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

Briefs

CHANDIGARH Law student shoots class mate dead

A first-year student of a private law college in Punjab's Tarn Taran district shot dead a fellow female student inside a classroom on Monday and then shot himself, leaving him critical. CCTV footage showed Prince Raj Singh firing at point-blank range at classmate Sandeep Kaur minutes before the lecture, in the presence of other students. Kaur died on the spot, while Singh was rushed to a city hospital. Both were about 20 and studied at Mai Bhago Law College, Usma village. Police said the crime appeared linked to one-sided "love". The pistol was recovered. Parents sought action against management.

-Rajesh Moudgil

KANPUR 6 injured in Lamborghini accident



An FIR was registered against an 'unidentified person' after a speeding Lamborghini rammed into pedestrians on VIP Road in Kanpur, injuring at least six people, police said. The car allegedly driven by Shivam Mishra, son of Banshidhar Exports owner K K Mishra, hit an autorickshaw and a motorcycle before crashing into an electric pole. Police said Mishra's name is not in the FIR but emerged during the investigation. CCTV footage is being examined, and the vehicles being seized. No arrest has been made. "The accident occurred around 3.15 pm," a senior officer said. All injured were later discharged from hospital, police said.

-PTI

CHANDIGARH Terror accused killed inside jail

An undertrial prisoner accused in a terror case was stabbed to death by a fellow inmate inside Faridabad's Neemka jail Sunday night, police said Monday. The deceased, Abdul Rehman, was attacked by Arun Chaudhary, transferred from Jammu and Kashmir. Police said both were lodged in the same cell and got into an altercation, during which Rehman was fatally hit with a "stone" like object and a sharp-edged weapon. Jail officials said Rehman was accused of conspiring to carry out an explosion in Ayodhya. He was arrested in March 2025 and has been in judicial custody since June. Police recovered phones with incriminating videos.

-Rajesh Moudgil

CHANDIGARH Bomb threats trigger court evacuations

The Punjab and Haryana High Court received a bomb threat on Monday, triggering evacuation and a search operation. Officials said the entire high court complex was evacuated, but the threat later turned out to be a "hoax". Meanwhile, a similar threat was received at the district courts in Panchkula, following which a bomb disposal squad and sniffer dogs were deployed. No suspicious object was found during the search. It was the second time the high court and the Panchkula district courts received such threat emails. Several schools in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh had earlier received similar threat emails.

-Rajesh Moudgil

REAL ISSUE | LoP dares govt to file FIR over 'threat' claims, alleges LS is stalled to block debate on US trade deal

Rahul: PM avoiding LS fearing Naravane book

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not come to the Lok Sabha to reply to the discussion on the motion of thanks to the President's address as he was scared of the issue of former army chief MM Naravane's book.

Gandhi also dared those claiming that there was a threat to the prime minister from members last Thursday to "file an FIR" against the person threatening Modi.

He said the government is scared of having a discussion on the Budget because of the issue of the US deal, the way it was done, and its impact on farmers.

"We are very disturbed about this idea that has been floated that members were going to threaten the PM. There is no question of that. The fact is very clear the prime minister was scared to come to the House not because of the members but because of what I was saying and he is still scared



because he cannot face the truth," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

Impasse Deepens
Parliament faced a widening deadlock on Monday as a confrontation between the government and the Opposition over floor procedures led to a Rajya Sabha walkout and the adjournment of the Lok Sabha.

The friction stems from the Chair's decision to disallow Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi from citing excerpts involving former Army Chief MM Naravane, alongside Speaker Om Birla's recent suggestion that the

Prime Minister's absence was necessitated by potential security threats from Opposition members. In the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge led a walkout after his attempt to discuss the "silencing" of the LoP was ruled off the record. Simultaneously, the Lok Sabha was adjourned after a dispute over a purported agreement to allow Gandhi to speak prior to the Budget debate. While the government maintains that rules must be strictly followed, the Opposition—now moving a resolution to remove the Speaker—alleges a deliberate attempt to sidestep scrutiny on defense and trade issues.

Deal reached with Speaker

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday told the House that he has managed to strike a "deal" with Speaker Om Birla to end the logjam over him being denied an opportunity last week to speak on the 2020 clashes on the Indo-China border. Raising the issue when the House was about to take up the discussion on the Union Budget, Gandhi said the Speaker has assured him to raise his points before the discussion on the Budget. Elaborating on what has been agreed to, Gandhi said, "The agreement is that we'll be allowed to say these points and then the discussion should happen."

Cong women MPs write protest letter

NEW DELHI

Women lawmakers from the Congress have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla accusing him of making "false, baseless, and defamatory allegations" against them while also denying Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi an opportunity to speak in the House.

The letter, headed by the MP from Karur, S Jothimani, alleged that the Speaker, who was the custodian of the House, has been "forced by the ruling party" to level allegations against women MPs, especially those from the Congress.

Pointing out that "established parliamentary convention mandates that both the ruling party and the opposition are allowed to speak, after which the Prime Minister replies," the letter lamented that for four consecutive days Gandhi was "deliberately denied this opportunity" in the Lok

Sabha. It also termed this alleged denial "unprecedented and indefensible."

On the other hand, the women MPs charged that a BJP lawmaker was allowed to speak in a "vulgar and obscene manner about former prime ministers."

The women MPs also wrote about how the Prime Minister had not attended the House at 5 pm on February 4 to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. They alleged that the following day, "clearly pressurised by the ruling party to defend the non-appearance of the Prime Minister," the Speaker issued a statement making "grave allegations against the women MPs of the Congress party."

In this, it was suggested that these MPs, who had protested close to the PM's chair the previous day, posed a threat to him.

The women MPs insisted that their protests have been unrelentingly peaceful, firm, and entirely within democratic norms.

Rajnath misled House over memoir: Rahul

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused Defence Minister Rajnath Singh of misleading the House regarding the memoir of former Army chief General MM Naravane - which the LoP wanted to quote while speaking on the 2020 clashes on the India-China border - by terming it unpublished, when its copies were actually in circulation.

Talking to the media in Parliament complex, Gandhi said the minister "falsely claimed" that the book, titled 'Four Stars of Destiny', had not been published. He also insisted that first he was not allowed to quote from the book and then from a magazine article on it. "The fact is very clear: the Prime Minister was afraid to come to the House, not because of the members, but because of what I was saying.. he cannot face the truth."

Police probe leak of unpublished book

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Special Cell has registered an FIR following the unauthorised circulation of a pre-print version of former Army Chief General MM Naravane's memoir, Four Stars of Destiny.

The investigation focuses on how a PDF of the type-set book, purportedly prepared by Penguin Random House India, appeared on various

websites and social media platforms despite lacking final clearance from relevant authorities.

The leak has transformed from a procedural lapse into a major political flashpoint. Last week, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi displayed a copy of the book within the Parliament complex, triggering a series of disruptions that led to the suspension of eight MPs for the remainder of the Budget session.

Cong terms Budget forgettable

NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Monday criticised the Union Budget 2026-27 as a "cautious" and "forgettable" one in which the schemes announced were many but outlays were low.

Initiating the discussion on the Budget in the Rajya Sabha, Chidambaram questioned the lower allocation under the Budget for critical sectors such as defence, social welfare, science and technology and urban development.



The Congress leader cautioned that while several schemes have been announced in this year's Budget by Nirmala Sitharaman, the outlays for them were "low" or yet to be announced. Therefore, he remarked that "this budget is cautious, it is parsimonious

and forgetful of the past year, and it will vanish."

The senior Congress lawmaker also claimed that the Indian economy has registered a declining growth rate with the nominal growth rate coming down from 12% in 2023-24 to 9.8% in 2024-25, and then further to 8% in 2025-26.

Chidambaram also noted that while the revenue deficit in the current year will be 1.5% and is expected to remain at the level the next year too, it should ideally be brought down to around 1%.

AI should not be substitute for learning: PM to students



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026 with PM', in New Delhi on Monday

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has advised students not to let technology enslave them, saying artificial intelligence should be used for guidance and value addition, not as a substitute for learning.

In the second episode of the ninth edition of the prime minister's annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' event, he noted that mobile phones have become masters of some

children, who cannot even eat without them or without a television screen.

"Every era has faced concerns with new technologies, whether computers or mobile phones. But the fear is unnecessary. Technology must not become the master of human life. You have to make a firm resolve that you will not let technology enslave you," Modi said in an interaction with students that took place in Coimbatore, Raipur, Guwahati and

Gujarat. The prime minister urged students not to be afraid of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), but use them to hone their skills.

"We should try not to make AI or mobile the master; some kids do not eat food unless they watch something on a smartphone. We can use AI efficiently. AI should be used for guidance and value addition, not as a substitute for learning.

Nitish sparks row over 'ee ladki' remarks on ex-CM Rabri Devi

JAGDALPUR

Patna: The Bihar Legislative Council witnessed high drama and sharp exchanges on Monday as opposition MLCs created a ruckus during the proceedings over the suspicious death of a NEET aspirant and an incident in Darbhanga.

Amid the uproar, Leader of the House and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar stood up and strongly reprimanded the opposition, particularly targeting members of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), including former Chief Minister Rabri Devi.

Addressing the House, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "Aap logon ne kuch nah kiya hai. Aap sirf halla karna jaante hain. Aur ye jo teen mahilaein shor macha rahi hain—ye kya jaanti hain? Kya inhein kuch bhi pata hai? Are ee jo ladki hai, kya jaanti hai?" (You people have done nothing. You only know how to create a ruckus. And these three women who are making noise - what do they know? Do they know anything at all? What does this girl know?)

He made the remark while pointing towards former Chief Minister Rabri Devi, triggering further protests from opposition members.

-IANS

Shah: Maoism never benefitted society

JAGDALPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said Maoism never benefitted any society and spread destruction wherever it existed, citing examples of nations like Colombia, Peru and Cambodia.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the three-day division-level 'Bastar Pandum 2026' cultural event at Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, Shah reiterated that the Naxal menace will be uprooted completely from the nation by March 31.

He appealed to Naxalites to surrender and join the mainstream, promising them dignified rehabilitation.

"The Maoist rehabilitation policy of the Chhattisgarh government is the most attractive," the minister asserted.

He also expressed concern over the fact that the remaining Naxals still holding out included young tribal girls.

"They must be sent for rehabilitation as their whole lives lie ahead of them," Shah said.

While assuring that surrendered Naxals would not face any harm, Shah also warned that those who continue to fire bullets, plant IEDs

(Improvised Explosive Devices) and torch schools and hospitals will not be spared.

"Armed violence will be met with a firm response. If someone holds weapons, the response will also be with weapons. Maoism never benefitted any society and spread destruction wherever it existed, including nations like Colombia, Peru and Cambodia," he said.

"We do not want to fight with anyone. Our fight is to protect our tribal brothers and sisters. When IEDs are planted, innocent tribals and children can be killed or permanently disabled. Where does this cruelty come from?" Shah said while urging the remaining Naxalites to lay down their arms.

Maoists shut down schools for decades, depriving generations of education and creating large-scale illiteracy, he rued.

The government has prepared a roadmap to accelerate development in the Bastar region, comprising seven districts, aiming to provide electricity to all villages by December 2027, ensure mobile connectivity in every village, and open a post office or bank branch within every five km, Shah added.

Bomb threat: Pappu Yadav's bail plea remains unheard

PATNA

Two courts in Bihar on Monday received bomb threats by email, prompting the authorities to conduct searches on their premises, in the second such instance of its kind in a month, officials said.

