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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

2020 riots case: 'Timed for Trump visit, planned pan-India stir' -- Delhi police's big charge

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has opposed the bail plea of Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and others in the UAPA case linked to "larger conspiracy" behind the 2020 north-east Delhi riots. In an affidavit to the Supreme Court on Thursday, it said that the "materials and chats" on record referring to Donald Trump indicated that the "conspiracy was pre-planned and sought to be replicated and executed pan India."

The counsel for Umar Khalid, on Tuesday argued

before a Delhi court that no criminality could be attributed to Khalid in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case. He contended that there was no evidence of any criminal act by Khalid, emphasizing that mere membership in a WhatsApp group did not constitute a crime, especially since Khalid had not sent any messages in the group. Delhi Encounter: Four Most Wanted Bihar Gangsters Killed in Joint Operation The affidavit further said that the "conspiracy" was aimed at drawing attention



of the "international media" and portray the Citizenship Amendment Act as "an act pogrom of Muslims community in India," ANI reported citing the statement. The issue of CAA was care-

fully chosen as to serve as a "radicalising catalyst" camouflaged in the name of "peaceful protest", affidavit said, according to the news agency. It said that the "deep-rooted, premeditated

and pre-planned conspiracy" led to the death of 53 people and large-scale damage to public property. Kahild's counsel, however, has pointed out inconsistencies in the police's claims, noting that Trump's visit was only reported on February 13, yet the FIR alleged that conspirators knew the date by February 8. He also highlighted call detail records showing Khalid was not present at a December 8, 2019 meeting in Jangpura where the alleged conspiracy was planned, and

referred to a protected witness's statement about a separate secret meeting supposedly tied to the conspiracy. The affidavit came after SC criticized the Delhi Police for not filing its reply to the bail applications of Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid, Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, and Shifa Ur Rehman. The pleas challenge the Delhi high court's order denying them bail in the UAPA case concerning the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 northeast Delhi riots.

MEA shares update after Trump hints at imminent agreement



US has imposed 50% tariffs on India, 25% of which are reciprocal tariffs while the other 25% is a penalty for India's crude oil imports from Russia. (AI image) India-US trade deal: India and the US continue to be engaged in discussions for finalizing a trade deal, Randhir Jaiswal, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. "India, US bilateral trade that we are engaged in, we continue to remain engaged with the US side to conclude a trade deal, and these discussions are continuing," he said. US has imposed 50% tariffs on India, 25% of which are reciprocal tariffs while the other 25% is a penalty for India's crude oil imports from Russia. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday hinted about an imminent trade deal between India and the US. During his address at an Asia-Pacific conference in South Korea he expressed "great respect and love" for PM Narendra Modi, whilst reiterating his fictionalised narrative about preventing an India-Pakistan conflict

through trade negotiations. "I said I was going to put 250% tariffs on each country, which means that you'll never do business... there's nothing you can sell for 250%... and they understood that and within 48 hours we had no war and no people killed. It makes me feel so good. We saved millions and millions of lives." According to a report, Trump signalled that the preliminary agreement, which trade representatives from both nations have reportedly finalised, has received his endorsement. The proposed deal is expected to reduce US tariffs on Indian exports from 50% to 15%. As part of the arrangement, India would decrease its Russian oil imports whilst increasing energy purchases from the United States, the report said. Additionally, India plans to procure US corn for its expanding bio-fuel initiative that combines ethanol with petrol, along with undisclosed military equipment acquisitions. Although Trump did not specify the signing date, sources told that it would initially be established as a "framework agreement".

PM on Mahagathbandhan's manifesto; claims agenda driven by 'extortion

NEW DELHI: Accusing the Mahagathbandhan of corruption, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the opposition alliance in Bihar, claiming it had released a "ratelist" instead of a manifesto. Addressing a rally in Chhapra, PM Modi said, "The leaders of 'Jungle Raj' are constantly misleading you, luring you. RJD's declaration, Congress's manifesto is not a manifesto. They have revealed their rate list. The real motive behind their every declaration is extortion, ransom, loot, corruption, all this..." PM Modi Targets RJD-Congress Over Rahul Gandhi's Chhath 'Nautanki' Remark, Calls Out Jungle Raj The prime minister also targeted the Congress, accusing its leaders of disrespecting the people of Bihar. He referred to a 2022 incident when former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi had urged people not to allow "bhaiyas" from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to enter the state — a remark made in the presence of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. "Friends, I want to remind you — those with the lantern (RJD), the hand



(Congress), and their INDIA alliance partners, how they have insulted Bihar," PM Modi said, as quoted by ANI. Recalling the 1998 Champa Biswas case, PM Modi said the incident exposed the lawlessness during the RJD's rule. He alleged that the then government had turned the chief minister's office into a hub for "mafia" activities. "In Bihar in 1998, what happened to the wife of a Dalit IAS officer will make today's youth shudder if they learn about it. The wife of the Dalit IAS officer had written a letter to the governor revealing that RJD goons had raped her for several days and had not spared other women in the family either, torturing them as well. During the RJD gov-

ernment, even the chief minister's office had turned into an office of mafias," he said. As Bihar heads into a high-stakes election, the NDA — which includes the BJP, JD(U), LJP (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and Rashtriya Lok Morcha — will face the Mahagathbandhan, led by the RJD and comprising Congress, CPI-ML, CPI, CPM, and Mukesh Sahani's VIP. The state will vote in two phases on November 6 and 11, with the results to be declared on November 14. But while this son of yours is busy ensuring that Chhath gets the honour that is its due, the Congress-RJD people are heaping scorn on the festival, calling it a drama, a nautanki," without naming any leader.

'Yuvrajs out on bail': PM Modi mocks Rahul, Tejashwi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of insulting Chhathi Maiyya and using the issue for votes in the Bihar assembly elections. Speaking at a poll rally in Muzaffarpur, PM Modi said leaders of the Congress and RJD consider Chhath Puja a "drama", and voters in Bihar would remember this. PM Modi Targets RJD-Congress Over Rahul Gandhi's Chhath 'Nautanki' Remark, Calls Out Jungle Raj "It is my first tour of Bihar after Chhath Puja, which is now famous world over. The festival stands not just for devotion but also for equality, a reason why my government is trying to get a Unesco heritage tag for this festival," he said. PM Modi added that he listens to Chhath songs while travelling. He said, "I listen to Chhath songs while travelling. I was once moved to listen to one of these songs rendered by a girl from Nagaland.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in a group photo during the inauguration of the 77th RR batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS) in New Delhi.

Stray dog: Bihar official seeks exemption from SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected Bihar chief secretary Pratyaya Amrit's plea to be exempted from appearing in court in the matter relating to the stray dog menace across the country. Amrit had earlier requested to be excused



from attending the hearing, citing the ongoing work related to the

upcoming assembly election in the state. The bench, however, turned

down his request, noting that he has no role in managing election-related activities and that such matters are handled by the Election Commission. The court made its position clear, saying the chief secretary "has nothing to do with the election."

Asaduddin Owaisi raises Muslim leadership demand

NEW DELHI: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has increased his attack on the opposition Mahagathbandhan, questioning why the alliance has not named any Muslim leader as its deputy chief minister face for the Bihar elections. Speaking at an election rally in Kishanganj on Wednesday, Owaisi referred to VIP chief Vikas Sahani and said that if a leader from the Malla community can be projected for the deputy chief minister's post, then a leader from the Muslim community can also aim for the positions of Chief Minister and even Prime Minister. Addressing supporters, Owaisi said, "Sitting next to Tejashwi Yadav, Mukesh Bhai of the VIP



Party, confident in his community's history, declared that the Malla community is with Tejashwi. The Malla community represents 3% of Bihar's population. He declared that if they gain power, he will become the deputy CM... If a Malla's son will become the deputy chief minister, what will the 17% minority community in Bihar do?

Diplomatic win: India gets six-month exemption from US sanctions on Chabahar port - why it's critical

NEW DELHI: The ministry of external affairs on Thursday confirmed that US has granted India a six-month exemption from American sanctions on the Chabahar port. This is a major diplomatic win amid negotiations between India and the US over finalising a trade deal. "We have been granted exemption for 6 months period on American sanctions that were applicable on the port," Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson said. "We continue to remain engaged with the US side on finalising the trade deal. Both sides are continuing to hold discus-



sions. For any further update, I would refer you to the Ministry of Commerce," he added during the press briefing. Last year, India signed a 10-year contract with Iran in which India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) promised \$370 million of investments in the port. During Trump's first term as US president, the American administration

in 2018 also allowed Indian companies to develop the port. That exemption was issued amid US-imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran. Jaiswal, during the weekly press briefing, also added that India is analysing implications of US sanctions on Russian oil companies. "We are studying the implications of the recent

US sanctions on Russian oil companies. Our decisions naturally take into account the evolving dynamics of the global market," he said. "Our position on the larger question of energy sourcing is well-known. In this endeavour, we are guided by the imperative to secure affordable energy from diverse sources to meet the energy security needs of our 1.4 billion people," Jaiswal added. Chabahar port plays a crucial role in India's regional connectivity strategy by providing access to Afghanistan and Central Asia-Eastern Russia.

CEO reacts to employee's leave application after break-up

NEW DELHI: A Gurgaon-based entrepreneur's post about an employee's unusually candid leave request has gone viral after he described it as the "most honest" application he has ever received. Jasveer Singh, co-founder and CEO of Knot Dating (matrimony app), shared the email on X, saying the note reflected how Gen Z employees are more open and unfiltered about their emotions and mental well-being. "Gen Z doesn't do filters," Singh wrote in his

post, referring to a message from an employee who sought time off to recover from a breakup. The employee's email read: "I recently had a breakup and haven't been able to focus on work. I need a short break. I'm working from home today, so I'd like to take leave from the 28th to the 8th." The CEO's post quickly gained traction online, with many users applauding both the employee's honesty and Singh's response. When asked if he approved the request.

Main kyu gaali khaun': Gadkari orders QR codes on highway sites so public knows who's responsible

NEW DELHI: In a unique move, the road transport ministry has directed the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and highway builders to create their own YouTube channels and upload regular videos of highway projects at various stages of construction. Union minister Nitin Gadkari said he has ordered the installation of hoardings with QR codes on national highways. Commuters will be able to scan these codes to view details of the contractor, consultant, and government officials responsible for the stretch, including their names and contact information.



'Paid Campaign': Nitin Gadkari Slams Criticism Of E20 Program; Calls It 'Politically Motivated' Gadkari said, "Main kyu gaali khaun? The QR code will have information of the contractor, consultant, and officers who cleared the road. If a road is bad and

people are complaining about it on social media, take it seriously. From A to Z in road construction, we need ownership, sincerity, and a positive approach. Roads must be good, and they must stay good." He emphasised that if people are paying toll, they

deserve international-quality roads. "Weather or poor bitumen cannot be excuses. If the surface is not comfortable, fix it — cost may increase but comfort is non-negotiable," Gadkari said. The minister also pushed for performance audits to identify design and maintenance lapses, promote accountability, and reward quality work. "When audits are regular, transparency increases, and excuses decrease. That's how we should work," he said. At the same event, road transport secretary V Umashankar on Tuesday instructed NHAI to upload such project videos for public viewing and feedback.

'I paid them all': Ex-BPCL CFO Sivakumar K's post on paying bribes

BENGALURU: A former top executive of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Sivakumar K, has sparked outrage after alleging in a LinkedIn post that he was forced to pay bribes to officials while dealing with his daughter's death. Sivakumar K, who earlier served as BPCL's chief financial officer, wrote that his 34-year-old daughter had recently died. In the aftermath, he said he was made to pay bribes at multiple points — from arranging an ambulance to securing official paperwork. "Recently my only child passed away at age 34. The amount of open bribes being asked by the ambulance.

Mumbai hostage scare: 20 kids rescued from Powai flat; accused detained

NEW DELHI: At least 20 children were taken hostage inside R D Studio in Mumbai on Thursday, police said. Mumbai Police said a man identified as Rohit Arya has taken several children hostage in Powai and, in a video, demanded to speak to specific people — warning he would set the place on fire and harm himself and the children if prevented. Officials described him as mentally unstable and are handling the situation According to PTI,



police rescued over 20 children held hostage inside flat in Mumbai's Powai area. "All children have been safely rescued from the spot. The man, Rohit Arya has been detained

by the Police. The Police are talking to him and trying to find out why he took such a step and if actually is mentally unstable," Mumbai Police said in a statement.

