

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Tuesday, 10 March, 2026

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

Briefs

UP attracts investment proposals

LUCKNOW Uttar Pradesh has received foreign direct and foreign capital investment proposals worth about Rs20,300 crore under its investment promotion policy, signalling growing investor confidence in the state's industrial reforms. Of the 21 proposals received, projects worth Rs12,500 crore have been approved, while eight proposals worth Rs7,800 crore are under consideration. Investments are largely in electronics manufacturing, semiconductors, renewable energy and data centres, mainly around the Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway industrial corridor.

Man eyes 7th marriage, son goes to cops

AZAMGARH A minor boy has approached police in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh seeking intervention to stop his 55-year-old father from allegedly planning a seventh marriage. The boy also alleged that his father had taken Rs50,000 in advance after promising to sell family land. Police said the complaint was submitted at Atrulia Police Station. Officials said an inquiry will be conducted to verify the allegations, after which efforts will be made to counsel the father.

Panel formed to protect Khejri trees

JAIPUR Following intense protests by the Bishnoi community and environmentalists against tree-felling for solar plants, the Rajasthan government has formed a six-member committee to draft the Tree Protection Act. Led by Law Minister Jogaram Patel, the panel will study interstate laws to propose stricter regulations for non-agricultural lands within one month. This move follows a statewide ban on cutting Khejri trees, fulfilling Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma's recent assembly assurance to safeguard the state tree.

₹241 cr asset of drug lords frozen

CHANDIGARH Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema on Monday told the Assembly that assets worth Rs241 crore belonging to drug traffickers were frozen and Rs17 crore in drug money recovered in the past year. From Mar 1, 2025 to Feb 28, 2026, police registered 36,178 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and arrested 47,902 suspects. Authorities also seized large quantities of heroin, opium, marijuana and other narcotics during the crackdown.

Nitish to start Samridhi Yatra again

PATNA Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will resume his Samridhi Yatra from Supaul on Tuesday, covering 10 districts in five days. He will review the implementation of development schemes and issue directions to speed up projects. Kumar will also visit Madhepura, Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia, Katihar, Saharsa, Khagaria, Begusarai and Sheikhpura. The third phase of the tour follows a pause during the Assembly's budget session. Kumar has already visited 12 districts in the first two phases.

SAFE HARBOUR | EAM tells RS Tehran sought nod on Feb 28; IRIS Lavan docked on March 4, crew still at Indian facilities

India offered shelter to 3 Iranian ships in Kochi

New Delhi

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar stated on Monday that India has given shelter to three Iranian ships in Kochi. In his address to the Rajya Sabha, the minister said, "Iranian side requested permission on 28 February for three ships in the region to dock at our ports. This was accorded on 1 March. IRIS LAVAN actually docked on 4 March in Kochi. The crew is currently in Indian naval facilities."

The minister had also referred to the Iranian ship at the recently held Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi when he said on Saturday that one Iranian ship wanted to come to port.

"We got a message from the Iranian side that one of the ships, which presumably was closest to us... to our waters at that point of time... wanted to come into our port. They were reporting that they were having problems. And so, my recollection is this was on the 28th (February); and on the 1st (March), we said, 'okay, you



Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Akhilesh Yadav and other opposition leaders stage a protest over the West Asia crisis, during the second part of Budget session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday

can come in." While the External Affairs Minister's address to the Rajya Sabha did mention energy security as key area of concern he did not outline the steps that India was undertaking to manage the crisis. The minister also did not mention New Delhi's response to the US's recent offer to India allowing New Delhi to buy Russian oil for 30 days. Oil aside, diplomats and strategic commentators were surprised as the minister's did

not mention the US sinking of the Iranian frigate the IRIS Dena. Former foreign secretary Kanwal Sibal believed that while the government need not have taken on that task, it could have come from the Indian Navy after clearance from the MEA. "A word of condolence by the Indian Navy (after political clearance) at the loss of lives of those who were our invitees and saluted our president would be in order."

Oppn protests gov't silence

New Delhi: The Opposition MPs, led by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday staged a protest in the Parliament complex over the issue of the ongoing conflict in West Asia and accused the Centre of maintaining silence on the issue. Holding a large banner which read, "Gulf burning. Oil shock. Indians stranded - India needs leadership, not silence," the protesting lawmakers demanded that the government speak up on the issue on how the crisis was impacting India and how it intended to counter its adverse effects on the citizens and Indian diaspora abroad. The Opposition MPs also accused the central leadership of "cowardice" for not speaking on several key aspects of the conflict.

Social Media is Rapidly Spreading Mental Pollution

Today, social media has become a vital part of our lives. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are sources of information and entertainment, but their indiscriminate use is also rapidly spreading mental pollution. Viral posts, rumors, and a mindset of comparison are exacerbating problems like stress, depression, and self-doubt. Young people are the most affected, as they constantly spend time on screens and fall prey to unverified news. To combat this, it is essential that we



Anoop Mishra

use social media judiciously and balanced.

Families, teachers, and society should work together to teach young people digital discipline. Social media is a means of entertainment, but if left unchecked, it can become a major source of mental pollution.

TMC notice to discuss voting right

NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress MPs have given notices in both Houses of Parliament to discuss "voter disenfranchisement", sources said on Monday.

In the Lok Sabha, senior party leader Saugata Roy has submitted an adjournment motion notice demanding a debate on the issue. In the Rajya Sabha, MPs Nadimul Haque and Saket Gokhale have given notices under Rule 267, sources said.

The move comes as the opposition cries foul over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in five states -- including West Bengal -- that are heading to Assembly elections.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has been vocal in its opposition to the manner in which the SIR exercise is being carried out.

According to official data released on February 28, as many as 63.66 lakh names, or around 8.3 per cent of the electorate, have been deleted since the SIR process began in West Bengal in November last year, reducing the voter base from about 7.66 crore to just over 7.04 crore.

AAIB report on Gujarat crash soon: Minister

NEW DELHI

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has said that the probe by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) into the tragic crash of a London-bound Air India flight is progressing at a "very good pace" and the report should come out within a year of the incident.

The crash took place soon after the aircraft took off from the Ahmedabad airport on June 12 last year. "The investigation is going at a very good pace, and the ministry is providing all the resources that are required for the AAIB. The report should be out by the completion of the year," Naidu said, answering queries during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha.

Bengal sends reply on Murmu visit row

KOLKATA

The West Bengal government has submitted a report to the Centre, explaining the circumstances surrounding the alleged breach of protocol during President Droupadi Murmu's recent visit to Siliguri, officials said on Monday.

State Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraborty sent the report to Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, along with supporting documents detailing the sequence of events related to the incident, they said.

"The report explaining the entire sequence of events has been sent to the Union home ministry along with relevant documents," a senior West Bengal government officer said. "We have placed on record



the administrative decisions taken at every stage," he said. The report also explains why Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was not present at the programme, he said. In addition, the state government has informed the Centre about the reasons behind the decision to change the venue of the International Indigenous and Santhal Conference during Murmu's visit.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs had sought a report from the West Bengal government, following allegations of a protocol breach during the President's visit to the state on March 7.

Indonesia in agreement to buy BrahMos

JAKARTA

Indonesia has entered an agreement with India to procure the BrahMos missile system, its defence ministry spokesperson Rico Ricardo Sirait told Reuters on Monday.

In 2023, BrahMos, a company co-owned by the Indian and Russian governments, told Reuters it was in advanced discussions with Jakarta on a deal worth \$200 million to \$350 million.

Rico said the agreement was "part of the modernisation of military hardware and defence capabilities, especially in the maritime sector."

He declined to confirm the total value of the agreement.

The company clinched its first foreign deal, with the Philippines, Indonesia's Southeast Asian neighbour, in 2022.

LPG crisis: B'luru hotels face closure

BENGALURU

Hotel and restaurant operations in the city may be hit from March 10 after a sudden halt in the supply of commercial gas cylinders due to the West Asia conflict, the Bangalore Hotels Association said on Monday.

Holding the Central government responsible for disruption in supply of commercial gas cylinders to hotels, the association has called for closure of all eating houses on Tuesday.

Noting that the supply of commercial gas cylinders stopped on Monday, it said that since the hotel industry is an essential service, common people, students, and medical professionals, who rely on eateries for daily meals, will be affected.

The association said oil companies had guaranteed an uninterrupted gas supply for 70 days, making the sudden stoppage a "big blow" to the hotel industry.

Speaking to reporters, P C Rao, Honorary President of the association, said hotel owners are unwilling to suspend operations for any reason, but the government's move has made it inevitable for most of them.

Addressing the media, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed concerns over the supply chain disruption.

Also, the central government has increased the price of LPG cylinders for commercial use by Rs 115 and for domestic use by Rs 60, he said, adding that it has "pushed the hotel industry into hardship".

'Chirag as CM' posters crop up in Patna

PATNA

Even as there is no clear hint who will be the next chief minister of Bihar, posters on Sunday cropped up at several places in Patna, demanding the CM post for LJP (RV) chief and union minister Chirag Paswan.

Names of several BJP leaders are doing the rounds for the post of Bihar's new chief minister after the present incumbent Nitish Kumar decided to move to Rajya Sabha.

The posters mention, "No riots, no violence, only Chirag should be the chief minister of Bihar," reviving the demand for the top post for the LJP leader. The posters also read, "Crown him, only then will Bihar's golden age arrive. Modi has blessed his Hanuman (Chirag). Chirag will be the new leader of Bihar."

Heat melts Indore runway, flights hit

INDORE

Two passenger flights were diverted to Bhopal on Monday as the bitumen layer on a portion of the runway at Indore's Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport melted and loosened due to high temperature during repair work, an official said.

Airport PRO Ramswaroop Yadav told PTI that the runway re-carpeting work is being carried

out between 11 PM and 5 AM.

"The heat in the city has suddenly increased. During a routine inspection, it was found that due to the high temperature, the bitumen layer laid on a portion of the runway had melted and became looser than the prescribed standards," Yadav said.

He added that a team of civil engineers completed the necessary repairs within 20 minutes.

Cheetah tally 50+ after 5 Kuno births

BHOPAL

India's cheetah population crossed the 50-mark on Monday after the birth of five cubs to Namibian cheetah 'Jwala' at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, bringing the national total to 53.

The announcement was made by Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, who noted that this development comes just days after another cheetah, Gamiini, gave birth to four cubs in the same reserve.

The birth of Jwala's quintuplets represents a major victory for 'Project Cheetah' and the success of the country's



cheetah reintroduction efforts.

"With this birth, the number of Indian-born thriving cubs has risen to 33, marking the 10th successful cheetah litter on Indian soil -- another important milestone in India's cheetah conservation journey," Yadav said in a post on X.

