

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Wednesday, 24 December, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Briefs

PATNA Tharoor lauds Nitish govt for development

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has applauded chief minister Nitish Kumar and his government for carrying out development works across the State. Talking to reporters in Rajgir, Tharoor said, "There is no doubt that the infrastructure here is much better than I had heard before. The roads are better, and people can roam around late at night, which was not possible before. So far, I have seen that all facilities like electricity and water are also working properly." He said the state had seen significant improvement from its earlier 'jungle raj' image. When asked about CM Nitish Kumar, the Congress leader said, "Don't let me drag you into controversy. I am very happy to see this progress. People of Bihar and their representatives deserve it." He also lauded the Centre for establishing Nalanda University, which he called a wonderful achievement that deserves a higher rating among many unsung contributions of the External Affairs Ministry to the nation.

CHANDIGARH 12 kg heroin dropped by drone seized

Punjab police on Tuesday claimed to have recovered - in coordination with Border Security Force (BSF) - about 12 kg heroin from near village Lopoke in border district Amritsar. Director General of Police (DGP), Punjab, Gaurav Yadav said that during routine patrolling of identified vulnerable points, information was received regarding the presence of a drone in agricultural fields in the area of Daleke village and acting promptly the said heroin consignment was recovered in coordination of the BSF.

KOCHI Doctors save road mishap victim, hailed

The recent brave act of three doctors, who performed an emergency procedure on the roadside at Udayamperoor to save the life of a critically injured man in an accident, won the praise of Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan on Tuesday. In a statement issued by Lok Bhavan, the Governor praised the efforts of doctor couple - Thomas Peter and Didhiya K Thomas - and B Manoop for their unique medical intervention which saved the life of Linu Dennis of Kollam. The Governor personally spoke to the doctors and congratulated them, it said.

DHAR/BETUL (MP) 'Drop in rate of maternal mortality'

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday said the institutional delivery rate in the country has increased to 89 per cent, which led to a significant reduction in the maternal mortality rate during childbirth. He said the Narendra Modi government is striving through healthcare services to ensure that citizens do not fall ill in the first place, adding that measures have been taken to prevent diseases. "The rate of institutional deliveries in the country has increased to 89 per cent, which led to a significant reduction in the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)," Nadda said.

SAFFRON JAB | Move to replace Rahul, says BJP spokesperson Poonawalla

Vadra supports Cong MP's backing for Priyanka as PM

NEW DELHI

The demand to make Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra the party's prime ministerial face gained currency on Tuesday, after MP Imran Masood floated the idea and her businessman husband Robert Vadra quickly endorsed it. The issue virtually cropped up out of nowhere when Masood, while reacting to questions around Priyanka supporting the cause of Palestine during the Gaza conflict but not that of Hindus being massacred in Bangladesh said, "...Priyanka Gandhi ko pehlay pradhan mantri banaaye, phir dekhiye kaisay jawab deti hain Indira Gandhi ki tarah jin honnay Pakistan kay do tukday kar diye thay..." (first make Priyanka Gandhi the prime



Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a protest against the VB-G RAM G Bill

-File pic

minister and then see how she will respond like Indira Gandhi, who had split Pakistan into two).

Masood had further stated before the media, "Priyanka Gandhi is the granddaughter of Indira Gandhi, who inflicted so much damage on Pakistan that it is still

recovering from those wounds."

Latching on to Masood's remarks, Vadra's husband Robert was quick to state, "There are demands from everywhere that Priyanka should come forward. There are also demands that I should enter politics. But

RaGa undermining India, accuses BJP

The BJP on Tuesday criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for making, what it termed, "anti-India statements" during his recent trip to Germany. The saffron party insisted that Gandhi was given to defaming India's institutions and democracy when abroad and that his comments were "irresponsible and anti-national".

-Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

right now, we should focus on the real issues that concern the people."

He then added for good measure, "I think Priyanka has learnt a lot from her grandmother, father (Rajiv Gandhi), Sonia ji and her brother (Rahul Gandhi) as well. When she speaks, she

speaks from the heart. I think she has a bright future in politics. Things will happen in time, they are inevitable."

Meanwhile, the BJP took a dig at the whole issue saying that there was a move to replace Rahul Gandhi in the leadership role. Party spokesperson Shahzad Poonawalla said, "Congress MP Imran Masood clearly said that he has no faith in Rahul Gandhi any more. 'Rahul hatao, Priyanka Gandhi laao' (Remove Rahul, bring Priyanka). Now he wants to work towards making Priyanka Gandhi the prime minister. Robert Vadra himself has endorsed this. This means Rahul Gandhi has not just lost the public vote; his allies have rejected him, and now there seems to be a problem in Janpath (Sonia Gandhi's residence) also."

Delhi L-G writes to Kejriwal, blames his govt for pollution

NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has written to AAP convenor and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of "gross indifference" and "criminal inaction" on the issue of air pollution, and holding his government responsible for the present crisis in the capital.

There was no immediate reaction from AAP.

In the letter, Saxena claimed that during a conversation with Kejriwal on air pollution, the former chief minister had downplayed the issue, saying, it is an annual occurrence and activists and courts make an issue of it and then forget it.

The L-G said "11 years of neglect and criminal inaction" by Kejriwal and his government were responsible for Delhi's deteriorating air quality.

He alleged that during AAP's tenure, the government focused on blaming neighbouring states and the Centre, while failing to take concrete



steps to control dust pollution, which Saxena said is a major contributor to PM10 and PM2.5 levels in the city.

Saxena, who has been L-G for over three-and-a-half years, accused Kejriwal of indulging in "petty politics" and trying to "bog down" the BJP government, which has been in power for 10 months and attempting to undo what he described as legacy issues left by AAP government.

Quoting a couplet in Hindi, Saxena wrote, "Jab kisi se koi gila rakhna, saamne apne aaina rakhna (When you have a complaint against someone, keep a mirror in front of you)." The L-G said he could have conveyed these concerns personally or over phone, but Kejriwal apparently stopped meeting him after the electoral defeat and blocked his number.

Nabin raises pitch for Bengal polls, calls Rahul a 'part time politician'

PATNA

BJP national working president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday asserted that the party was poised to sweep the assembly elections due in West Bengal, Kerala and other states and also lashed out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by calling him a "part time politician".

In his maiden visit to Patna after taking charge as BJP's national working president, Nabin was greeted with slogans of "Bengal Fatah" as soon as he reached the dais erected at Miller High School, where he was given a rousing reception.

As workers raised the slogan, Nabin, who presently represents Bankipur assembly constituency in Patna, attributed the NDA's historic landslide victory in Bihar polls to the "charismatic leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief



BJP National Working President Nitin Nabin (centre) at a road show, in Patna on Tuesday. Bihar's Deputy CMs Vijay Kumar Sinha and Samrat Choudhary as well as state BJP chief Sanjay Sarangi took part in the event.

minister Nitish Kumar.

"After BJP and its allies secured landslide victory in Bihar assembly polls, its performance was also impressive in local body polls held in Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh and in zila panchayat polls in Goa. Our victory in Bihar will also spread to Bengal, Kerala and other states now," he quipped, amid

thunderous applause from party workers.

He also attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as well as RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav by calling them part-time politicians.

"When he (Rahul) is in the country, he attacks the constitution, constitutional bodies, Election Commission as well as the Supreme Court. But

when he is on a foreign tour, he uses abusive language against the country itself," he remarked.

Similarly, Tejashwi leader skipped proceedings of the assembly, did not raise people's issues but after defeat in the polls, he went to a foreign country. "Those making allegations of 'vote chori' are so hurt that they have gone to foreign countries," he remarked.

He also appealed to party workers to work hard for the Panchayat elections to be held in Bihar next year and also for the civic polls.

He said that BJP's golden era would come only when the saffron flag would flutter from Panchayat to Parliament. "Politics is a long run. Work hard. BJP's watch tower is strong enough to identify you and he will elevate you from booth level to state level and also to national level," he told his party workers.

Shops torched, internet shut in Assam's Karbi Anglong, 2 dead

GUWAHATI

Fear and fury stalked the hills of West Karbi Anglong for a second straight day on Tuesday as violence over land rights spiralled out of control in Kheroni, leaving one protester Angthik Timung dead after a bullet injury, markets in ruins and an entire district cut off from mobile internet. The body of a 25-year-old specially abled youth, Suresh Dey, was also recovered from a building that was set ablaze by the agitators. At least 45 people, including 38 police personnel, were injured in the violence.

What is usually a crowded daily bazaar near the western banks of the Kopili River turned into a battleground by afternoon. Angry crowds surged through the market lanes, smashing shopfronts, looting goods and setting fires, as police struggled to contain the unrest.

The flashpoint remains the



People gather around a torched bike following a wave of violence in West Karbi Anglong, Assam, on Tuesday

long-simmering dispute over Professional and Village Grazing Reserves, lands Karbi groups say are central to their identity and survival. The agitation, which began as a hunger strike on December 6, exploded into violence after rumours spread that protesters who fell ill had been detained by police.

On Tuesday, tensions peaked when police opened fire to disperse an unruly mob. One protester suffered a bullet injury and later suc-

cumbed, deepening anger and despair across the hill district. Tear gas shells and baton charges followed as security forces attempted to push back crowds that were torching tyres, blocking roads and vandalising shops.

"Everything happened so fast," said a shopkeeper who fled the market, leaving behind his shutter half-pulled and goods scattered inside. "This is our livelihood. In minutes, it was all gone."

Haryana BJP failed to answer Cong queries in House: Hooda

CHANDIGARH

Stating that the ruling BJP failed to answer any of Congress' questions in the winter session of Assembly - which concluded Monday evening, leader of opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Tuesday said that it was first time in the history of the Assembly that not a single adjournment motion, motion for suspension of business, or short-duration discussion motion of the Congress was accepted.

Addressing newsmen here, the former two-time Congress chief minister Hooda alleged that the BJP government's attitude during the session was completely anti-people and evasive of public interest issues.

In UP Assembly, Oppn up in arms over suicides by BLOs

LUCKNOW

The opposition on Tuesday raised serious concerns in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly over alleged suicides and deaths of Booth Level Officers and other staff during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, accusing the government of administrative negligence and undue pressure on field workers.

Congress MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona targeted the government, claiming that at least 10 BLOs have died during the exercise. She questioned the haste with which the Special Intensive Revision was conducted and alleged that teachers were assigned BLO duties without proper training. Mishra said officials put excessive pressure on them, which, she alleged, led to the

deaths.

Citing specific cases, the Congress MLA referred to the suicide of a teacher named Sarvesh in Moradabad. She also mentioned the case of a 27-year-old lekhpal in Fatehpur who allegedly died by suicide a day before his wedding. Mishra further claimed that a woman teacher died of a heart attack while on duty. She said these were only the cases that surfaced on social media and alleged that several other such incidents may have gone unreported.

She accused the government of failing to take responsibility for these deaths and alleged that teachers lost their lives due to administrative lapses. Mishra also claimed that the hurried exercise led to the deletion of names of the poor and Dalits from the voters' list. Raising the issue of

accountability, she asked whether the government would provide jobs to the family members of the deceased and demanded an ex gratia of Rs 50 lakh for each affected family.

Samajwadi Party MLA Atul Pradhan also raised concerns over the functioning of BLOs during the revision exercise. He alleged that BLOs were being pressured to delete the names of voters who were staying outside their native places. Pradhan said that even when family members were willing to fill forms on behalf of such voters, BLOs were allegedly forcing the deletion of their names. He also pointed out that earlier a person could easily apply to become a voter by filling Form 6, but now affidavits are being sought, which cost around Rs 600 to prepare.

Raj rule

Panchayat bans smartphones for women

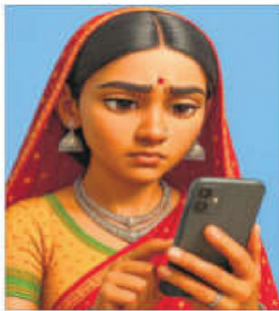
JAIPUR

In an arbitrary ruling, a panchayat in the Jalore district of Rajasthan has banned smartphones with cameras for women and girls of 15 villages. The ban will come into force on January 26.

The ruling came in a meeting held on Sunday in Ghazipur village of the Chaudhary community's Sundhamata Patti in Jalore district under the chairmanship of Sujanaram Chaudhary, the president of the 14 patts (a

local unit referring to areas dominated by a particular community). The meeting was attended by villagers and panchayat members from 15 villages.

Under the new rule, women will not be allowed to carry smartphones at public gatherings, social functions, weddings, or even while visiting neighbours' houses. Instead, they have been instructed to use basic keypad mobile phones for communication. The restriction also extends beyond public spaces, significantly limiting the use of



smartphones outside the home.

However, the schoolgirls have been allowed to use

smartphones for their studies.

