

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Sunday, 07 December, 2025

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

'Supreme Court is for the common man, aim is to reduce litigation'

New Delhi

Chief Justice Surya Kant said in a statement on Saturday that the Supreme Court is for the common man. He added that a unified national judicial policy to resolve pending cases is his top priority. The CJI also stated that he aims to reduce litigation costs and set a time-



frame for case esolution. Disposal of Pending Cases a Priority Speaking at the Leadership Summit, CJI

Surya Kant said, "My top priority is to establish a fixed timeframe and a unified national judicial policy to expedite the resolution of pending cases. I am not saying that all pending cases will be eliminated. That will never happen. It should not be because litigation is a continuous process. People have faith and trust in the judicial system." The CJI added, "New cases will be filed, but it is also important to resolve old

cases. Mediation will also be used, and this could prove to be a game changer."The Chief Justice stated that the Supreme Court will see some reforms in the coming days, and litigation will continue to receive priority. The CJI said, "I want to send a strong and clear message that the Supreme Court is for the common man, and that there is enough space in the Supreme Court for ordinary litigation."

However, he also stated that he cannot do this work alone and needs the cooperation of other judges. The Chief Justice also stated that the judiciary needs upgrades, as issues like digital arrests and cybercrime .

India-Russia relations

have become stronger:

External Affairs Minister



New Delhi

India's Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar stated that the relationship between India and Russia is one of the strongest major relationships in the world. He stated that President Vladimir Putin's recent two-day visit to India has given a new direction to the relationship between the two countries. Jaishankar stated that this visit accomplished tasks that had previously lagged, especially in economic cooperation. Jaishankar stated that while India and Russia have always had strong ties in the defense and energy sectors, economic ties have not progressed as much as before. He stated that

during this meeting, both countries emphasized addressing this gap. He explained that, unlike other countries, India's economic relations with the United States and Europe have grown, but the defense sector has not. The opposite is true for Russia: defense remains strong, but trade lags behind. Referring to the 78-year-old trusting relationship, the Foreign Minister stated that while the world has seen many changes over the past 78 years, India-Russia relations have remained stable. Russia's relations with China, the United States, and Europe have fluctuated, but trust with India has remained strong.

Government sets deadline for refunds for cancelled flights

New Delhi

New DelhiThe cancellation of over 2,000 IndiGo flights over the past five days has affected thousands of passengers. In light of this, the Civil Aviation Ministry on Saturday directed the airline to complete the refund process for cancelled flights by Sunday evening. The ministry also directed the airline to ensure that passengers' luggage is delivered within the next two days. Strict Government Instructions on RefundsA day after the country's largest airline, IndiGo, faced difficulties on Saturday after canceling over 1,000 flights for the fifth consecutive day, the ministry said that any delay or non-compliance in the refund process will result in immediate regulatory action. The ministry said in a statement that the refund



Airlines will not be able to charge fares exceeding Rs 18,000

Amid the Indigo crisis, the government on Saturday put a stop on the arbitrary fares of airlines. The government said that all airlines cannot sell tickets at a price higher than the fare cap. The government said that this system will remain in force until the situation becomes normal. The purpose of this step is to stop irregularities in airfares, maintain pricing discipline in the market and stop exploitation of passengers in distress.

process for all cancelled or disrupted flights must be completed by 8 pm on Sunday. The instructions issued said, "Airlines have also been directed not to charge any rescheduling fee from passengers whose travel has been

affected by the cancellations." IndiGo tweeted that in light of recent events, all passenger cancellation refunds will be automatically returned. "We will fully waive all cancellation/rescheduling requests for your bookings for travel

Passengers at the airport brawled, kicking and punching each other

IndiGo Airlines, which is facing a crew shortage, has canceled flights for the fifth consecutive day, causing chaos at airports. Distressed passengers created a ruckus at many locations. Suitcases piled up at the airport, and people haven't received their luggage for three to four days. Those waiting for flights spent the night on the ground. Passengers were seen crying at Bengaluru Airport due to flight cancellations. At Lucknow Airport, passengers clashed over queues. At Bengaluru Airport, a passenger's cat appeared distressed.

between December 5, 2025, and December 15, 2025," IndiGo said. More than 400 flights were cancelled at various airports across the country on Saturday. IndiGo has also been directed to establish



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the tribute meeting held in Lucknow on the occasion of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's Mahaparinirvan Diwas. On this occasion, he showered flowers on the statue of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

'No means no...', Shashi Tharoor introduces bill criminalising marital rape

New Delhi

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who is often in the news for his statements that cross party lines, has introduced three private member bills in the Lok Sabha. The most

significant of these bills is to criminalize marital rape. Tharoor stated that even after marriage, a woman's body should be controlled by her own will. The law must recognize this. Tharoor also emphasized that India must

uphold its constitutional values. Suggestion to criminalize marital rapeThe MP from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, stated in a post on the social media platform X that marital rape should be criminalized. It should be

noted that a private member's bill is one introduced by a member of Parliament who is not a minister. In his X post, Shashi Tharoor stated that India must uphold its constitutional values and move from "no means no".

Remove the words secular and socialist from the preamble of the Constitution

New Delhi

A private member's bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha by BJP MP Bhim Singh has sparked a new political debate in the country. The bill seeks to remove the words "secular" and "socialist" from the Constitution's preamble. Singh argues that these words were added without democratic process during the Emergency, and that it is now necessary to remove them and restore the Constitution to its

original form. Singh stated that these words were not included in the original Constitution and were added by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976 through the 42nd Amendment. He alleges that all major opposition leaders were in jail at the time, and no open debate took place in Parliament. Singh argues that the decision to add these words to the preamble was made out of compulsion and to serve contemporary political interests.

New Delhi

A letter was written to CJI Surya Kant, asking, "Should infiltrators be given a red carpet welcome?"New DelhiOn December 2, the Supreme Court questioned the legal status of Rohingya Muslims living in India. Former judges, lawyers, and the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms expressed their objection in a letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.



While hearing a habeas corpus petition, the bench comprising Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked, "Should someone who enters India illegally be given a 'red carpet welcome' when the country's own citizens

are struggling with poverty?" The letter stated that the comments made against the Rohingyas were inhumane and against constitutional values. They were described as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.

They also asserted that the Rohingya people have the right to protection under Article 21. The CJI is not only a legal officer but also the custodian of the rights of the poor and the final arbiter, whose words carry weight in the nation's thinking and have far-reaching impact. The Rohingyas are an ethnic minority in Myanmar, who have long faced violence and discrimination in the country's Buddhist-majority society.

Parties following the policy of appeasement are harming India: CM Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made a major announcement on Saturday, marking the Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Speaking at a program organized by the Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Mahasabha Trust, CM Yogi said that often some miscreants attempt to damage statues.



Therefore, the government in Uttar Pradesh is taking an important decision to ensure the security of statues of Baba Saheb by constructing boundary

walls. A canopy will also be installed over the statues, ensuring their safety. The government will guarantee minimum honorarium to Class IV, contract, and sanitation workers

within a month or two. CM Yogi referred to Dr. Nirmal's statement in which he said that Class IV, contract, and sanitation workers should receive a fair honorarium. CM Yogi said that his government has formed a corporation. Within the next month or two, the government will guarantee minimum honorarium to Class IV, contract, and sanitation workers.

Sitharaman praised Omar Abdullah's efforts

New Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has praised the efforts of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to revive the state's economy. Sitharaman made this statement while discussing India's economic journey since 2019 at a newspaper's leadership summit here on Saturday. Addressing the event, she described it as a time marked by many difficulties both globally and within the country. She described Jammu and Kashmir as a prime example of economic strength and specific policy interventions. She said that

PM Modi pays tribute to Ambedkar on his death anniversary

New Delhi

Today is the 69th death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution. The entire nation is remembering him on this occasion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, and other leaders paid their respects at the statue of Dr. Ambedkar in the Parliament House complex. Remembering Dr. Ambedkar, Prime



Minister Modi wrote in a social media post, "Remembering Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to

justice, equality, and the Constitution will continue to guide our national journey. He inspired generations to uphold human dignity and strengthen democratic values.

India Development Council inaugurates Panch-Sutra Katha Mahotsav, focusing on Environment and Civic Duties

India Development Council inaugurates Panch-Sutra Katha Mahotsav, focusing on Environment and Civic Duties "Nature worship is the essence of Indian culture, environmental protection is our collective responsibility"- Dr. Rajeshwar

Lucknow

The India Development Council (Bharat Vikas Parishad), Awadh Prant, inaugurated the five-day Panch Sootri Katha Mahotsav on Friday at Sumitnath Sewa Bhavan, Krishna Nagar. Inspired by the centenary year of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) the event commenced in a spiritually uplifting and culturally vibrant setting. As the Chief Guest, Sarojininagar MLA Dr. Rajeshwar Singh emphasized that the Council Panch-Sutra philosophy—Sampark (Contact), Sahayog (Cooperation), Sanskar (Values), Seva (Service) and Samarpan (Commitment)—forms the five foundational pillars of effective nation-building and collective consciousness. Dr. Singh in-depth analysis on environmental protection: Addressing the gathering, Dr. Singh highlighted that Indian cultural philosophy is deeply rooted in harmony with nature, but rapid over-exploitation of natural resources has now taken the form of a serious environmental crisis.

He shared key facts: Between 2013 and 2023, groundwater levels in several areas of Lucknow have fallen by up to 20 meters. Globally, 6.7 million people die prematurely due to air pollution every year. In India alone, this number ranges



from 1.7 to 2 million, which is extremely alarming. To explain the global ecological imbalance, Dr. Singh referred to World Overshoot Day. He said: "In 1970, World Overshoot Day fell on 25 December, meaning humanity lived within the Earth ecological capacity for nearly the entire year. Today, this date has shifted dangerously backwards to 24 July, indicating that we exhaust a full year natural resources within just half the year." Dr. Singh shared that Sarojininagar has taken significant strides in environmental conservation: More than 50% of Lucknow total installed solar capacity is located in Sarojininagar. Over 30,000 Eco-Friendly Bags prepared by Tarashakti Centres have been distributed among schoolchildren to promote environmental awareness. He emphasized that local initiatives are critical for safeguarding the planet limited resources.

Sirathu administration issues notice to remove illegal encroachment from government grazing land



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

The Sirathu Tehsil administration has swung into action following the discovery of a case of illegal encroachment on government land in Naudhiya Amad Karari village in the Kaushambi Sirathu Tehsil area. The administration has issued instructions for immediate action, imposing a financial penalty against the encroachers, Vijay Singh and Uday

Singh, for illegal construction on Gram Sabha grazing land. The case relates to plot number 289 Mi, measuring 1.0360 hectares, which is registered as government grazing land.

The local accountant's report found that the accused had encroached upon Gram Sabha land by constructing houses without prior permission. Upon receiving the report, the Tehsil administration issued notices to the encroachers, asking them to

present their case within the stipulated time-frame.

However, the accused failed to submit any response or evidence within the stipulated timeframe. The administration is now proceeding with the process of removing this illegal encroachment and recovering the related financial penalty. Officials have clarified that encroachment on government and Gram Sabha land will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

One-Day Workshop Organized



Ghazipur

A one-day workshop was organized by the Department of Community Medicine at Maharishi Vishwamitra Medical College in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The workshop was presided over by the college principal, Prof. Anand Mishra, while Prof. Dhananjay Singh served as the Organizing Secretary. During the technical sessions, experts shared important information related to the subject. More than 100 participants, including faculty members, senior residents, junior residents and MBBS students, enthusiastically participated and found the workshop content extremely useful. At the end of the program, the organizing chairman, Prof. Anand Mishra, congratulated all the guests, participants and the organizing team for the successful event. He also emphasized the need to organize similar educational programs in the future.