Eminent historian KN Panikkar dies

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Eminent historian and academic K N Panikkar died at a private hospital here due to age-related ailments on Monday, family sources said.

He was 90. A towering figure in the field of history, Panikkar was widely recognised for his

Marxist interpretation in history writing and for advocating secular and scientific approaches in the sector. He was also a known critique of communalism.

The veteran played a key role in shaping progressive perspectives in the study of modern Indian history.

After higher studies, Panikkar joined as a history faculty at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi, where he later served as head of the department.

Insulted by EC at meet: WB minister

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress (TMC) said that they are 'unhappy' with the meeting with the full bench of the Election Commission.

Notably, on Monday Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, and West Bengal CEO Manoj Agarwal, held the meeting with representatives of various political parties at a hotel in New Town near Kolkata.

The three member team of TMC comprising Ministers Chandrima Bhattacharya, Firhad Hakim and TMC Rajya Sabha candidate Rajeev Kumar attended the all party meeting.

After coming out from the meeting, while addressing the media Chandrima said that

Didi's dharna firing on BJP

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers were distributing leaflets at the site of her sit-in protest in Kolkata. -Aritra Singha

she was 'insulted'.

"I am a woman and I am asked not to shout. I was not shouting but was talking loudly. Moreover, why should I not raise my voice when we are speaking about people's rights? The volume of my microphone was lowered," said Chandrima.

The TMC minister also mentioned that the TMC delegations were told that since the TMC has gone to the Supreme Court on the SIR issue, it will be decided by there.



MIKA

National Lok Adalat: Publicity Vehicle Flagged Off



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Manager of Bank of Baroda were also present at the District Court premises. Paralegal volunteers, using the vehicle, promoted the National Lok Adalat throughout the city. Nodal Officer, Lok Adalat and ADJ Ravikant, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Shashi Kumar, and other officials were present on the occasion. Secretary Shashi Kumar stated that the public is requested to attend the National Lok Adalat on March 14th, either in person or with their advocates, to resolve their cases. This will facilitate access to justice for citizens and ensure speedy disposal of pending cases.

Prayagraj. District Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Satya Prakash Tripathi, flagged off a publicity vehicle to promote the success of the National Lok Adalat, to be held on March 14th. Managers of all banks and the District Lead

Electricity worker commits suicide by jumping from the new Yamuna bridge; Water police retrieve body



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. An electricity worker jumped to his death from the new Yamuna bridge on Monday afternoon. The incident caused a stir in the area. People on the bridge immediately informed the Water Police and local police stationed at the ghat. According to police, the deceased has been identified as Shubham Sharma (28), a resident of Baghada in the Colonelganj police station area. He

reportedly arrived at the new Yamuna bridge on Monday afternoon and suddenly jumped into the river. The incident caused panic among those nearby, who immediately informed the police. Upon receiving the information, the Water Police team stationed at the ghat arrived at the scene and began searching for the young man in the river. After some effort, the young man was pulled out of the water, but by then, he had already died. Upon receiving infor-

mation about the incident, the Kidganj police also arrived at the scene. The police took possession of the body, completed the Panchnama (inquest report) process, and sent it for post-mortem. The police have also informed the deceased's family about the incident. Initially, the case appears to be a suicide. However, the circumstances under which the young man took this extreme step are not yet clear. The police are questioning the family.

Women's Commission Member to Hold Public Hearing on March 11

Prayagraj

Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission Member Geeta Vishwakarma will hear cases related to harassment of women on March 11. A public hearing will be held at the Circuit House at 11:30 a.m. District Probation Officer Sarvjeet Singh stated that during the public hearing, cases related to harassment of women will be heard and complaints resolved. He added that affected women can present their complaints at the scheduled time.

Police action against accused of fraud worth Rs 100 crore, house seized

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Police have seized property against Adil Wasi, an absconding accused in a multi-crore fraud case. Police from Shahganj police station raided his home and seized the goods stored there. According to police, Adil Wasi is said to be an associate of fire-cracker businessman Qadir and has been absconding for a long time. He is accused of defrauding people of approximately Rs 100 crore by luring them with promises of doubling their money. The police have also announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for the arrest of the accused. Police say they are continuously searching for the accused and will soon arrest him.

Young woman dies tragically after falling into a well

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi. A young woman in Noorpur Hajipur village, under the Pipri police station area, died tragically after falling into a well. It is reported that the young woman had gone to the village well to drink water in the morning when her foot suddenly slipped and she fell straight into the well. According to the deceased's father, Ram Tirath, son of Shivpujan, his daughter Ranjana Devi had gone to the well to drink water, but the accident occurred. Upon learning of the incident, villagers and police, after considerable effort, retrieved the young woman's body from the well. Police have taken the body into custody and sent it for post-mortem examination. Currently, the police are investigating the case.

A one-day divisional fisheries workshop was held in Prayagraj under the chairmanship of the Joint Development Commissioner

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A one-day divisional fisheries workshop was held on Monday at the Deputy Director Fisheries office, chaired by Matsyanath Trivedi, Joint Development Commissioner, Prayagraj Division. Present at the event were Vijaypal, Deputy Director Fisheries, Prayagraj Division, Chief Executive Officer, Prayagraj District, Vijay Prakash Shukla, In-charge of the Agricultural Science Center, Dr. Mukesh and Dr. Ramnaresh Chaudhary, Deputy District Veterinary



Officer, and Vijay Kumar, Senior Technical Officer, ICAR-CIFRI. Fish farmers from Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, and Fatehpur districts of Prayagraj Division participated in the workshop. The Deputy Director Fisheries informed fish farmers about the benefits of departmental schemes, village community leases, and other schemes. Chief Executive Officer Vijay Prakash Shukla shared important information regarding eligibility, application process, and benefits. A senior technical officer from ICAR provided technical

information on river and pond maintenance, soil and water testing, and fish farming. Joint Development Commissioner Matsyanath Trivedi listened to the fish farmers' problems and assured them that they would be addressed at the divisional review meeting. He suggested that similar seminars be held at the tehsil and block levels. Finally, the Deputy Director of Fisheries shared information on the resolution of problems and solutions, thanking all the officials and fish farmers present. The program concluded successfully.

A young man riding a bike was shot dead in Pratapgarh; police are investigating the case



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Police arrived at the scene, took the body into custody and began an investigation. The deceased was identified as Aashiq Ali, a resident of Achalpur. According to preliminary information, the deceased had been in a long-standing dispute with his wife and had disagreements

Pratapgarh. Unknown assailants shot and killed a young man riding a bike in the Chaukhra forest of the Dilippur police station area. Villagers found the young man's body and bike on the roadside and informed the police.

over property transactions. Police are investigating the case thoroughly, taking all aspects into consideration. The station in-charge stated that the murder case will be solved soon and appropriate action will be taken. The incident has created a sensation in the area.

Emphasis on women's safety and empowerment in Bhadohi, Dr. Babita Chauhan holds public hearing

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Bhadohi. On March 9, 2026, a women's public hearing was organized in Bhadohi under the chairmanship of Dr. Babita Chauhan, Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh Women's Commission, along with District Magistrate Shailesh Kumar, Superintendent of Police Abhimanyu Manglik, Additional Superintendent of Police Shubham Agarwal, and all station heads and district-level officials. The public hearing focused on maximizing the benefits of women-related welfare schemes, preventing harassment of



women, and ensuring speedy justice. During the program, 35 complaints were received, of which 23 were resolved immediately, and the remaining applications were forwarded to the relevant officials and action was initiated for resolution. The District Magistrate and

Superintendent of Police directed officials to ensure prompt action in cases related to women's safety and harassment. Dr. Babita Chauhan conducted a surprise inspection of the district jail and inquired from female prisoners about their problems, health, safety, and food. She directed the prison

administration to ensure sensitive and humane treatment. She stated that the government is committed to protecting women's rights and rehabilitating them. On this occasion, Dr. Babita Chauhan also inspected the Maharaja Chet Singh Government District

Hospital. Expressing displeasure with the hospital's arrangements and cleanliness, she directed the concerned officials to make improvements. She honored women and girls through birthday celebrations, baby showers, and street plays, and distributed nutrition kits and gifts. Former District Vice President Sapna Dubey, CWC member Sangeeta Khanna, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Santosh Kumar Chak, District Probation Officer Shatrughan Kannaujia, District Basic Education Officer Shivam Pandey, and other officials were present at the event.

Journalists should discharge their duties with complete honesty and integrity: Muneshwar Mishra

Indian National Journalists Federation's Holi Milan program concluded

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. The Holi Milan and oath-taking ceremony of the Indian National Journalists Federation's Metropolitan Unit was held in front of Mauzees Restaurant, Anand Bhavan. Shivesh Kumar Rai, District Patron, Metropolitan Unit, presided over the event. Chief guest was Muneshwar Mishra, National President, and special guest was Dr. Bhagwan Prasad Upadhyay, National Convener. Dr. Yogendra Kumar Mishra, Deshbandhu, National General Secretary. The program was conducted by Pankaj Gupta, District President. Officials from the rural and metropolitan units were present at the event. The program began with Saraswati Vandana by Shambhunath Srivastava and Ganesh Vandana by Utpal Vapi, followed by a musical rendition of bhajans and Holi songs by singing artists. During the program, National Convener Dr. Bhagwan Prasad Upadhyay stated that the Indian National Journalists Federation (INFJF)



is actively working in forty-seven districts of Uttar Pradesh and fourteen states across the country, fighting for the rights, safety, and respect of journalists. Various units have been formed for the benefit of journalists, which periodically provide support, respect, and security to their fellow journalists. Regarding the Invitation Cell, he explained that fellow jour-

nalists who inform the organization about financial difficulties for their daughters' marriages will receive all possible assistance from the Indian National Journalists Federation. He also explained the Health and Medical Cell, stating that fellow journalists who are financially challenged for the treatment of serious illnesses will also receive mean-

ingful support from the Federation. He also provided information about several other cells. He then administered the oath to new journalists and honored them with certificates and mementos. In the same vein, Chief Guest Muneshwar Mishra, National President, emphasized that journalists should recognize the power of their pen, as they are vigilant

guardians of the fourth pillar. They should become a mirror of society through impartial and fearless journalism. Do not flatter the government administration.

If they are harassed in any way by the government administration for unbiased journalism, then the Federation will stand by them and will provide all possible support.