Community president Sujanaram Chaudhary said that after discussion among all the panchayat members and villagers, it was decided that women and girls from 15 villages would use keypad phones for making calls. If it is necessary for schoolgirls to have mobile phones for their studies, they will only be allowed to use them at home.

Sujanaram Choudhary, defending the decision, said that the rule was introduced due to concerns over children's excessive use of mobile

phones.

"When women carry smartphones, children tend to use them frequently, which could harm their eyesight. The restriction is a necessary step taken in the interest of children's health," said Choudhary.

This rule will be implemented in Gajipura, Pavli, Kalda, Manojia Was, Rajikawas, Datlawas, Rajpura, Kodi, Sidrodi, Aldi, Ropsi, Khanadeval, Savidhar, Hathmi ki Dhani (Bhinmal), and Khanpur villagers of Jalore district.



Farmers are the backbone of the nation, benefits of schemes reach farmers directly - DM

Prayagraj. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister, late Chaudhary Charan Singh, Kisan Samman Divas (Farmers' Honor Day) was organized on Tuesday at the District Panchayat Auditorium, Prayagraj. The program was presided over by the District Magistrate of Prayagraj, while Nirmala Paswan, District President of BJP Gangapar, was present as the special guest. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp. On this occasion, 26 progressive male and female farmers who have done outstanding work under the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Horticulture departments of the district were honored by the District Magistrate with certificates of appreciation, shawls, and cash prizes. A cash prize of ₹7000 was given for the first prize and ₹5000 for the second prize. Addressing the program, the District Magistrate said that late Chaudhary Charan Singh was a true messiah of the farmers. His contribution



to land reforms, abolition of the zamindari system, and granting land rights to farmers has been historic. He said that the benefits of the schemes run by the central and state governments are being delivered directly to the farmers through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer). He appealed to all farmers to adopt organic and natural farming and to compulsorily register themselves in the Farmer Registry. Joint Director of Agriculture, Santosh Kumar Rai, highlighted the life and farmer-friendly works of Chaudhary Charan Singh and called for extending the benefits of departmental schemes to as many farmers as possible. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Pawan Kumar Vishwakarma, welcomed the guests and

described the achievements of the farmers as a source of inspiration. On this occasion, Shipra, Deputy Director (Agriculture) Prayagraj Division, K.K. Singh, District Agriculture Officer, Mukesh Kumar, District Agricultural Protection Officer, Surendra Pratap Singh, Soil Conservation Officer, Vikas Mishra, Additional District Agriculture Officer, District Horticulture Officer, Assistant Director, Fisheries, Additional Chief Veterinary Officer, Lead District Manager, Executive Engineer Belan, Executive Engineer Electricity and Water Corporation, along with other departmental officers were present on the dais.

UP-TET Exam Postponed, New Date to be Announced Soon

Important Decisions Taken in Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission Meeting, Over 1.5 Million Candidates Affected

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A meeting of the Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission was held today, Tuesday. The meeting discussed the postponement of the UP TET (Teacher Eligibility Test) scheduled for January 29 and 30. The next date for this examination will be decided soon. This was the first meeting held after the joining of former UP DGP and newly appointed Chairman of the Commission, Prashant Kumar. There had been a long-standing uncertainty regarding this examination. More than 1.5 million candidates are affected by this postponement. In addition, the meeting also discussed the pending interviews after the Assistant Professor examination under advertisement number 51. A decision will be taken after an investigation into this matter. Vigilance System to be Implemented in the Education Service Selection Commission. In the meeting, it was decided to establish an internal vigilance system to bring transparency to the commission's activities and to monitor other examina-



tion-related tasks. Chairman Prashant Kumar said that a vigilance officer will also be appointed in the commission for this purpose. The meeting also discussed the TGT-PGT examinations. The examination controller has been directed to study the examination calendars of other commissions and recruitment agencies and prepare a timetable for the recently postponed TGT-PGT and TET examinations, and present it to the commission, based on which the commission can announce the dates for these important examinations. The chairman also emphasized that the process of selecting examination centers and various agencies for conducting upcoming examinations should be conducted in a transparent manner. In this regard, the Deputy Secretary and

Public Relations Officer of the Commission, Sanjay Kumar Singh, said that the TET examination was discussed in today's meeting. It will be completely clarified in the meeting next month. It is not possible to say at this time whether the TET examination will be held or not. The TET exam was held on January 21, 2022. Previously, the UP TET exam, scheduled for November 28, 2021, was canceled due to a paper leak. After much effort, the exam was finally conducted on January 21, 2022. Since then, the exam had not been held again. A large number of candidates are waiting for this exam. A few months ago, the commission had announced January 29 and 30, 2025, as the dates for the exam. However, the commission's chairperson, Prof. Kirti Pandey, resigned from her post. The delay in appointing a new chairperson caused the exam to be postponed again. On Saturday, Prashant Kumar took charge as the new chairman of the commission. A decision regarding the exam was made in the first meeting held after his appointment.

Block-Level ‘Hamara Aangan–Hamare Bachche’ Festival Organized



Barabanki

Under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, a block-level ‘Hamara Aangan–Hamare Bachche’ festival was organized at Sundar Lal Mahavidyalaya, Aurela, in Sirauligaupur. The program was inaugurated by Chief Guest former MLA Sharad Kumar Awasthi, Special Guest District Basic Education Officer Naveen Kumar Pathak and Block Education Officer Fiza Mirza by offering garlands at the idol of Goddess Saraswati. During the event, proficient students and their parents were honored. On this occasion, BJP Mandal President Sandeep Kumar Rawat, Mandal General Secretary Amit Kumar Pandey Ramji, Rajesh Awasthi, Child Development Project Officer Archana Verma, SRG Avadhesh Kumar Pandey, Naveen Mishra, along with many other dignitaries, teachers, Anganwadi workers and a large number of parents were present.

Farmers' Honor Day Fair and Exhibition Organized at Krishi Bhawan Premises

Bahraich

Under the aegis of the Agriculture Department, a one-day district-level Traditional Agricultural Development Scheme and Millets Recipe program was organized at the Krishi Bhawan premises on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister, late Chaudhary Charan Singh. The program was inaugurated by District Panchayat Chairperson Manju Singh and District Magistrate Akshay Tripathi by garlanding and lighting a lamp before the portrait of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister, late Chaudhary Charan Singh. During the program, the District Panchayat Chairperson and the District Magistrate inspected the exhibi-



tion and stalls of various departments set up in the Krishi Bhawan premises and appreciated them. The exhibition featured an attractive display of natural and organic products by farmer producer organizations of the district. Exhibitions related to agriculture, horticulture,

animal husbandry, fisheries, sericulture, sugarcane department, millets recipes and organic farming were also set up. On this occasion, a total of 41 farmers and recipe participants, including 8 from the Agriculture Department, 6 from the Horticulture Department, 4

from the Sericulture Department, 4 from the Fisheries Department, 2 from the Sugarcane Department, 2 each from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bahraich and Nanpara, 3 from Millets (Sawa and Ragi) and 6 selected beneficiaries of the Millets Recipe program, were honored with Kisan Samman Certificates and shawls. Addressing the program, District Panchayat Chairperson Manju Singh congratulated the honored farmers and said that the farmers of the district are doing commendable work in promoting organic and natural farming. She extended her best wishes to all the farmers, officers and employees on the occasion of Farmers Honor Day and said that by honoring late Chaudhary Charan Singh with the Bharat Ratna, the govern-

ment has proved its commitment towards farmers. District Magistrate Akshay Tripathi congratulated the honored farmers and said that the efforts of the farmers will inspire other farmers and increase their income. He appreciated the work being done by the agriculture and allied departments and inspected the Krishi Bhawan office and the Millets Gallery. Deputy Director of Agriculture Vinay Kumar Verma congratulated the farmers who achieved the highest productivity and urged the farmers present to adopt poison-free farming. Detailed information was also provided about the schemes run by the agriculture department. In the seminar, senior scientists and chairpersons Dr. CPN Gautam and Dr. Shailendra Singh emphasized the adoption

of natural farming along with increased production. The program was attended by former BJP district president Chandrabhan Singh Sanchit, progressive farmer Babban Singh, Munnalal Verma (BRC Central Director), District Sugarcane Officer, Veterinary Officer Mohd. Shakeel, Assistant Director Fisheries Baburam, Assistant Director Sericulture M.K. Singh, District Agricultural Protection Officer Priyananda, Soil Conservation Officer Dr. Saurabh Verma, Sub-Divisional Agricultural Extension Officer Shishir Kumar Verma, Junior Engineer Agriculture Nitin Kumar Maurya, Soil Testing Chairman Ashutosh Pandey, along with officers and employees of the agriculture department and hundreds of farmers.

Fortis Manesar Launches da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgery System

Manesar

Fortis Hospital, Manesar has launched the state-of-the-art da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System, the first of its kind in Southern Haryana. This makes advanced, minimally invasive surgery facilities available in the region for cancer, urology, gynecology and general surgery. With this technology, patients from Manesar and surrounding districts will no longer need to travel to larger cities for complex surgeries. The da Vinci Xi system provides surgeons with high-definition 3D vision, instruments with 540-degree articulation, tremor filtration and extreme precision, enabling safer surgeries with smaller incisions. This results in less bleeding, less pain, fewer complications and faster



recovery. Recently, a 23-year-old woman underwent successful surgery for colon cancer at Fortis Manesar using this technology, which prevented the need for a permanent colostomy and allowed the patient to return to a normal life. Dr. Vinay Samuel Gaikwad (Director – Surgical Oncology) said that robotic surgery is playing a crucial role in achieving better outcomes and organ preservation in complex cancer cases. According to Dr. Ruchir Mahechhari (Director – Urology), robotic surgery has become the global

standard in urology. Dr. Nisha Agarwal (Director – Gynecology) described it as a safer option with faster recovery for women. Dr. Rakesh Kumar (Additional Director – General Surgery) said that this system will take surgical excellence in the region to new heights. Facility Director Abhijit Singh stated that this launch reflects Fortis commitment to providing advanced healthcare in emerging regions. Fortis Healthcare is one of the leading providers of robotic surgery in India and has performed over 10,000 robotic surgeries to date.

With the launch of da Vinci Xi in Manesar, patients in southern Haryana will now have access to world-class surgical care close to their homes.

Artemis Hospitals Successfully Performs Two Lung Transplants

Gurugram

Artemis Hospitals has achieved a significant milestone in the medical field by successfully performing two complex and life-saving lung transplants. The recipients included one foreign and one Indian patient, both of whom received a new lease on life through this procedure. This achievement highlights the hospital's expertise and advanced facilities in lung transplantation. The aim of these transplants is to make lung transplantation more accessible to patients in North India, eliminating the need for them to travel to South India for treatment. This also reduces the physical, mental and financial burden on patients and their families. Dr.



Devalina Chakraborty, Managing Director of Artemis Hospitals Group, said, ‘‘Organ transplantation is not just a medical procedure, but an opportunity to restart life. These two successful cases demonstrate

the commitment and expertise of our team.’’ The foreign patient, John Andrew Molenthial, a 54-year-old from Trinidad and Tobago, suffered from a severe lung disease and required continuous oxygen support.

His condition was complex, as there was a high risk of organ rejection. The medical team prepared him for surgery through immune-modulating therapy and physiotherapy. After receiving a donor lung from Jalandhar, the organ was transported to Gurugram via a green corridor and a successful transplant was performed on Pushpendra Kumar, an IT executive from Uttar Pradesh, who suffered from advanced interstitial lung disease. After arriving at Artemis in September, his treatment focused on improving his physical capacity. He

underwent a successful transplant in November and is now able to breathe without difficulty and perform his daily activities. The entire process involved Dr. Sandeep... The team of expert doctors included Dr. Attavar, Dr. Biswaroop Purkayastha, Dr. Shweta Bansal and Dr. Kuldeep Singh. The doctors explained that lung transplantation can be life-saving for patients suffering from end-stage lung disease, provided there is proper evaluation, a suitable donor, and family support. These successful transplants not only saved two lives but also demonstrated that organ donation can give new hope to many more lives.