A mail threatening to blow up the Patna Civil Court premises sent the administration into a tizzy. Police personnel, who rushed to the spot to carry out searches, were so far tight-lipped, even as judicial work was suspended for the day, putting on hold, among other things, the bail plea of Independent MP Pappu Yadav.

Security was beefed up at the Bhaagalpur Civil court too, following a bomb threat email received by the authorities. The entire court premises was searched thoroughly, but no suspicious object was found, officials said.

The mail, which claimed that explosives were planted in the civil court, appeared hoax, said a senior district police official on the condition of anonymity.

offgrid

Mixed-gender massages are off the table in Kerala capital

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

There won't be any happy endings in Kerala spas, if Thiruvananthapuram Mayor V V Rajesh gets his way. On Monday the mayor toughened his stand against what he called "cross-massaging" — massage by people of the opposite sex — in spas, saying it is against the culture of the land and will not be allowed in the capital city.

Rajesh said that without effective intervention from authorities, the local culture could change, following the pattern seen in several other cities. His remarks came a day after the BJP-led city corporation announced a strict drive against spas in the capital that are allegedly involved in illegal activities. The civic body's decision came after a recent inci-

dent in Thiruvalla in Pathanamthitta district, where a gangster allegedly raped a spa employee after a dispute.

"Cross-massaging is not allowed in Thiruvananthapuram. Women massaging men and vice versa will lead to a different culture. So, it cannot be permitted. If it is legally permitted, there is no need for us to intervene in it," Rajesh said.

He added that as a first step, the corporation would conduct zonal-wise examinations and verify documents of spas operating within the city limits. He said steps would be taken to ensure that the documents are not fake and to verify that only authorised and licensed activities are being carried out in such establishments.

"If the law mandates that the presence of a qualified masseur is man-

son would be considered illegal," he told the media.

He also pointed out the need for strong intervention against such illegal activities, stating that, as Thiruvananthapuram is a developing port city, it has to welcome different kinds of people for business and other purposes. However, he said that the lack of intervention by authorities would create a precedent for such illegal practices.

The Mayor assured all possible support to institutions that are operating legally. On Sunday, he had announced that the corporation would examine whether spas were being run by criminal gangs, as reported from other parts of the state.

Later in the evening, corporation officials raided a



spa in the city where a woman was allegedly sexually assaulted under the pretext of a job interview. The corporation decided to shut down the spa and issue a notice to its owner.

Businessman dies after consuming weight-loss medicine in Kaushambi, probe ordered

Akhand Bharat Sandesh



Kaushambi: A businessman died under suspicious circumstances after allegedly consuming a weight-loss medicine from an unlicensed source in Kaushambi district, triggering concerns over the sale of unverified herbal and ayurvedic medicines in the region. The incident occurred in the Kokhraj police station area, where Mukesh Kumar Chaurasia, a brick kiln trader and resident of Saiganj village, reportedly visited Bharauli town near the water tank area two days ago to consume a medicine claimed to help reduce obesity. According to family members, the medicine was administered by a person posing as a doctor. Soon after consuming the medicine and tablets, Chaurasia reportedly complained of dizziness

and vomiting before collapsing at the spot. He was rushed to a private hospital in Bharwari, where doctors described his condition as critical and advised immediate referral to Prayagraj. However, Chaurasia died while being taken to Prayagraj for further treatment. Family members alleged that a couple operating from a residential premises in the Bharwari water tank locality has been administering weight-loss medicines to several people, and that multiple deaths have occurred after consumption of such drugs in recent months. They further claimed

that the medicines are sold under the guise of ayurvedic treatment in exchange for large sums of money. Chief Medical Officer Sanjay Kumar said the matter was serious and assured that an inquiry would be conducted. "Though the issue pertains to ayurvedic medicines, we will coordinate with the concerned department and ensure strict action against those found guilty," he said. District in-charge of the Government Ayurvedic and Unani Hospital, Dr Pritam Singh, also confirmed that an investigation would be carried out. "If any individual is found illegally administering medicines or endangering lives, strict action will be taken," he said. Police said they are awaiting a formal complaint from the family, after which further legal proceedings will be initiated.

Two wanted arrested in culpable homicide case in Prayagraj



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: Police in Prayagraj arrested two wanted persons in connection with a culpable homicide case registered at Soraon police station, officials said on Monday. According to police, the accused — Raju Kumar (35) and Guddu Lal Chaudhary (51) — were arrested near Loosanpur bridge under the Soraon police station limits. The duo was wanted in case number 46/2026 registered under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The incident dates back to February 7 when a dispute over money escalated into a

violent altercation in Seveit village of the Soraon area. Police said the accused allegedly assaulted Anil Kumar during a family dispute. He later succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment. Following a complaint lodged by the victim's family, police registered a case and launched a search operation, after which the accused were apprehended. Police said further legal proceedings are underway. The arrest was carried out by a team led by station house officer Keshav Verma, along with constables Arvind Patel, Munish Kumar, Anuj Vajpayee and Prakash Singh.

Poet Aamir Faizabadi Remembered at Jashn-E-Qaim



A Grand Jashn-E-Qaim Mehfil was organised at Bahera Sadat village under Khaga tehsil, where an emotional tribute was paid to the late renowned Shayar-E-Ahle-bait, Aamir Faizabadi. The programme began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Maulana Khadim Abbas Zaidi. The annual Mehfil is organised for Isale-Sawab of the late Syed Bakhshish Abbas and Hussain Abbas Abdi, the respected father and family members of journalist Mohammad Abbas, Block President (Airayan) of the Cyber Journalist Association (CJA). Every year, eminent poets from across the country participate in this literary gathering. This year Mehfil was specially dedicated to the memory of the late Aamir Faizabadi, a fearless poet of Ahlebait and a social reformer. A memento was presented in his honour as a mark of respect and remembrance. People from different sections of society paid glowing tributes, remembering his literary brilliance, social contributions and unwavering devotion to the values of Ahlebait (A.S.). Speakers said that Aamir Faizabadi was not just a poet, but a powerful voice of love, justice and humanity. His absence has created a void in the literary and social landscape which will be deeply felt for years to come. On the occasion, Mohammad Yasir, President of Bharatiya Hussaini Seva Sansthan and younger brother of the late poet, expressed gratitude to the organisers and villagers of Bahera Sadat for the love and respect shown to his brother. He said that carrying forward Aamir Faizabadi thoughts and values would be the true tribute to his legacy. During the Mehfil, renowned poets including Farhan Banarasi, Mudassir Jaunpuri, Munawwar Jalalpuri and Shahanshah Hussain Manjhanpuri presented devotional poetry in praise of Imam Mehdi. A large number of devotees and poetry lovers from Fatehpur and neighbouring districts attended the programme, making it a memorable cultural evening. The event was also attended by Shahanshah Abdi.

APCC president Gaurav Gogoi Press Conference . All the allegations of CM denied at the PC

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President and Jorhat Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi held a press conference at Rajiv Bhavan in Guwahati on Monday, February 9, strongly refuting all the allegations levelled by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. He termed as "completely baseless and a political conspiracy", including the allegations of Pakistan links, Attari border visit, spying claims on wife Elizabeth Colburn Gogoi made on the basis of the SIT report. "These allegations are a pretext of national security, made without any evidence. We will expose every lie. Gogoi termed the CM February 8 press conference as "worse than C-grade cinema", "super flop". In this press conference which lasted for more than two hours, he took a jibe at not presenting any concrete evidence despite the presence of the national media. "The evidence is very weak, only allegations made. If there was so much worry, then why did the last 6 months remain silent?"



asked Gogoi. The SIT mentioned alleged links with Pakistani national Ali Taqueer Sheikh, but the investigation has been stalled without the help of the central government. Gogoi referred to Ali Taqueer work there when Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Gaurav Gogoi described his wife's 2011-12 visit to Pakistan as a legitimate work trip, which was in accordance with security protocols. "The claim of not informing the Assam Police is false. This is profanity," he said.

Terming the Attari border crossing as sensitive, the CM announced to hand over it to the Centre, but Gogoi called it a drama. He said the BJP was raising the issue of national security in its electoral frustration. Gogoi strongly retaliated by questioning the assets of the CM family. Referring to the website and pamphlet 'Who is Himanta Biswa Sarma', he said that documents of 12,000 bighas of land with the CM family are being uploaded by the Public. He said, "Under pressure

from the growing popularity of the Congress, the Chief Minister held a press conference. The CM considers himself Chanakya," he sarcastically said. Attacks on former CM Tarun Gogoi family are 'Politics of revenge'. The confrontation has intensified just ahead of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections. Gogoi called upon the workers to unite. The controversy erupted when the CM, citing 44 pages in the SIT report, claimed that the Gogoi couple shared intelligence with Taqueer Sheikh. The Assam cabinet has decided to hand over the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Gaurav Gogoi also refuted this allegation in today press conference. Gogoi supported the SIT probe from the outset, but sought evidence. In the press conference, Gogoi appealed to the people of Assam to believe in the truth. In political circles, this is being considered as while the CM has warned of legal action in yesterday press conference. Here today,

The Municipal Corporation has identified defaulters and issued a 7-day Notice

Mathura

As per the instructions of the Municipal Commissioner, a total of 100 major defaulters across all zones have been identified. Final 7-day notices have been issued to 55 of these major defaulters and notices will be issued to the remaining defaulters within the next two days. Attachment/sealing Proceedings will be initiated against those who fail to deposit the amount within the stipulated period. During today



recovery drive from major defaulters, a check of 108,000 was received from property number 230/28, Chandralok locality, and a check of 2101,000 was received from property number 276/44, Gandhi Nagar locality. A review of all

recovery officers and tax officials is being conducted in the evening by the Additional Municipal Commissioner. A warning has been issued to employees Satendra and Sumit for failing to meet their recovery targets, and Tax Collector Rakesh Babu reported during the review that no recovery had been made in the last three days. A recommendation has been made to Municipal Commissioner Jag Praveesh to withhold one increment of Rakesh Babu Salary.

DM Reviews Aspirational District Programme in Fatehpur

Fatehpur

A review meeting of the Aspirational District/Aspirational Block Programme was held on Monday at the Mahatma Gandhi Auditorium in the Collectorate under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Ravindra Singh. During the meeting, the progress of various schemes being implemented by different departments was reviewed. During the review, the District Magistrate directed that an explanation be sought from the CDPO of Hathgaon Block for not being aware of the departmental report. The DM reviewed the updated status of schemes related to the 49 key indicators identified by NITI Aayog for Aspirational District/Aspirational Block Hathgaon, covering sectors such as health and nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure. The District Magistrate instructed that timely registration of pregnant women should be ensured and all prescribed examinations (four ANC check-ups) should



be conducted on time. He also emphasized regular vaccination and nutrition facilities for pregnant women and children. Directions were given to the Tuberculosis Officer to increase the TB notification rate, ensure availability of TB testing and medicines and strengthen monitoring mechanisms. The District Programme Officer was instructed to submit an updated report on the number of Anganwadi centres operating in government buildings. The DM also directed that 100 percent saturation of safe drinking water and functional toilets should be ensured in Hathgaon Block. All concerned departments were instructed to upload their updated reports on the respective portals to maintain the district ranking. The District Panchayat

Raj Officer was directed to submit a cross-verification report on the operational status of Bharat Net installed by BSNL in gram panchayats. Furthermore, instructions were issued to complete the remaining road construction works under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana at the earliest with quality standards. The meeting was attended by Chief Development Officer Pawan Kumar Meena, Chief Medical Officer, District Development Officer, District Statistical Officer, Chief Veterinary Officer, Deputy Director of Agriculture, District Agriculture Officer, District Inspector of Schools, District Horticulture Officer, District Programme Officer and other concerned officials.

Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Liberation Campaign to Reach Every Household in Four States

Mathura

Devotees and Public representatives gathered at a Yagna ceremony held in Seloti, Palwal area of Haryana, pledged to transform the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Liberation Campaign into a widespread mass movement. People from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Punjab unanimously declared that this issue is not just about one individual, but is connected to the faith and cultural identity of society, and therefore, it will be taken to every household. After the Yagna, those Present clarified that this movement is not solely the initiative of Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh, but a campaign of public participation. Participants resolved to conduct awareness campaigns in every village and disseminate information to every family. A large number of retired officers and employees, doctors, teachers, thinkers, and representatives of various social and religious organizations were present at the Program. They all resolved to expand the "Let's Go to the



Villages" campaign and organize the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Liberation Jyoti Yatra in every village across the four states. Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh, President of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Liberation Trust, said that it is essential to inform people about the historical facts.

For this purpose, information about the history of the temple and related events will be shared through meetings and dialogue programs in the villages. Public Outreach Through Teams It was decided that small teams would be formed region-wise to conduct a door-to-door contact campaign. Meetings will be held in villages to connect

with every section of society so that the campaign can take on a comprehensive form with public participation. Those present at this issue is connected to faith, history and cultural heritage and it will be taken forward through Peaceful Public Awareness.

ABVP submits memorandum to AU proctor, seeks action to ensure campus peace

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Allahabad University unit, on Monday submitted a memorandum to the university proctor, urging the administration to take immediate steps to maintain peace, social harmony and academic dignity on the campus. In the memorandum, the student organization stated that Allahabad University is a center of learning where discipline, harmony and a healthy academic environment must be upheld at all times. ABVP alleged that certain activities in recent days have disturbed the campus atmosphere and stressed that any attempt to disrupt peace or mutual brotherhood among students is unacceptable. The ABVP delegation drew the proctor's attention to what it described as activities affecting campus tranquility and demanded



swift and effective action to ensure a safe, disciplined and positive environment for students. The organization maintained that universities, as centers of education and personality development, must act firmly against elements attempting to undermine social

or communal harmony. Speaking on the occasion, ABVP Allahabad University unit secretary Kavyanshi Kumari said the university is known worldwide for its rich traditions and culture of mutual cooperation. She alleged that some anarchic elements

were attempting to vitiate the academic environment and said the memorandum was submitted to prevent such activities from taking root on campus. ABVP AU unit research convener Prashansa Singh Jatav said the organization has demanded an immediate

halt to all activities that threaten the unity of the university.

She added that ABVP would strongly oppose any attempt that harms the collective ethos of the institution and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to a positive and harmo-

nious campus environment. The delegation included ABVP AU unit president Himanshu Pandey, unit secretary Kavyanshi Kumari, research convener Prashansa Singh Jatav, joint secretary Anurag Mishra, along with other members.

Prayagraj civic body reviews sanitation preparedness ahead of monsoon

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation on Tuesday held a departmental review meeting on sanitation and conservation, chaired by municipal commissioner Seelam Sai Teja, to strengthen the city's cleanliness framework ahead of the monsoon season. During the meeting, officials were directed to ensure focused cleanliness drives at community centres, schools, local parks, temples and major city roads. The commissioner stressed the need for preparing and implementing a comprehensive sanitation action plan to address civic challenges effectively. Emphasis was laid on identifying local sanitation issues, accelerating



cleanliness campaigns, improving waste management practices and strengthening recycling systems. Zonal officers were instructed to complete cleaning of drains, culverts and sewer lines in their respective areas before the onset of rains to ensure proper water drainage. Officials of the Jal Nigam were directed to prioritise repair of tube wells, maintain potable water quality and ensure quick redressal of water-related complaints. The municipal commissioner also

asked departments to complete repair and construction works in a time-bound manner. Senior officials present at the meeting included additional municipal commissioners Arvind Kumar Rai and Rajiv Kumar Shukla, Jal Kal department general manager Gaurav Kumar, Shivam Mishra, assistant municipal commissioner Deepshikha Pandey, chief engineer Anil Kumar Maurya, electricity department official Sanjay Katiyar, along with all zonal officers.

Women Teachers' Association meets Prayagraj BSA on foundation day

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: On the occasion of completing five years of its establishment, the Women Teachers' Association paid a courtesy visit to Prayagraj Basic Education Officer (BSA) Anil Kumar on Monday. The delegation was led by district president Anuragini Singh and general secretary Sangeeta Singh. During the meeting, the association members marked the organization's fifth foundation day and discussed various issues concerning women teachers. The delegation apprised the BSA of ongoing activities and initiatives being carried out across different blocks in the district. After the interaction, the BSA held discussions with the



teachers on resolving their professional grievances. Several key issues were raised, including selection grade pay, withheld salaries, adverse service entries, salary restoration, child care leave (CCL), earned leave

(EL), and promotion-related matters. The delegation expressed gratitude to the BSA for patiently hearing their concerns and assuring necessary action towards their resolution. Those present during the meeting included district

vice-president Rachna Bhatnagar, Dr Pramila Singh, district media in-charge Suchita Pandey, Koraon block president Pratibha Singh, along with Archana Gupta, Santosh Dubey, Asha Sharma, Sunita and Asha Dubey.

Youth electrocuted during wedding procession in Sultanpur, one injured

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Sultanpur: A 25-year-old youth was electrocuted and another person sustained serious injuries after coming into contact with a high-tension power line during a wedding procession in Sultanpur district on Sunday night. The incident took place in Barhaunadih village under the Motigarpur police station area when a wedding pro-



cession was on its way from the village to Mangrawa in Kadipur. According to the police, celebrations began with loud music and dancing as the procession set off. During the celebrations, Shiva, son of Gangaprasad and a resident of Barhaunadih, reportedly climbed onto a DJ vehicle to record a video. In the process, he accidentally came into contact with an overhead high-tension electricity line and suffered

a severe electric shock. Seeing him in distress, Satya Gaur alias Ranjeet, a resident of Pakharpur Jalalpur in Ambedkar Nagar district, rushed to help but was also electrocuted and critically injured. Panic gripped the spot following the incident.

Locals immediately rushed both the victims to the Motigarpur Community Health Centre, where doctors declared Shiva dead. Given the serious-

ness of his condition, Ranjeet was referred to the Government Medical College in Sultanpur, where he is undergoing treatment. Station House Officer of Motigarpur, AK Singh, said the body of the deceased has been sent for post-mortem examination and further investigation is underway. Legal action will be initiated after a complaint is received, he added.

Editorial

Reimagining democracy: Why India's call for transparent rankings rattles the West

Over the years, democracy has come to mean many things, often abstract and distorted, especially used to invoke a necessary "value" of the global order. Such a "value" has depended upon a few aspects: economic and military hard power and alignment with Western interests. As India finally announced its democracy rankings, nations that depend on using inaccurate "expert opinions" to subvert data raised a hue and cry. Domestically, there is a cohort that disagrees with the idea of such rankings and argues one of two ideas: That the collective West has more expertise in deciding such rankings and must be unchallenged; That India and other nations can eschew Western validation and need not care about the rankings and other indices. The first is a group that believes in Western supremacy and has formed the ideological collaborator class of any foreign group that has sought to "govern" as a euphemism for colonisation by other means. This is reflected in their calling directly for foreign interference regarding India's domestic policy setting and makes no bones about their preference for externalised decision-making. This is not a group with the interests of Indian citizens at heart, seeking only to maintain their position as an intellectual and social elite, watching self-righteously from atop a high horse made of colonial dreams. As such, malintent entails that their ideas cannot pertain significantly to the will of the people of the country. The second group is made of those with well-intentioned naivete. A little knowledge would go a long way in explaining an economic, and otherwise, interconnected world. The fact that interests and debt ceilings on investments and loans are dependent on credit ratings and indices such as these need us to be concerned about them. Moreover, they create a legacy for judgment by other nations we interact with. At its peak of wealth, knowledge and value creation, Bharat stood as a beacon, inviting engagement, not insularity, and not content in hubris. That is a later doing, a subject of an era of turmoil preventing recognition of a national conscience underlying its diversity. For an endeavour such as a democracy index to fill a void in data and not in propaganda, the rankings need to take into consideration several true indicators of the values that define self-governance. To prevent further distortions, though, it is necessary to reiterate what democracy means – governance by the representatives of all citizens. The universal adult franchise is the most inclusive indicator of true democracy and a basic pre-requisite. Other parameters aid in measuring the refinement of processes that allow for universal franchises to be executed during elections. The below parameters offer a relevant set of data that measures people's participation in governance and are significant in calculating the functioning of democracy in a nation: Women voting percentage: Women form a major part of the population, and yet, across the world, have been kept away from the ballot system for socio-cultural reasons. Their participation determines the freedom of a notable part of the population to implement universal franchises.

Voter percentage: A clear determinant of a population's participation in the democratic exercise, voter turnout in percentage terms is a necessary parameter for inclusion in such an index.

Electoral malpractices (such as poll-related violence, ballot stuffing, coercion regarding voting choice etc.): The prevention of exercising individual freedom of choice in electing one's representative through safe and secret exercise of ballot options is a hindrance towards an exercise in democracy.



Status of Indian job market: Fact versus fiction

Every once in a while, there will be news items and columns on the state of employment in India. Some of this is ill-informed, based on old or unreliable data. Essentially, there are three sources of data on employment: (1) Household-based surveys; (2) Establishment-based surveys; and (3) Administrative data. (I am leaving out private surveys.) These are the three official sources of data. EPFO, ESIC, and NPS are examples of administrative data. For instance, in 2022–23, almost 14 million net members were added to EPFO. Is this a meas-

ure of new job creation? For various reasons, it isn't. As an example, the moment an establishment crosses the threshold of 20 workers, all of it gets counted as a net addition. Administrative payroll data are indicators of formalisation, not employment. Establishment-based surveys are ASI by MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation) and QES by MoLE (I wish people would stop using this acronym for the Ministry of Labour and Employment). In an informal economy like India, where there are usually no clear employer-employee rela-

tionships, unlike in more advanced countries, I am sceptical about establishment-based surveys telling us much about employment. Don't get me wrong. They do tell us something about demand for employment and, potentially, about skills and their lack. At present, both the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) and the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) have biases. Agriculture is a different proposition. But even outside of agriculture, neither is comprehensive in coverage. Both can be streamlined and improved, and time lags can be reduced.

Outside of agriculture, until the Indian economy changes dramatically, I think there is no getting away from household-based surveys. This means the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). We can complain about PLFS: The quarterly estimates only cover urban India, not rural. It is annual or quarterly, and why can't it be monthly, like the Current Population Survey (CPS) in the US? To emulate the US, data collection would have to move from personal interviews to personal interviews spliced with telephone interviews. Is that feasible? In the US.

