. The closing ceremony was

graced by Ajay Verma as the chief guest. Also present on the occasion were DAV College Kangra Principal Dr Baljeet Singh Patial, competition observer Prof Rakesh Verma, and Director of Physical Education, HPU, Prof Sanjay Sharma.

Addressing the gathering, the chief guest urged players to stay away from drugs and adopt sports as an integral part of life, saying that sports not only ensure physical fitness but also instill discipline and provide the right direction to youth. He lauded Dr Patial for his efficient leadership and praised DAV College Kangra for successfully hosting the mega sporting event.

During the ceremony, trophies and certificates were awarded to the winner, runner-up, and third-place teams. The organising committee expressed gratitude to all guests, officials, referees, coaches, volunteers, and players from participating universities for their cooperation, which ensured the grand success of the championship.

Telangana HC stays waqf land acquisition for NH-44 elevated corridor

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

The Telangana High Court on Monday ordered status quo on the proposed acquisition of four acres of Waqf Board land in Secunderabad for the construction of an elevated corridor on National

representations submitted in December 2024 and again on January 3, opposing the land acquisition.

The petitioners stated that the land belongs to Dargah Syed Saheb and a Muslim burial ground under the control of the Waqf Board, with a total extent of 8 acres. Of this, 4 acres are proposed to be acquired for the NH-44 elevated corridor project.

Their counsel argued that despite repeated objections, the authorities did not respond and that the land is protected Waqf property, which cannot be acquired without following the due process prescribed under the Waqf Act.

After hearing the matter, the Court issued notices to the Union government, state government, the Waqf Board and the chief executive officer of the Cantonment Board,

directing them to file counter-affidavits. The case has been posted to February 11. Meanwhile, the Court directed all parties to maintain the status quo on the land until further orders.



Highway-44.

The interim order was passed by Justice NV Shrawan Kumar while hearing a writ petition filed by Mohammad Abid and another petitioner. They challenged the authorities' failure to act on their

Chandigarh College of Architecture to design fitness, yoga and wellness facilities for Leisure Valley

According to officials, the design proposal to be prepared by the Chandigarh College of Architecture will be submitted within 15 days.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Chandigarh College of Architecture has been entrusted with preparing a comprehensive design proposal to incorporate facilities for fitness, yoga, wellness and mind-body healing at Leisure Valley in Sector 10, while preserving the existing fitness trails and equipment.

The decision was taken during a visit by Chandigarh Home Secretary Mandip Singh Brar, who inspected the condition, upkeep and public amenities at the popular green corridor.

Brar, who also reviewed the walking and jogging tracks, observed that certain stretches required immediate repair. He directed the Engineering Department to carry out prompt restoration work to ensure the safety and convenience of visitors.

Emphasising the role of open public spaces in promoting health and well-being, the home secretary asked the concerned departments to explore suitable provisions for yoga and



exercise facilities within Leisure Valley, aimed at encouraging healthy lifestyles among residents. Brar also directed officials to examine the feasibility of setting up a cafeteria facility in the area to enhance visitor amenities, with a focus on cleanliness and environmental sustainability.

Municipal Commissioner Amit Kumar, Chief Engineer CB Ojha, Chief Architect Rajiv Kumar Mehta and Chandigarh College of Architecture principal Dr Sangeeta Bagga were also present during the visit.

According to officials, the design proposal to be prepared by the Chandigarh College of Architecture will be submitted within 15 days and will integrate wellness and fitness facilities in a manner that preserves the original landscape and character of Leisure Valley.

The plan will align with the Master Plan vision of the green belt as the "Lungs of the City Beautiful," envisaged by Le Corbusier, said an official.

J&K: Two booked for securing MBBS admission in SKIMS using fake documents

Srinagar. (Agency)

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of the Crime Branch J&K has registered a case against two individuals for allegedly securing admission to the MBBS Course-2023 at SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, using fake and forged certificates, officials said on Tuesday.

They said the case is based on information received from a credible source, wherein it was alleged that a resident of Ajas, Bandipora, managed admission to the MBBS programme by producing forged "person with disability" (PWD) and "economically weaker section" (EWS) certificates, despite not being physically or mentally disabled.

Acting upon the information, the Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar, initiated a Preliminary Verification into the matter.

During the course of verification, it surfaced that the accused beneficiary, in connivance with another individual resident of Asham, Sumbal, Bandipora, procured a fake and forged PWD certificate. On the strength of the said forged document, the beneficiary allegedly secured selection for admission to the MBBS course at SKIMS Soura, Srinagar, the EoW said in a statement.

"The acts committed by the accused persons prima facie disclose the commission of cognizable offences punishable under Sections 420, 468, 471, and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code.

Accordingly, cognizance of the matter has been taken and a formal case has been registered at Police Station Economic Offences Wing, Srinagar (Crime Branch)," it added. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

Can't play with India's right to privacy, Supreme Court warns WhatsApp, Meta

The Supreme Court has issued a strong warning to WhatsApp and Meta against sharing user data for commercial gains and voiced concern that privacy policies drafted by tech giants are "so cleverly worded that ordinary citizens cannot grasp" their real consequences.

New Delhi.(Agency) The Supreme Court on Tuesday delivered a stern warning to WhatsApp and its parent company Meta over the instant messaging platform's data-sharing and privacy policies, stating that user data cannot be exploited for commercial purposes. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant expressed serious concerns over WhatsApp's privacy policy, warning that the court would not permit the platform to share even a single piece of user information. "We will not allow you to share even single information, you cannot play with the rights of this country, let a clear message go..." the Chief Justice said. Observing that users have little choice due to WhatsApp's dominant position, he added that the company had created a monopoly and was "making a mockery of constitutionalism" by undermining the right to privacy. When senior advocate Akhil Sibal argued that users had the option to opt out of the policy, Chief Justice Surya Kant questioned how effective such consent really was.

"Will a poor woman selling fruits on the street understand your policy? Will your domestic

help understand it? You may have collected data from millions of people. This is a decent way of committing theft of private information, and we will not allow it," the Chief Justice said.

The Chief Justice also said the Court would not proceed unless WhatsApp and Meta gave an

undertaking had been given there assuring no user would be barred for not accepting the 2021 policy. He also cited the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which allows time for compliance until May 2027, though Justice Joymalya Bagchi noted that the Act is yet to come into force.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that personal data was not only being sold but also commercially exploited. Justice Bagchi said the court would examine how WhatsApp "rents out" data and monetises users' behavioural trends for targeted advertising, observing that every silo of data has commercial value.

Chief Justice Surya Kant echoed the concern, citing personal experience of receiving targeted ads shortly after health-related WhatsApp messages. "If a message is sent to a doctor on WhatsApp that you are feeling under the weather, and the doctor sends some medicine prescriptions, immediately you start seeing ads," CJI Kant said.



undertaking that users' personal data would not be used.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi responded that a Constitution Bench was already examining WhatsApp's privacy policy and that an

Budget gives capital big boost: CM Rekha Gupta

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the Delhi government will try to get the proposed Narela education hub to be among the five new university townships announced in this year's Union Budget. Highlighting what Delhi will gain from the Budget, Gupta said the capital will try to benefit maximally from provisions made in it.