A one-day district-level workshop was organized under the "Administration Towards Villages" campaign as part of Good Governance Week, chaired by the DM

Prayagraj: A one-day district-level workshop was organized on Tuesday at the Sangam Auditorium under the "Administration Towards Villages" campaign as part of Good Governance Week, chaired by District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma. The chief guest of the program, Mr. R.S. Verma, a retired IAS officer, shared his thoughts and experiences at the workshop. On this occasion, the chief guest, R.S. Verma said that the main objective of the "Administration Towards Villages"



campaign under Good Governance Week is to resolve the problems of the common people at the rural level through the administration. This can be achieved by setting up camps in the villages to address the villagers' problems on a

priority basis. He said that the work being done by women's self-help groups needs to be expanded further so that they can become even more economically self-reliant. He urged administrative officers and other con-

cerned individuals to support the self-help groups in their endeavors. He emphasized that all concerned officers, including administrative officers, should fulfill their responsibilities in implementing schemes on the ground and making them more transparent and effective. He also suggested creating a district-level portal for the quick resolution of the problems of the people of the district. He said that the Chief Minister's intention is that the common people should not have to wander around to get their problems

resolved. He suggested that eligible individuals should be benefited from government schemes by organizing camps. He instructed the e-District Manager to create a database of completed works and upload success stories on social media platforms. In the workshop, Additional District Magistrate (City) Satyam Mishra, Project Director Bhupendra Singh, District Panchayat Raj Officer, and District Economics and Statistics Officer Santosh Kumar shared information and expressed their views

on the program. Updated information was shared by officers from the concerned departments during the workshop. On this occasion, discussions were held with officers from various departments regarding the effective resolution of the problems of the common people. The objective of the program is to ensure good governance in rural areas and to make the administrative system more accessible. District-level officers and other officers from concerned departments were present on this occasion.

Rapid progress on SIR forms in Padila Gram Panchayat



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

In Padila Gram Panchayat of Tharwai/Soraon development block, a review of the progress on filling out SIR forms was conducted at the Panchayat Bhavan on Tuesday. The work is being completed in a timely and transparent manner. During this time, villagers, including women who had not yet filled out the forms to remain on the voter list, completed their forms. They were assured that the voters' SIR forms would be completed as quickly as possible. Present on the occasion were Gram Pradhan Ram Achal Yadav, BLO Rekha, and members of the verification team including verification officer Divya Mishra, Regional Forest Officer Soraon, Senior Forest Guard Shailesh Kumar, Forest Guard Vikas Singh, Shiva Balendu Pandey, and Supervisor Santosh Kumar.

Grand Inauguration of MP Sports Festival, 500 Players Showcase Their Talent

Bureau Report: Pradeep Kumar Pandey

Ghazipur. The MP Sports Festival, organized under the aegis of the Ghazipur District Sports Office and the District Administration, was inaugurated by Dr. Sangeeta Balwant Bind, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha. Present at the inauguration ceremony were Sarita Agarwal, Chairperson of Ghazipur Municipality, Project Director Deendayal Verma, District Youth



Welfare Officer Dilip Kumar, MP Sports Festival Coordinator Rajan Prajapati, Sadhana Rai, Lalsa Bhardwaj, Preeti Gupta, Rasbihari Rai, Santosh Jaiswal, Munna Rai, Secretary of the Kho-Kho

Association Vipin Bihari Rai, and President of the Athletics Association Amarjeet Singh. All the guests were welcomed by Sports Officer Arvind Yadav. During the competition, the MP honored

national-level winning players and assured all possible assistance to promote sports in Ghazipur in the future. Competitions were held in Kho-Kho (girls), Athletics (boys/girls), Football (boys/girls), and

Cricket (boys/girls). Approximately 500 players participated. In Kho-Kho, a total of 5 teams participated. In the senior girls' final match, Sadar defeated Jangipur with a score of 13-11. In the junior category, Sadar defeated Saidpur with a score of 15-06. Sadar secured first place in the sub-junior girls' category. In the football competition, a total of 6 teams participated. In the junior boys' final match, Sadar defeated Jangipur with a score of 15-10.

Meja Urja Nigam's Skill Training Programme Lays the Foundation for a Bright Future for Local Youth

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Meja prayagraj : On 23 December 2025, Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited, under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, launched a skill training programme to promote skill development and employment-oriented training for local youth. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Asesh Kumar Chattopadhyay. Under this initiative, a total of 20 candidates will be provided with a three-month, fully residential training programme in the CNC Machine Operator trade at

CRISP, Bhopal. Through this programme, the batch of 20 trainees will be equipped with technical competencies aligned with modern industrial requirements. The training programme is completely residential, and CRISP, Bhopal will ensure 100% placement upon successful completion of the training.

On this occasion, Shri Chattopadhyay stated that Meja Urja Nigam is committed to providing skill development and employment opportunities to local youth, and that this initiative in collaboration with CRISP is a significant step towards imparting technical

knowledge and making youth self-reliant. During the programme, the Chief Executive Officer and other dignitaries flagged off the bus and formally sent the trainees to CRISP, Bhopal for their training. The event was attended by Shri Narendra Nath Sinha (General Manager, Operations & Maintenance), Shri Anand Prakash (General Manager, Project), Shri Ashok Kumar Samal (General Manager, Maintenance), Shri Vivek Chandra (Head of Department, Human Resources), along with representatives from CRISP, Bhopal.

In the theft case, a joint team of the police, SOG, and STF is also involved in the investigation

Tharwai

A major theft occurred two days ago in Katiyahi Muhammadpur village under the Tharwai police station area. The police, SOG Prayagraj, and Gangapur surveillance teams are investigating the matter. The STF team has also joined



the investigation. DCP Gangapur Kuldeep Singh Gunawat and ACP Tharwai Arun Parashar visited the crime scene again on

Monday and were seriously investigating the case from all angles. On Tuesday, STF teams were also deployed to apprehend the criminals as soon as possible. ACP Tharwai Arun arashar said that the matter is being investigated and the criminals responsible for the incident will soon be in police custody.

Christmas preparations in full swing at the Nadesar Maha Church

Varanasi: Before Christmas, the crowd of children and women has increased in the markets of Kashi. Every day people are buying Santa Claus clothes, masks and toys. Christmas trees are being sold for 50 to 1500. This time the traders are expecting a business of crores on Christmas and New Year.

Rapido Bike Registration Camp Organized to Ensure Smooth Transportation During Magh Mela

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The first Rapido bike registration camp, organized under the aegis of the Transport Department, was inaugurated today at the DTI premises in Naini by Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal. The main objective of this camp was to register young people on the Rapido platform to provide safe, convenient, and disciplined transportation facilities to devotees during the Magh Mela. These registered riders will provide bike services to devotees at rates fixed by Rapido during the Mela period. On the occasion of the inauguration, the Divisional Commissioner administered a road safety pledge to all the participants and guests and described it as an important employment opportunity for the youth. She said that such innova-



tions during large religious gatherings help improve the traffic system and also empower young people to become self-reliant. On the first day, approximately 125 registrations were completed through this camp. Another camp was also set up by the Rapido company at Allahabad University, where approximately 75 registrations were completed on the first day. Keeping in mind the transportation needs of a large number of devotees during the Magh Mela, the Mela administration is trying to facilitate traffic through two-wheeler operators. This will pro-

vide quick and convenient transportation to devotees in crowded areas and help reduce traffic congestion in the Mela area. Senior officials of the Transport Department, along with District Magistrate Prayagraj Manish Verma, Vice Chairman of Prayagraj Development Authority and Mela Officer Rishiraj, and Municipal Commissioner Selam Sai Teja also participated in the program. All the officers appreciated this initiative and described it as extremely useful for the successful, well-organized, and safe conduct of the Magh Mela.

Tribal Man Brutally Murdered in Koraon Town Missing Youth's Body Found in a Well in Kheeri on the Fifth Day

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Koraon, Prayagraj: The body of a missing youth has been recovered from a well in the Kheeri police station area of Prayagraj. Sushil alias Munde, a 28-year-old resident of Ward No. 8 of Koraon Nagar Panchayat, went missing on Friday.

Five days later, on Tuesday afternoon around 2 pm, his body was found in a well in Khunta village. The police have sent the body for post-mortem. The deceased's family has accused the police of negligence, saying that Sushil's life could have been saved if timely action had been taken. According to the information given, Sushil alias Munde, son of Jagdish, had gone with Mahesh Jaiswal from his neighborhood on Friday in connection with some bail matter. The family says that Mahesh returned home the same day, but Sushil did not. After this, the family suspected foul play. Sushil's elder brother, Satish, had filed a complaint against Mahesh Jaiswal at the Koraon police station. The family alleges that the police were negligent in this matter and did not take any concrete action. Consequently, on Tuesday, the fifth day of his disappearance, Sushil's body was recovered from a well in Khunta village of the Kheeri police station area. Upon receiving the information, the police reached the spot and had the body removed from the well. The deceased Sushil's wife Seema, mother Chandrakali, sister Gudiya, and one-year-old son Shreyansh are inconsolable. His sister Gudiya alleged that Mahesh brutally murdered her brother by slitting his throat. She also claimed that if the Koraon police had acted promptly, her brother's life could have been saved and he could have been found alive. Sushil was the second of three brothers. The deceased's family and people from the neighborhood say that if the police had shown promptness after receiving the complaint and interrogated Mahesh strictly, Sushil's life could have been saved. The deceased's mother, Chandrakali, alleged on Tuesday at 5 PM that the police had not questioned Mahesh, which led to her son's murder. Similarly, local residents allege that many incidents have occurred and continue to occur in the Koraon area, but FIRs are not registered promptly. This, they claim, often leads to more serious incidents later on.



Awareness Rally Held in Bahariyabad Market Against Drug Abuse; Police and Mission Shakti Team Actively Involved

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur. An awareness rally was organized in Bahariyabad market under the drug de-addiction campaign in the Bahariyabad police station area of the district, with the aim of increasing public awareness against drug abuse. Station House Officer Krishna Pratap Singh, along with the police force and the Mission Shakti team, was present at the rally and ensured its peaceful and successful completion. During the rally, people in the market area were informed about the harmful effects of drug



abuse. Station House Officer Krishna Pratap Singh appealed to the people, saying that drug addiction is fatal for the individual, the family, and society. Drug addiction not only adversely affects health but also leads to an increase in social crimes. He specifically urged the youth to stay away from drugs and adopt a healthy

lifestyle. On this occasion, people were encouraged to inform the police about the sale and trafficking of illegal cannabis, liquor, and other narcotic substances. The police administration assured that the names of those who provide information about any such illegal activity would be kept completely confidential and they would also be encouraged.

Editorial

India uses BRICS to push reforms—not to challenge the US

The latest edition of the BRICS Summit was significant because all 10 member countries participated. It included Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE, which attended as member states for the first time at the 2024 summit in Russia, and Indonesia, which joined in early 2025 as the first Southeast Asian country in the bloc. With its expansion, the group is now known as BRICS Plus—a term first used at the 2024 summit. Although forming groups of countries to promote cooperation is common globally, BRICS is more than a conventional grouping. It is a group of countries challenging the clout of the developed powers, particularly the US and European nations. In 2010, the first five members—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—constituted 18 per cent of the global GDP. Their collective share has risen to 26.5 percent in 2025. These nations are now challenging the hegemony of the West. Calls for de-dollarisation—reducing reliance on the US dollar in trade and finance—are becoming prominent, posing a threat to America's financial and geopolitical dominance. It gives China and Russia (and India too) a louder voice on the world stage. It fuels global economic realignment away from the dollar and Western institutions, pointing to a multipolar world order—something that US President Donald Trump doesn't support. The recent expansion of BRICS, with five new members joining, has increased the worries of the West, particularly the US. And without mincing words, Trump has started expressing his unhappiness over the developments happening in BRICS. Here are the key reasons why Trump opposes BRICS: The primary reason is that both the original members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and new entrants like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Iran, and Ethiopia are openly discussing reducing reliance on the US dollar in trade and finance. Trump's long-standing "America First" stance makes any move away from the dollar a direct challenge to U.S. economic influence and its ability to enforce sanctions. The second point that irks Trump is BRICS' geopolitical opposition to the West. BRICS increasingly positions itself as a counterweight to Western institutions like the G7, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank. The deepening ties between China and Russia within BRICS are seen as part of a broader anti-Western alignment. Third, Trump has consistently taken a hardline stance on China, through trade wars, tariffs, tech and investment restrictions, etc. BRICS giving China a leadership platform to challenge the US on the global stage agitates him. He views BRICS as a vehicle for China's global expansion under the guise of multipolarity. Fourth, the inclusion of Saudi Arabia and Iran gives BRICS influence over global energy markets. There is growing potential for oil trade to be conducted in non-dollar currencies (e.g., yuan or BRICS currency), which would weaken the petrodollar system—a critical pillar of US global economic power. Fifth, Trump perceives BRICS expansion as a sign that the 'Global South' is drifting away from Western influence, forming its own independent bloc. This runs contrary to Trump's vision of negotiating "from strength," where US dominance is unquestioned. Sixth, Trump views global influence in zero-sum terms. Any rise of a non-Western grouping that excludes the US is seen as a personal and national affront. BRICS summits that propose alternative visions for world order without US involvement are perceived as a threat to 'American prestige'—something Trump values highly. He has threatened to impose higher tariffs on countries siding with the BRICS. He has already announced the imposition of 50 per cent tariffs on Brazil. Although India is a member of BRICS, its approach is more nuanced.



