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

Bangladesh minorities' body expresses concern over safety ahead of puja

DHAKA: Amid a number of incidents of attacks, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council has said there is growing concern and anxiety among devotees regarding the Sharidya Durga Puja celebrations that begin on Sunday. The organisation said that though devotees are being assured by the highest levels of the govt, including the chief adviser, army chief and home affairs adviser, about the smooth conduct of the Sharidya Durga Puja festivities, the overall situation on the eve of the festival has only fed their apprehensions and anxiety. A statement of the central committee, signed by Manindra Kumar Nath, acting general secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council, on Friday highlighted attacks on at least nine puja mandap and temples and vandalism of idols from Sept 2 to Sept 23. Muhammad Yunus, who is now in New York, on Saturday conveyed his greetings to the Hindu community of Bangladesh. Emphasising Bangladesh's tradition of communal harmony, he said, "This country belongs to all of us. It is a safe abode for all people." He noted that the destruction of evil forces and the triumph of truth.

Wankhede sues Aryan Khan's show for defamation

NEW DELHI: IRS officer and former Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) zonal director Sameer Wankhede has filed a defamation suit in Delhi high court against the makers of the Netflix drama series 'The Ba***ds of Bollywood'. The suit filed on Thursday seeks an injunction and Rs 2 crore in damages for misleading and negative portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies and maligning his reputation. The series, directed by Aryan Khan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, was released on Sept 18. Wankhede is known for arresting Aryan Khan in a drug case in 2021.

BJP attacks Rahul over his 'pro-China' stance in Parliament

A heated debate took place between Rahul and Rajnath and Amit Shah

New Delhi/Agency A major uproar erupted in the Lok Sabha over the alleged book by former Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane. A heated debate ensued between Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Rahul Gandhi began questioning the government on China, citing the former Army Chief's book. The Defence Minister responded by demanding proof. Rahul Gandhi asks questions Rahul Gandhi said that the Chinese army is infiltrating Indian territory. This statement by Rahul Gandhi caused an uproar in the House. Samajwadi Party



President Akhilesh Yadav also supported Rahul Gandhi, saying that the Leader of the Opposition has every right to express his views. Rahul Gandhi said, "A BJP MP said that we are not patriots. On this, I want to say that former Army Chief Naravane has written in his book that the Chinese army is infiltrating Indian territory." Defence Minister responding to Rahul Gandhi's statement, the Defence Minister said that the book Rahul Gandhi is referring to has not yet been published. Why is this book being mentioned then? Rahul is referring to the wrong book. Rajnath Singh

said that Rahul Gandhi should substantiate his claims with evidence. He should not make allegations without facts. Rajnath Singh said, "The book that Rahul Gandhi is talking about has not been published. If the facts in that book were correct, it would have been published. If he (Rahul Gandhi) thinks that the government has wrongly suppressed the book, then the former Army Chief should approach the court." Uproar in the House Rahul Gandhi said that the Chinese army is infiltrating Indian territory. During Rahul Gandhi's speech, the ruling party and the opposition started creating a ruckus in the House.

Develop a modern seed policy to increase productivity per hectare: Yogi



Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that the true strength of agricultural production lies in high-quality, reliable, and certified seeds. He stated that a new and modern 'seed policy' is the need of the hour for the state. With land holdings continuously decreasing, the focus should not be solely on acreage, but on increasing productivity per hectare. The Chief Minister directed that a seed policy be formulated that addresses the agricultural challenges of the coming years, prioritizing the devel-

opment of high-yielding, disease-resistant, and climate-resilient varieties. While discussing the seed policy, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to prepare a concrete roadmap to take the state's seed production capacity, quality, and availability to a new level over the next five years. The Chief Minister said that maximum use of modern technology is essential in the entire process of seed production, processing, and storage, so that there is no shortage of certified seeds and farmers can be empowered.

Atrocities are being committed against people from Bengal in Delhi: Mamata

New Delhi West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday, February 2, that she and her party would continue their fight against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Mamata Banerjee said she would be meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar regarding



concerns related to the SIR. The Chief Minister also alleged mistreatment of people

from Bengal in the national capital, Delhi. Mamata Banerjee's allegations against the central government Addressing a press conference in Delhi, CM Banerjee said, "I am going to Banga Bhavan to see my people and witness the atrocities of the Delhi Police." Mamata Banerjee further said.

The International Trade Show is proving to be a boon for youth, entrepreneurs

Global
Uttar Pradesh food processing products are also gaining global recognition- Keshav



Lucknow: Following the instructions of Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya the Horticulture and Food Processing Department has selected the best products from food processing units established in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and set up stalls for them at the International Trade Show in Greater Noida. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the stalls set up at this trade show are also gaining global recognition for Uttar Pradesh food pro-

cessing products. The International Trade Show is proving to be a boon for youth and entrepreneurs. Uttar Pradesh is getting a significant opportunity to emerge as an important hub of international trade. The growing food processing industries will greatly help the state of Uttar Pradesh achieve a one trillion dollar economy. The stalls of the Horticulture and Food Processing Department reflect the vision of entrepreneurship and building a better state.

The Uttar Pradesh India Expo International Trade Show in Greater Noida has attracted visitors from across the country and abroad. Following the directives of Deputy Chief Minister Maurya the Horticulture and Food Processing Department has set up stalls showcasing unique and high-quality food processing products from food processing units located in various districts of Uttar Pradesh at the UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida.

Preparations for government formation in Manipur intensify

New Delhi The government formation process in Manipur has intensified. The BJP's central leadership has summoned all NDA MLAs from Manipur to Delhi. According to reports, all MLAs were asked to be present in the capital before 2 pm on February 2nd. Consequently, all MLAs



left Manipur for Delhi on February 1st. More than 20 Manipur BJP MLAs, including the

state unit president, have arrived in Delhi to participate in a meeting with the party's central leadership. Earlier, Manipur BJP President Adhirajmayum Sharda Devi told reporters at Imphal airport, "All NDA MLAs have been summoned. We are hopeful and confident that a people's govern-

ment will be formed." President's rule ends on February 12th. Former Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said, "Since all MLAs from NDA allies are being invited to the meeting, I am hopeful for a positive outcome." A meeting of all BJP MLAs was held earlier. The term of President's

Water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka: Supreme Court

New Delhi/Agency The country's Supreme Court has ordered the central government to constitute a tribunal within a month to resolve the Pennaiyar river water dispute. This dispute is between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the sharing of water from the Pennaiyar river. Why did the case reach the Supreme Court? The Tamil Nadu government filed a case in 2018, alleging that Karnataka was constructing check



dams and water diversion structures on the Pennaiyar river, which was affecting the water supply to Tamil Nadu. What was Tamil Nadu's argument? The Tamil Nadu government argued that the water of an inter-state river is a

national asset. No single state has private ownership over it. In such a case, no state can unilaterally make decisions and deprive another state of its rights. What did the Supreme Court say? During the hearing of the case, the apex court said that the central government should not delay any further. The court also directed that a notification be issued in the Official Gazette and a water dispute tribunal be constituted.

Nitish goes off script; reveals what led to JD(U)-BJP split

NEW DELHI: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Monday pinned the blame for his exit from the alliance with Bharatiya Janata Party in 2022 on "some leader" from his party. While speaking at a rally in Bihar's Purnea, Nitish Kumar said that some of the leaders who created rift between JD(U) and BJP are present on the stage. He also vowed that he will never break alliance with BJP.

Cancer cases in India up by 26%, deaths 21% since 1990

Population
The incidence of cancer in India has gone up by 26%, from 84.8 per 1 lakh population



NEW DELHI: The incidence of cancer in India has gone up by 26%, from 84.8 per 1 lakh population in 1990 to 107.2 in 2023, according to a new study. Published in The Lancet, it shows deaths

due to cancer increased by 21% during this period, despite advances in treatment. In comparison, both incidence and mortality have declined significantly in US and China over the 33-year period.

The reason behind this is strong tobacco control, universal vaccination and organised screening in these two countries, Dr Abhishek Shankar, radiation oncologist at AIIMS Delhi, said.

India, he added, continues to fare poorly on both counts because of persisting risk factors such as high use of tobacco, obesity and infections, coupled with limited access to early detection. Evidence-based strategies like HPV and Hepatitis-B vaccination, mammography, lung cancer screening with low-dose CT, and colonoscopy screening, and timely treatment remain uneven.

Man roped in teen son to kill property dealer over 9-yr feud

NEW DELHI: It was an almost decade-long vendetta that led to the murder of 56-year-old property dealer Lakhpat Singh Kataria in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar, police said on Sunday. A father-son duo has

been nabbed for the crime after a 48-hour manhunt aided by CCTV analysis, technical surveillance and human intelligence, cops said. The man arrested for Kataria's murder has

criminal antecedents, special commissioner (law and order) Ravindra Yadav said. He had filed an FIR against Kataria in 2016 following a brawl that he claimed left him bedridden for nine

months. The son was just nine at the time. They nurtured the grudge for nine long years and finally attacked Kataria last week. The suspect, 47, roped in his 17-year-old son for the murder,

deliberately timing the act a day before the boy's 18th birthday so that he could benefit from juvenile laws. On the day of incident, the father-son duo first attacked the victim with a cricket bat.

'Satyameva Jayate': Sameer Wankhede reacts amid 'Ba***ds of Bollywood' row

NEW DELHI: Former Mumbai zonal director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Sameer Wankhede, on Saturday declined to

comment on the "Ba***ds of Bollywood" series, offering only a cryptic response. Also Read | Ba***ds of Bollywood row: Ex-

NCB officer Sameer Wankhede files defamation case against Shahrukh Khan production company Red Chillies Entertainment.

Three-day regional fruit, vegetable and flower exhibition to be held at Jan Bhawan.