Citing an increase in special assistance to states for capital transfer for Delhi and Puducherry from Rs 6,275 crore in the last budget to Rs 15,380 crore this year, the CM said her government will benefit from it. She said that the capital will also reap benefits of enhanced allocation of Rs 13,611 crore under centrally sponsored schemes as compared to Rs 12,483 crore allocated in 2025-26.

Gupta highlighted improved coordination between the Delhi government and the central government. She said that continuous dialogue on funds and projects has ensured that Delhi's interests have received special attention in this budget. According to her, sectors such as roads, water, transport, health, employment and security improve most effectively when the Centre and the state work together, and this Budget reflects the strength of that cooperation.

Highlighting the overall impact of the budget, she said it is development-orientated, with enhanced capital expenditure driving construction activity and job creation nationwide. She noted that capital expenditure has risen from Rs 11.2 lakh crore last year to Rs 12.2 lakh crore this year, spurring road construction, infrastructure projects and large-scale employment, with direct benefits for major cities such as Delhi. Overall, the CM said that the budget balances development, reform and relief, and she elaborated on specific provisions made for Delhi.

Gupta described the finance minister's reference to the orange economy in the budget as a welcome and forward-looking move. She said the Centre plans to promote emerging AVGC sectors by setting up Content Creation Labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges nationwide, with Delhi also integrating its institutions into the initiative. Emphasising that Delhi is driven more by the services sector than industry, she said this area offers immense growth potential.

Survey buildings in vicinity of heritage properties, MCD told

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court has directed the MCD to conduct a survey of buildings situated in the vicinity of heritage properties in the capital to check if there are any illegal constructions. A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia passed the direction while hearing a petition raising concern about preserving the character of various properties, which were declared to be "heritage".

The bench directed that the survey will ascertain if constructions raised in such buildings were in accordance with the norms and the 'approved' building plan. "The survey team that is to be constituted by the municipal body shall also include one officer of the heritage conservation committee.

The survey report in respect of each heritage property as mentioned in the petitions shall be filed separately after serving a copy to the petitioners who may file their response to the survey report, if any, by the next date of hearing," the bench said. The order came almost a month after the city saw violence over the anti-encroachment drive near Faiz-e-Elahi Mosque in Ramlila Maidan area. People pelted stones at police personnel, injuring five of them, including the area's station house officer. Several persons have been arrested.

"The survey under this order shall be completed within a period of three months," the bench said, while listing the matter for further hearing on May 15.

The petition filed by Kusum Sehgal claimed that the construction around heritage properties "tend to change the character of such heritage properties and, in fact, such constructions sometimes result in defacement of the heritage buildings". It claimed that in many such cases, while approving the building plan, the MCD ignored the relevant building bye-laws and even the advice tendered by the heritage conservation committee. It further claimed that the occupiers of the buildings situated in the vicinity of heritage properties also deviate from the sanctioned building plan which also has an adverse impact on these properties.

Ready for debate: JP Nadda slams opposition over India-US trade pact protests

New Delhi.(Agency)

As Parliament witnessed noisy scenes over the landmark India-US trade agreement, Union Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday accused the opposition of spreading confusion and opposing a deal that, he said, would benefit the country's economy. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Nadda said the government was prepared to make a detailed statement on the agreement and hold a full discussion. He criticised Congress and its allies for what he described as a "frustrated" response to the development. Nadda's criticism of the opposition came a day after US President Donald Trump announced that Washington would reduce reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18 percent, following a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Trump also described Modi as a "strong leader" and a "true friend," while indicating that India would move towards lowering trade barriers on American

goods. "On behalf of the government, I want to say that we will issue a statement on this trade deal. The concerned minister will provide full details. We are fully prepared for a thorough discussion and to answer every question," Nadda said.



Nadda said the opposition had earlier accused the government of allowing steep tariffs but was now unwilling to acknowledge the reduction. "Earlier they said 50 per cent tariffs were imposed and demanded a response. Today, when the US President himself announced a reduction and praised

India's leadership, they are still protesting," he said. "You are an issueless party, now you have nothing to do with the nation. You have no issues left," the Union Minister added. He also reiterated that the government was open to debating the issue in Parliament. "We are ready to answer every question. A suo motu statement will be made, and all aspects will be discussed," he added.

Meanwhile, proceedings in the Lok Sabha were adjourned till 2 pm amid protests by opposition members over the trade deal announcement and other issues.

MPs also raised objections after Speaker Om Birla declined to allow Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to quote from an unpublished memoir of former Army chief General MM Naravane. The protests began as soon as the House convened, even as the Speaker was making an obituary reference, leading to repeated disruptions.

School fee law fails to offer relief to middle-class parents, says Saurabh Bharadwaj

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Aam Aadmi Party has alleged that the Delhi government's claim of regulating private school fees collapsed

without consulting parents or inviting public feedback, has left lakhs of families exposed to unchecked fee hikes.

Bharadwaj stated on X, "Big blow to

Supreme Court that 'The Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act, 2025' will not control, reduce, or even review the exorbitant fee hikes imposed by private schools for the 2025-26 academic session." He claimed that the reality on the ground starkly contradicts the claims made by the Delhi government. "Immediately after the BJP came to power in Delhi, most private schools increased their fees for 2025-26 by anywhere between 20% and 80%," he said.

Declaring the bill as tailor-made for vested interests, Bharadwaj stated, "This clearly shows how the BJP government is actively working for the private school owners' lobby." In another post, Bharadwaj alleged a lack of transparency in the way the law was drafted and passed.



Delhi's middle class. The so-called 'master stroke' of the BJP government to control private school fees has turned out to be a fraud on the middle-class parents of Delhi. Today, the BJP's Delhi government itself declared in the

New Delhi.(Agency)

The University of Delhi has constituted two committees to facilitate the second-tier election of student members to the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) for the academic year 2025-26, in accordance with Section 4 of the UGC (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

The move aims to ensure a transparent, fair and efficient election process for student representation in the ICC, a statutory body tasked with addressing complaints of sexual harassment within higher educational institutions.

Given the large student population of the University of Delhi, the election of three student representatives to the ICC—mandatorily including at least one male and one female student—is conducted through a two-tier system. The first-tier elections are held at the departmental or centre level, followed by a second-tier election at the university level. To oversee the election process, the university has constituted an Election Committee. Prof. Geeta Sahare, Joint Proctor, has been appointed as the Chief Election Officer, while Dr Saurabh, Deputy Proctor, will serve as the Election Officer. Prof. Avdhesh Kumar, Joint Proctor, has been designated as the Chief Returning Officer, and Prof. Jyoti Trehan Sharma, Joint Proctor, will function as the Returning Officer.

In addition, a Grievance Redressal Committee has been formed to address complaints or disputes that may arise during the election process. The committee will be chaired by Prof. Ranjan Kumar Tripathi, Dean of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Delhi.

Its members include Prof. Hena Singh and Prof. Sangeeta Gadre, both Joint Deans in the DSW Office, and Dr M Khyothunglo Humtsoe, Deputy Dean, DSW Office. The Deputy Registrar (Establishment Non-Teaching) will assist both committees in carrying out their responsibilities.

Air India orders fuel switch checks after Boeing Dreamliner malfunctions mid-air

New Delhi.(Agency)

Air India has launched a fleet-wide inspection of fuel control switches on its Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft after a malfunction was reported on a flight operating from London Heathrow to Bengaluru on Sunday, news agency PTI reported citing sources. The move comes amid heightened scrutiny of the aircraft's fuel systems following last year's fatal crash involving a Boeing 787-8.