Consolidating Rahul's gains or establishing pre-eminence

NEW DELHI: RJD leader and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday launched 'Bihar Adhikar Yatra' from Jehanabad to raise pitch against Nitish Kumar-led NDA government over issues of unemployment and increasing crime incidents among others ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. Interestingly, Tejashwi's solo yatra comes close on the heels of the much-hyped "Voter Adhikar Yatra" which included all Mahagathbandhan leaders and was led by Congress leader Gandhi. Tejashwi was part of the Voter Adhikar Yatra, but the limelight was hogged by - who has been leading a campaign against alleged vote theft across the country accusing the Election Commission of helping the BJP.'No Confusion Regarding CM's Face' Tejashwi Yadav's Sharp Reply on INDIA Bloc CM Candidate The RJD, which is going



In Mahagathbandhan, Congress might gain more than 50 seats, while the RJD would keep the same amount in 2020

Delhi: Members of the Mahagathbandhan coalition in Bihar informed The Indian Express that the two parties are getting close to an agreement on who will share seats in the state assembly in the upcoming elections. The Congress has been demanding 70 seats, the same amount it sought in the 2020 elections, but the RJD is unwilling to allocate more

all out to dethrone Nitish Kumar led NDA government in the

than 50 or 55 seats. According to insiders, a compromise could be struck in the end, with the Congress gaining 58-60 seats. Assembly seats in Bihar number 243. The Congress, CPI(ML), CPI, and CPI(M) were all members of the Mahagathbandhan alliance in the 2020 elections, which was led by the RJD. The Congress party contested in 70 seats, the RJD in 144.

state, asserted that Tejasjiwi's yatra will cover districts .

A speeding car ran over four bike riders, killing one and leaving three in critical condition

Prayagraj

A speeding Safari car ran over four bike riders on the Chaufatka bridge in the Cantt police station area on Wednesday morning. A young man died on the spot, while three others, including a woman, were injured. The driver fled the scene. Police arrived at the scene and rushed all the injured to Colvin Hospital, where some were discharged after first aid, while others are still undergoing treatment. Around 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, the driver of a black Safari car, traveling from



Chaufatka toward Karbala, lost control at the end of the bridge. He then struck four oncoming bike riders and fled. The accident was so severe that all four bikes, along with

their bikes, were thrown away. Parts of two bikes were shattered and scattered on the road, while the car's number plate was also shattered and fell at the scene.

ED arrests ex-Muda chief in case also tied to Siddaramaiah & wife

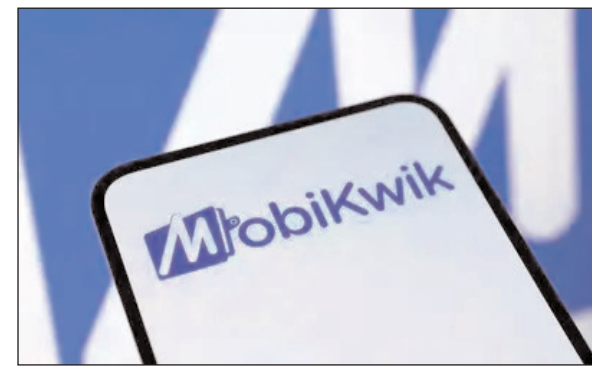
NEW DELHI: ED Tuesday arrested former Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) commissioner GT Dinesh Kumar in a money laundering case related to illegal allotment of plots. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and his wife are among others

facing investigation in the case. He was produced before the special court on Wednesday and remanded in ED custody for nine days. On the day of Dinesh's arrest, ED carried out searches at his residence in Bengaluru and

took him to its zonal office for questioning, where it arrested him late evening. ED sources said Dinesh, during his tenure as commissioner, allegedly indulged in large-scale illegal allotment of MUDA sites "in lieu of gratification benefits".



MobiKwik loses Rs 40 crore in 48 hours



GURGAON: Taking advantage of what is believed to be a glitch that blindsided city-based digital wallet company MobiKwik's systems, around Rs 40 crore were allegedly siphoned off over two days, Sept 11 and 12, from the company's account through a blitz of UPI transactions. The fraud came to light on Tuesday after the arrest of six men whose accounts contained Rs 9 lakh of this stolen money. Uncannily, this is the second time this has happened to MobiKwik. In Oct 2017, the company was allegedly similarly defrauded of around Rs 19 crore with the money being moved to thousands of personal bank accounts. This time, the glitch happened after the company updated its software earlier this month, investigators said. It apparently allowed Mobikwik users to send much higher amounts of money than their wallet balances. Transactions, the investigators said, also went through if users entered incorrect PINs. Police said how scamsters came to know about this glitch is under probe.

Emissions from power sector down 1% year-on-year in first half

NEW DELHI: In what could be a positive outcome of India's growing renewable energy footprint, a new analysis based on official monthly data has shown the country's carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from its power sector fell by 1% year-on-year in first half of 2025 and by 0.2% over past 12 months - this is only the second instance of such a drop in almost half a century. The analysis indicates emissions from India's power sector could peak before 2030 if clean-energy capacity and electricity demand grow as expected. "The future of CO2 emissions in India is a key indicator for the world, with the country - the world's most populous - having contributed nearly two-fifths of the rise in global



energy-sector emissions since 2019," said the report prepared by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) for Carbon Brief (a UK-based website covering the latest developments in climate science and policy). The analysis also highlighted the substantial growth in India's clean energy capacity, which has grown by a record 25.1 GW in the first half of 2025. "This was a 69% increase

compared with the previous period in 2024, which had also set a record," said the report, noting that solar continued to dominate new installations and accounted for 14.3 GW of capacity added during the period this year, with 3.2 GW capacity coming from solar rooftop. In fact, progress on renewable front helped India achieve a landmark in its energy transition journey.

59K applicants affected by technical difficulties will be able to retake the SSC exam

Delhi : S Gopalakrishnan, the chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), stated that over 59,000 applicants who experienced technical difficulties during the examination will be given a special re-exam in three sessions. In order to "resolve the matters, retest the solution and improve operational matter," he said, the SSC Combined Graduate Level (CGL) exam, which was originally planned for August 13, has been pushed back to mid-September. " He announced that three special exam shifts would be held after a thorough log analysis had uncovered

'Tariffs a mistake': Bolton urges India-US talks; slams Trump's 'incoherent' approach

Former US national security advisor John Bolton said that the punitive tariffs imposed by the US on India under President Donald Trump have complicated negotiations. He described the US tariff policy on India as a mistake and said the priority should be reaching a deal that lowers tariffs while keeping negotiations open. "I think the whole tariff policy is a mistake. I think we ought to go back to the way we were before, but leaving that aside, in the time of Trump, in the White House. To



get a deal that reduces the tariffs and leaves the way open for further negotiations is the best thing to do," Bolton said in an interview with. He added that the focus should be on finding common ground on economic tariffs and then building from there.

Bolton criticized the 25 percent US tariffs on India as collateral damage from broader Western sanctions on Russia, which were imposed over Russian oil and gas imports. He called the move "incoherent", noting that Russia faced no direct tariffs and China, which imports more oil and gas than India, was left unpenalized. He also noted that India's historical ties with Russia present challenges but argued for a gradual transition toward cooperation with like-minded partners.

Notify Saranda sanctuary or chief secretary will go to jail, SC tells

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the Jharkhand govt is in gross contempt of court by not notifying Saranda forest as a sanctuary and summoned its chief secretary to face contempt proceedings on Oct 8 with a warning that if the notification is not issued by then, the top bureaucrat would go to jail. On April 29, the state gave an undertaking before the court that it would notify 576 sq km of the forest of East and West Singhbhum areas in Saraikela district - the only patch of forest in the world with pristine Sal trees - as a sanctuary and an additional 136 sq km as conservation reserve within two months of receiving a report from the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India. WII gave a favourable report but



the chief secretary, instead of putting it before State Wildlife Board, and subsequently, before the state cabinet for approval, decided to constitute another committee to examine the state's interests related to mining and implementation of the SC order. Amicus curiae and senior advocate K Parameshwar gave a detailed account of the Jharkhand govt's machination in delaying the issuance of notification in brazen violation of its promise before the apex court.

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

The BJP government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, presented its maiden budget on Tuesday, March 25. Gupta presented 1 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, a 31.56% increase from last year. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system. It has allocated 1,000 crore to improve the connectivity of Delhi with the NCR region.

Shrikant, Chairman & Managing Director of Labindia Equipments conveys heartfelt wishes to PM Modi

On the occasion of PM Narendra Modi's 75th birthday, Shrikant Bapat, Chairman & Managing Director of Labindia Equipments, conveyed his greetings through a heartfelt message. In his message, Bapat lauded the Prime Minister's visionary leadership, India's growing global stature as an Atmanirbhar Bharat, and the unifying spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." He also highlighted the company's own contribution to this vision with the launch of the 'VIDU'



Electric Bicycle, a green initiative rooted in self-reliance. Shrikant Bapat lauded the PM's efforts as a true nation builder who has uplifted the lives of millions. Calling PM Modi an enduring symbol of patriotism and selfless public serv-

ice, he emphasised that the PM has consistently worked for the welfare of the common man, national growth, and the greater good. World Leaders Unite to Wish PM Modi on His 75th Birthday, Hailing His Leadership.

Modi's portrait lights up Burj Khalifa: Iconic Dubai landmark honours PM

From Moscow to Washington: PM Modi's Birthday Calls With Putin and Trump With Focus on Ukraine "Sincere congratulations to @NarendraModi on your birthday. I wish you continued good health and happiness, and ongoing success in advancing India's progress and the prosperity of its people," the UAE President expressed in his social media post. The birthday celebration received international recognition as leaders from various nations joined in extending their wishes to the Indian Prime Minister.

Vatican: Pope blesses PM Modi on 75th birthday

NEW DELHI: Pope Leo XIV blessed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 75th birthday during a Papal Audience at St Peter's Square in Vatican City on Wednesday. The Pope prayed for Modi's good health and long life as around 30,000 people gathered for the weekly event.



The Papal Audience is a special

gathering where the Pope delivers teachings and blessings to visitors and pilgrims. During the ceremony, the Pope met a delegation from the Indian Minorities Federation (IMF). The IMF delegation was led by MP Satnam Singh Sandhu, former diplomat and MP Harsh Vardhan Shringla, and convener

Prof Himani Sood. They carried a portrait of Prime Minister Modi, which Pope Leo XIV blessed during the meeting. Sandhu also presented the Pope with a book titled Heart to Heart: Reverence of Saga. The book highlights PM Modi's special relationship with the Sikh community.

A patient died in agony after receiving an injection to treat a hydrocele

The Chief Medical Officer is unconcerned about the frequent sudden deaths at the clinic

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

At Sahara Nursing Home Hospital, located in the town of Muratganj, under the Sandipan Ghat police station area, injections were administered during a hydrocele operation. The patient's condition became critical, and after a short while, he died in agony. The death caused a tumultuous family. The deceased's brother reported the matter to the police station, demanding action. Following the patient's death, a health department team arrived at the scene and inspected the hospital. During the inspection, the



hospital was found to be non-compliant with health regulations, leading to the hospital being locked. However, questions arise as to why the health department team did not arrive to inspect the hospital before the death. This raises serious questions about the actions of health department officials. While hundreds of hospitals in this district still operate that do not meet health department standards, health department officials are not taking action against hospitals that do not meet health regulations, instead waiting for a death to occur.

Police arrived at the scene, took the deceased's body into custody, and sent it for a post-mortem. According to information, the health department is located in the Sandipan Ghat police station area. Rajkumar, a resident of Jeevanganj, aged about 35 years, son of Makhan Lal, was suffering from fever. He reached Sahara Hospital in Muratganj on Thursday for treatment where the doctor told him that along with fever, he also needed to undergo an operation for hydrocele. Before operating on the hydrocele, the alleged doctor

Arvind Pal gave the patient an injection. As soon as the injection was given, the patient started writhing in pain and after some time, the patient died a painful death in the hospital after suffering in agony. Meanwhile, the alleged doctor Arvind Pal demanded more money from the patient's family members. Some of the family members went home to get the money. The remaining people pleaded to refer the patient to the district hospital as his condition was serious, but in the greed of getting money, the doctor did not refer the serious patient due to which the patient died in agony in the hospital within some time. In the last few days, in many hospitals, patients have died suddenly in agony after being given an injection during treatment. After all, what kind of injection do these alleged

doctors give during the treatment of the patient, due to which the patients die in the hospital within some time. In some cases, the alleged doctors even injected poison to the patients. It is not administered which leads to death of patients, this is a matter of big investigation, in the last few days many patients in many hospitals have died immediately after being injected in this manner which is raising a big question on the entire health system, but even after that the Chief Medical Officer is not taking strict action on this serious issue due to which many big questions are being raised on him too, it is said that the hospitals where deaths have occurred are not fulfilling the government standards, but the hospitals which are fulfilling the standards of the CMO are not being closed.