The judging work for the competition of various categories of gardens and home gardens under the three-day Regional Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Exhibition-2026 being held from February 6 to 8 at Jan Bhawan premises, Lucknow was inaugurated on January 31, 2026. Will Continue until 2026. Director Garden BP Ram informed that a total of 243 entries have been received in various categories from Lucknow district this year. Gardens and home gardens developed at government, semi-government, institutional and individual levels have enthusiastically participated in the competition. The exhibition includes gardens of Garden



Department, Indian Army, Railways, PAC Headquarters, Metro Rail Corporation, Municipal

Corporation, Lucknow Development Authority, Housing and Development Council, SGPGI,

RDSO, IRTM, Jan Bhawan and many other prestigious institutions. At the same time, home gardens developed by

individual garden lovers have also created special attraction in the competition. Additionally, the gardens of

historical and heritage Sites of the city like Bada Imbarara, Chota Imbarara, Shahadat Ali Khan Tomb etc. have also been included in various categories of the competition, giving historical and cultural dignity to the Exhibition. All the entries received in the competition are being evaluated by experts from reputed institutions related to horticulture in the Government of India and Uttar Pradesh, as well as jury consisting of subject experts working and retired in the State Horticulture Department. Criteria like quality, beauty, innovation, maintenance and environmental balance of plants are being taken into account during the Judging.

Special Role Observer of Election Commission of India inspected Tehsil Sadar



Mathura

Mathura Special Roll Observer/Joint Secretary Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal, appointed by the Election Commission of India, inspected Tehsil Sadar under the Special Pragrah Revision Campaign-2026. During the inspection, he took stock of the arrangements for the mega camp/open meeting to be held on 31st January 2026 and the hearing being conducted by the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. Aggarwal reviewed the progress of voter list revision work, disposal of claims and objections received and facilities being provided to the common citizens and also gave necessary directions. On this occasion, District Collector Chandra Prakash Singh, Additional District Collector (Finance and Revenue) Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma, Deputy District Collector Sadar/Joint Magistrate Abhinav J. Jain and Concerned Officers and employees were Present.

Instill Values in Children Through Value-Based Education - District Judge

Ghazipur

Ghazipur the Ramhit Yatra of Swami Bhavaninandan Yati Maharaj, the 26th head of the Siddhacharya Hathiyaram Math and a senior Mahamandaleshwar of the Juna Akhara, concluded on Saturday at the sacred Maa Kali Dham premises in Manihari village of the Manihari region. During his religious and spiritual journey, which began in the first week of November, the Mahamandaleshwar traveled to numerous villages in his home district as well as in Azamgarh and Ballia districts, giving religious discourses and imparting spiritual teachings to his disciples and devotees through worship, sermons, and guru initiation. The chief guest at the concluding ceremony of



the Ramhit Yatra, District Judge of Ghazipur, Dharmendra Kumar Pandey, felicitated Maharaj and urged those present to instill good values in their children. He said that if a patient needs medical treatment, they go to a doctor and if they need legal advice, they go to a lawyer. Similarly, to fulfill the need for spirituality, a person has to seek refuge in a saint or

sage, where spiritual consciousness is awakened in them and they receive guidance to walk on the path of righteousness. On this occasion, the District Judge, along with the head of the Math, planted saplings in the temple premises, giving a message of environmental Protection. In his address, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Bhavaninandan Yati said that people lives have

become very chaotic today. He discussed the ideals of Rama and Krishna and emphasized the need to act in accordance with them. Discussing the concept of karma, he said that despite having all the comforts and conveniences, God had to punish those who committed sinful acts, while due to virtuous deeds, God had to visit the ashram of the poor Bhil woman Shabari to give her his darshan (divine vision). At the concluding ceremony, more than fifty couples received guru initiation from Maharaj and became his disciples. Ramkatha narrator Aradhana Singh, president of the Shri Ram Kripa Manav Seva Trust, enthralled the entire premises with her devotional songs.

DM and SP inspect district jail



Ghazipur

District Magistrate Avinash Kumar and Superintendent of Police Dr. Eraj Raja jointly conducted an on-site inspection of the Ghazipur District Jail. During the inspection, the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police inspected the jail hospital, women and men barracks and the kitchen and Checked the functioning

of the CCTV system installed in the jail. The District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police inquired about the illnesses of the prisoners admitted to the jail hospital and gathered information about their diet and hygiene. The stock register of the jail lockup office was checked, after which all the barracks were inspected one by one. The dates of the next court appearances were

checked on the cards of the inmates in the barracks. During the inspection of the kitchen, information was obtained about the daily food menu. The District Magistrate instructed the Jail Superintendent to ensure that no mobile phones or other devices enter the jail under any circumstances, and to conduct checking drives by creating a roster for this purpose.

Businessman suffering from brother's harassment put up 'house and guest house for sale' board

Mathura

A heartbreaking incident has come to light near CFC crossroads under Mathura Gate police Station area of Mathura Police station Vrindavan. Here, Balaji Medical Store and Guest House operator Keshav Dev has accused his own brother of serious harassment and death threats. The victim businessman said that his brother has been harassing him mentally and financially for a long time. Due to repeated threats and an atmosphere of fear, Keshav Dev has become so frightened that he has decided to sell his house and guest house and put up a 'house and guest



house for sale' sign on the property. According to locals, despite the matter being a family one, the ever-increasing tension and the openly engaged board have created a sensation in the area. The victim has appealed to the police administration

for security and justice. Police are currently investigating the entire matter. Whether the victimized businessman will get justice is yet to be seen, but the incident highlights the serious and traumatic form of family disputes in Society.

Father, Brother and Sister-in-law Sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Heinous Murder

Ghazipur

Looking at the history of Aurangzeb, he overthrew his father, Emperor Shah Jahan, imprisoned him and seized the throne, establishing new levels of Cruelty. Similarly, in this incident, a father and his sons brutally murdered their own brother, Amjad Khan, during the holy month of Ramadan, at the time of Sehri (Pre-dawn meal), due to a property dispute. Upon hearing the news of her husband murder, Shahnaz Akhtar reached her home in Dildarnagar with her father. The deceased family had fled their home, claiming the incident was a suicide. Distressed by the incident,



Shahnaz, a mother of three, filed a complaint regarding her husband murder at the Dildarnagar police station on April 8, 2023. In her complaint, she stated that during the month of Ramadan, at 4 AM, her husband, Amjad Khan, was brutally murdered by his father, Enamuddin Khan,

his brothers Naushad Khan and Irfan Khan and his sister-in-law Mehru Nisha (wife of Naushad), all acting together, due to a property dispute. A case was registered at the Dildarnagar Police Station and after investigation, a charge sheet was presented in court. After hearing the case, the District

Judge Dharmendra Pandey court, on Saturday, Sentenced the accused involved in the murder to life imprisonment and a fine. The prosecution District Government Advocate, Kripashankar Rai, stated that all seven witnesses related to this incident were examined. Attempts

were made to put undue pressure on the witnesses to portray the murder as a suicide. Based on the merits of the case and the extreme cruelty of the murder, the learned District Judge sentenced all four accused to life imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 20,000 Each.

Grand Bath of Faith at Sangam on Maghi Purnima; Over Two Crore Devotees Take a Dip Return journey of devotees and Kalpavasis begins as Kalpavas concludes

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On Sunday, the fifth and main bathing festival of the Magh Mela, Maghi Purnima, witnessed a magnificent display of faith at the Sangam. Despite the dense fog and biting cold, a massive crowd of devotees gathered at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the invisible Saraswati. From the Brahma Muhurta (pre-dawn hours), devotees took a holy dip in the

Sangam during the Ravi Pushya Yoga and performed rituals, prayers, and offered lamps. The bathing continued until late evening. With Maghi Purnima, the month-long Kalpavas also concluded. After the bath and religious rituals, the Kalpavasis began their journey home. According to the administration, by 6 PM on Maghi Purnima, more than two crore devotees had bathed at the Sangam and other ghats. The Mela administration claims that over 21 crore devotees have

bathed during the entire duration of the Magh Mela so far. Extensive and robust arrangements were made by the Prayagraj Mela Authority for the fifth bathing festival. A total of 24 ghats were constructed in the Mela area, including Sangam, Daraganj, Arail, Naini, and Phaphamau. The Magh Mela, spread over 800 hectares, was divided into seven sectors. For the first time this year, nine pontoon bridges were constructed for the smooth movement of devotees.



District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma said that the family members of the Kalpavasis had started arriving at their camps from Saturday night. From dawn, devotees began bathing with

chants of 'Har Har Gange'. The weather was clear in the city in the morning, but dense fog covered the Mela area. After 6 AM, the fog became even thicker, however, the enthusiasm of the devotees remained

undiminished despite the cold winds. Around 10 AM, the fog began to dissipate, and by noon, the sun had come out. After bathing, devotees donated sesame seeds, jaggery, khichdi (a rice and lentil dish), and clothes, while many also performed cow donations. Sadhus and saints, along with their disciples, bathed in the Sangam and performed religious rituals. The Kalpavasis (pilgrims observing the month-long religious vow) listened to the story of

Lord Satyanarayan in their camps and organized community feasts, distributing prasad (blessed food). Recitations of the Ramcharitmanas were also held in several camps. After completing the religious rituals, the Kalpavasis donated their remaining belongings in the camps to the pilgrimage priests and departed for their homes using their respective means of transport. The administration has made strict arrangements to ensure the safe return

of the Kalpavasis and the security of the devotees. The Magh Mela will continue until Mahashivratri on February 15th, although the camps in the area have started to empty after Maghi Purnima. During this time, District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, Mela Officer Rishiraj, Additional CP Ajay Pal Sharma, SP Mela Neeraj Pandey, and other senior officers continuously toured the Mela area to review the arrangements.

Girl on scooter hit by out-of-control bus while going to coaching classes; seriously injured

Strict action needs to be taken against Roadways bus drivers so that they drive their vehicles within the prescribed speed limits.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kokhranj, Kaushambi. A girl on a scooter, on her way to coaching classes, was hit by a speeding, out-of-control Roadways bus near the

Samta Filling petrol pump in the Kokhranj police station area on Monday at approximately 11:00 AM. The girl fell to the ground with her scooter and was seriously injured. The Roadways bus was so out of control that the driver did not stop after the collision and sped away. Hundreds of people gathered at the scene after witnessing the accident. The police and

an ambulance were informed. The injured girl was taken to the hospital for treatment. According to information, Rinki Devi, approximately 20 years old, daughter of Mahesh Kumar, a resident of Malak Bhayal village in the Kokhranj police station area, was going to coaching classes on her scooter on Monday morning at around 11 AM.