DEFECT REPORTED AFTER INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

According to the PTI report, an Air India pilot reported a defect in the fuel control switch of a Boeing 787-8 after completing the London Heathrow-Bengaluru service.

The flight, which took off from London on Sunday, landed in Bengaluru on Monday morning. Soon after the report, the airline grounded the aircraft for technical checks.

The incident prompted the carrier to initiate precautionary inspections across its Dreamliner fleet.

EMAIL TO PILOTS ANNOUNCES RE-INSPECTION

Air India's Senior Vice President for Flight Operations, Manish Uppal, informed Boeing 787 pilots about the inspection drive through an internal email, sources told PTI.

"Following the reported defect involving a fuel control switch on one of the B787 aircraft, our engineering team has escalated the matter to Boeing for priority evaluation," Uppal wrote.

"In the interim, while we await Boeing's response, our engineers, out of an abundance of caution, have initiated precautionary fleet-wide re-inspection of the Fuel Control Switch latch to verify normal operations," he said.

Uppal also told pilots that no adverse findings had been reported on aircraft where inspections had already been completed.

CREW ASKED TO REPORT

In his communication, Uppal urged flight crew to remain vigilant and report any irregularities without delay. He asked pilots



to ensure that all mandatory technical checks and corrective actions are completed before accepting an aircraft for operations. Sources told PTI the airline is closely monitoring feedback from crew members as part of the ongoing safety review.

MATTER REFERRED TO BOEING

Air India's engineering team has referred the reported defect to Boeing for priority assessment. The airline is awaiting the manufacturer's response on whether the issue points to a broader technical concern or is an isolated case. "The matter has been escalated to Boeing for detailed evaluation," a source said.

PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS AFTER FATAL CRASH

Air India had conducted similar inspections last year following the fatal crash of a Boeing 787-8 aircraft in Ahmedabad, which killed 260 people.

The preliminary investigation report into that accident had mentioned that fuel supply was cut off shortly after take-off, bringing the functioning of fuel control switches under sharp focus. Since then, the airline has intensified monitoring of critical engine and fuel system components.

NEWS BOX

Sky turns blue again: Suryakumar Yadav's timely rise ahead of T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI (Agency)

Imagine going into a battle with your leader having forgotten how to wield his sword, no longer capable of striking fear into the enemy. How would the rest of the army feel? How would he command his troops to overtake their rivals? Strategy would feel fragile, belief would waver, and the sense of invincibility would vanish long before the first blow was struck. That was the uneasy feeling surrounding India as they edged closer to the T20 World Cup 2026, with their captain Suryakumar Yadav looking like a pale shadow of himself and enduring the leanest phase of his international career. Even though India were unbeaten since their T20 World Cup triumph, they needed their captain to be firing on all cylinders to stamp their authority as favourites to lift the trophy on home soil. However, it looked like a dream far too far-fetched, as Suryakumar continued to fail series after series, often returning to the pavilion with a wry smile on his face, almost laughing at his destiny. It seemed as if he had



used all his luck when he helped India snatch victory from the jaws of defeat with a stunning boundary catch during the T20 World Cup 2024 final in Barbados, as what followed over the next 18 months was sheer misfortune. From the end of the T20 World Cup 2024 until December 2025, Suryakumar had scored 448 runs from 28 innings at an average of 17.92, with just two fifties to his name. The India skipper had gone a whopping 23 innings without a half-century, with the clamour around his place in the team growing louder with every failure.

Surya shines against Kiwis

As India headed into the World Cup, the pressure on the skipper was immense, with many even questioning his place as the leader of the group. The belief that a struggling captain could inspire his team to a successful title defence was increasingly challenged, and the doubt pervaded the entire nation.

Pakistan are pulling off a drama with India boycott in T20 World Cup: Harbhajan Singh

NEW DELHI (Agency)

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has launched a scathing attack on Pakistan over its decision to boycott the group-stage match against India at the T20 World Cup 2026, calling the move nothing more than political theatre dressed up as solidarity with Bangladesh. Harbhajan questioned both the intent and the timing of the decision, daring the Pakistani Cricket Board to stick to its stance instead of making a familiar last-minute retreat. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Harbhajan said Pakistan's announcement lacked logic and was designed more to create noise than take a principled stand. He argued that if the PCB truly believed in the cause it was projecting, it should be prepared to face the consequences rather than leaving room for a convenient U-turn. "Begani shaadi mein Abdullah deewana," Harbhajan said. "Pakistan government has said that their team will participate in the T20 World Cup but will not play against India. There is absolutely no logic to this. This is the same



Pakistan government and the same PCB that, after some time, will say that the dispute was actually Bangladesh's, the ICC imposed the ban, and we were ready to play and resolve the issue. This is nothing but a complete drama being created to mislead people," he said. The former off-spinner questioned what Pakistan stood to gain from skipping only one match while playing the rest of the tournament. "What benefit are you going to get from this? This is just to show arrogance," he said. "If you really think that you can do something like this, then be adamant. Let's see if you really have the guts. There's no problem with standing with Bangladesh, but what about the people of your country who want the India-Pakistan match to happen?" he said.

Ishan Kishan cracks up revisiting old viral clip with Rohit Sharma

Ishan Kishan burst into laughter revisiting an old viral clip with Rohit Sharma, joking about how three missed matches turned into two lost years. The throwback landed just as his red-hot form reignited his T20 World Cup push.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India batter Ishan Kishan recently found himself laughing all over again as he revisited an old viral clip featuring Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill, proving that some dressing-room moments never really age. The clip resurfaced during Kishan's appearance on the YouTube show 2 Sloggers, where he was shown the now-famous exchange from India's 2023 ODI series against Sri Lanka. What was meant to be a routine post-match chat back then had turned into an unfiltered moment of humour that



fans have kept alive ever since. In the original video, Kishan cheekily took a dig at Rohit over his absence from the playing XI despite scoring a historic double hundred against Bangladesh in December 2022. When Rohit asked him why he sat out for three games even after making 200, Kishan responded with a straight face, "Bhaiya yeh to aap bataoge,

captain to aap the naa," leaving Rohit and Gill in splits. Fast-forward to 2026, and Kishan couldn't resist adding a fresh layer to the joke. Watching the clip again, he laughed and said that it wasn't just three matches he missed, but almost two full years. The self-deprecating humour struck a chord with fans, especially given how dramatically Kishan's

fortunes have changed since then. Ishan Kishan: A Man in Form

That light-hearted moment has come at a time when Kishan is firmly back in the spotlight for his cricket. The left-hander capped off the New Zealand T20I series with a stunning maiden T20I century, smashing 103 off just 43 balls in the 5th T20I in Thiruvananthapuram. It was the perfect high point to a comeback series that began on a far quieter note. Returning to the Indian side after more than two years, Kishan managed just 8 off 5 balls in the opening T20I. But he quickly turned things around with a blistering 76 off 32 deliveries in the second match, setting up a rapid chase of 209 and reminding everyone of his match-winning ability. By the end of the series, Kishan had piled up 215 runs from four innings at an average of 53.75 and a strike rate of 231.18. The numbers, coupled with his renewed confidence, have strengthened his case ahead of the 2026 T20 World Cup. With India weighing their options at the top of the order, Kishan's form has come at the right time. An opening partnership with Abhishek Sharma is now a real possibility, particularly with Sanju Samson struggling for runs.