Kaushambi

The second day of the Bhavanas Mehta Vidyalaya, Bharwari, Kaushambi, began on October 30th at Bhavanas Mehta Vidyalaya, Bharwari, under the supervision of Director Sandeep Saxena, Treasurer of Bhavanas Mehta Vidyalaya, Bharwari, Prof. Prashant Agarwal, Management Committee members Vashishtha Tiwari, Chandan Sharma, and Vice Principal Sudhakar Singh. Athletics began with the shot put event, where Bhavanas Mehta Vidyalaya won first place and a gold medal in the girls' group, followed by Pratapnagar, Jaipur, second, and Agartala, third. In the boys' group, Pratapnagar, Jaipur, came first, Agartala, Tripura, second, and Bhavanas Mehta, Bharwari, third. Following this, Delhi won the 200-meter boys' race. Delhi secured first place, Bhavanas Mehta from Bharwari second, and Pratapnagar, Jaipur third. Similarly, in the 200-meter girls' race, Delhi secured first place, Jaipur second, and Bharwari third. Students who came first in all the above events were honored with gold medals, second place silver medals, and third place bronze medals, along with certificates and trophies. Similarly, in the cultural program, Bhavanas Mehta from Bharwari secured first place in the spot painting competition, Agartala, Tripura



second, and Pratapnagar, Jaipur third. Similarly, in the Hindi speech competition, Bhavanas Mehta from Bharwari secured first place, Amritsar second, and three from Pratapnagar third. The final stage of the competition included English creative writing and solo dance competitions. In English creative writing, Bhavanas Mehta from Bharwari secured first place, the Amritsar team second, and the Jaipur team third. Similarly, in the solo dance competition, the Amritsar team secured first place, Bhavanas Mehta from Bharwari second, and Jaipur third. All the winning participants were honored with accolades. They were honored with medals, certificates, and trophies, and wished for a bright future.

Bail verdict reserved for Atiq's brother-in-law, lawyer, driver, and servant; hearing held in High Court

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The Allahabad High Court has reserved its decision on the bail pleas of Dr. Akhlaq Ahmed, brother-in-law of mafia leader Atiq Ahmed, lawyer Vijay Mishra, driver Cash, and servant Niaz, accused in the much-talked-about Umesh Pal murder case. A single bench of Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav is hearing the criminal appeals filed by all the accused. Dr. Akhlaq Ahmed, a resident of Meerut, is accused of harboring the bomber, Guddu Muslim, while the other accused are accused of conspiring to commit the murder. Guddu Muslim, the bomber who has been absconding since the murder, carries a reward of five lakh rupees. Police claim that after carrying out the incident, he took refuge at Dr. Akhlaq's Meerut home. Akhlaq, arrested in Meerut, approached the High Court in September 2023 seeking release on bail. Dr. Akhlaq's lawyer argued that he was not named in the FIR. He is a doctor by profession and has no connection to the criminal world. He has been framed solely because he is a relative of Atiq. Government Opposed

Bail Atiq's lawyer, Vijay, is accused of informing on the Umesh Pal murder case. Vijay was arrested in Lucknow. Seeking release on bail, his lawyer, Manju Singh, argued that he was being framed because he was Atiq's lawyer. Similarly, Cash and Niaz argued that they were innocent. Their lawyer argued that Cash was a driver, but had left his job long ago. He had no criminal history. Niaz's lawyer also declared him innocent, stating that he had no connection to the incident. Nothing was recovered from him, nor is he named in the FIR. During the long debate, Praveen Pandey, the lawyer of Umesh Pal's wife Jaya Pal, and Additional Advocate General Manish Goyal on behalf of the government opposed his release on bail. They said that all the accused were actively involved in the murder case. Till now the process of framing charges in the trial court is not complete. At present, a total of seven other accused including Atiq's wanted wife Shaista Parveen, Ashraf's wife Zainab and bomber Guddu Muslim are absconding. In such a situation, their release will affect the pending trial.

STF arrests two accused in the murder of a roadways driver from Chitrakoot

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) arrested two accused, each carrying a reward of ₹50,000, in the murder case of a roadways contract bus driver from Chitrakoot on Wednesday. Irfan Ahmed and Mohammad Hussain, residents of Mariadih in Puramufti, were killed on October 21st by brick-and-stone pelting at the Mundera Chungi petrol pump. Police had already



arrested the main accused, Ali Ahmed, and his accomplice, Kamran, in an encounter. Irfan Ahmed and Mohammad Hussain, who were absconding, were arrested in front of the Manikpur railway station at 5:05

p.m. on Wednesday. The operation was carried out under the supervision of STF ASP Dinesh Kumar Singh and led by Sub-Inspector Amit Kumar Tiwari.

They had received information that the two wanted

accused in a Dhoomanganj murder case were in Chitrakoot. According to the team, during interrogation, the accused, along with their associates, confessed to killing Rawendra Kumar Pasi by attacking him with bricks and stones. The accused say they had an ongoing dispute with Rawendra. Following the incident, the deceased's brother, Narendra Kumar alias Rajan Pasi, filed a case at the Dhoomanganj police station, and a reward was announced for both of them.

Three murderers, including a father and son, who burned three people, including a mother and daughter, to death, were sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment each

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. Seven years ago, in the Sarai Akil police station area, a married woman and her two daughters were burned to death after their dowry demands were not met. A case was registered at the police station and the police filed a charge sheet in the court. During the trial, the court found three people, including a father and son, guilty of murder and sentenced them to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment. A fine of ₹15,000 was also imposed on them. According to the incident, on April 16, 2018, in the Sarai Akil police station area, a married woman and her two young daughters were burned to death by her in-

laws for demanding additional dowry. FIR No. 128/18 was registered under sections 498A/304B of the Indian Penal Code and 3/4 of the DP Act. After investigation, a charge sheet was filed in the court. During the hearing, the court found the accused guilty of murdering three people. The government advocate recommended the harshest punishment. On 30.10.2025, the court of ADJ/FTC-1, Kaushambi district, sentenced 03 accused Raju son of Budhai Pasi and Budhai Pasi son of late Sardar and Laxmi Devi wife of Prem, resident of Tilhapur, police station Sarai Akil, to 10 years rigorous imprisonment each.

A deadly attack on the village headman in Nachana village due to a feud

Koundhiyara

A bloody clash between two groups erupted in Nachana village, under the Kaundhiyara police station area of Yamunapar, on Wednesday night. In this incident, the village headman, Raju Yadav, was ambushed and fatally attacked. Akhilesh Kumar and his brother, from the other side, were also severely beaten with

sticks. This incident spread panic and terror throughout the village. According to reports, the village headman, Raju Yadav, had left his house late Wednesday night to relieve himself. Anil Kumar, Atul Kumar, Akhilesh Kumar, and Ashok Kumar, son of Rajkumar, who were already lying in wait, attacked him with mace and sticks. The village

headman was seriously injured in the attack and fell unconscious in the field. When he did not return home late at night, his family searched for him and found him lying in a pool of blood. He was rushed to the hospital, where his condition is reported to be critical. Meanwhile, a violent incident had also occurred in the village on Tuesday night due to the same feud. It is

alleged that when Akhilesh Kumar, son of Rajkumar, went to the canal to defecate, Raju Yadav, Gajraj Yadav, sons of Purushottam Yadav, Rajmani, son of Dulan, Badal Yadav alias Shivam, son of Prannath, and Sushil Kumar, son of Sudama Prasad, stopped him, abused him, and attacked him with sticks. Hearing the commotion, his brother Anil rushed to his res-

cue, but the attackers beat him too and threw him into a pit. The two brothers somehow managed to escape and save their lives. Akhilesh alleges that members of the Pradhan's side had been threatening him for several days and plotting to kill him. Meanwhile, the Pradhan's brother, Gajraj Yadav, says that the attack was part of a pre-planned conspiracy that

could have cost his brother his life. Upon receiving information about the incident, the Kaundhiyara police arrived at the scene and, after taking written statements from both parties, have begun an investigation. On the basis of the complaint from both the parties, the police have registered a case against more than half a dozen people and started action.

Information was also provided about three new laws during the awareness program

Mission Shakti: Inspiring women to become self-reliant and fight social evils

Akhand Bharat Sandesh Prayagraj

Tharwai

The safety of daughters is the primary objective of Mission Shakti Phase 5.0. For this, the Mission Shakti team is conducting campaigns at every police station in the district. In educational institutions, major intersections, markets, crowded places, and public places, they are being encouraged to protect women, daughters, and girls and make them self-reliant under Mission



Shakti. As can be seen today, daughters are fearlessly leaving their homes and moving towards their goals. The government's Mission Shakti campaign, whose primary objective is to ensure the

safety of women and daughters and to ensure that all government schemes reach everyone and make them reap the benefits, is proving to be a success. On Thursday, a Mission Shakti

campaign program was organized at the Rampur Duwari Primary School in the Tharwai police station area. In which the program was inaugurated by lighting the lamp and the chief guest present in the program was Block Education Officer Soraon Suman Mishra, special guest ACP Tharwai Chandrapal Singh, Station Incharge Tharwai Santosh Kumar Pandey, Mission Shakti Center Incharge Nidhi and Nodal Geeta Yadav etc. All were welcomed with garlands and badges and a grand welcome song. The girl stu-

dents gave their melodious presentations on Mission Shakti to make everyone aware and know their rights and become empowered. On this occasion the chief guest Suman Mishra explained the importance of education and gave information about the beneficial schemes being run. On this occasion ACP Tharwai Chandrapal Singh gave detailed information in simple words to all the women and daughters present in this Mission Shakti program about their rights. How can daughters keep themselves safe and if any-

one teases them or troubles them in any way, then do not panic, use the given helpline numbers and ACP Tharvai, while highlighting the importance of education, laid special emphasis and said that education is such a ladder which opens every door to success. When you are educated, only then your family will be educated. During this, ACP Tharvai said that a drop box will be arranged in the school and if anyone has any problem related to women, they can write their problem in the drop box and put it in the drop box.

A woman slipped while trying to board a moving train at the junction

Prayagraj

Railway police rescued a woman who slipped from a train at the junction.

The woman was trying to board the Prayagraj-Lalgah Express on Tuesday night, thanks to the prompt action of Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. The woman was attempting to board the Prayagraj-Lalgah Express. Reportedly, the 12403 Prayagraj-Lalgah Express departed from the junction at

11:10 p.m., while attempting to board the train's sleeper coach, she lost control and was dragged between the platform and the train. Meanwhile, RPF ASI Vijay Kumar and his team pulled the woman back inside the coach. RPF Inspector Amit Meena stated that this incident is an example of the vigilance of RPF personnel under Operation Jeevan Raksha. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed on platform one.

Editorial

The atmosphere of fear and suspicion within the Islamic republic

Uzi Rubin, an expert of missile defence systems and a senior researcher at the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, disabuses the notion that the attack was a mere face saver aimed at inflicting minimal damages. Rubin argues that it was a strike of unprecedented magnitude, which was even more powerful than the Russian opening strike against Ukraine in February 2022. Israel's ability to intercept and deflect these attacks was a testimony to the success of its missile defence system. Recently, Tehran saw a merit in repeating those attacks as Operation "True Promise-2," after Israel booby-trapped Hezbollah's pager devices and launched devastating airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in his secret bunker. Whether Israel retaliates or decides to tactically overlook the volley, as it did last April, is a matter of speculation. If indeed Israel seeks reprisal, it has plenty of high-value targets on the ground in Iran to choose from. They include military and intelligence sites, military command sites, oil terminals and refineries, and even nuclear reactors. Iran's poorly developed air defence system is unlikely to provide cover from Israel's vastly superior air strike.

capability. S
Israel's air attack upon the Osirak nuclear research reactor in Tuwaitha, Iraq, on June 7, 1981, is still remembered after four decades. In more recent times, on September 6, 2007, Israeli air attacks devastated an alleged nuclear reactor in the Dair ez-Zor region of Syria. Once, it had looked almost certain that Israel would undertake a full-scale offensive to deter the Islamic republic from developing its atom bomb. However, Meir Dagan, appointed as the Director General of Mossad in 2002, with the express object of thwarting Iran's nuclear program, chose to deal with the challenge with a comparatively low-cost policy of assassinating Iranian nuclear scientists. Ronen Bergmen's eminently readable account *Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations* (2018) describes how successful Dagan was in his plans. Thus, even as Iran targets the Mossad headquarters in Tel Aviv with its missiles, it is feared that Iran's own intelligence and security apparatus might be infiltrated with the Mossad's assets. Could Israel have successfully eliminated Ismail Haniyeh, a top-ranking Hamas leader, inside the high security zone of Tehran, when an international event was on, without infiltrating Iranian security apparatus? The bomb that penetrated into the secret bunker of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nassarallah is also, in some way, symbolic of Israeli penetration into the terrorist group's network. Former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's recent statement that the head of an Iranian secret service unit responsible for counter-ing Israeli espionage activities in Iran was himself an Israeli spy has created a flutter. Though Ahmadinejad has a reputation as a madcap, yet his statement reflects .