As soon as Rinki Devi reached near the Samta Filling petrol pump in Kokhranj, a speeding, out-of-control Roadways bus coming from the Prayagraj side, in an attempt to overtake, hit Rinki Devi on her scooter. Rinki Devi fell to the ground with her scooter and was seriously injured. Hundreds of people gathered at the scene after witnessing

the accident. An NHAI ambulance also reached the spot. The police also arrived at the scene upon receiving the information, and the injured girl was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Upon receiving information about the accident, the girl's family and relatives also reached the accident site. After hitting the girl, the speeding, out-of-control

Roadways bus driver fled with the bus. The police were unable to stop the bus. In the past few months, several accidents have occurred due to the reckless driving of Roadways bus drivers. Strict action needs to be taken against Roadways bus drivers so that they drive their vehicles within the prescribed speed limits and prevent accidents.

NH-31 Witnessed a Horrific Accident: Sand-Laden Truck Injures Disabled Man, Condition Critical; Driver and Cleaner Abscond.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur. A disabled man was seriously injured in a tragic road accident on National Highway-31 under the limits of Mohammadabad Kotwali police station in the district on Sunday afternoon. After the accident, the truck driver and cleaner abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene. According to information, a sand-laden truck (number: UP 54 T 7563) was going from Bharauli towards Mohammadabad. At around 1:30 PM, as the truck reached near Prahladpur village, two youths from Sherpur



Kalan were going towards Mohammadabad on a motorcycle. In an attempt to overtake, the motorcycle came under the truck. In the accident, Shambhu Kharwar (40 years), son of Dayashankar Kharwar, who was riding on the back of the motorcycle, was seriously injured. It

is reported that Shambhu was already disabled. His lower body was severely crushed in the accident, leaving him in a critical condition. After the incident, the truck driver tried to flee with the vehicle, but the young man driving the motorcycle bravely chased the truck and stopped it near

Suratapur. Seeing the situation worsening, the driver and cleaner abandoned the truck and fled the scene. With the help of local people, the injured man was immediately taken to the Mohammadabad Community Health Center, where after first aid, doctors referred him to the district hospital due to his critical condition. Upon receiving the information, the police reached the spot and seized the truck. As of the time of writing, no concrete information had been received regarding the absconding driver and cleaner.

Retired Sub-Inspector of CBCID murdered in Lalapur

Killed by bludgeoning to the head

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: Ram Ratan Mishra, a retired Sub-Inspector of CBCID, was murdered by unknown assailants who bludgeoned him to death in Chakshivcher village under Lalapur police station area. The killers are absconding since the incident. Upon receiving the information, the police reached the spot and started the investigation. The police have taken the body into custody and sent it for post-mortem. Necessary evidence is being collected from the crime scene. The exact reasons for the murder are not yet clear in the preliminary investigation. It is being said that Ram Ratan Mishra was living in the village after his retirement. The police are questioning the peo-



ple in the surrounding area and conducting raids in search of the suspects. The station in-charge said that the matter is being investigated seriously. Efforts are being made to solve the case soon. There is an atmosphere of panic in the village after the incident.

Naini Police Uncovers Mobile Theft Gang, Recovers 96 Android Mobile Phones



Gang targeted pilgrims at Magh Mela, seven accused arrested

Akhand Bharat Sandesh Prayagraj: In a major operation within 24 hours, the Naini police have busted an organized gang involved in mobile phone theft. Police have arrested seven accused in the case and recovered 96 Android

mobile phones worth approximately Rs. 50 lakhs from their possession. According to the police, this gang targeted pilgrims who came to bathe in the Magh Mela area. Taking advantage of the crowds, the accused would skillfully steal mobile phones and were preparing to sell them at different locations. Several important details have emerged during the interrogation of the arrested accused. The police say

that the gang had been active for a long time and committed thefts not only in the fair area but also in other crowded places. The Naini police station in-charge said that the criminal history of the accused is being investigated. The recovered mobile phones will be identified and returned to their owners soon. This swift action by the police has increased public confidence in the security arrangements in the fair area.

Atal Residential School Entrance Exam on March 8, Application Deadline February 15

Divisional Commissioner directs improvement of education quality and conducting classes by subject experts
Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A review meeting was held on Monday at Gandhi Auditorium regarding the entrance examination for admission to classes 6 and 9 for the academic session 2026-27 at Atal Residential School, Belhat village (Koraon tehsil), and the quality of education at the school. The meeting was chaired by Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal. The Deputy Labour



Commissioner informed that the entrance examination for admission to classes 6 and 9 will be held on March 8. The last date for submitting applications is February 15. Interested students can submit their application forms at the Block Education Officer's office and the Labour Department office. Online application facilities will also be available. It was

informed that children of construction workers registered under the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board will be eligible for admission. In addition, children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic, who are registered with the Women and Child Development Department or are covered under the Chief Minister's Child Service Scheme, will also be eligible to

apply. Examination centers will be set up at the tehsil and district levels for the entrance examination. In this regard, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the District School Inspector to select suitable schools for the examination centers and take the necessary action. She also emphasized the need for widespread publicity of the admission process so that more eligible stu-

dents can apply. Reviewing the quality of education at the school, the Divisional Commissioner said that if any additional resources are required to further improve teaching and learning, the principal should inform her in writing. She also directed that classes by subject expert teachers in Mathematics, English, and Science be conducted periodically. Emphasis was also placed on conducting regular mock examinations for the children and identifying weak students and conducting special classes for them. Chief Development Officer Harshika Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner Sumit Kumar, and other committee members were present at the meeting.

Editorial

Shashi Tharoor has always disliked 'statist Congress'

Power is in the words. Language has mystical powers. I enjoy playing with words. Those words are hot. You can be moved to tears by words. You can find humor in words. Moreover, there are few things that can convey the planet and all its inhabitants as vividly and comprehensively as words. During the 2009 austerity drive of the Congress-led UPA administration, Tharoor was embroiled in controversy for his response to a query regarding flying "cattle class" to Kerala. His statement, "Absolutely, in cattle class out of solidarity with all our holy cows!" caused a political storm following his response. Tharoor, an accomplished writer of numerous best-selling books on Indian society and politics, was forced to clarify that he did not want to offend economy class passengers after the Congress party swiftly censured him. After 16 years, Tharoor is now again in trouble for comments he made in an interview. In response to a Malayalam report that he had claimed, "We have many leaders, but many feel that there are no ordinary workers," Tharoor clarified that he had really said, "several workers feel there is an absence of a leader in Kerala's Congress." "You should not think that I have no option to spend my time. I have options," Tharoor added earlier in the interview. I have speeches, books, and invitations to speak all around the globe. Some saw his comments as a covert signal to the highest levels of Congress that he was thinking about other political paths. Amidst the upcoming Assembly elections in the state next year, Tharoor is now facing accusations of "crossing the line" from the top leaders of the Congress's faction-ridden Kerala unit, putting him in the center of a maelstrom. Because of this, Shashi Tharoor has been named this week's ThePrint Newsmaker. Actually, Tharoor's essay praising the new industrial policies of the Left-led Kerala government had already been a hot topic before the interview controversy erupted. Tharoor had stated that, during the course of 18 months last year, Kerala's startup ecosystem was valued at an astounding \$1.7 billion, which is five times higher than the worldwide average for the same time period. While the fact that this change has started happening under an LDF government run by communists is shocking, it is not totally unexpected. "The path to growth and prosperity for their people lies in capitalism, entrepreneurship, and initiative, not in red flags, strikes, and agitations," he said in the post, comparing the Communists in Kerala to their West Bengali counterparts at the turn of the century. While he disagrees that the state's industrial climate has changed generally, Tharoor defended himself by saying that "when something good emerges, even if only in one area, it is petty not to acknowledge it" in response to attacks from Kerala Congress officials over the piece. Tharoor, a former UN diplomat, has had a tumultuous political career with the Congress since his 2009 victory in the Lok Sabha elections from the Thiruvananthapuram constituency. Mostly because he had a habit of saying things that went against the party line. However, he consistently gets himself into problems by more than simply his words. In 2009, as the UPA was implementing its austerity measures, Tharoor and then-External Affairs Minister SM Krishna came under fire from the government for allegedly residing in a five-star hotel in Delhi while their official quarters were still being prepared. Tharoor lost his position in the Manmohan Singh government's council of ministers in 2010 due to the scandal surrounding the sweat equity provided to Sunanda Pushkar, his then-girlfriend and later-wife, by a consortium that owned the Kochi club of the Indian Premier League. His ordination as a junior minister was renewed in 2012. Tharoor was thrust into his gravest professional crisis in January 2014, when Pushkar was discovered dead in a luxurious Delhi hotel room—months prior to the Lok Sabha elections.



Muslims want waqf reforms too. It's not an issue for political acrimony

When the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 was first tabled in the Lok Sabha on 8 August last year, it triggered fears within the Muslim community, as it was perceived to have been introduced without adequate consultation with stakeholders. After all, the issue of waqfs—Muslim institutions through which property is bequeathed for religious or charitable purposes—is sensitive because it involves socio-religious spaces such as qabristsans, masjids, idgahs, and madrasas. As such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to adopt procedures that allayed rather than stoked the fears of

Muslims. In this backdrop, the decision to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament was welcome. The 31-member committee, drawn from across party lines, received 97,27,772 memoranda overall. There were representations from various ministries and departments—including Minority Affairs, Law and Justice, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport, and Culture (Archaeological Survey of India)—as well as state waqf boards and experts, ensuring a diversity of opinions. As such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to

correct procedures that allayed rather than stoked the fears of Muslims. In this backdrop, the decision to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament was welcome. The 31-member committee, drawn from across party lines, received 97,27,772 memoranda overall. There were representations from various ministries and departments—including Minority Affairs, Law and Justice, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport, and Culture (Archaeological Survey of India)—as well as state waqf boards and experts, ensuring a diversity of opinions. It is not entirely

correct to state that waqf reforms are being externally foisted. Rather, to a large extent, the demand for waqf reforms has emerged from within the Muslim community also. The Ministry of Minority Affairs received numerous complaints from Muslims on the maladministration of waqf properties, which manifested in voluminous litigations. The ministry's analysis of grievances received from April 2023 found that 148 complaints pertained mostly to encroachments, illegal sales of waqf land, delays in surveys and registration, and complaints against waqf boards and mutawallis.