Despite thrashing vs Pakistan, Ponting backs Australia to reach top 4 in T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

World No. 2 T20I side, Australia, were handed a reality check in their final tune-up for the T20 World Cup, suffering a crushing 0-3 whitewash at the hands of Pakistan away from home. The series ended in embarrassing fashion for the visitors, who were bowled out for 108 and 96 in the final two matches. The defeats exposed Australia's long-standing struggles against low and slow subcontinental conditions. Mohammad Nawaz, Usman Tariq and Abrar Ahmed ran through the Australian batting line-up, with the visitors failing to adapt with the bat



on all three occasions. The series raised serious questions around Australia's balance and preparedness just weeks before the global tournament. Despite the heavy losses, former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has played down the significance of the result, backing the side to reach the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2026. "If you look at the squad, I think they have as good a chance as anybody," Ponting said while speaking to the ICC. "India probably start as the clear favourites because of the conditions, the talent and the group of players they have put together. They'll be hard to beat. But I really do think we'll see Australia there come semi-final time," he added.

Australia's build-up has been further complicated by injury concerns, with fast bowler Pat Cummins ruled out of the tournament. The squad has also drawn scrutiny for its lack of specialist players adept against spin, with in-form Steve Smith not included. Ponting admitted injuries remain Australia's biggest worry heading into the World Cup but backed senior all-rounders Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell, along with youngster Cooper Connolly, to shoulder responsibility. Australia open their campaign on February 11 against Ireland. All their group-stage matches will be played in Sri Lanka, where surfaces at the R Premadasa Stadium and Pallekele are expected to offer turn and variable bounce.

ISL picks FanCode over JioHotstar: Value drops from Rs 1.68 cr to Rs 9.5 lakh

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

FanCode has been revealed as the new media partner of the Indian Super League, edging out heavyweight competition to secure the global broadcast rights for the reduced 2025-26 season. The development brings some clarity to a campaign that has been delayed, disrupted and surrounded by uncertainty for over four months.

The Dream-Sports owned company had submitted two separate proposals — one including production and another limited to broadcast and streaming — both crossing the Rs 8.5 crore mark. Following a quality-and-cost-based evaluation by the Bid Evaluation Committee, the broadcast-only proposal was selected. Speaking after the bidding process concluded, AIFF Deputy Secretary General M Satyanarayanan explained the federation's thinking behind the decision. "We are pleased to have concluded the ISL media rights process and to partner with FanCode, one of India's leading sports platforms," Satyanarayanan said. "FanCode's focus on accessibility and fan experience aligns with our objective of



expanding the league's footprint and engaging more football fans across the country," he added.

Production duties for the delayed season will be handled by KPS Studios, which quoted a bid in excess of Rs 5 crore. The company has prior experience producing domestic competitions such as the I-League, Durand Cup and Bengal Super League.

Notably, JioStar, the league's broadcast partner for the last two seasons and part of the ownership group that previously ran the ISL, missed out after submitting a significantly lower bid of around Rs 5 crore. Sony Sports and Zee Sports, despite early

interest, did not submit bids.

The ISL Value Crash

While the news of a new broadcast partner after months of uncertainty brings a sense of relief, the numbers attached to the deal have just shown how sharply the league's value has fallen. Last season, the ISL's broadcast agreement for 2024-25 stood at Rs 275 crore for 163 matches, putting the per-match value at around Rs 1.68 crore. It reflected a league that, despite its issues, still carried commercial weight and long-term backing.

The 2025-26 season tells a different story. FanCode's winning bid of Rs 8.62 crore for a shortened 91-match season values each game at roughly Rs 9.5 lakh. That is a steep drop from last year and a clear indicator of how uncertainty, delays and a four-month pause have eroded confidence in the product. When will ISL return?

On the bright side of things, the broadcast deal getting sorted only means that the Indian Super League is finally ready to roll again. The 2025-26 season will restart on February 14, with clubs dusting off their kits for a shortened, high-speed finish.

CSK in WPL Team to start investing in women's cricket, reveals CEO Kasi Viswanathan

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

After four full seasons of the Women's Premier League, Chennai Super Kings have confirmed that the franchise is finally ready to step into women's cricket. One of the most successful teams in the Indian cricketing ecosystem, CSK will look to expand its footprint in the coming years, with women's cricket set to be its first priority. The confirmation came from CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan, who was speaking at the Invest in Tamil Nadu conclave. Viswanathan said that while the move is not imminent, the franchise has clear plans to invest in women's cricket in the near future. He also indicated that CSK could explore opportunities in other sports over time. "Not immediately, but certainly in the coming years, CSK will expand its footprint. Our first target will be women's cricket. We may also go into other sports over time," Viswanathan said when asked about the

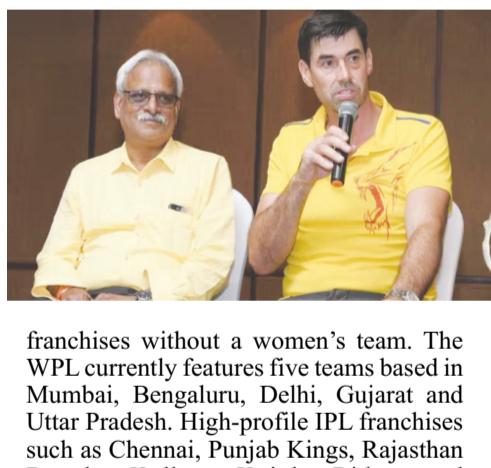
franchise's long-term plans. Which IPL Teams do not Have WPL Franchises?

At present, CSK are among the IPL

Sunrisers Hyderabad are yet to enter the women's league.

BCCI's plan to expand the WPL

The possibility of new teams joining the WPL has been discussed openly by franchise owners in recent months. During the WPL auction, Delhi Capitals co-owner Parth Jindal revealed that the BCCI is actively considering an expansion of the league. Jindal said the long-term vision is to move towards a full home-and-away format, rather than the current caravan-style tournament played across two or three venues. "I think we would love to see the WPL home and away as well. The caravan format is okay, but it is not ideal," Jindal said during the auction in 2025. "The window is very short right now, which is why the BCCI has to fit the WPL into this period. I hope we get a bigger and longer window going forward."



Why did Cristiano Ronaldo not play in Al Nassr vs Al Riyadh Controversy explained

Cristiano Ronaldo's unexplained absence from Al Nassr's league clash has ignited strike rumours and exposed growing tensions behind the scenes. At stake is not fitness, but power, ambition, and his future in Saudi football itself.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo's absence from Al Nassr's Saudi Pro League clash against Al Riyadh on Monday has triggered intense speculation and renewed scrutiny around the Portuguese star's future in Saudi Arabia. Although Al Nassr would breathe easier after clinching a 1-0 win in the match even without their Portuguese superstar, courtesy to a Sadio

Mane goal, the problems have not yet ended for the Gulf club. What made the episode more intriguing was that Cristiano Ronaldo was initially named in the matchday squad when line-ups were released. His eventual omission, without any official explanation linked to injury or fitness concerns, immediately raised eyebrows.

With Al Nassr offering no clarity and Ronaldo remaining silent, attention swiftly shifted from tactical decisions to off-field tensions, especially given the broader context of the club's recent struggles and missed opportunities for silverware.