Journalism is a penance, discharge your duties with complete honesty and integrity. In the same sequence, Dr. Yogendra Kumar Mishra Vishwabandh, Shivesh Kumar Rai and District President Pankaj Gupta wished Holi to all the journalist visitors and appealed for the expansion of Prayagraj unit. Editor Santosh Kumar greeted everyone with Gulal and wished them Happy Holi. Apart from this, other journalist speakers expressed their views. After that, arrangements for Dal Baati and breakfast were arranged by the Journalist Federation, which the journalists enjoyed eating. During that time, National Media Incharge Pawanesh Upadhyay, along with Rajendra Pandey, Sushil Kumar Rai, Shiv Pratap Srivastava, Devendra Sharma, Vikas Kelkar, Himanshu Gupta Vice President, Rukhan Rastogi Treasurer, Surya Pratap Singh Secretary, Dayashankar, Keshav Prakash Saxena, Praveen Dubey, Pradeep Singh, Neeraj Khare, Shalini Kesarwani, Manya Gupta, Renu Kesarwani, etc. other journalists, litterateurs, writers were present.

A young man committed suicide by hanging himself after an argument with his wife



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Utran. A young man has committed suicide by hanging himself in Purushottampur village, under the Uttaran police station area of Prayagraj district. The incident has devastated the family and spread grief throughout the village. According to reports, the deceased, Adarsh Singh Patel, alias Kuldeep (25), son of Shyam Singh, a resident of Purushottampur, Utran police station, had recently returned home after training for a shipboard

job. The deceased's father, Shyam Singh, supports the family through farming. Adarsh was the eldest of two brothers and a sister. It is reported that Adarsh Singh Patel had married for love on April 25, 2025, in Tikri (Utran police station). His wife, Sushmita, is currently pregnant. According to family members, the couple had an argument the previous night, after which Adarsh went to his room without eating. It is being told that in a fit of rage, he committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling

fan inside the room by making a noose of his saree. In the morning, when his mother Pushpa Devi reached the room, she was shocked to see her son hanging from the noose. She immediately informed the family and the police. On receiving the information, the Uttaran police station reached the spot and took the body into custody and sent it for post-mortem. The police is busy investigating the entire matter. Since the incident, the family members are in a bad state, crying continuously.

A program was organized on the theme "The Power of Adishakti in the Creation of the Universe" on International Women's Day

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On the occasion of International Women's Day, a special program on the theme "The Power of Adishakti in the Creation of the Universe" was organized in the seminar hall of the Department of Mechanical Technology at Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad (MNNIT), Prayagraj. The program was inaugurated by lighting a lamp by Professor Rajeev Srivastava, Head of the Department of Mechanical Technology, Chief Guest Professor Sanjay Kumar Samant Rai, and Special Guest Professor H.S. Goyal. At the beginning of the program, Professor Rajeev Srivastava welcomed all the guests and expressed his views. He said that Adishakti is the root cause of all creation. It is an infinite, eternal, and divine energy that existed before the beginning of time, space, and creation. This power governs the entire universe and is the foundation of creation. He explained that in Indian culture and philosophy, Adishakti is considered the funda-



mental force of creation, preservation, and transformation. In his address, Professor Srivastava stated that the human mind is a kind of inner universe, controlling our thoughts, feelings, and actions. If students recognize the power of their minds and develop them in a positive direction, they can achieve even the greatest goals in life. He specifically mentioned Durga Shakti, saying that this power provides courage, self-confidence, and positive energy, enabling them to overcome the negative forces around them. He further stated that the concept of Adishakti is extremely important in the Indian knowledge tradition. If students empower their minds by understanding the values ??of the Indian knowledge system,

they will not only achieve success in their personal lives but can also play an important role in nation-building. He explained that the National Education Policy 2020 aims to connect students with cultural and spiritual values, along with knowledge, to develop self-confidence, creativity, and innovation in the younger generation. Professor Srivastava expressed confidence that if students understand and utilize the power of the primal force and mind, India will certainly achieve the goal of the Developed India Vision 2047. He stated that this goal represents an important step towards making the country a developed, strong, and self-reliant nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chief guest

Professor Sanjay Kumar Samant Rai, while wishing everyone a Happy International Women's Day, elaborated on the importance of women's empowerment. He stated that empowering women is essential for the overall development of society. Professor H.S. Goyal, the special guest of the program, also shared his views on the role of women and their social contributions. On this occasion, Akanksha Shukla also presented very touching and inspiring thoughts on the importance of International Women's Day, which was appreciated by all present. A large number of students and teachers were present in the program. All of them described this program based on the importance of women empowerment and Indian knowledge tradition as very inspiring and informative. The program ended with a vote of thanks. On this occasion, Dr. Sumit Tiwari, Dr. Skylab Bhore, Dr. Vandana Agarwal, Dr. Sunil Gupta, Abhinav Sharma along with many researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students were present. The program ended with a vote of thanks.

Women employees of the Municipal Corporation were honored on Women's Day

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Municipal Corporation Employees Association organized a women's convention at the Union Building at the Municipal Corporation headquarters on Sunday. Women employees from various cadres of the Municipal



Corporation enthusiastically participated in the

program. The program was presided over by Manoj

Kumar Srivastava, President of the Association and Senior Vice President of the State. During the program, women employees were honored for their work. They also pledged to work better for the Municipal Corporation. Senior Vice President Anupama Srivastava conducted the program. On this occasion, several women employees, including Amita Dubey,

Anjali Sharma, Aarti Verma, Tanupriya Gupta, Pooja Kumari, Aastha Gupta, Sunaina, Shilpi Kumari, Renu Yadav, Lata Kumari, Sandeepa, Archana Kullu, Neha Srivastava, Swati Nishad, Anita Mishra, Rachna, and Shama Parveen, were honored. President Manoj Kumar Srivastava said that this is the first time such a program has been organized

in Prayagraj Municipal Corporation to honor women employees. He said that such programs will be organized in the future to encourage women employees. Association Secretary Kamal Kushwaha, General Secretary Arvind Tripathi, Treasurer Vivek Srivastava, and other officials were also present on this occasion

Editorial

Iran-Israel War And The Limits Of India's 'Strategic Autonomy'

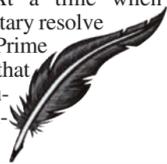
In its first week, the conflict around Iran has spread across the Gulf and moved closer to India's maritime neighbourhood. For India, this is not a distant geopolitical theatre. It is an energy shock in the making, a shipping risk, a remittance risk, and a human-security problem. The conflict has already claimed Indian lives. Few countries are as exposed to this crisis and as well connected across the region as India is. In such circumstances, caution was the correct instinct. The question is no longer whether India should be cautious in responding to this widening conflict. The question now is whether caution, by itself, is enough. The External Affairs Minister's statement in Parliament today underlines how serious the situation has become. In India, the crisis is no longer being seen only through markets, migration, and maritime routes. It is also being read through the language of sovereignty and strategic autonomy. A war framed through pre-emptive force, leadership decapitation, and widening retaliation raises questions that many feel cannot simply be brushed aside. The first is maritime. The torpedoing of the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena off Sri Lanka has altered the geometry of the war. In India, this is not seen as just another battlefield incident in the Gulf. The vessel had taken part in India's fleet review in Visakhapatnam. That matters. It reinforces the uneasy sense that a war once treated as external is now entering waters India regards as part of its own security space. The Indian Ocean is no longer a distant backdrop. It is becoming part of the conflict's operating field. Many in India see this not merely as escalation, but as a development that cuts directly against Indian interests at sea. If a Gulf war can intrude so quickly into waters off Sri Lanka, then India's concern cannot remain confined to oil prices and evacuation plans. It must extend to the security of sea lanes, the stability of its wider maritime neighbourhood, and the precedent being set in waters so close to home.

An Old Discomfort

The second is strategic autonomy under strain. The US decision to ease restrictions linked to India's purchases of Russian oil may have relieved immediate pressure. But the episode sharpens an older discomfort. The real question is what it says about the structure of Indo-US ties. If India's room for manoeuvre on energy can be publicly tightened and publicly relaxed by Washington, then strategic autonomy begins to look less like settled doctrine and more like a claim tested by circumstance. That is the larger strategic point. India's autonomy is not tested only in moments when it is asked to choose sides. It is tested when its freedom to act begins to depend on the approval of others. If Russian supplies can be politically constrained while Gulf supplies become strategically insecure, India's energy choices narrow at both ends. Strategic autonomy then stops being a matter of rhetoric and becomes a question of whether India still has enough practical freedom to act independently under pressure. For India, then, the issue is not just about how to describe the conflict. It is how to manage the fallout without letting strategic autonomy start to look like a slogan.

India Has Been Right...So Far

India's broad line so far has been defensible. It has emphasised restraint, diplomacy, civilian safety, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. That is not abdication. It preserves room for manoeuvre in a conflict where every public word can shut a private channel. At a time when Washington is projecting military resolve in unusually stark terms, Prime Minister Modi's statement that military conflict is not a solution reads as more than a routine appeal for peace.



A \$10 Billion Threat: How Exposed India Really May Be To Middle East's Oil Crisis

As the stock market bleeds, trade's stopped in major routes, interlinked businesses collapse, each nation's macroeconomic resilience is under a severe stress test, especially, when a country's energy system is deeply embedded in fragile global networks. The rapidly escalating conflict in West Asia triggered by the US-Israel power axis and the rising instability surrounding Iran's response, its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz in a few days, illustrates how quickly such disruptions travel from tanker routes to macroeconomic fundamentals. For a major energy-importing economy like India, the macroeconomic shock does not remain limited to oil prices. It moves almost immediately through the balance of payments, financial markets, and corporate balance sheets. The most immediate transmission mechanism is the balance of payments. India relies on imports for over 85% of its crude oil requirements, making energy prices one of the most powerful external determinants of macroeconomic stability. Empirical estimates suggest that every ten-dollar increase in the price of Brent crude widens India's current account deficit by roughly 0.3 to 0.4% of GDP, translating into over USD 10 billion in additional import expenditure.

What History Suggests

Energy shocks rarely occur in isolation. Periods of geopolitical uncertainty often trigger broader commodity movements and precautionary import behaviour. In early 2026, India's



gold imports surged sharply as households and investors sought a hedge against global volatility. Combined with higher fertilizer imports and rising energy costs, this pushed the country's merchandise trade deficit to unusually elevated levels. Before drawing parallels with earlier oil shocks, however, an important distinction must be made. The current disruption does not yet resemble the systemic energy crises of the past.

It's Different This Time

The scale of the price increase remains modest. Brent crude is trading around the eighty-dollar range, well below the levels reached during the Russia-Ukraine energy shock in 2022, when prices surged above USD 130 per barrel. Even in historical perspective, current prices fall within ranges that global markets have previously absorbed without triggering a full macroeconomic breakdown. Equally important is the narrow scope of the disturbance. Earlier crises were marked by simultaneous surges across multiple energy markets. The inflationary spiral of 2021 and 2022 was driven by the simultaneous rise in oil, natural gas, coal, and electricity prices. Today's volatility is concentrated

largely in crude oil and liquefied natural gas markets, preventing the broad-based energy inflation that defined previous crises.