Vance's meeting with Zelenskyy did not go well

Donald Trump has spent only a month in his second term as the US President. However, he has disrupted the international order, weakened the Western alliance and created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty among its members, surprising even some of his supporters. There has been a paradigm shift in US foreign policy under Trump. He is now closer to Moscow than Washington's traditional allies. He has embraced the Kremlin's narrative on Ukraine and has sidelined US allies. Although senior members of the Trump administration have denied that the US has abandoned Kyiv and ignored its European allies, Trump himself has not made any serious attempts to pacify Ukrainians and Europeans. His closeness to Russia has been on display since he talked for 90 minutes on the phone with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in which they agreed to start negotiations to end the Ukraine war, which will mark its third anniversary on Monday. Trump did speak to Zelenskyy soon after that call with Putin, but a nervous Ukrainian President warned that excluding his country from the talks would be "very dangerous". Events after that only made Ukrainians feel sidelined. Trump's Vice President, JD Vance, met European leaders in Munich two days later. But his comment that Europe will not be included in the peace talks only helped fuelled the speculation that they were being left out of the future of Ukraine, which is closer to their homes and in which they have invested a lot of money and effort since



the Russian invasion. Vance's meeting with Zelenskyy did not go well either as the Ukrainian leader refused to give access to the country's vast reserves of critical minerals unless he was given security guarantees. That angered Washington. Ending the Russia-Ukraine war was Trump's major campaign promise. But hardly anyone expected him to brazenly take Russia's side and even blame Ukraine for the conflict, which he did. Last Tuesday, a US delegation led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio met the Russian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Saudi Arabia, to discuss peace. Ukraine was not invited. Putin—who had been shunned by the US and its allies since the invasion of Ukraine—was delighted. A frustrated Zelenskyy dismissed the Riyadh talks as worthless. Trump did not like those comments and called the Ukraine President a dictator, even accusing him of starting the war. Zelenskyy said the US President was living in a Russian-made "disinformation space". This infuriated Trump, who does not take kindly to any criticism. He described Zelenskyy as "a modestly successful comedian" who "talked the United

States of America into spending \$350 Billion, to go into a War that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and 'TRUMP,' will never be able to settle." Trump's behaviour towards Zelenskyy is in stark contrast to Biden's, who had backed Ukraine against Russia with all the possible military and financial aid. President Biden travelled to Ukraine many times since the Russian invasion in February 2022 to display his administration's full support. He also promised NATO membership to Ukraine at a future date. Russia was severely punished for invading Ukraine. The US joined hands with its allies to isolate Moscow. Russia faced tough sanctions and its assets in the West were seized. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine. There were even plans to put Putin and his close allies on Nuremberg-style trials. Until a year ago, Ukraine's leader was talking about even liberating all its territory, including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with the help of Western military equipment. Ukraine even succeeded in occupying the

Russian territory of Kursk, which it had thought would be used as a bargaining chip during negotiations with Moscow. But all that now looks like a distant dream. With Trump back in the White House, Ukraine fears that Russia will be allowed to keep all the occupied territory as part of the deal to end the war. Kyiv is now likely to be denied NATO membership. That could be a promise to Russia to end the war. The US under Trump has now even opposed calling Russia an aggressor in a G-7 statement being prepared to mark the third anniversary of the war. The US team removed the phrase from the first draft, which was prepared by Canada, the current holder of the group's presidency. It is not just Ukraine, America's European allies are also now nervous about the intent of Trump. Since the Second World War, they enjoyed the US security umbrella under NATO. But now they are unsure if the US under Trump will honour Article 5 of the NATO, which is triggered when a member state comes under attack. It implies that an attack on one member is an attack on all. There is even fear in Europe that Donald Trump may sign a deal with the Russian leader Vladimir Putin that will lead to the withdrawal of US forces from Baltic states and effectively kill the NATO alliance. That could be similar to the non-aggression treaty signed by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany on August 23, 1939, sending shockwaves to other European countries and prompting Hitler and Stalin to annex neighbouring countries. It is another matter

that Hitler invaded the Soviet Union two years later, putting an end to the treaty. European members of NATO may call themselves major powers, but they can't match Russia's military might without US support. Even after losing more than a hundred thousand men and lots of military equipment in the Ukraine conflict, Moscow remains a strong power, mainly because of its nuclear arsenal. So Why Has Trump Changed The Narrative? Trump has always been an admirer of strongmen like Putin. Even during his first term, he developed a rapport with him. He also dislikes Zelenskyy, whom he sees as more of a roadblock in ending the Ukraine conflict. As a former businessman, Trump sees things from the perspective of profitable deals. Western sanctions have hit Russia, but American companies have also suffered business losses, running into billions of dollars. He would like to reverse that. And despite Ukraine's resistance, Trump believes Zelenskyy will have to give access to critical minerals in return for any future US support. Some in the Trump administration suggest Kyiv should provide Americans with those minerals in return for the US military and financial aid already received by Ukraine. Trump has blamed European leaders for not doing enough to end the Ukraine war. He has also complained for a long time that Europe has lived off the US for too long and it must pay for its security. Europeans have increased their defence budgets but not enough to survive without US support.

Tax cuts won't fix low growth. Govt must look beyond fiscal policy

The Modi government's main move in the Union Budget 2025 has been to cut personal income tax. As finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her speech, it is meant to boost demand in the economy. However, the government doesn't expect a higher-than-usual increase in other non-debt receipts and has budgeted a decline in the deficit. The budgeted capital expenditure is the same as the revised estimates for 2024-25. The tax cut should be seen in the context of other fiscal policy moves the Modi government has made in the last decade to boost growth. Since 2016, the Indian economy has struggled to sustain rapid growth. From 2016 to 2019, it was in a relentless showdown, with GDP growth falling to 3.9 per cent in 2019-20. The GDP then fell sharply in 2020-21 due to the pandemic. After this sharp decline, high GDP growth numbers created a false sense of complacency, but the

compound annual growth rate between 2019-20 and 2024-25 is only 4.8 per cent. The latest GDP estimates suggest that the economy is slowing down again—with growth clocking at 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of 2024. Even if we set aside the critiques of GDP estimation in India, growth remains a topic of concern in policy conversations. The government's response to an economic challenge depends on what it considers to be the root cause. The Modi government's actions over the past decade suggest that it seeks to address India's economic growth pangs through fiscal policy. Consequently, fiscal policy has done much of the heavy lifting in the government's growth strategy over the past decade. In the economic slowdown from 2016-17 to 2019-20, the government sought to maintain its expenditure. To do so without increasing the reported fiscal deficit, from 2017-18 to 2019-20, it

India's crude oil trade has evolved from a purely economic exchange

India's crude oil trade has evolved from a purely economic exchange into both a geopolitical test of strategic autonomy and a measure of the constraints in its energy policy. Over the past three years, India has gone from being a marginal buyer of Russian crude to one of its largest importers, carefully balancing ties with the US, Europe, and shifting global energy markets. That balance is now under pressure from Donald Trump's 50 per cent tariff offensive, aimed selectively at India and leaving little ambiguity about his objectives—and in Trump's world, what he wants, he usually gets. Yet the national debate has taken too many assumptions for granted. It is worth applying a deconstruction approach to India's famous oil bargains with Russia—a decision once hailed as tactical brilliance, but one now risking entanglement in overlapping economic and diplomatic challenges. While public commentary has focused heavily on Trump, tariffs, and New Delhi's indignation, the more pressing task is to interrogate the rationale behind these choices. To navigate the road ahead, India must revisit three fundamentals: why it embraced Russian oil, how it misread Trump's European recalibration, and where future India-Russia energy engagement should head. Clarity on these three points may well define the next chapter of India's energy strategy. Despite close political ties and deep defence cooperation, India and Russia were never bound by energy dependence. Even with India's heavy reliance on imports—currently 88 per cent of its daily crude requirement of 5.5 million barrels—its primary suppliers have traditionally been Gulf countries. The earlier chapter of India capitulating to Trump 1.0's sanctions on Iran and Venezuela is well known; today, however, the challenge is starker. Russia entered India's energy

equation only after the geopolitical earthquake of President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. That act shattered the European order painstakingly built since the Second World War and crystallised after the Soviet Union's collapse. Central to this upheaval was Putin's weaponization of energy: Europe's decades-long dependence on cheap Russian oil and gas became a vulnerability. In response, Europe diversified away from Russia, while the G7 imposed a \$60 per-barrel price cap on Russian crude in December 2022. The logic was clear: as one of the world's top three oil producers, Russia could not be cut off overnight. The aim was instead to squeeze Moscow's revenues, which were funding its war machine, while keeping prices stable and securing alternative supplies for Europe. India saw opportunity in this upheaval. With vast import needs, it began rerouting Russian oil at supposedly lower prices, rejecting G7 sanctions and arranging direct and indirect deals through intermediaries. Early reports spoke of a "free on board" discount of 30 per cent, though never confirmed. Brent crude fell from \$86.51 in January 2022 to \$80.92 in December, peaking briefly at about \$90 in June 2023 before sliding again. While some credit India's purchases with stabilising prices, Russian oil for India almost always remained way above the \$60 price cap. The critical question is whether India ever bought below that threshold. Reports suggest an average discount of only \$5 per barrel—hardly transformative—and potentially offset by hidden costs and surcharges. Even so, large volumes (peaking at over 2 million barrels per day before dropping to 1.5 million) meant cumulative savings. But if cheap oil was the goal, why not join or informally align with the price cap.

