

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Thursday, 27 November, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

Online gaming money: Money used for money laundering and terror funding: Centre

New Delhi

Some time ago, the Central Government completely banned online money games in the country. Many people objected to this decision, and the matter reached the Supreme Court. Now, the Central Government has explained its reasons in the Supreme Court.



During the hearing on Tuesday, the Central Government stated that

money laundering and terrorism funding are facilitated through

online gaming. This is why the government has banned it. The government, in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, stated that ample evidence has been found that indicates online money games are linked to terror funding and money laundering. This could pose a threat to national security, public order, and

the integrity of the state. Therefore, Parliament has the prerogative to enact appropriate legislation on online gaming. According to the Central Government, suspicious transactions have revealed that online gaming companies operate from several small countries. Accounts registered in

India are opened in the names of fictitious individuals, and money is fraudulently transferred out of the country. To ban online gaming, the government introduced the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act. This law has received Presidential assent, but has not yet been notified.

PM Modi's Letter to the Nation

"A person like me was made the Prime Minister, this is the power of the Constitution



New Delhi

Constitution Day is celebrated across the country every year on November 26th. Today, on this special occasion of Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a letter to the countrymen. In this letter, PM Modi shared his experiences regarding his reverence for the Constitution. He explained that in 2015, the government declared November 26th as Constitution Day to honor this sacred document. Regarding his political journey in the letter, PM Modi said, "It is the power of our Constitution that has enabled a person like

me, who comes from a simple and economically backward family, to become the head of the government for more than 24 consecutive years. I still remember the moment in 2014 when I first entered Parliament and bowed my head to touch the steps of the greatest temple of democracy. Then, in 2019, after the election results, when I entered the Central Hall of the Constitution House, I bowed my head and placed the Constitution on my forehead as a mark of respect." This Constitution has given many more people like me the strength to dream and work for it.

Constitution is the cornerstone of nation's identity: Murmu

New Delhi

Constitution Day celebrations were held in the Central Hall of the Old Parliament House on Wednesday. President Draupadi Murmu, who presided over the event, said that on this day, November 26, 1949, the members of the Constituent Assembly completed the task of drafting the Indian Constitution. On this day, the people of India adopted our Constitution. President Murmu said, "After independence, the Constituent Assembly also served as India's interim Parliament. Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was one of the principal architects of our Constitution. In 2015, in the year of Baba Saheb's 125th birth anniversary, it was decided to celebrate Constitution Day every



year." In her address, the President said that the Constitution is the foundation of the nation's identity and a guiding document for abandoning the slave mentality and adopting a nationalist mindset. During the ceremony, President Murmu spoke on several issues, including triple talaq, the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and Article 370. He said that by curbing the social evil of triple talaq, Parliament took historic steps towards the empowerment of our sisters and daughters and social justice. He said that the biggest

tax reform since independence, GST, was implemented to promote the country's economic integration. He said that the abrogation of Article 370 removed a barrier that was hindering the country's overall political integration. The President said, "The Nari Shakti Bandhan Act will usher in a new era of women-led development. A nationwide commemoration is being organized starting November 7 this year to mark the 150th anniversary of the composition of our national anthem, Vande Mataram." During the event, Vice

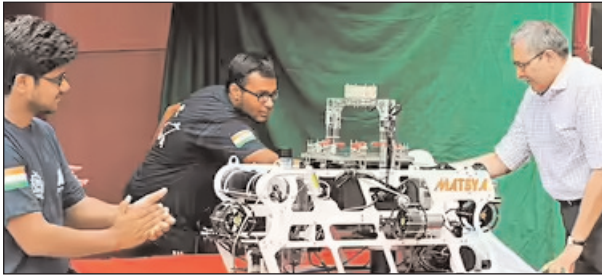
President C.P. Radhakrishnan said, "Great scholars, members of the Drafting Committee and the Constituent Assembly gave profound thought to fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of millions of Indians. Their selfless contributions have made India the largest democracy in the world today. Our Constitution is shaped by understanding and experience, sacrifice, hopes and aspirations. Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan said, "After the abrogation of Article 370, a large number of voters cast their votes in the 2024 elections in Jammu and Kashmir, demonstrating to the world our faith in democracy. The large participation of women, especially in the recent Bihar elections, has added another precious jewel to the crown of democracy of our Mother India.



On Constitution Day organised in Lucknow, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath administered the oath of the Preamble of the Constitution.

Delhi woos global investors

NEW DELHI: India is throwing open the doors of its universities and national research labs, offering innovations and products to global investors and collaborators as it looks to turn ideas into international partnerships. In a world where alliances are



shifting, Delhi is seeking multiple players for

its innovation story. Its new initiative, Bharat

Innovates 2026, is designed to showcase Indian deep-tech talent, connect institutions with global capital, and position India as a predictable partner in unpredictable times. The first showcase will take place in Nice, France.

Pak drone attack on Uri hydro plant was unsuccessful



New Delhi

Several months have passed since Operation Sindoor. It hasn't completely ended, but has been temporarily halted. However, during this operation in May, the Indian Army brought Pakistan to its knees. Enraged by the defeat, Pakistan fired missiles at several residential

areas in Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore, the Uri hydroelectric power plant was also a target. Pakistan attacked the Uri hydroelectric power plant, which was destroyed by CISF personnel. This plant is located near the LoC. CISF shot down the Pakistani drone mid-air, leaving the Uri plant unharmed. Nineteen CISF

Constitution unites India's diversity into unity: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the entire country has been celebrating Constitution Day every year since 2015 on November 26th. The Constituent Assembly, formed after the Constituent Assembly elections in 1946, drafted the Constitution of India. The Constituent Assembly, chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, formed various com-



mittees. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar played a crucial role as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The Constitution took two years, 11 months, and 18 days to draft. The contributions of freedom fighters and

experts in drafting the Constitution are the reason our Constitution is the world's largest and unifies India's diversity. When Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's committee presented the original copy of the

Constitution to the Constituent Assembly, he stated that the Constitution is a document that will guide the country in unifying India's diversity. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath administered the oath of the Preamble of the Constitution at Lok Bhavan on Constitution Day. Prior to this, guests offered flowers to the portraits of Mother India and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. A short film was also shown.

The real intention behind SIR is NRC: Mamata

Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday claimed that the real motive behind the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls is the NRC. Speaking to reporters after garlanding the statue of B.R. Ambedkar on Red Road on the occasion of Constitution Day, Banerjee said that even after so many years of independence, people's citizenship is being



questioned. In a post on X a day earlier, CM Mamata said that when democracy is at stake, secularism is under threat, and federalism is being dismantled, people must protect the valuable

guidance provided by the Constitution. CM Banerjee said that the Constitution is the backbone of the nation, skillfully weaving together the diversity of India's cultures, languages, and

communities. "On this Constitution Day, I pay my deepest respect and homage to our great Constitution and the great document that unites us in India," she said in a post on X. Ahead of the start of the winter session of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has issued a new bulletin to members regarding parliamentary etiquette and discipline. In order to the House, this bulletin also banned slogans, including Jai Hind, Vande Mataram.

An 8th-grade student took her own life after her parents refused to give her a mobile phone

Nagpur

In Nagpur, Maharashtra, when her parents refused to give their daughter a mobile phone, the teenager, driven by stubbornness, committed suicide. The 8th-grade student hanged herself. Upon receiving the information, police arrived at the scene and sent the body to the hospital for a postmortem. The incident occurred near the Hanuman Temple in the Chankapur area of Nagpur. The 13-year-old 8th-grade student hanged herself because her parents refused to buy her a new smartphone.

'Need to set a procedure for judicial appointments'

New Delhi

Supreme Court Bar Association President and senior lawyer Vikas Singh said in a statement that there is a need to finalize a Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments. He said this will help appoint good judges to the Supreme Court and maintain the credibility of the appointment process. The Memorandum of Procedure lists the rules and procedures for



appointing judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts. Stress on the lack of infrastructure in the lower courts. Speaking at the Constitution Day celebrations organized by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Vikas Singh also highlighted the deficiencies

in judicial infrastructure, especially in the lower courts. Singh said, "I request the Law Minister, the Chief Justice of India, and other collegium judges to address this Memorandum of Procedure, which has been pending since 2016. The fundamental purpose of the Memorandum of Procedure is to ensure greater accountability in the collegium system, and I request that it be finalized as soon as possible.

Briefs

LALITPUR

Municipality Holds Constitution Day Oath Ceremony

The Lalitpur Municipal Council organized a Constitution Day oath ceremony at its council hall. Chairperson Mrs. Sonali Jain presided over the event, which began with floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. She administered the constitutional pledge to the officers and staff present. Speakers emphasized the day's significance and urged everyone to uphold their constitutional duties with dedication.

VARANASI

Delivery Boy Attacked, Robbed on Highway

A 21-year-old Flipkart delivery boy, Alok Kumar Singh, was brutally attacked and robbed on the service road of National Highway-19 near Khajuri village. Assailants stole his bike, mobile phone, and cash, leaving him critically injured. He lay unconscious by the roadside all night and was discovered by villagers the next morning. Police have sent the victim to BHU Trauma Center and are investigating, reviewing CCTV footage to identify the culprits.

BALLIA

Police pledge allegiance to Constitution on Constitution Day

On Constitution Day, Ubbhav police station in-charge Inspector Sanjay Shukla led a ceremony where all police personnel took an oath to uphold the Indian Constitution. They pledged to maintain fidelity, impartiality, and prioritize public service. The inspector described the Constitution as the soul of India, inspiring every citizen and police officer to follow the path of justice, equality, and harmony.

LUCKNOW

Constitution Day celebrated at Amrit Sarovar sites

Constitution Day was enthusiastically observed at Amrit Sarovar sites constructed under MGNREGA across Uttar Pradesh. Following directives from Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, thousands of villagers, user groups, and officials gathered at these ponds. They paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and collectively read the Preamble to the Constitution. Over 19,000 such sites have been built in the first phase of the mission, with large participation from local communities, including women and children.

SAMVIDHAN DIWAS | 'Rights come with duties': leaders warn against weakening democratic foundations**Disrespecting constitution = disrespecting Ambedkar: CM**

LUCKNOW

At a Constitution Day ceremony held at Lok Bhavan in Lucknow, state officials emphasised that disrespecting the Constitution undermines the work of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister stated that the Constitution granted universal adult franchise from the day it came into effect, ensuring that every citizen—regardless of caste, region, religion, or beliefs—holds the right to vote.