SP Workers Launch Campaign to Expose Municipal Corruption

Ghazipur

Under the leadership of Samajwadi Party youth leader Abhinav Singh, Samajwadi Party workers and local residents jointly toured the Shastri Nagar area as part of a campaign to expose the corruption in the municipality. Abhinav Singh stated that the deplorable condition of all the wards of the municipality, as well as the main and important roads of the city, is a result of gross negligence by the administration. Businesses are completely shut down due to the dilapidated condition of the roads. Heaps of



garbage are piled up everywhere in the city, and filth is rampant throughout the entire neighborhood. The municipality is completely mired in corruption and has no concern whatsoever for the problems of the city.

Kanchan Rawat, District Vice President of the Women Wing, said that the municipality has no regard for the comfort and convenience of the city residents. This campaign to expose the corruption will continue

until the roads are completely repaired.

The statues of great personalities installed in the city are also neglected. The program was conducted by businessman Arun Kushwaha.

Our Health is Linked to Soil Health: Sarita Agarwal

Ghazipur

Addressing a district-level Rabi crop seminar and soil health workshop organized at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.G. College Ghazipur on the occasion of World Soil Day, Municipal Chairperson Sarita Agarwal appealed to farmers and citizens, stating that the deteriorating health of the soil is affecting everyone's health. She said that along with chemical-free farming, natural farming must be adopted to prevent various types of cancer-related diseases, diabetes, obesity and disabilities in newborns. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Vijay Kumar highlighted all aspects of soil health and urged farmers to use fertilizers and pesticides only in balanced quantities. He appealed to



the farmers to improve soil health by using animal manure and urine, crop residue, green manure and proper crop rotation. Scientists from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.G. College, Ghazipur, Dr. D.K. Singh, Dr. Omkar Singh and Dr. S.K. Singh provided detailed information on soil health. On this occasion, information on soil testing, biopesticides, natural neem oil and natural farming was provided through stalls. On

World Soil Day, six progressive farmers practicing organic and natural farming were also honored with certificates of appreciation by the Municipal Chairperson. On the occasion of World Soil Day, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Akushpur also organized a separate seminar and program to raise awareness among students, teachers and farmers of the agriculture faculty.

Preparations are underway to develop Uttar Pradesh into a global honey hub in collaboration with New Zealand

Lucknow

On Friday, Ashan Jayawardene, Manager—Trade Plan Implementation, Ministry of Agriculture, New Zealand, met with Dinesh Pratap Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Foreign Trade and Agricultural Exports, at his residence in Lucknow, to promote and export Uttar Pradesh honey to national and international markets and to exchange technology under the New Zealand-India Agriculture and Honey Productivity Partnership Program. This meeting was aimed at preparing and finalizing a cooperation program in the agricultural sector under the proposed free trade agreement. The New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi has designated Jayawardene to outline this cooperation program.



New Zealand's "Manuka" honey brand is world-renowned. To bring the state honey to the same level, honey has been included as a key cooperation product under this partnership. It was also decided to establish a "brand name" to recognize the state honey. The meeting noted that Uttar Pradesh is the largest honey-producing state in the country with a wide variety of honey varieties, including natural, wild, organic, herbal, multi-flora, mustard and eucalyptus. India and New Zealand have extensive cooperation opportunities in the areas of quality improvement, certification, technology transfer,

value addition and export promotion. During the visit, Jayawardene will inspect honey collection and harvesting centers and interact with producers, beekeepers, collectors and exporters. He will also assess opportunities for technology exchange, capacity building, standards harmonization and strengthening the production-export chain. Following the meeting, the delegation held detailed discussions with honey producers and exporters at the Horticulture Directorate, chaired by Additional Chief Secretary B.L. Meena.

The meeting discussed fur-

Abhimanyu Manglik Takes Salute at Weekly Parade

Bhadohi

Superintendent of Police Abhimanyu Manglik took the salute at the weekly parade on Friday and inspected the parade. Personnel from the police lines, those posted in various offices and recruit police officers participated in the parade. A run was organized to ensure physical and mental fitness. During the parade, necessary instructions were given to the concerned officers to make the squad-wise drill procedures, conducted for discipline and uniformity, more effective. The newly selected constables undergoing training were briefed on discipline and rules after inspecting their PT/parade.

After the parade, necessary instructions were given to the training instructors to ensure that the trainees are thoroughly acquainted



with all important points and instructions. The Dial 112 PRV vehicles and equipment participating in the parade were checked by the Superintendent of Police, Bhadohi and necessary instructions were given to the concerned personnel. After the inspection, Superintendent of Police Abhimanyu Manglik inspected the building under construction in the police lines premises and the police lines itself, paying special attention to cleanliness and giving necessary instructions to the concerned personnel. During the

weekly orderly room, various registers were checked and necessary instructions were given to the concerned personnel. In the police lines auditorium, 41 police personnel who performed commendable work in November 2025—including police personnel posted at police stations, those posted at Mission Shakti centers, those posted at the Cyber Help Desk, those posted in Dial 112 and the SWAT and Surveillance teams—were honored with commendation certificates and wished a bright future.

Armed Forces Flag Day to be celebrated on December 7th

Bhadohi

As per the letter from the Additional Chief Secretary Uttar Pradesh, Armed Forces Flag Day will be celebrated through out the state on December 7th. Emblem flags and car flags for sale have been received from the Directorate of Soldier Welfare and Rehabilitation Uttar Pradesh Lucknow. The funds collected from the sale of these flags are sent to the Director, Directorate of Soldier Welfare and Rehabilitation, Uttar Pradesh. On the eve of Armed Forces Flag Day, the in-charge of the Soldier Welfare and Rehabilitation Office respectfully affixed the Armed Forces Flag Day emblem to District Magistrate Shailesh Kumar, Additional District Magistrate Kunwar Virendra Maurya and District Information Officer Dr. Pankaj Kumar. Following this, the aforementioned officers deposited their contributions into the donation box. The voluntary contributions are used for the welfare of ex-servicemen/widows/dependents. These are the soldiers who sacrificed their lives to secure and protect your future. The funds you donate are used to alleviate the suffering of the widows, children and elderly and helpless parents of these brave soldiers and to bring a smile to their faces. The funds collected from the sale of flags should be deposited as soon as possible via account payee check or cash into the Soldier Flag Fund account number 10795005827, payable to State Bank of India, Keshavpur Sarpathaha branch and the office should be informed. Alternatively, the funds can be sent by post to the District Soldier Welfare and Rehabilitation Office, Bhadohi or deposited via QR code. Please collect the receipt from the office in person. In this regard, please take personal interest and make every effort to collect as much money as possible.



5-Year-Old Boy Dies, Family Blocks MG Road, 2,000 Vehicles Stuck



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Family members created a huge uproar over the death of a 5-year-old boy. The father said, "The doctors killed my son. They have also made his body disappear." Angry family members blocked MG Road on Saturday morning, lying down on the road and vowing not to leave until they

receive justice. During this time, more than 2,000 vehicles were stuck in the traffic jam. Upon receiving the information, police and hospital administration arrived at the scene and attempted to pacify the crowd.

The family is demanding that the child's body be returned to them immediately and action be taken against the hospital staff. Guddu, a



resident of Amilia village, said, "On November 30th, my 5-year-old son, Vansh, was playing.

While hitting a stick against a wire, he got hit by it. We admitted him to SRN Hospital." When we went to call doctors at 6 a.m. on Saturday, they said, "Let's go." When they arrived, they began pounding on his chest. They said, "Your son is dead."

They immediately called the police and threw us out. "My child died due to the negligence of the doctors." DCP City Prayagraj Manish Kumar Shandilya said, "The blockade has been cleared. The family is being counseled. If they refuse to undergo a post-mortem, appropriate legal action will be taken after obtaining their consent."

Security vigilance increased in the city: Joint administration and police team conducts extensive patrolling



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur. Under the guidance of Sub-District Magistrate (SDM) Dr. Harshita Tiwari, a joint team of administration and police conducted a comprehensive patrolling campaign on Saturday, December 6, to maintain peace and law and order in the city under the jurisdiction of the Kotwali Muhammadabad police station. The team visited major markets, crowded areas, and various neighborhoods to conduct a detailed review of the

security situation. A large police force, including Circle Officer (CO) Sudhakar Pandey, was present during the joint operation. Along the way, officials interacted with local residents, urging them to adhere to the rules and maintain peace and harmony.

They also assured them that any activity that could disrupt law and order would be strictly prevented. SDM Dr. Harshita Tiwari stated that special vigilance is being maintained at sensitive areas in the city, and

security is being strengthened at all levels. He stated that indiscipline or disorder will not be tolerated under any circumstances. CO Sudhakar Pandey stated that the police are constantly monitoring the situation through regular patrols and special operations. He clarified that the safety of citizens is paramount, and the police are always vigilant. This patrol campaign further strengthened residents' confidence in security and spread a message of peace throughout the area.

Five major resolutions were passed concerning education, Bangladeshi infiltration, natural disasters, divisive forces, and social change

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The 71st National Convention of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) was successfully held on November 28-30, 2025, at the General Bipin Rawat Auditorium in 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda Nagar', located at the Parade Ground in Dehradun. More than 1,500 students, professors, academics, full-time workers, and other distinguished guests from across the country attended the three-day event. Important decisions were made after serious discussions on organizational development, educational policies, and socio-cultural issues. A press conference was organized at the ABVP Prayagraj



office to provide information about the convention, addressed by National Minister Abhay Pratap Singh. Today, on 06 December 2025, on the occasion of the death anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, ABVP spread the message of unity and harmony in the society through Baba Saheb Sandesh Yatra, seminar and various programs in

Prayagraj. In the convention, special place was given to three Yatras that enriched the cultural and spiritual dimension of India. Among these, Rani Abbakka Kalash Yatra, which started from her birthplace in Karnataka and reached Dehradun after covering a distance of more than 3000 km. The presence of this Yatra introduced the youth to

the bravery of Rani Abbakka and the cultural pride of India. To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the Bhagwan Birsa Sandesh Yatra was organized. It began in Ulihatu, Jharkhand, and traveled through numerous locations, reaching youth with the message of land, water, and forest conservation and awareness of tribal rights. To commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, a sacred water pot brought from Gurudwara Sheeshganj Sahib in Delhi was reverently welcomed and enshrined in the main auditorium, providing a historical and spiritual urgency to the convention. The welcoming of these processions

and their presence on campus were central to the convention's cultural platform, instilling a sense of national dedication among the delegates. At the convention, Abhay Pratap Singh, provincial minister of Kashi Province and research scholar at Banaras Hindu University, was appointed national minister, Alok Tripathi and Aanchal Singh from Allahabad University were appointed national executive members, Sarvesh from Banaras Hindu University, Vanshika Shukla from Varanasi, and Manmohan Nishad from Sonbhadra were appointed national executive members. A total of five resolutions were passed at ABVP's 71st National Convention.

Three accused sentenced to rigorous life imprisonment for raping and murdering a woman

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. On March 26, 2022, in the Kaushambi West Sharira police station area, a woman was brutally murdered by slitting her throat with a sharp-edged weapon at midnight. FIR No. 54/2022 under Sections 302/34 of the Indian Penal Code was registered at the West Sharira police station. Based on the evidence, during the investigation, Section 376D of the Indian Penal Code was added and the charge sheet was filed in court.