Skill Training Program Launched at Narayan Seva Sansthan

Lucknow

The inauguration ceremony of the skill training program organized under the aegis of Narayan Seva Sansthan was held at the Kesariya Bhawan, the national office of the Bharatiya Kesariya Vahini. The program aims to empower and enable young people towards employment, self-employment and self-reliance. The chief guest of the program was Swant Ranjan (All India Propaganda Chief, Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh). In his address, he wholeheartedly praised the efforts being made by Narayan Seva Sansthan to make the youth employable. He



said that in today time, not only education but also skill-based training is a powerful means of making the youth self-reliant and this institution is doing exemplary work in that direction. Presiding over the program, Prabhu Narayan, Patron of Mahamana

Malaviya Mission, said in his presidential address that he considered this skill training campaign a divine work, stating that providing employment opportunities to the last person in society is true service and Narayan Seva Sansthan is fulfilling this spirit of service with complete

dedication. The special guest, J.K. Sinha, National General Secretary of the Rule of Law Society, introduced all the dignitaries on the dais in detail. He congratulated all the office bearers of the institution for this employment-oriented work and said that such efforts make society

strong and harmonious. National President Manoj Srivastava said that India will become prosperous only when the youth of India become economically prosperous. It is particularly noteworthy that Manoj Srivastava made his organization's office, "Kesariya Bhawan," available free of charge to promote skill development for this divine and social work (it is free for any social work), for which all the dignitaries on the dais expressed their special gratitude. The program was conducted by Abhishek Anand. The event was attended by prominent figures including Abhishek Dubey,

Executive Chairman of Seva Narayan Sansthan, Sanjeev Kumar, National General Secretary (Organization) of Bharatiya Kesariya Vahini, Sanjeev Srivastava, President of Mahamana Malviya Mission Awadh, Somesh Vardhan Singh, President of Rule of Law Society Awadh and other dignitaries. Overall, this launch ceremony was not just an event, but a strong commitment to building the future of the youth. The event successfully conveyed a spirit of service, dedication and organization, the dream of a self-reliant India can certainly be realized through skill development.

Students and youth spread their magic at the literary and art festival



Varanasi

On the second day of the fourth edition of the Sahitya Kala Utsav, students and young artists captivated the audience with their performances in Hunar Ke Sartaj on the Kashi Kirti stage. The occasion featured colorful presentations of poetry and storytelling. Roli Rastogi spread a sense of enthusiasm and motivation through her poem "Ek Koshish Aur." Zoya Ahmed captivated the audience with her confessional storytelling. Poetry recitations were presented by Mohitin Khan, Prabhat Patel, Umang Goswami, Jayamala Rai, Bhartendu Kumar, Rajeshwari Patnaik, Anisha Pandey, Manvi Pandey, Anu Mishra, Aditya Pandey and Monish Khan. Storytelling performances were presented by Vidushi Parekh, Zoya Ahmed Hussain, Hitesh, Yash Arhatiya, Vikas Roy and Kanika Verma.

Cultural Talents Honored, Students Awarded

Bahraich

A grand ceremony was organized at the local Kanchan Convent School in Kaiserganj to honor students who excelled in cultural programs. On this occasion, the children were presented with shields and medals and best wishes were extended for their bright future. During the ceremony, more than one hundred students, including Aradhya Singh, Siddhant Singh, Abhishek, Bhupendra Singh, Vanshika, Shiksha Singh, Riddhima Sharma, Naina Kaushal, Avani Kaushik, Anshika, Divyanshi, Jayshree, Avika Kaushik, Shreya Jaiswal, Jaya Tripathi, Priyanshi, Vartika, Nancy Shukla, Ananya Srivastava, Aastha Singh, Ishani Anand, Himanshi, Lakshmi, Pankhuri, Akriti, Adiba Siddiqui, Sadaf Fatima, Misbah, Nisqat Fatima, Zikra Fatima, Noori, Jahnvi, Kavya Maurya, Nitya Sharma, Mahi Pandey, Srishti Singh,



Nitya Gupta, Abhishek, Mahi Mishra, Aradhya Shukla, Mahak Maurya, Aradhya Jaiswal, Saumya Singh, Vandana, Aradhya Yadav, Arshiya Ansari, Nayansi Rajput, Upasana Singh, Ayesha Fatima, Anjali Verma, Umme Salma,

and Yuvakshi, were honored. The awards were and therefore, students should set goals and move forward. S.K. Singh, Dr. Pankaj Shukla, Vijay Mishra, Pradeep Srivastava, Mohd. Majid, Ranjit Singh, Mohd. Abrarp along with the

school teachers and staff, were present at the program. The school administration said that such cultural and educational programs will continue to be organized for the all-round development of the Children.

A major seminar and oath taking ceremony will be organized by the Journalists Association in the coming week

Bhadohi

Bhadohi Journalist Association meeting: An important meeting was held on Saturday at Hotel HPB GRAND located at Rajpura Square, in which the previous meetings and programs were reviewed and it was discussed to organize the swearing-in ceremony of the office bearers of the organization and a seminar on a large scale in the coming week. In the meeting, in order to make the organization more strong and dynamic, along with reshuffle of the office bearers, some members of the executive were given the responsibility of new posts. On the proposal of Senior Vice President Haji Azad Khan Babu, Aftab Ansari on the post of General Secretary, Nairang Alam Khan, Sandeep Rai,



Javed Qureshi on the post of Secretary and Faisal Khan on the post of Joint Minister were unanimously given the responsibility of discharging their responsibilities. Other topics were discussed in detail in the meeting. Presiding over the meeting, District President Virendra Chaturvedi congratulated all the members of the executive on the success of the past program and said that the more you all

work to strengthen the organization, the more the organization will improve. He called for full devotion and honesty to ensure proper completion of the seminar and oath taking ceremony program to be held in the month of February. Patron Amjad Ahmed, Qaiser Parvez, Ubaidullah Asri, Rajesh Chand Seth, Khurshid Khan, Haider Sanjari, Seraj Ahmed, Farooq Jafri etc. were present in the meeting.

India's international bank 'Bank of Baroda organises a grand Property Expo-2026 in Varanasi'

Bank of Baroda, Regional Office Varanasi successfully organised Property Expo-2026 today on 31st January 2026 at Girija Devi Sanskrit Sankul, Chowkaghat Varanasi. It was open to the general public from 10 am onwards. Mithlesh Kumar, General Manager and Regional Head, Bank of Baroda Varanasi attended the event as the chief guest. Special guests included Manoj Kumar Bakshi, Deputy General Manager, Varanasi Region, Ganga Singh, Deputy General Manager and Regional Head, Bank of Baroda, Varanasi Region, and Mr. Bholu Nath Trivedi, Deputy General Manager, Varanasi Region. The Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), the Municipal Corporation of Varanasi, along with Varanasi best-known builders, major housing projects and architects actively participated in Property



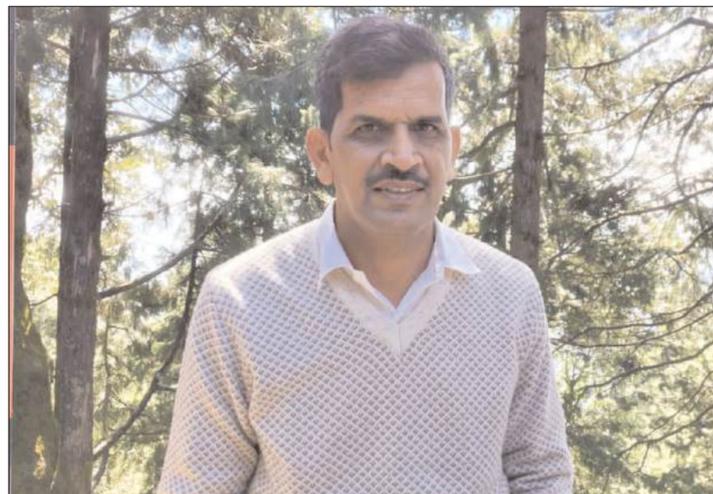
Expo 2026. The expo objective was to provide citizens with comprehensive information on housing, loan facilities and urban development under one roof. During the program, Bank of Baroda offered special home loan concessions, quick approvals, a simple and transparent process and waived processing fees. Meanwhile, officials from the Varanasi Development Authority and Municipal Corporation provided detailed information about the Varanasi Master Plan, development plans, and the building approval

process. The expo also showcased the latest construction technology, modern architectural trends, information on the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Solar Yojana and organized a digital fraud awareness session, which was appreciated by visitors. Architects, bankers, and experts also provided personalized consultations to the public. Bank officials stated that the objective of such events is to provide reliable banking and housing solutions to the public, in the spirit of "One Roof, Many Options." The event saw a large turnout of citizens.

Steps Towards Poison-Free Farming: Deputy Director of Agriculture

Bahraich

Once grappling with rising costs, declining yields and deteriorating soil, the district has become an inspiring example of agricultural transformation. This positive change is the result of IPM (Integrated Pest Management), natural farming and soil health improvement schemes initiated under the guidance of Deputy Director of Agriculture, Dr. Vinay Kumar Verma. Under Dr. Verma leadership, the agriculture department took serious note of the damage caused by excessive reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides and took concrete steps towards making farming "poison-free." Farmers were encouraged to



adopt IPM and natural farming, enabling the balanced and limited use of chemicals. Farmers were directly connected to this campaign through training camps, field schools and awareness programs organized by the agriculture department. The

direct benefit was a reduction in farming costs and an increase in farmers' profits. The renovation of the soil testing laboratory proved to be a crucial step towards improving soil health. Timely and accurate soil test reports enabled farmers to adopt

balanced fertilizer use. The Soil Health Card campaign led to improvements in both production and crop quality. Agrotourism also received a boost in the district thanks to Dr. Vinay Kumar Verma initiative. The farms of suc-

cessful farmers have now become centers of learning and inspiration for students, agricultural officers and other farmers. The positive impact of these efforts is clearly visible. Soil fertility has increased, the use of chemicals has decreased, and farmers' incomes have increased significantly. The district has also been awarded a state-level certificate of appreciation by the Uttar Pradesh government for its outstanding work in IPM and agrotourism. With the vision of healthy soil, healthy farmers and a healthy society, this agricultural transformation that began in Bahraich is now becoming a source of inspiration for the entire State.

I'm a true-blue Mumbaikar: Bhumi Pednekar

Bhumi calls her Kala Ghoda appearance a full-circle moment, celebrating Mumbai culture after playing a city police officer on screen



takes an army, months of planning, and their resilience and passion to keep going for 28 years."