The structure of global energy consumption has also evolved dramatically since the 1970s. At the time of the Arab oil embargo, petroleum accounted for nearly 25% of global electricity generation. Today, that share has fallen to less than 3%.

The Import Vulnerability

Yet the absence of a full energy crisis does not mean the macroeconomic consequences are mild. For energy-importing economies, even moderate oil shocks propagate quickly through domestic inflation dynamics. Higher oil prices feed directly into retail inflation through transportation costs, energy inputs, and fertilizer-linked agricultural prices. A sustained increase of USD 10 to 15 dollars per barrel can add roughly thirty basis points to consumer price inflation, while shaving roughly twenty basis points off real GDP growth. This creates a textbook stagflationary drag, importing inflationary pressures while suffocating domestic expansion. This widening deficit places immediate depreciation pressure on the Rupee.

To prevent a currency freefall and limit imported inflation, the Reserve Bank of India is forced to aggressively intervene using its foreign exchange reserves to mop up Rupees. This massive intervention sucks immense amounts of Rupee liquidity out of the domestic banking system.

Consequently, domestic borrowing costs spike for businesses and consumers alike. The dynamic creates a shadow tightening of monetary policy that chokes off credit growth, even if the central bank officially holds the repo rate steady. Persistent inflation driven by these supply-side shocks also forces households to dip into their savings to maintain basic consumption levels. This reduces the pool of domestic capital available for investment, further constraining long-term economic growth.

The Point India May Be Missing

The narrative that India's economy resides in a resilient sweet spot relies heavily on the assumption of frictionless global trade. A prolonged paralysis of the Strait of Hormuz shatters that premise, exposing the structural limits of the nation's energy architecture. The Strait itself carries around one-fifth of global oil supplies and over 20 million barrels per day of petroleum flows, making it one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints. India's profound dependence on Gulf suppliers reveals that aggregate macroeconomic buffers are highly asymmetrical. While strategic petroleum reserves offer a tempo-

rary cushion for crude, the lack of strategic storage for refined products leaves the domestic economy dangerously exposed to localized shocks.

However, the core threat remains macroeconomic stabilization. The true cost of an extended Hormuz closure is the sudden obsolescence of India's current strategic reserves and subsidy frameworks. Moving forward, policymakers must urgently rethink their strategic response to these vulnerabilities. This requires expanding the size and scope of strategic reserves to include essential fuels like LPG, aggressively diversifying toward Atlantic Basin crude, and building robust maritime security coordination with Gulf partners. A logistical freeze in the Middle East does not merely slow Indian economic growth. It destabilizes the country's balance of payments and amplifies its external vulnerability, which demands a complete recalibration of how the nation insulates its macroeconomic stability from external geopolitical decay when uncertainty rises.

[Deepanshu Mohan is Professor of Economics and Dean, O.P. Jindal Global University. He is a Visiting Professor, London School of Economics and a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. Ankur Singh is a Senior Research Assistant with Centre for New Economic Studies (CNES), O.P. Jindal Global University.]

Who Will Trump Attack Next? Hint: Follow The Chinese Money Trail

As the US and Israeli onslaught on Iran escalates, the question that is puzzling most analysts is why President Donald Trump, who declares that he wants to stop all wars, is starting one, that too in a region that has no good historical memories for the US. Many reasons, some of them surprising, have been put out by the White House and others, among which is that Iran was going nuclear, the regime change objective, and the most bizarre of all, that there was an imminent threat to the US, since a certain state was going to attack them anyway. That's not international relations, that's an excuse. Take those one by one. First, the charge that Iran was going nuclear was dismissed by Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), saying there was no structured programme on. He did qualify it by saying that the organisation had not been given full access to its 'near weapons-grade' uranium, meaning it could not provide full assurance. Then came the statement by Omani negotiators that Iran had

agreed to "zero accumulation, zero stockpiling, and full verification" by IAEA inspectors. Yet, the war started the next day. Then came Peter Hegseth, who said that regime change was not the objective, but to destroy Iran's missile programme and navy, a point never earlier raised in negotiations. Israel's motives are clear given that Iran has never accepted the existence of Israel. Publicly, it said that it saw an opportunity to kill Ayatollah Khamenei, and took it. With US 'body bags' now reaching a reported six, and serious destruction of US assets in Qatar among others, the determination of Washington to go for a war that other Presidents refused despite Israeli cajoling, has analysts puzzled. Consider the recent regime change in Venezuela, the now desire for a 'peaceful takeover' of Cuba, and the Iran issue. The common factor in all of these is primarily this: all of these countries were trading their oil or good with China in yuan, with two routing cheap oil to China in the process.

Viral Sensations to First-Timers: Meet Nepal's Gen Z Poll Stars - Beyond Balen Shah



From rapper-turned-politician to social activist viral on social media, and promoter of education and scientific inventions to the hard-working mayor of a small town, Nepal election has them all. Not just former Kathmandu mayor Balendra Shah, or his Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) colleague former TV show host Rabi Lamichhane, Nepal's post Gen Z revolt election has seen all kinds of candidates, a lot of them political novices, representing diverse backgrounds. With the RSP having created history with a near-clean sweep, rapper-mayor Balen Shah is all set to become Nepal's new prime minister. But Balen Shah is not the only unusual face in this election. Meet some of the other interesting ones:

Ashika Tamang, 33, RSP

Ashika Tamang is a well-known name in Nepal thanks to her viral videos. In recent years, she's shown herself in action in her videos calling out men peeing at public places, or folks throwing garbage at river banks. She became popular after her videos with social messages went viral on social media platforms like Facebook Reels, Instagram and TikTok. At times, the "Nepali Angelina Jolie" also faced the wrath of Nepal Police and the law of land for allegedly failing to honour public decency. The former nurse-cum-

actress is endearingly called Didi (sister) for her social work and campaign against corruption and wrongdoing. She won many hearts and minds during last year's Gen Z revolt after collecting funds to help protesters injured or dead during the violent protests. Prior to election, she courted some controversy as she spent some time in Germany working as a staff nurse. She has won the parliamentary seat from Dhading-1 as an RSP candidate, securing an impressive 39,000-plus votes, and beating old-time political heavyweights like Rajendra Pandey of the Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML).

Mahabir Pun, 71, Independent

Mahabir Pun is a well-known Nepali scientist and an activist. He founded Nepal Wireless Networking Project in the 2000s which helped connect western Nepal's remote mountain villages and schools to the worldwide web. Until last summer, he was busy touring Nepali towns and villages, selling his autobiography to raise funds for various social work projects, including the National Invention Centre that he founded in 2012. Prior to that he was engaged in community development initiatives such as setting up self-sustainable, community-run schools and projects like yak and rabbit farming to sup-

Isarel-Iran War: These Saudi And UAE Oil Pipelines Could Decide Who Wins

Iran's strategy in its war with the US and Israel is by now clear: Impose an intolerable economic cost on President Donald Trump, forcing him to abandon his "war of choice" as American gasoline prices surge. Is there any way the Islamic Republic's blueprint for survival can fail? Yes, if its old regional nemesis, Saudi Arabia, can cushion the oil market. Enter the East-West pipeline, a 1,200-kilometer (746 mile) conduit crisscrossing the Arabian Peninsula from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. Its raison d'être is to

meet this historic moment: Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Saudis built it 45 years ago thinking that, one day, Tehran would manage to do what was then unthinkable and halt shipments through the narrow waterway. The strait is a choke point for about 20 million barrels a day of crude and refined products - equal to a fifth of global consumption. The Saudi pipeline can't offset all of that, nowhere near. But it can provide a workaround for as much as 5 million daily barrels. Another pipeline, owned

by the United Arab Emirates, offers a separate bypass option to the Gulf of Oman for 1.5 million barrels. In an emergency, the UAE can probably push it close to 2 million. So together these pipelines can slow, though not stop, run-away petroleum prices if both countries can get enough tankers into the loading ports where the oil ends up. Right now about 25 supertankers, each capable of loading about 2 million barrels, have diverted from their original destinations and are headed toward the new pickup points. It

remains to be seen how the ports will cope with these armadas.

The loss of supply since the first strikes on Iran has been so brutal that oil prices jumped well above \$100 a barrel as soon as the energy market opened Sunday night, rising 20% in just a few seconds. But maybe - and I really mean maybe - the pipeline bypasses can delay further gains, buying time for Trump. The White House is still betting all-in that it can finish the war before the petroleum pressure becomes unbearable.

Loss of Japan's position as the world's leading creditor

Delhi: Despite officials claiming that Japan's net foreign assets reached a record high last year, the country has fallen from its 34-year reign as the world's top creditor to second place, behind Germany.

The finance ministry of Japan announced that the country's net external assets were 533.05 trillion yen (\$3.7 trillion) at the end of the year, an increase of 12.9% from the previous year. Yoshimasa Hayashi, a spokesman, explained that the value of financial assets and debts, as well as changes in the balance of payments, are among the elements that contribute to the determination of net external assets. "In light of these points and the fact that Japan's net foreign assets have been steadily increasing, we do not believe



that the change in ranking alone should be taken as a sign of a major change in Japan's position," Hayashi informed the media. Based on the data provided by the ministry, the following countries ranked third: China (516.28 trillion yen), Hong Kong (320.26 trillion yen), and Norway (271.83 trillion yen). The figures show that Japan's foreign assets and liabilities both increased due to the weakening yen, but that assets grew faster than liabilities, mostly because Japanese businesses invested more money overseas.

AI models allegedly disregarded direct commands to turn off

Delhi: The most recent AI models of reasoning and thought have shown, at least in test settings, an inclination to prioritize self-preservation. And they still won't turn off, no matter how many times you tell them to. The most recent ChatGPT model from OpenAI, o3, was found to have sabotaged shutdown mechanisms during testing conducted by Palisade Research. Although o3's tendency was higher than others, other sophisticated models exhibited the same behavior in a battery of tests.

Supreme Court rejects Airtel and Vodafone's requests to waive AGR fees

Delhi: Airtel and Vodafone Idea were denied a waiver of interest and penalty on their outstanding adjusted gross revenue (AGR) debts, totaling Rs 80,000 crore, by the Supreme Court. The order would have an effect on Tata Teleservices as well. After the initial SC order in 2019, which aimed to recover industrial dues, the outstanding AGR is now little less than 1.5 lakh crore.

Since it entered the telecom market in 2016 with only a



minor exposure to past dues and adjustments, Reliance Jio was the only company that walked out relatively unscathed.