It was evident that the stage was being set for a cataclysmic clash

As the Ba'athists rammed through their One-Party agenda, the One-God-ists coalesced too. It was evident that the stage was being set for a cataclysmic clash, if not of civilisations but certainly of cultures. In the middle, ordinary Syrians in Damascus and elsewhere tried to get on with their lives. The streets bustled with quotidian commerce, youngsters of both sexes noisily swarmed out of schools and colleges, foreign tourists soaked in the sun and the civilisational ethos of Syria. Even the smiling locals working in the Indian embassy all hailed from good families; the moustachioed (but beardless) men wore suits and the women wore short dresses and

makeup to work. Now, 42 years later, a former IS affiliate Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham has stormed to power and is promising an egalitarian (if Islamic) future. Their leaders, including the charismatic Ahmed al-Sharaa, have spoken of amnesty for Syrian soldiers and fair play for religious and ethnic minorities including Christians and Alawites. There are already far more scarves and beards now in Syria than when I roamed, awestruck, through Umayyad Square and the old city in the 1980s. The Indian ambassador's residence in Damascus for the longest time had Hafez al-Assad's official palace as an unwanted neighbour. My father ensured that India

Global NGOs and foreign funding agencies have attempted to damage India's international reputation

Whether or not the Great Game—the expression used by British imperialists to describe the perceived expansion of Russian influence in Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Tibet—actually existed, the fact remains that surveys were undertaken, expeditions mounted, spy-masters recruited, and novels written, even as soldiers lost their lives. Taking a cue from Viceroy George Curzon, all pro-establishment papers—from the Civil and Military Gazette of Lahore to The Pioneer of Lucknow, The Statesman of Calcutta (now Kolkata), and The Times of India of Bombay (now Mumbai)—concurred that Tsarist Russia posed a real threat to the jewel in Britain's crown. A hundred and twenty years later, historians remain sceptical of Curzon's assertions. Is the hue and cry about the Deep State similar to the Great Game? Whether or not it exists, whether it operates in all countries, and whether the 'deep state' of one country is connected with others through the dark web or entrenched corporate interests remains unclear, as the discourse is more ideological than empirical. Sometimes, those who claim to be part of the deep state ascribe to themselves a larger-than-life role in state affairs—for example, AS Dulat and Asad Durrani in their 2018 book *The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace*. Their claim to be arbiters of one of the most tense and difficult relationships in the region has been widely critiqued by reviewers. The term



first gained wide currency in the context of Türkiye as derin devlet, which literally translates to "deep state" in English. In Türkiye, it refers to a non-elected military elite dominating elected governments, especially when they attempt to dismantle the secular foundations of the Republic, established by Mustafa Kemal Pasha after the abolition of the caliphate in 1923. In Pakistan, "deep state" refers to a government controlled by powerful military leaders, as documented by Stephen Cohen in *The Idea of Pakistan* and Ishtiaq Ahmed in *Pakistan: The Garrison State*. Elected governments in Pakistan have rarely exercised real control over defense and foreign policy. In the US, Democrats and Republicans accuse each other of controlling the 'deep state.' Democrats claim the pro-Republican arms lobby and military-industrial complex constitute the deep state, while Republicans argue that Ivy League universities promote 'wokeism' and diversity, equity, and inclusion narratives that, according to Donald Trump, undermine America's greatness. Trump

has accused the deep state within the Democratic regime of election interference, citing the Freedom Medal awarded to George Soros as evidence. However, skeptics argue that if the deep state were so powerful, how could Daksh Patel dismantle it simply by firing 'interns and associates' whose tenure is co-terminus with that of President Biden? Ultimately, the deep state serves as a convenient scapegoat for anything that goes wrong or for political parties losing popular support. If Republicans and Democrats are battling it out in Washington, India faces a similar scenario, with Left liberals and Right nationalists accusing each other of leveraging the 'deep state' to gain or retain power. Publications like *The Caravan* and *Organiser Weekly* lead these respective narratives. Left liberals claim the RSS is India's deep state, while Right nationalists accuse the Ford Foundation and George Soros' Open Society Foundations of attempting to discredit the democratically elected Modi government. Left liberals find support in the speeches of

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, while Right nationalists, led by Vice President Dhankhar, minister Kiren Rijju, and BJP spokespersons like Sambit Patra, vehemently counter these claims. In a pre-budget article for *The Indian Express*, economist Surjit Bhalla, a former member of the PM's Economic Advisory Council, alleged that India's deep state comprises "major industrialists, senior IAS babus, and their friendly influencers in the media", slowing down economic growth. This claim was firmly repudiated, point by point, by Vivek Kaul in *Newslandry*, who questioned the logic behind such allegations.

Kaul argued that neither the IAS, corporates, nor the media benefit from economic deceleration. Instead, he pointed out that the real cause of economic slowdown is the compulsion of all political parties—BJP, Congress, and AAP—to allocate budgetary resources to freebies rather than long-term investments in social and physical infrastructure, which are crucial for sustained economic growth. Journalist Josy Joseph, in his book *The Silent Coup: A History of India's Deep State*, argues that the deep state is actually led by the IPS. He claims that in the name of combating terrorism in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and the Northeast, as well as 'Left-wing extremism' (LWE) in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Andhra Pradesh, the triumvirate of the NIA, CBI, and ED have consolidated

unchecked power, with neither the legislature nor the judiciary exercising adequate oversight. He documents human rights violations of individuals caught in the crosshairs of state action. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Steve Coll offers another perspective, alleging that India's deep state mainly comprises serving and retired IFS officials. However, if the IAS, IPS, and IFS were truly dominant, why would they have allowed the creation of the Department of Military Affairs under the Chief of Defence Staff, effectively relegating the Defence Secretary (an IAS officer) to a largely ceremonial role? A completely contrarian view is presented by Sandhya Ravishankar, news editor at NDTV Profit.

She argues that global NGOs and foreign funding agencies have attempted to damage India's international reputation by supporting anti-CAA protests and farmers' agitations against the farm laws. Quoting the French publication *Mediapart*, she alleges that the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) received \$47 million from the US Deep State to produce investigative reports targeting governments opposed by Washington—a charge firmly denied by the US Embassy in New Delhi. She lists organisations such as the Commonweath Human Rights Initiative (led by Maja Daruwala, daughter of the legendary Sam Manekshaw), the Indian Police Foundation (chaired by celebrated police officer.

Spare a thought for the poor customers

Every state finance minister at the GST Council is equally responsible, as are all of the civil servants in the various rate fitment committees. The complexity of the tax system is perhaps best captured by the fact that the GST Council had to deliberate on this issue because GST officials were themselves confused. "There is no new imposition of any tax in this regard and is merely a clarification as certain field units were demanding different tax rates on the same," the official press release said. "Therefore, it is a clarification being recommended by the GST Council to settle the disputes arising out of interpretation." Spare a thought for the poor customers if the tax officials themselves can't wrap their heads around taxes on a single product. However, the complexity of the GST system when applied to food products is not a new thing. ThePrint has previously reported on how the GST rate on food can change based on where you buy it, how you buy it,

what its chemical composition is, and sometimes even what temperature it is at. Businessmen and the common man aren't the only people ranting about GST. It is now so complicated that even those who designed GST and those who usually refrain from criticising the government also weighed in to lambast the system. Former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian—who held the post from 2014 to 2018 and was involved in the birth of GST as it was implemented—took to X following Sitharaman's press conference to say: "This is a national tragedy, violating the spirit of the Good & Simple Tax the GST was meant to be." "The folly is compounded because instead of at least moving in the direction of simplicity we are veering to greater complexity, difficulty of enforcement & just irrationality," he added. His successor, KV Subramanian, was more circumspect, but equally scathing in his X post: "Complexity is a bureaucrat's delight .

Tax administration determines the additional demands from individuals

It rose to 3.21 per cent in 2023-24, before moderating to 3.14 per cent in 2024-25 (revised estimates). It is again budgeted to be 3.14 per cent of GDP in 2025-26. At the same time, there was a reduction in capital expenditure by public enterprises in these years. If we consider the combined capital expenditure by the Union government and its public enterprises from the pre-pandemic years, there has been a decline. Between 2017-18 and 2019-20, the combined capital expenditure was 4.94 per cent of GDP, while it has been only 4.32 per cent of GDP between 2022-23 and 2024-25. This probably shows the limitations of implementation capacity that a capital expenditure strategy tends to run into. So, in the last decade, the government has tried a variety of fiscal tactics—from increasing expenditure by "creatively" easing the Budget constraints, to giving generous corporate tax cuts, to introducing new welfare schemes, to increasing on-budget capital expenditure. The cut in the personal income tax is the latest in this series of measures. If this does not work, there are other arrows in the fiscal quiver—cut in GST, for instance. The fiscal policy landscape in India is such that there are always some instruments at the government's disposal, especially because it borrows domestically for the most part, that too, through financial institutions it controls. All this tells us something about the government's explanation of how the economy works and what the challenges are. The government probably does not see deeper problems in the political economy. Now that it has made so many fiscal policy interventions, perhaps it should consider whether these can truly address the growth pangs of the Indian economy. The fundamental challenge for the Indian economy for over a decade has been the lack of

revival of private investment and the lackadaisical performance of merchandise exports. While the latter performed well for about six quarters in the post-pandemic period, this was due to temporary opportunities created at that time—the exports are now back to low growth. Similarly, there have been a few quarters of better private investment activity in recent years, but we are not yet in a period of revival. On the other hand, some high-productivity services sectors continue to be the silver lining. The IT services exports have continued to grow and export services such as business and management consultancy as well as public relations have doubled from the pre-pandemic years. The FM's Budget speech and Economic Survey 2024-25 hinted at actions beyond fiscal policy—deregulation and tax code simplification. Depending on what reforms will follow, these can be steps in the right direction. However, two points are worth considering. First, mere deregulation is not enough—a well-functioning market requires a suitable regulatory role of the state. The growing cottage industry of deregulation enthusiasts focuses too much on removing regulations that it deems unnecessary, without offering a full vision of what regulation is needed in a given sector. In the absence of a proper framework, one step toward deregulation is often followed by another step toward an unnecessary regulation. Second, there is a need for a broader and deeper introspection on how the government wields power in the economy. Many aspects of the larger institutional environment need careful attention: the centralisation of discretionary power, the top-down mandates issued in areas such as digital transformation, the way tax administration determines the additional demands from individuals and busi-

22 people who went to Lakhimpur market by boat to buy goods drowned in the Kaudiyaala River, 13 rescued safely, one dead

Bahraich

The people of Bharthapur village, surrounded by rivers in the Gerua Trans-Gomti region of the Kartarniyaghat Wildlife Sanctuary on the India-Nepal border, face hardships every year. A similar incident occurred on Wednesday evening. Around 22 people were on a boat to Khairtia, a weekly market in Lakhimpur district. While returning, the boat collided with a tree in the Kaudiyaala River and capsized. Due to the strong current, the boat capsized, sinking the 22 people on board. Thirteen were rescued safely, while one woman died. The incident occurred in the Sujauli police station area. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident. Taking cognizance of the incident, the Chief Minister has directed to expedite relief and rescue operations. Police and administrative officials from the Devipatan division and the district are present at the scene. Relief and rescue operations are being carried out rapidly, but the rain is hampering the efforts. Bharthapur is a village in the Katarniaghat Wildlife Range. Villagers travel by boat from Khairtia village in Lakhimpur via the Kaudiyaala River. On Wednesday evening at 6 p.m, a boat returning from Khairtia village to Bharthapur



capsized near the village. More than 22 people were on board. Those rescued safely include village residents Lakshmi Narayan, son of Visesar, Rani Devi, wife of Ramadhar, Jyoti, daughter of Anand Kumar and Harimohan, son of Ramkishore. Eight people, including the boat driver, Mihilal, son of Puttilal, are missing. It is reported that some guests were among the missing. According to villagers, the accident occurred due to strong currents in the river. The gates of the Chaudhary Charan Singh Ghaghra Barrage were recently opened, which are now being closed. Upon receiving information about the incident, police and administrative teams arrived at the scene. Station House Officer Prakash Chandra Sharma and the Tehsil team are engaged in relief and rescue operations. Box Rescue operation underway in village Bharthapur under the leadership

of senior officials. A rescue operation is being conducted under the leadership of senior officials with the assistance of the NDRF, SDRF, SKSB, PAC the district administration disaster relief team, local divers and citizens, to search for the missing people who died in the boat accident that occurred late Wednesday evening in village Bharthapur, Tehsil Mhipurwa in the district. Divisional Commissioner Shashi Bhushan Lal Sushil, Inspector General Amit Pathak, District Magistrate Akshay Tripathi, Superintendent of Police Ramnayan Singh and other concerned officials are camping at the scene and conducting the rescue operation under their supervision. In addition, senior officials present at the scene consoled the grieving families and assured them that the government and administration stand with the affected families.