Addressing the gathering, he said the Constitution is not merely a book of rights but also a guide to civic duties. According to him, democracy weakens when citizens focus solely on rights while ignoring their responsibilities. He highlighted the contributions of Ambedkar and the drafting



committee, noting that the Constitution was created through nearly three years of intensive work and has emerged as one of the world's most inclusive documents.

He added that Constitution Day serves as a reminder for younger generations, many of whom are unaware of the struggles endured during the

Speeches highlight democratic values, citizen duties, and threats to constitutional rights

freedom movement. Officials pointed out that marking the day helps connect citizens

with core constitutional values. The programme also discussed the national "Developed India 2047" vision. The Chief Minister urged citizens to embrace what he described as a five-point framework involving respect for heritage, commitment to national unity, and adherence to civic duties.

Debate over voting rights surfaces on Constitution Day

On the same day, political debate intensified after opposition leaders alleged attempts to restrict voting rights in Uttar Pradesh. They claimed that large numbers of voters were being removed from electoral rolls and that officials were being appointed on caste considerations. They also expressed concern over technology-linked processes such as SIR, arguing that they may affect democratic access. Government officials did not comment directly on these claims but stated that constitutional rights remain protected. The discussion highlighted growing scrutiny over election procedures and the need for transparency.

Folk singer faces twin probes

LUCKNOW

Varanasi Police, investigating a case against folk singer Neha Singh Rathour, visited her apartment in Lucknow's Sushant Golf City but found the premises locked. A notice was pasted on the door. The police action follows the registration of an FIR at Lanka Police Station in Varanasi, which was filed after over 500 complaints were submitted by BJP workers and Hindu organizations across 15 police stations in the city. The complaints pertained to a song where the singer was allegedly accused of referring to the Prime Minister in an objectionable manner.

A separate case is also registered against Rathore in Lucknow. The Hazratganj Police filed an FIR based on a complaint alleging that her social media posts following the Pahalgam terror attack were intended to spread enmity between two communities and disrupt national integrity. The complainant also claimed the posts were widely shared in Pakistan and used by

**Varanasi Police seeks Neha Rathore, separate case in Lucknow alleges her post aimed at spreading enmity**

its media to criticize India.

Following the registration of the FIRs, Rathore had approached the Allahabad High Court, which dismissed her petition, stating that an investigation into the facts of the FIR was necessary. The Supreme Court subsequently declined to grant her any interim relief, upholding the police's right to investigate, while allowing her the liberty to challenge the charges during the trial or discharge proceedings.

Akhilesh seeks clarity from Centre on border status

LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday visited Lucknow's Phoenix Palassio Mall to watch the recently released film 120 Bahadur. The movie, which hit theatres on 21 November, depicts the 1962 Rezang La battle where Indian soldiers of the Ahir Company fought against overwhelming odds. In the film, actor Farhan Akhtar portrays Major Shaitan Singh Bhati, who was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

After the screening, Akhilesh Yadav said the film is important for the younger generation as it highlights the courage and sacrifice of Indian soldiers. He stated that the Rezang La battle remains one

**Akhilesh Yadav watches '120 Bahadur', SP chief raises concerns over India's shrinking borders**

of the most significant examples of battlefield bravery, where every soldier fought till the last bullet. According to him, such stories help citizens understand the challenges faced by the armed forces.

Akhilesh Yadav also raised questions regarding India's current territorial boundaries. He said the Union government should clearly state the previous and present area of India's border regions. He added that there has been a consistent perception of shrinking borders and that transparency on this issue is essential.

He further commented that China continues to create obstacles in India's path to development and prosperity, and the country should remain cautious of nations that attempt to occupy Indian land. Highlighting the role of the Ahir community in the Rezang La battle, he said their contribution remains a matter of national pride and should be remembered by future generations.

Awareness program held at rural school

HAMIRPUR



An awareness program was held at the Upper Primary School in Gimha, Hamirpur, by the One Stop Centre and Hub for Empowerment. Tabassum Parveen (Case Worker) educated children about child rights and Good Touch, Bad Touch, sharing vital helplines (112, 1098, 181, etc.). Akif Ahmed (HEW) detailed state welfare schemes like the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana and the Nirashrit Mahila Pension.

'Enough Is Enough': electricity Workers challenge UPPCL

LUCKNOW

Thousands of contract electricity workers protested in Lucknow on Wednesday under the banner of the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Nivada/Contract Employees Union. The demonstration took place outside Shakti Bhawan, where workers raised slogans against UPPCL management, accusing it of ignoring long-standing concerns. Traffic on the main route was briefly disrupted before police restored movement through barricading.

According to the union, the corporation is violating its own directives. Workers opposed the alleged removal of outsourced staff during the 2024-25 financial year, refusal to

**Workers allege that UPPCL is not following its own orders, demand immediate resolution of long-pending problems**

reinstate removed employees, and lack of clarity on the implementation of a vertical system. They also demanded the release of the standards committee report, which they

say has been pending for months. Provincial General Secretary Devendra Pandey said the administration has not shown seriousness toward resolving employees' issues. He added that multiple rounds of discussions ended only with assurances and no decisions, forcing workers to stage a major protest.

Workers claimed that no proper contracts are being issued according to workload, the mandated monthly salary of 18,000 is not implemented, and employees removed in March 2023 have not been reinstated. They also highlighted the absence of cashless medical treatment for injured staff, lack of progress in the EPF scam investigation, and no reassignment plan for meter readers after smart meter installation.

Leaders pay tribute to constitution makers

LUCKNOW

On the occasion of Constitution Day, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya emphasised that the Indian Constitution upholds human dignity, equality and freedom as its highest values. He stated that while the Constitution empowers citizens with rights, it simultaneously reminds them of their duties, which must be fulfilled with responsibility and commitment.

Addressing the event, the Deputy CM paid homage to key architects of the

Constitution including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He noted that their collective vision laid the foundation for a democratic framework that continues to guide the nation.

Maurya also highlighted that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, constitutional ideals are being transformed into a culture of duty, service and active governance. According to him, this approach is strengthening transparency, public participation and administrative efficiency across the country.

Iran suspends free visa for Indians

LUCKNOW

The Islamic Republic of Iran has suspended its free-visa entry facility for Indian citizens, a move that has directly impacted thousands of Shia pilgrims from India. Cities such as Lucknow and Hyderabad witness a large number of devotees who travel annually to Iran and Iraq for religious pilgrimage. With the end of the free-visa policy, many believe that the journey will now become significantly costlier and more challenging, especially for economically weaker families.

In Lucknow, shrines such as the replicas of the Imam Hussain Shrine, Imam Ali Shrine, Shah-e-Najaf, and the renowned Dargah Hazrat Abbas attract thousands of worshippers every day.

**Community leaders urge restoration of the free-visa facility to ease travel burden**

However, community members say their emotional aspiration is to visit the original holy shrines in Najaf, Karbala, Mashhad, and Kazimain at least once in their lifetime.

Local resident Sajid Hussain said the decision feels like a direct setback to the people of Lucknow.

Five day Azza-e-Fatimia concludes

LUCKNOW



The 'Azā-e-Fātimīyā' five-day mourning assembly was held at the Chhota Imambara, Hussainabad, Lucknow, in cooperation with Markaz-e-Taleem-o-Tarbiyat Trust and Jamaat Jafari. Speakers, including Maulana Syed Ghulam Mehdi Gulrez and Maulana Syed Kalbe Jawad Naqvi, highlighted the greatness of Hazrat Zahra (S.A.) and Islam's role in uplifting women. The final day concluded with the procession of the symbolic coffin and devotees performing matām (mourning).

Fake college admissions racket busted, crores collected through fraud

LUCKNOW

Police have arrested a man accused of orchestrating a large-scale admission fraud involving medical, engineering, law, and management colleges. The accused, identified as Prem Prakash from Aurangabad in Bihar, had allegedly cheated thousands of students across several states by promising admission to reputed institutions. He had recently opened an office in Lucknow, collected money from applicants, and later absconded.

According to DCP Crime Kamlesh Dixit, police recovered forged Aadhaar cards, multiple fake documents, and ₹5 lakh from the accused. Officials said Prem Prakash operated actively on social media, using it to identify

**Accused used fake documents, multiple bank accounts, and social media to cheat thousands**

ify students who had failed to secure admission despite several attempts.

Police reported that he fabricated counterfeit institutional documents to gain the trust of students before demanding money. Several fake bank accounts were created to collect payments, after which he disappeared.

awareness**Why will some SIR applicants receive notices?**UP State Bureau
MORADABAD

The SIR (Status of Information and Records) survey in Moradabad has completed nearly 40% of its digitisation work, according to District Magistrate Anuj Kumar Singh. The DM urged citizens to submit their forms to the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at the earliest, noting that the State Election Commission has directed districts to accelerate the process.

The DM explained that BLOs in Moradabad have already collected and digitised around 40% of the submitted SIR forms. To

ensure a smooth and error-free process, BLOs have been given multiple rounds of training. Citizens who face difficulties while filling out the form have been advised to seek assistance directly from their designated BLOs. DM Singh clarified that individuals whose names appeared in the 2003 voter list will not receive any notice. Their names will automatically continue in the updated list without additional verification. However, applicants whose names did not appear in the 2003 list will be required to submit their parents' names and supporting documents to the BLO. After this, an

**District administration urges citizens to submit SIR forms early to avoid last-minute rush.**

Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will issue a verification

notice. Applicants will be given approximately 30 days to respond with documents such as identity proof, parents' identity cards, and birth certificates. Once verified, their names will be added to the final voter list.

The administration has instructed citizens not to wait for the final day to submit forms, as timely submissions will ensure smooth digitisation. The DM added that citizens whose names appear in more than one location must submit only one elimination form, avoiding duplication that can complicate verification.