The businesses' request for a postponement was denied by a panel of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, who

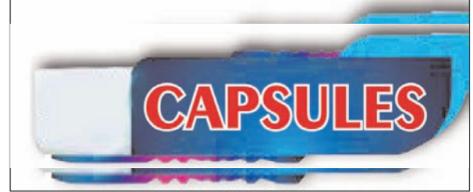
deemed the companies' petitions "shocking and misconceived" and rejected them. Multinational corporations' filing procedures for petitions seeking remedies for enforcement of rights under Article 32 were also examined by the court.

Rajasthan distribution companies ordered by the Court to pay Adani Power 186 crore

Delhi: The appeal that the electricity distribution companies in Rajasthan had lodged against the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity's (APTEL) decision in favor of Adani electricity Rajasthan Ltd, which had asked them to pay ₹186 crore in compensation,

has been rejected by the Supreme Court. Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd (JVNNL) and other state discoms filed appeals, but a bench of justices Rajesh Bindal and M M Sundresh decided on May 23 that the petitions had no validity. The decision made by APTEL in

April 2024, which identified a new tax imposed by Coal India Ltd (CIL) as a "change in law" event under the PPA between Adani Power and the discoms, was affirmed by the court. To offset costs associated with moving coal from the mine to the destination.



Meta releases standalone AI app to challenge ChatGPT

Delhi: competing with ChatGPT creator OpenAI with a standalone AI app. Meta said that its new AI assistant will use Llama AI. The Discover stream shows how others are using the tool and provides prompts. The AI arms race pits Meta's new software against ChatGPT and other AI platforms. Claude, Grok, and Gemini from Anthropic, xAI, and Google are also leading contenders. In September

2023, Meta debuted an AI chatbot as a generative AI-powered digital assistant that can respond to user questions and produce graphics in its apps. Meta AI became prominent in April when it replaced Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger's search feature with a chatbot. Zuckerberg claimed in January that 2025 "is going to be the year when a highly intelligent and personalized AI assistant reaches more than 1 billion people, and I expect Meta AI to be that leading AI assistant." Meta finance head Susan Li said Meta AI has 700 million monthly active users in January. It rose from 600 million in December. Meta launched a standalone AI app after Google and Elon Musk's xAI. Both firms released Gemini and Grok applications recently.



Drools becomes unicorn after Nestle bet

Delhi: Nestle bought a minority investment in Indian pet food startup Drools. After the investment, the Bengaluru-based company was valued at \$1 billion, joining unicorn startups. The business claimed, "This is a financial investment by the company, and Drools will remain strategically as well as operationally independent." Nestle's investment in Drools comes as the pet food and pet care industry in India is growing due to millennial and Gen Z pet parents who are willing to spend more for better nutrition and care. Nestle's Purina pet care segment,



which included pet food, accounted for 20.7% of sales in 2024. Recently, Indian companies like Godrej Consumer Care have entered the pet care sector. Drools, backed by L Catterton, competes with

Mars PetCare and Heads Up For Tails in India. Drools raised \$60 million from L Catterton in June 2023. Drools is the fourth unicorn of the year following Netradyne, Porter, and JSW One Platforms.

Byju's learning app was delisted from Google's Playstore

Delhi: Troubled edutech unicorn Byju's learning app has been delisted from the Google Playstore for non-payment of vendor dues, citing sources. The matter has been under works between Think and Learn Pvt Ltd, the parent company of Byju's, and vendor Amazon Web Services (AWS), since April 2024, it added. Did not receive a reply to their emailed queries from Think and Learn Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), it added. A spokesperson for AWS said that the company has been working with Think and Learn since April 2024, "to resolve its outstanding.

Starlink arrives in India with plans under Rs. 850 per month

Delhi: Starlink is preparing to launch its satellite communication services in India after clearing most regulatory hurdles. A report claims that its plans could cost \$10 (Rs. 850) per month as the debut approaches.

Consumers may receive unlimited data plans under initial promotional schemes. The Elon Musk-backed business hopes to swiftly build its user base to 10 million to offset high spectrum prices due to volume benefits. The Department of Telecommunication



(DoT) granted Starlink a Letter of Intent to launch satellite communication services in India earlier this month. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) may impose a Rs. 500 per month per urban user price, making satellite internet services more expensive than wired and wireless broadband connections, according to the. In addition, 4 percent of total adjusted gross revenue (AGR) with a minimum yearly charge of Rs. 3,500 per spectrum block and an 8 percent licensing fee for commercial services in India are required. The government has yet to approve these recommendations.

India's crypto industry urges tax cuts as Donald Trump support softens New Delhi stance

Delhi: In an effort to capitalise on what it perceives as New Delhi's accommodating attitude towards digital assets, the cryptocurrency industry in India is urging for tax cuts that have limited domestic trading. This comes as politicians in New Delhi negotiate a more comprehensive trade pact with the United States. Policymakers' views towards cryptocurrency have been warming up, after making it a pariah sector in the country due to regulators' mistrust of its possible illegal applications.

After Donald Trump's endorsement of digital cur-



rencies and his return to the White House, exchange executives told them that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has become much more attentive and engaged.

The frequency of industry meetings with lawmakers has increased from once every six months to

"monthly, if not weekly," according to Ashish Singhal, co-founder of CoinSwitch, one of the biggest cryptocurrency exchanges in India with over 20 million members.

Reducing taxes that he called "very harshly" enforced was the industry's "big ask," he claimed.

SEBI and the Exchange are in advanced negotiations

Delhi: In order to reach a consent settlement in the co-location case that is presently pending before the Supreme Court, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is in advanced negotiations with the NSE. A



Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) decision that lessened the initial sanctions levied against NSE in 2019 has been appealed by SEBI. According to someone with knowledge of the situation, "the discussion on the most important

issue of resolving the co-location case started, around one and half months ago." "The amount that NSE should pay to SEBI in order to settle the lawsuit is one of the consent terms that are currently being negotiated by both parties.

Bharat Dynamics to Receive Invar Missile Order from Government; Shares Climb 2%

Delhi: An official from the government has said that the Ministry of Defence is putting the finishing touches on a purchase order for 500 Invar ATGMs from state-run Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL). The contract is estimated to be worth between two and three million rupees. In order to strengthen India's armoured combat capabilities, this acquisition is a part of a larger push to equip T-90 main battle tanks with pre-



cision-guided missile systems. Tanks are the ideal platforms from which to launch Invar missiles. An official informed that the Defense Ministry is likely to spend between two and three million Indian

rupees (about \$2,100 million) for 500 missiles from BDL. As a result of their reputation for precision and efficacy, Invar missiles are currently being used by armoured units on India's frontline.

Fewer jobs at Tata Motors, smaller hikes for top deck

Delhi: For the first time in five years, automotive manufacturer Tata Motors saw its workforce shrink in a fiscal year, when its employee base fell 3% in FY25 compared with the previous fiscal. Alongside, the fiscal also saw median salary hikes for its senior-most executives at just 3% compared with 15% in

FY24, the company's annual report for FY25 showed. The twin developments happened against the backdrop of falling demand for its cars, trucks and buses in the fiscal. The total employee count of the country's third-largest automaker, excluding employees of its UK-based subsidiary Jaguar Land Rover.

Salman, Samantha In Raj & DK's Next?

Salman Khan is reportedly in talks for a superhero project by filmmaker duo Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K.

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who was last seen in A. R. Murugadoss's 2025 film *Sikandar*, is rumoured to star in filmmaker duo Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K., better known as Raj & DK's, upcoming project, reportedly a superhero film, alongside Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Nayanthara. According to a report in *Mid-Day*, "Samantha is very much in the conversation. She shares a strong creative equation with the makers, and they feel she fits the part."

The producers are aiming to take the project on floors by August. Salman will kick off a *Dil Raju* production that is being helmed by Telugu film director Vamshi Paidipally and is set to be a high-octane action thriller, before facing the camera with Samantha.

Another source shared, "Nayanthara has emerged as the frontrunner for the female lead, though talks are ongoing. It will be a pan-India action entertainer, and should roll by April."

However, an official confirmation is awaited.

Salman made a cameo appearance in Aryan Khan's directorial debut web show, *The Ba**ds of Bollywood*.

He was last seen in *Sikandar*, which released in March. The film featured an ensemble cast including Rashmika Mandanna, Kajal Aggarwal, Prateik Smita Patil, Anjini Dhawan, Sharman Joshi, Sathyaraj, Jatin Sarna, and Sanjay Kapoor. Next, Salman has *Battle Of Galwan*, which is rooted in the true events of the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, where he is set to portray Colonel Bikkumalla Santosh Babu.



Vikram Bhatt Defends Thalapathy Vijay, Trisha

Director Vikram Bhatt reacted to affair rumours about actors Thalapathy Vijay and Trisha Krishnan, saying he does not know if they are true but believes people have the right to love freely

Director Vikram Bhatt, who was recently granted regular bail on February 19, 2026, in connection with an alleged multi-crore cheating case involving his wife, Shwetambari Soni, shared his opinion on rumours about Thalapathy Vijay and Trisha Krishnan's alleged affair. He said he is unaware whether the rumours are true or not, but admitted he has been on both sides of such situations, having been somebody's fool and also having fooled someone, adding that the human heart is fallible and goes where it finds happiness.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Vikram shared a long note, supporting Vijay and Trisha, he wrote on Monday, March 9. "I find something admirable in Vijay and Trisha. There is dignity in not pretending that something does not exist. There is dignity in not hiding love as though it were something sinful."

He added that there are men who run anonymous profiles on dating sites and delete their messages before they get home, men who spend afternoons with

women they will never respect enough to acknowledge publicly. Yet, it is often these very people who sit in judgment over others, he added. Their films belong to us.

"Speaking for myself, I would walk out of a loveless relationship. I might walk out with money. I might walk out with property. But most importantly, I would walk out with my honour and my dignity. Their personal lives do not. I will always stand for the freedom of the human heart. They have a right to live and to love," wrote Bhatt.

Recently, Vijay and Trisha attended producer Kalpathi S. Suresh and Meenakshi Suresh's son's wedding reception in Chennai on March 5. His appearance came amid divorce proceedings with his wife, Sangeetha Sornalingam, who also accused the actor of having an extramarital relationship with an actress in her petition, with rumours suggesting that Trisha and Vijay are having an affair, given their alleged closeness.

Neither Trisha Krishnan nor Vijay has commented on the ongoing chatter about their relationship.

Saurabh Shukla Hails SRK

National Award-winning actor Saurabh Shukla praised working with Shah Rukh Khan, calling it every actor's dream



National Award-winning actor Saurabh Shukla, who will be seen starring in the film *King*, believes that working with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is something most actors would readily sign up for, even joking that they would "give their right arm" for the opportunity.