Is it Cristiano Ronaldo vs Saudi Pro League?

According to Portuguese outlet A Bola, Ronaldo's absence was not coincidental. The report claims the 40-year-old is deeply unhappy with how Al Nassr is being managed under the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (PIF). Al Nassr are one of several elite clubs controlled by the fund, alongside rivals Al Hilal, Al Ittihad and Al

Ahli. The core of Ronaldo's frustration is believed to stem from perceived unequal treatment. While rival PIF-backed clubs have continued to invest heavily and strengthen their squads, Al Nassr's recent



recruitment has been modest. The club's only winter signing was Hayder Abdulkareem, a 21-year-old midfielder from Iraq, a move that reportedly did little to convince Ronaldo of a serious title push.

How has Cristiano Ronaldo's Saudi chapter

been?

Ronaldo joined Al Nassr in 2022 after leaving Manchester United, becoming the highest-paid footballer in the world with an annual salary reported to be around one hundred and seventy-seven million pounds. Despite his remarkable goal-scoring record, his trophy haul has been limited to the Arab Club Champions Cup in 2023. Since then, Al Nassr have finished runners-up twice in the league before slipping to third last season, while also falling short in domestic cup finals and Asian competition. Meanwhile, Ronaldo has watched rivals, including former teammates, lift league titles elsewhere in Saudi Arabia.

Adding to the uncertainty, Al Nassr's sporting director Simo Coutinho and CEO Jos Semedo have reportedly had their decision-making powers frozen by the club's board, further complicating the internal structure.

India's seafood exports set to regain ground after US cuts tariff to 18 pc

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's seafood exports to the United States are expected to regain momentum after US President Donald Trump announced a reduction in import tariffs to 18%, a move that is likely to restore the country's competitiveness in its largest overseas market. The United States remains the biggest destination for Indian seafood, with exports valued at USD 2.78 billion in 2024-25. However, export performance weakened this year, with a decline of about 6.3% in value terms and nearly 15% in quantity compared to the same period last year. The drop was largely attributed to the imposition of steep tariffs, which had risen to as high as 50% in August 2025. With the latest reduction, India is expected to compete more effectively with rival exporters such as Ecuador, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. Under the revised tariff structure, Ecuador faces a 15% duty, Indonesia and Thailand 19%, and Vietnam 20%, placing India broadly on par with these countries at 18%. "We are confident that with the conclusion of the trade deal and the lowering of tariffs to 18%, the quantity of seafood exported from India to the USA will increase and soon return to previous levels," said G. Pawan Kumar, President of the Seafood Export Association of India (SEAI). "At 18%, we are now competitive and can regain market share," he added. In a statement, SEAI congratulated the Union Government on the successful conclusion of the trade deal with the United States, which resulted in the reduction of tariffs on Indian seafood exports.

India-US deal a major catalyst for our electronics, semiconductor ecosystem: President IESA

New Delhi.(Agency)

The India-US trade deal can be a major catalyst for India's electronics, semiconductor, and technology ecosystem. Ashok Chandak, President of SEMI India and IESA said on Tuesday, adding it will accelerate semiconductor design and manufacturing, bolster value addition, and expand cooperation across AI and data centres space. The comment from the industry assumes significance as the US and India have reached a trade deal following months of negotiations. Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from the current 25 per cent, President Trump said in a social media post on Monday after a phone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The prime minister said he was delighted that "Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent". IESA's (India Electronics and Semiconductor Association) Chandak said, the India-US trade deal can be a major catalyst for India's electronics, semiconductor, and technology ecosystem. By improving market access, enabling smoother flow of capital equipment and advanced technologies, and, when complemented by the iCET and TRUST initiatives, strengthening trusted supply chains and deepening technology collaboration, the agreement significantly enhances India's attractiveness as a global manufacturing and innovation hub, Chandak said. "It will accelerate semiconductor design and manufacturing, boost electronics value addition, and expand cooperation across AI, data centres, and advanced manufacturing - creating high-skill jobs and positioning India as a strategic and reliable partner in the global technology value chain," he added. The vision of USD 500 billion bilateral trade can have over USD 100 billion trade for electronics and semiconductor sector, according to him.

Musk Inc. Billionaire combines his rocket and AI businesses before an expected IPO this year

New Delhi.(Agency)

Elon Musk is joining his space exploration and artificial intelligence ventures into a single company before what's expected to be a massive initial public offering for the business later this year.

His rocket venture, SpaceX, announced on Monday that it had bought xAI in an effort to help the world's richest man dominate the rocket and artificial intelligence businesses. The deal will combine several of his offerings, including his AI chatbot Grok, his satellite communications company Starlink, and his social media company X.

Musk has talked repeatedly about the need to speed development of technology that will allow data centers to operate in space. He believes that will help overcome the problem of huge costs in electricity and other resources in building and running AI systems on Earth. It's a goal that Musk suggested in his announcement of the deal could become easier to reach with a combined company. "In the long term, space-based AI is obviously the only way to scale," Musk wrote on SpaceX's website Monday, then added in reference to solar power. "It's always sunny in space!" Musk said in his announcement. He estimates that within 2 to 3 years, the lowest cost way to generate AI compute will be in space. "SpaceX will be competing in that realm with Google, which is working on a research project called Project Suncatcher that would equip solar-powered satellites with AI computer chips, with a prototype that could launch as soon as next year. But Musk's prediction of a near future of space-based AI supercomputers is not shared by many other companies building data centers, including Microsoft. "I'll be surprised if people move from land to low-Earth orbit," Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, told The Associated Press last month, when asked about the alternatives to building data centers in the U.S. amid rising community opposition. Musk is already facing stiff competition in artificial intelligence, where he's been scrambling to compete against rivals such as OpenAI, which is also working toward an IPO.

Stock market cheers India-US trade deal, Sensex rallies over 2,400 points

As of 9.25 am, Sensex added 2,421 points, or 2.97 per cent, to reach 84,088, and Nifty gained 741 points, or 2.96 per cent to settle at 25,829.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Indian equity markets surged sharply by around 3 per cent early on Tuesday with broad-based buying across sectors, buoyed by the announcement of the India-US trade deal. As of 9.25 am, Sensex added 2,421 points, or 2.97 per cent, to reach 84,088, and Nifty gained 741 points, or 2.96 per cent to settle at 25,829. India and United States have agreed to a trade agreement under which reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods will be slashed to 18 per cent from 25 per cent, and the additional 25 per cent duty on purchases of Russian crude oil will be eliminated. The trade deal will be "effective immediately", President

Donald Trump said, following a phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi late on Monday, offering immediate tariff relief for India. Main broad-cap indices posted strong gains, as the Nifty Midcap 100 surged 3.10 per cent, and the Nifty Smallcap 100 added 3.25 per cent.

All sectoral indices were showed huge gains with realty, auto, consumer durables and IT being the major gainers, up 4.47 per cent, 3.78 per cent, 3.69 per cent and 3.04 per cent, respectively. At 18 per cent, India's tariff rate is now lower than that of several major export-oriented Asian economies. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Vietnam face tariffs of 20 per cent, while Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Pakistan face tariffs of 19 per cent. Immediate support for Nifty lies at 25,600-25,800 zone, while resistance is anchored at 26,200-26,350 zone, market watchers said. The dramatic announcement of the long-awaited US-India trade deal and the US decision to cut tariffs on India from 50 per cent to 18 per cent is a game changer for the Indian

economy and stock markets as its delay was the single important factor weighing on the markets," an analyst said.