All possible assistance will be provided to the affected families. Box The search operation for the missing is ongoing. The administrative team is still engaged in the search for the missing people. They are continuing their search. It is believed that the bodies have been carried far away due to the strong current. Divers have been deployed to search remote areas of the river. Currently, the police and administrative staff are conducting the search operation for the missing people. Box List of eight people who drowned in the boat: 1. Sailor Mihilal Yadav, son of the late Putai, age 382. Shivnandan Maurya, son of Shaligram, age 503. Suman, wife of Pramod Maurya, age 284. Sohni, daughter of Pramod, age 55. Shivam, son of Ramnaresh Maurya, age approximately 96. Deceased Ramjaiya, wife of an unknown person, resident of Bhaggadwa, age approximately 60 (body has been recovered). 7. Ramjaiya two grandsons, ages 7 and 108. Shanti, wife of Pancham, daughter of a 5-year-old girl. Box What is the situation in Bharathapur? Since independence till today, the people of Bharathapur are living a hellish life. In an area of about 5 kilometers, there is either an area of Trans Gerua or a forest. Even for one kilo of salt, the people of this village have to travel about 5 to 7 kilometers.

The conditions of this village were so bad that neither the people of the village were able to join the mainstream nor were they getting any kind of facility from the government. When this matter came to the notice of the then District Magistrate Monica Rani, she visited the village but her government vehicle was not in a position to reach the village. But she had a thought in her mind that she would know the suffering of the people of this village and their condition would be improved. So that the people of that village can survive. There were neither medical facilities nor necessary facilities in that village. Even people were not connected to the mainstream. They did not even have ration cards. Indian Bank immediately provided some facilities and even provided accommodation to some people. At present, he covered the people of the village with many government facilities and had the necessary ration cards, but could not restore the mobility facilities of the people of the village. Even today, those people are forced to travel under the same circumstances. Their contact with the markets of Bahraich district has been lost for many years. He is dependent on the markets of Lakhimpur district and districts of Nepal. From there we buy things of daily use.

Fruits and biscuits distributed to children on the death anniversary of the writer



Bahraich

The death anniversary of Bhanu Pratap Singh, who made significant contributions to the district journalism and literature, was celebrated by distributing biscuits and fruits to children. Held in the city Bakshipur New Colony neighborhood, the event discussed Singh literary and journalistic contributions, as well as his political involvement. He edited the city weekly "Mera Memoir" and the Hindi evening daily "Navsandhya," and also worked as a correspondent for several newspapers in the state and country. At the age of 25, he first served as a councillor from the Ghasiyari Pura ward and then as vice-president of the Bahraich Municipal Council. He died on October 30, 2003 due to liver cirrhosis. Singh wife, Kusum Singh, daughter Prasoon Singh, son Martand Bhanu, social workers Savitri Singh, Usha Tripathi, Shuchi Mishra, Srishti Tripathi and Samridhi Tripathi, among others were present at the event.

Mission Shakti Awareness Seminar and Felicitation Ceremony Held

Bahraich

Under the aegis of Adarsh Samaj Seva Samiti, Uttar Pradesh a Mission Shakti awareness seminar was organized at Rampyare Inter College in Babaganj town. Identity cards were distributed to committee officials and journalists were honored. Chief guest Dr. Umashankar Vaishya, Chairman of Rupaidiha and special guest Ramesh Singh Rawat, Kotwal of Rupaidiha, jointly inaugurated the program by garlanding a picture of Goddess Saraswati and lighting a lamp. Committee officials first welcomed the chief guests with bouquets, robes and mementos. Addressing the seminar, Chief Guest Dr. Vaishya said everyone should be ready to serve society with complete dedication and selflessness. He emphasized that social service provides spiritual peace. Dr. Vaishya stated that organizing such events will strengthen public awareness and programs like Mission Shakti. Special guest Kotwal



Rupaidiha, Singh stated in his address that such public awareness programs, conducted periodically, help keep our society safe. They play a significant role in maintaining law and order and preventing crime and effectively curbing crime and anti-social activities. Female constable Priya Pandey pro-

vided comprehensive information to hundreds of students present at the seminar, including the Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Yojana Mission, the Kanya Sumangala Yojana, 1090, 112, 1098, 1076, 181, 108, and 1923 for cybercrime complaints, as part of the Mission Shakti Phase 5 campaign,

which is being run for the safety, respect, and self-reliance of women and girls. The program was also addressed by prominent representative Shivpujan Singh, District Panchayat member Sandeep Jaiswal, BJP Mandal President Maharajdin Verma, Committee Patron Dr. A.M. Siddiqui and Organization Minister Badri Singh. The seminar was jointly conducted by committee president representative Santosh Mishra and block president Ramdin Gautam. Mainly RK Singh, LIU Inspector Ashutosh Dubey, committee district secretary Sher Singh Kasodhan, head constable Verma, Haji Anwar, Shyam Kumar Singh, Banaras Giri, Rudrapratap Mishra, Ravedranath Sharma, Vinod Giri, Rajkumar Sharma, Devesh Pandey, Junaid Ansari, Jameel Ansari, Shyam Kumar Mishra, Mehboob Ansari, Irshad Hussain, Shahid Hussain, Rajaram Verma, Ramsurat Yadav, Rambaran Verma, Arunesh Singh, Ashutosh Mishra and hundreds of people were present in the program.

RLD Welcomes Hike in Sugarcane Support Price to 400 per Quintal

Lucknow

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has welcomed the Uttar Pradesh government decision to raise the sugarcane support price to 7400 per quintal, calling it a major relief for farmers and a reflection of the government positive approach towards the agricultural community. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, RLD National General Secretary (Organisation) Trilok Tyagi said the move will directly benefit millions of sugarcane farmers and bring a



smile back to their faces. "This decision is a result of the government constructive outlook towards the welfare of farmers," he said. Tyagi added that RLD leader including party MLA and ministers, had been in continuous dialogue with the Chief Minister over the past few days, pressing for an increase in cane prices. "The government decision shows

that our persistent efforts and farmer-centric policies are yielding results," he noted. He further emphasized that RLD has always stood as the true voice of farmers, consistently advocating for fair crop prices, economic empowerment of cultivators and strengthening of the rural economy. The announcement has sparked widespread joy among sugarcane growers with many expressing their gratitude to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RLD National President Chaudhary Jayant Singh for championing their cause.

Two Nepali youths arrested with smack worth 2.5 lakh

Bahraich

Drug smuggling has increased at the Nepal-India border. Smugglers are evading Indian security forces and entering Nepal, only to be apprehended by the Nepal Police. A police team from the neighboring Nepali district of Banke has arrested two men with smack. Both are residents of Nepalganj, Banke District DSP Deepak Patil stated that on Wednesday evening, two men were stopped under suspicious circumstances near the Royal Cafe on the road leading to the Ramlila Maidan in Nepalganj Ward No.13. During the search, the police team recovered 49 grams of smack from their pant pockets. The DSP stated that the seized smack is estimated to be worth 72.5 lakh. The DSP stated that the arrested men have been identified as 38-year-old Chand Ali Sheikh and 31-year-old Bablu Sheikh, residents of Pirlipurwa, Ward No. 9, Nepalganj. He stated that further interrogation is underway with the arrested men. During interrogation, both of them revealed that they had purchased the smack from Indian territory. The DSP stated that if convicted of drug trafficking, the sentence could be a minimum of ten years. Box Nepalganj city becomes a transit point for drugs. Drugs reaching Nepalganj from Indian border areas. SP Banke expresses concern, writes letter to Bahraich SP Rupaidiha,



Bahraich. Nepalganj city in the Nepalese district of Banke, adjacent to the Indian border, is becoming a transit point for drug smugglers. Due to the open border, smugglers are easily transporting drugs to Nepalganj. Drugs are being transported from Nepalganj to various districts of Nepal and the capital, Kathmandu. The easy availability of drugs in the Indian market of Rupaidiha has also increased the challenges for the Banke police. SP Banke is serious about this issue and said that he will inform the Bahraich SP about this matter through a letter. Rupaidiha police and the SSB occasionally arrest drug traffickers and send them to jail, but to date, the police have not been able to put their dealers behind bars. Banke District Superintendent of Police, Angur GC, stated during a press conference that the situation in Nepalganj city is currently becoming dire. Banke district police teams are apprehending drug traffickers and sending them to jail, but the situation remains largely unchecked. He added that the district police team arrested 40 people, including two Indian

nationals, on drug trafficking charges in the first two months of 2025-26. The quantity of drugs seized from their possession also indicates a worrying situation. Police seized 505 grams and 760 milligrams of smack, 5 kilograms of marijuana, 200 milliliters of Corex, 1104 Nitrozepam tablets, and 746 Tramadol capsules from them on various dates and locations. According to the Banke police, this number is expected to increase further in the coming days. According to data from the District Police Office, Banke in the financial year 2022-23, 236 people were arrested in 157 cases of drug trafficking and 6 kg 895 grams of hashish, 1320 nitrazepam tablets, and 882 grams 22 milligrams of smack were recovered from them. Whereas in 2023-24, 264 people were arrested in 177 cases and 16 kg 123 grams of hashish, 15 kg 113 grams of opium, 5 kg 868 grams of ganja, 3 liters 300 ml of Corex, 812 nitrazepam tablets and 915 grams 815 milligrams of smack were recovered from them. In the financial year 2024-25 the number of cases registered reached 213 and 319 people were arrested for drug trafficking from whom 8 kg 224 grams of hashish, 113 kg 250 grams of marijuana, 7 liters 300 ml of Corex, 3613 Nitrozepam tablets, 5348 Tramadol capsules and 3 kg 4 grams 690 mg of smack were recovered.

District Road Safety Committee Meeting Concludes

Bahraich

During the District Road Safety Committee meeting held in the Collectorate auditorium late Wednesday evening, Superintendent of Police Ram Nayan Singh directed the concerned officials to form a committee to prepare a detailed action plan regarding road structure, identification of accident-prone areas, black spots, road construction, lighting, installation of CCTV cameras etc. to minimize road accidents in the district. The Assistant Divisional Transport Officer was directed to submit details of affected families, resolved cases and assistance provided in hit-and-run cases. He directed to pay special attention to the NHSHMDR, ODR and traffic management in the urban areas to ensure smooth traffic flow in the district. Singh said that accident-prone roads should be identified and necessary arrangements should be made to prevent accidents. The Superintendent of Police stated that camera, ramble strips, speed limits, reflective strips, proper cat-eye lighting and road safety signs should be installed on identified black spots along NHSHMD and ODR routes, in accordance with engi-



neering standards. The SP directed that one route each be identified by the PWD or municipal bodies and declared as a model route. An estimate should be prepared for developing these identified routes in accordance with the Smart City route guidelines and the proposal should be submitted to the government for approval. The SP stated that, in accordance with the Chief Minister wishes, traffic regulations and the "No Helmet, No Fuel" rule should be strictly enforced to reduce road accidents by 50 percent. SP Singh directed the Medical and Transport Departments to set up eye-check camps at petrol pumps and other suitable locations along various routes to check drivers. SP Singh directed the

Municipal Corporation, Public Works Department, and Police Departments to conduct foot patrols on various city routes to address any obstacles to smooth traffic flow. He said that suggestions should also be taken from the city residents and owners of various taxi stands in this work. The SP instructed all concerned to make proper parking arrangements in various hospitals located in the city so that the vehicles of patients and their attendants do not cause any hindrance in the traffic system. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate Amit Kumar, Sub-District Magistrate Nanpara Monalisa Johri, CO Line Pawan Kumar, ARTO OP Singh, EO Pramita Singh and other concerned were present.

Minister Chandramohan Patowary Distributes Checks Under Chief Minister Women Entrepreneurship Scheme in Chamaria

Assam

Assam Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Kamrup district guardian minister, Chandramohan Patowary on Thursday formally distributed financial assistance checks to eligible beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Women Entrepreneurship Scheme during a public event held at the Pritipur Milanpathar Sports Club Field in Chamaria. As part of this initiative, each Self-Help Group (SHG) from the Chamaria and Garaimari development blocks received 10,000 rupees to encourage women entrepreneurs. In total 3349 SHG, 202 Village Organizations (VO), 5 Cluster Level Federations (CLF) and 23,566 SHG members were provided with checks amounting to 23 crore 56 lakh 60 thousand rupees. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Patowary praised the initiative launched by the Chief Minister, describing it as an ambitious mission to empower women entrepreneurs across Assam. He said the scheme has played a pivotal role in strengthening women financially and instilling confidence to move forward in society. "The government aims to empower 40 lakh women beneficiaries through this scheme," the minister stated, urging recipients to utilize the initial capital effectively for expanding their businesses. He emphasized that women in Assam are no longer behind in any sphere and that women-led entrepreneurship is key to building a prosperous Assam. Guwahati MP Bijuli Kalita Medhi, present at the event, encouraged women of the Chamaria constituency to actively engage in this journey of economic independence. She said the scheme would not only help women become self-reliant entrepreneurs but also strengthen family wellbeing. MLA Rekiuddin Ahmed (Chaygaon) and Nandita Das (Boko) highlighted the importance of utilizing the funds judiciously to contribute to Assam economic growth. Legislator Das added that women participation in trade and local markets would reinforce the rural economy and promote inclusive development. Kamrup Deputy Commissioner Dev Kumar Mishra, in his welcome speech, underscored that women empowerment is the foundation of overall national economic progress. Social worker Anjan Goswami also spoke about the crucial role of women empowerment in sustainable and collective development. Several officials, including Kamrup Zilla Parishad CEO Siddharth Goswami, attended the event. The officials announced that the check distribution under this women entrepreneurship mission will be conducted in five phases across Kamrup district with the first phase completed today in Chamaria.