Cyber fraud alert using SIR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer, Navdeep Rinwa, has issued an urgent advisory warning voters about cyber fraud attempts during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He clarified that certain elements are falsely impersonating Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or election staff and demanding OTP (One-Time Password) from citizens via call or message. Rinwa explicitly stated that there is no provision for BLOs to ask for an OTP during any part of the SIR process, which involves house-to-house distribution and collection of enumeration forms. He confirmed that such demands are fraudulent. Voters are urged to remain vigilant, immediately reject any request for an OTP, and only deal with their authorized BLOs. District Election Officers have been directed to launch public awareness campaigns and take strict action against those attempting this cyber fraud.

Assembly speaker observes constitution day, takes pledgeUP State Bureau
LUCKNOW

On the occasion of Constitution Day today, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly paid tribute to the Indian Constitution, affirming its ideals, values, and principles. All present took a solemn oath to faithfully adhere to these foundational tenets. Constitution Day serves as a vital

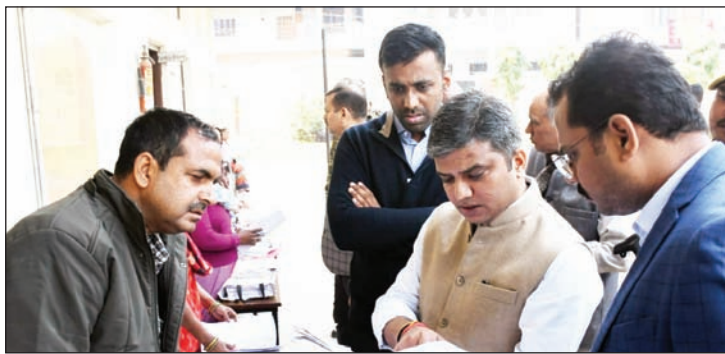
reminder that the Constitution continuously inspires the populace to remain committed to the path of democratic values, justice, equality, liberty, and duty. Addressing the gathering, Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana appealed to all public representatives and citizens to wholeheartedly adopt the spirit of the Constitution in their conduct and daily responsibilities.

Voters should fill out their forms as soon as possible and make them available to the BLO: DM

The District Magistrate inspected the MLA Convent School and other booths to expedite the collection and digitization of forms under the special intensive revision campaign

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma on Wednesday conducted an on-site inspection of the distribution and collection of SIR forms being carried out by the concerned BLOs in the Rasulabad Ghat area, including booths 34, 35, 36, 37, and other booths set up at the MLA Convent School, to expedite the collection and digitization of forms under the special intensive revision campaign of the voter list. He inspected booths where the collection and digitization of forms was not progressing well, and where BLOs were showing negligence or indifference towards the work, and inquired about the reasons for the slow progress of SIR at such booths. He provided necessary guidance to the concerned BLOs and other officials to accelerate form collection and digitization. The District Magistrate visited the Teliyarganj area and other booths with slow progress, inspecting the distribution, collection, and digitization of voter forms. He asked residents to complete their forms and provide them to BLOs. He also provided necessary guidance to other staff members deployed to assist the BLOs to ensure progress is achieved. He urged everyone involved in the SIR process to fulfill their responsibilities. Strict action will be taken against anyone



found negligent. The District Magistrate stated that the work of SIR is crucial and must be completed on a priority basis within the stipulated timeframe. During the inspection, the District Magistrate urged all voters to provide their forms to the BLOs as soon as possible. He urged those present during the inspection to understand their responsibilities and promptly complete the forms and submit them to the BLOs, ensuring timely processing. He added that voters who, despite repeated visits by the concerned BLO, have not yet completed their forms or who are not providing the required assistance in completing the forms will not be included in the list to be published on the 9th. Therefore, everyone should complete and submit their forms as soon as possible. The District Magistrate stated that digitizing the forms is currently our top priority.

He obtained information from the BLO and other concerned officials about how many forms were distributed and collected and how many forms were digitized in relation to the number of voters present there and instructed all the officials to work together to increase the speed of work and get the forms digitized quickly. He instructed the BLO to increase the door-to-door contact campaign and to get the forms filled by the voters and to expedite the work of collecting them and digitizing them. He talked to the people present at the booth and understood their problems and also informed them about the process of filling the forms and necessary instructions. On this occasion, Municipal Commissioner Seelam Sai Teja, Additional Deputy District Magistrate Ganesh Kanojia and other concerned officials were present.

Gopal Das wins the Ajink Ice Cream Under-14 Cricket Tournament title

A grand cricket match between Mauaima and Gopal Das was held at the Dev Sports Cricket Ground, Gopal Das is the champion. Only good guidelines lead to success: Coach Ram Chandra

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Along with education, children are advancing in the sports world, participating in sports and achieving success at national and international levels. Dev Sports Cricket Club, located in Ganganagar Shantipuram Gohari, Prayagraj, is organizing matches to train children daily to become good cricketers. Thanks to the skillful efforts of coach Ram Chandra Prajapati, the club is proving successful. Today, children from the region and even remote areas come to the ground to practice and develop them into good cricketers. Ajink Ice Cream organized an Under-14 Cricket Tournament at the Dev Sports Cricket Club Ground on Tuesday. In which a total of 12 teams participated, in which the final match was played



between Mauaima Cricket Club and Gopal Das, who reached the final. Gopal Das Credit Club won the toss and batted first and managed to score 186 runs at the loss of 8 wickets in the stipulated 30 overs in which Mohammad Basar scored 46 runs, Mohammad Hammad 16 runs, Aman Khan 24 runs, Yatharth 46 runs. In bowling Aditya Vishwakarma took 3 wickets, Anurag 2 wickets, Badri 1 wicket,

Mohammad Rehan 1 wicket. In reply Mauaima Cricket Club, who came to bat, was all out for just 94 runs in which Shiva Singh contributed the most runs with 36 runs, while in bowling Aman Khan took 5 wickets, Rishabh Singh was successful in taking 2 wickets. Thus Gopal Das Cricket Team won the title by defeating Mauaima Cricket Club by 92 runs. Man of the Match of this

match was given to Aman Khan. Meanwhile, the chief guest of Ajink Ice Cream Under 14 Cricket Tournament was Honorable Ramakant Mishra Owner Dev Durga Petrol Pump, Sanjay Pandey Fauji, Rammurti Prajapati Pradhan Gaddopur, Tarachand Pal, Vinod Yadav, Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Saurabh Mishra, Abhijeet Yadav, Ajink Dubey, Ayush Kushwaha, Suraj Prajapati, Amit Vishwakarma Tournament organizer Ajay Dubey, owner of Ajink Ice Cream Factory, Shantipuram Tournament organizer Ramchandra Prajapati, coach Dev Sports Cricket Club, umpires Badal Kumar and Anil Patel, scorer Anubhav Yadav, both team coaches Mohammad Asif, Ajay Yadav, and others were present in large numbers.

Constitution-based exhibition held on the occasion of Constitution Day

Exhibits related to the Preamble of the Constitution, the Making of the Constitution, Illustration in the Indian Constitution - A Cultural Journey, and the Constitution's Pride and Legacy were presented at the exhibition

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. On Wednesday, on the occasion of Indian Constitution Day, an exhibition on the Constitution was organized at the Regional Archives office in Prayagraj under the joint auspices of the Regional Archives, Culture Department, Uttar Pradesh, and the District Administration,



Prayagraj. Exhibits related to the Preamble of the Constitution, the Making of the Constitution, Illustration in the

Indian Constitution - A Cultural Journey, and the Constitution's Pride and Legacy were presented. All were

welcomed by Ghulam Sarwar, In-charge, Regional Archives. Rakesh Kumar Verma, Technical Assistant, History, coordinated

the program and briefed the guests about the Indian Constitution. Ravindra Nath, Assistant Director, Correspondence, Seema Singh, Mansha Singh, Rita Yadav, Kirti Patel, Priyanka Yadav, Sana Siddiqui, Suman Yadav, Deepika Singh, and Neelam Ji were present on the occasion. Vikas Yadav, Senior Assistant, Shubham Kumar were present in the program.

Teacher commits suicide by jumping in front of a train

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi A teacher has committed suicide by jumping in front of a train on the railway line near Manoharganj Railway Station in the Sandipan Ghat police station area of Harraipur, Kaushambi. Upon receiving the information, people nearby informed the police. Police have taken the teacher's body into custody and sent it for post-mortem. The teacher is said to be a resident of the West Sharira police station area. According



to information, Hiralal, 33, son of Sarju Prasad, a resident of Dhavda, West Sharira police station, was a teacher at the Bani Khas Composite School. He has four brothers, including Ram Bahadur, Jawaharlal, Hiralal, and Chandrashekhar. Chandrashekhar is posted in the police department. He was scheduled to get married in a

month and a half. There was tension in the family regarding his brother's marriage. Distressed by family tensions, Hiralal committed suicide by jumping in front of a train near Manoharganj Station in the Sandipan Ghat police station area. His body was dismembered. Upon receiving the information, people informed the police. Police arrived at the

The District Judge flagged off a mobile van to promote the National Lok Adalat, to be held on December 13th



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. District Judge/Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Prayagraj, Satya Prakash Tripathi, flagged off a publicity vehicle from the District Court premises, Prayagraj, to promote the National Lok Adalat, to be held on Saturday. Paralegal volunteers accompanying the vehicle promoted the

Lok Adalat throughout the city. Dinesh Kumar Gautam, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority/ADJ, and other officials were present on the occasion. The National Lok Adalat, to be held on December 13, 2025, was promoted throughout the district. All citizens are requested to identify their cases and attend the National Lok Adalat on December

13, 2025, to have them resolved. On Wednesday, on the occasion of Constitution Day, in the District Court, Prayagraj, Honorable District Judge, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Prayagraj, Satya Prakash Tripathi administered the pledge of the Preamble of the Constitution to all the officers and employees.