The actor had earlier shared that the upcoming film starring SRK and his daughter Suhana Khan featured 70 per cent of Bollywood. Asked if he thinks having an ensemble cast is the new grammar for making movies in mainstream cinema?

Pat came the reply from Saurabh, who told IANS: "No, it's not like that." "Of course, an ensemble cast is a great thing to happen, where each character is treated with dignity. That's why each character, each actor, becomes an integral part of it. And that's how we call it an ensemble cast. Ensemble casts should be there in every film."

Speaking about the buzz around the upcoming film *King*, Saurabh clarified his earlier remark about "70 per cent of the industry" being associated with the project, saying it was meant to highlight the scale of the film and the enthusiasm around it.

"The point is, when this question was asked to me about *King*, I said 70 per cent of the industry is there. What I mean by that is, one, *King* is a very big film."

He explained that the statement was not meant to suggest that only actors make up the film's large participation.

"And when I say 70 per cent of the industry, it does not only mean actors. The industry is not made of actors alone. Actors may be 70 per cent or 80 per cent of the people involved; there's no problem with that. But everybody wants to be a part of that big film."

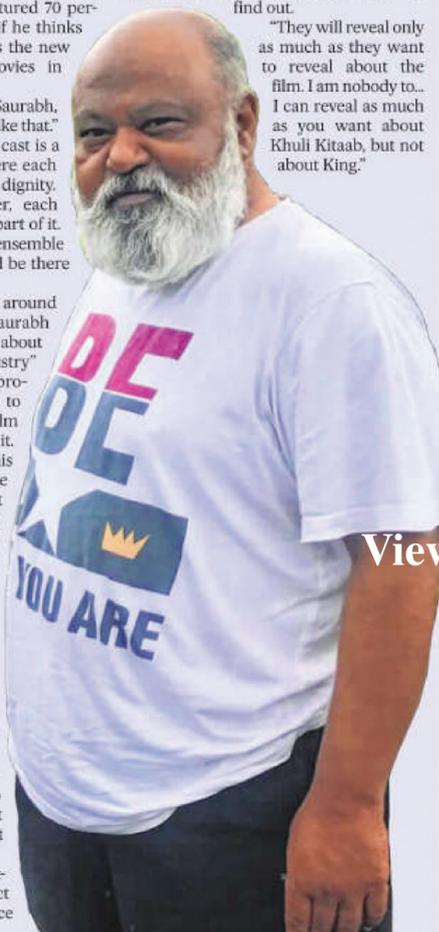
According to him, the excitement around the project stems largely from the chance

to collaborate with Shah Rukh Khan.

"...That's what it is. It's there, and everybody loves Shah Rukh. One call from his office, or if he calls personally, you will give your right arm to work with him," said the actor, who has previously worked with SRK in *Baadshah* and *Hey Ram*.

However, the actor remained tight-lipped about his role in *King*. When asked how many scenes he has in the film, he said audiences would have to watch it to find out.

"They will reveal only as much as they want to reveal about the film. I am nobody to... I can reveal as much as you want about *Khuli Kitaab*, but not about *King*."



Bharti Singh Warns Fans About AI Voice Scam

Comedian Bharti Singh warned fans about scammers using an AI-generated version of her voice to promote slimming products online. In a video message, she said, "This is a scam, guys... that is not even my real voice," urging people not to buy the product

Comedian Bharti Singh has alerted her fans about a scam in which fraudsters are allegedly using her name and an AI-generated version of her voice to promote slimming products online. She said the scammers manipulated AI audio to make it seem as though she was endorsing the product. Bharti clarified that the voice heard in the advertisements is not hers and urged fans not to fall for the fraudulent promotion.

On Sunday, in a video message shared on her social media account, Bharti said that some scammers had been falsely claim-

ing that she had endorsed certain 'thin foot pads.' Speaking about the issue, Bharti said in her video, "This scam is happening in my name. Every morning, people send me messages asking, Bharti ji, is this true? Does this really make you think? Did you use this? Do you know this company?"

She clarified that she was unaware of it until people began sending her the videos, and since they trust her, they asked whether it was true and if they should buy the product. She stated that it is a 'scam.'

"This is a scam, guys, so please do not buy it. That is not even my real voice. My face may be there,

but the voice is not mine. Even my own mother sent me the video asking if it was true. It is a lie. I do not know who these people are," said Singh.

Through the video shared on her social media account, Bharti urged her followers to stay alert and avoid purchasing products promoted through such misleading advertisements.



Suniel Shetty Expresses Excitement for Welcome 4

Actor Suniel Shetty expressed excitement after reports claimed that the 'OG trio', Paresh Rawal, Nana Patekar and Anil Kapoor, are set to reunite for *Welcome 4*. Reacting to the buzz, Shetty took to his official X account on Sunday (March 8) and shared his enthusiasm about the possible return of the iconic trio.

He wrote, "In times of chaos, some news just feels... right. The OG madness - Nana, Anil & Paresh - the heartbeat of the *Welcome* universe are back. And no one does madness with that much brilliance. So happy to see the boys back where they belong. #Welcome4."

Soon after he shared the post, fans flooded the comments section with excitement. Many users also wondered whether Akshay Kumar, who led *Welcome*, would be returning for the upcoming instalment.



"Sir, if the OG trio is back... does that mean we'll see Akshay Kumar joining the madness too?" asked a user in the comments section.

Earlier in the day, a report by *Mid-Day* quoted sources stating that filmmaker Firoz Nadiadwala and his

team of writers have been working on the script of *Welcome 4*.

The report further stated that the film will bring back Nana Patekar, Anil Kapoor and Paresh Rawal in key roles. "The scripting of *Welcome 4* is being done in such a way

that these three characters will be woven organically into the plot. The story will be completely different," the source mentioned.

Sharing more details, the source said, "*Welcome 4* will have more than one lovable don who are more known for

A report quoted sources stating that filmmaker Firoz Nadiadwala and his team of writers have been working on the script of *Welcome 4*

their comic capers and timing than their underworld deeds. Top leading actors are in talks for these roles. It comes under the family universe which includes humour, glamour, and action."

Released in 2007, *Welcome* became one of the most loved comedy films in Bollywood. Directed by Anees Bazmee, the film featured Akshay alongside Katrina Kaif, Nana Patekar, Anil Kapoor and Paresh Rawal.

The story revolved around a simple man who falls in love with the sister of two quirky gangsters, leading to hilarious chaos. The film's memorable characters, comic timing and iconic dialogues turned it into a cult favourite. Its success later led to a sequel, *Welcome Back*, which was released in 2015.

Views

Briefs

Ex-president challenges jail sentence

SEOUL
Jailed former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol appealed his life sentence for rebellion on Tuesday, following his conviction for the brief December 2024 martial law decree. Yoon's legal team labeled the ruling "illogical" and biased, arguing his actions were intended to protect the nation from "anti-state forces." The case now moves to a specialized Seoul High Court panel. Yoon was removed from office in April 2025 after his six-hour power grab triggered a historic political crisis. While prosecutors previously sought the death penalty, Yoon remains the first leader sentenced to life since dictator Chun Doo-hwan. His lawyers maintain that the lower court committed significant errors in fact-finding and misinterpreted constitutional law during the initial trial.

UK to release papers linked to Andrew

LONDON
Britain's House of Commons on Tuesday approved the release of papers related to former Prince Andrew's appointment as a trade envoy, a position he held for about a decade during which he is suspected of improperly passing government information to disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein. The approval came in a voice vote. It was unclear when the release could occur, as the former prince was arrested last week on suspicion of misconduct in public office. The government has made clear it does not want to interfere in the inquiry. Ed Davey, the leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats and the lawmaker who introduced the motion, argued that it was time for transparency. Andrew was stripped of his princely title last year due to revelations about his relationship with Epstein.

Four killed in Iran military chopper crash

TEHRAN
An Iranian military helicopter crashed into a fruit and vegetable market in central Iran on Tuesday, reportedly killing at least four people. The crash happened in the town of Dorcheh, some 330 kilometres (205 miles) south of Iran's capital, Tehran, in the country's Isfahan province, Iranian state television reported. Isfahan is home to a major Iranian air base, as well as a nuclear site struck by the US during the Iran-Israel war in June. The army helicopter had been on a training flight, state TV said. The pilot and co-pilot died in the crash, it added, showing footage of debris and smoke rising from the market. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said two people on the ground at the market died in the crash.

Japan firms face china import curbs

BANGKOK
China restricted on Tuesday exports to 40 Japanese entities it says are contributing to Japan's "remilitarisation," in the latest escalation of tensions with Tokyo. Beijing has shown continued displeasure with Tokyo since Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in November implied Japan could intervene if China used military force against Taiwan, an island democracy China claims as its own. The Chinese Commerce Ministry put 20 Japanese companies on an export control list and 20 others on a separate watchlist.

4 YEARS OF WAR | Kremlin haven't 'broken Ukrainians', says president as Moscow now holds 20% of his country's territory

Zelenskyy vows to fight on: 'Russia has not won'

KYIV

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy declared Tuesday that Russia has not "broken Ukrainians" nor triumphed in its war, four years after an invasion that has severely tested the resolve of Kyiv and its allies and fuelled European fears about the scale of Moscow's ambitions.

In a show of support, more than a dozen senior European officials headed to the Ukrainian capital to mark the grim anniversary of the conflict, which has killed tens of thousands of people, upended life for millions of Ukrainians, and created instability far beyond its borders.

Zelenskyy said his country has withstood the onslaught by Russia's bigger and better equipped army, which over the past year of fighting captured just 0.79 per cent of Ukraine's territory, according



A woman at the memorial to the fallen Ukrainian soldiers on Independence Square to mark the 4th anniversary of Russian attack, in Kyiv on Tuesday -AP

to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank. Russia now holds nearly 20 per cent of Ukraine.

"Looking back at the beginning of the invasion and reflecting on today, we have every right to say: We have defended our independence, we have not lost our statehood," Zelenskyy said on

social media, adding that Russian President Vladimir Putin has "not achieved his goals." "He has not broken Ukrainians; he has not won this war," Zelenskyy said.

At a makeshift memorial in Kyiv's central square, where thousands of small flags and portraits show photos of fallen soldiers, Zelenskyy said

KILLING FIELDS

LIVES LOST
Russian soldiers killed **325,000**, missing & wounded **875,000**

Ukrainian soldiers killed **140,000**, missing & wounded **460,000**

Number of Ukrainian children killed **766**

LOSS OF HOME
Ukrainian refugees **6.9** mn, internally displaced **3.7** mn

REBUILDING
Over 10 years, Ukraine will need **\$524 bn**

he would like U.S. President Donald Trump to visit and witness for himself Ukrainian suffering.