'I'm a true-blue Mumbaikar!'

"Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is iconic to Mumbai. It has become a very big part of Mumbai's culture. I'm so happy that I could come here today, especially on a day when I just had my show release yesterday, where I am playing a member of the Mumbai police force. It makes me so happy because I am a true-blue Mumbaikar."

Bhumi Pednekar was invited as one of the chief guests at the inauguration ceremony, and the moment served as an emotional connection for the actress. "A very nice memory that I had when I was younger, and I was actually watching one of the performances here at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. I remember saying that one day I will be on this stage, and here I am today; this is a 100 per cent full circle for me." In its 26th year, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is bringing more than 400 live events, workshops, and activities across all nine days till February 8. The festival is free to attend for everyone on all days.

Right after her recently released OTT series, *Daldal* on Amazon Prime, where she is playing the character of a Mumbai cop, Bhumi couldn't stop praising how it has been a full-circle moment for her. Speaking about the iconic Kala Ghoda festival, she said, "I think it's getting bigger and better every year. I'm sure it



Photo: KGAF



Budget proposes to support the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai, for setting up content labs in 15,000 secondary schools.

Nirmala Sitharaman
Finance Minister

'Orange economy boost'

Presenting her ninth consecutive Budget in Parliament, Sitharaman said that the Centre plans to support the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies, Mumbai, in setting up Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) Content Creator Labs in 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges nationwide.

The move is aimed at preparing young Indians for careers in a sector projected to need two million professionals by 2030. "India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics AVGC sector is a growing industry,"

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announces content creator labs in institutes across India in Union Budget 2026, giving a boost to the animation, gaming, and digital content industries nationwide.



the Finance Minister said, underlining the need for early exposure and structured training to meet future workforce demands.

The proposed labs are expected to focus on hands-on learning and skill development aligned with industry requirements. The announcement places the AVGC sector firmly within the government's broader vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India), the central theme of the Budget presented on Sunday,

February 1, 2026. The Budget speech highlighted infrastructure expansion, strategic manufacturing, and education reforms as key pillars of long-term growth. In a related push to strengthen creative and design education, Sitha-

raman also announced that a new National Institute of Design will be established in Eastern India through a challenge-based route. The initiative aims to address the rising demand in the Indian design industry and expand access to high-quality design education. Beyond creative industries, the Budget outlined plans to support states in developing five university townships near major industrial and logistics corridors. These integrated academic zones will house multiple universities, colleges, research institutions, skill centres and residential facilities, linking higher education more closely to industry needs.

Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor laugh off rumours

Alia Bhatt says Ranbir Kapoor laughs off fake reports about trouble in their marriage, choosing humour and calm over reacting to rumours



Photo: Instagram, @aliabhatt

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt reacted to reports about trouble in her marriage with actor Ranbir Kapoor. In a recent interview, Alia stated that online rumours and memes never bother her and Ranbir. She also revealed how the Barfi actor reacts to such reports.

During an interview with Esquire India, Alia said, "The noise doesn't

reach us. Because it's not real. They're responding to three-and-a-half seconds or seven seconds of what they're seeing. We've been together for seven years. That's way more seconds than what people are commenting on."

Revealing how Ranbir Kapoor reacts to such reports, Alia said he sometimes laughs at them and largely ignores such commentary.

The *Gangubai Kathi-*

wadi actress, who married Ranbir in April 2022, added, "Even the B of bother doesn't enter our life. If you're in a room of fifty people, maybe only four actually care about you. The rest might be thinking terrible things, but you can't hear them. Is my reality changing? No. Is my family dynamic changing? Not at all. Am I living my dream? Yes. Do I go to sleep every day with a grateful heart? One hundred per cent."



Photo: Instagram, @alwysramcharan

Ram Charan and Upasana welcome twins

Telugu actor Ram Charan and wife Upasana Koonidela have become parents to twins, a baby boy and a baby girl. The duo shared the news with a collaborative post on their respective Instagram handles. "Happy to share that we have been blessed with a baby boy & girl. Having two daughters and a son fills us with immense gratitude," it read. "The women in our life have been our greatest strength. I'm very thankful to all our fans, family and well-wishers who have stood by us and supported us through every moment," it added. Charan's father and re-

nowned actor Chiranjeevi also uploaded a post on his X handle, announcing the news. "With immense joy and a heart full of gratitude, we are happy to share that @AlwysRamCharan and @upasanakoonidela have been blessed with twins - a baby boy and a baby girl," he wrote in the caption. "Both the babies and the mother are healthy and doing well. Welcoming these little ones into our family is a moment of pure joy and divine blessing for us as grandparents. We sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, love, blessings and good wishes - Chiranjeevi & Surekha," he added.

CAUGHT ON CAM



Pics: PTI/Varinder Chawla

Several Bollywood actors stepped forward during the Tamannaah Fine Jewellery store launch in Mumbai on Saturday

Anya Singh, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Tamannaah Bhatia, Mrunal Thakur with media personality and comedian Kusha Kapila and entrepreneur Parul Gulati



Farah Khan

Aryan Khan

Pooja Hegde

Sidharth Malhotra



Photo: Instagram, @princiasakrovidus

Snoop Dogg's 10-month-old granddaughter dies

Rapper and singer Snoop Dogg recently suffered a personal loss after his granddaughter, Codi Dreux, passed away on Monday. His daughter, Cori Broadus, announced that her baby girl, who was born three months premature, died just 20 days after being discharged from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Snoop's 26-year-

daughter shared the heart-breaking news on Instagram Stories, posting a black-and-white photo with her daughter and writing an emotional note, "Monday I lost the love of my life. My Codi," accompanied by an angel-wing emoji. Cori's fiancé, Wayne Deuce, shared a series of photos on his Instagram account. He wrote, "I been the saddest since u left me Codi Dreux. But I know u at peace. Daddy will always love you."



Ground planes to fly again in 2 years: SpiceJet to DGCA

Delhi: Business Standard sources reported that SpiceJet informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that it will spend Rs 400 crore in two years to restore 36 grounded planes. The regulator met with the carrier last to discuss restoring grounded jets. Sources said this followed the airline's Rs 3,000 crore qualifying institutional placement from global investors and mutual funds. The airline did not respond to Business Standard's request for comment. At the QIP, the airline identified 36 grounded aircraft out of 58. This was mostly due to lesser payment defaults, aircraft maintenance financial issues, and component shortages. The airline informed the regulator that seven of the 36 grounded planes would return by year's end, sources added. The remaining 29 aircraft should be reactivated in 15-21



months. "Overall, the airline anticipates it will take 18-24 months to bring all grounded planes back to service," source said. SpiceJet announced that it will lease seven planes to improve flying operations immediately while repairing grounded planes. It said the seven leased planes will join the fleet by November 15. Sources say the carrier's grounded jets will undergo Airbus and Boeing-mandated return-to-service (RTS) procedures. The DGCA will allow commercial passenger flights after the RTS process.

RTS is the procedure of restarting a grounded aircraft. Maintenance, repairs,

inspections, and regulatory compliance are required.

Change in rules marks discount broker turning point

Delhi: Domestic rating agency Crisil said discount brokerages like Zerodha and Groww will be most affected by recent regulatory changes to curtail investors' derivatives activity. Narayanan claimed derivative trades account for up to 80% of bargain brokers' revenue and under a third of full-service brokerages'. Largest impact, with new customer acquisition.

Govt. lists Ola Electric's 'consumer rights infractions' to ARAI

Delhi: The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) instructed vehicle testing agency ARAI to investigate whether Ola Electric violated consumer rights as a recipient of the government's EV incentive scheme. After the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued Ola Electric a show cause notice for consumer rights violations, misleading advertising, and unfair trade practices, MHI took action. Charges during free service period or warranty, car delivery delays, and service/repair delays are additional cited infractions. Old Electric is a FAME-II and PM E-DRIVE



beneficiary under ARAI's eligibility requirements. Thus, MHI must get your opinions on the issue promptly "The ministry's letter to the testing centre stated. It further stated that under two EV incentive schemes, all OEMs, including Ola Electric, must maintain service centres to address consumer issues and provide warranties. Earlier, Union consumer

affairs secretary and CCPA chief commissioner Nidhi Khare confirmed that the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has been receiving complaints for about a year. The company didn't answer problems effectively." CCPA can open a "class action" under the Consumer Protection Act if comparable complaints affect a 'class' of customers.'

Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Edition Launched

Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) launched the Urban Cruiser Hyryder 'Festival Limited Edition' packed with Toyota Genuine Accessories (TGA) Package. The Festival Limited Edition of Urban Cruiser Hyryder adds 13 specially designed TGA. On the exterior, it has chrome and ornamental accessories on the mud-

flap, door visor (premium with SS insert), front and rear bumper garnish, head lamp garnish, hood emblem, body cladding, fender garnish, rear door lid garnish and door chrome handle. On the interior, the Festival Edition comes with an all-weather 3D floor mat, leg room lamp, and a digital video recorder. As part of this

special launch, TKM is offering a complimentary package worth ₹50,817 for the customers opting for Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Limited Edition made available at dealerships across India until 31st October 2024. This exclusive package is available for the V and G grades of both the Neo Drive and Hybrid variants.

Raptee.HV Launches T 30 High-Voltage Electric Motorcycle In India - Details

Delhi: Raptee.HV, the Chennai-based EV startup, launched India's first high-voltage electric motorcycle, which is developed with the technology being used in Electric cars across the world. Called the Raptee T 30, it is the first of its kind to use universal charging standards that are used by cars. In simple words, it uses a CCS2 charging port. The motorcycle is priced at ₹2.39 lakhs, ex-showroom. The Raptee.HV Motorcycle has an IDC Est range of around 200 km and a real-world range of over 150 km on a single charge. The company claims that it can accelerate from 0 to 60 kmph in under 3.5 seconds. The 5.4 kWh battery pack is IP67-rated, and it takes 60 minutes for a 20-80 per cent juice-up via a 3.3 kW charger. Through a fast charger, the same can be done in just 30 minutes. Also, the brand is offering a warranty of 8 years of 80,000 km on the battery pack. The T 30 rides on a set of 17-inch rims with a 110-section tyre on the front and a 150-section tyre at the rear. Moreover, the suspension includes 37 mm USD forks on the front and a telescopic shock absorber at the rear. Braking duties are performed by a 320 mm rotor at the front and a 230 mm disc at the rear. The motorcycle has advanced software features for an enhanced riding experience, including 3 riding modes and a 7-inch LCD instrument cluster. It comes equipped with connected features as well. There are four colours on offer - Horizon Red, Arctic White, Mercury Grey and Eclipse Black.