Preparations are underway to remove the names of those who have no affiliation with the BJP from the voter list: Congress

Former MLA Vijay Prakash said that the BJP wants to worsen the situation in the country even more than the British Empire

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Following difficulties in verifying the SIR with the survey revision of the Kaushambi voter list, Congress District President Gaurav Pandey said that the BJP has made preparations to remove the names of citizens who have no affiliation with the BJP from the voter list. The BJP appears fully prepared to remove the names of voters from the Muslim caste, Yadav caste, and Scheduled Castes. He said that Congress will not tolerate the BJP's conspiracy. The public is the master in a democracy. Today, the public is wandering from door to door, and the BJP is

snatching away their right to vote. We strongly oppose such wrong policies. Voter names are being deleted in the name of SIR. Congress will protest from the streets to the House to add names. Former Congress MLA Vijay Prakash said that the BJP wants to worsen the situation in the country even more than the British Empire. He said that exploitation of the public has increased rapidly under the BJP government. In Chamrupur, the village of Bharwari Municipality President Kavita Pasi, the names of over 1900 voters were removed from the voter list. He said that names are being removed to increase the BJP's voting percentage, but the BJP's wrong policies will

not be tolerated and the public will give them a befitting reply. He said that the BJP wants to take over the country and put pressure on the government and is exploiting the public. Former MLA Vijay Prakash said that if the names wrongly removed from the voter list under SIR are not stopped, the public will face slavery even worse than the British government. Former MLA Vijay Prakash said that to remain a voter, records of 2003 are being demanded. The BJP government knows very well that the people living in the village are not that knowledgeable. If they do not provide the 2003 records, their names will be removed from the voter list. This is very wrong

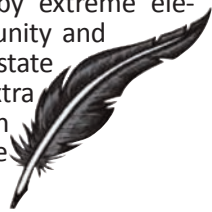
and the Congress party strongly condemns this. On this occasion, former National Secretary of Minority Cell, Hanzla Usmani said that the common people are being forced to visit blocks and tehsils to get the IDs made for those whose names are not in the 2003 list. The right to vote is the biggest! The public is the master; it is they who elect the Prime Minister of the country and make him the Prime Minister; today the same public is making rounds of tehsils and blocks, which we condemn in no uncertain terms! The public is facing problems in SIR! A worker of the Congress party is standing with each citizen and is ready to help them. If any citi-

zen faces any problem, he should contact the Congress workers and get his work done. On this occasion, former state secretary Ram Bahadur Tripathi opposed SIR and said that this is against democracy and no amount of condemnation is enough. During the press conference, Zonal Coordinator, former MLA Vijay Prakash, former National Secretary Hanjla Usmani, District President Gaurav Pandey, former State Secretary Ram Bahadur Tripathi, Municipal Council President Bindeshwari Prasad, District Secretary Hemant Rawat, City President Vicky Pandey, Sirathu Block President Ram Prakash Panda and many other officials were present.

Editorial

Punjab govt must take Centre into confidence on new anti-sacrilege bill

The Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government has tabled the Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scripture(s) Bill, 2025 which was discussed in the Assembly on Tuesday amidst ruckus and then referred to a select committee. It might take about six months for the committee to send the bill back to the Assembly for clearing and then to the governor for approval. If the bill is referred to the Union government, then it would be another year before it finally becomes an Act. Earlier governments — the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition government and the Congress government headed by Captain Amarinder Singh — had also brought similar bills which were found to be insufficient to meet the demands of the situation and hence junked. The new anti-sacrilege bill is said to have taken note of the shortcomings of the earlier bills and is hence more comprehensive, secular, and sufficiently stringent to be a deterrence for sacrilege offences considered very serious in the state. Meanwhile, 42-year-old Gurjeet Singh Khalsa, supposedly a non-political activist, has been staging a protest on top of a BSNL mobile tower in Punjab's Samana since October 2024 demanding an anti-sacrilege law. Though not widely reported in the mainstream media, such protests should be handled deftly by the government, lest it rakes up discontents of the past. In fact, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), under Sections 298, 299, and 300, already provides stringent punishments for religious offences. Punjab government as well as the activists who are protesting for a new law against sacrilege of religious texts are of the view that the provisions of the current Union laws are not stringent enough. Incidentally, the bill inadvertently equates the Bhagavad Gita with the holy books of other faiths, which may trigger a controversy. The bill could be amended to also include other religious texts considered holy by a vast majority of Hindus and/or be worded appropriately to capture the essence of all holy books of all faiths without naming any of them. Needless to say, the issue is a complex one. Going by the text of the present bill, albeit a short one, there are sufficient indications to suggest that adequate care has been taken to make the acts of sacrilege a serious offence inviting harsh punishments. But it is not clear why these provisions could not be added to the existing Sections of the BNS. After all, the BNS is an all-India law that applies equally to all states and all faiths. The AAP-led Punjab government appears to have not consulted the Union government or had any discussions with the Union Law Ministry on this issue. What should be of concern are the possibilities of other states following suit and enacting separate laws to suit the political environment of respective states citing the Punjab bill as a precedent. In a federal setup, the Constitution allows states to enact sufficient laws to maintain law and order and preserve religious harmony through stringent punishments for offences involving religious practices, texts, icons, and symbols. There have been instances of religious books being vandalised, places of worship desecrated, and statues of widely revered socio-political leaders popular among certain communities damaged. Another aspect of concern should be the misuse of any law, however sincere the intentions of the lawmakers might be. The anti-sacrilege bill may have good intentions, but there is hardly any guarantee that such a law will not become a tool for miscreants wanting to drive a wedge between communities and followers of different faiths in the state. In a politically volatile border state where religious fault lines have been exploited by extreme elements bent on hurting the unity and integrity of the country, the state government needs to be extra vigilant and take the Union government into confidence at every stage.



India's TRP ecosystem needs a reset. Time to end BARC monopoly



Television advertising revenues have been in freefall, declining from Rs 334 billion to Rs 294 billion in just two years. Twelve per cent of the brands that used TV to reach the masses in 2023 adopted a different distribution medium in 2024. Despite this, the TV industry continues to expand its offerings. DD Free Dish, a state-run distribution platform that requires only a one-time installation fee and no subscription charges, added both consumers and channels last year. The number of Free-to-Air channels on TV that recover costs from advertising is also increasing. Clearly, there is a disconnect between broadcasters' and advertisers' assessment of the true value of India's 160 million-household-strong TV market. At the heart of this mismatch is a measurement gap that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) is now trying to resolve through reforms to TV ratings guidelines. The MIB is in the process of amending the 2014 television ratings guidelines that led to the accreditation of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to measure the relative popularity of TV channels. This much-needed proposal aims to end BARC's monopoly and allow additional entities to conduct TV ratings,

which can revitalise TV advertising. Before BARC, TAM (Television Audience Measurement)—a joint media research venture by Kantar and Nielsen—tracked what India watched. But India is a large country, and TAM could only place meters to measure audience preferences in a limited number of households, that too mostly in urban areas. As a solution, broadcasters, advertisers, and media agencies came together in 2010 to form BARC, which was empanelled by the MIB and started operations in 2015. BARC roped in TAM for back-end technological expertise and rejigged sampling methods. When BARC was rolled out, it measured 12,000 out of the 145 million TV households in India.

This was still only 0.008 per cent. Panel sizes have grown over the years to 55,000, but BARC continues to use the same data-collection methods. Watch time is measured in clock minutes through audio-watermarking tech-

nology that detects the channel being viewed. Before watching, each family member in a metered household must press a button to indicate whether they are an adult or a child, and to record their gender. They must press the same button again when they stop viewing. This approach rests on the optimistic assumption that viewers comply every time they switch channels. Meanwhile, the global media landscape has been moving ahead with qualitative, platform-agnostic measurement tools enabled by big data, advanced meter technologies, and more demographically inclusive panels. Advertisers rely on BARC's single measurement currency, Television Rating Point (TRP), which estimates the duration and frequency of viewership. These ratings help them determine which channels attract the most viewers and where to spend their ad budgets. There are no alternative estimates to go by. In con-

trast, financial institutions can access data from seven credit rating agencies to determine the creditworthiness of a borrower. There are a dozen or more agencies that news channels can commission for exit poll surveys of elections. A one-agency, one-currency system also leaves TV audience measurement vulnerable to manipulation. The first complaints of TRP manipulation emerged in 2018, when Hansa Research — the entity that installs meters for audience measurement — filed a police complaint alleging that households were being paid to watch a particular channel. Later, in 2020, the TRP scam implicated broadcasters and former officials at BARC, with allegations of manipulation dating back to 2016, according to an audit report that Mumbai Police received from BARC. The council suspended ratings for three months, but the damage had already been done: advertisers had lost trust in the TRP system, and some broadcasters exited BARC. Other mature media markets have gone through challenges involved in relying on a single entity to track consumer attention across platforms, devices, and demographics, and have therefore transitioned to 'multi-currency models' that allow multi-

ple measurement providers to coexist. Ad-industry bodies in the US, such as the Video Advertising Bureau and the Television Bureau of Advertising, encourage alternative measurement providers. Even in Singapore, where the TV market is smaller than those in India and the US, multiple agencies operate. A ratings monopoly in India has led to a lack of technological variation, resulting in sluggish systems detached from market dynamics. The rationale for MIB's latest move is therefore strong, and if advertisers can choose between multiple measurement providers, they will gain access to sharper audience data and become more confident in their fiscal planning. This policy rejig also makes room for multi-stakeholder collaborations between distributors with last-mile reach and specialist measurement companies. The resulting competition will drive improvements in advertisers' access to quality data.

The ministry should allow the players to freely collaborate, and the best measurement models to emerge in the market. Even as advertising revenue dwindles, TV in India is far from its swan song. This year, 169 million people tuned in to the Indian Premier League final on TV.

India's solar ambition needs financial vision – ISA must move from commitments to execution

As the world confronts the realities of climate change and energy insecurity, solar energy presents itself not merely as a technological solution but as a transformative geopolitical and developmental strategy. The International Solar Alliance is uniquely positioned to catalyse this transformation. But to succeed, it must go beyond declarations. It must now design and implement financial architectures capable of supporting its ambitions. The potential of solar energy is undeniable. It is modular, scalable, and increasingly cost-effective. Yet, for the nations most abundant in sunlight, finance remains a key constraint. The International Energy Agency estimates that clean energy investments in emerging economies must rise from \$770 billion in 2022 to over \$2.2 trillion annually by 2030. A significant portion of this must be allocated to solar energy. However, the fiscal realities of many countries—either still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, burdened by debt, or struggling to cope with press-

ing social needs—limit the ability of governments to invest at scale. India's experience illustrates this well. Despite policy successes in solar deployment, the government's ability to directly invest in grid infrastructure or generation assets is capped by fiscal deficit targets and debt ceilings. Even green bonds, while helpful, are bound by ring-fenced rules and are limited in scale. Public financing, therefore, can only act as a catalytic lever—it cannot be the backbone. Turning to the private sector, we find both potential and limitations. Many solar developers operate on highly leveraged balance sheets, and with rising global interest rates, the space for fresh capital is narrowing. Moreover, risks such as currency volatility, regulatory uncertainty, and weak transmission infrastructure dampen investor appetite, especially in frontier markets. Private capital is crucial but requires structured entry points, credible exit mechanisms, and active risk mitigation to be effective.