Satish Shah remembered fondly

Veteran actor Satish Shah, famed for *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* and Bollywood classics, dies at 74, leaving fans and industry devastated

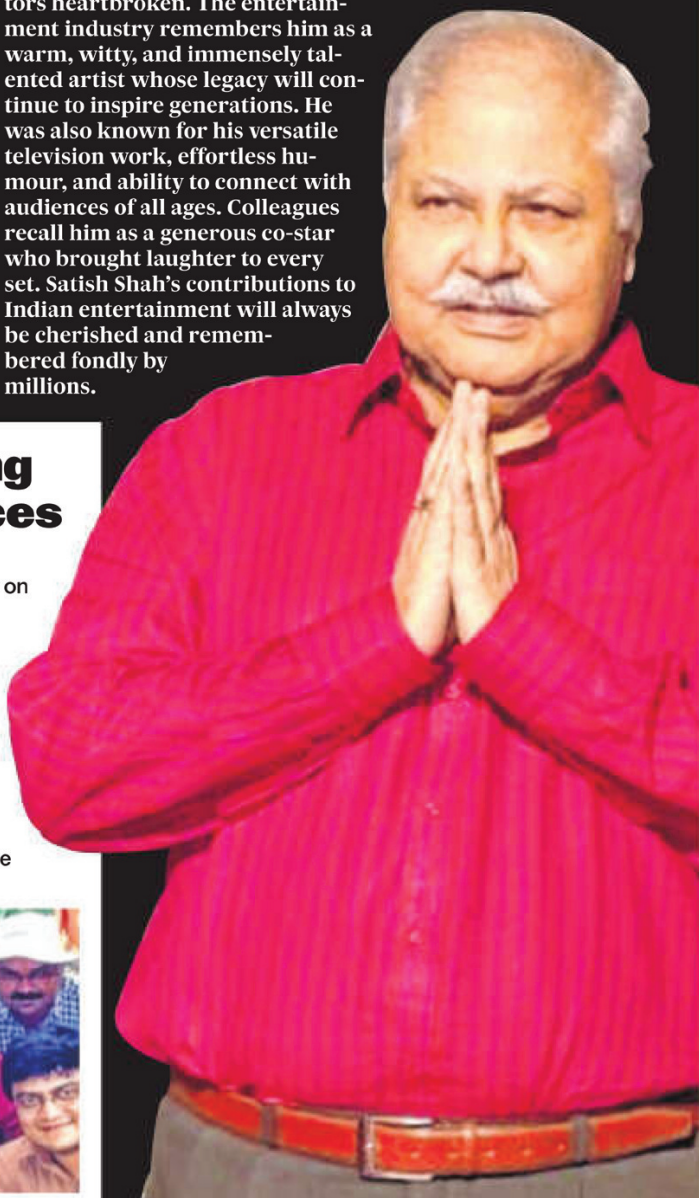
C.J Desk

Veteran actor Satish Shah, loved for his brilliant comic timing and unforgettable performances, passed away at the age of 74 due to kidney failure. Known for his iconic role as Indravadan Sarabhai in *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai*, he was a household name for decades. Satish appeared in many hit Bollywood films, including *Hum Aapke Hain Koun*, *Main Hoon Na*, and *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*. His passing has left fans and fellow ac-

tors heartbroken. The entertainment industry remembers him as a warm, witty, and immensely talented artist whose legacy will continue to inspire generations. He was also known for his versatile television work, effortless humour, and ability to connect with audiences of all ages. Colleagues recall him as a generous co-star who brought laughter to every set. Satish Shah's contributions to Indian entertainment will always be cherished and remembered fondly by millions.

Satish's touching final post surfaces

Veteran actor Satish Shah passed away on Saturday, at the age of 74 in Mumbai around 2:30 pm due to kidney failure. Satish's last post on his official X (formerly Twitter) account has gone viral, capturing widespread attention and leaving fans emotional. In it, he shared a throwback photo with Shammi Kapoor and Govinda, wishing Shammi on his birth anniversary on October 24. In his caption, he wrote, "Happy B'day dearest Shammi ji. You are always around for me."



Movies of Satish Shah



Hum Aapke Hain Koun

Satish Shah's comic timing shone alongside Salman Khan, Madhuri Dixit, and Anupam Kher, enhancing the film's family drama beautifully.



Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge

He appeared with Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, adding subtle humour and charm, leaving audiences smiling in key cameo scenes.



Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa

Sharing screen space with SRK, Suchitra Krishnamoorthi, Shah delivered memorable comedic moments that enriched the romantic storyline.



Ishq Vishk

Alongside Shahid Kapoor and Amrita Rao, Shah's quirky performance combined comedy with wisdom, making scenes memorable for audiences.



Main Hoon Na

Starring with Shah Rukh Khan, Zayed Khan, and Sushmita Sen, Shah's comic timing provided much-needed humor in this action-romance film.

Ammy Virk eyes cinematic legacy

Punjabi star says he aims to leave a lasting legacy in Punjabi cinema, inspiring future generations through culturally rooted, grand-scale films

Punjabi star Ammy Virk says his vision for the future is centered on leaving a legacy that will inspire generations to come in cinema. Taking pride in the evolution of Punjabi films, Ammy told IANS: "Earlier, our films used to cost Rs 2 crores; now it is Rs 100 crores. Hopefully, it will be Rs 200 crores. It will be Rs 500 crores. That will happen when our films are made on our cultural history. We will make films on Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the coming time, in the near future."

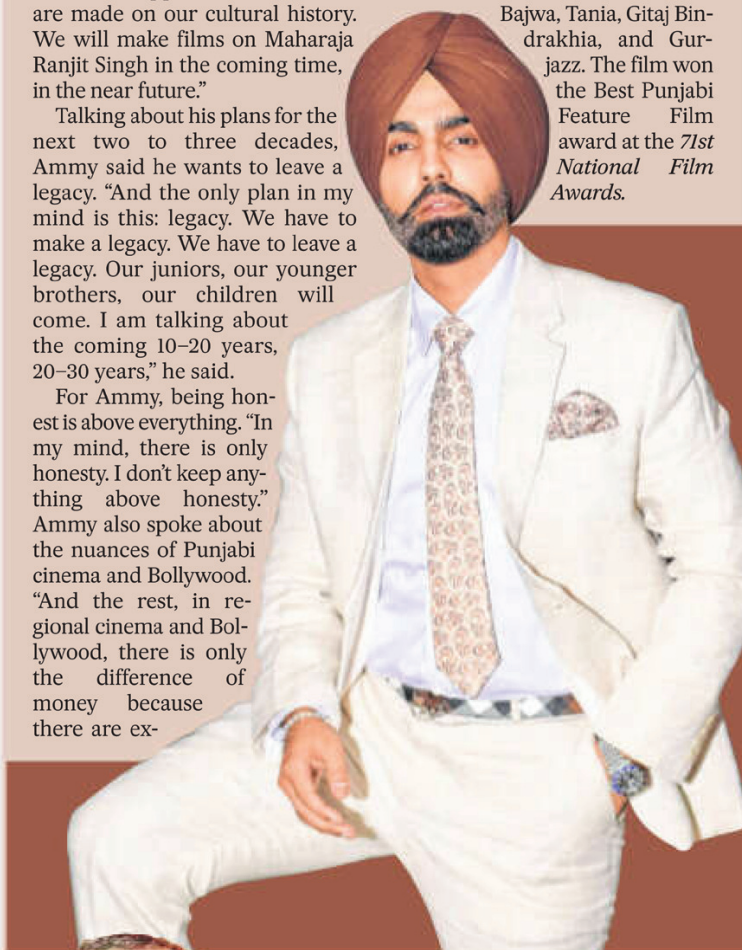
Talking about his plans for the next two to three decades, Ammy said he wants to leave a legacy. "And the only plan in my mind is this: legacy. We have to make a legacy. We have to leave a legacy. Our juniors, our younger brothers, our children will come. I am talking about the coming 10-20 years, 20-30 years," he said.

For Ammy, being honest is above everything. "In my mind, there is only honesty. I don't keep anything above honesty," Ammy also spoke about the nuances of Punjabi cinema and Bollywood. "And the rest, in regional cinema and Bollywood, there is only the difference of money because there are ex-

pensive films made there. There is a regional difference, and there is the fragrance of a certain region. In Punjab, there is the fragrance of Punjab; in Gujarat, there is the fragrance of Gujarat. So, there is a difference between these two things."

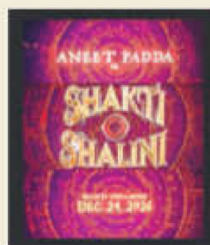
Ammy's latest release is *Goddad Godday Chaa 2*, directed by Vijay Kumar Arora. The film follows the story of a lively Punjabi village where women take charge of traditional wedding rituals, setting off a light-hearted battle of wits as both sides try to outsmart each other with increasingly clever and elaborate plans. The film also stars Gurpreet Bhangu and Gitaj Bindrakhia.

Talking about the first installment, *Goddad Godday Chaa* released in 2023. The Punjabi family comedy-drama film is set in the 1980s and 1990s and stars Sonam Bajwa, Tania, Gitaj Bindrakhia, and Gur-jazz. The film won the Best Punjabi Feature Film award at the 71st National Film Awards.



Aneet Padda enters horror universe

Ayushmann Khurana welcomes Saiyaara star Aneet Padda to Maddock's horror comedy universe, praising her rise from Punjab ahead of *Shakti Shalini*



Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurana extended a warm welcome to Saiyaara star Aneet Padda, who is set to feature in *Shakti Shalini*, the next title of Maddock Films' popular horror comedy universe.

Padda's entry was announced with the release



Ayushmann Khurana

of Khurana's latest film *Thamma*, which released in theatres on October 21. The film, also starring Rashmika Mandanna, is a part of MHCUC (Maddock horror comedy universe).

Khurana shared a note on his Instagram story on Saturday expressing his excitement to know another actor from Punjab is making it big in the industry. The actor hails from Chandigarh, whereas, Padda comes from Amritsar.

"Welcome to the MHCUC, @aneetpadda. *Punjabi aa gaye oye!* From one dreamer to another-keep chasing what you want. Nothing is impossible.. so proud to see someone from Punjab making us all proud. Can't wait to see you shine in *Shakti Shalini!* Onwards and upwards, Aneet," he wrote.

MHCUC comprises several films, including *Stree* featuring Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao, *Bhediya*, headlined by Varun Dhawan and Munjya, starring Sharvari and Abhay Verma and the latest addition, *Thamma*.



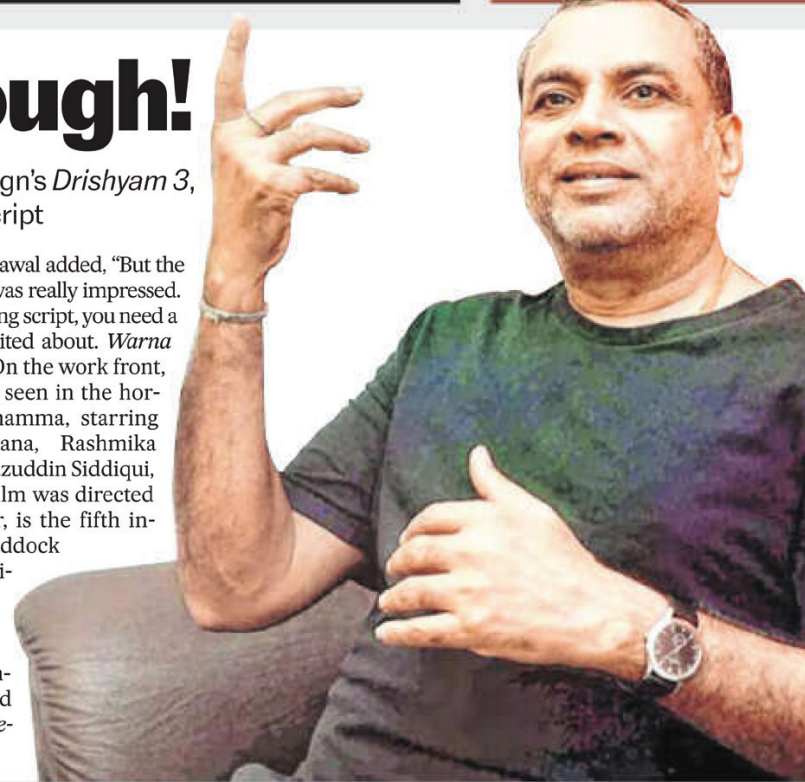
Not 'maza' enough!