Strategic shield: Need to recalibrate defence diplomacy

Ever since ancient times, military officers have been employed in foreign lands as part of a politico-military approach to national security to safeguard national interests. There are references to such a role in Kautilya's Arthashastra, in the history of the pre-Judean era, and in Roman history. In those times, the role of military officers was largely focused on spying. In the 17th century, when the Prussians found ambassadorial reports neither sufficiently detailed nor updated for the purpose of decision making in war, they began to employ generals in diplomatic assignments. Napoleon frequently used generals as ambassadors. By the mid-nineteenth century, most European powers were assigning military officers to foreign countries, and in 1857, these military officers were designated as military attaches and given diplomatic status. In more recent times, defence diplomacy has emerged as one of the most important tools of military statecraft. The term "defence diplomacy" was perhaps first used by the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence (MoD) to consolidate a bouquet of military activities being conducted by the MoD. Although there is no universally accepted definition of defence diplomacy, it is generally considered the nonviolent use of a state's defence



apparatus to advance the strategic aims of a government through cooperation with other countries. Typically, the term includes activities such as officer exchanges, ship visits, training missions, and joint military exercises. The significance of defence diplomacy dimmed for Indian decision makers post-independence, and it was in the early 1990s that India's defence engagement began to gain momentum. C Raja Mohan, as late as 2015, lamented: "...India's military diplomacy has been severely limited by the lack of adequate political support and insufficient coordination between the armed forces, the ministry of defence, and the foreign office. While the services and the MEA see the value of leveraging India's military strengths, the MoD has neither the aptitude nor the institutional capability to meet the growing interna-

tional demand for defence cooperation with India. Fortunately, things have begun to change. The MoD and the services are proactively involved in defence diplomacy, and as of date, the Indian Army is engaging with 110 countries through defence cooperation activities. In 2023, the Indian Army participated in 39 joint exercises with foreign armies, out of which it was lead service in 28 exercises. In addition, the Indian Army and the US Army co-hosted the 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC), the 47th Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS), and the 9th Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF). The Army has been playing a crucial role in promoting multilateralism by organising the Inaugural India-Africa Army Chiefs' Conclave (IACC) and AFINDEX (2023), themed on Humanitarian Mine Action &

Peace Keeping Operations. Several high-level visits were conducted in 2023 in pursuit of the objectives of defence diplomacy. Based on the recommendations of the MoD's Study on Realignment of Defence Wings, new defence wings are being established in Algeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Poland by the end of 2024. Reportedly, new defence wings are also being established in Armenia, Djibouti, the Philippines, and Tanzania. These wings are being established through optimisation of the existing billets of the defence attaches in countries like Russia and the United Kingdom. Although the establishment of new defence wings is a welcome development, there are certain issues that require institutional attention. Among the varied tasks the military attaches would be undertaking, they would be expected to help achieve the target for defence exports set by the government, facilitate India's defence procurements, secure supply chains, and mitigate causes of national security risks. Defence exports require building a long-term relationship with the importing countries and their armed forces. Business also requires special aptitude, which goes beyond formal training and the learning of manuals and procedures. Military attaches are expected to navigate the

realm of defence business, which is unlike any other. In addition, they must be prepared for adverse PR from inimical interests and business competitors. India has supplied weapon platforms and radars to Armenia. Should the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia flare up again, Indian systems would be tested under extreme conditions. It is possible there would be some failures, like those of any other equipment produced anywhere in the world. Indian military attaches must be prepared to face the barrage of adverse PR in all forms of media. The character of warfare is changing. If the Russia-Ukraine war is indicative of the wars of the future, India must prepare for a protracted war and secure supply chains against sanctions and export control regimes. The export control measures imposed by the West on Russia are, perhaps, the most stringent applied against a single country since the Cold War. India may face a similar situation, which may include measures aimed at cutting off high-tech imports, restricting access to vital technological inputs, weakening its industrial base, and undercutting its influence on the world stage. The defence sector may be subjected to sweeping restrictions due to the denial of sensitive technology.

Finance surveillance radars for the Navy

This is unacceptable with regard to the freedom of the seas and a potential flashpoint for all, including India, already plagued by China. Chinese spy ships, navy and submarines, constantly ply in the Malacca Straits and Andaman/Nicobar Islands area, the broader Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal. This is aided by Chinese bases in Sri Lanka at Hambantota, in Bangladesh where it has ostensibly built a submarine base for it, from the Maldives, from the Coco Islands of Myanmar, farther afield at Djibouti. India is helped in guarding the Indian Ocean area by the US Navy, plus the French and British navies in particular.

regular basis with other countries but joins in the naval exercises in the South China Sea as well. It has now opened two shipyards, in Kattupalli, near Chennai, and another in Cochin, to repair and service US and British ships. Ever since the legendary Ferdinand Marcos' son, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., nick-named Bongbong in his youth, came to power, the Philippines has upped the ante against Chinese hegemony. There is no longer much effort to appease China or deal with it using do-nothing but hot rhetoric, though diplomatic and political dialogue is still maintained. The Philippines is the first foreign country to order three batteries of Brahmos anti-ship shore-based supersonic cruise missiles from India. It has

had its navy personnel trained in their use by India. These missiles, ordered a couple of years ago, are presently being delivered and placed. They are being deployed to protect Filipino interests in the South China Sea. The Indo-Russian Brahmos, manufactured in India, come in air, sea, land and submarine variants, and are widely acknowledged to be the fastest and most devastating missiles in the world. In November 2023 Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. began work on a security pact that would allow the conduct of joint military exercises. Japan has also agreed to finance surveillance radars for the Philippine Navy.

Manama mosaics: 72 hours of heritage and history in Bahrain

In Manama, the ancient and the modern intertwine like the threads in its vibrant souqs. Skyscrapers pierce the azure sky while narrow alleyways whisper tales of a bygone era. At the aromatic chaos of the Bab el-Bahrain Souq, spices dance with textiles and shimmering pearls hold the secrets of the deep. Then, turn a corner and you will find yourself transported to the serenity of the Al Fateh Grand Mosque. Manama is a city of contrasts, a blend of tradition and progress, waiting to be explored by the curious traveller. And the beauty lies in the fact that you can experience it in just 72 hours.

Al Fateh Grand Mosque interiors
No matter how long you linger in this Middle Eastern land, a breakfast extravaganza awaits. As you step into one of the city's cherished cafes, let the intoxicating aroma of Bahraini cuisine envelop you, a prelude to a flavour-filled odyssey that will tantalize your taste buds and ignite your spirit for the day to come. Dive into the gastronomic classics by indulging in the timeless delights of Balaleet vermicelli noodles, the rustic allure of



Khameer and Regag, alongside the hearty flavours of Foul Fava beans and the savoury embrace of Samboosa fried pastries. Elevate your culinary journey with falafel and shawarma, and don't forget to snag some Halwa, a quintessential Middle Eastern sweet sensation. Among the culinary havens dotting Bahrain's landscape, seek refuge in esteemed establishments such as Al Ameer, renowned for its culinary finesse; Emmawash celebrated for its mastery of dried shrimp and mung beans; and Freej Bin Al Rashdan, nestled near Dohat Arad Lagoon, where the aromas of lamb machboos and Bahraini kebabs beckon the discerning palate. Conclude your epicurean odyssey at Haji Gahwa, nestled within the bustling enclave of Manama Souq, where authenticity reigns supreme and traditional Bahraini cuisine is savoured with a gen-

erous sprinkle of heritage and charm. Manama delivers all the bling you'd expect from a modern Arab metropolis – sleek malls and skyscrapers that wouldn't look out of place in a sci-fi movie. But amidst the shiny veneer, you'll find whispers of a charming past, a reminder of Manama's days as a bustling port. Old and new coexist with playful harmony, most evident in the legendary Manama Souq, where ancient market vibes and the scents of exotic spices swirl. Before you hunt down the perfect gold bangle or spice up your culinary repertoire at the Souq, soak in the history of Bab Al Bahrain, the gateway to Manama's bustling souq. This venerable archway, erected in 1949, once held court by the waterfront but now finds itself a few kilometres inland. Today, it's a colossal arch framing a road—flanked by two smaller arches for pedestrians.

Traffic Inspector Rakesh Kumar Singh goes hunter in the city, people who do not wear helmet face trouble

Bhadohi

Newly appointed traffic inspector Rakesh Kumar Singh hunter, who was driving in the city, was in trouble for not wearing a helmet and having three passengers on a two-wheeler. When they started checking at Lippan Tiraha and Station Road of the city, about 35 to 40 two-wheelers and four-wheelers were caught. Helmets were not found on most of the heads and many two-wheelers were found with three passengers, while most of the four-wheelers were found not wearing seat belts. Seeing the checking going on, many two wheelers were seen turning their vehicles and running away and some parked on the side of the road and kept roaming here and there. During checking, Traffic Inspector Rakesh Kumar Singh said that helmet is mandatory for two wheelers. He said to avoid traveling on two wheelers with three passengers. Due to the



checking campaign, there was panic among the riders without papers and helmets at Lippan Tiraha, Station Road and Azimullah intersection. Traffic Inspector Rakesh Kumar Singh said that driving at high speed, without helmet and riding a three-rider bike is against the traffic rules. When three passengers are traveling, it is not possible for the driver to maintain balance on the bike and

suddenly the bike cannot be controlled in any adverse situation. In such a situation, considering your own safety during the three rides, make sure to wear a helmet. Keep speed under control. The inspector said that the bike was issued a challan for lack of helmet and three riders. Action will definitely be taken against those riding a bike without a helmet and three riders. At the same time, he gave directions to the appointed traffic police to free the city from the jam. On this occasion, traffic Policemen including Raees Ahmed were Present.

Doctors met former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on Cancer Day



Bhadohi

On Cancer Day, a team of doctors met Samajwadi Party national President and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav. Where former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav discussed a serious disease like cancer and its treatment. Leading doctors of Bhadohi district said that whatever was done under the Samajwadi government for the treatment of this serious disease and sensitive behavior towards the people sick with it will always be remembered. It was said that Akhilesh Yadav vision was for international level treatment. Doctors

said that the present BJP government has shown negligence in this regard. Akhilesh Yadav said that in the Samajwadi government, arrangements for high level treatment for serious diseases like cancer, kidney, liver and heart were made free of cost. Cancer Hospital and Research Institute was built on 100 acres in Lucknow in the year 2016 at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore. Bablu Bind told that the former Chief Minister had given assistance of Rs 4.56 thousand for the treatment of his mother cancer. Our family is still grateful to him. Akhilesh Yadav said that the real quality of Samajwadi Party is to serve the

people. Doctors said that if patients do not get treatment under the BJP government, then what is developed India for? On this occasion, former Cabinet Minister Rajendra Chaudhary, State President Shyam Lal Pal, Bablu Bind, Dr. Ajay Prajapati, Juh Singh Dr. Nand, Dr. Rajit Bind, Dr. Sujit Bind, Dr. Virendra Patel, Dr. Sangam Lal Gupta, Dr. Virendra Bind, Dr. Zuber Khan, Dr. Mehboob Qureshi, Ishaan Milky, Pradeep Modanwal, Suraj Bind, Govind Yadav, Ravi Ranjha, Adivasi Vijay Border Gond, Mita Jaiswal, Pavarti Kannaujya, Ranjit Bind, Sanjay, Aamir etc.