Trump's sanctions have failed to deter Russia. Now the West faces a dilemma

Last week, Russia once again pulled the nuclear weapon threat out of its sleeves, two days after US President Donald Trump — following his meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte — threatened to impose 100 per cent secondary tariffs on Moscow if it doesn't reach a deal with Kyiv in 50 days. Trump also confirmed that "top-of-the-line" weapons, including the Patriot missile defence system and batteries, would be sent to Ukraine in an operation coordinated by NATO members. Russia's newly updated nuclear doctrine apparently allows Moscow to use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear weapon state that is supported by a nuclear one, unsettling deterrence dynamics in Europe. Though Trump's about-turn on the Russia-Ukraine war might bring some sigh of relief in Kyiv, Moscow's counter-threats echo a Biden-era tit-for-tat escalation when Washington's no-holds-barred support for Ukraine's war efforts was met with Moscow's nuclear threats. The question is: will Trump's threats be enough to affect any change in Russia's behaviour? Or will such threats be counter-productive, embolden Putin's hand, and give him more ammunition to project a Russia reclaiming its lost status of parity with the US and standing up to the combined might of the Western alliance? Sanctions are meant to bite, and not just bark. They are coercive economic tools that the US and its Western allies have often used as a default policy to punish adversaries. However, do they really affect consequential changes in a country's behaviour as expected? In the case of Russia, sanctions have won tactical gains, but have failed to achieve the desired strategic goals. US-led Western sanctions have hit Russia since 2014, when the latter annexed Crimea from Ukraine after the Maidan Square event. Though Russia has seen rising infla-

tion, labour shortage, and devaluation of its currency, the sanctions have had too little impact to make Moscow kowtow. On the contrary, the Central Bank of the Russian Federation has kept the key rate at 21.5 percent per annum, indicating that inflation and economic growth are relatively stable under the current circumstances. The Russian stock exchange market has also continued to grow despite Trump's warnings. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecasted Russia's growth rate in 2025 at 1.5 per cent while the Russian Economic Development Ministry has kept it at 2.5 per cent. This month, the US Senate tabled additional sanctions on Russia, calling them a 'sledgehammer'. Sanctions on Russia will also impact countries that trade with Russia in oil, gas, uranium, and other products. Such secondary sanctions on third countries are reportedly proposed to touch 500 per cent. Some US lawmakers are even hinting at the US, together with its European allies, accessing frozen Russian assets, including the \$5 billion located in the US, to dent Russia's warfighting resources and utilise the money in Ukraine's reconstruction. This would be an unprecedented move as no US president has ever taken the central bank assets of a foreign country that the US is not at war with. However, secondary sanctions have not been too successful either, with Russia, through its 'shadow fleet', exporting energy to the other countries, including China, Turkey, UAE, Belarus, and Armenia. Moreover, partner countries of the US such as Turkey, UAE, and Armenia have not participated in sanctions, creating an enforcement gap, helping Russia maintain access to sanctioned goods and continue its economic activities. A report, published by the Kyiv School of Economics, estimated that the shadow fleet transports.

Critical minerals are the new oil. India can't afford to depend on China

Critical minerals have now become instruments of geopolitical bargaining and means to assert domestic autonomy and security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Argentina and meeting with Chilean President, Gabriel Boric, the two legs of the lithium triangle, on the sidelines of the recently held BRICS summit in Brazil, were strategically aimed at exploring cooperation and engagement on critical minerals. At the Summit, Modi warned against the weaponization of critical minerals and stressed the need to

work together to make supply chains secure and reliable. Other global leaders have also echoed similar concerns at the G20, Quad, and BRICS summits, and have discussed collaborating to secure and diversify critical mineral supply chains. Currently, India is heavily dependent on imports for critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements (REE). Much of this supply comes through re-export channels, which creates a third-level dependency while exposing us to potential supply shocks and strategic coercion.

Mineral security is no longer just an economic concern but a national security imperative, underpinning the country's ambitions in clean energy, defence self-reliance, and advanced manufacturing. Globally, China holds roughly 62 per cent of lithium refining capacity, 33 per cent for nickel, 77 per cent for cobalt, 87 per cent for graphite, and 76 per cent for REEs, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025. This underscores China's overwhelming dominance in supply

chains, even though it does not host most raw material reserves. Compared to 2023, India's lithium imports from China surged by roughly 921 per cent in 2024, while graphite imports rose 85 per cent between 2022 and 2024 and Nickel imports jumped 137 per cent in 2024. Such dominance gives Beijing an asymmetric leverage over supply chains vital to clean-tech sectors and key defence applications, including advanced electronics, missile systems, and communication technologies. As a result, securing reliab

Delhi has extended its electric vehicle policy until November

Delhi : Delhi government has decided to extend the deadline for its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy by four months, bringing it to November 15. This decision was made since a draft of the policy is currently being reviewed and is awaiting clearance. According to Pankaj Singh, the minister of transport, the document is currently undergoing revisions and will likely be finalized in at least four months. For the time being, we have prolonged the present policy until November 15 and may do so again if needed, he stated. In order to make sure that everyone may enjoy a cleaner, more sustainable transportation system, we are talking to professionals and looking into all possible possibilities. An increase in EV registrations and a general uptick in interest have been observed recently. The present electric vehicle policy has been extended multiple



Delhi government plans to revamp the DTC

Delhi : To ensure that residents of the nation's capital have access to first-rate public transportation, the Delhi government has begun a massive renovation of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). A press release states that this effort would soon deploy smart travel cards, restructure bus routes, modernize interstate bus terminals (ISBTs), and

revamp bus queue shelters (BQSSs) to be more pleasant and high-tech. During a high-level review meeting of the Transport Department on , Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stated that the goal of providing Delhi with first-rate public transportation will soon come to fruition under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

rickshaws and e-carts can receive a 25% purchase incentive up to 5,500.

times since its inception in 2020 and its expiration in August 2023. At present, e-

New Delhi Solar Energy Policy: Subsidy Tripling

Delhi : The Delhi Solar Energy Policy, 2023 was revised by the Delhi government, which meant that families may receive a subsidy of up to 10,000 per kW for rooftop solar systems that did not exceed 3 kW, with a cap of 30,000 per consumer. A new capital subsidy for resident welfare associations and group housing societies was also introduced by the amendment. Solar systems for shared facilities, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, can now be purchased for up to 500 kW for these companies for 2,000 per kW. Another model that was improved by the regulation was the RESCO



model, which is a financing structure where developers own and finance solar installations. Removing the requirement for upfront investment and streamlining the billing process through distribution companies, the revised model proposes that consumers pay the

RESCO developer through their regular electricity bills. With application data obtained from either the Delhi Solar Portal or the National Rooftop Solar Portal of the PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana, users will have their subsidies sent straight into their bank .

Athal canteens in Delhi will offer meals for 5 per plate by December

Delhi : The government of Delhi is getting ready to open 100 Athal Canteens around the city. These canteens will provide meals for around Rs 5 each plate. The initiative's target population consists of daily wage workers and the urban poor, and it

intends to supply them with affordable and healthy food at 100 sites, primarily in areas surrounding large construction projects and clusters of slums. The government is aiming to finish a number of projects by December, the birthdate of former

prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee—in whose honour the canteens are named according to senior officials. The establishment of these canteens throughout the nation's capital was funded by chief minister and minister of finance Rekha Gupta.

Dr. Bhupesh Chahar appointed State Member of the Nature Welfare Council

Dr Bhupesh Chahar has been appointed State Member of the Nature Welfare Council. On this occasion, he visited the Council's headquarters in Delhi, where he held a cordial meeting with the Council's Vice Chairman. During the meeting, important topics such as environmental protection, tree planting, and the Green India Campaign were discussed in detail. Present on the occasion were Sudhir Sharma, State Director of the Plantation Board, Bhuvnesh Rawat, a dedicated BJP worker, Lavekesh Solanki from the Kisan Union Youth Cell, Agra, and



social worker Sharma (Kasganj). On this occasion, Dr. Bhupesh Chahar said, "It is my resolve to increase public awareness about the environment and to continuously strive for the creation

of a Green India. A clean environment is the foundation of a healthy society, and every citizen should consider tree planting their duty." At the end of the program, Dr. Chahar received bless-

ings from revered Gurudev Vishal Pandit (Meerut). Describing this new responsibility as "a new chapter in social service," he said that true national service lies in protecting both religion and the environment. On this occasion, Ramkumar Sharma, National President of the All India Hindu Seva Dal Youth Wing, said, "It is a matter of pride for us that a dedicated social worker like Dr. Bhupesh Chahar has been given this responsibility. Only when the environment, along with life, remains pure and clean, will the true purpose of serving Sanatan culture and Mother Cow be fulfilled."

Delhi's hotels and restaurants no longer need police NOCs

Delhi : Hotels, restaurants, discotheques, amusement parks, and auditoriums in the Capital will no longer need permission or NOCs from the Delhi Police. Recent order by L-G V K Saxena removed Delhi Police sanction power in such instances. The Delhi Police's Licensing Branch would now exclusively issue guns and explosives licenses, the directive added. L-G Saxena issued an order rescinding the sanction granted to the Commissioner of



Police, Delhi, for issuing regulations under Section 28 (1) of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, covering the seven activities listed in Para 1. These include hotels, pools, restaurants, discotheques, video game parlours, amusement parks, and auditoriums. L-G ordered the

Commissioner of Police to issue notification "repealing the said regulations with immediate effect". The order added, "The repeal notification shall be given wide publicity by Delhi Police and the Home Department." The decision stated that the Centre in pursuit of "minimum government and maximum governance" had reduced various licensing regimes in states and Union Territories (UTs) and urged simplified licensing procedures.