Paresh Rawal reveals he declined a role in Ajay Devgn's *Drishyam 3*, saying the part didn't excite him despite a strong script

Paresh Rawal was rumoured to star in Ajay Devgn's upcoming *Drishyam 3*. The *Drishyam* franchise began in 2013 with Jeethu Joseph's Malayalam version starring Mohanlal, which was later remade in Hindi in 2015. While Mohanlal has already started shooting *Drishyam 3* in Malayalam, Devgn's Hindi crime drama, directed by Abhishek Pathak, is set to begin soon.

Paresh has now revealed that the makers approached him to play a pivotal role in the project. However, Paresh rejected the role in *Drishyam 3*. Speaking to Bollywood Hungama, he said, "Yes, the makers did approach me. But I didn't feel that the role was suitable for me. *Maza nahin aaya* (on read-

ing about my part)," Rawal added. "But the script is very good. I was really impressed. But even in a compelling script, you need a role that you feel excited about. *Warna maza nahin aayega*." On the work front, Paresh was recently seen in the horror-comedy film *Thamma*, starring Ayushmann Khurana, Rashmika Mandanna and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, among others. The film was directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, is the fifth installment in the Maddock Horror Comedy Universe. *Thamma* was released in theatres on 21 October 2025, clashing with Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa's *Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat*.



Nyrraa recalls being told to pose 'sexily' at 16

Actress Nyrraa Banerji recalls an uncomfortable encounter with a photographer

Actress Nyrraa Banerji, known for her work in television and films, recently opened up about her early experiences in the entertainment industry. In a candid conversation with *The Free Press Journal*, she recalled facing inappropriate comments and unsettling situations when she had just started her career as a teenager. From being told to pose 'sexily' like another actress to receiving unsolicited 'compromise' offers, Nyrraa shared the uncomfortable realities many newcomers face while chasing their dreams.

Nyrraa said, "I remember it was my first ever

photo shoot and I was very young, so I used to pose cutely. And they told me, 'Have you seen Riya Sen? Look at her eyes, look at the way she poses. You have to pose like her.' I was literally 16 years old and they used to tell me, 'Okay, pose like her, give a little sexy pose and all that.' So my mom used to wonder, what is he doing? She used to be there all the time. And the photographer would say, 'Madam, she is coming into the film industry, so she has to do it. If she poses like this and looks hot, she will get films soon.'"

Nyrraa further recalled how she and her mother would often feel uneasy about visiting certain offices during her early years in the industry. "Back in the day, they also used to call us to these very shady offices in Versova, Aram Nagar. My mom and I used to go. My mom was very supportive but I know she never liked going to such offices. We always wondered why those offices were so shady."

Later, as she began working more professionally, Nyrraa also started re-

ceiving unsettling phone calls and inappropriate proposals masked as 'commitments'. "I used to get calls for this weird thing called 'commitment', which was some kind of compromise with the director. I was like, what is commitment? Nobody would tell me this in front of my mom but when the crew member would come to give me the script, they would hint at something like this. So this happened and I used to get very angry. Once I got a random phone call and I blasted saying, 'Send your mother, send your sister or you go yourself.' So I used to be very, very raw, and I was quite a tomboy in those days. So I used to abuse them, I used to shout at them, I used to curse them also."

Pitbull returns to India

Grammy Award-winning musician Pitbull is all set to enthrall the Indian audience with his gigs in Gurugram and Hyderabad. The *Give Me Everything* hitmaker will first perform at HUDA Grounds in Gurugram on December 6 and then will head to Hyderabad on December 8.

Excited about bringing his electrifying 'I'm Back' tour to India, Pitbull, in a press note, said, "It's truly an honour to perform back in India, we look forward bringing the party back. Touring the globe continues to show fans around the world that music is the universal language that unites genres, Dalee!"

Commenting on the tour, Naman Pughalia, Chief Business Officer - Live Events, BookMyShow, said, "For years, Pitbull's music has been the soundtrack for celebrations around the world and it's incredible to see fans of all ages still dancing to his hits. We're in an exciting era for live entertainment in India, one where global artists of this scale are performing on our stages. Pitbull's arrival marks a major milestone in that journey. His music transcends borders, it's energetic, unifying and built for the live experience. This

December, we're bringing that energy to India, giving fans a chance to truly Feel This Moment."



TCS' \$6.5 billion AI infra play signals private capital surge

BENGALURU: TCS's \$6.5 billion capex blueprint for the AI data centre move goes beyond risk capital—it signals a push to build capabilities and perhaps prevent tech colonisation. Indian firms are increasingly turning to private capital to expand capacity and meet surging digital demand. In a recent interview with , TCS CEO K Krithivasan said it aims to become the world's largest AI-led services company. "This initiative also has a strong India angle, alongside global opportunities with our existing clients. In terms of funding, it will be a mix of equity and debt. On the equity side, we've partnered with a financial investor, giving us the flexibility and control to shape our growth path and decide who we work with—resulting in a stronger and more strategic business model." Prateek Jhawar, MD and head of infrastructure and real assets investment banking at



Aventus Capital, said institutions like Apollo, Blackstone, and CPP Investments are structuring long-term debt against contracted hyperscaler cash flows. "Recent deals (Digital Realty's \$7 billion JV with Blackstone, Aligned's \$1.7 billion private credit raise, and EdgeCore's \$1.9 billion financing) highlight how bespoke capital stacks are reshaping the ecosystem. The demand tailwinds are so strong that data centres are now being underwritten more like core infrastructure assets, not just technology real estate," he said. TCS' \$6.5 billion AI infra play signals private capital surge

Jhawar said the country's data centre capacity is expected to exceed 2,000 MW in the next 2 years, requiring an estimated \$3.5 billion of incremental investment. He said operators such as AdaniConneX, Yotta Data, and CapitaLand have raised cumulatively \$2 billion to fund hyperscale campuses in Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad. "What's changing is not just the volume of capital, but the nature of it. Flexible private credit structures and long-dated infrastructure funds are now competing to anchor Indian digital infrastructure. For investors, this convergence of AI-led demand.

New rules for non-benchmark indices like BankNifty, FinNifty

MUMBAI: Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said that exchanges that have derivative products on non-benchmark indices will have to readjust the weights of their constituents in such a way that no one stock dominates the index. As of now there are derivative products on BankNifty, Bankex and FinNifty. In addition to the existing rules for constructing indices, stock exchanges shall follow some additional norms for non-benchmark indices on which derivative (futures & options) products are traded, a Sebi circular said. These norms



would have to be followed for launching new derivative products on any other non-benchmark indices in future. Among others, these norms specify that the index should have a minimum of 14 constituents, the weight of the top constituent should not be more than 20%, and the com-

bined weight of the top three constituents should not exceed 45%. Some of the non-benchmark indices include Bankex, Bank Nifty, FinNifty etc. In India, the main benchmark indices are Nifty and Sensex. New rules for non-benchmark indices like BankNifty, FinNifty.

Possible goal of India-US trade deal: equal access to technology

Delhi: According to insiders, as part of the intended bilateral trade agreement (BTA), India is expected to request that the United States relax export controls and provide it with access to vital technologies on par with important American

allies such as Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, they mentioned that India might be interested in pursuing these kind of concessions in the following industries: semiconductors, biotechnology, artificial intelli-

gence (AI), pharmaceuticals, quantum computing, and telecom equipment. Textiles, gems and jewelry, leather goods, clothing, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas are among the labor-intensive sectors.

Close to finalising trade deal with US, govt signals

PATNA: Government has indicated that it is close to finalising a bilateral trade deal with the US and also hinted that the much-delayed Export Promotion Mission is expected to be announced in the next fortnight or so. During a meeting with Export Promotion Councils in Delhi late on Wednesday, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal told representatives of trade bodies that the required clearances for the Export Promotion Mission are nearly in place. The Mission, announced in the budget in Feb, seeks to address credit problems, help in promoting products overseas and assist compa-



nies in dealing with trade barriers. But, with the govt hoping to clinch a trade deal in next few weeks, a relief package has not been given immediately and is unlikely to be provided anytime soon, especially with positive signals com-

ing from the US, with President Donald Trump himself indicating his intent to move ahead. Close to finalising trade deal with US, govt signals Exporters had a long list of concerns over the impact of the US tariffs on Indian

exports and sought govt assistance in addressing liquidity and loan repayment problems. Goyal has asked his officials to facilitate discussions with RBI, finance ministry and banks over the next few days to address the problem, especially in sectors, such as textiles, which have been hit hard by Trump's 50% tariffs.

Some of the textiles exporters pointed to the 30 percentage point differential between Indian and other country exports to the US and said that buyers were demanding a steep discount, something that the commerce department has sought to discourage.

Some Indian cos have received licenses to import rare earth magnets from China: External Affairs Ministry

NEW DELHI: Government on Thursday said "some Indian companies" have got approval from China to import rare earth magnets from the country to be used in the automotive and electronics industries. Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the ministry of external affairs, said licenses have been issued to the companies that will enable them to get access to the magnets whose procurement had been stopped after China put curbs on



their sale earlier this year. The curbs have impacted the production of automobiles, especially electric cars and two-wheelers with companies petitioning the government to take up the matter with China. "Yes, we confirm that some Indian companies have received licenses for importing rare earth

magnets from China," Jaiswal said while responding to questions on the matter. "As far as the question of the latest talks and relaxations that have happened between the US and China (and) as to how it is going to play into our domain, I will come back to you. We have yet to look at it. I am not aware of the technicalities. But we will come back to you. But I do confirm that Indian companies have received licenses for importing rare earths from China.

Relief for advisers on performance data

MUMBAI: Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday allowed investment advisers (IAs) and research advisers (RAs) to share their past performance till the time the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) is set up. These advisers will be allowed to share past performance data provided by a chartered management accountant only on specific request of a client. This is an interim relief for all IAs and RAs as they can now share their past performance with their clients, mainly to attract new business. In April this year, Sebi had specified the framework for creation and operationalisation of PaRRVA, primarily to address the demand of the IAs and RAs to display their performance. Under Sebi's reg-



ulatory purview, PaRRVA will carry out the verification activities prospectively for the period, post onboarding of the IAs/RAs with the agency, Sebi said. Relief for advisers on performance data In the last few months, Sebi had received representations from the industry associations of IAs/RAs to facilitate them to communicate past performance data to clients for the period prior to operationalisation of PaRRVA. "Such past performance data shall be communicated to clients (including prospective

clients) on a one-to-one basis and shall not be made available to general public through public media/website of IA/RA or any other mode," the Sebi circular on Thursday said. It also said that IAs/RAs who wish to communicate past performance data to clients must enrol with PaRRVA within three months of its operationalisation, else they will not be allowed to do it. "The applicable period for such past performance data shall be prior to the date of operationalisation of PaRRVA.

RBI payout to government may touch Rs 3 lakh crore for FY25

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) central board of directors is expected to meet on May 23 to conduct its annual review of the central bank's balance sheet and discuss the transfer of surplus funds for FY25 to the government. The payout could be as high as Rs 3 lakh crore,



exceeding last year's dividend by nearly 50%. The board also met on May 15

to review the Economic Capital Framework (ECF), a crucial factor in determining the surplus or the dividend. "We estimate an RBI dividend of Rs 2.6 lakh to Rs 3 lakh crore, depending on the level of provisioning," said Gaura Sen Gupta, chief economist at IDFC First Bank, according to a

report by. "The markets have largely factored in a dividend of approximately Rs 2.5 lakh crore. Any upside on the number would have an impact on bond yields," said Alok Singh, group treasury head at CSB Bank. Contingency provisions are anticipated to be on par with or higher than last year.

Overhaul housing index compilation method: Statistics ministry



to prepare a more robust and resilient CPI series," the ministry has said as it unveiled a discussion paper. Rent data will be collected monthly, replacing the current practice of collecting rent every six months. The new series will compile the Housing Index for both rural and urban sectors.

This marks a departure from the current series, which includes only the urban sector, due to the absence of imputed rent data for rural areas in the household consumption expenditure survey 2011-12. Overhaul housing index compilation method: Ministry Rent data will be col-

lected from 12 dwellings per urban market, subject to the availability of rented units, and in selected villages, data will be collected from 6 dwellings, based on availability. The discussion paper says that to eliminate distortions introduced sometimes due to concessional or employer-provided dwellings as govt accommodations, such dwellings will be excluded from the compilation of the index as they do not reflect transactions in the actual rental mar-

ket. Housing is a crucial indicator for the overall well-being of the households not only in India but across the world as a significant amount of their income is spent either on house rent or maintaining an owned house. The ministry of statistics and programme implementation has invited views and comments from experts, academicians, ministries, departments, states, financial institutions and other stakeholders on the proposed housing index.