According to market watchers, India's growth rate will rise to around 7.5 per cent in FY27, assisted by higher exports



to the US from the deal, and corporate earnings already on revival could accelerate to around 16 per cent to 18 per cent in FY27. Analysts also said that the rupee will rebound sharply, adding that the combination of US-India trade deal, the EU-India trade deal and the growth-oriented Budget will boost the market

sentiments. The positive sentiment could trigger immediate foreign capital inflows, potentially turning India's Balance of Payments (BoP) position. Large caps including banking leaders, non-banking financials, telecom, capital goods and IT, which are trading the favourites of FII can see huge inflows, market watchers said. In Asian markets, China's Shanghai index gained 0.38 per cent, and Shenzhen added 0.93 per cent, Japan's Nikkei surged 3.23 per cent, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index edged up 0.11 per cent. South Korea's Kospi surged 5.04 per cent. The US markets ended largely in the green in the last trading session as Nasdaq gained 0.56 per cent. The S&P 500 advanced 0.54 per cent, and the Dow added 1.05 per cent. On February 2, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) net sold equities worth Rs 1,832 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers of equities worth Rs 2,446 crore.

Engineering goods, textiles, leather among sectors to gain significantly: FIEO on US deal

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) on Tuesday hailed finalisation of the India-US trade deal, under which the United States has agreed to reduce tariffs on all 'made in India' products to 18 per cent, saying it marks a significant milestone in further boosting and strengthening bilateral trade relations between the two countries. Sectors such as engineering goods, textiles and apparel, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, leather products, gems and jewellery, and agricultural products are expected to gain significantly from the tariff rationalisation. It is expected to lead to an immediate and substantial release of orders that were earlier put on hold, particularly in labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, textiles, leather and footwear, where global buyers typically lock in summer season sourcing by December. SC Ralhan, President, FIEO, said that the agreement would enhance the

competitiveness of Indian products in the US market and provide a strong impetus to India's export growth across sectors. "The finalisation of the



India-US Trade Deal and the reduction of US tariffs to 18 percent on Indian-made products is a landmark achievement. It reflects the growing strategic and economic partnership between India and the United States and opens up vast opportunities for Indian exporters, particularly MSMEs," said Ralhan. Lower tariffs will not only improve price competitiveness but also help Indian

exporters integrate more deeply into US supply chains. This agreement will encourage capacity expansion, attract fresh investments, and support job creation in export-oriented industries, he added.

The reduction in reciprocal tariffs — from earlier levels of around 50 per cent to 18 per cent — would be a major game-changer for the competitiveness of Indian exports vis-a-vis other Asian suppliers. With sharper price parity, improved tariff certainty, and strong buyer confidence in Indian suppliers, these sectors are poised for a rapid surge in orders and a strong acceleration in export growth in the coming months. This agreement sends a strong signal to global markets about India's commitment to free, fair, and rules-based trade. FIEO remains confident that this development will help India achieve its long-term export targets and further strengthen India's position as a reliable global trading partner," Ralhan noted.

India-US trade deal to boost country's manufacturing: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Taking to social media platform X, the finance minister said that Indian products would now face a reduced reciprocal tariff of 18 per cent.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday welcomed the reduction in United States' tariffs on Indian goods, describing the development as a major boost for the 'Made in India' initiative. Taking to social media platform X, the finance minister said that Indian products would now face a reduced reciprocal tariff of 18 per cent. "Good news for #MadeInIndia products. They will now face reduced tariff of 18%. Thanking the leadership of PM @narendramodi and @POTUS for this development. People of our two large democracies stand to benefit," she said in a post on X. The breakthrough follows a high-level telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. In a reciprocal move, India has committed to reducing trade barriers for American goods and



Asian shares surge as markets regain momentum after recent volatility

Markets are awaiting earnings reports from major companies to gauge the impact of various trends including Trump's tariffs and possible curbs on rare earths exports from China.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Asian shares surged on Tuesday, led by a 5% jump in South Korea's benchmark and a 3% rally in Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index as investors bought tech-related shares. Markets are awaiting earnings reports from major companies to gauge

the impact of various trends including U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs and possible curbs on rare earths exports from China. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 climbed 3.2% to 54,346.33. Shares in equipment maker Disco Corp. jumped 6% while those in testing equipment maker Advantest gained 5.6%. In South Korea, the Kospi gained 5% to 5,197.86, rebounding to near its record after a rout on Monday that led to automatic brief suspensions of trading. Investors appeared to regain confidence after the latest scare over a possible bubble in artificial intelligence as shares in Samsung Electronics Co. soared 6.9% while those in chip maker SK Hynix rocketed up 7.5%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was nearly flat at 26,786.47, while the Shanghai Composite added 0.4% to 4,031.07. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged up 1.2% to 8,880.20 ahead of an

interest rate decision by the central bank. Investors are awaiting more earnings reports from major companies to gauge the impact of various trends including U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs and possible curbs on rare earths exports from China. On Monday, U.S. share prices rose while gold and silver prices sank further following their latest wild moves. The S&P 500 added 0.5% to 6,976.44, snapping a three-day losing streak. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.1% to 49,407.66, and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.6% to 23,592.11. Sandisk leaped 15.4% to lead the S&P 500. The data-storage company added to its 6.9% gain from Friday, after it reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. It credited demand created by the artificial-intelligence boom, among other things.

significantly increasing imports across sectors, including energy, technology, and agriculture. Following the trade agreement announcement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was delighted that "Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent".

"Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump today. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18 per cent. Big thanks to President Trump on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India for this wonderful announcement," Modi said.

DA hike CONFIRMED at 60% Here is all about the AICPI December 2025 index that will impact the January 2026 DA

The final data for determining the calculation of Dearness Allowance and the foundation for determining the DA quantum will be the AICPI Index number for the month of December has come.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Lakhs of central government employees who have been waiting for the announcement of the Dearness Allowance (DA) raise have a good news. The optimistic outlook has been caused by the AICPI Index data computation. The final data for determining the calculation of Dearness Allowance and the foundation for determining the DA quantum will be the AICPI Index number for the month of December has come. The figures for December 2025 AICPI index have been

declared by the government that shows that there has been a good jump in the index. The All-India CPI-IW for December, 2025 remained at 148.2 points (one hundred forty-eight point two). AICPI index for November was also same (148.2 points) while that of October was at 147.7 points. Year-on-year inflation for the month of December, 2025 stood at 3.13% as compared to 3.53% in December, 2024.

According to the latest figures, the total DA score was 45.58 percent, which has increased to 46.24 percent in June 2023, depending on AICPI index figures. DA May Increase To 60 Percent. Media reports are abuzz with speculations that now central employees will be paid Dearness Allowance at the rate of 60 percent. The announced regarding the same will be made by the government in the month of March, reports have added. The recognised formula, which is based on the

recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission, shall be followed in order to raise DA. The Dearness Allowance of central government employees is revised twice a year. The first is given from January to June, while the second comes



DA, the increased amount will be paid along with the arrears. DA increased in October 2025. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2025 has approved to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f 01.07.2025 representing an increase of 3% over the existing rate of 5.5% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate against price rise.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of increase in both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs.10083.96 crore per annum. This will benefit about 49.19 lakh Central Government employees and 6.87 lakh pensioners. This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

Deepika Padukone

Shares How Obsessed She Is With Dua, Had Daughter's Leftover Thepla In Her Bag

Deepika Padukone has embraced one of the most transformative roles of her life — motherhood — marking a deeply emotional and defining phase in her personal journey. The actress became a mother in September 2024, when she and husband Ranveer Singh welcomed their daughter, Dua. Now, Deepika has talked about how obsessed she is with her daughter. In a chat with Harper's Bazaar India, Deepika Padukone was asked about her current obsession. Deepika said, "Not current — I'm going to remove 'current' from it. My obsession is my daughter." Deepika also shared funny anecdotes about Dua.