In order to alleviate waterlogging, MCD sets up 79 pumping stations

Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) ramped up its monsoon readiness by launching 465 mobile pumps with different capacities and setting up 79 permanent pumping stations around the city to reduce the risk of flooding. In order to respond quickly during periods of severe rains, additional portable pumps were strategically put in sensitive regions across all 12 zones, according to MCD standing committee chairperson Satya Sharma.

Her remarks followed criticism from the opposition, who said that MCD had failed to adequately prepare for the flooding that had resulted on the roads' potholes. If the Indraprastha Vikas Party's Mukesh Goel wants to make



sure that inner roads are safe from potential flooding on main highways, he needs to get the PWD on board.

Sharma further said that control centers were set up in each zone so that field operations could be coordinated and public complaints could be handled instantly. "Response teams, comprising junior engineers and support staff, were stationed round the clock,"

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

The BJP government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, presented its maiden budget on , March 25. Gupta presented 1 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, a 31.56% increase from last year. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system. It has allocated 1,000 crore to improve the connectivity of Delhi with the NCR region.

A Mehndi Decoration Competition was held in Mathura district

The Bharat Scouts and Guides Unit organized a Mehndi Decoration Competition at Mathura Amarnath Girls Degree College. Opening the program, Principal Dr Anil Vajpayee stated that one of the objectives of Scouts and Guides is to promote beauty and harmony in personal life and society, and that this competition will move students towards a beautiful and harmonious society. The mehndi



monious society. The mehndi

applied by the female Scouts and Guides volunteers on the hands of their fellow female students was a sight to behold. The college's Scout Guides Chief, President's Award winner Sarika Bhatia, stated that the college's Scout Guides Unit continuously organizes various programs to develop the all-round personality of the female students. Student Kavita won

first place in the competition, while Muskan and Bhumi won second, and Ramsha won third. Rangers Vrinda, Priya, Priyanka, and Shivani played a commendable role in the event. The chief judges were Dr. Meeta Tiwari and Shaima Mustafa. A total of 34 female students participated in the competition. The event was coordinated by Dr Pankaj and Shivani.

It is possible to return to the drawing board with Master Plan 2041

Delhi: Would it be necessary to start over with the Delhi 2041 Master Plan draft Master Plan 2041 is back in the spotlight after being put on the back burner for over two years after the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) submitted the draft to the Centre for notification and



implementation. The govern-

ment of Delhi met behind closed doors to pore over the document's sections, which lay out the groundwork for the city's future infrastructure and urban planning. DDA briefed chief minister Rekha Gupta, cabinet members, and high-ranking officials in the Delhi government on the draft

in great detail. The Delhi secretariat is expected to have more discussions over the paper, but according to sources, the officers were requested to provide comments on various parts of the plan. "Depending on the nature of inputs received from various departments, we may

TN should appeal SC ruling on domicile quota

Delhi: A day after the Supreme Court banned domicile-based reservation in specialized and higher education including PG medical courses, MK Stalin's Tamil Nadu government declared it would file a review petition to vindicate its rights and uphold social justice. Health minister Ma Subramanian said the SC order would affect the state's 69% reservation and quotas for in-service applicants in government medical colleges and minorities in self-financing medical colleges. He said that the order would violate state rights. The Union government receives 15% of undergraduate medical seats and 50% of postgraduate medical and super speciality seats through the state quota each year. "All super spe-



cialty seats were lost. "TN gave government doctors a quota for super speciality courses after a court battle," he told reporters. He stated the Centre takes seats unfilled due to a lack of candidates. He said states invest fully in PG and super speciality medical education but share 50% of all-India quota seats. "Now, the judgment deprives us of all seats," Subramanian told reporters. According to him, the verdict will have a major impact on 2025-26 admissions but not 2024.

BBL: Melbourne Stars sign Adam Milne

Melbourne: The Melbourne Stars have signed New Zealand fast bowler Adam Milne to play in the Big Bash League (BBL) before Christmas. He will replace Pakistan leg-spinner Osama Mir, who will not be able to play in the first three matches of this season. The Stars are set to announce a new captain this week after Glenn Maxwell became captain at the end of last season. Maxwell is unlikely to be fit for the first match against the Perth Scorchers on December 15.

This IIM Got Rs 54 Lakh Highest Salary, Rs 5 Lakh Summer

Delhi: IIMs and other premier management institutes are conducting their final placement drives. Final placement season at IIM Mumbai began on November 25 and ended. Microsoft offered the highest remuneration, Rs 54 lakh per year. Coca-Cola paid a record Rs 5 lakh for a two-month summer internship. This year, 78 firms offered 373 jobs at IIM Mumbai's final placement season. Popular brands include Amazon, Microsoft, and Coca-Cola. IIM Mumbai placements saw a 15% boost in average stipend, according to a report. Top 10% of the



cohort received an average pay of Rs 48 lakh in job placements. Additionally, the top 50% of the batch received an average remuneration of Rs 35 lakh. IIM Mumbai ranks sixth in NIRF 2024. After being known as NITIE

Mumbai and then NIIE, it became the Indian Institute of Management in 2023, becoming the 21st IIM in the country. MBA registration at IIM Mumbai began on November 4. Registration ends January 31, 2025.

Hartek and NSS join hands to empower 50 disabled with prosthetic limbs

Chandigarh: Hartek Foundation, led by CEO Harkirat Kaur, has partnered with Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) to provide prosthetic limbs to 50 differently-abled individuals, taking a significant step toward building an inclusive

society. During a meeting in Mohali, NSS Director Palak Agarwal shared the organization's four-decade journey of humanitarian work, which includes free surgeries, distribution of prosthetic limbs, assistive devices, and

skill development programs benefiting lakhs across India. Inspired by NSS's impactful initiatives, Hartek Foundation pledged support to help restore mobility, self-reliance, and dignity to 50 individuals.

Hartek Foundation and Narayan Seva Sansthan join hands to empower 50 disabled with prosthetic limbs

Chandigarh: In a meaningful step towards fostering an inclusive society, Hartek Foundation under the leadership of CEO Harkirat Kaur has partnered with Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) to provide prosthetic limbs to 50 differently-abled individuals. The collaboration marks a shared commitment to empower and uplift those with physical disabilities, enabling them to regain mobility, self-reliance and dignity. On this occasion, Palak Agarwal, Director, Narayan Seva Sansthan met Harkirat Kaur in Mohali and discussed the organization's four-decade-long journey of humanitarian service which includes free surgeries, dis-



tribution of prosthetic limbs, assistive devices and skill development programs for lakhs of people across India. Inspired by NSS's impactful work, Hartek Foundation extended its support to help

50 individuals receive prosthetic limbs, giving them a new lease on life. Speaking on the occasion, Harkirat Kaur said that Narayan Seva Sansthan is not only working to uplift the differently abled

but also those overlooked by society. Thanking her counterpart, Palak Agarwal said this partnership goes beyond assistance as it brings hope and confidence to those who need it most.

The government of Maharashtra says it would not pay for eggs for the midday meal

Delhi : The opposition vehemently criticized the decision, as Maharashtra became the latest BJP-ruled state to ban eggs from midday meals for students in grades 1 through 8. The school education department changed the list of foods served during midday meals in a government resolution this week, eliminating the inclusion of sugar and eggs. Rather, it instructed schools to serve nachni sattu and "egg pulao" as optional meals. Nonetheless, it stated that these things, as well as sugar for desserts, had to be organized by the general public without the need for further government support. The state has changed the list to adhere to the meal items prescribed by the Center, accord-



ing to an official who defended the action. While some states use their own resources to offer eggs, the federal government, which provides 60% of the funding for midday meals, does not include them in its list. Goa and Madhya Pradesh recently banned eggs due to criticism from some groups. Aaditya Thackeray, a Sena (UBT) MLA, criticized the move and questioned why the government chose to substitute rice kheer and nachni sattu for eggs and sugar.

Adani cancels \$533mn US port loan in Sri Lanka

Delhi: After US securities and wire fraud allegations, Gautam Adani's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone withdrew from a finance deal with a US agency for a Sri Lankan port terminal project and used its own resources. After the US indictment, American loans are harder to get. The US International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) agreed to lend \$553 million to Sri Lanka. 's

Indian students in Canada panic as Ottawa requests docus again

Delhi: Indian students in Canada have reported receiving emails to resubmit study permits, visas, and educational records, including marks and attendance. IRCC, a federal department that handles foreign students, issued a request that panicked international students, many of whom have two-year visas. In response to the inflow of overseas students, IRCC is tightening its financial criteria and considering limitations on admissions. I was surprised by the email. My visa is valid till 2026, however I was requested to resubmit all my documentation. "Avinash Kaushik, "They even want proof of attendance, marks, where we are working part-time, etc.," he said. Punjabi students reported a similar increase in emails last week. Some were



Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh.

required to verify their credentials at IRCC headquarters in person. "Many students are confused and worried," Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh. The sudden

email flood left pupils unsure about their future. "We chose Canada for its welcoming environment, but this unfair," said Adilabad-based business management student in British Columbia. Students want IRCC to clarify and resolve their concerns. For now, urge students to submit documents quickly to avoid difficulties. "

Fewer dropouts, but school retention issues

Delhi : The Economic Survey 2024-25 released in Parliament shows that less than half of Indian students complete higher secondary education, despite declining dropout rates across all levels. Dropout rates were 1.9% for primary (Classes I to V), 5.2% for upper primary (Classes VI to VIII), and 14.1% for secondary. Retention rates—the percentage of children who stayed enrolled since first grade—were 85.4% for primary, 78% for elementary, 63.8% for secondary, and 45.6% for higher secondary.



According to the education ministry's Unified District Information System for Education-Plus (UDISE+ 2023-24) report, India's enormous educational system serves 248 million students in 1.5 million schools with 9.8 million instructors. Government schools make up 69% of schools, enroll 50% of pupils, and employ 51% of teachers. The research showed 22.5% private schools, 32.6% student enrollment, and 38% teachers. Digital infrastructure has improved. Computers in schools rose from 38.5% in 2019-20 to 57.2% in 2023-2024, while internet connectivity rose from 22.3% to 53.9%. The poll said the NEP 2020 is based on the idea that "education and human capital development are among the foundational pillars of development." The union government introduced NEP on July 29, 2020, to modernize the education system from school to higher education while maintaining it "rooted in Indianness". Higher education enrollment rose 26.5% to 43.3 million in 2021-22 from 3.42 crore in 2014-15, according to the poll. The poll found that tripling educational infrastructure would be needed to meet the government's 2035 goal of 50% GER in higher education.