State Women Commission Chair Leads Public Hearing, Review Meeting in Etah



Etah

In compliance with the directions of the Chief Minister, a programme was organised under the aegis of the Women and Child Development Department at Medical College, Etah under the chairmanship of Chairperson of the State Women Commission, Dr. Babita Chauhan. The event included Kanya Janmotsav (Girl Child Celebration), God Bharai (Baby Shower), and Annaprasnan ceremonies, aimed at encouraging the birth of girl children and raising awareness about maternal and child health. On the occasion of the Girl Child Celebration, the Probation Department distributed baby kits, mosquito nets, and other useful items to 20 newborn girls. The Women and Child Development Department also formally conducted the God Bharai and Annaprasnan programmes. Those present included Medical College Principal Dr. Balveer Singh, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Chief Medical Superintendent Dr. Suresh Chandra, Head of Department Dr. Sadhana Singh, Programme Officer Sanjay Singh, Circle Officer Kirtika Singh and officials from the Probation Office including Satendra Singh, Jagrati Chaturvedi, Pankaj Yadav, Ankita Saxena, Pooja Mishra and Pooja Chauhan, along with Medical College staff. Later in the afternoon, a public hearing and departmental review meeting was held at the Police Lines meeting hall in Etah. During the public hearing, complaints related to crimes against women, harassment and family disputes were received. Several complaints were resolved on the spot by the Chairperson, while remaining cases were forwarded to the concerned officers with instructions for prompt and effective action. During the review meeting, Dr. Babita Chauhan reviewed various schemes related to the Women and Child Welfare Department and directed that the benefits of government welfare schemes must reach all eligible women and girls without exception. She also instructed officials to ensure the enrolment of workers' children in Atal Residential Schools and to prominently display all women's helpline numbers at Gram Panchayats and development blocks at public and easily visible locations, so that victims can receive immediate assistance when needed. The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajendra Prasad, CO Saket Kirtika Singh, District Backward Classes Welfare Officer Yash Kumar Verma, Women Police Station In-charge Nandini Singh and officers and staff from the police department and other Concerned Departments.

Success Mantras Given to Students at Farewell Ceremony

Bharaich

A farewell ceremony was organized at Pt. Radheshyam Pandey Saraswati Inter College, Jamog Bazar Charda, by the students of class 9 to honor the class 10 students appearing for their board exams and to wish them a bright future. On this occasion, important tips for success were given to the students keeping in mind the upcoming board examinations. Addressing the ceremony, school manager Kaushalendra Pandey shared his experiences and said that maintaining self-confidence during exams is extremely important. He said that regular study, effective time management and a positive attitude are the real keys to success. He advised the students to revise difficult subjects repeatedly, read the ques-



tion paper carefully, and write the answers in clear, coherent

and balanced language. He emphasized the importance of

continuous study while avoiding mental stress during exami-

nations. The chief guest, Principal Prachar Bas Mishra, while explaining ways to achieve maximum marks, said that sufficient sleep, a balanced diet and light exercise keep the brain healthy and every student should follow these practices. He also appealed to the students to stay away from mobile phones and social media to maintain concentration in their studies. Principal Mishra said that only through discipline, hard work and dedication to their goals can students reach great heights in life and move forward while upholding the dignity of the school. Senior teacher Abhay Dixit, addressing the students, said that the examination is not only a test of knowledge but also a test of patience and self-control. Every goal can be achieved

with the right strategy and continuous practice. At the end of the ceremony, Manager Kaushalendra Pandey wished all the students a bright future and said that education is the foundation of society and nation-building. He inspired the students to move forward with moral values. On this occasion, Gyanendra Bhushan Pathak, Vishwas Kasaudhan, Deepak Sharma, Vinay Pathak, Ashish Sharma, Rakesh Verma, Pramanand Bajpai, K.D. Arya, Brijesh Kumar Arya, Richa Jaiswal, Jyoti Rani Pandey, Nishat Khan, Pooja Pathak, Shivam Mishra, Avneesh Gupta, Anil Kumar Sharma, and other teachers were present. During the program, students of class 9 also presented cultural performances and encouraged their senior sStudents.

Voluntary Surrender of Arms Licences Gains Momentum in Etah, 192nd Licence Deposited



Etah

The initiative encouraging the voluntary surrender of arms licences to strengthen peace, law and order and social harmony in the district continues to gain momentum. In this ongoing drive, another commendable example was witnessed on Monday at the Collectorate parisar, where the 192nd arms licence in the district was voluntarily surrendered. On this occasion, Small Lal, son of Shaitan Singh, a resident of Nagla Banuwa under Mirchi police station limits, was honoured with a certificate of appreciation

by District Magistrate Prem Ranjan Singh for voluntarily depositing his arms licence. The district administration described the initiative as a significant step towards reinforcing peace, harmony and the spirit of responsible citizenship in society. Addressing the gathering, District Magistrate Prem Ranjan Singh said that the voluntary surrender of arms licences reflects positive thinking in public interest and a strong sense of civic responsibility. Such citizens, he said, act as partners of the administration and play an important role in maintaining peace and

security in society. Expressing hope that more arms licence holders would come forward, the District Magistrate stated that wider participation in this initiative would help create an even more peaceful and secure environment in the district. He added that honouring responsible citizens is aimed at sending a positive message to society and promoting awareness towards peace. Additional Sub-Divisional Magistrate Rajkumar Maurya, Arms Clerk Kunwar Mohit and other concerned officials were Present on the occasion.

MNREGA: Development ran only on paper, not on the ground!

Bharaich

Allegations of large-scale irregularities have surfaced in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) in Sati Jor village panchayat under Nawabganj block. Villagers say that while development work is shown as completed on paper, the ground reality is completely different. According to the villagers, instead of actual verification of MNREGA works, pre-existing photos are being uploaded. There is a huge difference between the number of laborers shown at the worksite and the actual number of laborers. The same pictures have been used repeatedly in several muster rolls, the morning and after-



noon pictures do not match and in many cases, the afternoon photos have not been uploaded at all. Villagers said that in the land development work from Bhuj field to Babu field in Sati Jor village panchayat, 44 laborers were shown daily from February 1st to February 7th, while online attendance of approximately 308 laborers was recorded during this period. Similarly, in the drain excavation work from Sati Bridge

to Dharmanagar border, the presence of 36 to 45 laborers has been shown on five muster rolls. Online attendance of 457 laborers has been recorded for this work from January 25th to February 7th, while villagers claim that no drain excavation has taken place anywhere. Not only this, women names are registered in the muster rolls, while men are visible in the uploaded pictures. There are also allegations of the

same photo being uploaded repeatedly. Villagers Jamaluddin Khan, Gayasuddin, Anil Singh, Saddam and others said that the drain excavation is completely fake and has only been shown on paper. The shocking thing is that even on January 26th, Republic Day, the attendance of laborers was recorded in the muster roll, even though no work was done that day. The government's intention is to provide employment to the villagers in their own village, but in Sati Jor, the MNREGA scheme seems to be becoming a "money-making scheme" for some officials instead of benefiting the villagers. At the block level, the monitoring cell has been instructed to conduct 100% photo verification

daily, but the fact that the Additional Programme Officer is in charge of both the Mihinpara and Nawabganj blocks raises questions about the effectiveness of the monitoring. When contacted regarding this matter, the Village Development Officer, Block Development Officer, and Additional Programme Officer did not provide any clear answers. Meanwhile, Gram Panchayat Development Officer Janardan Vishwakarma said that the matter would be investigated and the relevant muster rolls would be cancelled. Now the question is, will MNREGA provide employment to the villagers, or will it remain confined to paper and fall prey to Corruption?

Actresses who rule the screen with their dance

Over the years, several actresses have stood out by commanding the screen not just through acting, but through movement and expression

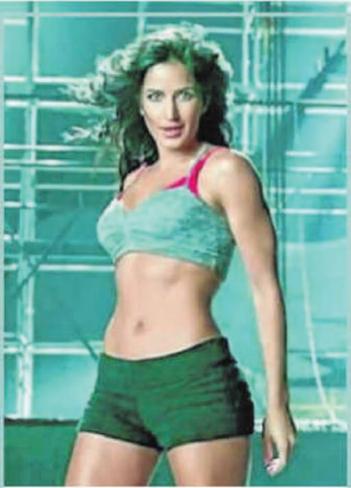
Whether in classical or commercial numbers, their dance has added depth and impact to their performances. Here are five actresses who have successfully balanced both acting and dance on screen.

MADHURI DIXIT

Madhuri Dixit remains the gold standard for dance in Hindi cinema. Trained in classical Kathak, her performances are marked by flawless technique, expressive storytelling, and effortless grace. Songs like Ek Do Teen, Dhak Dhak Karne Laga, and Dola Re Dola are iconic not just for their choreography but for how Madhuri brought emotion and character into every movement. Alongside her celebrated acting career, she redefined how dance could become central to a film's narrative.

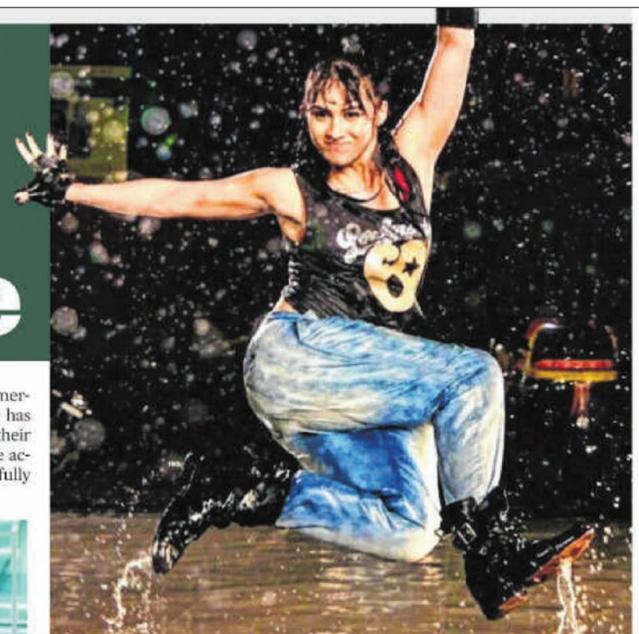
TAMANNAAH BHATIA

Tamannaah Bhatia has emerged as one of the most impactful performers when it comes to combining a strong screen presence with memorable dance numbers. Her performances in chartbusters like Kaavaalaa, Aaj Ki Raat and Ghafoor showcased her ability to balance sensuality, rhythm, and expressive storytelling, making the songs widely popular across audiences. Tamannaah's dance style is defined by fluidity, confidence, and strong expression, enabling her to command attention while staying true to the narrative. Alongside her acting career across industries, dance remains a key strength that enhances her on-screen appeal.



KATRINA KAIF

Katrina Kaif carved her own space as one of Bollywood's most consistent and powerful performers in dance-driven songs. Known for her precision, stamina, and stage presence, she has delivered multiple chart-topping numbers such as Sheila Ki Jawani, Chikni Chameli, Kamli, and Kala Chashma. Over the years, Katrina has balanced dance & acting, proving that discipline and performance energy can turn dance into a defining strength.



LAUREN GOTTLIEB

Lauren Gottlieb is one of the most accomplished dancers in mainstream Indian cinema. Her global presence was highlighted by her performance at the 95th Academy Awards on Naatu Naatu. Trained in contemporary and commercial styles, she blends strength, fluidity, and emotion in every performance. From the iconic Tattoo in ABCD 2 to the graceful Sadda Dil Vi Tu (Ga Ga Ga Ganpati in ABCD), she turns choreography into storytelling, captivating audiences on screen, stage, and reality shows alike.



JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ

Jacqueline Fernandez is known for her infectious energy and versatility as a dancer. Whether it's upbeat party tracks like Ek Do Teen (reprise), Genda Phool, or Lat Lag Gayee, her performances are marked by confidence and strong screen appeal. Jacqueline balances glamour with performance ease, making her dance numbers widely popular while continuing to evolve as an actor in commercial cinema.