When asked about the weirdest thing in her bag, she said, "The weirdest thing in my bag? There was a piece of thepla that she (Dua) was eating, and I found it after two days." She also revealed how she

sings "head, shoulder, knees and toes" for Dua. Deepika was also asked about a phrase that she uses a lot. "In a good way, I've been saying I love you a lot to my baby," Deepika said. Since becoming a mother, Deepika has spoken sparingly but thoughtfully about her daughter, describing motherhood as life-altering, grounding and profoundly emotional. In interactions, she has shared how the experience has shifted her

perspective, making her more present and appreciative of the small, everyday moments. She has also expressed a strong desire to give her daughter a normal, secure upbringing, away from the pressures of fame that come with being born into a film family.

Deepika has often reflected on the influence of her own parents, particularly her mother, in shaping her values and emotional strength. That influence now finds a new meaning as she steps into parenting herself. Known for her openness about mental health and balance, the actress has indicated that motherhood has deepened her understanding of patience, empathy and unconditional love.



Birthday Girl Sandeepa Dhar

Revisits Ancestral Home In Kashmir, Reflects On Kashmiri Pandit Roots

As Sandeepa Dhar celebrates her birthday, the actor has also given fans a deeply personal glimpse into her roots. Few know that the actor belongs to a Kashmiri Pandit family, and her recent visit to Kashmir turned into an emotional journey through memories, loss and belonging. In a heartfelt social media post, Sandeepa shared pictures from her ancestral home in Kashmir — a place she had known only through her parents' stories and old photographs. The visit marked her first time walking through the spaces that once shaped her family's life before the exodus that forced them to leave their homeland nearly three decades ago.

During her trip, the actor revisited some of the most iconic locations that had lived on in her parents' memories for years. From riding shikaras on the serene waters of Nigeen Lake to drinking spring water at Chashme Shahi, and wandering through the lush paths of Nishat Garden, Pahalgam and Gulmarg, Sandeepa retraced the footsteps of a life her family was once compelled to leave behind.

Reflecting on her experience, the actor admitted that

while time has altered the landscape, the emotional connection remains intact. "Everything has changed and nothing has. The gardens aren't as full and the house sits empty, yet somehow I felt like I'd always belonged here," she shared. For Sandeepa, the visit felt like "finally stepping into the memories that came before me."



The actor's return to Kashmir was not just a nostalgic trip but a reconnection with her identity as a Kashmiri Pandit. On the professional front, Sandeepa Dhar will next be seen in Do Deewane Seher Main, with more projects expected to be announced soon. She was earlier seen in OTT projects such as Abhay and Netflix's Mai.

Ashish Chanchlani Says Italy Video Was 'Fully Scripted,' Apologises After Backlash: 'I Understand How It Came Across'



YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani has issued a clarification after facing intense backlash over a now-deleted video from his recent Italy trip, which sparked outrage on social media for allegedly mocking an Italian man during a speedboat ride. The controversy escalated after fellow influencer Rajat (@ouramerican.vlogs) publicly called out Ashish for what he described as disrespectful behaviour abroad. Addressing the criticism, Ashish has claimed that the video was scripted, shot with consent, and has apologised for how it came across publicly.

Ashish Chanchlani Says Italy Video Was Scripted, Apologises for How It Came Across

Responding to the backlash in the comments section, Ashish Chanchlani issued a clarification, stating that the video was misunderstood and not meant to offend. He wrote, "Hello, before people jump to conclusions, I need to clarify certain things. This entire video was taken with their permission, I asked them if I can shoot. It was a fully scripted video. You'll be surprised the guy even knew what I was talking about and we also joked about it later on. The girl in this video was from my Italy team, and she had a lot of fun while we shot for this. Irrespective of this, I understand that this video comes across as promoting unruly behavior publicly, so I apologize and I have taken it down." Ashish acknowledged that despite the context he provided, the clip could be perceived negatively and confirmed that he had removed it from his social media platforms.

What Triggered The Controversy

The clip, originally shared on Ashish Chanchlani's Facebook account, showed him on a speedboat with other tourists in Italy. In the video, Ashish was heard making remarks about the boat operator after noticing him interacting with a woman seated nearby.

"Abhi hum log Italy mein hain, samundar mein surf kar rahe hain. Baju mein buddha kaka hai..." Ashish said, before adding, "Hume bhi bata do, hum bhi tourist hain." He then escalated the commentary, saying, "Yeh saali mard jaat hoti hai na, badi kuttie cheez hoti hai."

Saari duniya mein same, hum rang se divided hain, lekin neeyat mein khot bhari. Tharki buddhe, tharki hi rahenge." The remarks were widely criticised online for being offensive and culturally insensitive, prompting calls for accountability.

Mom-to-be Sonam Kapoor's Sweet Chat With Paparazzi About Her Health Is Too Endearing



Sonam Kapoor, who recently announced her second pregnancy, has been making waves with her maternity style. She turned heads yet again when she was spotted out and about. While her stylish ensemble was definitely worth noticing, it was her sweet and playful exchange with the paparazzi that truly stole the moment and was simply too adorable to miss. Directed by Bejoy Nambiar, Tu Yaa Main is produced by Aanand L Rai and Himanshu Sharma under the banner of Colour Yellow, along with Vinod Bhanushali and Kamlesh Bhanushali of Bhanushali Studios Limited. The film speaks directly to today's youth, blending raw emotion with edge-of-the-seat storytelling. It is scheduled for release on February 13, 2026.

Sonam's All-White Look Is Simple, Serene And So Her

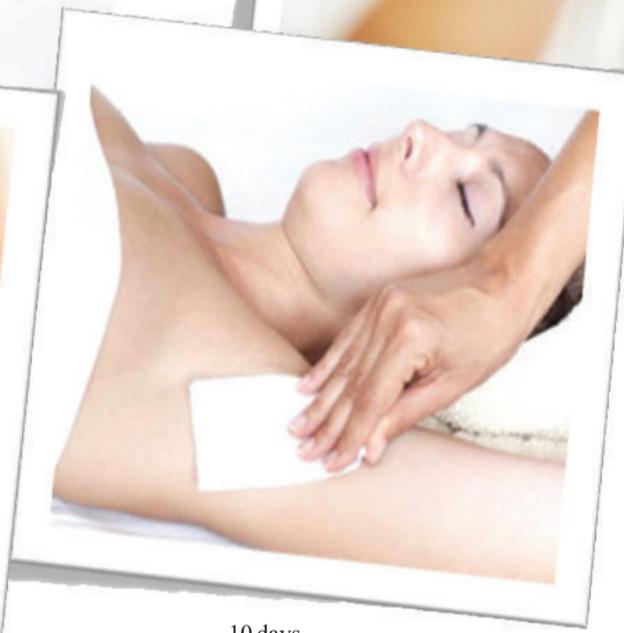
Talking about her fashion look, Sonam chose a pristine all-white ensemble that felt both elegant and comfortable. She opted for a crisp white shirt, leaving a few buttons open around her baby bump, which was a subtle yet confident styling choice that added ease and grace to the overall look. The shirt was paired with a flowing white pleated skirt, thus creating a silhouette that was soft, relaxed, and incredibly chic.