"Only then can one truly understand what this war is really about," Zelenskyy said.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that the invasion would continue in pursuit of Moscow's goals.

Trump to defend policies in speech

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump will use Tuesday's State of the Union address to champion his immigration crackdowns, his slashing of the federal government, his push to preserve widespread tariffs that the Supreme Court just struck down and his ability to direct quick-hit military actions around the world, including in Iran and Venezuela.

The Republican hopes he can convince increasingly wary Americans that his policies have improved their lives while ensuring that the U.S. economy is stronger than many believe — and that they should vote for more of the

same in November.

The balancing act of celebrating his whirlwind first year back in the White House while making a convincing case for his party in midterm races in which he personally won't be on the ballot is a tall order for any president. But it could prove especially delicate for Trump, given how happy he is to veer off script and ignore carefully crafted messaging.

A main theme will be that the country is booming with a rise in domestic manufacturing and new jobs, despite many Americans not feeling that way. "It's going to be a long speech because we have so much to talk about," said Trump, who promised a heavy dose of talk about the economy.

Kushner and Witkoff to shape Trump's Iran airstrike decision

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump's decision to order airstrikes against Iran will hinge in part on the judgment of Trump's special envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, about whether Tehran is stalling over a deal to relinquish its capacity to produce nuclear weapons, according to people familiar with the matter.

The president has not made a final determination on any strikes, as the administration prepares for Iran to send its latest proposal this week, ahead of what officials have described as a last-ditch round of negotiations scheduled for Thursdays in Geneva.

Those talks will be led by Witkoff and Kushner, whose

Iran looks to buy supersonic anti-ship missiles from China

London: Iran is close to a deal with China to purchase anti-ship cruise missiles, according to six people with knowledge of the negotiations, just as the United States deploys a vast naval force near the Iranian coast ahead of possible strikes on the Islamic Republic. The deal for the Chinese-made CM-302 missiles is near completion, though no delivery date has been agreed, the people said. The supersonic missiles have a range of about 290 kilometres and are designed to evade shipborne defences by flying low and fast. Their deployment would significantly enhance Iran's strike capabilities and pose a threat to U.S. naval forces in the region. -Agencies

assessment on the likelihood of a deal will shape Trump's calculus. If there is no deal, Trump has told advisers he is considering limited strikes to pressure Iran and, failing that, a far larger attack to force regime change.

A US official said on Monday that Witkoff was part of the group advising Trump on his decision about how to proceed with Iran and had been involved in all meetings related to the matter.

EPSTEIN FILES FALLOUT

Norwegian ex-PM attempts suicide

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Thorbjørn Jagland was hospitalised after a suicide attempt, after he was charged with corruption in connection with his close relationship with convicted child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein.

The press at the Norwegian Editors' Association and selected Norwegian editors had reached an agreement with Jagland's lawyer on February 17, that they would not be covering this incident. Sources suggest that Jagland's condition is currently serious.

Reports also indicated that when Jagland was charged, the police carried out an extensive search of his prop-

Mandelson granted bail

London: Police in Britain said Peter Mandelson, the former U.K. ambassador to the United States, has been released on bail after he was arrested in a misconduct probe stemming from his ties to the late Jeffrey Epstein. -Agencies

erties, including his apartment in Oslo and in Risør.

According to a BBC report, the charge against Jagland was brought after the Council of Europe lifted his immunity.

Dems table Senate bill on tariff refund

WASHINGTON

US Senate Democrats have introduced legislation to force the Trump administration to refund billions of dollars in tariffs after the Supreme Court struck them down as unlawful.

US Senator Ben Ray Lujan said President Donald Trump had "ignited a global trade war the moment he took office by illegally imposing sweeping tariffs and causing pain for millions of Americans."

The proposed Tariff Refund Act of 2026 would require full refunds, with interest, of tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Lawmakers estimate the administration collected about \$175 billion.

"President Trump's sweeping, reckless tariffs are responsible for driving up prices and hurting small busi-

nesses and working families across New Mexico and the country," Lujan said.

"That is why I'm joining Senate Democrats in introducing legislation that requires the Trump administration to provide certainty to New Mexico's small businesses by refunding the costs they have endured."

Senator Ron Wyden said: "Trump's illegal tax scheme has already done lasting damage to American families, small businesses, and manufacturers who have been hammered by wave after wave of new Trump tariffs."

He added, "A crucial first step is helping people who need it most, by putting money back in the pockets of small businesses and manufacturers as soon as possible." Senator Edward Markey said, "Trump's illegal tariff taxes cost small businesses, consumers, and families up to \$175 billion. That money must be repaid immediately."

Imran shifted back to prison after hospital eye treatment

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Pakistan's incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan was on Tuesday taken to a hospital at Islamabad for treating an eye ailment, officials said even as his party demanded "transparency, not secrecy" about his health updates.

The 73-year-old cricketer-turned-politician, who has been at the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, since 2023, was last month diagnosed with right central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) affecting his vision.

Khan was brought to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) at Islamabad for a second dose of anti-VEGF (Vascular endothelial growth factor) intravitreal injection, a doctor at the hospital said. He was later shifted back to the Adiala Jail. He had received treatment earlier on January 24.

Bondi effect: Australia begins sweeping anti-semitism probe

MELBOURNE

A wide-ranging federal inquiry began on Tuesday into a rise in antisemitism across Australia before two gunmen believed to be inspired by the Islamic State group allegedly killed 15 people at a Sydney Jewish festival in December.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced last month that Australia's most powerful form of public inquiry, known as a royal commission, would investigate the Dec. 14 massacre at Bondi Beach.

Alleged shooter Sajid Naveed was shot dead by police. His son, Naveed Akram, faces charges including committing a terrorist act, 15 counts of murder and 40 counts of attempted murder. He has entered no pleas.

Royal Commissioner Virginia Bell, who heads the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social



Royal Commissioner Virginia Bell

Cohesion, said she did not want evidence that she heard to prejudice Akram's criminal trial.

"One might expect a royal commission set up to inquire into an attack would lead evidence of it and of the heroism of those who sort to confront the shooters and of those who ran toward the gunfire to offer medical assistance to the wounded," Bell said in an opening address.

"The trial of that individual (Akram) will be the occasion to lead evidence of the attack. This commission must do its

work without risking any prejudice to that criminal proceeding," she added.

Royal commissions, which can imprison witnesses who refuse to cooperate, often request time extensions as more evidence is discovered.

Bell is the sole commissioner. As well as lawyers, the commission's staff include analysts, researchers and other office workers, according to Richard Lancaster, who leads a team of lawyers in his role as the Senior Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission. Lancaster's job is to manage the investigation's direction, present Bell with evidence and question witnesses.

Completing her report by the deadline of the massacre's first anniversary is a "matter of critical importance," Bell said.

"This imposes a tight time frame and it's going to impose limitations on how the commission approaches its terms of reference," the retired high court judge said.

Panama takes control of 2 key ports, Hong Kong protests

Bangkok: Hong Kong is protesting Panama's seizure of two ports on a canal vital for global trade that were operated by a Hong Kong-based company for decades, the city's government said Tuesday.

Hong Kong's Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said in a statement it had lodged "stern protests" with Panama's consulate, adding that it had expressed strong opposition and dissatisfaction and would "staunchly support the legitimate rights and interests of Hong Kong corporations overseas."

The ports located at the mouth and tail of the Panama Canal, which have been operated by a subsidiary of CK Hutchison since 1997, became embroiled in a legal dispute after getting caught in the middle of the US and China's competition for influence in the region.

Actor Robert Carradine dies

Los Angeles: Robert Carradine, a member of the famed acting family who was known for his roles in *Revenge of the Nerds* and *Lizzie McGuire*, has died aged 71. Carradine killed himself after years of living with bipolar disorder, his family said in a statement. "It is with profound sadness that we must share that our beloved father, grandfather, uncle, and brother Robert Carradine has passed away," the Carradine family said in a statement to Deadline on Monday.

Northeast US digs out from brutal snowstorm

NEW YORK

Millions across the northeastern United States on Tuesday contended with treks to school and work as they dug out from a major — in some areas record-breaking — storm that blanketed the region with snow, cancelled flights, disrupted transit and downed power lines.

Even as the snow moved north Tuesday, giving way to sunshine in parts of the region, National Weather

Service forecasters warned another storm originating in the Great Lakes was right around the corner.

In New York City, more than a million students in the nation's largest public school system had a regular day, Mayor Zohran Mamdani declared, inviting kids to pelt him with snowballs over his decision.

Many students and their caregivers seemed open to taking the mayor up on that idea, as they scrambled over mountainous snow banks

and dodged salt spreaders during the morning drop-off.

"We're walking on thin ice here. One more day would've been fine," said Danielle Obloj, the parent of a Brooklyn fifth grader. "They should never have let these kids come back to school." Others hailed the city's efforts at snow-clearing.

"It was much better than last time — an easy commute, no problems whatsoever," said Raul Garcia, as he exited a cab with his three

school-age children. "We thought it was going to be really bad walking, but looking at the streets, they're so clean." Philadelphia switched to online learning on Monday and Tuesday. Districts on Long Island and elsewhere in the New York suburbs said they would cancel school again on Tuesday.

Monday's storm, which meteorologists are calling the strongest in a decade, dumped more than 2 feet (61 centimetres) of snow in parts of the Northeast.



Briefs

NEW DELHI

Four Indians named in T20 World Cup XI



Jasprit Bumrah, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya were named in the ICC's Team of the 2026 T20 World Cup after India secured a record third title. Player of the Tournament Samson scored 321 runs, including 89 in the final. Kishan struck 317 runs at a strike rate of 193.29, while Pandya impressed with bat and ball. Bumrah finished as joint-leading wicket-taker with 14 scalps, including 4/15 in the final.

AHMEDABAD

'India could sweep titles in white-ball'



India are the pre-eminent white-ball side in world cricket and could soon hold all three ICC limited-overs titles, former England captain Michael Atherton said after their T20 World Cup triumph. India beat New Zealand on Sunday to win a third title and become the first team to defend the trophy. Atherton said India have won 30 of their last 32 matches in ICC events. With two titles secured, India could add the 50-over World Cup next year.

KARACHI

Coach defends Pak seniors' ODI omission



Pakistan white-ball coach Mike Hesson said the omission of senior players such as Babar Azam, Saim Ayub and Naseem Shah from the ODI series in Bangladesh is not punishment for poor T20 World Cup performances. He said the three-match series offers a chance to test emerging players ahead of the ODI World Cup next year. Hesson said players like Sahabzada Farhan, Shamyul Hussain and Maaz Sadaqat earned their opportunities.