During the trial, the court found all three accused guilty of murder and rape, wherein the three accused Mustaq Ali alias Gunga alias Baura son of



Toofan Ali resident of Maulani ka Purwa, Turtipur police station Karari and Deepak son of Nandlal resident of Vibhaval police station Mau district Chitrakoot and Bhola alias Devendra son of Satan resident of Amina police station Paschim Sharira were sentenced to life imprisonment

and a fine of Rs. 40,000/- by the court ASJ/FTC-II district Kaushambi on 06.12.2025 and accused Mustaq Ali was punished with an additional fine of Rs. 10,000/- in FIR No. 60/22 Section 307 IPC and FIR No. 61/22 Section 3/25 Arms Act and FIR No. 62/22 Section 4/25 Arms Act.

Police arrested two accused in a robbery case and sent them to jail

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

On November 12th, after receiving numerous complaints against Lekhpal Kuldeep Shukla of Majra Babhan Purva, Gram Panchayat Unau, in the Kaushambi Manjhanpur Tehsil area, the District Magistrate visited Babhan Purva village to assess the status of the pond number on the spot. He then directed the Tehsildar Manjhanpur to form a team and measure the pond number and take necessary action. He also directed the Tehsildar to investigate the fisheries lease allotment and take action. The Sub-District Magistrate was instructed to suspend Lekhpal Kuldeep Shukla for negligence in not reporting encroachment on the pond and violation of the terms of the fish-



eries lease, and to seek clarification from the Kanungo. However, Lekhpal Kuldeep Shukla remained unsuspended and has continued to work since the November 12th directive. On Saturday, villagers again complained against Lekhpal Kuldeep Shukla at the Tehsil Samadhan Diwas. Previously, Gulab Pasi had submitted a complaint at the Tehsil Samadhan Diwas, accusing the Lekhpal of sowing paddy in the pond

number. Action should be taken by measuring the pond number, on which the accountant was found guilty and was ordered to be suspended. The powerful people cultivate the 44 bigha pond land of the village and sell the crop and the accountant takes his share. Despite the instructions of the District Magistrate, after more than 3 weeks have passed, questions have been raised on the arrangements after the accountant has not been suspended.

Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas concluded in Saidpur; 364 complaints received, 38 resolved on the spot

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur. Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, a day for the prompt resolution of public problems, was held in the Tehsil auditorium in Saidpur Tehsil, chaired by Avinash Kumar and in the presence of Superintendent of Police Dr. Iraj Raja. 63 complaints/requests were received, and four were resolved on the spot.

According to information from all seven tehsils, a total of 364 complaints/requests were received during the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, of which 38 were resolved on the spot. Similarly, in Tehsil Sadar, under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional



Magistrate, 30 complaints/requests were received, of which six were resolved on the spot. In Tehsil Sevrari, under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, 21 complaints/requests were received, of which two were resolved on the spot. In Tehsil Kasimabad, under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, 28 complaints/requests were received, of which five were resolved on the spot. In Tehsil

Muhammadabad, under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, 72 complaints/requests were received, of which 12 were resolved on the spot. In Tehsil Jakhania, under the chairmanship of the Magistrate, 95 complaints/requests were received, of which three were resolved on the spot. In Tehsil Zamania, under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, 55 complaints/requests were received, of

which six were resolved on the spot. On the occasion of the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, the District Magistrate listened to the public's complaints seriously, resolved some of them on the spot, and forwarded the remaining complaints to the concerned officials, directing them for timely and quality resolution. He stated that resolving public complaints is a priority of the government, and any negligence or indifference in this regard is unacceptable. Present on the occasion were the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Saidpur, District Development Officer, Tehsildar Saidpur, Circle Officer Saidpur, and all relevant officials and police officers.

Three arrested with 50 liters of illicit liquor

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. Police launched a campaign against illicit liquor, destroying one quintal of raw material. Under the direction of Kaushambi SP Rajesh Kumar, in the ongoing campaign against

the manufacture and smuggling of illicit liquor in the district, police from Karari, Sarai Akil, and Kadadham police stations conducted a campaign and arrested three individuals involved in the illegal liquor manufacturing. Police recovered 50 liters of illicit liquor from the arrested individuals and

destroyed one quintal of raw material. Karari police station arrested Raju, son of Shrinath, resident of Newari, currently residing at Barai Bandhwa, Karari police station, with 15 liters of illicit liquor. Sarai Akil police station arrested Indraraj, son of Sambar, resident of Purkhas, Sarai Akil police sta-

tion, with 20 liters of illicit liquor. Kadadham police station arrested Vishram, son of the late Ramnihore, resident of Rasidmai, Kadadham police station, with 15 liters of illicit liquor. Police have filed a complaint with all the accused. He was produced in the court from where he was sent to jail.

Editorial

Europe amid great power contestation

On his first visit to Europe post-pandemic, Xi Jinping met French President Emmanuel Macron. Xi lauded China's ties with France as a "model for the international community amid threats of a trade war over Chinese electric cars and French cognac". Xi Jinping's tour through Europe, analysts point out, highlighted China's audacious strategy to exploit the fissures within Europe amid great power contestation. Among many other developments, the armed forces of China and France announced the setting up of a new inter-theatre cooperation and dialogue mechanism. This collaboration between the two militaries' naval and air forces is aimed at further deepening mutual trust and cooperation and jointly safeguarding regional security and stability.

Such a move towards forging closer Sino-French military ties, especially amid Beijing's assertive manoeuvres in the Indo-Pacific and the South China Sea, begs the question: Can Europe, and particularly France, remain a reliable ally, or will it become more accommodating of China's controversial actions in its neighbourhood? Countries like India are watching closely, concerned about France and Europe in the future and potentially succumbing to China's diplomatic and economic enticements. China claims to be "not at the origin of the Russian-Ukraine crisis, nor a party to it, nor a participant", and thus legitimises its silence. Can we anticipate a similar approach by Europe on issues concerning Taiwan and the Philippines? In the past few years, France's relationship with China has been marked by a mixture of scepticism and strategic engagement, reflecting broader geopolitical objectives and national interests. In the recent past, France has been quite critical of China, viewing it as a 'strategic threat'. The 2021 update to France's 2017 Defence and National Security Strategic Review painted China as a 'systemic rival', 'economic competitor', and 'sometimes an important diplomatic partner'. Even as Paris sought engagement with Beijing in 2019, substantial tensions clearly existed. During Xi Jinping's previous European tour, President Macron rallied a united European front to challenge Beijing on critical European issues like unfair trade practices, restricted market access for European companies, opaque financing under the BRI, and human rights abuses in Tibet and Xinjiang.

Recent events and official statements have further underscored this stance. A parliamentary report on foreign interference in France, requested by Marine Le Pen's far-right party, highlighted China's "aggressive and increasingly malicious methods". Labelling China as the "second most serious threat to France after Russia", the report echoed sentiments from Bernard Emié, Director of French External Intelligence (DGSE), who described China as an 'aggressive power' with 'unbridled diplomacy'. Furthermore, the issue of France selling arms to Taiwan resurfaced during the pandemic when Taiwan announced plans to buy defence equipment from France to upgrade missile systems on French warships purchased in 1991 and 1992. Beijing expressed 'serious concern' and urged Paris to avoid actions that could strain Sino-French ties. Following Chinese air intrusions into Taiwan's air defence zone, a French delegation led by former defence minister Alain Richard visited Taipei to meet with President Tsai Ing-wen. This visit was seen as a powerful symbol of France's commitment to opposing China's unilateral aggression, and supporting peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific.



The regime's policy changes with vision

Mahesh Singh

Roam around Riyadh, the capital, and you see it buzzing with young and aspirational Saudis making the most of the newfound freedoms and opportunities. According to the 2022 census, 63% of Saudis are under the age of 30. And the regime's policy changes are guided with this key statistic in mind. The biggest beneficiaries of the new openness are the Saudi women, who never had it so good. The Kingdom's inclusive Vision 2030 aims to diversify and strengthen the nation's economy. According to a World Bank report, Saudi Arabia is now ranked at the top in terms of economic and social progress for women out of 190 economies. The country's women are now truly in the driver's seat. The lifting of restrictions on their movement and choices has meant that Saudi women are steering the social, cultural and economic transformation of their country. Till a few years ago, they had to look to their fathers, husbands and brothers for even the basics like permission to travel or work. With Vision 2030, female workforce participation has gone up to nearly 40% now compared to about 15% a few years ago. This progress is evident in the increasing number of women receiving advanced degrees, enrolling in STEM fields, and owning 40% of small and medium-sized startups. Right from the moment you land in Riyadh, you see women taking up



key jobs. From immigration counters to shopping malls to government offices, Saudi women are everywhere. I saw women making presentations at key government events, doing camera work, running stalls at local markets.

The presence of women in the workforce has also meant increased intermingling of genders and rewriting of many social norms and gender behaviours. A big focus of Vision 2030 is also the cultural and social integration of all those living and working in Saudi Arabia. The Media Ministry's Global Harmony project is aimed at enhancing understanding and collaborations between diverse groups that call Saudi home. According to the Saudi Deputy Minister of Media, Dr Khaled Bin Abdulqader al Ghamdi, the Global Harmony project aims

to make expats feel more at home. But more than that, it aspires to make local Saudis understand better the various communities that live among them. So, during the Riyadh Season, which starts in September and continues till February-March, you see a host of public cultural and social events to bring communities together. It's a true celebration and appreciation of diversity. Even among the expats, special attention is on Indians, who are the largest expat group in Saudi Arabia. At present, 2.6 million Indians live in the Kingdom, working in the domestic sector as well as private jobs, and running both start-ups as well as big companies. Recognising the role of India, Dr Khaled calls the community "an integral part of the Saudi story". This year, the Media Ministry dedicated the Suwaidi Park

festival exclusively to India. The 10-day festival saw a celebration of Indian culture, food, music and art. People from all communities streamed into the vast Suwaidi Park to savour a slice of India. The Global Harmony project attempts to present Saudi as an inclusive and harmonious society where people from all backgrounds live and celebrate their own cultures, traditions and festivals. And, it's not some civil society gig. It's a government policy initiative with clear objectives and plans.

That makes it an attempt worth emulating for many countries that are facing social fissures due to their diversity. As Saudi strides into modernity, it is also conscious of its history and heritage. It's encouraging studies and excavations at heritage sites, such as at al Ula, and is promoting its pre-

Islamic history too. Nouf Marwaai, a yoga instructor and also a consultant with the Saudi government, gave us a presentation on the historical and social similarities between India and Saudi Arabia. In her talk, she went back to 6000 BCE to trace the Almagar Civilisation. Clearly, the new Saudi Arabia projects itself as an old civilisation, and not just as a society defined by the advent of Islam 1,400 years ago. That is now portrayed as only an important event, not the sole marker of the civilisational identity. The Kingdom is also promoting its historical sites. The Diriyah town, just outside Riyadh, is one such heritage site that has a UNESCO tag. It was the home of the Saudi royal family and also served as the capital of the Emirate of Diriyah under the first Saudi dynasty from 1744 to 1818. Today, Diriyah is one of the foremost cultural hubs and the centre of many sports and adventure activities in the Kingdom. Even so, its historical character has been maintained all along.

On the one hand, you have mega infrastructural projects, new businesses and modern wave sweeping Saudi, and on the other, there is a renewed focus on its over 1,400-year-old history. Coming back to the India connect: wherever there are Indians, there is music. Indian film music has been a great brand ambassador and unifier across the world. Saudi Arabia is no different.