Anupam Kher lauds security guard's honesty



Anupam Kher was impressed by the honesty of a security guard who returned his lost credit card, misplaced during a morning walk in Mumbai a few days ago

Veteran actor Anupam Kher was left impressed by the honesty of a security guard who came to his Mumbai home to return a credit card he had lost during a morning walk a few days ago. He said that when he got home, the guard, Sanjay Yadav, who works nearby, had found the card. After making some inquiries, he somehow managed to reach Anupam's house and returned it to him.

On Sunday, February 8, Anupam shared a video on his social media with the guard Sanjay, praising his honesty. In the video, the actor, standing alongside the guard, said, "Sanjay Yadav ji, aap bada mahaan aadmi hain. Mera subah morning walk jaate samay, credit card gir gaya tha, aur main bada dhundha, kaafi pareshaan tha, because us par PIN nahi tha. Phir mujhe Dattu ji ka phone aaya ki kisko credit card mila. What a beautiful thing to do! He found my credit card and he returned it."

Sharing the video, Kher wrote, "Imaandari zinda hai!" He recounted how last week he had dropped his credit card and searched for it everywhere but couldn't find it. Later, when he returned home, a nearby security guard, noticing his name on the card, had found it and personally delivered it to his home. Anupam added, "Sabse mazedaar aur



impressive baat yeh thi ki woh apni imaandari ko lekar bilkul casual the. Jab maine tareef ki toh bole, 'Ismein kaunsi badi baat hai!' Wah Yadav ji, bahut accha laga! Jai ho!"

Anupam will next star in the highly anticipated sequel, Khosla Ka Ghosla 2, marking his 550th film.

The original cast returns, including Anupam Kher (Khosla), Boman Irani (Khurana), Ranvir Shorey, Parvin Dabas, Tara Sharma, and Kiran Juneja, with Ravi Kishan joining as a new addition.

The release date of the sequel is yet to be announced. It is directed by Umesh Bisht.



Vidhu Vinod Chopra's son denies reports

Bollywood director and producer Vidhu Vinod Chopra and film critic Anupama Chopra's son Agni Dev Chopra shared a social media post and denied reports of him registering for the upcoming season of Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026

Agni Dev Chopra's name has appeared on the list of players who registered for the 11th edition of the PSL. He has been registered as a US citizen on the list with the base price of PKR 6,00,000.

Agni Dev's mother Anupama shared his Instagram Story on her social media account in which he stated that the reports are misleading and that he has not enrolled to play in the Pakistani tournament. The list can be checked on the official web-

Fake and misleading reports are being circulated in my name regarding a tournament. I would like to clarify that I have not enrolled for the PSL. I remain fully focused on my cricket journey in the USA and my long-term career goals. I request everyone not to fall prey to misinformation.

I remain fully focused on my cricket journey in the USA and my long-term career goals. I request everyone not to fall prey to misinformation."

His mother shared the screenshot from Agni Dev's Instagram Story and did not say anything. There is no response from the Munna Bhai MBBS producer and his father Vidhu Vnod Chopra so far.

Agni Dev is US citizen and can participate in the leagues worldwide.

One year later, the words still echo

shift made a huge difference and gave me the freedom to experiment without fear."

"What makes the film special is that it's not just a father-son story it reflects every relationship shaped by ego, silence, and miscommunication. I'm grateful to everyone who watched the film and reached out to say how deeply it resonated with them. That love means everything to me." He further added

In The Mehta Boys, Avinash delivered one of his most restrained and intimate performances, a struggling junior architect in Mumbai who has spent nearly a decade trying to prove his worth, both to the world and to himself. It was characterised by his portrayal of imposter syndrome with unnerving accuracy.

The film's emotional core lay in its central relationship: an estranged father and son forced to spend 48 hours together in a small apartment after the death of Amay's mother. Opposite Boman Irani's stubborn, gruff Shiv Mehta, Avinash's Amay carried years of unspoken resentment, disappointment, and longing. Their involuntary togetherness bore fruit for generational

conflict - one shaped by silence, authority, and the inability to articulate love. Across the film, Avinash charts Amay's journey of emotional reckoning alongside professional awakening, as he slowly learns to confront his father, his grief, and ultimately, his own voice.

As The Mehta Boys completes a year, the film stands as another reminder of Avinash Tiwary's instinct for choosing characters that highlight his versatility. While the celebration of the film's first anniversary is ongoing, his upcoming film O Romeo already generating buzz for his fierce and transformative turn. The actor also has Imtiaz Ali's O Saathi Re and Prashant Jha's Ginny Weds Sunny 2 lined up, reinforcing his position as one of the most exciting and dependable talents of his generation.



Briefs

Publisher of Washington Post resigns

Washington Post publisher Will Lewis said on Saturday he's stepping down, three days after the troubled newspaper said it was laying off one-third of its staff. Lewis sent an email to the Post's staff, saying that "difficult decisions have been taken in order to ensure the sustainable future of The Post." Lewis and the newspaper's billionaire owner Jeff Bezos, did not participate in a meeting with staff announcing the layoffs this week. The Post's chief financial officer, Jeff D'Onofrio, was named acting publisher and CEO. He joined the newspaper last June. UK-born Lewis was a former top executive at 'The Wall Street Journal' before taking over at The Post in January 2024.

Starlink's entry into Pak delayed

The licence to Starlink to enter Pakistan's satellite internet market is delayed over data security concerns, the Musk-Trump fallout and competition from Chinese firms, local media reported on Sunday. Starlink, owned by tech billionaire Elon Musk, is among several companies seeking approval to operate in Pakistan, but officials say unresolved security and geopolitical considerations have slowed the approval process. The government has come to know Starlink could transmit certain data bypassing monitoring, regulatory and safety checks.

Shooter of general held, says Russia

Russia's Federal Security Service said on Sunday the man suspected of shooting a deputy chief of Russia's military intelligence agency in Moscow was detained in Dubai and handed over to Russia. Federal Security Service said a Russian citizen, Lyubomir Korba, was detained in Dubai on suspicion of carrying out the shooting. FSB said it had also identified two "accomplices", one of whom was detained in Moscow and another who "left for Ukraine".

Anchor ready to pay for mom's return

US news anchor Savannah Guthrie and her family have released a video pleading for the safe return of their mother. "We received your message, and we understand," Guthrie said in the video posted to Instagram, flanked by her two siblings. "We beg you now to return our mother to us so that we can celebrate with her." "This is the only way we will have peace," she continued. "This is very valuable to us — and we will pay." Her video did not provide any details about the message she referenced. Nancy Guthrie disappeared in the middle of night from her home in Arizona, US, last weekend. Officials say she was taken against her will.

Man drives car into US pedestrians

A vehicle plowed into and injured pedestrians at the entrance of a grocery store in a scenic California mountain town on Saturday, police reported. Four people, including some children, were hurt when the 49-year-old man drove into the front of the Truckee Safeway in the afternoon, town police said. Their injuries were said not to be life-threatening. Police said they believe the man, from San Joaquin Valley city of Coalinga, intentionally struck the pedestrians and the store.

SNAP ELECTION | Japanese electors brave snowfall to cast votes

Landslide win for PM Takaichi: Polls

TOKYO

Japanese PM **Sanac Takaichi's** governing coalition is almost certain to win a single-party majority in a key parliamentary election on Sunday, NHK public television and other networks say, citing their exit poll results.

NHK says Takaichi's ruling coalition, led by her Liberal Democratic Party, could win more than two-thirds of the 465-seat lower house, the more powerful of two-chamber parliament.

People across Japan braved snow to vote in the country's first mid-winter poll in 36 years. Japan's transport ministry said 37 train lines and 58 ferry routes were closed and 54 flights cancelled as of Sunday morning. There was rare snowfall in Tokyo as



people headed out to vote.

The huge jump from the pre-election share could allow Takaichi to make progress on

a right-wing agenda that aims to boost Japan's economy and military capabilities as tensions grow with China, and she tries to nurture ties with the US.

The ultraconservative Takaichi, who took office as Japan's first female leader in

October last, pledged to "work, work, work", and her style, seen as both playful and tough, has resonated with younger fans.

Surveys indicated a landslide win in the lower house for LDP. The opposition, despite the formation of a new centrist alliance and a rising far-right, is seen as too splintered to be a real challenger. If the LDP fails to win a majority, "I will step down," she said.

Counting on, Thailand faces hung House

Bangkok: Vote counting was underway in Thailand's early general election on Sunday, seen as a 3-way race among competing visions of progressive, populist and old-fashioned patronage politics.

The battle for support from 5.3 crore voters comes against a backdrop of slow economic growth and heightened nationalist sentiment. While 50+ parties contested the poll, only three—People's Party, Bhumjaithai, and Pheu Thai—have the nationwide organisation and popularity to gain a winning mandate.

A simple majority of the 500 elected lawmakers selects the PM. Polls project no single party will gain a majority, necessitating the formation of a coalition gov't. Pheu Thai Party is latest political vehicle for billionaire former PM Thaksin Shinawatra. Thaksin-backed parties repeatedly made comebacks, to be ousted by courts and watchdog agencies. —AP

Iran minister strikes hard line on US talks

Araghchi says Tehran's power comes from saying 'no'



NOBEL LAUREATE SENTENCED

Dubai: Iran's minister insisted on Sunday Tehran's strength came from its ability to "say no to the great powers", striking a maximalist position after negotiations with the US over its nuclear programme and in the wake of nationwide protests.

Speaking to diplomats in Tehran, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi signalled Iran would stick to its position that it must be able to enrich uranium, a major point of contention with US President Donald Trump.

While Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian praised the Friday talks in Oman with the Americans as "a step forward", Araghchi's remarks show the challenge ahead.

"I believe the secret of the Iran's power lies in its ability to stand against bullying, domination and pressures from others. They fear our atomic bomb, while we are not pursuing an atomic bomb. Our atomic bomb is the power to say no to the great powers. The secret of the Islamic Republic's power is in the power to say no to the powers," he said.

Pezeshkian, who ordered Araghchi to pursue talks with

Iran sentenced Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi to over seven more years in prison after she began a hunger strike, supporters said on Sunday. Narges's supporters cited her lawyer, who spoke to her. "She has been sentenced to six years in prison for gathering and collusion" and one and a half years for propaganda and two-year travel ban," Mostafa Nili said on X.

the US after likely getting Khamenei's blessing, said on Sunday on X, "The Iran-US talks, held through the follow-up efforts of friendly governments in the region, were a step forward." Dialogue has always been our strategy for

peaceful resolution. The Iranian nation has always responded to respect with respect, but it does not tolerate the language of force."

Araghchi noted after multiple rounds of talks last year, the US "attacked us in the midst of negotiations". "If you take a step back (in negotiations), it is not clear up to where it will go," he said, adding, he expected a new round of talks with the US "soon", describing the recent meeting as a positive start, cautioning rebuilding trust would take time.

In an interview with 'Al Jazeera', Araghchi made it clear Tehran would not relinquish its uranium enrichment programme, which he called an "inalienable right".