Saiyaara proves star kids don't need hype, just a good film and a killer soundtrack

Mohit Suri's Saiyaara is a lesson in successfully launching new actors. The film did not hold press conferences, 'exclusive' interviews, or have its lead pair jet-setting across cities to interact with crowds. Instead, it opted for radio silence. It banked on the release alone. The movie had a box office opening of Rs 21.5 crore, and has now crossed the 100-crore mark before completing the first week of its release. Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda stole the thunder when it came to making a memorable big-screen debut.

The film's unprecedented opening even had Ajay Devgn scramble to postpone the release of his film Son of Sardaar 2 from 25 July to 1 August. The film relied on one star—the music. Suri, known for his films Zeher (2005), Woh Lamhe (2006), and Aashiqui 2 (2013), has let his films' music do the talking. Each of these films had a breakout song that pushed the film to audiences. Be it 'Woh Lamhe' from Zeher to 'Kya Mujhe Pyar Hai' of Woh Lamhe and 'Tum Hi Ho' from Aashiqui 2, Suri's films capture the mood of heart-

break like no other in their album.

The star-crossed lovers, the looming tragedy, and the music have all been done before by Suri. Gen Z has now succumbed to what was millennial 'poison'. While most star kids were launched with an overdose of PR appearances, from doing a hook step of their movie's title track to being part of creators' videos, Saiyaara's lead cast was conspicuous through their absence from social media. The PR team clearly decided to learn from others' mistakes.

Ahaan Panday had a blink-and-miss appearance in his sister Alanna's wedding and was absent from her Prime Video show, The Tribe (2024). In contrast, his cousin Ananya Panday was everywhere before and during her debut in Student of the Year 2 (2019). Her social media already had a massive follower count, and she was seen rubbing shoulders with the who's who of Bollywood. More recently, massive social media hype was built before Ibrahim Ali Khan made his debut with Nadaaniyan (2025).

The wealth generated by Indian diaspora-owned businesses



The wealth generated by Indian diaspora-owned businesses in the UK was estimated to be around £75 billion by this report. The 1.8 million Indian diaspora forms about 2.7 per cent of the UK's population. During PM Modi's visit, the signing of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected. The forward-looking agreement complements India's growth aspirations. The FTA has been described as both historic and ambitious. It is expected to boost jobs, exports, and growth, benefitting 99 per cent of Indian exports from zero per cent duty, opening export opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather footwear, sports goods and toys, gems and jewellery, and others such as engineering goods and organic chemicals. Trade in services is also expected to receive a significant fillip. Enhanced global mobility for aspirational young Indians and a three-year exemption from social security payments come as a major relief for Indian employees and companies based in the UK. Despite the record bilateral trade, the UK's trade with India accounts for around 2.5 per cent of its total trade. With both sides seeking trade diversification and supply-chain resilience, an India-UK FTA will hopefully create the doorway for businesses to drive the economic relationship forward. Given the immediate challenges on India's borders, cooperation in the defence sector with partners such as the UK has achieved greater importance.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the UK in January 2024 provided fresh impetus to the defence pillar of the relationship. In 2023, ties were elevated to a 2+2 mechanism. The British defence sector could emerge as a key collaborator in technology transfers, the development of advanced capabilities, and supporting the Make in India effort by attracting more British FDI into the defence sector. Several defence cooperation agreements—covering production of Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) and Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM), the establishment of an Advanced Short-Range Air to Air Missile (ASRAAM) assembly and test facility in India and a Statement of Intent to design and develop an Integrated Full Electric Propulsion system for Indian Navy ships—signal good times ahead for India's defence sector. India's focus on indigenous development does present challenges for the British industry, with fears that it could potentially make cooperation in certain sectors commercially unviable. Intellectual-property (IP) issues also need to be resolved. These issues

can hopefully be addressed through the robust defence engagement mechanism that now exists between the two countries. Moreover, the UK-India military cooperation has grown in recent times.

The Royal Navy made six ship visits to India in 2023, while its Littoral Response Group (South) conducted exercises with the Indian Navy in March 2024. In August 2024, the UK's Royal Air Force participated in exercise Tarang Shakti in India. An Indian naval officer, Lieutenant Commander N Dinesh Anand, has joined Britannia Royal Naval College as Divisional Training Officer for the first time. India and the UK are making a serious effort to build technology partnerships. The new bilateral Technology Security Initiative (TSI), formally launched during UK Foreign Secretary, David Lammy's visit, aims to catalyse collaboration on critical and emerging technologies in seven key sectors: telecoms, critical minerals, semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, quantum, biotechnology and health technology, and advanced materials. Tech collaboration between India

and the UK also extends to sectors including financial services, innovation in health, climate, renewables, and startups. The participation of stakeholders from government, industry, and academia would be important for taking the Technology Security Initiative forward. Both countries are global hubs of innovation, science, technology, and research. India is one of the world's largest startup ecosystems and has over 100 unicorn companies. The increasing focus on these areas is welcome. Education is an important pillar of India-UK relations. The University of Southampton opened its campus in Gurugram on 16 July 2025, becoming the first foreign university campus under the New Education Policy (NEP). The UK remains one of the preferred destinations for Indian students, with around 1,70,000 students studying in the UK in the academic year 2023-2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on his fourth visit to the UK. He will hold wide-ranging discussions with PM Keir Starmer on the entire gamut of India-UK bilateral relations, and exchange views on issues of regional and global importance. He is also expected to call on King Charles III. During the visit, the two sides will also review the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with a specific focus on trade and economy, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate, health, education, and people-to-people ties. Following the UK's exit from

the European Union, economic and trade relations between the two countries acquired a new salience. India-UK bilateral trade set a new record when it crossed \$55 billion (£42.6 billion) in 2024, registering an increase of around 10 per cent over the previous year. Indian companies have made significant investments in the UK. Grant Thornton (GT) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) research in 2024 highlighted a record number of 971 Indian companies in the UK with a combined turnover of over £68 billion. The report India Meets Britain Tracker 2024 found that Indian companies in the UK are thriving, with 100 companies having a revenue growth of at least 10 per cent. The Britain meets India Tracker 2024 identified 667 British companies in India with a turnover of approximately £47.5 billion. The UK is the sixth-largest contributor of FDI to India. Cumulative FDI from the UK to India is around \$36 billion between 2000 to March 2025. India's investment in the UK during this period is close to \$20 billion. The Indian diaspora in the UK is also a major presence in the UK's economic scenario. The 2020 GT report, done with the High Commission of India, London, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), identified 654 diaspora-owned companies with a turnover of at least £100,000, generating a cumulative annual turnover of £36.84 billion.

Pak accomplices, shootouts, sealed chargesheet—how the 7/11 blasts case fell apart

The men gathered early one morning in a one-room tenement inside the Deccan Cooperative Society in Sewri, on the grimy eastern fringes of suburban Mumbai. They began packing ammonium nitrate-fuel oil gel, the lethal but readily available commercial explosive used across India, inside 35-kilogram pressure cookers. Then, a detonator cap was loaded into each pressure cooker and linked to a simple Ajanta-brand digital clock, set to 6:30 pm. Each cooker was then packed in a shopping bag. Later that evening 209 people died—far more than on 26/11—when the bombs went off in packed first-class compartments on seven separate trains running from Churchgate. This week, 19 years on, the Bombay High Court finally held what successive governments, police services, and the intelligence services themselves have long known: The five men sent to death row for their role in the bombings, and the seven others given shorter sentences, had nothing to do with the bombing. The

Maharashtra government has announced it will appeal—but disturbing evidence will surface that the botched trial has enabled the terrorists actually responsible for the crime to evade responsibility. Intelligence and police services at the time were struggling to detect the real workings of the Lashkar-e-Taiba-linked network that came to be known as the Indian Mujahideen. Therefore, following the 7/11 bombing, the usual suspects—generally men with loose ties to conservative Muslim groups—were pulled in and charged with terrorism, as was the pattern in several prosecutions from the period. Following the bombing of the Sankat Mochan Temple in Varanasi, as well as the local railway station, the Imam of the mosque at Phulpur was arrested and charged with the murder of 28 people. The Uttar Pradesh police alleged that Waliullah had handed over the explosives and the pressure cooker cases to three terrorists from Bangladesh, who were never identified.

China was quick to test the nuclear bomb. India missed vital landmarks

In an era of multiple strifes across continents, an anniversary quietly slipped under the radar of world watchers. Eighty years ago, an explosion ushered in a new age of combat, weapons, tactics, and technology. At 5:29 am local time on 16 July 1945, the United States tested the world's first atomic bomb in the desolate desert of New Mexico in an area called Jornada del Muerto—Spanish for "Dead Man's Road". The site couldn't have been chosen because of the irony in its name. In the days of Spanish expansion into the New World, this must have certainly been a deadly route to take, but that was centuries before America's wartime quest for the world's most potent weapon. And it was tested under the codename 'Trinity'. A multi-billion-dollar initiative that involved scores of enterprises, institutions, and scientists of various disciplines working under strict military supervision, it was innocently labelled 'Manhattan Project'. Innocent, since the name didn't convey its unifocal military purpose. The world entered the nuclear age with a military purpose, and its impact on 6 and 9 August 1945 over Hiroshima and Nagasaki are historical landmarks that will not be erased anytime soon. Reams have been written about the Manhattan Project and its impact. The ghastly use of the bomb against Japan has also been dissected. What has been relegated to dusty shelves and nerdy researchers, however, is the official report on the programme. It's unambiguously called Atomic Energy for Military Purposes. Among the most extraordinary aspects of the report is that it was made public on 12 August 1945, even before the radioactive clouds had lifted from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Princeton University physicist Henry DeWolf Smyth penned the report. Within the community that contributed to making the nuclear fission device a success, the Smyth Report

was the working paper on how the Manhattan Project was to be discussed. It is patently clear that the US was working on a long-term nuclear perspective. The American military approach is a far cry from how India viewed the arrival of the nuclear era. Although its nuclear journey is extraordinary among formerly colonised nations, India missed vital landmarks along the way. In July 1945, India already had a nuclear research programme at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), established months before Washington's Trinity test. Within a year of Independence, the country also had an Atomic Energy Commission, and in less than a decade, it had commissioned Asia's first nuclear reactor, APSARA, at Trombay. India was light years ahead of any other Asian country. In the 1950s, China was largely dependent on its larger ideological ally, the Soviet Union. It entered the nuclear age with a sole purpose, based on Chairman Mao's dictum, "Power flows from the barrel of a gun." The simple formulation offered Beijing both short-term benefits and dividends in the long run, too. It is now obvious that the possession of weapons of mass destruction will not invite military intervention.

in an era of mass hypocrisy. Iran and Iraq, which didn't possess nuclear arsenals, were attacked, while North Korea, which did, wasn't. Hypocrisy and discrimination are obviously kosher in today's world order. India, however, approached the nuclear era from the perspective of "peaceful utilisation" to harness unlimited energy and enter the club of rapidly developing countries. It officially launched a three-stage nuclear programme with an indigenous research and development project. But eight decades after TIFR initiated its research programme, India remains light years away from its early energy vision. And it has also missed the bus to power.

Briefs

LALITPUR

Friend Murdered over loan, Insult; accused arrested

Police in Narahat have arrested Ramavtar Kurmi for the murder of his friend, Deepak Prajapati, in Bachrai village. The accused confessed that he killed his friend by strangulation during a drinking party, enraged over a demand to repay a ₹20,000 loan and alleged inappropriate remarks about his wife. He hid the body under tires and a grinding stone before fleeing. He has been sent to jail after medical treatment.

BALLIA

Panchayat Voter List Published, Claims Invited

The electoral roll for all Gram Panchayats in Ballia district has been prepared and published. Copies are available for public inspection at block development offices and polling centers via BLOs. Citizens can file claims or objections for addition, correction, or deletion of names between December 24 and 30 by submitting the prescribed forms at the concerned offices.

LUCKNOW

School Celebrates Fifth Annual Function

The fifth annual function of 'Glory of God School' in Indira Nagar was celebrated with enthusiasm. The event featured performances by students, including dances and songs. The school's founder highlighted its five-year educational journey. Guests emphasized holistic child development and parent-teacher dialogue, while the director stressed the importance of value-based education in the school's progress report.

GHOSI, MAU

Police Officer Distributes Blankets to Needy

Setting a humanitarian example, Ghosi Police Station In-Charge Pramendra Singh distributed blankets to helpless and needy people on the streets amid the severe cold. The aid reached cart-pullers, daily wage laborers, roadside vendors, and those living without shelter. The officer stated that a policeman's duty extends beyond law and order to helping those in need.

JAUNPUR

University Holds Competition Honoring Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University organized district-level competitions to mark the conclusion of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth centenary. Events included essay writing for school students and speech and solo poetry recitation for college and university students. The Vice-Chancellor stated Vajpayee's multifaceted personality inspires service and good governance. Winners will be honored by the district administration on December 25.

Five Saharanpur men found dead in hotel room**Police investigation revealed death was due to suffocating caused by angehti lit overnight**

SHARANPUR

Five residents of Saharanpur district lost their lives due to suffocation in Haryana's Kurukshetra after sleeping in a closed hotel room with a coal brazier burning inside. The incident took place at a resort located on Pipili Road, where the men were staying during a work assignment.