Kerala cuts minority scholarships due to financial difficulties

Delhi : Kerala's government has cut minority community scholarships by 50%, putting thousands of students' education at risk, citing the financial crisis. Nine of the 11 minority welfare scholarship programs originally allotted Rs 13.6 crore are affected by the decision. The Government says the plan size reduction is a priority, but the disproportionate cut to minority student educational support raises questions about governmental priorities and social justice. Twitter shares The Prof Joseph Mundassery Scholarship, which received Rs 5.2 crore this



year, suffered most. It has saved Muslim, Sikh, Jain, and Parsi high-achieving children by paying Rs 10,000 to those who scored A-Plus in all SSLC subjects and Rs 15,000 to those who scored 80% in upper secondary or 75% in vocational higher secondary. It ensured that bright students from underprivileged backgrounds were not forced to drop

out due to financial constraints by prioritizing BPL students and providing provisions to economically weaker APL students. The crucial API Abdul Kalam Scholarship for minority students has also been cut in half. Those admitted to government-approved colleges on merit, with priority for BPL families, receive the Rs 6,000 grant.

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

Delhi: The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' association accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition supporting also said people who answered or apologized body meeting the IITTA approached the board of governors. They worry the administration may act fast and deny office bearers a fair hearing, further undermining trust.

Tiranga Yatra Pays Tribute to Armed Forces

Chandigarh: Nearly 500 people especially from the Sikh community, participated in the Tiranga Yatra organised by Dr. Jagmohan Singh Raju (Retd. IAS) with blessings from Sant Baba Pritpal Singh Ji. Beginning at Gurdwara GurSagar Sahib near Sukhna Lake and ending at Gurudwara Sahib, Sector 7, the procession celebrated patriotism and communal harmony. Participants carried the Indian Flag and Nishan Sahib, accompanied by a live band playing patriotic tunes. Leaders from Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities joined in. Dr. Raju called the Yatra a tribute to the Armed Forces and a symbol of India's strength and unity.



Poster of the film

Adivi Sesh to dance for the first time

Actor Adivi Sesh, best known for his high-intensity action roles, is all set to surprise fans with his first-ever on-screen dance number in the upcoming pan-India film *Dacoit*. He will share the track with co-star Mrunal Thakur, bringing a fresh, energetic side to the film that blends action, drama, and romance.

The song is already being praised by insiders for its stylish choreography, vibrant visuals, and the chemistry between the leads. For fans accustomed to seeing Sesh in performance-heavy action roles, this dance sequence promises a completely new experience.

Directed by Shaneil Deo and produced by Supriya Yarlagadda, *Dacoit* is co-written by Sesh and Abburi Ravi and aims to combine drama, romance, and

Actor debuts in dance sequence alongside Mrunal Thakur in pan-India action-romance *Dacoit*, showcasing vibrant, energetic new avatar

stylish action on a pan-India scale. Speaking about stepping into this new territory, Sesh said, "The audience has seen me run, fight, and jump—but never dance. This song is one of the biggest leaps I've taken as an actor. It's vibrant, romantic, and fun, and I hope fans will enjoy it as much as we enjoyed making it."

With this exciting addition, *Dacoit* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of the year, showcasing a different dimension of Adivi Sesh's talent while keeping the high-energy intensity fans love.

'It felt like I lost my father once again'



Actor-comedian Kapil Sharma on Wednesday said he shared a close bond with veteran star Dharmendra and with his death, he felt like he had lost a father figure. Dharmendra died at the age of 89 on Monday. His death has led to an outpouring of grief from the film industry with many sharing personal anecdotes and stories of the actor's generosity.

At the trailer launch of his film *Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karoon 2*, Sharma said there won't be another personality like Dharmendra ever again. "Dharam ji, sab jaante bhi hai, ki wo mere liye kya the (Everyone knows how much he meant to me). Everyone is feeling like they have lost a family member. I lost my father at 22 - an age when you're meant to learn from him. I didn't get to spend time with him.

"To me, (Dharmendra's death) felt like I lost my father for the second time. It's true that everyone who comes into this world has to leave one day, but you always wish for a little more time with people who are truly good. He lived like a king," he said. Sharma said Dharmendra was

Comedian Kapil Sharma on Dharmendra's death



the first film personality who agreed to be a guest on his show *The Kapil Sharma Show* when it began in 2016.

"I met Dharam paaji for the first time on a flight to Toronto. And we became such good friends that he was sharing jokes with me during the entire flight... When I first came to Bombay and we were trying to launch our show, no one knew anything about it - not the concept, not the channel, not the production house. They were reaching out to celebrities, but no one was willing to come.

"I called Dharam paaji and requested some time for a meeting and he didn't ask a single question about the show. I told him, 'Paaji, main pehli baar show bana raha hoon, aur main chahta hoon ki aap hamare guest ho.' He was busy preparing for the release of his new film at the time, yet he turned to his team member, Poonam, and said, 'He is my son - take out a date for him, no matter what.'"



Rukmini's secret to staying grounded

Amid a busy career, actress Rukmini Vasanth finds calm in a simple daily ritual — journaling. The practice helps her slow down, stay centred, and reflect on life's ups and downs.

"Journaling is where I pause and take stock," she says. "I reread my journals a lot — they offer perspective. The worries I had before *Birbal*, or after drama school, were so different from today, yet so potent. What feels overwhelming now might seem almost humorous years later."

Rukmini is now preparing for two major pan-Indian projects: *Toxic: A Fairytale for Grownups* with Yash and the highly anticipated NTRNeel with NTR Jr. Through every hectic day, her journal remains her quiet anchor.

Tere Ishk Mein gets U/A 16+ certificate

ADhanush and Kriti Sanon starrer *Tere Ishk Mein* is all set to release on November 28, 2025. It is undoubtedly one of the most-awaited films of the year, and well, the movie has been passed by CBFC without any visual cuts. The Aanand L Rai directorial has received a U/A 16+ certificate.

The intense romantic and action sequences in the film are untouched. However, the makers were told to modify a dialogue. The runtime of *Tere Ishk Mein* is 169.17 minutes, which means it 2 hours, 49 minutes and 17 seconds long. Well, let's hope that the film keeps us hooked to the screens for those 169.17 minutes. *Tere Ishk Mein*'s advance book-

ing started on Monday, and according to Sacnilk, till now, already 35k plus tickets have been sold. The film on its first day has already collected Rs 86.54 lakh without block seats, and with block seats the collection is Rs 2.34 crore.

The pre-release sales of *Tere Ishk Mein* is expected to be very positive. The film is clearly heading for a good start. While talking about her role in the film, Kriti said, "Mutki's character has a very diverse graph, what she starts from, what she ends up becoming, her choices, her decisions... there are a lot of layers to what she is doing. A lot is sometimes not said, a lot of justification, a lot of things why she is doing what she is, not said in words. There is no dialogue at times to help you and it just has to be translated in your eyes. That was something new and I really enjoyed it."



A still from the film

Saali Mohabbat trailer released

OTT platform ZEE5 on Wednesday released the trailer of its upcoming original film *Saali Mohabbat*, a genre-bending how-dunnit that marks actor Tisca Chopra's feature directorial debut and is set to stream from December 12.

Produced by Jio Studios and designer Manish Mahotra's Stage5 Production, the film features an ensemble cast of Radhika Apte, Divyendhu Sharma, Anurag Kashyap, Anshuman Pushkar, Sharat Saxena and Sauraseni Maitra.

Saali Mohabbat follows Smita (Apte), a woman who lives a sheltered, near-invis-



A still from the film

ible life in the quiet, wintry town of Fursatgarh. "But everything fractures when a shocking double murder shatters the town's peace. As hidden tensions and motives rise to the surface, it becomes clear that things are not as simple or uncomplicated as they once seemed. "Amid the deepening investigation, Smita is pulled out of her cocoon and into the swirl of suspicion alongside many other potential sus-

ZEE5 releases trailer for Tisca Chopra's directorial debut *Saali Mohabbat*, set to premiere December 12

pects. Forced into the open, she must confront not only the mysteries unraveling around her but also fight to preserve her own sense of peace and sanity," read official logline.



Pic: Instagram @tiscasofficial



The cast of Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karoon 2 at the trailer launch in Mumbai

Briefs

LUCKNOW

Hooda, Srikanth advance



Top seed **Unnati Hooda** and former champion Kidambi Srikanth notched up comfortable wins to lead a host of Indians into the second round of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday. While Hooda overcame compatriot Aakarshi Kashyap 21-13, 21-18, Srikanth, who had reached the finals at Malaysia Masters early this year, produced a fluent performance to defeat Kavin Thangam 21-13, 21-10 at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium. Among other key results, seventh seed Rakshit Sree Santhosh Ramraj opened her women's singles challenge with a confident 21-12, 21-14 win over Shreya Lele. Kiran George also advanced in the men's singles section, beating Israel's Daniil Dubovenko 21-17, 21-9.

LUCKNOW

Mumbai off to flourishing start in SMAT



Defending champions Mumbai made a confident start to their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign, defeating Railways by seven wickets, with India players Ajinkya Rahane and **Suryakumar Yadav** making vital contributions in a Group A match here on Wednesday. Chasing a below-average score of 158 for 5 in 20 overs, Mumbai had little trouble overhauling it with Rahane clobbering a 33-ball 62, studded with four boundaries and five sixes, at the top to help the star-studded side finish the chase with 25 balls to spare. India's T20 skipper Suryakumar, who shared a 51-run stand with Rahane for the second wicket, struck an equally belligerent 30-ball 47.

COLOMBO

Asalanka's SL captaincy under a cloud



Charith Asalanka's tenure as skipper of the Sri Lanka team was thrown into uncertainty after the southpaw came back home from Pakistan in the middle

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2ND TEST | It is the second time in 13 months that India has been whitewashed

GAMBHIR'S INDIA SURRENDERS

GUWAHATI

A clueless Indian team, which seemed lacking in both skills and resolve, succumbed to its biggest defeat in terms of runs, losing the second Test to South Africa by a whopping margin of 408 here on Wednesday, giving the visitors their first series triumph in the country in 25 years.