India was a British colony, robbed of its wealth and morale

Suman

The original "Great Game" was fought in the mid-1800s between the Russian Empire and the combined might of the British, French and Ottoman Empires over control of Central Asia. The British feared an attack by the Imperial Russian Army through Afghanistan on their Indian colony. The Ottomans, though in decline, wanted to guard against Russian incursions into their Balkan possessions. As a report by Kallie Szczepanski (thought.com) described it: "Britain's Lord Ellenborough started 'The Great Game' on January 12, 1830, with an edict establishing a new trade route from India to Bukhara, using Turkey, Persia, and Afghanistan as a buffer

against Russia to prevent it from controlling any ports on the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, Russia wanted to establish a neutral zone in Afghanistan allowing for their use of crucial trade routes." "The Great Game officially ended with the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, which divided Persia (Iran) into a Russian-controlled northern zone, a nominally independent central zone, and a British-controlled southern zone. The Convention also specified a borderline between the two empires running from the eastern point of Persia to Afghanistan and declared Afghanistan an official protectorate of Britain." Russia's invasion of Ukraine nearly two centuries later has trig-

gered a new Great Game but with vastly different actors, motives and possible outcomes. In the mid-1800s the United States did not count. It was convulsed by a Civil War (1861-65) between northern unionist states and southern confederate states over slavery. China had been humiliated by Britain during the Opium Wars (1839-60). It lay in repose. India was a British colony, robbed of its wealth and morale. Today Russia lies weakened, its Soviet-era satellite states absorbed into NATO. They form a Western knife aimed at Moscow's jugular. Ukraine remains a non-NATO buffer state. If it joins NATO in future, Russia would be completely encircled.

The emergence of new-era 'Leviathans'

Rashi Singh

In China, the fear of chaos that can come from within and from without is a central rationale that legitimises Xi Jinping's power grab. Image: REUTERS Thomas Hobbes' seminal work, Leviathan, published in 1651, posits the necessity of a powerful, centralised authority to prevent societal chaos and ensure peace and security. Hobbes had a way with words; he famously said that without an all-powerful state, whom he calls the Leviathan, life would be nasty, brutish, and short. Those powerful words have a global resonance today, giving the state across the world a free run. We saw it in Washington when more than \$3 trillion was printed in monetary easing. In Paris, monetary welfare spending is out of hand, and the Leviathan dares not withdraw the free fund, for that itself causes riots and chaos. In China, state capitalism is running wild, and in India, the state subsidies everything from fertiliser and maternity care to free food to the tune of \$10 billion a year. Everywhere, a man who wrote 350 years ago rules. In our turbulent world, Hobbes's premise of avoiding chaos is so powerful that both autocracies and democracies are utilising it to empower the state further. It is not as if he has not been proved right. In fact, rarely in contemporary history has Hobbes gone wrong. In Iraq, Libya, and Egypt, when the Leviathan was toppled, it created chaos beyond imagination,

only to be replaced by the iron fist of the state. In China, the fear of chaos that can come from within and from without is a central rationale that legitimises Xi Jinping's power grab. Indeed, it's replacing the promise of prosperity as the basis of the communist party's hold over China. The fact that the Federal Reserve's policy of quantitative easing following the 2008 financial crisis and the purchase of government securities to increase the money supply were unquestioned exemplifies Hobbes' idea of the sovereign exercising control to prevent economic disorder and maintain stability. That, in the bastion of capitalism, it did not raise concerns about the erosion of financial autonomy and the distortion of free markets underlines the astonishing relevance of Hobbes. France's robust welfare state epitomises Hobbes' notion of the sovereign's responsibility to ensure the well-being of its citizens. The French government maintains an extensive social safety net, including comprehensive healthcare, unemployment benefits, and retirement pensions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, France's welfare spending surged as the government implemented measures to protect jobs and support incomes. However, this extensive welfare system can be critiqued for fostering dependency and reducing individual responsibility. The welfare-to-GDP ratio in 2023 was an astonishing 36 per cent. This is clearly unsustainable, but every time France has tried to

pull back the Leviathan or cut back welfare, there have been dramatic riots. Once you create the Leviathan, clearly, there is no way back. In 2020, the French government introduced the 'Solidarity Fund', providing financial aid to businesses affected by the pandemic, and expanded unemployment benefits to cover those furloughed under the 'partial activity' scheme. These interventions, amounting to over €100 billion in expansive welfare spending, can lead to high taxation, which burdens individuals and businesses, and totally stifles entrepreneurial spirit and innovation. Additionally, the extensive welfare system creates a culture of dependency, reducing the incentive for personal initiative and self-reliance. France and its Leviathan are in a doom loop. China's model of state capitalism illustrates Hobbes' concept of the sovereign's expansive control over economic life. The Chinese government exercises significant influence over the economy through state-owned enterprises (SOEs), which dominate key industries such as energy, telecommunications, and finance. While this control allows the state to direct economic development and maintain social order, it also restricts economic freedom and individual rights.

The role of SOEs in China's economic strategy is particularly evident in the "Made in China 2025" initiative, aimed at transforming China into a global leader in high-tech industries.

India's stand should Iran want a revival of its nuclear plan?

Samay Sharma

What will, for example, be India's stand should Iran want a revival of its nuclear plan? India's past tussles with the West over its own nuclear programme may trigger another round of strategic unpleasantness over New Delhi's stance. India has a long-standing policy of strategic autonomy, and the complexity of its relations with the West is par for the course. The question is only of degree. The scope of India's support to its alliance partners in any overtures, real or perceived, against the West needs to be clearly defined, if not announced. While BRICS has achieved precious little in tan-

gible terms in the past 15 years, the symbolism of grouping may have consequences for India as ongoing conflicts stretch into the future and new challenges around them emerge. On the other hand, the internal dynamics of the expanded BRICS are going to pose another challenge. BRICS, only a little more than an ad hoc grouping with diverse challenges and interests, has miles to go to emerge as a counterforce to alliances like the G7 or the Five Eyes, where members have been able to thrash out at least a common minimum programme. All eyes have been on Iran for more than a year. Naturally, the first

BRICS summit with Tehran's membership is bound to breed speculation about what the prospective new world order would look like. At home, there needs to be an examination of India's bilateral ties with a country that is seen firmly anti-West in its outlook. Iran and India are sailing in the same boat, at least momentarily: of the West's castigation. The temptation may be high on both sides to form a joint front against Western hegemony in the security space. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has held bilateral talks with the new Iranian President, Masoud Pezeshkian, with a focus on strategic cooperation

in and beyond the Middle East. It can be endlessly debated without itching anywhere close to a resolution whether multilateral global groupings make any difference to realpolitik either domestically or internationally. The signalling, however, remains crucial. To begin with, the West is already perceiving the summit as Russia's show of strength. Headlines like 'Putin Gathers Allies' and 'Putin Hosts Global South Leaders at BRICS Summit Meant to Counterbalance Western Clout' in Western media outlets expose apprehension. A complex interplay of sectarian interests and regional dynamics.

ED tightens noose around Reliance Power

MUMBAI

The ED has filed a supplementary prosecution complaint (PC) against Anil Ambani's group company, Reliance Power Ltd., and 10 other entities in an alleged money laundering case linked to a reportedly fake bank guarantee worth Rs 68.2 crore submitted to the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The guarantees were reportedly used to secure a major battery energy storage project tender, the central agency said on Saturday.

The complaint, filed under the PMLA, follows two FIRs registered by the Delhi Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW). One FIR was lodged based on SECI's complaint against Reliance NU BESS Ltd., a subsidiary of Reliance Power, while the second was filed by Reliance NU BESS Ltd. against Bhubaneswar-based Biswal Tradelink Pvt Ltd and its Managing Director, Partha Sarathi Biswal.

In its response to the ED's supplementary chargesheet, Reliance Power Ltd said the allegations levelled by the agency have not undergone judicial scrutiny and the company has not been held guilty of any wrongdoing. It added that, as per settled law of the Supreme Court, the company will have an opportunity to present its case and facts before the court even prior to cognizance, and therefore the filing of the complaint "does not affect the affairs of the company in any manner."

Briefs

GUWAHATI

Stage set for Malone's concert

The Assam administration on Saturday announced special traffic and logistical arrangements for American singer-rapper Post Malone's debut concert in Guwahati, scheduled for Monday. The Assam government had in May approved a new policy to promote 'concert tourism' and partnered with Bigtree Entertainment, which operates the BookMyShow platform, to organise national and international musical events in the state. More than 20,000 people are expected to attend Post Malone's show.

CHANDIGARH

SAD: Extend date for nominations

Alleging that nominations of many of its candidates contesting the Block Samiti and Zila Parishad elections have been rejected across Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Saturday demanded that the deadline for filing nominations in all areas where there were complaints be extended.

GLOBAL EQUATION | Jaishankar disagreed with views that Putin's visit could complicate India's negotiations with the US

Ties with Russia among 'steadiest' globally: EAM

NEW DELHI

The India-Russia partnership has been among the "steadiest big relationships" in the last 70-80 years and President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi was about "reimagining" the ties with a focus on economic engagement, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday.

In an interactive session, he also disagreed with views that Putin's visit could complicate India's negotiations with the US on a bilateral trade agreement.

"No, I disagree with you. I think everybody knows that India has relations with all the major countries in the world," S Jaishankar said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit.

"I think for any country to expect to have a veto or a say in how we develop our relations with others is not a reasonable proposition," S Jaishankar was asked if Putin's two-day visit to New Delhi that focused largely on significantly enhancing the



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar greets Russian President Vladimir Putin as the latter prepares to depart from New Delhi

-PTI

Engaging atmosphere: Tharoor on dinner

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Saturday described the Rashtrapati Bhavan banquet for Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "warm" and "engaging" evening, even as his party publicly questioned why its top leaders were not invited and took veiled digs at him for attending. "Attended the @rashtrapatibhvn banquet for President Putin last night. A warm and engaging atmosphere reigned. Enjoyed my conversations with many of the attendees, especially my dining companions from the Russian delegation!" he posted.

Grand Indian gastronomic journey

NEW DELHI

The official dinner organized for Russian President Vladimir Putin and his delegation was a meticulously curated affair, designed to offer a comprehensive gastronomic journey through the regional flavors of India.

The diplomatic meal commenced with a starter course that provided a diverse taste of Indian regional cuisine. The menu featured the South Indian soup Murungelai Chaaru (Rasam), alongside the Kashmiri delicacy Gucchi Doon Chetin (Morels with Walnut Chutney). Other appetizers included the pan-grilled Kaale Chane Ki Shikampur (Black Gram Kebab)



and the Himalayan specialty, Vegetable Jhol Momo with hot chutney.

The main courses were largely representative of North Indian cuisine. Highlights included the rich Zafrani Paneer Roll (Saffron Paneer Roll), the seasonal favorite Palak Methi Matar Ka Saag (Spinach, Fenugreek, and Peas), Tandoor

Bharwan Aloo (Stuffed Potato), and the tangy Achari Baingan (Pickled Eggplant), rounded out by a comforting Yellow Dal Tadka.

These main offerings were served with a saffron and dry fruit pulao, accompanied by an extensive selection of Indian breads, including Lachha Paratha, Magaz Naan, Satanaj Roti, Missi Roti, and Biskooti Roti.

The sweet ending to the diplomatic evening featured a pair of traditional Indian desserts: the rich Badam Ka Halwa (Almond Pudding) and the frozen delight Kesar-Pista Kulfi (Saffron-Pistachio Kulfi). President Putin was also served a "healthy drink" composed of a fresh mixture of pomegranate, orange, carrot, and ginger juices.

Probe into Zubeen's death almost complete

GUWAHATI

Investigation into the death of Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg is almost complete, and the charge sheet will be filed on December 12, a senior police officer said on Saturday. Garg died while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19.