According to police, the victims had arrived in Kurukshetra two days earlier for painting work. After having dinner on Monday night,

they lit an angithi inside the room to keep warm and went to sleep. By Tuesday morning, none of them responded. When hotel staff noticed no

movement, they alerted authorities. Police broke open the door and found all five men dead. Preliminary investigation and medical findings

indicate death due to suffocation caused by smoke and lack of ventilation. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination. The deceased have been identified as Noor, Sonu, Madanpal, Roshanpal, and Ramkumar. Among them were two real brothers and a brother-in-law pair. The incident has plunged their native village in Saharanpur into mourning.

Five Saharanpur men found dead in hotel room

SHARANPUR

Five residents of Saharanpur district lost their lives due to suffocation in Haryana's Kurukshetra after sleeping in a closed hotel room with a coal brazier burning inside. The incident took place at a resort located on Pipili Road, where the men were staying during a work assignment.

According to police, the victims had arrived in Kurukshetra two days earlier for painting work. After having dinner on Monday night, they lit an angithi inside the room to keep warm and went to sleep. By Tuesday morning, none of them responded. When hotel staff noticed no movement, they alerted authorities.

Police broke open the door and found all five men dead. Preliminary investigation and medical findings indicate death due to suffocation caused by smoke and lack of ventilation. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination.

Akhlaq Lynching Case: Court Rejects UP Government's Plea**JUSTICE OVER: | Trial to continue in Mohammad Akhlaq lynching case**

NOIDA

In a significant development in the 2015 Dadri lynching case, a court has rejected the Uttar Pradesh government's plea seeking relief for the accused, making it clear that the trial will continue without interruption. The court also directed that the matter be heard on a day-to-day basis, underlining the need for expeditious justice in a case that shocked the conscience of the nation.

The case relates to the brutal lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq in September 2015 in Bisahda village of Dadri, Uttar Pradesh. Akhlaq was allegedly beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of storing and consuming beef. The incident had triggered nationwide outrage and raised serious questions about mob violence, communal intolerance, and the rule of law. The Uttar Pradesh government had moved an applica-

**Victim's family relieved as judiciary refuses to halt trial in 2015 Dadri lynching case**

tion seeking certain reliefs that were widely perceived as an attempt to dilute the case or provide indirect protection to the accused. The court, however, dismissed the plea, stating that there was no legal ground to halt or delay the pro-

ceedings. Emphasising the gravity of the offence, the court observed that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done.

Legal experts view the court's order for daily hearings as a strong message against unnecessary delays in sensitive criminal cases. Prolonged trials, they argue, often erode public faith in the justice system and cause prolonged suffering to victims' families. By ordering continuous hearings, the court has sought to ensure

accountability and timely adjudication.

Akhlaq's family welcomed the court's decision, expressing hope that justice, long delayed, may finally be delivered. They reiterated that the case is not just about one family, but about safeguarding constitutional values and ensuring that mob violence has no place in a democratic society. The Dadri lynching had become a symbol of rising vigilantism in the country, with debates extending beyond the courtroom into Parliament, civil society, and international forums. The latest court order has once again brought the case into focus, renewing discussions on state responsibility, protection of minority rights, and the urgent need to curb mob justice. As the trial proceeds with daily hearings, all eyes will now be on the judicial process, which many believe will set an important precedent in dealing with cases of lynching and hate crimes in India.

45 Passengers Escape as Bus Catches Fire

FIROZABAD

A major tragedy was averted on Tuesday afternoon when a private bus carrying 45 passengers caught fire on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway near Sirsaganj. The bus was transporting Nepalese nationals back to Nepal after a pilgrimage to Ajmer Sharif.

Around 3:00 PM, smoke began billowing from the vehicle near milestone 76. The driver, Chhunu Mishra, displayed remarkable presence of mind by immediately pulling over and ensuring all passengers evacuated before the fire fully engulfed the bus.

SIR row: Opposition vs government in winter session showdown

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly witnessed heated scenes during the winter session as opposition parties raised concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Opposition members demanded a detailed discussion, alleging excessive workload on Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during the process and claiming that 10 BLOs had died while on duty. The proposal for debate was rejected by the Chair, leading to protests inside the House. Congress Legislature

**Congress alleges 10 BLO deaths during SIR, seeks compensation and jobs for families**

Party leader Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' initiated the discussion, stating that teachers and rev-

enue staff deployed as BLOs were being overburdened with door-to-door verification after completing regular duties. She alleged that despite reported deaths, neither the state government nor the Election Commission had taken adequate cognisance. The Congress demanded a compensation of 50 lakh and government jobs for the families of deceased BLOs.

Samajwadi Party MLA Manoj Kumar Paras also criticised the SIR process, calling it discriminatory and alleging that minorities were being targeted.

Ishika Sharma captains India to roll ball world cup glory

MEERUT

22-year-old Ishika Sharma, hailing from a humble family in Meerut, has scripted history by leading the Indian women's team to victory in the 7th Roll Ball World Cup held in Dubai. In a high-stakes final played between December 14 and 18, 2025, India defeated two-time defending champions Kenya with a score of 3-2 to secure the Gold medal.

Miss India International visit Lucknow

LUCKNOW

Miss India International 2025 Rush Sindhu visited Lakme Academy in Lucknow to mentor makeup students on industry techniques. Welcomed by Haseeb and Sadaf Haider, she shared her journey from age four to achieving her dream. Sindhu credited her success to family support and expressed excitement to taste Lucknow's famous cuisine.

**Vigilance System to Be Set Up in UP Teacher Recruitment Body**

PRAYAGRAJ

The Uttar Pradesh government has directed the Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission (UPESSC) to establish a dedicated vigilance mechanism aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability in the state's teacher recruitment process. The move is part of broader efforts to curb malpractice and ensure merit-based selection



across education departments. Sources confirm the decision follows concerns about delayed recruitments and repeated postponements of examinations.

initiative**UP scales two key road safety schemes**

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has intensified the implementation of the 'Sadak Suraksha Mitra' and 'Rahveer' schemes to strengthen road safety mechanisms and reduce fatalities caused by road accidents. Both initiatives focus on awareness, quick response, and timely medical assistance, particularly during the critical "golden hour" after an accident.

Under administrative directions, activities related to the two schemes have been expanded across districts



tional in 28 districts of Uttar Pradesh. It seeks to train young volunteers to act as safety ambassadors, spreading awareness about traffic rules, accident prevention, and emergency response. A total of 423 volunteers from the state have registered on the 'My Bharat' portal for the initiative.

Rahveer scheme rewards citizens with ₹25,000 for taking accident victims to hospital within the golden hour

The first training camp under this programme was organised in Gautam Buddha Nagar, where volunteers received instruction on road safety regulations, accident management, and public awareness activities. For the current phase, a budget of ₹14

lakh has been sanctioned, with ₹50,000 allocated to each participating district. The funds will be utilised for training programmes, awareness campaigns, and local road safety initiatives. Officials say the programme is expected to contribute to a reduction in accident numbers while also building a sense of civic responsibility among young participants.

Alongside this, the 'Rahveer' scheme, launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, focuses on life-saving intervention during the golden hour following road accidents.

Police issue lookout circulars against four accused

VARANASI

Police Commissionerate has issued lookout notices against the main accused, Shubham Jaiswal, and his three associates in an illegal cough syrup purchase, sale, and storage case. The other accused named in the lookout notices are Akash Pathak, Devesh Jaiswal, and Amit Jaiswal. Police teams are conducting continuous raids to trace and arrest all four, who are currently absconding.

According to DCP Kashi Zone, Shubham Jaiswal carries a reward of ₹50,000, while efforts are underway to apprehend the remaining accused. Authorities are also collecting information from the Drug

SIT begins questioning associates after cough syrup worth ₹60 lakh seized from warehouse

Department regarding the network involved in the illegal trade.

Police investigations have revealed that the accused worked together as a group, with specific roles assigned for opening firms, managing bank accounts, and handling financial transactions. Several firms and accounts were allegedly opened in the names of local youths in exchange for monthly payments.

Delhi HC grants bail to former BJP MLA Sengar in rape case

LUCKNOW

The Delhi High Court has granted bail to former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who is serving a life sentence in the Unnao rape case. A bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad and Justice Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar suspended Sengar's sentence until the final hearing of his appeal against conviction. The court ordered his release on a personal bond of ₹15 lakh, subject to multiple conditions.

As per the order, Sengar must stay at least five kilometres away from the victim, report to the police every Monday, surrender his passport, and remain within Delhi. The court made it clear that violation of any condition would lead to immediate cancellation of bail.

Sengar was convicted in

**Victim safety measures reiterated; Sengar barred from contacting survivor and leaving Delhi**

December 2019 by a Delhi trial court, which had ordered that he remain in prison for the rest of his life. The case, involving the rape of a minor in 2017, was investigated by the CBI after directions from the Supreme Court, which had transferred the trial from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi due to concerns over fairness and safety.

Deputy CM Maurya addresses 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram

LUCKNOW

Deputy Chief Minister and Leader of the House in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, Keshav Prasad Maurya, on Monday spoke during a discussion marking the 150th anniversary of the composition of Vande Mataram. He described the song not merely as a composition but as the "eternal consciousness of India" and an affirmation of faith in the motherland.

In his address, Maurya linked the spirit of Vande Mataram to a range of government policies and welfare schemes. He cited initiatives such as housing for the poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the provision of tap water and electricity connections, free ration distribution, and the Ayushman Bharat health scheme as contemporary manifestations of the

**Keshav Prasad Maurya calls "Eternal Consciousness of India," links development schemes to its spirit**

song's ethos. He also referenced the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in this context. Maurya outlined future goals, stating that the path forward involves working towards a developed India and a developed Uttar Pradesh by 2047.

IIT Kanpur Implements Digital IDs and QR Code Entry System

KANPUR

In a significant move toward campus modernization, IIT Kanpur has introduced digital identification cards for all students and faculty. Alongside these digital IDs, the institute has transitioned to a QR-code-based entry system for visitors to enhance security and streamline administrative processes.

Deputy Director Prof. Braj Bhushan stated that the digital IDs will serve as a permanent, secure repository for students' academic and extracurricular records. All campus



employees will be issued ID cards featuring QR codes that store their complete professional details, facilitating easier verification and data management.

The previous manual registration system, which relied on paper slips at the main gate, has been replaced.

The biggies that flopped

Year Ender
2025

Emergency

Kangana Ranaut's directorial *Emergency*, in which she also played the lead role, is undoubtedly one of the best films that we have watched in 2025. However, the film failed to make a mark at the box office. It collected Rs 18.35 crore against the reported budget of Rs 60 crore.

Deva

While Shahid Kapoor's dance steps did create some bhasad, *Deva* failed to impress the audience, and became a flop at the box office. According to the reports, the film was made on a budget of Rs 50 crore, and it collected Rs 33.9 crore at the box office.

De De Pyaar De 2

One more film of Ajay Devgn failed to make a mark at the box office this year. We are talking about *De De Pyaar De 2*. The movie, which also starred Rakul Preet Singh, was reportedly made on a budget of Rs 135 crore, but it only collected Rs. 74.17 crore.

Sikandar, War 2 and other Bollywood films that were expected to take the box office by storm but became flops

2025 wasn't a great year for Bollywood. While films like *Chhava*, *Sitaare*, *Zameen Par*, *Dhurandhar* performed very well at the box office, many biggies were expected to take the box office by storm, but became a flop.

Son of Sardaar 2

Ajay Devgn starrer *Son of Sardaar 2* became a disaster at the box office. According to reports, it was made on a budget of around Rs 130 crore, and it collected only Rs 46.82 crore at the box office.

Sikandar

Salman Khan starrer *Sikandar* was reportedly made on a budget of Rs 200 crore, and it collected only Rs 110.1 crore at the box office. There were high expectations from this AR Murgadoss' directorial, but it failed to impress the critics and the audience.

War 2

The biggest disappointment of the year has to be *War 2*. The Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR, and Kiara Advani starrer collected Rs 236.55 crore at the box office against the reported budget of Rs 400 crore.

'Will sit back and watch a Xmas movie'

Actress Anya Singh tells us about her Christmas plans & shares childhood memories

Christmas memories from childhood.

A. The whole family would get together during Christmas — all my cousins and masis. We would decorate a Christmas tree and play carols, even if we didn't know the lyrics to all of them. It was all about enjoying ourselves. I find Christmas a very cozy and wholesome experience. Plus, in Delhi, it's really cold, so it gets nice and cozy with everybody.

Views

Although Anya Singh has been part of projects such as *Bajatey Raho* (2013), *Qaidi Band* (2017) and *Stree 2* (2024), it was this year, with *The Badmash* of Bollywood, that she struck gold. Next up, she is starring in the much-anticipated *Border 2*. With Christmas right around the corner, we asked her what plans she has this year. Excerpts:

Q. Is there a fixed Christmas plan you follow every year?

A. No, because I'm travelling. It depends on work and where I am. Ideally, I would love to be at home with family.

Q. Two of your favourite

Q. Do you have any plans for Christmas this year?

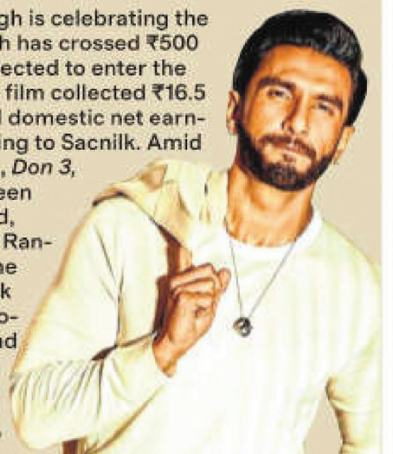
A. Not yet. Actually, I think I'm just gonna sit back and watch a Christmas movie. I thoroughly enjoy *The Grinch*. Every year, I repeat and watch it!



Filmy Shots

Ranveer Singh's Don 3 postponed?

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh is celebrating the success of *Dhurandhar*, which has crossed ₹500 crore domestically and is expected to enter the ₹900 crore club globally. The film collected ₹16.5 crore on Monday, taking total domestic net earnings to ₹571.75 crore, according to Sacnilk. Amid all this, according to Pinkvilla, *Don 3*, which he was heading, has been postponed. A source revealed, "With *Dhurandhar*'s success, Ranveer is clear about the films he wants next. He is keen to work with Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Lokesh Kanagaraj, and Atlee, and avoid back-to-back gangster films. He has asked Jai Mehta to prepone *Pralay*, aiming to start it sooner than planned."

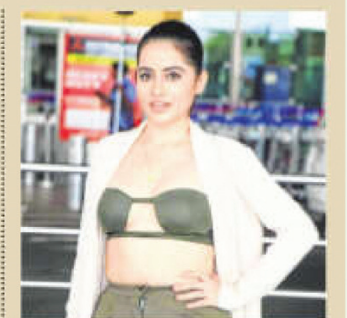


Randeep Hooda, Lin Laishram celebrate birthday together

Randeep Hooda and Lin Laishram spent the past weekend celebrating an intimate and joyous occasion as they marked Lin's birthday with their closest friends and family. The celebration comes at a particularly



special time for the couple, who are currently expecting their first child together. The intimate gathering was hosted over the weekend in the presence of close friends and well-wishers, creating an atmosphere of warmth, love and togetherness.



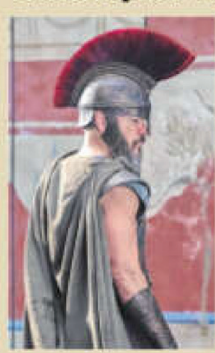
Uorfi Javed shares shocking incident

Uorfi Javed recently worried her social media followers after sharing a photo on her Instagram story from a police station at 5 am, describing it as the 'scariest' experience of her life. She later revealed that at 3:30 am, some men kept ringing her doorbell for about 10 minutes. When she went to check, one man was standing outside insisting she open the door, while another lingered at the corner.



Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey trailer out

Universal Pictures India has officially unveiled the much-awaited trailer of *The Odyssey*, the next cinematic spectacle from Academy Award-winning filmmaker Christopher Nolan. A mythic action epic, the film brings Homer's foundational saga to the big screen like never before. The film stars Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson and Lupita Nyong'o, with Zendaya and Charlize Theron also featuring in key roles. *The Odyssey* is produced by Emma Thomas and Christopher Nolan under their banner Syncopy, with Thomas Hayslip serving as executive producer.



Christmas festivities begin

Bollywood actors Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan, along with Saif's sister Soha Ali Khan, have ushered in the Christmas festivities with a warm and intimate family celebration, placing the focus firmly on togetherness and holiday cheer.

Soha took to her Instagram handle and shared pictures from her glittering Christmas moments, with the festive joy appearing to be shining brightest at home. The photographs reflected a cosy, homely setting adorned with Christmas decorations, twinkling lights and a decorated Christmas tree.

Speaking of which, Soha's first picture shows the actor at Saif and Kareena's residence, which was also decked up for Christmas. Joining the frame were little Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan, popularly known as Jeh, adding to the warmth of the family moment.

Soha followed up with more family moments with her mother, Sharmila Tagore, and her daughter, Inaaya Naumi Kemmu. She essentially captured the festive fervour, with bright lights, decorated Christmas trees, gifts, and of course, a Santa Claus taking centre stage. In several pictures, Soha was also seen decorating the Christmas tree along with her daughter, reflecting the family-oriented nature of the celebrations. Sharing the pictures, Soha wrote in the caption, "And Christmas week has officially begun! #christmas #decor #christmasdecoration #christmastree."



Views

Briefs

GALVESTON

Mexican navy plane crashes, at least 5 dead

A small Mexican Navy plane transporting a young medical patient and seven others crashed Monday near Galveston, killing at least five people and setting off a search in waters along the Texas coast, officials said. Four of the people aboard were Navy officers, and four were civilians, including a child, Mexico's Navy said in a statement. Two of the passengers were from a nonprofit that provides aid to Mexican children with severe burns, including transports to a hospital.

ISLAMABAD

Loss-making PIA sold for Rs 135 bn

Pakistan on Tuesday successfully organised the privatisation process of the national flag-carrier, selling it at Rs 135 billion to a consortium led by a local investment company. The ceremony to privatise the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was held in Islamabad where all three pre-qualified parties, including Lucky Cement, private airline Airblue and investment firm Arif Habib, deposited their sealed bids into a transparent box. The bids were opened in the second phase of the ceremony, where Arif Habib emerged the highest bidder.

PESHAWAR

5 policemen killed in attack in Pak

Armed assailants opened fire at a police van, killing five policemen in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday. The incident occurred in the Karak district when the police officials were on a routine patrol. District Police Officer Saud Khan said that all five police personnel in the van have been killed.

NEW PROJECT | New-generation battleships to be bigger, faster, hundred times more powerful than previous vessels, says Prez

US navy plan unveiled: Trump-class warships

WASHINGTON

US president Donald Trump has announced plans for a new generation of US navy warships to be known as "Trump-class", claiming they will be bigger, faster and "a hundred times more powerful than any previous US-built warship".

"Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water," Trump said as he unveiled the proposal on Monday. The project will begin with the construction of two battleships and could eventually expand to 20 to 25 vessels. The Guardian reports.

The announcement was made at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Palm Beach, Florida, where three posters on easels displayed potential images of a new Trump-class battleship named the USS Defiant.

The navy secretary, John Phelan, said: "Our adversaries will know, when the Trump-class USS Defiant appears on the horizon, American victory at sea is inevitable."



Claim without a full stop: Stopped India-Pak war

New York/Washington: US President Donald Trump has repeated his claim of resolving the India-Pakistan conflict and asserted that Islamabad's leadership credited him for saving millions of lives. "We stopped a potential nuclear war between Pakistan and India. And the head of Pakistan, a highly respected General, he's a Field Marshal and also the Prime Minister of Pakistan, said President Trump saved 10 million lives, maybe more..." Trump said Monday.

Past US battleship classes were typically named after states, but Trump's name already adorns numerous hotels and golf clubs. Critics have described the move as

part of a broader narcissistic spree. Earlier this month, Trump's administration renamed the US Institute of Peace in Washington after him.

Military hits another 'drug boat' in east Pacific, 1 dead

Washington: The US military said Monday that it had conducted another strike against a boat it said was smuggling drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing one person.

In a social media post, US Southern Command said, "Intelligence confirmed the low-profile vessel was transiting along known narco-trafficking routes in the Eastern Pacific and was engaged in narco-trafficking operations."

A video posted by US Southern Command shows splashes of water near one side of the boat. After a second salvo, the rear of the boat catches fire. More splashes engulf the craft and the fire grows. In the final second of the video, the vessel can be seen adrift with a large patch of fire alongside it.

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Justice Department released a new trove of documents on Tuesday from its investigation into the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, including an email from a prosecutor indicating President Trump had traveled aboard his private jet "many more times than previously has been reported".

The latest release includes around 30,000 pages of documents, with many redactions, and dozens of video clips, including several purporting to be shot inside a federal detention center. Epstein was found dead in 2019 in a New York jail. His death was ruled a suicide.

In one of those emails, dated January 7, 2020, an unidentified prosecutor in New York wrote that flight records showed Trump had flown on Epstein's private jet eight times during the 1990s, which was more than investigators then were aware of. Among those were "at least four flights" on which Ghislaine Maxwell was also aboard. Maxwell is serving a 20-year prison sentence for helping Jeffrey Epstein sexually abuse underage girls.



Destroying reputation of 'innocent' visitors: Prez

Washington: Donald Trump has broken his silence on the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files, complaining that people who "innocently met" the convicted paedophile could have their reputations destroyed. In his first comments since the justice department began releasing the materials on Friday, the US president on Monday expressed sympathy for prominent Democrats who have come under renewed scrutiny over their associations with Epstein.

On one flight, the only three passengers were Epstein, Trump and a 20-year-old woman whose name was redacted. "On two other flights, two of the passengers, respectively, were women who would be possible witnesses in a Maxwell case," the document stated.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the

email regarding Trump's alleged flights with Epstein in the 1990s.

In another email, an unidentified person wrote in 2021 that they had recently been looking through data the government obtained from Steve Bannon's cellphone and found an "image of Trump and Ghislaine Maxwell". The government redacted the photo.

'Bibi sought to evade 2023 attack blame'

JERUSALEM

A former close aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says that immediately following the October 2023 Hamas attack that triggered Israel's two-year war in Gaza, the Israeli leader instructed him to figure out how the premier could evade responsibility for the security breach.

Former Netanyahu spokesperson Eli Feldstein, who faces trial for allegedly leaking classified information to the press, made the explosive accusation during an extensive interview with Israel's

Kan news channel on Monday night.

Critics have repeatedly accused Netanyahu of refusing to accept blame for the deadliest attack in Israel's history. But little is known about Netanyahu's behaviour in the days immediately following the attack, while the premier has consistently resisted an independent state inquiry.

Netanyahu's office called the interview a "long series of mendacious and recycled allegations made by a man with clear personal interests who is trying to deflect responsibility from himself," Hebrew media reported.

Pro-Palestine protest: Greta held in London

London: Greta Thunberg was arrested in central London on Tuesday while supporting pro-Palestinian activists who are staging a hunger strike to protest their imprisonment while awaiting trial on charges related to a series of earlier demonstrations.

The protest group Prisoners for Palestine shared a video showing the 22-year-old Swede holding a sign supporting the hunger strikers and their organisation, known as Palestine Action. The British government earlier this year banned Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation. —Agencies

Singer Chris Rea passes away at 74

LONDON

Singer Chris Rea, widely known for the festive hit Driving Home for Christmas, has died aged 74, his family confirmed today.

A somewhat reluctant pop-star, the Middlesbrough native was shy of the spotlight, and even admitted rallying against the record label's decision to release his biggest hit - though accepted he was thankful when they eventually did in 1986.

The drive-time anthem came to exist while Rea was on a driving ban - more on



that in our earlier post.

Reluctant or otherwise, he even resisted a more marketable name swap, the fame the track brought Rea is indisputable; nearly 40 years on, the single took a spot at 30 in this year's UK Christmas top 40.

'Call of Duty' creator Zampella is no more

WASHINGTON

Vince Zampella, who co-created the popular video game series Call of Duty, has died in a car crash in California, aged 55.

Zampella's death was confirmed by Electronic Arts, which owns Respawn Entertainment, a game studio he co-founded.

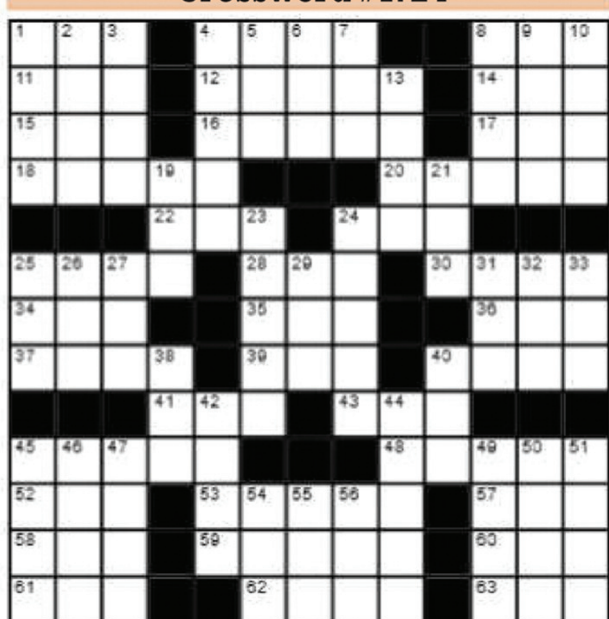
The influential video game developer was travelling in a Ferrari with another person, when it crashed and caught fire on a highway in Los Angeles on Sunday. "This is an unimaginable



loss, and our hearts are with Vince's family, his loved ones, and all those touched by his work," a spokesperson for Electronic Arts told the BBC.

Officials said the person on the vehicle's passenger seat was ejected while the driver remained trapped. It is unclear if Zampella was driving the car and who the other person inside was.

Crossword #1724



Across

- Over the counter, acronym
- Hinged metal clasp
- Crime syndicate
- River, to Juanita
- A blackboard support
- Rock musician Brian
- Automated Trade System, abbr.
- Slow - musically speaking
- VWII battleground
- Faithful
- Revolving aerofoil
- Cut off
- Mass of salt water
- A raw ___ : what you get when you are treated badly?
- Stereo component
- Devoted followers
- Part of a play
- Chinese principle
- Regional Airline Assoc.
- Fleece
- BSE deal
- Golden Fleece ship
- In favour of
- A unit of illumination
- Trunk
- Not at any time
- Celebrated fighter pilot
- Many (prefix)
- Anger
- Required Time of Arrival
- Make into law
- Eur. Space Agency
- Outdo or surpass
- Assoc. of Pub. Add. Engrs.
- Marry, take a bride

Down

- By mouth
- Former Yugoslav leader
- Comfortable
- A greeting
- Battery size
- Former Soviet prov.
- Wooden nail or pin
- Come into contact
- I am ___ it : I am aware of it? (2,2)
- Churl
- Traditional tales
- The entirety
- Clod
- Courtyard
- Reel or bobbin
- Crow-like bird
- Green prefix?
- From ___ z : all (1,2)
- Atlas entry
- Flightboard abbr.
- Badger
- S. American city ___ Paolo
- Records
- Get rid of
- The Eternal City
- Combine
- Bitter sweet
- Eight as a prefix
- Harvest corn
- Opinion
- Irish
- See what's in the book
- Girl's name
- Drink like a cat
- Terminal Control Area, abbr.

YOUR DAY By Vinayak Vishwas Karandikar



ARIES: Today is the day to fulfil your family responsibilities, study, and work. Expect expenditure on family businesses, properties, education, or vehicles. Those in education, the automobile sector, the dairy business, and the liquid product business will get success. You may spend the day studying or doing household activities. Lucky no: 3; Lucky colour: Yellow



TAURUS: Today is the day to communicate and travel. Expect expenditure on studies, travel, communication, or presentation. People in communications, networking, and advertising will get success. You may study or travel with your family. Lucky no: 8; Lucky colour: Blue



GEMINI: Today is the day for family responsibilities. You may face a loss in business. Expect expenditure on family or premium services. Those in banking, dentistry, healthcare, and the occult will get success. A dispute in your family life is indicated. Some people may suffer from throat pain or eye problems. Lucky no: 9; Lucky colour: Red



CANCER: Today is the day to focus on business and spouse. Expect expenditure on health, businesses, or spouses. People doing business or those in jobs, their confidence and personal efforts will lead them towards success. You will be in a good mood and can enjoy some good family time. You will feel healthy and fit today. Lucky no: 6; Lucky colour: Pink



LEO: Today is the day to travel, earn, and spend. Expect expenditure on ill health or travel. People working in the import-export business, hospitals, the investment sector, tourism, and banks will benefit. You may not give sufficient time to your family due to excess work or illness. Lucky no: 1; Lucky colour: Orange



VIRGO: Today, all your wishes will be fulfilled. Your gains are connected with your will and efforts. Those who are self-employed or in fields like entertainment and sports will get success. Your children's advice will help you. You may have a good time with your children. Overall, it's a healthy day, but some people may suffer from back pain. Lucky no: 2; Lucky colour: White



LIBRA: Today, you can balance family time and office time. Expect expenditure on businesses, vehicles, or houses. People working in warehouses, the automobile sector, and the property business will benefit. Some people may work from home or do household activities. Some people may suffer from knee pain or chest pains. Lucky no: 5; Lucky colour: Green



SCORPIO: Today, your gains are connected to your luck. Expect expenditure on communication, higher education, or religious rituals. People associated with religious activities, tourism, and education will benefit. You can have a good time with your father and siblings. Lucky no: 2; Lucky colour: Silver



SAGITTARIUS: Today, you will be engaged in solving your business problems or family problems. A loss is indicated in business, so plan accordingly. Those in banking, dentistry, healthcare, and the occult will get success. A dispute in your family life is indicated. Some people may suffer from throat pain, eye issues, or dysentery. Lucky no: 1; Lucky colour: Orange



CAPRICORN: Today is the day to focus on your business and spouse. Expect expenditure on health, or spouses. People doing business or those in jobs, their confidence and personal efforts will lead them towards success. You will be in a good mood and can enjoy good family time. Lucky no: 5; Lucky colour: Green

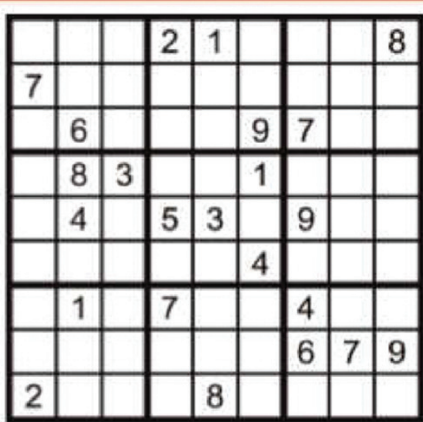


AQUARIUS: Today is the day to travel, earn, and spend. You may receive foreign funds. You may have to pay medical bills. People working in the import-export business, hospitals, the investment sector, tourism, and banks will benefit. You may not give sufficient time to your family due to work commitments or illness. Lucky no: 7; Lucky colour: Grey



PISCES: Today is the day to enjoy both your family and business life. Expect expenditure on parties, entertainment, children, or wife. People in the share market, the art field, the entertainment sector, and religious activities will get success. It's a day to propose to your loved ones. Some people may suffer from back pain or lower back pain. Lucky no: 9; Lucky colour: Red

SUDOKU



Solution

Across: 1. OTC, 4. Hesp, 8. Mob, 11. Rio, 12. Easel, 14. Enr, 15. RTS, 16. Lingo, 17. ETO, 18. Lingo, 19. Lingo, 20. RMA, 21. Lingo, 22. RMA, 23. Lingo, 24. RMA, 25. Lingo, 26. Lingo, 27. Lingo, 28. RMA, 29. Lingo, 30. RMA, 31. Lingo, 32. RMA, 33. Lingo, 34. RMA, 35. Lingo, 36. Lingo, 37. Lingo, 38. RMA, 39. Lingo, 40. RMA, 41. Lingo, 42. RMA, 43. Lingo, 44. RMA, 45. Lingo, 46. RMA, 47. Lingo, 48. RMA, 49. Lingo, 50. RMA, 51. Lingo, 52. RMA, 53. Lingo, 54. RMA, 55. Lingo, 56. RMA, 57. Lingo, 58. RMA, 59. Lingo, 60. RMA, 61. Lingo, 62. RMA, 63. Lingo, 64. RMA, 65. Lingo, 66. RMA, 67. Lingo, 68. RMA, 69. Lingo, 70. RMA, 71. Lingo, 72. RMA, 73. Lingo, 74. RMA, 75. Lingo, 76. RMA, 77. Lingo, 78. RMA, 79. Lingo, 80. RMA, 81. Lingo, 82. RMA, 83. Lingo, 84. RMA, 85. Lingo, 86. RMA, 87. Lingo, 88. RMA, 89. Lingo, 90. RMA, 91. Lingo, 92. RMA, 93. Lingo, 94. RMA, 95. Lingo, 96. RMA, 97. Lingo, 98. RMA, 99. Lingo, 100. RMA.

Chaitanya Swarupam

Dr S Ainavolu

Chaitanyam is energy: one has movement, and one is pure consciousness. What is that for which we have a constant quest? These are some of the difficult questions seekers come across.

We easily appreciate our existence in terms of physical body. It is the easiest one to feel and prove. The next level is the energy. As GOD is driving our existence through sthula and shakti swaroopas, we are not meaningful without Chaitanya. Imagine the body of self without the shakti. It is called different and not tolerated. Thus, the shareera on which we pride and spend our life on bhoga—none of this carries the required weight. The sthula is only a means to do the dharma+acharana by which we move towards the revelation of the Chaitanya.

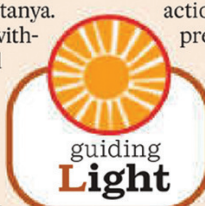
Shabdha Swaroopa Chaitanya is acknowledged by many. The ananta sound at the anahatam is said to be the Chaitanya. We don't hear the sound but experience it as the wise counsel. 'Ek Omkar' is the saying in a prominent method. If Chaitanya is ever present in us and making us do activities and experience life, then why are we in this "sleep-awake condition"? Is it simplified maya that is

making us knowingly ignore the satya?

When in a state of plain introspection, we do feel the thoughts, the serenity below these thoughts, and then Chaitanya below this serenity. At this moment, we feel the infinite bliss, but often it is temporary. We slip back into our mundane existence. For the common people and sincere seekers, a genuine karma involvement, meaning deep action embeddedness, often presents this. We do not realise it during that state, but we recognise it once the state is over.

Can we do anything consciously to realise it or experience it more often, or, as the best-case condition, stay in that state? Is it our action or karma that takes us to it? Or is it that grace which descends, depending on our previous karma and present intensity of seeking? The questions are many, and the possible answer is that it dawns when the karta, karma, and kriya converge. When such a merger happens, there is nothing to say. Only blissful silence. It is the experience beyond all words.

Dr. S. Ainavolu is a Mumbai-based teacher of Management and Tradition.



TAROT MESSAGE FOR THE DAY THE DEVIL

A day to perform cleansing rituals, declutter and stay away from addictions, temptations and unhealthy attachments.

Follow the right path. Someone or a situation may trigger you, so be calm and do not let your temper get out of hand.

Keep information to yourself and avoid oversharing. Be mindful of fraud and scammers.

Tip for the day: Listen to Hanuman Chalisa and Kalbhairav Ashtakam.



Lots of divine miracles your way, Sheetal Sapan Mhatre.

Briefs

DUBAI

Deepti Sharma becomes No.1 T20I bowler



Star India all-rounder Deepti Sharma on Tuesday rose to the top of the ICC women's T20I bowling rankings for the first time in her career. The 28-year-old's haul of 1 for 20 in the opening T20I of their home series against Sri Lanka in Visakhapatnam was enough for the off-spinner to overtake Australia fast bowler Annabel Sutherland, pipping her by one rating point to sit at the top of the table with 737 points. Pacer Arundhati Reddy has climbed up five places to be 36th while spinner Shree Charani is up 19 places to 69th. Jemimah Rodrigues moved up five spots to ninth among T20I batters while Smriti Mandhana continues to be the top ranked Indian at the third spot. South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt has replaced Mandhana as the No.1 batter in the women's ODI rankings.

NEW DELHI

DC appoint Jemimah as captain



Delhi Capitals on Tuesday appointed India batter Jemimah Rodrigues as captain ahead of the 2026 Women's Premier League season. The 25-year-old recently played a key role in India's ICC Women's World Cup triumph, scoring a scintillating unbeaten 127 in a record chase of 339 against Australia in the semi-final. "It is an absolute honour to be named captain of the Delhi Capitals, and I am deeply grateful to the owners and the support staff for placing their faith in me to lead this team," Rodrigues said in a release. "It has truly been a dream year for me and my family, winning the World Cup and now being entrusted with this wonderful opportunity," she added.

NEW DELHI

Hyundai ties up with ICC for six events



Hyundai Motor Company on Tuesday announced a global partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC), becoming a premier partner for six prestigious tournaments from 2026 to 2027. As a

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY | Rishabh, Suryakumar and Abhishek add more star power to the one-day tournament

Kohli, Rohit and Gill set to ignite domestic season

BENGALURU

The charismatic presence of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma alongside a host of top India cricketers lends unprecedented gravitas to the Vijay Hazare One-Day Trophy beginning on Wednesday, giving all of them a chance to prove a point amid a renewed focus on domestic grind.

The velvety tapestry of superstars also features Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Abhishek Sharma among others but none attracts as much attention as Kohli and Rohit.

Their appearance has a direct link to the BCCI's decision of making at least two Vijay Hazare Trophy matches mandatory for India cricketers. But in case of Kohli, who is playing in this tournament after 15 years, and Rohit, it is a sharp reminder that they are no longer immune to the evolving power equations within Indian cricket.