This was the second time in a space of mere 13 months that India ended up white-washed at home, severely denting their chances of qualifying for the World Test Championship final.

Under head coach Gautam Gambhir, India have now lost five Tests against New Zealand and South Africa at home.

A chase of 549 was never possible but what one expected was a semblance of fight which wasn't there on a day five Indian track presenting itself in all its might on which the ball bounced like a hissing snake and turned as if on a hairpin Himalayan bend.

Marco Jansen, who played the perfect all-rounder in this Test match, took a one-handed stunner to skittle India for 140 in 63.5 overs and give the Temba Bavuma-led side a victory to cherish for a long time.

"It's little disappointing. As a team we need to get better. We need to give credit to the opposition. They dominated the series but at the same time, you can't take cricket for granted (because of playing at home)," said a downcast India skipper Rishabh Pant in the post-match presentation, trying to make sense of his team's recent home record.

Courtesy Gambhir's inexplicable tactics and selection calls, the aura of invincibility that once accompanied the team at home lay in tatters at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium on a slightly nippy Wednesday afternoon.

But the man was his usual combative self in the aftermath.

"I am the same guy who got



South Africa's players celebrate with the trophy at the end of the fifth day of the second Test.

PTI

Scoreboard

South Africa first innings: 489

India first Innings: 201

South Africa second Innings:

260/5 decl

India second Innings:

Y Jaiswal c Verreynne b Jansen 13,

KL Rahul b Harmer 6, S Sudharsan

(batting) 14, K Yadav b Harmer 5, D

Jurel c Markram b Harmer 2, R Pant

c Markram b Harmer 13, R Jadeja st

Verreynne b Maharaj 54, W Sundar

c Markram b Harmer 16, N Kumar

Reddy c Verreynne b Harmer 0, J

Bumrah (not out) 1, M Siraj c M

Jansen b Maharaj 0. **Extras** (B-5,LB-9, NB-2) 16. **Total** (all out, 63.5

overs) 140.

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-21, 3-40, 4-

42, 5-58, 6-95, 7-130, 8-138, 9-140

Bowling: M Jansen 15-7-23-1, W

Mulder 4-1-6-0, S Harmer 23-6-37-

6, K Maharaj 12.5-1-37-2, A Markram

2-0-2-0, S Muthusamy 7-1-21-1

you results in England and was coach for Champions Trophy," he asserted in the post-match press conference.

"You don't blame any individual or any particular shot. Blame lies with everyone. I never blamed individuals and won't do it going forward," he added.

Off-spinner Simon Harmer's career got a second

wind as he decimated the Indian team with turn, bounce and zip off the same surface on which home bowlers looked pedestrian.

Once Pant (13) was dismissed failing to counter the bounce, the writing was on the wall.

"I have been coming to India but never thought that we will walk away with a 2-0

series win," an expectedly delighted Bavuma said later.

The likes of Sai Sudharsan, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel and Nitish Reddy, which is the new brigade in Test cricket simply didn't have enough preparation to read a spinner from his hands.

Sudharsan scored 14 in 139 balls but was about to be dismissed about six times and

looked like getting out to every delivery.

His lack of readiness was the buck that would stop at Gambhir's door for his poor choice of personnel.

Gambhir's obsession with bits and pieces cricketers in the traditional format has left them team in a flux with none of the players sure about their places and roles in the team.

Shukri will have a look at his comments, says Bavuma

SA skipper on coach's controversial "grovel" remarks

GUWAHATI

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma on Wednesday downplayed Shukri Conrad's controversial remarks that he wanted India to "really grovel", through a prosaic reasoning that the head coach "will have a look at his comments".

Former players from both India and South Africa, including legends Anil Kumble and Dale Steyn, have expressed disappointment at Conrad's usage of the word "grovel", which carries a historical context, to describe Proteas' dominance in the just-concluded Test series which they won 2-0.

"Comments made by coach came to me this morning. I was focused on game and didn't have a chance to speak to him. Shukri is close to 60 years old and he will have a look at his comments," Bavuma said at the post-match press conference when asked about the comment that sparked a controversy.

Referring to the "bauna" comment made by Jasprit



SA captain Temba Bavuma, left, poses with the trophy at the end of the fifth day of the second Test. PTI

Comments made by coach came to me this morning. I was focused on game and didn't have a chance to speak to him. Shukri is close to 60 years old and he will have a look at his comments **T Bavuma**, SA skipper

Bumrah to describe the South Africa skipper's height during the first Test in Kolkata. Bavuma added, "But in this series certain guys have also crossed the line. Not saying coach crossed the line, but he will surely think about it." For the uninitiated, the word 'grovel' carries a cricketing

context. In 1976, when the West Indies arrived in England for a Test series as overwhelming favourites, then English captain Tony Greig during a pre-series interview said, "... I intend to make them (West Indies) grovel." WI thrashed England 5-0 in the series.

about the constant chopping and changing method of head coach Gautam Gambhir, under whom India have lost a home series 0-3 to New Zealand last year, surrendered the Border-Gavaskar Trophy to Australia and now gone down to South Africa at home for the first time in 25 years.

"Test match cricket requires a different mindset, you can't really have so many all rounders, so



Pant concedes India needs to get better

Stand-in skipper says results cannot be taken for granted at home

GUWAHATI

Stand-in skipper Rishabh Pant on Wednesday conceded that India needed to get better as a Test team, and said results cannot be taken for granted just because of playing in home conditions.

South Africa towelled India by 408 runs in the second Test here to complete a 2-0 series sweep, the first such instance for the visitors since their triumph under Hansie Cronje in the 1999-2000 series.

"It's little disappointing. As a team we need to get better. We need to give credit to the opposition. They dominated the series but at the same time, you can't take cricket for granted (because of playing at home)," said Pant in the post-match presentation.

Pant said India will have to learn from the series and get better in future.

"We need to take the learning and stick as a team. We needed to be clear with our mindset. In the future, we need to learn from it and get better."

The wicketkeeper-batter admitted that South Africa played better cricket throughout the series.



India's captain Rishabh Pant, left, and South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma interact after the latter's team won the second Test. PTI

"They played better cricket, cricket demands that you need to capitalise as a team. And we did not do that and that cost us the whole series."

"The positive will be focussing on our own plan and that's what we will take from this series," he added.

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was delighted to sweep the series.

"It's massive. For me personally, I've been out of the game for a couple of months with injury. Not every day you can come to India and walk

Gambhir leaves future to the BCCI

India coach reminded everyone of the success the team achieved

GUWAHATI

Under-fire India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday said it was up to the BCCI to decide his future after the Test series white-wash against South Africa but also reminded everyone of the success the team has achieved in his tenure.

Gambhir was speaking after the humiliating 408-run drubbing at the hands of South Africa in the second Test here Wednesday, which gave the visitors a 2-0 series sweep.

"It is up to the BCCI to decide my future. But I am the same guy who got you results in England and was coach for Champions Trophy," Gambhir said at the post-match press conference referring to India's title-winning run in the Champions Trophy and a gruelling 2-2 draw against the English in their own backyard earlier this year.

"The blame lies with everyone and starts with me," he conceded in his first reactions after the 0-2 drubbing.



It is up to the BCCI to decide my future. But I am the same guy who got you results in England and was coach for Champions Trophy

Gautam Gambhir
India head coach

"We need to play better. From 95/1 to 122/7 is not acceptable. You don't blame any individual or any particular shot. Blame lies with everyone. I never blamed individuals and won't do it going forward," he added.

Under Gambhir, India have lost 10 of the 18 Tests, including twin whitewashes against New Zealand last year and South Africa now, both at home.

India's defeat against South Africa at Guwahati is their largest in terms of runs in Test cricket.



India's head coach Gautam Gambhir (right) with captain Rishabh Pant.



It's little disappointing. As a team we need to get better. We need to give credit to the opposition. They dominated the series but at the same time, you can't take cricket for granted

Rishabh Pant
India stand-in skipper

well. Bit more guile with the ball, it's a struggle to take the ball out of their hands. Simon was the man for us in this series," he said. Off-spinner Harmer was adjudged the player of the series, and he said he will leave these shores with fond memories.

"Like I said in the last Test, it's been a long road. 10 years later, a completely different feeling. Will leave with a lot more fonder memories from then. To beat a very good Indian team is a hell of an effort.

reactions

Former players question India's Test approach

NEW DELHI

Former players Anil Kumble and **Venkatesh Prasad** have questioned the Indian team's muddled approach, lack of stability and the increasing reliance on all-rounders in the wake of the 0-2 series loss to South Africa.

The Proteas inflicted a 408-run defeat on India in the second Test, their heaviest defeat by margin of runs, in Guwahati on Wednesday. Kumble was scathing

much chopping and changing, so many changes in the batting order, in the team itself. Every second game you have a new player coming in, couple of guys get dropped," Kumble said on the official broadcast.

The past year has seen the exits of Virat Kohli, R Ashwin, Cheteshwar Pujara and Rohit Sharma from the Test arena, leaving a young group to fill massive shoes.

"I think India needs to sit down and think and ponder. You can't forget these results,

Former pacer Prasad echoed similar frustration, slamming what he called "all-rounder obsession"

you need to have a discussion around how you see Indian Test cricket go forward. Stalwarts have retired in the last 6-8 months and when that happens you need to have a vision and have a con-

versation as to what the team has to do," Kumble said.

"You can't get players in a side and hope they will develop and grow in the team. It can't happen, you can have 1 or 2 players like that in the line up if you have 8-9 strong players who have the experience. But you can't have 1-2 experienced batters and bowlers and the rest of them are trying to find their feet." Former pacer Prasad echoed similar frustration, slamming what he called an "all-rounder obsession".

"Really disappointed by how India is going about in Test cricket. The all-rounder obsession is absolute brain-fade especially when you don't bowl them. Rank Poor tactics, poor skills, poor body language and an unprecedented 2 series white wash at home. Hope this does not get washed off with Test matches 9 months away and this negative approach changes," Prasad wrote on X. Former England captain K Pietersen was surprised by India's rapid decline.