World Cup: Jemimah scripts history as India pull off biggest-ever WODI chase to enter final

● **Riding on her fabulous century, India have made it to the final of the World Cup, where they will play South Africa at the same venue on Sunday**

Navi Mumbai: This has to be right up amongst the finest triumphs in Indian cricket, let alone Indian Women's cricket. Chasing an imposing target of 339 against the mighty Australia in the second semifinal of the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup on Thursday at the DY Patil Stadium, India seemed to be sinking slowly when they lost both their openers as pacer Kim Garth scalped Pratiksha Rawal's replacement Shafali Verma (10), whose much-touted comeback lasted just five balls, and in-form star bat Smriti Mandhana. However, putting her hand up when it mattered the most, local girl Jemimah Rodrigues played the innings of her life, slamming a brilliant



Rodrigues kept the chase going in the company of Deepti Sharma

Once Harman was gone, caught superbly by Ashleigh Gardner off Annabel Sutherland in the 36th over, Rodrigues kept the chase going in the company of Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh and finally Amanjot Kaur (15 not out) to take India home.

127 not out (134 balls) to guide India to a mem-

The asking rate was a bit stiff, but Rodrigues added 38 in 34 balls with Deepti, then 46 in 31 balls with Richa, and finally 31* in just 15 balls with Amanjot to seal a famous win for India, which will be remembered for years to come.

orable, improbable five-wicket win with nine

This Australian women's team indeed could be beaten!

Steering the biggest chase ever in World Cup history, Rodrigues and the rest of the Indian team showed that this Australian women's team indeed could be beaten! As soon as Amanjot cut Sophie Molineux for a four to seal India's miraculous win, All the players rushed from the dugout to celebrate the tri-

umph. Harmanpreet and Jemimah shed tears of joy, which was understandable because few gave India a chance against the seven-time and defending world champions. However, miracles do happen.

They got the 'big fish' early as Healy played a Goud delivery onto her stumps in the sixth over in overcast conditions.

inspired by this magical feat and finally achieve their dream of winning a World Cup trophy that is just one step away now. Joining forces with Harmanpreet Kaur (89 from 86 balls) when India were 59 for two in the 10th over, Rodrigues put on an epic 167-run partnership in 156 balls.

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Controversy! Smriti DRS dismissal triggers drama in semi-final

Smriti Mandhana, India's vice-captain, faced an unexpected dismissal during the ICC Women's World Cup semi-final against Australia in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. Her innings of 24 runs from 24 balls, which included two fours and a six, came to an end following a controversial DRS decision. The incident occurred on the second ball of the 10th over when Kim Garth delivered a ball down the leg side. The on-field umpire initially called it a wide, with neither Australian wicketkeeper-captain Alyssa Healy nor bowler Garth showing complete confidence in an edge.

Israel attacks British officials after Maccabi Tel Aviv fans banned from Aston Villa match

British officials are under mounting pressure to reverse a decision that prevents Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters from attending a European match at Aston Villa. The Israeli government has criticised this ban. Aston announced that following police guidance.



Healy decided to use DRS with just three seconds remaining on the review timer. Mandhana appeared confident there was no contact, showing this through her head movements and smile. During the review process, both Mandhana and her batting partner Jemimah Rodrigues waited at the

pitch. The UltraEdge technology took some time to load, while Mandhana maintained her composure, consistently indicating she hadn't touched the ball. "Bat nahi laga," Mandhana told Rodrigues and the umpire, expressing her disbelief when the UltraEdge showed a clear spike as the ball passed her bat. The evidence led to her dismissal, causing visible shock among the Indian team members. She departed slowly to the pavilion, continuing to shake her head in disagreement with the decision. This wicket proved crucial for Australia in their defence of 340 runs.

Meet the doctors who have led Shreyas Iyer's recovery after nasty fall in Sydney



Rodrigues revealed that she got to know she would bat at No.3 only moments before walking out

It was a night of tears, faith, and redemption for Jemimah Rodrigues. The 25-year-old batter broke down after her unbeaten 127 helped India script a record ODI chase of 339 against Australia in the Women's World Cup semi-final at the DY Patil Stadium on Thursday. "Firstly, I want to thank Jesus, because I couldn't do this on my own. I know he carried me through today," an emotional Jemimah said after being named Player of the Match. "I want to thank my mom, my dad, my coach, and every single person who just believed in me throughout this time. It was really hard these

last four months, but it just feels like a dream and it's not sunk in yet." Rodrigues revealed that she got to know she would bat at No.3 only moments before walking out. "I actually did not bat at three. I was still at five while taking a shower. And when the discussion was happening, I just told them, let me know. So just before entering in, I got to know I'm batting at three," she said. "But it was not for me to prove a point. It was just for me to win this match for India because we've always lost in certain situations. And I just wanted to be there to take us through." Her unbeaten knock, in partnership with captain Harmanpreet Kaur (89), saw India recover from 59/2 to pull off the highest successful chase in Women's World Cup history.

Pranesh, son of anganwadi worker, carrying hopes of India's record contingent



NEW DELHI: Karaikudi is a small town in Tamil Nadu and also the birthplace of 18-year-old Grandmaster (GM) Pranesh M. With his mother working at an anganwadi, caring for underprivileged children, and his father being an accountant at a textile store, Pranesh never allowed limited resources to become an excuse or a distraction. When he became an International Master (IM) in 2020, his coach, RB Ramesh, took to social media to share: "Till he (Pranesh) became an IM, he didn't have access to a laptop for his chess preparation. Believe in yourself, and fate will lift you up." Pranesh, however, is too shy to call them limitations at all. "I didn't worry about what I didn't have," the GM tells. "I just thought about what I

have: my coach, my parents, my books. Even earlier generations didn't have laptops, but they still became grandmasters. RB Ramesh's post for Pranesh With no digital resources or fancy setups, the boy from Karaikudi taught himself from borrowed books, handwritten notes, and old chess magazines. "I just learned from whatever I could find," he simply puts. **Introduction to chess at 5** Pranesh is one of the record 24 Indians who have qualified for the Chess World Cup in Goa. His journey began, like many childhood legends, in chaos. "When I was five, I was just running around making noise," he recalls. "So my parents brought home chess and carrom.

KKR appoint Abhishek Nayar as head coach; replaces Chandrakant Pandit

"Abhishek has been a vital part of the Knight Riders setup since 2018, shaping our players"



Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have appointed Abhishek Nayar as their new head coach, replacing Chandrakant Pandit who served three seasons including the championship-winning 2024 season. Nayar, who has been part of the KKR setup since 2018 and recently appointed as UP Warriorz head coach in the Women's Premier League, will lead the franchise into its next chapter while working alongside mentor Dwayne Bravo. The franchise made the announcement follow-

ing Pandit's departure earlier this year, continuing their tradition of appointing Indian coaches at the helm. Nayar, 42, brings extensive coaching experience and is recognized for his contemporary and progressive coaching methods. "Abhishek has been a vital part of the Knight Riders setup since 2018, shaping our players both on and off the field. His understanding of the game and connection

with players have been key to our growth. We're thrilled to see him take over as Head Coach and lead KKR into its next chapter," said Venky Mysore, the CEO of KKR. Nayar's association with KKR dates back to 2018 when he joined the support staff, maintaining his role continuously except for the 2025 season when his involvement was limited due to commitments with the Indian national team. He served

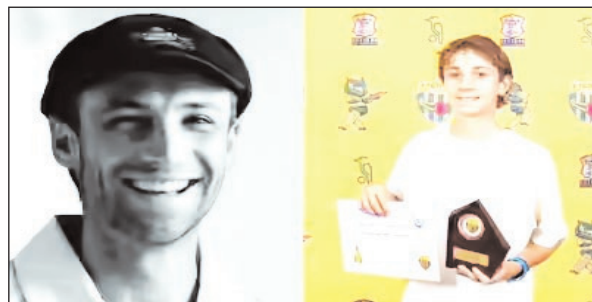
Rohit particularly crediting Nayar for his recent resurgence in form.

KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, and Rohit Sharma have trained under his guidance, with Rohit particularly crediting Nayar for his recent resurgence in form. The franchise values Nayar's holistic, player-centric philosophy and modern coaching approach. His appointment comes at a time when KKR are undergoing changes in their coaching structure, with former bowling coach Bharat Arun having moved to Lucknow SuperGiants.

as an assistant coach with the Indian team during this period. His coaching prowess is evident through his successful one-on-one work with several prominent Indian cricketers.

Phil Hughes' family sends emotional message on tragic death of Ben Austin

The Hughes family honoured Ben, who they described as an "adored son and brother".



Ferntree Gully Cricket Club in suburban Melbourne The tragic incident bears similarities to the death of Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes, who died at age 25 in November 2014, two

days after being hit near the ear by a ball during a first-class match between South Australia and New South Wales. Among the growing tributes are condolences from one family who under-

stands the Austin's grief "all too well". The Hughes family honoured Ben, who they described as an "adored son and brother". "Our thoughts are with you, the Ferntree Gully Cricket Club and the greater cricket community as we think of Ben and his love of cricket," the Hughes family said in a statement. "We send our warmest sympathies as you navigate through this time, as we know all too well ... e know all too well ... and hope your cherished memories of Ben comfort you."

The Ferntree Gully Cricket Club confirmed his death on Thursday through a statement: "We are absolutely devastated by the passing of Ben, and the impacts of his death will be felt by all in our cricket community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family - Jace, Tracey, Cooper and Zach, his extended family, his friends and to all of those who knew Ben and the joy that he brought." Ben's father, Jace Austin, released a statement through Cricket Victoria expressing the family's grief: "We are utterly

devastated by the passing of our beautiful Ben, who died earlier on Thursday morning. For Tracey and I, Ben was an adored son, deeply loved brother to Cooper and Zach and a shining light in the lives of our family and friends. This tragedy has taken Ben from us, but we find some comfort that he was doing something he did for so many summers - going down to the nets with mates to play cricket. He loved cricket and it was one of the joys of his life."

A key feature of this round is the domestic exclusivity window for residents of the three host nations

Rishabh Pant shows sharp return; spinners lead India 'A' fightback after South Africa 'A' start strong



BENGALURU: A strong-at-times breeze, moisture in the air and on the pitch and a green surface prompted India 'A' skipper Rishabh Pant to opt to

bowl in their four-day match against South Africa 'A' on Thursday, but the obvious didn't happen. Rather than the pacers exploiting what appeared to be ideal

conditions, it was the spinners who eventually justified Pant's decision. Barring an early breakthrough from Anshul Kamboj, who had opener Lesego Senokwane (0) caught at first slip by Ayush Mhatre, he and his new-ball partner Khaleel Ahmed toiled for no reward. Not that they were particularly incisive. Khaleel was wayward, banging it in short and helping the batters pick easy

boundaries. Eventually, it was the spinners who turned on the heat at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here, with off-spinner Tanush Kotian finishing the day with figures of 4 for 83. The 27-year-old was the key factor in India 'A' fight back as the visiting side ended Day 1 of the first four-day game with 299 runs on the board for the loss of nine wickets. In the morning, it didn't take long for

South African's Jordhan Hermann (71) and Zubayr Hamza (66) to feel at ease in seaming conditions. Early in his innings, Jordan feasted on Khaleel's short deliveries, finding the mid-on boundary with ease. Kamboj was far more difficult to deal with and was treated with respect. Gurnoor Brar, the first-change bowler also kept things tight. Spin was introduced in the 14th over.

Starc spotted at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai

Australian men's team fast bowler Mitchell Starc was present at DY Patil Stadium to support his wife Alyssa Healy during the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup semifinal between Australia and India on Thursday. Starc has consistently attended Healy's knockout matches when not playing himself. Women's World Cup: Greenstone Lobo predicts India's chances Starc recently participated in a three-match ODI series against India, claiming three wickets across the games. Having retired from T20 internationals, his next cricket commitment is the Ashes series, beginning November 21 at the Optus Stadium. Starc and Healy's relationship spans over a decade,

with their engagement followed by marriage in April 2016. They are among only three married couples to have played Test cricket, following England's Roger and Ruth Prideaux (1950s-1970) and Sri Lanka's Guy and Rasanjali de Alwis (1980s-1990s). In March 2020, Starc demonstrated his commitment by leaving early from South Africa, missing the final ODI to watch Healy compete in the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup final. In the current semifinal match, Healy's innings was cut short when she was dismissed for five runs off 15 balls. Young bowler Kranti Gaud delivered an inswinger that Healy played onto her stumps.