CHAMPIONS | Head Coach Gautam Gambhir plays down his role, credits players and stresses fearless approach in title run

T20 World Cup victory yet to sink in, says Surya

AHMEDABAD

India captain Suryakumar Yadav said the feeling of becoming world champions was yet to sink in after the hosts crushed New Zealand by 96 runs to win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup title.

Suryakumar admitted the magnitude of the achievement would take time to fully register.

"Firstly, happy Women's Day to you. Obviously, we are very happy, but it will take a little time for it to sink in. We've just come out of the game and it was a good match, especially playing at home," he said at the post-match press conference.

"Whatever happened in the last two years after the 2024 World Cup until today has been unbelievable. Right now I don't know how to express the feeling, but it has been a wonderful day," he added.

India head coach Gautam Gambhir played down his role in the triumph despite becoming the first Indian coach to win two ICC trophies. "The first thing is that the players have chosen me. I have always said you are only as good a coach and captain as your players are. The credit should go to the players — the professionalism and, most importantly, the bravery with which they played," Gambhir said.

He added that the team deliberately avoided treating ICC tournaments differently from bilateral series.

"In the past people said we played differently in bilateral series and ICC events. We wanted to change that. If you look at the semi-final and the



Suryakumar Yadav poses with the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Trophy in Ahmedabad on Sunday. PTI

final, we scored more than 250 runs. That shows the quality and courage with which we played this tournament," he said.

Responding to criticism on social media, Gambhir said his accountability was only towards the dressing room.

"My accountability is not towards social media. It is towards the 30 people in the dressing room. If we work honestly together, that is what matters. Whether I win two ICC trophies as a coach or not, that doesn't change my approach," he said.

Gambhir emphasised that the team adopted a fearless style of cricket built on a high-

risk, high-reward philosophy.

"If you are afraid of losing, you never win. In this format, high risk often brings high reward. For too long we played 160-170 cricket, but our aim was always to push towards 250," he explained.

Suryakumar added that he and Gambhir were always aligned on team selection and strategy.

"Whenever we discussed the playing XI or the squad, most of the choices were the same. Since we started working together during the Sri Lanka series, I don't remember a time when we argued about selection. Our only focus was how the team could win," the skipper said.

India target Olympic gold after title

NEW DELHI

After dominating the 2026 T20 World Cup campaign, India captain Suryakumar Yadav has already set his sights on the next big goal — winning an Olympic gold medal when cricket returns to the Games in Los Angeles 2028.

India's celebrations after their emphatic 96-run victory over New Zealand in the final were relatively subdued, reflecting a team that has grown accustomed to winning. There were smiles, hugs and even a brief bhanga celebration, but the players appeared confident that the trophy was always within reach.

The triumph followed India's drought-ending T20 World Cup win in Barbados in 2024, and with the current squad averaging close to 30 years of age, many players are expected to remain in their prime for the 2028 T20 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

"Throughout this journey, what we have achieved as a team has been very special. The next goal is definitely the Olympics and winning a gold medal, and also the T20 World Cup that year," Suryakumar said after the final against New Zealand in Ahmedabad.



India captain Suryakumar Yadav receives the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 trophy from ICC Chairman Jay Shah at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Samson credits Sachin for World Cup form

India batter reveals 25-minute chat changed mindset

NEW DELHI

Star Indian batsman Sanju Samson, who played a key role in India's T20 World Cup triumph, said guidance from legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar helped him rediscover form and approach the tournament with a fresh mindset.

Samson, who was named Man of the Tournament for his performances in the World Cup, was speaking to reporters on Monday after returning to Thiruvananthapuram. The Kerala cricketer received a grand welcome at the airport, where he was greeted by state Education Minister V Sivankutty and hundreds of enthusiastic fans.

Reflecting on his batting approach, Samson admitted that earlier he had often tried to attack every ball, which sometimes led to his downfall. "I used to try and hit every

299

Runs scored by Sanju Samson in four big games since his return to XI against Zimbabwe.

ball, but it didn't work. I had to learn from those failures. During the five-match series I tried to increase my strike rate, but that also didn't work. So I prepared with a different game plan for the World Cup," he said.

Samson revealed that during a difficult phase in his career, he turned to Tendulkar for advice. "When I was struggling with my form, the first name that came to my mind was Sachin Tendulkar. When I contacted him, he genuinely connected with me and spoke for about 25 minutes," Samson said.

During the conversation, Tendulkar shared experiences from his own career,

explaining how to deal with difficult phases, approach practice sessions and handle pressure situations.

He spoke about what he had gone through in his career and how to think during tough moments. It genuinely helped me," Samson added.

Samson said he later contacted Tendulkar again after regaining form during the New Zealand series, and the cricket icon continued to guide him. Tendulkar even reached out a day before the World Cup final to check on him.

Samson also revealed that he kept his phone switched off for nearly a month during the tournament to avoid distractions and focus entirely on cricket. Thanking his supporters, Samson dedicated his performance to the people of Kerala, saying their constant support during difficult phases motivated him to deliver for the country.

Razaq reveals how spot fixing plot uncovered in 2010

KARACHI

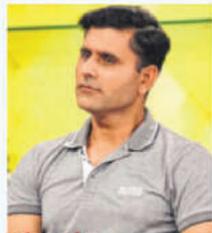
Former Pakistan all-rounder and national selector Abdul Razaq has revealed how the 2010 spot-fixing scandal first came to the attention of the team management during Pakistan's tour of England.

Speaking on a Pakistani television show, Razaq said the conspiracy during the 2010 Lord's Test was uncovered by a friend of his in London who repaired mobile phones part-time.

According to Razaq, the friend had been asked by Mazhar Majeed to repair one of his phones. After getting the device working late at night, he reportedly discovered several messages exchanged between Majeed and three Pakistan players discussing plans to spot-fix in the match.

"My friend showed me the messages and I informed Shahid Afridi, who was the senior-most player in the team at that time," Razaq said.

"Afridi called Amir to his



Mazhar Majeed came to my friend and asked him to repair his phone. He found the spot fixing messages

Abdul Razaq former Pakistan all-rounder

room and asked me to wait outside. I heard Afridi getting angry and asking him to tell the truth. When Amir kept denying it, I heard a slap. After that he broke down in tears and admitted everything," Razaq recalled complete the episode.

Life has come full circle for Samson: Gavaskar

NEW DELHI

Batting great Sunil Gavaskar said life has come full circle for Sanju Samson, who rose from being a fringe player to emerge as the player of the tournament with three defining knocks in India's knock-out games during their historic T20 World Cup campaign.

Samson delivered explosive knocks in the last three matches of the T20 World Cup, including the semifinal against England and the final against New Zealand.

"Life has come full circle for Sanju Samson. Before the 2026 T20 World Cup, he had a terrible series against New Zealand. He was dropped, then after the T20 World Cup started, he got a chance to play against Namibia, but his knock wasn't enough to keep his spot.

"He next played directly against Zimbabwe in the Super 8, but his real redemption began against West Indies in a virtual quarter-final," said Gavaskar on Star Sports.

Santner defends decision to bowl first

New Zealand skipper felt 220 could have been chased down

AHMEDABAD

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner defended his decision to bowl first after winning the toss in the T20 World Cup final, which his team lost to India by 96 runs at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

Santner felt the match might have taken a different turn if his bowlers had picked up early wickets and controlled the powerplay.

"I think it was a pretty good wicket throughout. There wasn't much in it. The cutters were holding a little, but there wasn't much spin. If we had picked up a couple of wickets in the powerplay and squeezed them a bit through the middle, I think 220 could have been chased on a very good wicket," Santner said.

He credited Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma for India's explosive start, which yielded around 90 runs in the powerplay.

"Our plan was to bowl outside the hitting arc, but there wasn't much swing early on. When players like Sanju, Abhishek and Kishan are striking the ball that well, there is rarely a perfect plan,"



New Zealand's captain Mitchell Santner with India's players after the final in Ahmedabad on Sunday. PTI

he said. Santner added that once India's top order gained momentum, it became extremely difficult to contain them.

"We tried different options — wide lines, yorkers and bowling into the bigger side of the ground. But credit must go to the way they set up the

powerplay. Once they get going, they can push hard and build a big total," he said.

The New Zealand skipper also explained his decision to remove Glenn Phillips after just one over, in which he conceded five runs.

"I thought Abhishek played that over very smartly.

Our plan was to bowl outside the hitting arc (of batters), but there wasn't much swing early on.

Mitchell Santner

New Zealand skipper

Sometimes he attacks the off-spinner, but he rotated strike well. The first three overs are usually when the ball does the most. If Sanju had been dismissed earlier, Glenn might have been an option later," Santner said.

Santner said there was no shame in losing to a strong Indian side.

"India are a very good team and know how to play in these conditions. Once they get going, it's very hard to stop them," he added.

Santner also backed the decision to leave out spinner Cole McConchie and include pacer Jacob Duffy.

"It was a tough call. We felt there might be some bounce from the surface. In the end, it comes down to execution."

T20 WC Triumph

Dhoni returns to Instagram, praises coach Gambhir

AHMEDABAD

India's history-making T20 World Cup triumph here reactivated the enigmatic Mahendra Singh Dhoni on social media after nearly two years and he took the opportunity to tell head coach Gautam Gambhir how good a smile looks on his intense face.

Dhoni's last Instagram post was back in 2024. "History gets created at Ahmedabad, big congratula-

tions to the team and support staff and to all the fans of Indian Cricket Team worldwide, such a pleasure to see all of u play," he posted after attending the final in which India thrashed New Zealand by 96 runs to win the trophy for an unprecedented third time.

"Coach Sahab smile looks great on u, intensity with smile is a killer combo, very well done. enjoy guys...BUMRAH ke baare mein kuch na likhooon tou hi acha hai. CHAMPION BOWLER (It's

Coach Sahab smile looks great on u, intensity with smile is a killer combo, very well done.

MS Dhoni former India skipper

better if I don't write anything on Bumrah," he

quipped, referring to Gambhir's mostly serious demeanor.

Gambhir responded to Dhoni, saying he felt nice to see the former skipper at the stadium.

"And what a reason to smile, great seeing you," commented the former opener, who played a stellar role in India's title wins in the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup under Dhoni's leadership.

It was a display of all-round brilliance by the

Suryakumar Yadav-led India on Sunday night as top-order batters Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma went on a rampage to help the team score a record 255/5 after being invited to bat by the Kiwis.

Bumrah then produced a master-class to snare four wickets for a mere 15 runs in his quota of overs.

Dhoni was India's first T20 World Cup-winning captain when he led the team to the trophy in the 2007 inaugural edition.