Special Director General of Police of Criminal Investigation Department, Munna Prasad Gupta, while addressing a press conference here, said, "The investigation is almost complete. The details will be given in the charge sheet." Gupta, who is leading the Special Investigation Team probing Garg's death, said seven arrests have been made so far and over 300 witnesses examined.

Nat'l Herald: ED issues notices to DK brothers

BENGALURU

The Delhi police and ED have issued notices to Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and his brother D K Suresh in connection with the investigation regarding the donations made to National Herald and Young India organisations.

Reacting to the notice, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said that the ED was harassing him and his family through this issue and he would condemn the move of ED.

"From the beginning, we have been cooperating with the investigation and there is no hide and seek in this. After all these developments, ED has filed a charge sheet in the issue. We don't

know why police had to register another case with this regard. We will fight it legally," he said.

"ED has issued summons to us and we have already given replies to their questions. It is shocking that they have issued summons to us. Delhi police have sought details from us before December 19," he said.

"National Herald and Young India are Congress party organisations and we had donated money to our organisations through our tax paid money.

We helped our organisations which were facing some financial difficulties. They had registered cases under PMLA also and what happened then? The motive of this case is to harass the supporters of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," he said.

Covid violation cases to be withdrawn

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has moved towards withdrawing cases filed against MLAs and MPs for violating Covid lockdown orders in 2020 and 2021. The relief will apply only to cases where the punishment is two years or less.

During the pandemic lockdowns, more than three and a half lakh cases were registered across the state for violating restrictions. While cases against common citizens have already been withdrawn, elected representatives were still facing legal action.

According to officials, around 80 to 90 MLAs and MPs were booked during that period.

Extra cover on Ayodhya demolition anniversary

LUCKNOW

Police and central security agencies across Uttar Pradesh are on high alert on December 6, the anniversary of the 1992 demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya. The highest level of security has been deployed around the Ram temple and in other sensitive cities including Varanasi and Mathura.

In Ayodhya, security forces are maintaining strict surveillance at every entry point into the temple town. Devotees heading towards the Ram temple are being stopped for mandatory checks. Luggage, vehicles and identity documents are being thoroughly examined. Police teams are patrolling the streets, while CCTV cameras, drone surveillance and plain clothes personnel have been placed in key locations.

Railway stations in Ayodhya and Varanasi are under tight watch as security personnel conduct questioning and screening of passengers.

Hotels and lodges in Ayodhya have been directed to maintain records of all visitors and ensure strict verification of IDs. Officials from central intelligence units are stationed in the city to monitor the situation firsthand.

Commandos have been deployed outside Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi.

Mosque issue: TMC playing safe, says BJP

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday charged that West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee was "playing with fire" through her actions which have led to a situation where an expelled legislator of her Trinamool Congress party has gone ahead with plans for construction of a mosque in Murshidabad that has been named 'Babri masjid'.

In a statement on the subject which has drawn nationwide attention, BJP's national information and technology department in-charge Amit Malviya said "reports emerging from Beldanga in Murshidabad have triggered serious con-

cern, with Mamata Banerjee using 'suspended' TMC MLA Humayun Kabir to polarise Muslim sentiment for political gain."

Citing media reports on locals carrying bricks to the site of the planned construction of the mosque, Malviya added that the Kabir has even claimed that the West Bengal police were backing him and have provided security for the activity.

Avverting that "Beldanga is one of the most communally sensitive regions of the state, with a long and troubled history of clashes," Malviya cautioned that "any organised unrest here could lead to a blockade of NH-12, a lifeline that connects north Bengal to the rest of the state."

CURIOUS CASE OF KABIR

Kolkata: Born on January 3, 1963, Humayun Kabir entered public life through Youth Congress in early '90s and won Rejinagar in 2011 as Congress candidate. A year later, he switched to the TMC and was given a cabinet berth. Three years later, he was expelled for six years after publicly accusing Mamata Banerjee of trying to make her nephew Abhishek "king". He contested the 2016 assembly polls as an Independent and lost. In 2018 he jumped to the BJP; in 2019 he contested and lost the Murshidabad Lok Sabha seat. When the six-year expulsion expired, he returned to the TMC and contested the 2021 polls and won from Bharatpur. He also reclaimed relevance in a district where minority votes often swing in unpredictable manners. However, during the 2024 Lok Sabha campaign, in a district with a 70:30 Muslim-Hindu ratio, he claimed he could "throw Hindus into the Bhagirathi within two hours".

—Robin Roy

Multi-pronged legal moves planned against IndiGo

MUMBAI

Frustrated citizens and activist groups are launching a multi-pronged legal offensive against IndiGo in the wake of widespread and sustained flight cancellations and delays, signalling a determined effort to enforce accountability for the recent aviation chaos. The legal actions range from an urgent plea to the Supreme Court for judicial oversight to a massive online petition and the filing of a PIL.

Delhi-based Adv. Aman Banka has submitted a letter of representation to the CJI, urging the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance of the matter. The advocate described the situation as a "nationwide aviation collapse" that has caused a "humanitarian crisis."

Parallel to the court action, a Gurugram-based non-profit organisation Safety Matters Foundation has launched an online petition, titled the Yaatri Sarathi Campaign, seeking Rs500 crore passenger relief and compensation fund. The petition called on MoCA and DGCA to mandate Rs75,000 compensation per passenger as well as Rs2 lakh for senior citizens, specially abled, medical travellers, children and passengers



ian crisis."

Parallel to the court action, a Gurugram-based non-profit organisation Safety Matters Foundation has launched an online petition, titled the Yaatri Sarathi Campaign, seeking Rs500 crore passenger relief and compensation fund. The petition called on MoCA and DGCA to mandate Rs75,000 compensation per passenger as well as Rs2 lakh for senior citizens, specially abled, medical travellers, children and passengers

stranded overnight. It also demanded Rs200 crore penalty on the airline for gross negligence and nationwide disruption.

Adding further legal pressure, a formal public interest litigation (PIL) is being planned by a group which has been calling on stranded passengers through a Google Form to share the inconvenience and loss they suffered.

Promised ease but gave cease: Taking a swipe at the government over the IndiGo flight disruptions, the Congress on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised ease of air travel but gave "cease of air travel" and asked whether Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu would take responsibility for the "unprecedented crisis".

Nitish launches JD (U) membership drive

PATNA

Bihar CM and JD (U) president Nitish Kumar on Saturday launched the party's membership drive for the period between 2025 and 2028. The membership drive began at the state party headquarters with Nitish assuming

the membership of the party, followed by JD (U) national working president Sanjay Jha, senior leader Bashishtha Narain Singh and state party president Umesh Kushwaha, among others.

Citizen Service portal launched: Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary, who is also holding the port-

folio of home department, on Saturday launched the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) Citizen Service Portal and App at the state police headquarters in Patna for enabling people to file complaints from home and access information related to their cases.

money special

'Households expect ease in inflation pressures to continue'

NEW DELHI

Indian households are anticipating a notable softening in inflation expectations for the next three months and one year ahead, the RBI's latest Households' Inflation Expectations Survey showed. The RBI released the results of November 2025 round of its bi-monthly inflation expectations survey of households on Friday evening. The survey was conducted during November 1-10, 2025, in 19 major cities, with 6,061 responses. Households' perception of the current median inflation declined



significantly by 80 bps to 6.6% in comparison to the previous round.

Alongside, their inflation expectations for the next three months and one year ahead also experienced notable softening by 50 bps and 70 bps to 7.6% and 8.0% respectively, RBI said.

"For both short term and one year ahead periods, the shares of respondents anticipating rise in both general prices and inflation maintained its declining

trend," the RBI survey found. Households reported easing of price and inflationary pressures in most of the product groups including food products, non-food products, and cost of services for both the time horizons.

The RBI survey found that fewer households now anticipate price increases across key segments such as food, non-food items, housing, household durables, and services. Expectations for household durables exhibited the steepest decline, with only 68 per cent of respondents anticipating price rises, compared to over 78% earlier in the year.

RBI did its part, now time for mkts to show maturity

SBI REPORT

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has done its best to ensure monetary policy continues to support India's economic growth and it is now time for the markets to show maturity and remain non exuberant, SBI Research said in a report, as the central bank in an unprecedented move reduced repo rate when both GDP and inflation are congenial.

The RBI monetary policy committee unanimously voted to cut the repo rate by 25 bps amid uncertainties in a tumultuous global order. The RBI panel also maintained its neutral stance.

With GDP growth above 7% and inflation at 11.5 per cent,

8.2 per cent in the July-September 2025 quarter and ultra-low inflation of 0.25 per cent in October, the rate cut is "exceptional", the SBI Research said in the report.

Historical data of other countries reveal that there have been minimal instances across the UK, China and Indonesia, where central banks have reduced their rates even when GDP growth was high, the report noted.

However, all such cases of rate cuts were from very high interest rate levels, even as inflation was also much higher.

For example, it cited that the UK's chancellor of the exchequer in the early 1970's Anthony Barber, made a "dash for growth" by cutting rates when inflation was running at 11.5 per cent and growth at 19.5 per cent.

Simplification of customs will be next big reform, says FM

Ahead of Budget 2026, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the simplification of customs would be the next big reform agenda for the government.

During the current financial year, the government undertook reforms such as rate rationalisation and simplification of the income tax and GST in a bid to boost consumption by providing more cash in the hands of the common man. "We need a complete overhaul of customs... we need to have customs simplified for people to feel that it is not cumbersome to comply... need to make it more transparent," Sitharaman said.

EPC sector emerges as major job engine, to add 25 mn roles by 2030

India's Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) sector is expected to create more than 25 million jobs by 2030, supported by expanding infrastructure development, says a report. According to CIEL HR's 'EPC Sector Talent Study, 2025', the EPC sector is one of the country's most powerful job creators and witnessed a 51% surge in hiring demand since 2020.

India, US trade team to start 3-day talks from Dec 10: Sources

India and the US will commence three-day talks on the first phase of their proposed bilateral trade pact here from December 10, sources said. The visit is crucial as India and the US are working to finalise the first tranche of the pact. "The 3-day talks will start on December 10. It will conclude on December 12, and it is not a formal round of talks," said one of the sources.

Biocon to merge Biologics arm with itself; to acquire stake held by Serum

Biotechnology major Biocon on Saturday said it will fully integrate Biocon Biologics with itself, in a deal valuing the biologics unit at USD 5.5 billion. As part of the transaction, Biocon will acquire the remaining stake in Biocon Biologics Ltd from Serum Institute Life Sciences, Tata Capital Growth Fund II and Activ Pine LLP through a share swap, valuing Biocon Biologics at USD 5.5 billion, the company said in a regulatory filing.

STRATEGIC REALIGNMENT| US asks EU NATO members to boost intelligence and missile capabilities by 2027

Trump files for divorce from NATO over Ukraine

WASHINGTON DC

US SC takes up Trump's birthright citizenship

The US Supreme Court has agreed to review President Donald Trump's controversial birthright citizenship order, which aims to deny automatic citizenship to children born in the United States to parents who are in the country illegally or temporarily.

LONDON

Mini Gandhi statue for auction



A miniature model of the iconic Mahatma Gandhi statue located in London's Tavistock Square is set for auction in the UK next week, with an estimated guide price of 6,000 to 8,000 pounds. The 27-cm bronze maquette represents the earliest complete vision of the sculpture created by Polish artist Freda Brilliant, whose full-scale statue has stood in Bloomsbury since 1968.

WARSAW

Zelensky criticised for Warsaw visit

Diplomatic tensions flared between Ukraine and Poland as Warsaw's top diplomat, Radoslaw Sikorski, criticized President Zelensky for not visiting new Polish President Karol Nawrocki during his recent trip to France. Sikorski said Zelensky's "crown would not have fallen off" if he had requested a meeting, while also condemning Nawrocki's demands for Ukrainian gratitude.

SAINTE-ANNE

Christmas tragedy in Guadeloupe

A car rammed into a Christmas crowd in Sainte-Anne, Guadeloupe, killing 10 and injuring nine. Authorities are investigating whether the driver suffered a medical emergency. A crisis team has been activated to assist victims' families.

ISRAEL

Israel to supply LMGs to India

Israeli firm IWI will deliver the first batch of 40,000 LMGs to India early next year and is finalizing a contract for 170,000 carbines. The company is also pursuing advanced weapon tech collaborations.

BERLIN

Berlin OKs home spy

Berlin has passed a sweeping new police law allowing officers to secretly enter private homes to install spyware when remote access is impossible. Approved by the CDU-SPD coalition and the AfD, the law grants authorities expanded physical and digital surveillance powers, including hacking phones and computers and activating bodycams inside homes if danger is suspected.

WASHINGTON DC

The US 2025 National Security Strategy (NSS), released on December 4, 2025, under President Donald Trump's second term, signals a marked shift from previous strategies. Emphasizing an 'America First' doctrine, it rejects ideological crusades, global hegemony, and democracy promotion in favor of transactional realism, focusing on homeland security, economic revival, and regional dominance in the Western Hemisphere.

Trump's NSS de-emphasizes Europe, shifting NATO responsibilities onto allies while demanding 5% GDP defense spending by 2035. It prioritizes reindustrialization, border security, and selective engagement with adversaries,



downgrading China to an "economic competitor" and accepting a multipolar world where regional powers manage their own spheres. The document credits Trump personally for conflict resolution efforts, including the India-Pakistan ceasefire and Gaza hostage return, while elevating immigration as a national security threat.

On Ukraine, the strategy places the burden of sustaining the country on European allies, critiquing their political

Slams EU over X fine

The US has accused the European Union of targeting American interests after Brussels fined Elon Musk's platform X €120 million for violating the Digital Services Act. Washington called the ruling an "attack on the American people," escalating tensions over Europe's strict digital regulations. The EU said X misled users with its blue checkmark system, lacked ad transparency, and failed to provide required data for researchers.

instability and overreliance on Russia. It warns of "civilizational erasure" in Europe due to demographic shifts and calls for self-reliance, sparking concern over alliance cohesion. Critics in Europe and the US warn of weakened partnerships, while China views limited engagement on sovereignty positively.

Overall, the NSS positions the US as a hemispheric power focused on pragmatic diplomacy, economic strength, and dealmaking. It

signals de-escalation in China, cautious engagement globally, and a retreat from ideological missions. Success will depend on Trump's willingness to follow through on the written strategy, balancing inward priorities with maintaining credibility among allies. The strategy risks a "lonelier, weaker" US if Europe resists its burden-shifting approach, while potentially securing domestic gains through industrial revival and hemispheric focus.

NY woman charged for smuggling Indians in US

CANADA

The four men - three Indian nationals and one Canadian national - had crossed the US-Canadian border illegally, without inspection.

A 42-year-old woman has been charged for her role in an international smuggling conspiracy under which individuals primarily from India were brought illegally to the US across the border from Canada. Stacey Taylor of Plattsburgh, New York, appeared for an arraignment this week after a federal grand jury in Albany returned an indictment in October charging her for her role in the smuggling conspiracy, according to an official statement on Friday. Court records show that US Border Patrol agents interdicted Taylor's vehicle near Churubusco, New York, near the Quebec border in the early morning hours in January, and found four foreign nationals inside her vehicle.

Heavy exchange of fire at Pak-Af border

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistani and Afghan forces engaged in a heavy exchange of fire along the border amid mounting tensions, with both sides accusing each other of igniting the clash, local media reported on Saturday.

The latest confrontation on late Friday comes after renewed efforts by Saudi Arabia

Hungary blocks Eurobond plan to fund Ukraine war

BRUSSELS

Hungary has blocked the European Union's proposed Eurobond plan to fund Ukraine's war effort, leaving a 'reparations loan' tied to frozen Russian assets as the primary alternative, Politico reported.

The move comes amid ongoing debate over how the EU should finance Kiev's defense against Russian aggression.

After the 2022 escalation in Ukraine, EU nations froze around €210 billion (\$245 billion) in Russian central bank assets, most held at Euroclear in Belgium. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed two options: joint EU-level borrowing through Eurobonds or a reparations-style loan using the frozen assets. While the Eurobond plan requires

Orban slams EU corruption

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban accused the EU of "drowning in corruption," claiming Brussels and Kiev shield each other from scandals. He condemned EU leaders over fraud charges and Ukraine's alleged misuse of billions in aid, saying Brussels ignores the truth.

unanimous consent, the reparations loan can proceed with a qualified majority.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has long opposed additional aid to Ukraine, likening it to "helping an alcoholic by sending another crate of vodka," and urging diplomacy with Moscow. Budapest has not officially confirmed a veto, though reports suggest it for-

Russian hits Kyiv

Russia launched missile and drone attacks across Ukraine on Saturday, causing power outages in multiple regions and disrupting rail traffic. Three people were injured, and fires broke out in warehouses and depots. Blackouts done in major cities.

mally ruled out the Eurobond option.

The European Commission maintains that its proposals address legal and financial risks, but several EU members, including Belgium, warn of potential "disastrous consequences" if Russia challenges the plan in court. EU leaders aim to finalize a decision before the December 18 summit.

'EU targets platforms that refuse to censor free speech'

Agencies

The EU is unfairly targeting social media platforms that allow dissenting or critical speech, Telegram founder Pavel Durov has said.

He was responding to a 2024 post by Elon Musk, the owner of X, who claimed that the European Commission had offered the platform a secret deal to avoid fines in return for censoring certain statements. The EU fined X €120 million (\$140 million) the day before. According to Durov, the EU imposes strict and unrealistic rules on tech companies as a way to punish those that do not comply with quiet censorship demands.

"The EU imposes impossible rules so it can punish tech firms that refuse to silently censor free speech," Durov wrote on X on Saturday. He also referred to his detention in France last year, which he called politically motivated.

Canberra curbs on Taliban ministers

SYDNEY

Australia on Saturday imposed financial sanctions and travel bans on four officials in Afghanistan's Taliban government, citing a worsening human rights situation in the country, particularly for women and girls.

Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the officials were involved "in the oppression of women and girls and in undermining good governance or the rule of law" in the Taliban-run country.

The sanctions targeted three Taliban ministers and the group's chief justice, accusing them of restricting access for girls and women "to education, employment, freedom of movement and the ability to participate in public life," Wong said.

Australia was one of several nations that pulled troops out of Afghanistan in August 2021, after being part of a NATO-led international force that

trained Afghan security forces and fought the Taliban for two decades following their ouster from power.

Since regaining control, the Taliban has been criticised for imposing severe restrictions on the rights and freedoms of women and girls, including bans on education and work.

The group maintains it respects women's rights in line with its interpretation of Islamic law and local custom.

Wong said the sanctions were part of a new Australian government framework enabling it to "directly impose its own sanctions and travel bans to increase pressure on the Taliban, targeting the oppression of the Afghan people."

Australia has also taken in thousands of evacuees from Afghanistan, mostly women and children, after the Taliban returned to power in the war-torn country, where much of the population now depends on humanitarian aid to survive.

Gen Z protests sweep Germany as Merz moves to revive conscription

BERLIN

Thousands of demonstrators have marched in cities across Germany to protest Chancellor Friedrich Merz's plan to overhaul the country's military service system, accusing the government of laying the groundwork for forced mobilization.

On Friday, the German parliament approved changes to the military-service law expanding recruitment and giving Berlin tools to reactivate conscription if volunteer numbers fall short.

Rallies took place in around 90 cities - including Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, and Cologne - both before and after the vote. Footage showed protesters chanting anti-war slogans and carrying banners reading "No to conscription," "We will not be cannon fodder"



and "Your war - without us." Protesters slammed the reform as "recruitment of death" and urged investment in education and welfare instead of weapons.

One protester told Ruply she feared her teenage sons would soon be drafted, while another said: "Merz should go to the front himself and risk his own life." Some linked the reform to Germany's broader military buildup, warning that Berlin is preparing for a war against Rus-

sia. Several speakers argued the law - and the rearmament push overall - serves the interests of major arms companies rather than the public.

Germany abolished compulsory military service in 2011 and moved to an all-volunteer force. But amid a NATO-driven military, Berlin now seeks to expand the Bundeswehr, citing a worsening security environment.

Israel participation in Eurovision 2026 ignites backlash and boycotts

PARIS

Israel will be allowed to participate in the 2026 Eurovision Song Contest. On 4 December, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) confirmed the Hebrew state's participation despite two years of heated internal debate and escalating calls for its exclusion. The EBU's decision in Geneva has sparked boycotts from several European countries and exposed the ever-increasing challenges of sparring the world's biggest music competition from global geopolitical tensions.

The Eurovision contest, es-

ablished in 1956, was initially conceived to foster cultural cooperation through music across a Europe deeply scarred by war.

Today, the event boasts 40 participating countries and an annual audience of nearly 200 million. Not all of these countries are European—Israel and Australia have long held a place in the competition. Each nation selects a musical act and competes in televised semi-finals and a grand finale. Votes are cast by national juries as well as viewers across the world, and the winning nation hosts the following year's edition.

At its general assembly in

Geneva on Thursday, the EBU, a collaboration of public broadcasters across Europe, chose not to hold a direct vote on Israel's participation.

Instead, members voted on new contest rules aimed at increasing transparency and reducing politically motivated campaigning. Sixty-five percent supported the changes, which the organisation said were designed to "protect trust in Eurovision as a neutral, cultural event."

Nevertheless, these measures have not convinced all broadcasters. Critics argue that allowing Israel to compete contradicts the contest's tradition of neutrality, especially

given the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Israel has faced accusations of using Eurovision for political promotion and of influencing public voting.

Similar concerns surfaced during the 2025 edition, when Israel's contestant placed second amid allegations of widespread vote rigging. French broadcaster France Télévisions, which leads the EBU, confirmed France's participation and its support for Israel's inclusion on 5 December.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot welcomed the EBU's decision, saying it represented a refusal to "give in to political pressure." He

also denounced cultural boycotts as a form of censorship.

Yet not all members share this stance. In protest against Israel's participation, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, and Slovenia each announced boycotts of Eurovision 2026, scheduled for May next year in Vienna.

All four countries linked their decision to Israel's policies in Gaza and expressed concerns about the politicisation of the event.

Spain's broadcaster RTVE, a major Eurovision sponsor, described the decision-making process as "inadequate" and said it would not air the competition. Irish broadcaster RTÉ

called Israel's participation "unacceptable given the appalling death toll in Gaza." Slovenia's RTVSLO said its withdrawal was made "in the name of the 20,000 children who have died." Dutch broadcaster AVROTROS called continued participation "irreconcilable with public values."

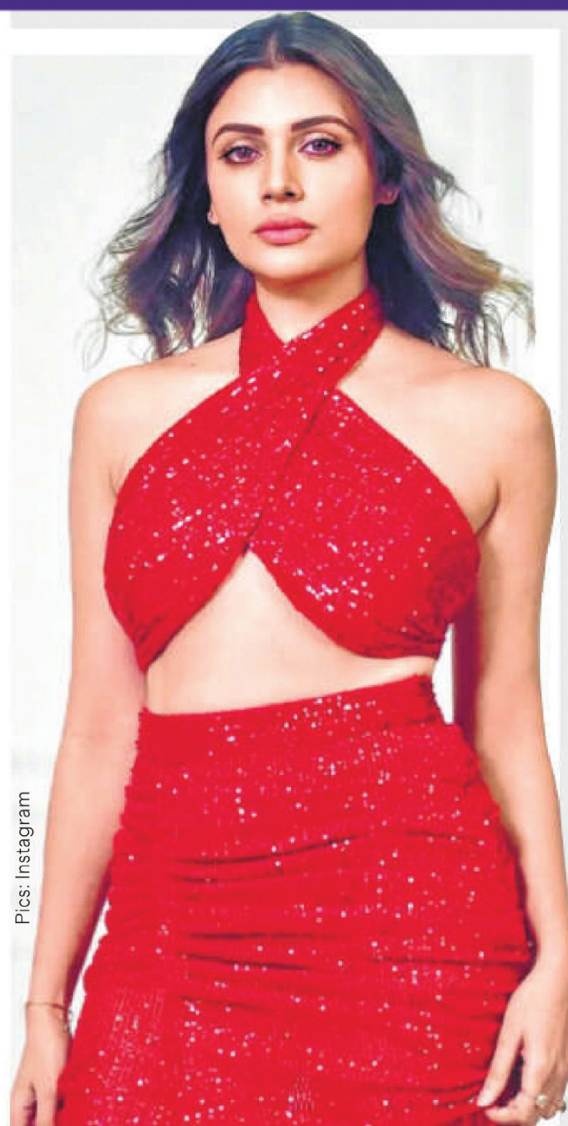
The boycott has both symbolic and practical consequences. Spain's absence marks its first since 1961 and is particularly significant given its status as one of Eurovision's "Big Five" backers, alongside France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

While the Nordic nations—

Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland—and host broadcaster Austria's ORF have welcomed Israel's inclusion, several other members remain undecided.

Broadcasters in Belgium and Iceland have yet to declare their positions and are expected to do so in the coming days.

Germany, meanwhile, had made it clear that its artists would perform only if Israel were allowed to participate. German Culture Minister Wolfram Weimer told Bild newspaper that "Israel is part of Eurovision just as Germany is part of Europe," emphasising dialogue over exclusion.



Pics: Instagram

Malti calls Amaal a 'liar'

Bigg Boss 19's evicted contestant Malti Chahar calls out Amaal Mallik for denying their past meetings



After her eviction from *Bigg Boss 19*, Malti Chahar has finally addressed the growing conversation around her equation with co-contestant Amaal Mallik. Despite knowing each other before entering the show and meeting multiple times outside, Amaal repeatedly denied their past interactions inside the house - a move Malti says left her shocked, demeaned, and disrespected. What started as a mutual decision to keep their acquaintance low-key soon turned into Amaal allegedly portraying her as his 'fangirl' while distancing himself from the truth. In an explosive conversation with

me angry. Then I told Amaal that it would take me just 2 minutes to prove you wrong, so don't set false narratives, but he still looked into my eyes and lied. I still don't have any idea why Amaal kept lying about us. In fact, we were also called to the confession room, and we were advised to sort it out. Then I explained to Amaal that he shouldn't do this because this is showing me in the wrong light and he's demeaning me."

When asked why Amaal got so offended when she revealed he once texted her calling her 'gorgeous', Malti said, "I couldn't understand why he got so scared when I said that he called me gorgeous. How is that a bad thing? In fact, even inside the house, he once called me beautiful, so for me it was very normal. How is calling someone gorgeous wrong? It's a compliment. I had no idea he would feel so bad if I revealed this on the show. Before exiting the house, I gave it back to Amaal but it wasn't shown. I shouted at him."

Malti reveals how Amaal 'looked her in the eyes and lied,' why she confronted him, and how she responded to rumours calling her Amaal's 'secret girlfriend'.

Malti took a stand for herself and called out Amaal for disrespecting her. She said, "First of all, I had no idea Amaal was doing all this because he used to be nice to me on my face, so how would I know that he's doing all this behind my back. When Shehbaz (Badsha) came and told me that Amaal said we met only for a few minutes, I got really angry. I couldn't believe Amaal is going and saying all this. When I confronted Amaal, he said we had met at someone's party for only two minutes. This isn't true. We had decided before going inside that we would maintain that we had just met once because we didn't want people to link us up. So we didn't want to tell everyone how much we had met and all. We were cordial about that. But I never said that we've met for only 5 minutes. Shehbaz made it look like I am a fangirl of Amaal, so that's what made

Views



Sonu Sood has urged passengers to remain "calm" and stop "targeting" airline ground staff after a series of IndiGo flight delays and cancellations triggered chaos across several airports in India. The disruptions have left thousands of travellers stranded, leading to heated arguments and shouting matches inside terminals, many of which are now circulating on social media.

Over the past few days, multiple videos have gone viral showing angry passengers confronting staff members and demanding clarity on flight schedules. Sood took to X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday morning to share a video message condemning the behaviour of passengers who were seen yelling at airline employees.

While explaining that he understood the "frustration" and "pain" caused by long delays, he urged people to be compassionate towards staff who are equally "helpless." "Friends, this video is a small message for those who have been suffering for the past 2-3 days on IndiGo flights. My own family was travelling, and they had to wait for 4.5-5 hours. Then, the flight finally took off and reached its destination. Many flights didn't take off, many were cancelled, and many people couldn't attend weddings. Meetings were cancelled, events were cancelled."

"But the saddest thing was seeing how people were shouting at the ground staff at the airports. I know in such situations, there is frustration, there is pain, and you end up taking out your anger. But imagine yourself in their shoes. Those who are helpless themselves don't know what the future schedules are, whether the flights will take off or not. And those who get messages from above can only pass them on to you," Sood continued.

"...As responsible citizens, it is very important for us to make sure that we do not react to them because they are helpless and they do not have any answers. Please try to stay calm. Control your anger and respect them," Sood further said.

Sonu Sood urges calm amid flight chaos

Actor appeals to travellers, urging patience and compassion toward airline staff during widespread IndiGo cancellations and chaos

KIRAN RAO'S TOKYO PLANS DERAIL DUE TO INDIGO DELAYS

Filmmaker Kiran Rao's travel plans were disrupted on Friday as significant IndiGo flight delays affected thousands of passengers, including her, whose international journey was derailed due to repeated delays and lack of clarity from the airline. Rao, who was scheduled to travel to Tokyo, said she had already spent over eleven hours since leaving home and should have reached her destination by then. Instead, she remained stranded inside Mumbai Airport's Terminal 2 without a confirmed update from the carrier. Rao took to her Instagram story to share her frustration, but with a touch of humour, saying she had now gotten to know Terminal 2 "really well." She also referenced checking on Delhi's pollution alert status. In her funny post, Rao wrote, "By now (11 hours since I left home) I should've reached Tokyo, but it was nice to get to know Mumbai T2 really well, thanks to IndiGo. And now I'm checking on how Delhi is doing with GRAP II. Good day, all in all."



Pics: Instagram/X



CAUGHT ON CAM

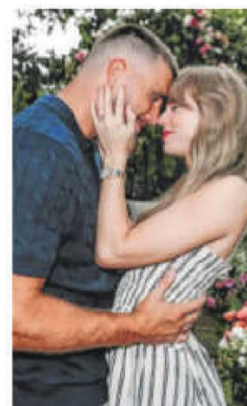
Nita Ambani hosted a special event in Mumbai on Friday to honour Indian artists and celebrate traditional craftsmanship at the Swadesh flagship store in Eros. Several Bollywood celebrities attended the event.



Taylor Swift, Travis Kelce to wed June 13

As per reports, Taylor will marry Travis Kelce on June 13, 2026, in Rhode Island after dating for 2 yrs

It's happening! Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are officially heading toward the aisle, and their wedding date, venue, and the meaning behind it have Swifties spinning with excitement. According to Page Six's report, the couple is set to marry on June 13, 2026, at the ultra-luxurious Ocean House in Watch Hill, Rhode Island, New England.



But why June 13?

For casual fans, June 13 might seem like just another summer Saturday, but for Swift, it's practically destiny on a calendar. Born on December 13, Swift considers 13 her lucky number, a thread woven through her albums, performances, and even personal milestones. June 13 is also her half-birthday, which adds to the significance. But Swift's symbolic flair doesn't end there. The full date, 6/13/26, carries a numerological twist that fans online quickly decoded. Add those numbers together, and you land on 9, a number representing completion and new beginnings.

as per Numerology.com. For a couple starting a new chapter, it feels poetically aligned.

The venue shuffle

Originally, Swift reportedly hoped to host an intimate ceremony at her own Watch Hill mansion, but with the guest list ballooning (because, well, it's Taylor Swift), the pair shifted plans to Ocean House, a grand New England resort nearby. And in a very Swiftian move, she even compensated a bride who had already booked the venue for that date, ensuring that June 13 remained hers.



GAMBHIR SLAMS SPLIT-COACHING TALK

VISAKHAPATNAM

A visibly firm Gautam Gambhir hit back at critics and social media chatter calling for split-format coaching in Indian cricket, labelling such suggestions as "surprising" and urging opinion-makers to "stay in their domain" during the post-match press conference after India's ODI series win over South Africa.

GAMBHIR'S BLUNT RESPONSE

The India head coach expressed his displeasure over recent debates – sparked after India's 0-2 Test series loss to South Africa – where several prominent voices, including an IPL team owner, pushed for separate coaches for red and white-ball cricket.

"Look, there were a lot of talks because the results didn't go in our favour (in Test

series). But the most surprising thing is that not once did any media or journalist write that our first Test match (in Kolkata) was played without the captain (Shubman Gill), who didn't bat in both innings because of a neck injury."

He took direct aim at Delhi Capitals co-owner Parth Jindal, who had publicly advocated for split coaching on social media platform 'X': "Some people also said things that have nothing to

do with cricket. An IPL team owner also wrote about split coaching. So this is surprising. It's very important for people to stay in their domain. Because if we don't go into someone's domain, then they also don't have the right to come into our domain."

DEFENDING HIS RED-BALL RECORD

Gambhir, who recently highlighted his red-ball coaching achievements in Guwahati, reiterated the

challenges faced during the Test series: "I don't give excuses in press conferences. It doesn't mean that you don't show the facts in front of the world or the country. When you go through a transition and when you lose your captain, who is also your main batter in red-ball cricket against such a team (SA)... Then obviously the results are difficult because you don't have that much experience in red-ball cricket." He pointed out the lack of

discussion around Shubman Gill's injury absence and instead, excessive focus on pitch conditions and speculative theories.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Gambhir, appointed head coach until the 2027 ODI World Cup, is in his first major assignment.

The Test series loss was his second high-profile setback after the T20 World Cup exit earlier this year. Calls for split coaching re-

fect growing impatience among sections of fans and experts, but Gambhir's firm pushback signals his intent to oversee all formats with a unified vision.

THE ROAD AHEAD

With the T20I series against South Africa starting December 9 and major tours ahead, Gambhir will be keen to build on the ODI series momentum and silence critics through consistent performances.

GUWAHATI

Assam CM honours Simu Das



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma awarded ₹10 lakh and promised a government job to Simu Das, a B1 category cricketer who won the Blind Women's T20 World Cup with India. This recognition is a major step toward inclusion in Indian sports.

CUTTACK

Gill fit for 1st T20I



India's T20I vice-captain Shubman Gill has been cleared by the BCCI's Centre of Excellence to play the opening T20I against South Africa. He successfully rehabilitated from a neck injury sustained in the Kolkata Test.

NEW DELHI

Jadeja turns 37

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja turned 37, marking a career with 7,472 international runs and 633 wickets. He is India's fifth-highest wicket-taker across all formats and a multiple-time IPL winner.

NEW DELHI

Bumrah turns 32

Indian pace sensation Jasprit Bumrah turned 32. He has 234 Test wickets at an average of 19.79 and was Player of the Tournament at the 2024 T20 World Cup, taking 15 wickets.

CHENGDU

China tops ITTF World Cup rankings

Title favourites China defeated Germany 8-4 to remain top in the ITTF Mixed Team World Cup. Despite Wang Chuqin's men's singles upset, victories in mixed and men's doubles secured the win, maintaining China's unbeaten record in the round-robin stage.

LONDON

Premier League: Villa hosts Arsenal
Third-placed Aston Villa, on a four-game win streak, faces league leader Arsenal on Saturday. Other key matches include Manchester City vs Sunderland and Chelsea travelling to face a struggling Bournemouth side.

VARANASI

'Fit India Sundays' celebrates CWG 2030 bid

The 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' event in Varanasi will celebrate India hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The event will feature fitness sessions.

PTI

VISAKHAPATNAM

In a display of batting maturity and calculated aggression, Yashasvi Jaiswal crafted a flawless, unbeaten maiden ODI century (116* off 121) to guide India to a commanding nine-wicket victory over South Africa, clinching the three-match series 2-1 in front of a roaring near-capacity crowd.

BRIEF SCORES

SOUTH AFRICA - 270 in 47.5 overs (Quinton de Kock 106, Temba Bavuma 48; Prasidh Krishna 4/66, Kuldeep Yadav 4/41) lost to **INDIA** - 271/1 in 39.5 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rohit Sharma 75, Virat Kohli 65 not out) by nine wickets.

The Chase: A Symphony of Batting

Set 271 to win, India's chase was never in doubt after openers Jaiswal and Rohit Sharma (75 off 73) laid a rock-solid foundation with a 155-run partnership in 25.5 overs.

ROHIT'S GUIDANCE: The captain, who became the fourth Indian to cross 20,000 international runs, shepherded the young Jaiswal through a cautious start before unleashing his trademark swivel-pulls for six.

JAISWAL'S COMING OF AGE: Initially scratchy, the 23-year-old left-hander grew in confidence post his fifty, accelerating elegantly to reach his hundred in 111 balls. His celebration—a helmet-toss, sprint, and roar—spoke volumes.

KOHLI'S SIGNATURE FINISH: Virat Kohli (65 off 45)* joined Jaiswal to add an unbroken 116-run stand, sealing the win with 61 balls to spare and showcasing his enduring class.

The Bowling Turnaround

Earlier, India's bowlers staged a remarkable comeback after Quinton de Kock's blazing 106 (89 balls, 8x4, 6x6) had

STATS DIGESTS

20000+

Indian opener Rohit Sharma became the fourth Indian cricketer to complete 20,000 runs in International cricket. The other three cricketers are Sachin Tendulkar (34,257 runs), Virat Kohli (27,910 runs) and Rahul Dravid (24,064 runs) in the all-time international charts. Rohit continued his fine run in ODIs at 38 during his side's third and final ODI against South Africa at Visakhapatnam.

2000+

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma became the oldest player from his country to achieve the milestone of 2,000 runs in One Day Internationals (ODIs) during the third and final ODI against India on Saturday. Temba Bavuma, who is aged 35 years and 203 days, is the oldest SA batter to reach the landmark of 2000 ODI runs, followed by Rassie van der Dussen, who reached the milestone at 34 years and 247 days.

20

After 20 failed attempts, India finally won the toss and elected to bowl first against South Africa in the third ODI.

●●

Most pleasing thing has been how we've been able to handle pressure. Plans and processes have been consistent, and doing the same thing worked out today."

KL Rahul



Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates his century during the third ODI against South Africa at Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam on Saturday ANI

●●

Just playing the way I have this series has been the most satisfying for me. When I play freely, I know I can hit sixes — that opened me up in a way I've not felt in a while."

Virat Kohli

●●

We didn't have enough runs — should've been smarter and saved wickets. If there were ten boxes, we've ticked off six or seven of them — we can only grow."

Temba Bavuma

South cruises- 168/2.

Africa at

PRA-SIDH KRISHNA'S REDEMPTION: Hammered early (2-0-27-0), he was brought back for a second spell that changed the game: 4-0-11-3, dismissing Matthew Breetzke, Aiden Markram, and the dangerous de Kock.

KULDEEP YADAV'S CLEAN-UP: The left-arm wrist-spinner (4/41) then dismantled the lower order, as South Africa collapsed from 168/2 to 270 all out.

MILESTONE WATCH

Player of the Series Awards - Most in International Cricket

All Formats

20 – Virat Kohli
19 – Sachin Tendulkar
17 – Shakib Al Hasan
14 – Jacques Kallis

Most in ODIs

14 – Sachin Tendulkar
11 – Sanath Jayasuriya
11 – Virat Kohli
8 – C Gayle / S Pollock

INDIA'S HOME DOMINANCE

10/11

10 wins in 11 bilateral ODI series at home since the 2019 World Cup.

VIRAT KOHLI: THE VIZAG MASTER & BEYOND

VIZAG LOVE: 8 innings, 652 runs at 108.66 avg, SR 103.49 – most runs at highest average at any venue in ODIs.

RECENT FORM (LAST 4 ODI KNOCKS): 74, 135, 102, 65 – 379 runs, dismissed once.

STREAK MASTERY: Nine separate streaks of 4+ consecutive 50+ scores in ODIs – next best is 4 (Sangakkara, Williamson).

Century stands for India's first two wickets in ODI chases – featured in all three instances (vs NZ 2010, vs AUS 2013, vs SA 2025).

SIXES RECORD IN THREE-MATCH SERIES

70 – IND vs ENG, 2021
63 – WI vs BAN, 2024
63 – IND vs SA, 2025
58 – IND vs NZ, 2023

CENTURY PARADE IN A THREE-MATCH SERIES

7 – SA vs ZIM, 2010
6 – ZIM vs NZ, 2011 / PAK vs AUS, 2022
6 – IND vs SA, 2025 (De Kock 2, Bavuma, Jaiswal, Kohli, Rohit)

YASHASVI JAISWAL: INNINGS PROGRESSION (vs SA)

0-25 RUNS | 50 BALLS | SR 50
26-50: 25 BALLS | SR 100
51-75: 11 BALLS | SR 227.27
76-100: 25 BALLS | SR 100
100-116*: 10 BALLS | SR 160

Greaves & Roach defy history in 9-hour epic

CHRISTCHURCH

In an act of extraordinary resilience and endurance, Justin Greaves scored an unbeaten 202 and combined with Kumar Roach (58 off 233 balls)* in a monumental 230-run partnership to defy a depleted New Zealand attack and secure a dramatic draw for the West Indies in the first Test at Hagley Oval. Chasing an improbable 531, the visitors finished at 457/6, posting the highest fourth-innings total in Test history under the five-day format.

The Epic Stand

When the West Indies slumped to 72/4 on Day 4, defeat seemed inevitable. But Greaves first stitched a 196-run stand with the heroic Shai Hope (140), who battled an eye

infection to score a century in both innings.

After Hope fell, Greaves found an unyielding ally in No. 9 Kumar Roach. Together, they batted through the entire final session, facing 445 balls in their partnership and snuffing out any remaining Kiwi hope.

Kiwis Agony of Depletion

The Black Caps' attack, already missing spearhead Matt Henry, was further crippled by an injury to Nathan Smith, leaving them with only two fit seamers—both playing just their second Test.

The inexperienced duo of Jacob Duffy and Zak Foulkes toiled manfully on a flat pitch but lacked the firepower to break the West Indies' resolve. Exhausted reviews and missed opportunities added to their frustration.

STARC STRIKES TWICE

THE PINK BALL, THE PAIN, & THE PACE | Starc's all-round carnage leaves England on brink; Australia eye 2-0 Ashes lead

BRISBANE

Mitchell Starc delivered a stunning all-round masterclass to propel Australia into a commanding position on Day 3 of the second Ashes Test at The Gabba, leaving England tottering at 134/6 – still 43 runs behind – after extending their first-innings lead with ruthless efficiency.

STARC'S ASSAULT

Resuming at 378/6, Australia's tail wagged emphatically, led by Mitchell Starc's explosive 77 off just 79 balls. He combined with Scott Boland (21) in a vital 75-run partnership, and with Alex Carey adding a gritty 63, Australia posted a formi-

BRIEF SCORES

ENGLAND INNINGS - 334 all out & 134 for loss of six wickets (Crawley 44, Nesar 2-27, Boland 2-33, Starc 2-48) trail **AUSTRALIA** - 511 all out (Starc 77, Weatherald 72, Labuschagne 65, Carse 4-152) by 43 runs

Australia's Mitchell Starc appeals successfully for the wicket of England's Joe Root (left) during the second Ashes Test in Brisbane on Saturday AP/PTI

ENGLAND'S NIGHTMARE UNDER LIGHTS

Facing a massive deficit, England started positively with



Zak Crawley (44) and Ben Duckett (55) racing to 48/0 in 73 overs. But once Scott Boland broke through, the Australian seamers took control under the Gabba lights.

Boland removed Duckett

and later Harry Brook (15). Michael Neser struck twice, dismissing Ollie Pope (26) and the dangerous Crawley.

Starc returned to claim Joe Root (15) and Jamie Smith (4) before stumps.

England 2nd innings: 134/6 – still trailing by 43 runs with only 4 wickets left.

BOLAND: 'PUT BALLS IN RIGHT AREAS'

Scott Boland highlighted Australia's simple, effective plan after stumps:

"We just wanted to put as many balls in the right area as we could... This kind of wicket, with some up and down, if we put as many balls in the right areas they're

going to give you some chances."

He also praised Starc's resilience: "Every fast bowler is in a little bit of pain but he seems to push through better than most."

WHAT'S NEXT ON DAY 4

England's hopes rest on Ben Stokes (14*) and the tail to somehow erase the deficit and set a target. Australia need just 4 wickets to wrap up the innings and will likely be chasing a small total in their fourth innings.

With the pitch showing variable bounce and the Australian attack in full rhythm, an early finish on Day 4 looks probable.

DOHA

On the opening day of the prestigious ISSF World Cup Final, India's young pistol stars delivered a spectacular performance as Suruchi Singh and Sainyam clinched gold and silver in the women's 10m air pistol event. The duo's dominant display provided a bright spot on a day where India's rifle shooters narrowly missed out on medals.

Women's 10m Air Pistol: A Dominant Display

Gold – Suruchi Singh: The world No. 1 from September-October lived up to her billing, firing a superb 245.1 in the final to secure the top podium finish. She earned ₹5,000 in prize money.

Silver – Sainyam: The 2023 junior world champion, who barely scraped into the final in eighth place, shot brilliantly in the final to lead for much of it before settling for silver with a score of 243.3 (€4,000).

Fifth – Manu Bhaker: The double Olympic bronze medalist finished fifth with 179.2.

Men's 10m Air Rifle: Near Misses

India's rifle shooters came agonizingly close but fell short: Rudranksh Patil (4th): The 2022 world champion shot 209.9 in a high-quality final. A single 9.8 in his second shot proved costly in a razor-thin contest.

Arjun Babuta (6th): The Paris Olympic finalist qualified strongly (3rd with 633.3) but couldn't replicate that form in the medal round.

The gold went to Sweden's Victor Lindgren (253.0), with China's Olympic champion Sheng Lihao (252.6) taking silver.