Keeping her accessories absolutely in sync with the monochrome palette, Sonam carried a white handbag and slipped into comfortable white slingback flats, proving once again that style doesn't have to come at the cost of comfort. What truly stood out, however, were the finer details, like her chunky silver earrings added just the right amount of edge, while her sleek French bun kept the look polished and fuss-free. Topping it all off, her sunglasses complemented the outfit beautifully, making the entire look feel perfect.

Sonam's Adorable Paparazzi Conversation Is Too Cute To Miss

While posing in her chic all-white ensemble, Sonam couldn't stop smiling for the cameras. One of the paparazzi asked warmly, "Health kaisi hai ma'am aapki?" With her usual grace, Sonam replied, "Sab theek hai, thank you." After striking a few poses, she sweetly thanked the photographers and started to leave, until another paparazzi requested her to pose once again in the shade. Ever so obliging, Sonam happily struck a few more poses before finally exiting.

5 natural ways to lighten your dark Underarms



How many times have you found yourself checking half finished products lying in your makeup kitty? For most women, even before they finish using a product completely, the urge to buy a new one takes form with the old product being pushed right behind the new ones. Here are a few ways to make sure that you do not waste your old products.a



If your dark armpits make you conscious while raising your arms, or you have simply stopped wearing sleeveless outfits to shun the embarrassment, then this story is going to make your day. Dark armpits are a common problem, and can be fixed with easily-available ingredients in your kitchen. Here are five home remedies you can try this week to flaunt toned, smooth underarms!

1. Lemon Juice

Lemon is a natural bleaching agent and helps to brighten up the discoloured area. All you need to do is to rub lemon juice on the darkened area every day for two-three minutes before taking a bath. Follow this with moisturising the area once you are done with bathing, and you'll start noticing results in 7-

10 days.

2. Potato

Potato is also a great natural bleach and an anti-irritant that helps to lighten underarms and provides instant relief from itchiness. You can place a thin slice or apply potato juice on your armpits and keep it for 10-15 minutes. For effective results, use it twice a day, and say hello to brightened underarms!

3. Apple Cider Vinegar

Apple cider vinegar contains mild acids that help to remove dead cells, and is also a great disinfectant. Start with mixing two tablespoons each of this vinegar with baking soda. Apply this mixture for about ten minutes or till the time it is dry. Rinse it with cold water, and repeat it thrice a week to see results.

4. Olive Oil

Mix a tablespoon each of olive oil with brown sugar, and you have a DIY exfoliator ready! Scrub it for a minute or two, and then leave it for five minutes. Rinse it off with lukewarm water and this can be applied twice a week for effective results.

5. Aloe Vera

You can either scoop out the gel from Aloe Vera plant or use organic Aloe Vera gels available in market. You simply need to apply this gel on your underarms for 15 minutes and rinse it off afterwards. It is a natural exfoliator that removes dead skin, and is loaded with anti-bacterial properties that helps to soothe and nourish skin.

Beauty and the beach



SKIN SAVERS

1. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30 or above) on all exposed areas at least 20 minutes before going out in the sun. Re-apply every few hours. The back of the neck and arms are extremely vulnerable.

2. After swimming in the sea, rinse your face with plain water. Back home, dab face with cold milk and leave on for a few minutes. It soothes sunburn. Moisturise.

3. A cleanser is a must to remove all the dust and grime. Pick one according to your skin type. Normal skin: Use a cleansing gel, containing aloe vera.

Oily and combination skin: Use cleansing milk or face wash.

Dry skin: Apply nourishing cream and massage it on the skin with few drops of water.

HAIR HACKS

1. Wear a swimming cap to protect your hair.

2. Wet your hair thoroughly before swimming in the sea; this will prevent strands from absorbing a lot of sea water. Apply a hair serum or hair cream with sunscreen.

3. After swimming in the sea, use a mild herbal shampoo to wash your hair. Follow up with a leave-in conditioner.

Don't just sip your beer: Tea and beer are easily available during a vacation. Use them to rinse your hair. Squeeze some lemon juice into your beer and tea water. Leave on for a few minutes and rinse off with plain water.

MAKE-UP BASICS

Carry make-up products that are waterproof or long lasting and have a matte finish. Stay away from anything that smudges easily. Replace lipstick with lip gloss for a subtle look. Instead of applying blusher, use lipstick in a natural colour, make little dots on the cheeks and blend with your fingertips. Use as little colour as possible.



5 home remedies to get rid of facial hair



Unlike hair on the other body parts, facial hair are quite visible, and can make or break your look. If you find it tedious to visit a salon every few weeks, here are some simple and effective home remedies to remove your facial hair naturally.

1. Sugar and Lemon Juice

All you need to do is mix two tablespoons of sugar and lemon juice, along with 8-9 tablespoons of water. Heat this mixture until bubbles start to appear and then, let it cool.

Apply it on the affected areas using a spatula and keep it for about 20-25 minutes. Wash it off with cold water, rubbing in circular motion.

Wondering how it works? Well, sugar is a natural exfoliating agent, and warm sugar sticks to your hair, not skin. Lemon juice works as a natural (and cheap) bleach for the skin hair, and also helps to lighten the skin tone. Say bye to the painful facial waxing!

2. Lemon and Honey

This is another method to replace waxing. Start with mixing two tablespoons of sugar and lemon juice, and one tablespoon of honey. Heat the mixture for about three minutes and add water

to make the mixture thinner, if required.

Once the paste cools down, apply cornstarch on the affected areas and spread the paste in the direction of hair growth. Next, use a waxing strip or a cotton cloth, and pull the hair out in the opposite direction of growth.

Honey helps in moisturising the skin, and hence this method is highly recommended if you have dry skin.

3. Oatmeal and Banana

This method is quite handy. Blend two tablespoons of oatmeal with a ripe banana, and apply this paste on the affected areas. Massage it for 15 minutes, and wash it off with cool water.

Oatmeal makes a great, hydrating scrub and is loaded with antioxidants that helps to remove redness from your skin. Apart from removing your facial hair, this paste will also give you a glowing skin.

4. Potato and Lentil

Mix a tablespoon of honey, lemon juice each with five tablespoons of potato juice. Meanwhile, grind the lentils (soaked overnight) to a smooth paste. Add all the ingredients and apply the mixture for about 20 minutes on the affected area. Wash it off

once it is completely dry.

This paste makes a thin crust that helps in hair removal. Plus, potato helps in bleaching the hair, making them less visible.

5. Egg White and Cornstarch

Mix a tablespoon each of cornstarch and sugar



with egg white. Apply this mixture on the areas where you have unwanted hair and peel it off once it is dry. Quite simple, isn't it?

Egg white is sticky, and forms a thin film on skin when combined with sugar and cornstarch. This method is not suitable for acne prone skin as egg white contains Vitamin A which may lead to breakouts.