Tata Consultancy Services mcap cross Rs 15 lakh crore mark as shares soar

NEW DELHI: Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped 4% on Tuesday, taking its market valuation to above Rs 15 lakh crore mark. The stock of the country's second most valued firm by market valuation jumped 4.05% to settle at Rs 4,133.45 apiece on the BSE.

In 2024, the Indian Real Estate Sector Expects Equity Investments of Rs 74,815 Crore

Delhi: According to a survey by CBRE South Asia, the real estate sector registered equity investments of \$8.9 billion (Rs 74,815 crore) in the first nine months of 2024, surpassing the increase of \$7.4 billion (Rs 62,210 crore) in 2023 and demonstrating a year-over-year rise of 46%. The Indian real estate market has experienced a massive boom, reaching its highest point since 2018. A significant quarterly equity investment totaling \$2.6 billion (Rs 21,857 crore) between July and September 2024 is highlighted in the report.

Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai drove this expansion, contributing 66 percent



of equity inflows in Q3 2024 with their respective subscriptions of \$0.96 billion (Rs 8,070 crore), \$0.40 billion (Rs 3,362 crore), and \$0.34 billion (Rs 2,858 crore). With capital inflows of \$0.31 billion (Rs 2,605 crore), \$0.27 billion (Rs 2,269 crore), and \$0.02 billion (Rs 1,681 crore), respectively, Delhi-NCR,

Pune, and Hyderabad also saw a sizable portion of investments. Domestic investors, especially construction businesses, who accounted for roughly 79% of equity inflows during the July-September quarter, were the main drivers of the increase in investment momentum.

New Income Tax Return e-filing portal in the works? What taxpayers can expect

The Income Tax Department is set to revamp the e-filing ITR portal with substantial changes aimed at making it more user-friendly for taxpayers. Internal circular from the tax department dated October 8, 2024, which is not publicly available, "The operations phase of the existing Integrated e-filing and Centralised Processing Centre (IEC) 2.0 is coming to an end and the process of bringing in a new Project.

The Tata Group is set to expand the fleet of its budget airline, Air India Express, by transferring all-economy configuration planes from its full-service carriers, Air India and Vistara. This move is part of the group's strategy to better compete with Indigo, the market leader in the Indian aviation industry. Sources familiar with the plan told that the first phase will involve the transfer of 17 Airbus A320 Neo aircraft from Air India to Air India Express. Additionally, 10 of



Vistara's all-economy A320 Neo aircraft will join Air India Express once the merger between Vistara and Air India is finalized. The entire transfer process is expected to be completed by mid-2025. Experience significant capacity expansion, with the addition of 17 planes from Air India and 15

Boeing 737 Max planes from its own order by the middle of next year. Over the past 10 months, the airline has already added 26 new Boeing 737-8 aircraft to its fleet. The Tata Group is currently restructuring its aviation business, which will result in the consolidation of four airlines into two.

Solar panel maker Waaree Energies is gearing up to float its initial share

Delhi: Solar panel maker Waaree Energies is gearing up to float its initial share sale involving fresh issue of shares worth Rs 3,600 crore. The Mumbai-based company's Initial Public Offering (IPO) will conclude on 23 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on October 18, according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP). As per the documents, the IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 3,600 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 48 lakh equity shares by a promoter and existing shareholders, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). Those selling shares in the OFS are -- promoter Waaree Sustainable Finance Private Ltd and shareholder Chandurkar Investments Private



Ltd. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for setting up the 6GW (gigawatt) of Ingot Wafer, Solar Cell and Solar PV module manufacturing facility in Odisha. Besides, a portion will be used for general corporate purposes. Waaree Energies, one of the major players in the solar energy industry in India, is focused on PV module manufacturing with an aggregate installed capacity of 12 GW as of June 30, 2023. It operates five manufacturing facilities, with one factory each,

Globe Civil Projects files draft papers with Sebi for IPO

NEW DELHI: Engineering, procurement and construction company Globe Civil Projects Ltd on Tuesday said it has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering. The initial public offering (IPO) is entirely a fresh issue of 1.9 crore equity shares with no offer-for-sale component, according to the DRHP filed with Sebi. The company plans to list the shares on BSE.

India's first high-speed 280 kmph trains soon! ICF awards contract for new trainsets to BEML

Delhi: India is set to launch its first indigenous high-speed trains, built by BEML with a test speed of 280 kmph. Featuring modern amenities, these trainsets will consist of 8 cars each, costing Rs 27.86 crores per car, and to be delivered by the end of 2026. The rainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of 280 kmph. (AI image) India's first indigenous high-speed train soon! In a big boost for Indian Railways' dreams of offering high-speed rail connectivity, the national transporter has awarded the contract for manufacturing high-speed trainsets to BEML. These trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of



280 kmph, marking a significant step forward in the country's high-speed rail journey. The trains will feature a fully air-conditioned, Chair Car configuration, offering modern passenger amenities such as reclining and rotatable seats, special provisions for passengers with restricted mobility, and onboard entertainment systems, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience. BEML Limited has secured a contract from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the design, manufacturing, and commis-

sioning of two high-speed trainsets. Each trainset will consist of 8 cars, with a price of Rs 27.86 crores per car, resulting in a total contract value of Rs 866.87 crores. This contract value includes design cost, one-time development cost, non-recurring charges, and a one-time cost for jigs, fixtures, tooling, and testing facilities, which will be utilized for all future high-speed projects in India. BEML's Bengaluru rail coach complex will be responsible for the construction of these trainsets, with a scheduled delivery by the end of 2026.

Dalal Street eyes comeback after 6-day slide, FPIs hold key

MUMBAI: After six sessions of continuous selling that wiped off nearly 2,600 points or 3.1% from the sensex, and investors left poorer by nearly Rs 15 lakh crore through a slide in market cap, traders on Dalal Street feel there is a chance of a bounce-back on Monday. But they feel the underlying weak trend would continue with the US-India trade-related uncertainties continuing to weigh on investor sentiment.



In addition, trading by foreign funds that were major sellers in the market since July, would be one of the trend-deciders for Dalal Street, market players said. Since a day before the US hiked the H-1B visa fees, the foreign funds have net sold Indian stocks worth nearly Rs 15,700 crore, NSDL and BSE data showed. Market players would also look at RBI for its policy decision and its commentary on the economy and inflation. In the last 10 days, the US President had hiked fees for

Briefs

Another Yamal show for Barcelona


Barcelona's opener and tormented defenders all game long to spearhead the La Liga leader to a 3-1 win at Elche. Yamal on Saturday scored in the sixth minute and passed for Marcus Rashford to put the victory beyond doubt late in the second half. Elche pulled level briefly in the first half before Ferran Torres re-established a 2-1 advantage just before halftime at Martinez Valero Stadium.

Santner says NZ will rely on past efforts


Skipper Mitchell Santner said New Zealand will rely on their past experience in the sub-continent and inherent adaptability skills to tame different conditions to come good in the upcoming T20 World Cup. The Kiwis played eight white ball matches (3 ODIs and 5 T20Is) in India in the run-up to the ICC showpiece, beginning on February 7. "I guess we've had a few players who played in Chennai recently in the IPL or obviously games throughout our careers."

Anahat enters final of the Squash on Fire


Indian teenage star Anahat Singh reached her maiden PSA bronze-level final at the Squash on Fire Open in Washington with a 3-1 victory over Sabrina Sobhy of the USA. The Indian world No. 31 and seventh seed defeated the American 11-9 11-39-11 11-5 in the semifinals. Sabrina is ranked world No. 23. Anahat will meet top seed and world No. 10 Georgina Kennedy of England in the title clash. Anahat had defeated second seed Sana Ibrahim of Egypt in the quarterfinals.

Ortega leaves City to join Forest

Stefan Ortega's 3 1/2-year spell at Manchester City

AUS OPEN | Spaniard becomes youngest ever to complete career Grand Slam

Alcaraz is King of Melbourne

MELBOURNE

Carlos Alcaraz is the youngest man ever to complete a career Grand Slam after securing the Australian Open title against Novak Djokovic, who had never lost in his 10 previous finals at Melbourne Park.

The top-ranked Alcaraz dropped the first set Sunday as Djokovic went out hard in pursuit of a record 25th major title, but he dug deep to win 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5.

As he was leaving the court, he signed the lens of the TV camera with a note of recognition: "Job finished. 4/4 Complete."

The 22-year-old Spaniard scrambled to retrieve shots that usually would be winners for Djokovic, and he kept up intense pressure on his 38-year-old rival.

There were extended rallies where each player hit enough brilliant shots to usually win a game, with neither player willing to give an inch or concede.

Once he secured victory, Alcaraz let his racket slip out of his hand and fell to the ground on his back, putting his hands to his head.

He stayed there for a few seconds before going to the net to shake hands with Djokovic. Both players exchanged a few words and Djokovic smiled as he congratulated Alcaraz. The new champion then ran to hug his coaches in the courtside chairs and later his dad and other team members in the stands.

After paying tribute to Djokovic for being an inspiration, Alcaraz turned to his support team. He parted ways with longtime coach Juan Carlos Ferrero at the end of last season and Samuel Lopez stepped up to head the team.

"Nobody knows how hard I've been working to get this trophy. I just chased this



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain reacts during a press conference as he sits with the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup. AP

moment so much," Alcaraz said. The pre-season was a bit of a rollercoaster emotionally.

"We just did the right work, you were pushing me every day to do all the right things," he added.

"I'm just really grateful for everyone I have in my corner right now."

Djokovic joked about this showdown setting up a rivalry over the next 10 years with Alcaraz, but then said it was only right to hand the floor over to the new champion.

"First and foremost, congratulations to an amazing tournament and amazing couple of weeks," Djokovic said at the trophy presentation.

"What you've been doing, the best word to describe is historic, legendary, so con-

gratulations. I wish the best of luck in the rest of your career."

Both players were coming off gruelling five-set semifinal wins and showed phenomenal fitness, athleticism and stamina for just over three hours in pursuit of their own historic achievements.

Neither player was willing

2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5
Alcaraz-Djokovic scoreline



to relent on the big points - and there were many of them. In the end, Alcaraz was able to convert 5 of the 16 break-points he set up. Djokovic converted two of his six.

Djokovic's push for an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam singles title has now

been blocked by Alcaraz or Jannik Sinner for nine majors.

Djokovic edged Sinner in the semifinals and was aiming to be the oldest man to win a Grand Slam title in the Open era, but didn't quite make it against Alcaraz.

Rafa in the house

Djokovic and Rafael Nadal played some epic matches, including the longest match ever at the Australian Open in a five-set final that lasted almost six hours in 2012.

Nadal was watching from the stands on Sunday night, and both players addressed

the 22-time major winner.

"I want to speak to the legends, Rafa, who is on the stands," Djokovic said. "Obviously, it feels very weird to see you there and not here, you know?"

"But thank you for being present. It's too many Spanish legends... It felt like it was two against one tonight, you know, it wasn't fair, but OK."

Alcaraz said it was a privilege: "I know you were watching me when I was like 15, 14 years old, so it's been a long time. But, yeah, for me, it's such an honor playing in front of you."

One for the ages

At 22 years and 272 days, Alcaraz is the youngest man to complete a set of all four major singles titles, an amazing feat.

Aston Villa loses to Brentford to hurt EPL title bid

Manchester United wins again

LONDON

Aston Villa's Premier League title ambitions were dented by a loss to 10-man Brentford on Sunday and Manchester United collected a third straight win under new manager Michael Carrick.

Villa played for more than half the match with an extra man after Brentford winger Kevin Schade's straight red card for kicking out at Matty Cash in the 42nd minute. In the first minute of first-half stoppage time, Dango Ouattara scored the only goal in Brentford's 1-0 win.

Third-place Villa stayed seven points behind leader Arsenal, which beat Leeds 4-0 on Saturday, and was getting caught up by an improving United under Carrick.

Fresh off unexpected victories over Arsenal and Manchester City, United beat Fulham 3-2 thanks to a goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time by substitute Benjamin Sesko at Old Trafford.

United squandered a two-goal lead earned by goals from Casemiro and Mathew Cunha, with Raul Jimenez - via a penalty - and Kevin scoring to bring Fulham briefly level.

The match took place after

Scorelines

3-2: Man United-Fulham
1-0: Brentford-Aston Villa
1-1: Nottm Forest-Palace
2-1: Man City-Tottenham (65th)
4-0: Arsenal-Leeds United
2-0: Bournemouth-Wolves
1-1: Brighton-Everton
3-2: Chelsea-West Ham
4-1: Liverpool-Newcastle

a protest by around 500-600 United fans unhappy at the ownership of the 20-time champions, but the team is finally in a decent league position - fourth place - in its bid to return to the Champions League.

United is five points behind Villa with 14 rounds remaining. Also Sunday, Crystal Palace - without star striker Jean-Philippe Mateta ahead of his possible move to AC Milan - drew 1-1 at 10-man Nottingham Forest.



Manchester United's Casemiro celebrates after scoring the opening goal. AP

Kanishk star in Pakistan rout as India reach semifinals

India will meet Afghanistan in the semifinal while England and Australia will play in other last-4 game

BULAWAYO

Young Kanishk Chouhan showed his all-round prowess as India comfortably out-classed arch-rivals Pakistan by 58 runs in a Super Six encounter to qualify for the semifinal of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

India will meet Afghanistan in the semifinal while England and Australia will play in the other last-four encounter.

It was all-rounder Kanishk, whose quickfire 29-ball-35 and a 50-run stand for the eighth wicket with Khilan Patel (21 not out off 15 balls) took India U-19 to a decent 252 in 49.5 overs.

However, for Pakistan to qualify for the semi-finals on account of better run-rate, they needed to reach 253 in 33.3 overs but their batters didn't seem interested in making a match as they managed 167 for 4 in 33.3 overs before finally getting bowled out for 194 in 46.2 overs.

In the bowling department, it was Kanishk, who basically



India's Kanishk Chouhan in action during the Super Six match of the U-19 World Cup against Pakistan. ICC

stopped the Pakistan team on its tracks with figures of 1 for 30 in 10 overs which included an astounding 40 dot balls. With pitch assisting spinners, left-arm spinner Khilan Patel (3/35 in 9.2 overs) and skipper Ayush Mhatre (3/231 in 8 overs) also choked the run flow throughout the middle overs. Pakistan's Asia Cup hero Sameer Minhas was dismissed by a Henil Patel off-cutter.

Brief scores

India 252 in 49.5 overs (Vedant Trivedi 68, Kanishk Chouhan 35, Abdul Subhan 3/33) beat Pakistan 194 in 46.2 overs (Hamza Zahoor 42, Usman Khan 68, Farhan Yousuf 38; Khilan Patel 3/35, Ayush Mhatre 3/21) by 58 runs.

Delhi batters defy Mumbai

The 42-time champions will meet Karnataka in the Ranji quarterfinal

MUMBAI

Delhi continued to defy Mumbai bowlers on the last day but Mumbai secured three points on the basis of first innings lead of 96 runs in the Group D Elite Ranji Trophy match at MCA's BKC ground on Sunday. Mumbai had already qualified for the quarterfinal and ended the league stages by topping the Group with 33 points.

They will meet Group B runners up Karnataka in the quarterfinal from February 6-10. Jammu and Kashmir also qualified from Group D.

Karnataka pulled off a sensational chase of 250 in 28 overs on the last day against Punjab thanks to Devdutt Padikkal's unbeaten 120. Karnataka finished second behind Madhya Pradesh, to send Saurashtra out. Defending champions Vidarbha failed to qualify for knockouts despite finishing on identical 31 points with Jharkhand and Andhra in Group A.

At BKC, Delhi skipper Ayush Doseja scored unbeaten 159 in 230 balls to



Delhi's captain Ayush Doseja celebrates after scoring 159 runs. PTI

help visitors reach 407/6 in 105 overs.

With a handy lead of 311 runs and just a session to go the match was prematurely called off half an hour before tea, after mutual agreement between the two sides.

Doseja hit eleven boundaries and two sixes during his 336-minute stay at the crease to deny Mumbai bowlers any opportunity to rip through the lower order.

After being involved in 106-run stand with Vaibhav

Kandpal on Saturday, the 23-year-old left-hander shared crucial partnerships of 75, 58 and undefeated 68 with lower order batters Divij Mehra (46), Sumit Mathur (34) and Pranav Rajvanshi (21 not out).

Delhi reached 338/5 at lunch with Doseja unbeaten on 111. Mumbai had a sniff after Mathur was dismissed by Himanshu Singh immediately after lunch, but Doseja and Rajvanshi were determined to protect their wicket.

Mumbai used only slow

Brief scores

In Mumbai: Delhi 221 & 407/6d in 105 overs (Vaibhav Kandpal 61, Ayush Doseja 159 not out; Himanshu Singh 3/86) drew with Mumbai 317.

In Nadaun: Himachal Pradesh 168 & 262/2 in 9 overs drew with Jammu and Kashmir 771.

In Hyderabad: Chhattisgarh 283 & 411/8 in 122 overs (Anuj Tiwary 88, Amandeep Kharpal 176 not out; Mohammed Siraj 1/62, Tanay Thyagarajan 3/114) drew with Hyderabad 671.

In Puducherry: Rajasthan 168 & 352 lost to Puducherry 349 & 172/5 in 44.1 overs (R Shreeram 57, Ajay Rohera 47; Mohit Chandra 4/71) by 5 wickets.

bowlers post lunch and part timer Siddhesh Lad in bid to rest their seamers for the quarterfinal match.

on song

Ayush Doseja: The New Run-Machine of Delhi Cricket

MUMBAI

Ayush Doseja hit fourth First Class hundred on Sunday against Mumbai at MCA's BKC ground to cap off a dream Ranji Trophy season. The 23-year-old left-hander hit an unbeaten 159 to finish with 949 runs in seven matches at an astonishing average of 105.4. He is by far the top scorer at the conclusion of the league stage, with teammate Sanat Sangwan second with 828

runs.

He scored 209 against Hyderabad in his first Ranji Trophy match for Delhi and went on to finish his debut season with a daddy hundred. Just in his seventh game, he was given the captaincy role, a day before the match, after Ayush Badoni and Priyansh Arya were called up for the India A practice game ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup.

The youngster demonstrated his leadership and batting skills with a match-

saving hundred, which he rated highly.

"I rate this a hundred on top, as I always dreamt of scoring big against Mumbai. Before the season, when I saw the fixtures, I targeted the Mumbai match, and for the first time, I got the opportunity as captain to lead Delhi against Mumbai. It was a big match for me.

"Unfortunately, I got out early in the first innings (for zero) as I got a good ball (from Mohit Avasthi). I accepted failure and wanted

to make it count with a big knock in the second innings as it was my last opportunity of the season. We wanted to give Mumbai a fight, and I stayed at the crease as long as possible," Doseja said after the end of the four-day match on Sunday.

Doseja could have gone for his second double hundred and tried to reach 1000 runs in his debut season. But he was sporting enough to shake hands with the Mumbai players, 30 minutes before tea, when the match

was mutually called off after an outright result was unlikely and a draw was confirmed.

"I never thought of scoring 1000 runs. But finishing as the top scorer at the league stages is a good achievement. I just wanted to save the game. I knew I had gotten 790 before the game (in six games), but I never thought of reaching 1000. After lunch, we had an understanding with the Mumbai team. They kept slow bowlers on and didn't bring fast bowlers."



Delhi's captain Ayush Doseja plays a shot during a Ranji Trophy Elite Group D. PTI