Meanwhile, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he would travel to Washington DC on Wednesday to discuss the Iran-US talks with US President Donald Trump. The two will discuss "the negotiations with Iran", PM's office said, adding, Netanyahu "believes any talks must include restrictions on ballistic missiles and an end to support for Iranian axis." —AP

Portugal chooses between moderate, populist

Lisbon: Centre-left Socialist candidate Antonio Jose Seguro is heavily favoured to defeat hard-right populist Andre Ventura in Portugal's runoff presidential election on Sunday in a vote that will test the depth of support for Ventura's brash style of politics.

Recent opinion polls say Seguro will collect twice as many votes as Ventura in the head-to-head between the two top candidates in last month's first round of voting, when none of the runners captured more than 50% of the vote

RUNOFF PREZ POLL

required for victory.

But making it through to the runoff is already a milestone for Ventura and his Chega (Enough) party, which has quickly grown into a significant force in Portuguese politics during a wider European shift to the right.

Seguro, a longstanding Socialist politician, has positioned himself as a moderate candidate who will cooperate with

Portugal's centre-right minority government, repudiating Ventura's anti-establishment and anti-immigrant tirades.

In Portugal, the president is largely a figurehead with no executive power. Traditionally, the head of state stands above the political fray, mediating disputes and defusing tensions. However, the president can veto legislation from parliament, and the veto can be overturned. The head of state also possesses an "atomic bomb", the power to dissolve parliament and call early elections. —AP

Russia has made £239bn from oil tankers in English Channel: Probe

LONDON

A probe by 'The Sunday Times' has revealed Russia has made £239 billions from oil tankers in the English Channel.

The journey of a sanctioned tanker past British and French shores is not a one-off event. Along the Strait of Dover, it is a story that is unfolding every day, allowing President Vladimir Putin to fund his war in Ukraine — right under the noses of Kyiv's allies.

The Times investigation has uncovered the scale of Russian oil exports passing through British waters. It has revealed how the Royal Navy plans to use drone boats to identify sanctioned ships and, where it can, seize them.

Since early 2022, Russia has shipped 550 million tonnes of oil (nearly 4 billion barrels) through the English Channel,

worth £239 billion.

The analysis is based on data supplied by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, a Helsinki-based think tank that has recorded every oil export from Russia since its invasion of Ukraine four years ago. Researchers also track registered oil trades to calculate exports.

The analysis shows over four years, ships carrying

Russian oil made 9,584 voyages through the Strait of Dover. Numbers have risen sharply during the Ukraine war: in 2022, 958 tankers carrying Russian oil were recorded, jumping to 2,919 in 2023 and 2,987 in 2024, before easing slightly to 2,720 in 2025.

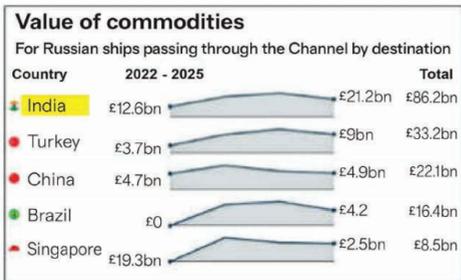
In one week alone last December there were 57 shipments. On one day that week 11 ships left Russian ports to

pass unhindered through the English Channel.

As Europe has sought to wean itself off Russian oil and gas, Times investigation has also shown how oil exports to China and India have increased exponentially. The bulk of Russia's oil, worth £85.5 billion, was sent to India between 2022 and 2025.

While India received 29 million tonnes in 2022, it more than doubled to 67 million in 2023 and peaked at 71.1 million tonnes (521 million barrels) in 2024. However, these revenue streams may finally be cut off, after Trump last week signed a trade deal with India. As part of the tariff-cutting deal, Modi vowed to stop buying Russian oil.

Shipments to China totalled £21.1 billion over the period, jumping from 10.2 million tonnes in 2022 to a high of 18.9 million the following year.



2 die after avalanche near Winter Oly site

Valtellina: Two skiers have died in an avalanche that happened near the site of the Winter Olympics in the Italian Alps on Saturday, local authorities said.

Fire and rescue officials said a serious avalanche accident left three skiers caught in the early afternoon, two of whom later died and the third person sustaining injuries.

The avalanche happened on Alpe Meriggio in Valtellina. The risk of avalanches in the area was very high at the time, according to AINEVA, Italy's snow and avalanches risk association. Valtellina is a major hub for the 2026 games, with Bormio hosting men's alpine skiing and ski mountaineering, and Livigno hosting freestyle skiing and snowboarding, valley officials said.

Bormio is approximately 40 miles from the site of the avalanche, and Livigno is 60 miles away. A helicopter worked to rescue one of the skiers buried under the snow, but were pronounced dead.

SKIER DIES ON EXPERT RUN AT MAMMOTH

A skier died at Mammoth Mountain on Thursday following a fatal accident in full view of other skiers riding a nearby lift. It was the fourth death at the resort this season.

The unidentified skier was trying a run called Dropout 2, among the steepest marked trails in California, which descends from the summit ridge of the 11,000-ft mountain. The run falls 1,200 vertical feet below a slow, three-person lift that ferries expert skiers to some of Mammoth's most adventurous terrain.

Feels like you are in Pakistan not Dallas: US Congressman

NEW YORK

An American lawmaker has voiced concern over the "Islamisation" of areas in certain constituencies in the US state of Texas, saying visiting local malls there "feels like you're in Pakistan, not Dallas."

"I hear from constituents all the time who are deeply and desperately concerned about the Islamisation of the Dallas area," Congressman Brandon Gill said during an interview with Real America's Voice.

The Republican lawmaker said his constituents are hearing about "mosques that are popping up near land that they or their family have owned for generations."

"We have entire communities who are being transformed. And you hear about

constituents talking about going to their local malls, and you look around, and it feels like you're in Pakistan, not Dallas, Texas. That's a problem," he added. "Mass Islamic migration is killing the America we know and love," he said in a social media post.

Gill represents Texas' 26th Congressional District in the US House of Representatives.

JAILING IMMIGRANTS SANS BOND: COURT AFFIRMS TRUMP POLICY

Trump administration can continue to detain immigrants without bond, marking a major legal victory for the federal immigration agenda and countering a slew of recent lower court decisions across the country that argued the practice is illegal.

A panel of judges on the 5th

Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the Dept of Homeland Security's decision to deny bond hearings to immigrants arrested across the country is consistent with the constitution and federal immigration law.

Specifically, circuit judge Edith H Jones wrote in the 2-1 majority opinion the government correctly interpreted the Immigration and Nationality Act by asserting that "unadmitted aliens apprehended anywhere in the US are ineligible for release on bond, regardless of how long they have resided inside the US."

Meanwhile, police arrested several demonstrators outside a federal building in Minneapolis, breaking up a protest marking the one-month anniversary of Minnesota woman Renee Good's death. —PT/AP

Greenland crisis boosted Danish apps to identify & help boycott US goods

Copenhagen: The makers of mobile apps designed to help shoppers identify and boycott American goods say they saw a surge of interest in Denmark and beyond after the recent flare-up in tensions over US President Trump's designs on Greenland.

"Made O'Meter" app creator Ian Rosenfeldt said he saw around 30,000 downloads of the free app in three days at the height of the transatlantic diplomatic crisis in late January, of more than 100,000 since it was launched in March.

Rosenfeldt, who lives in Copenhagen and works in digital marketing, decided to create the app a year ago after joining a Facebook group of like-minded Danes hoping to



boycott US goods. "Many people were frustrated and thinking, how do we actually do it?" the 53-year-old recalled. "If you use a bar code scanner, it's difficult to see if a product is actually American or not, if it's Danish or not."

In the latest version of "Made O'Meter", which uses AI to identify and analyse products, users can set preferences, like "No USA-owned brands" or "Only EU-based brands". —AP

Ukraine Inc struggles due to power cuts, uncertainty

Kyiv: It is pre-dawn in the historic Podil district of Ukrainian capital Kyiv, and warm light from the Spelta bakery-bistro's window pierces the darkness outside. On a wooden surface dusted with flour, the baker Oleksandr Kutsenko skillfully divides and shapes soft, damp pieces of dough. As he shapes the first loaves into the oven, a sweet, delicate



aroma of fresh bread fills the space. Seconds later, the lights go out, the ovens switch off, and darkness envelops the room. Kutsenko, 31, steps outside into the freezing night, switches on a large rectangular generator, and the power kicks back in. This pattern is repeated many times as the business struggles to keep working through the power outages

caused by Russia's bombing campaign on Ukraine's energy grid. "It's more than impossible to imagine a Ukrainian business operating without a generator," said **Olha Hrynychuk**, 28, the co-founder and head baker of Spelta.

The cost of purchasing and operating generators to overcome power outages is one of the chal-

lenges facing Ukrainian businesses after four years of war. Labour crisis due to mobilisation and migration, security risks, declining purchasing power and complicated logistics add to the pressure, officials say.

Hrynychuk opened the bakery 10 months after Russia launched invasion in 2022. That winter was the first year Russia targeted Ukraine's

energy system. She says they barely know what it is to work under "normal" conditions, but have never faced such challenges. Production is dependent on electricity, and the generator burns 700 hryvnias (\$16) worth of fuel per hour. "We run on a generator for 10-12 hours a day. You have no fixed schedule, but have to adapt and refuel it." —AP

Briefs

NEW DELHI

Surya made my life easy in T20Is: Coach



India head coach **Gautam Gambhir** says his high-pressure job feels a bit easier in the T20 format thanks to the "calm leadership" of Suryakumar Yadav, who "ticks every box" as captain. In a short clip posted by Star Sports, Gambhir said India is lucky to have the swashbuckler as its captain. "Surya has made my life a lot easier in this format. He is a phenomenal leader of men, not by what he does on the field, not by how he is as a batsman or how his strokes are in this format."

CHENNAI

New Zealand eye victory over UAE



Mitchell Santner led-New Zealand will be eager to consolidate their top position in Group D with a second successive victory when they face the United Arab Emirates in a T20 World Cup match here on Tuesday. The Kiwis overcame a dangerous Afghanistan by five wickets on Sunday to garner crucial two points, and would now look to maximise their outing against a relatively easier opponent. The win against the Afghans showcased the utility of New Zealand's long and experienced batting order.

LONDON

Haaland seals dramatic 2-1 win for City



Erling Haaland kept Manchester City's Premier League title hopes alive with a dramatic late penalty at Liverpool. The Norwegian struck in second-half stoppage time in an explosive game at Anfield on Sunday to seal a 2-1 win and cut the gap on first-place Arsenal back to six points. City's title prospects looked in dire shape when Dominik Szoboszlai crashed a stunning long-range free kick in off the post in the 74th minute. Bernardo Silva equalised 10 minutes later. Haaland scored from the spot in the 93rd after Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson brought down Matheus Nunes in the box.

BCCI ANNUAL CONTRACTS | Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja kept in A category

Rohit, Kohli demoted to Grade B; Shami dropped

NEW DELHI

Senior superstars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were on expected lines downgraded to group B of the latest annual central contract awarded by the BCCI which also abolished the prevailing A+ category carrying a retainership fee of ₹7 crore.

The BCCI on Monday awarded central contract to 30 men and 21 women cricketers classified in group A, B and C. The cycle for new central contract is based on performance and volume of games played during the preceding season.

Two-format skipper Shubman Gill along with senior pacer Jasprit Bumrah and premier Test all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja were retained in group A.

However, the BCCI didn't mention the quantum of retainership fees for the three categories. With A+ being done away, in the earlier seasons, group A was valued at ₹5 crore, group B at ₹3 crore annually, and group C at ₹1 crore. As far as Kohli and Rohit are concerned, their retirement from Tests and T20Is effectively makes them one-format players and hence as per criteria, they couldn't have been retained in the top-most category.