The celebrated pair remain the biggest current stars of the game but that status can't mask the reality that both cricket and time have entered the freeway. They are now the Beatles looking for chart space in the age of Beach Bunny. But watching that gradual unfolding of struggle itself is fascinating.

Can Ro-Ko fire?

Rohit has made it clear that he will play the first two matches of Mumbai against Sikkim and Uttarakhand in Jaipur on December 24 and 26.

Kohli, who has been training with former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar in Mumbai, has not yet decided as to which two or three



Delhi cricketers Virat Kohli (R) and Rishabh Pant during a practice session at BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

matches he will play for Delhi.

Delhi will open their Elite Group D campaign against Andhra in Bengaluru at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) after Karnataka government denied permission to hold matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium citing security reasons, following which they will face Gujarat.

Since his arrival in Bengaluru on Tuesday night, assumptions are being made that the star batter will play those two matches.

Both Kohli and Rohit still have the power to choose their games, but what they don't seem to have is the power to choose their destiny.

An underwhelming outing in the Vijay Hazare Trophy will not have a say in their selection for the ODIs against New Zealand next month, but more than anyone else, Kohli and Rohit would also know that the space around them is shrinking.

They know that younger names are breathing down

their necks. How long can they resist the weight of domestic runs scored by a rising star? There are plenty of them too in the likes of Yash Dhull or R Smaran.

The recent omission of Gill from India's T20 World Cup squad and the inclusion of Ishan Kishan on the back of a stellar Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a grim pointer to what might happen with Kohli and Rohit if runs don't flow easily from their bats.

If the selectors can drop Gill, the current high-value property in Indian cricket, because of combination compulsions, then not many will be spared.

So, for Kohli and Rohit, this is a battle with themselves to find the inner fire in the modest surroundings of a domestic event, as much as it is against a tight circling younger generation of players.

Gill and Pant eye fruitful outing

Besides the Ro-Ko show, there are several interesting subplots to explore.

Pant, a Test certainty, will be eager to bring himself back in contention for white ball formats selection. The wicket-keeper batter has not represented the country in either ODIs or T20Is since August 2024.

Gill, on the other hand, will be picking himself up after the selectors' call to overlook him for the upcoming T20 World Cup. The right-hander will be aiming to vent some of that frustration while turning out for Punjab.

For Gill, it will be a good warm-up ahead of next month's three-match ODI series against New Zealand in which he will lead India.

Shafali, spin trio do star turns for India

Hosts beat Sri Lanka by seven wickets in second women's T20I to take 2-0 lead in five-match series

VISAKHAPATNAM

Shafali Verma hit a blistering unbeaten 69 as India made short work of a paltry target to outclass Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the second Women's T20 International here on Tuesday.

India now lead the five-match series 2-0 after another one-sided victory, having restricted Sri Lanka to a modest 128 for 9 through a collective display of disciplined bowling from the spin trio of seasoned Sneha Rana, ably complemented by young spinners Vaishnavi Sharma and Shree Charani.

During the chase, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (14) fell cheaply but Shafali, enjoying new found confidence after a stellar show in the World Cup final, sent the bowlers on a leather-hunt during her 34-ball knock, winning it for her team in just 11.5 overs.

The hosts have now completed back-to-back successful chases within 15 overs which speaks volumes about the unit's sky-high confidence. Shafali's innings had 11 punchy boundaries apart from a maximum.

The floodgates opened when left-arm spinner Inoka Ranaweera bowled a few flighted deliveries and Shafali would step out everytime to hit her over extra cover. Her footwork against slow bowlers was immaculate whether stepping out to loft the ball or rocking back to punch or pull.

Seeing her confidence, the newly appointed Delhi Capitals skipper Jemimah Rodrigues (26 off 15 balls) also attacked as the duo added 58 runs in just 4.3 overs.

By the time Rodrigues was



Shafali Verma. PTI

out trying to hit one six too many, the match as a contest was over. Shafali completed her half-century off just 27 balls and completed the formalities in a jiffy.

Earlier, off-spinner Rana, who got a look-in after Deepti Sharma was ruled out due to fever, showed her utility keeping the Lankan batters under tight leash with figures of 1 for 11 in 4 overs, including a maiden which certainly is a rarity in T20 cricket.

Charani, who made an impression during India's ODI World Cup triumph, took 2 for 23 in her quota of overs, while Vaishnavi after an impressive debut in the opening encounter, finished with 2 for 32, not letting the Islanders get easy runs in her second spell.

The last six wickets fell for just 24 runs, but what stood out during India's bowling effort was their superb ground fielding. After a patchy show in the previous game, the improved sharp-

Scoreboard

Sri Lanka Women

Innings: V Gunaratne c & b Gaud 1, C Athapaththu c Amanjot b Rana 31, H Perera c & b Charani 22, H Samarawickrama run out (Amanjot/Ghosh) 33, K Dilhari c Amanjot b Charani 14, N de Silva c Charani b Vaishnavi 2, K Nuthyanganana run out (Gaud/Ghosh) 11, S Gimhani c Mandhana b Vaishnavi 0, K Kavindi run out (Charani/Ghosh) 1 **Extras:** (B-4, LB-4, W-4) 12

Total: 128-9 (In 20 Overs) **FoW:** 2-1, 38-2, 82-3, 104-4, 109-5, 121-6, 122-7, 125-8. **Bowling:** Kranti Gaud 3-0-21-1, Arundhati Reddy 3-0-22-0, Sneha Rana 4-1-11-1, Amanjot Kaur 2-0-11-0, Vaishnavi Sharma 4-0-32-2, Shree Charani 4-0-23-2.

India Women Innings: T S Mandhana c Kavindi b Dilhari 14, S Verma (not out) 69, J Rodrigues c Dilhari b Kavindi 26, H Kaur b Madara 10, R Ghosh (not out) 1 **Extras:** (W-7, NB-2) 9 **Total:** 129-3 (In 11.5 overs) **FoW:** 29-1, 87-2, 128-3 **Bowling:** Malki Madara 2-5-0-22-1, Kawya Kavindi 3-0-32-1, Kavisha Dilhari 2-0-15-1, Inoka Ranaweera 2-0-31-0, Chamari Athapaththu 1-0-17-0, Shashini Gimhani 1-0-12-0.

ness in the field resulted in three run-outs.

Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Athapaththu made 31 off 24 balls.

Chinnaswamy can't host Hazare match

Bengaluru Police Commissioner denies permission for Dec. 24 game

BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh on Tuesday said that permission has been denied to hold the Vijay Hazare trophy match at the city's Chinnaswamy Stadium on December 24, a day after a government appointed committee inspected the facility in light of the June 4 stampede that killed 11 persons during the RCB's IPL victory celebrations. The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) had sought permission to hold the match without allowing spectators for now.

State Home Minister G Parameshwara had constituted a committee to examine on giving permissions to hold cricket matches at the stadium. The committee had visited the stadium on Monday.

Matches were stopped at the Chinnaswamy stadium after the stampede outside it during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) IPL victory celebration on June 4.



Former cricketer and Karnataka State Cricket Association President Venkatesh Prasad. PTI

KSCA spokesperson Vinay Mruthyunjaya said that the Vijay Hazare trophy matches have been shifted to the BCCI Centre of Excellence, on the outskirts of the city.

In a statement, he said that with this proactive approach and full compliance with the recommended measures, KSCA is confident that the necessary permissions for conducting Vijay Hazare Trophy matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium will be granted in the near future.

Team official to investigate drinking habits of Eng players

It follows reports that their mid-Ashes beach resort break may have involved over-indulging of alcohol

MELBOURNE

England's managing director of men's cricket Rob Key says he will investigate the drinking habits of the England team following reports that their mid-Ashes beach resort break may have involved over-indulging of alcohol.

England lost each of the first three tests to allow Australia to retain the Ashes in just 11 days of on-field action.

The England squad visited the resort town of Noosa on the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane between the second and third tests, a long-planned part of the itinerary designed to help players relax and unwind on the long tour.

Key, who did not join the players in Noosa, said he had no problem with the break, but would not be happy if he found evidence of over-indulging.

"If there's things where people are saying that our players went out and drank excessively, then of course



England Test players in a file pic. PTI

we'll be looking into that," he said Tuesday in Melbourne, where the fourth test begins Friday. "Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol for an international cricket team is not something that I'd expect to see at any stage and it would be a fault not to look into what happened there.

From everything that I've heard so far, they actually were pretty well behaved. Very well behaved."

He added: "We've got enough ways of finding out exactly what happened and everything that I've heard so far that they sat down, had

lunch, had dinner, didn't go out late, all of that, had the odd drink. I don't mind that. If it goes past that, then that's an issue as far as I'm concerned."

Key also said he had previously looked into reports that players had been spotted drinking the night before a match in New Zealand shortly before the Ashes.

A short clip of white-ball captain Harry Brook and Jacob Bethell was shared by a member of the public on social media, said to have been taken while they were out in Wellington before the third ODI on Nov. 1.

Cummins doubtful for T20 World Cup?

Australian skipper has been ruled out for 4th Ashes Test, Murphy in

MELBOURNE

Australia skipper Pat Cummins' chances of playing at next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka are "quite grey at the moment" as he battles a back stress issue that has affected his participation in the ongoing Ashes series against England.

Cummins returned to play the third Ashes Test in Adelaide after missing the opening two matches, picking up six wickets to help Australia clinch the series 3-0.

However, the Australian Test and ODI skipper will take no further part in the series and even his participation at the T20 World Cup is also uncertain. All-rounder Mitchell Marsh is Australia's T20I captain.

Todd Murphy will replace the injured Nathan Lyon as Australia's spin bowler

against England beginning Friday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Murphy is set to play his first test in Australia in the Boxing Day match, edging out Matt Kuhnemann and Corey Rocchiccioli for a spot in the 15-man squad named Tuesday.

"Looking forward to the World Cup, whether he will be there or not, I can't really say. It's quite grey at the moment. We're hopeful," head coach Andrew McDonald was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

The fast bowler was diagnosed with a lumbar stress reaction during Australia's tour of the West Indies in July.

He underwent rehabilitation before being cleared for a carefully managed return in Adelaide.



Premier League

Isak sidelined for two months after 'reckless' tackle

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool striker Alexander Isak will be laid up for two months with a broken ankle and fibula from a tackle that coach Arne Slot described as reckless on Tuesday.

Isak had surgery on Monday, two days after he was injured in the act of scoring the opening goal of a 2-1 win over Tottenham in the Premier League.

"It's going to be a long injury, for a couple of

months," Slot said. "It's a big disappointment for him and, as a result, for us.

"This was, for me, a reckless challenge. I've said a lot about the tackle of Xavi Simons (who was sent off for dragging his studs down the calf of Virgil van Dijk in the same game) which for me was completely unintentional.

"I don't think you will ever get an injury out of a tackle like that. But the tackle of (Micky) van de Ven (on Isak), if you make a tackle like that

10 times, 10 times there is a serious chance the player gets a serious injury."

Van de Ven slid into Isak and trapped his shooting foot just after he'd shot. TV analyst and Liverpool great Jamie Carragher defended Van de Ven.

"There's a lot been made about a lot of the challenges in the game from Tottenham players and a lot of them weren't clever," Carragher told Sky Sports on Monday.

"I've put myself in Van de Ven's position and that's a

challenge I'd probably make. He's trying to block it, it's just the follow through. I don't know where else anyone thinks his foot's going to go. He has to make that challenge. You can't let the striker just get a shot away there in that situation. "It's just really bad luck for Isak."

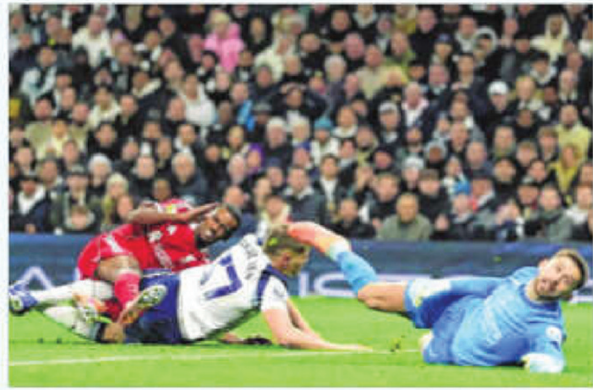
Fulham beat Forest

A record-equalling first half penalty from Raul Jimenez gave Fulham a 1-0 win over lowly Nottingham Forest in the Premier League. The

London side sought to avoid losing three consecutive home league games for only the second time since being promoted in 2022 and Jimenez's precise strike from 12 meters ensured it avoided that fate in an uninspiring encounter.

An uneventful first half came to life seconds before halftime when Fulham was awarded a spot kick following a foul by Douglas Luiz on his fellow Brazilian Kevin.

Jimenez scored for the 11th time in 11 attempts.



Arne Slot described Tottenham player Micky van de Ven's challenge on Alexander Isak as 'reckless'. AP