It is understood that A+ was a gradation that was introduced by the erstwhile Committee of Administrators (COA) at the behest of former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni. It was meant for excellence across three formats and all these years, only four people qualified --



Kohli, Rohit, Jadeja and Bumrah -- in that category.

But, with three of the four retiring from one or two formats, the BCCI didn't want just Bumrah to be kept in A+ as the national selection committee isn't convinced that Test and ODI skipper Gill is an all-format certainty after being dropped from the T20 World Cup squad.

One interesting aspect, however, will be whether Bumrah is paid the earlier retainership amount (Rs 7 crore) as he is still an automatic choice across all formats and it is not his fault that the highest category has been done away with.

Ishan, Sarfaraz miss out

During the last cycle, 34 players were awarded contracts but this time the list has been pruned to 30. Veteran pacer Mohammed Shami, keeper-batter Ishan Kishan, seamer Mukesh Kumar and Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan didn't figure in the list.

Thirty senior men cricketers awarded central contract as BCCI do away with A plus grade

SENIOR WOMEN GRADE A

Harmanpreet Kaur
Simriti Mandhana
Jemimah Rodrigues
Deepti Sharma

The reason being during the said cycle, they didn't play a single international game across any format.

Shami's exclusion is an indication that he is no longer in the selectors' scheme of things. While Kishan made a spectacular comeback in T20Is, it was only in the new cycle. In case of Mukesh, he is no longer in the radar and didn't play last season.

Ditto for Sarfaraz, who was part of the squad in Australia but did not play a single game. He had no matches to show

for contract retention.

In the 30 names, only three have got grade A, 11 had been listed in grade B and 16 others in grade C. The only surprise, although of minor proportions, is senior player Axar Patel, who regularly plays ODI and T20Is and is part of Test squad, being relegated to group C with one format players.

Jemimah upgraded

While skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Deepti Sharma and Smriti Mandhana retained their top billing in the women's list, India's World Cup star Jemimah Rodrigues got a promotion from group B to A for her stellar semi-final show against Australia.

Sneh Rana has also got a promotion and is now in group B along with Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh and Renuka Singh Thakur.

There were 13 cricketers in group C. As of now, women's central contract retainership fees are Rs 50 lakh, Rs 30 lakh and Rs 10 lakh respectively.

Zimbabwe defeat Oman by eight wickets

COLOMBO

The highly rated Brian Bennett showed his class on the big stage with an unbeaten 36-ball 48 to complement the bowlers' excellent display and power Zimbabwe to an eight-wicket win over Oman in their T20 World Cup match here on Monday.

Opting to bowl, Blessing Muzarabani wreaked havoc with the new ball before his pace-bowling colleague Richard Ngarava joined him in the demolition job to skittle out Oman for 103.

The duo of Muzarabani (3/16 in 4 overs) and Richard Ngarava (3/17 in 4 overs) were the most successful bowlers for Zimbabwe as Oman put up an ordinary display with the bat. They were in danger of being bowled out for a much lesser total after slipping to 27 for five in the seventh over.

Pacer Brad Evans also chipped in with impressive figures of 3/18 from 3.5 overs in a brilliant Zimbabwean bowling performance.

Zimbabwe them made a flying start to the chase courtesy of Tadiwanashe Marumani who blazed away to 21 off 11 balls before Wasim Ali pulled off a stunning catch to dismiss the opener.

Sufyan Mehmood struck again in the same over, dismissing Dion Myers for a duck. But Bennett and experienced wicketkeeper Brendan Taylor (31 retired hurt) put on 68 runs for the third wicket to complete the task for Zimbabwe in just 13.3 overs.

The 22-year-old Bennett, who came into the World Cup after enjoying the form of his life on home soil and will hold the key for Zimbabwe going forward.

Scotland outplay debutants Italy

Leask starred with a late cameo and a 4-wicket haul in 73-run win



Scotland all-rounder Michael Leask and skipper Richie Berrington celebrate the wicket of Italy's Harry Manenti in Kolkata on Monday. ANI

KOLKATA

All-rounder Michael Leask starred with a late cameo and a four-wicket haul after opener George Munsey's attacking fifty as Scotland thrashed debutants Italy by 73 runs in their T20 World Cup Group C match here on Monday.

The left-hander Munsey, who survived a reprieve on 41, dominated the bowling with a fluent 84 off 54 balls (4x4, 2x6) before Leask gave the final flourish in a 22 not out from last five balls, smoking Thomas Draca for two sixes and two fours at the Eden Gardens.

After his quickfire cameo, the off-spinner took a wicket off the first ball of the innings and returned figures of 4/17. Italy folded for 134 for nine in 16.4 overs as captain Wayne Madsen did not bat after suffering a shoulder injury earlier in the game.

West Indies, Scotland and England now take the top-three spots in group C, separated by net run-rate. Scotland have played two matches while England and WI have played one each.

Italy's chase began poorly as Leask struck with the very first ball, removing Justin Mosca.

He remained the busiest man on the field, breaking partnerships at crucial moments.

JJ Smuts briefly lifted Italy's spirits, taking 23 runs off Brad Wheel's third over with a sequence of 6, 4, 6, while Anthony Mosca added another big hit.

Despite losing three wickets inside the first 28 balls, Italy showed fight through Ben Manenti (52 off 31), who scored the country's first-ever T20 World Cup fifty.

He reached the landmark in 29 balls, hitting Oliver Davidson over midwicket for six.

We're preparing to play all games at T20 WC: Pak pacer

Mirza says playing India will be the government's decision and there focus remains on the USA game

COLOMBO

Pakistan pacer Salman Mirza on Monday said that the team is preparing for the entire T20 World Cup and will play against arch-rivals India on February 15 here if his government decides so.

While addressing a press conference ahead of Pakistan's match against the USA on Tuesday, Mirza was asked if the players had any discussions within the group regarding the match against India.

"We are preparing for the entire T20 World Cup. We will play accordingly to the team we have to play. It will be the decision of the government. We will do whatever is told to us," the 32-year-old said. However the focus for the time being is on USA, who beat them in the last edition.

"We are focused on the coming match and we are focusing on the match one-to-one, whichever is coming up. And about the match on the 15th (vs India), that is the decision of the government, whatever they decide we will play



Pakistan's Mohammad Nawaz (R), Salman Mirza and Shadab Khan in Colombo on Saturday. AP

accordingly."

Meanwhile, Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi is set to request his Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to withdraw the boycott of their T20 World Cup match against India after being requested to do so by his Bangladesh counterpart, a PCB source has revealed.

In the T20 World Cup two years ago, USA, then co-hosts, had notched a famous upset

win via Super Over against Pakistan in Dallas.

Asked about that defeat, Mirza said, "This happens often in cricket. It is a past and we can only learn from it. Our focus is on the next match. The group is preparing well and we will be focused on that."

"All matches are important. I don't think any team is weak or strong in T20 cricket," he said on Monday.

No sanction on Bangladesh for refusal to play T20WC in India

DUBAI

The ICC on Monday said it would not be imposing any penalty on the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for refusing to play its T20 World Cup matches in India.

The world governing said it made the decision after a dialogue with the BCB as well as the Pakistan Cricket Board, which announced a boycott of the February 15 game against India to show its solidarity with Bangladesh.

"It is agreed that no financial, sporting or administrative penalty will be imposed on Bangladesh Cricket Board in relation to the current matter," the ICC said in a statement.

"It is acknowledged that BCB retains the right to approach the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), should it choose to do so. This right exists under current ICC regulations and remains intact."

The ICC said its "approach is guided by its principles of neutrality and fairness and reflects the shared objective of facilitative support rather than punishment."

Markram leads South Africa to 57-run win over Canada

Ngidi takes four wickets while Jansen gets 2 wickets

AHMEDABAD

Skipper Aiden Markram led from the front with a flamboyant half-century to guide South Africa to 57-run victory over Canada in a Group D T20 World Cup match here on Monday.

Lungii Ngidi was named Player of the Match for taking four wickets while Jansen scalped two wickets to restrict Canada to 156 for 8 in 20 overs.

Navneet Dhaniwal top-scored for Canada with 64 runs in 49 balls.

Sent in to bat, Markram (59 off 32 balls) opened the floodgates with three boundaries off Dilon Heyliger in the second over to lead Proteas to a 213 for four against Canada.

Quinton de Kock (25 off 22 balls) followed suit, smashing Saad Bin Zafar for two consecutive fours, hitting the bowler over long-off.

The duo continued in the same fashion, picking up boundaries and sixes. They stitched 70 runs for the opening stand in just 6.5 overs.

South Africa were dealt the first blow in the form of De



South Africa's captain Aiden Markram plays a shot against Canada in Ahmedabad on Monday. AP

Kock as he was cleaned up by skipper and right-arm pacer Dilpreet Bajwa.

Markram was in ominous form as he brought up his fifty with a four off Bajwa in just 28 balls in the 10th over.

Ryan Rickelton too looked in great form as he smashed three fours and one six during his 21-ball 31-run knock.

Markram's knock was finally cut short by left-arm spinner Ansh Patel, caught at

long-on by Heyliger.

Soon after, Rickelton walked back to the pavilion, handing a straight-forward catch to Harsh Thaker at the rope off the bowling of Patel.

Towards the end, veteran David Miller (39 not out off 23 balls) and Tristan Stubbs (34 off 19 balls) powered the Proteas to the big total with an unbeaten 75-run fifth-wicket partnership that came off just 37 balls.

Davis Cup triumph

I played some different tennis: Dhakshineswar Suresh

PTI

BENGALURU

India's newest Davis Cup hero Dhakshineswar Suresh says his dream run for the country is "just the beginning" as he prepares to step into full-fledged competition on the ATP Tour after completing his studies at a US university.

Pursuing communication studies at the Wake Forest University, the 25-year-old will complete his degree in May this year.

In just two ties since making his debut in September 2025, Dhakshineswar boasts an impressive 4-0 record, with three of those wins coming against the Netherlands in Bengaluru last weekend.

"It's a long way to go. It's just the beginning," said Dhakshineswar, who matched Leander Paes' feat of winning three matches in a single tie back in 2004 against Japan.

Following his superlative show, India edged the

Netherlands 3-2 to progress to the second round of the Davis Cup Qualifiers, where they will meet Korea in September.

"I'll go back to the US to finish my studies, then come down in May and figure out my schedule. Once that's sorted, I'll start getting into the Tour and prepare for the next Davis Cup," he said.

On Dhakshineswar's remarkable record, captain Rohit Rajpal said, "There aren't many players who go 4-0 in Davis Cup rubbers,

especially against quality opponents. He keeps coming up with big serves and big forehands. I hope he keeps enjoying his tennis and keeps performing."

Dhakshineswar said representing India had brought out a different side of his game. "It's a different feeling when you're playing for your country. You're not just playing for yourself, you're playing for the whole nation. I played some different tennis in these matches and I'm really proud of that," he said.

The tall Chennai-born player, who played marathon singles and doubles matches over two days, credited the support staff and team environment for his recovery and consistency.

"The physios and everyone took care of me really well. Team chemistry on and off the court makes a huge difference. Everyone trusting me helps me play good tennis," he added.

Rajpal also lauded an injured Sumit Nagal for leading the team.



India's Dhakshineswar Suresh being carried by teammates after India won the Davis Cup Qualifier round one against Netherlands in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI