

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Tuesday, 06 January, 2026

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

## Briefs

CHANDIGARH

### Criminal with ₹1L bounty nabbed

Haryana police on Monday claimed to have nabbed an interstate criminal with a Rs 1 lakh bounty on his head in a brief encounter in Gurugram district. The criminal, Yad Ram, 50, is a native of district Oreya of Uttar Pradesh (UP) who was currently living in Jaipur (Rajasthan).

KOLKATA

### Kabir faces the wrath of TMC men

'Go Back' slogans were raised against suspended Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and Janata United Party (JUP) chief Humayun Kabir by TMC supporters when he visited Kolkata's iconic Brigade Parade ground to inspect the venue for a proposed mega political rally of his party, likely to be held by early next month.

LUCKNOW

### Criminal killed in Sultanpur

A 26-year-old wanted criminal with a reward of Rs 1 lakh was killed in a police encounter in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district, underscoring the state police's intensified crack-down on crime that has seen 15 encounters in past 100 days. The deceased was identified as Azam Khan alias Talib, a resident of Gauriya village in Lakhimpur Kheri district.

NEW DELHI

### Gym dispute on ownership turns violent

A long-standing dispute over a gym's ownership turned into a nightmare for a Delhi family when the establishment's 52-year-old owner and his son were dragged, stripped and beaten in full public view by a group of men in Laxmi Nagar, while his wife was also allegedly molested by the accused. Police said they have arrested one of the accused.

## THIRD LETTER FROM CM | Mamata's concerns 'pure fiction', says Bengal LoP Suvendu Adhikari in counter missive to CEC

# TMC, BJP spar over SIR

KOLKATA

A day after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote her third letter to Chief Electoral Officer (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar regarding SIR, Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari had also written a counter letter refuting allegations of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) Supremo.

"I have sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner Ganesh Kumar, dismantling Mamata Banerjee's desperate lies against the SIR exercise and her latest plea for halting SIR. Her so-called 'concerns' about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is nothing but 'Pure Fiction'. In reality, this ECI drive is throwing the spotlight on the TMC's dirty secrets: fake voters, ghosts of the deceased, and illegal infiltrators they've protected for years to rig the elections. It's crystal clear that Mamata Banerjee is panicking because SIR is a death knell for her 2026 dreams," said Adhikari on X.

Talking to the media, Adhikari claimed that Mamata is telling 'lies' as the election is nearing.

"Post SIR exercise, the way TMC had conducted the elec-



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during laying of the foundation stone for the 'Gangasagar Setu', a 5-km-long bridge over Muriganga river to connect Sagar Island, in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Monday

tions since 2011 won't be possible for which she (Mamata) is raising her voice and is misleading people," said Adhikari.

However, Banerjee said at Gangasagar, "Fifty-four lakh names have been deleted. AI is being used to remove names. The Election Commission is operating on WhatsApp. Courts will open tomorrow. We will take legal steps. People have been harassed and many people have died. If need be, I will go to the Supreme Court to plead for the common people. I will not go as a lawyer but as a common person."

Meanwhile, TMC MP Deepak Adhikari along with cricketer Md. Shami along with several Bengali actors called for SIR hearing.

According to sources, since Shami is presently not in Kolkata, the cricketer had sought another date for the hearing.

On the other hand, state Chief Election Commissioner Manoj Agarwal visited the national capital to hold a meeting about the phases of election in Bengal and also about the number of companies of central forces that will be deployed during the election in West Bengal.

### 14 voters found holding Indian EPIC cards, B'desh passports

Amid the ongoing SIR in West Bengal, the office of the CEO has received information about 14 voters who are holding Indian EPIC cards and Bangladeshi passports simultaneously. The CEO's office sought information about them from the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Kolkata, which confirmed that these 14 voters were holding Bangladeshi passports.

### Pregnant woman wrongly deported gives birth

Pregnant Bengali woman, Sunali Khatun, who returned to India in December last year -- six months after being deported to Bangladesh on suspicion of being a citizen of the neighbouring country -- on Monday gave birth to a boy. TMC General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee congratulated Khatun and told that he would meet her on Tuesday.

## BJP seeks apology from Cong for backing Delhi riots accused

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday demanded an apology from the Congress for supporting the 2020 Delhi riots accused Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam after the Supreme Court rejected their bail pleas.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said both Khalid and Imam were not only getting the sympathy of the Congress and its ecosystem but they were also receiving letters of support from abroad.

Describing the Delhi riots as a "very serious crime aimed at tearing the country apart," he said the apex court has not only rejected the bail but also observed that the crimes, including charges of terrorism and the burning of Delhi, prima facie appear to be valid.

"The Court clearly stated that the charges against them are prima facie related to terrorism and the Delhi riots and appear to be correct," he said, adding that the order had also noted that this was a serious offence akin to breaking the country into pieces.

The BJP spokesperson said the court clarified that the riots that took place in Delhi were not a coincidence or an acci-



Qasim Ilyas, father of activist Umar Khalid outside the Supreme Court, in New Delhi, on Monday

## Oppn questions denial of bail to Umar, Sharjeel

New Delhi: Opposition leaders on Monday raised questions over the Supreme Court denying bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 Delhi riots conspiracy case. In a post on X, Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary MA Baby said, "Is languishing in jail for five years, without any possibility of trial starting, not a violation of the fundamental right to life and liberty?" "At the same time, convicted rapist Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh walked out of jail today on his 15th parole since his conviction in 2017" he added. Taking to X, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas said the principle that "bail is the rule, jail the exception" clearly does not apply when it comes to certain individuals.

dental incident, but were deliberate and well-thought-out acts. "In recent years, attempts at violent transfer of power have taken place in several countries, which parties like the Congress and the

Samajwadi Party openly or covertly support. This very anti-Hindu massacre mindset even today glorifies Ghazni and Ghauri and is seen standing with the gang that seeks to break Delhi," said Poonawalla.

## After Trump's fresh tariff threats, Cong asks if US dictating to India

NEW DELHI

After US President Donald Trump claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to make him "happy" and that this was the reason India had cut down on its oil purchase from Russia, the Congress demanded that the PM clarify if India's foreign policy was now being dictated by the U.S.

Reacting to Trump's statement, Congress general secretary **Jairam Ramesh** wrote in a post on "X" that, "The PM's good friend in the White House continues his 'blow hot, blow cold' approach to India. He has yet again threatened higher tariffs on US imports from India if India did not stop buying oil from Russia. All those Namaste Trump, Howdy Modi events, all those (forced)



### Trump says India reduced its oil purchases from Russia as Modi wants to keep him happy, Cong said

hugs, and all those social media posts hailing the US President have done very little good."

The Congress party also put out a post stating that, "Donald Trump says India reduced its oil purchases from Russia because Modi wants to keep him happy."

Quoting Trump's statement during an Air Force One flight, in which he had said, "Modi wanted to make me happy. He knew I was not happy, and it was important to make me happy," the Congress said the US President has clearly stated

that India cut back on Russian oil purchases due to US pressure. Therefore, the principal opposition party said the PM must answer if India's foreign policy was now being dictated by the US; and was the decision to reduce Russian oil imports taken to appease Trump?

The party also asked, "Why is Modi silent? Why should the nation pay the price for Modi's weakness? Why does Modi appear so intimidated by Trump? India deserves a clear, robust and independent foreign policy, not silent submission."

## Water tragedy in Indore: GBS-like symptoms found?

INDORE

A 67-year-old woman from Bhagirathpura, the ground zero of diarrhoea outbreak triggered by contaminated drinking water in Indore, has reportedly shown Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)-like symptoms and is battling for her life in a hospital. However, the administration on Monday rejected reports of any GBS case in the affected area.

The woman, Parvati Kondla, had earlier been admitted to another hospital, where doctors, based on reports, indicated GBS-like symptoms, as per an official of a private hospital. "However, when she was thoroughly examined at our hospital, it was found that she is also suffering from a brain stroke. Treatment is being administered based on all symptoms," he said.

## 'Renewed sense of nationalism in J&K after Article 370 step'

SRINAGAR

Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs **Manohar Lal Khattar** on Sunday said that Jammu and Kashmir has become the first part of a "Hindu Rashtra" following the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A in 2019.

Addressing a Hindu Sammelan at the Mahadev Temple in Reasi district of Jammu division, organised as part of the centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Khattar said Hindutva stood for nationalism and devotion to the nation, irrespective of religion. He said the abrogation of Article 370 had led to a renewed sense of nationalism in the region. Highlighting RSS ideology, the minister said the organisation works on the principle of "nation



first" and has grown into a strong social movement over the past 100 years.

Earlier in the day, Khattar laid the foundation stone for the dam concreting works of the Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar district. He said the project had faced a delay of over two years due to various reasons, but work had now been accelerated. The 800 MW power generated from the project, he said, would benefit Jammu and Kashmir as well as other parts of the country. He stressed that residents should be given priority in employment related to the project, calling

them the rightful stakeholders.

Responding to Pakistan's objections to hydropower projects such as Dul Hasti, Khattar said all such projects were being executed purely in India's national interest and that Pakistan had no role in them. He said objections would not be considered and added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made India's position clear by keeping the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance.

Khattar also said strict security measures were in place and persons with unlawful backgrounds would not be allowed to be associated with hydel projects. On reports of alleged Over Ground Workers at project sites, he said the matter would be looked into locally and ruled out an NIA probe at this stage.

## Yogi's meet with PM sparks talk of UP cabinet reshuffle

NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the capital on Monday triggered speculation about a possible cabinet reshuffle in the state ahead of the Assembly elections there which are due in early 2027.

Official sources insisted that Yogi's nearly 50-minute meeting with the PM at the latter's official residence was primarily aimed at discussing issues pertaining to taking up development projects in the state and the deletion of names during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The two are also learnt to have discussed the need to

ensure regional and social balance in the anticipated cabinet reshuffle to provide representation to different communities.

Yogi also invited the Prime Minister to the inauguration of the Jewar Airport and the Ganga Expressway.

The issue of reshuffle has surfaced because some UP ministers like Jitendra Prasad and Anoop Pradhan were inducted in the Union Cabinet following the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Several others had been given roles in the party organisation. Also a need is being felt to move some leaders from organisational roles, like state president Bhopendra Chaudhary, into the Council, which earlier had 54 ministers.

## Kavitha, rebel daughter of KCR, announces new party

HYDERABAD

**Kalvakuntla Kavitha** turned emotional during her last speech in Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday and declared that Telangana Jagruthi, which she is heading, will be turned into a political party.

The daughter of former Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR) alleged that she suffered utter humiliation in the party.

Kavitha, who quit BRS after being suspended from the party and also sent her resignation as a Member of the



Legislative Council in September last year, made her last speech in the House. She urged the Council Chairman to accept her resignation.

Kavitha, who had floated Telangana Jagruthi, a cultural organisation, during the Telangana movement,

announced that Telangana Jagruthi would be turned into a political party now.

She vowed to return to the Legislature as a new political force. "A new political platform is coming up in the State. It will work for students, unemployed and all other sections," she said.

## Man kills three family members in east Delhi

New Delhi: A 25-year-old allegedly strangled his mother, sister and minor brother in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar after feeding them food laced with dhatura (a poisonous plant) over financial distress and later walking into a police station to confess the crime, police said on Monday.

The accused, identified as Yashbir Singh, surrendered at Laxmi Nagar police station around 5 pm and claimed to have killed his family members, they said.

According to the police, Yashbir told investigators that his family was facing acute financial hardship and was struggling to make ends meet. —PTI

## Lalu's plan to shift to new house could go haywire

PATNA

RJD chief **Lalu Prasad** reported plan to shift to a new private house in Kautilya Nagar after the state building construction department asked former deputy chief minister and his wife Rabri Devi to vacate her 10, Circular Road, may go haywire as a social activist, Guddu Baba, has claimed that the land was allotted to the family to construct house in violation of rules.

Vikas Chandra aka Guddu Baba has dedicated himself to cleaning up Ganga river by taking a number of initiatives, from cremating unclaimed cadavers found floating in the river to helping activate dysfunctional sewage treatment

plants. Guddu Baba has written to Bihar deputy chief minister and state revenue and land reforms minister Vijay Kumar Sinha demanding an investigation into the land in Kautilya Nagar on which

Lalu's new residence was built. He alleged that the land in question belonged to the Veterinary College, claiming that rules were disregarded in the allocation of the land and that a thorough investigation was needed.

The social activist claimed that in 1986, a cooperative society was formed in Kautilya Nagar, and 20 acres of land were leased to MLAs and MPs, where they built their houses. He alleged that these individuals did not adhere to the terms and conditions of the lease.



## Textbooks sold as scrap, UP headmaster gets the stick

LUCKNOW

The headmaster of a primary school in Nawazkheda village under Mohanlalganj tehsil has been suspended after books meant for students were allegedly sold to a scrap dealer. Ravindra Gupta, the headmaster of the school, was placed under suspension following the incident, which came to light after a video went viral on social media.

Basic Shiksha Adhikari Vipin Kumar confirmed the

suspension, describing the matter as a serious lapse. He said the suspension order itself clearly outlined the reasons and declined to comment further.

An official associated with the inquiry, who did not wish to be named, said that while there could have been negligence during inspections, both workbooks and textbooks were available on the school premises. He said that in such circumstances, the books should have been distributed among students instead of



being sold as scrap.

The issue surfaced last week after the video began circulating online, prompting the basic education department to order an inquiry. On

Wednesday morning, block education officer Sushil Kanaujia visited the Nawazkheda primary school and carried out an inspection. He interacted with local resi-

dents and later recorded the statement of a scrap dealer involved in the case.

In the viral video, the scrap dealer is seen exiting the school premises with sacks filled with books. Some village children stopped him outside the school and opened one of the sacks, revealing textbooks meant for Classes 1 to 5. The footage also showed a motorcycle rider standing nearby and several sacks, estimated to be around six, loaded on a cart. The total weight of the books and other material was esti-

mated to be around two quintals. The video was recorded by a local youth and shared on social media, triggering widespread public outrage.

The incident has drawn attention to the shortage of textbooks in government schools, as around 20 per cent of students in urban and rural primary schools in Lucknow are still without complete sets of books. Teachers had sent requisitions for textbooks to block education officers in July and August, but supplies have yet to reach several schools.





## Shri G. Srinivasa Rao has assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer of Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited

**Meja.** Senior NTPC official and Executive Director, Shri G. Srinivasa Rao, assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer of Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited today, on 05.01.2026. With his remarkable track record of leadership and expertise across diverse projects, Shri G. Srinivasa Rao will guide the Company through its next phase of growth and development. Shri G. Srinivasa Rao is a Mechanical Engineer from Osmania University, Hyderabad. He joined NTPC in 1989 as 14th batch of Engineering Executive Trainees (ET). He has previously worked in the Operation and EEMG department in Ramagundam. After that, he worked in the EEMG depart-



ment in Kudgi and then moved to Operation department in Kahalgaon. He subsequently worked in Operation Services-Strategic Initiatives and Information Systems (OS-SIIS) at CC-SCOPE in New Delhi and CC-EOC in Noida. Before his appointment as CEO of MUNPL Meja, Shri G. Srinivasa Rao held the position of Head of Project at NTPC Barh. Shri G. Srinivasa Rao's extensive and diverse experience across multiple key posi-

tions in NTPC has significantly enriched his role, bringing valuable expertise to both the posts he has held and the projects he has led. MUNPL is scaling its energy portfolio beyond its existing 2x660 MW units. The organization is now steering the proposal for a 3x800 MW expansion at Meja, complemented by new 2x800 MW capacity projects at both Obra and Anpara. Under the able leadership of Shri G. Srinivasa Rao, MUNPL Meja shall achieve new heights of success and march forward to newer milestones. With his direction, the entire team at MUNPL is confident that the project will not only meet its targets but surpass expectations, setting new benchmarks for success.

### Etah

In a significant administrative action, the Environment Department on Monday shut down the operational brick kiln at Khatu Shyam Brick Industry located in Rai village of the Aliganj Assembly constituency. The department ordered the extinguishing of the burning kiln furnace amid heavy police deployment and the presence of the fire brigade, triggering a stir across the region. The action was taken against the brick kiln owned by Samajwadi Party leader Mukesh Yadav, popularly known as Mukka, who is considered close to former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav. According to official sources, the Divisional Commissioner had received complaints alleging violations of pollution control norms and operation of the brick kiln without valid authorization. Taking the complaint seriously, a joint team of the Environment Department (Aligarh Range) and the Revenue Department was dispatched to the site. Upon the team arrival, security arrangements were tight-



ened and personnel from the local police station along with the fire brigade were deployed. Subsequently, the fire burning in the brick kiln was extinguished as per departmental directives. Administrative sources estimate that the kiln owner may have suffered losses amounting to several lakhs of rupees due to the action. Officials stated that the brick kiln had been operating for a long time without a valid No Objection Certificate (NOC), resulting in environmental pollution and blatant violation of established norms. The Environment Department clarified that the NOC of Khatu Shyam Brick Industry had expired in July 2025, yet operations continued without obtaining fresh permission from the department. This is not the first action against the

said brick kiln. Earlier, on Friday, the Mining Department had also taken stringent action by seizing a JCB machine and a soil-mixing machine from the same premises. Acting on complaints of illegal mining and non-payment of royalty, the mining team sealed both machines and deposited them at Aliganj police station. Environment Department Junior Engineer Abhishek Singh confirmed that the inspection was carried out based on the complaint received by the Divisional Commissioner. The investigation revealed that the brick kiln was operating illegally without a valid environmental NOC. He stated that, following departmental orders, the burning furnace has been extinguished and further legal proceedings are underway.

## Cold Wave Poses Serious Risk to Pregnant Women in Auraiya



### Auraiya

The continuous cold spell and chilling winds have significantly increased health complications for pregnant women in the district. Due to the prevailing cold conditions, many expectant mothers are falling victim to pneumonia and severe respiratory infections, posing serious risks not only to their own health but also to the development of the unborn child. According to doctors, 10 to 15 such cases are being reported daily at the medical college hospital. Medical experts explain that during pregnancy, a woman's immune system is naturally weaker than usual. In such circumstances, exposure to cold air and fluctuating temperatures accelerates infections. Ignoring common cold and cough symptoms can often lead to serious illnesses like pneumonia, resulting in breathing difficulties, fever and a dangerous drop in oxygen levels in the body. In cases of pneumonia, reduced oxygen levels in the mother can directly affect the fetus. This increases the risk of low birth weight, premature delivery and other pregnancy-related complications. Dr. Parul Jadon, a gynecologist at the medical college, advised pregnant women to wear warm clothing, avoid cold winds and refrain from visiting crowded places. She emphasized that at the first sign of cold, cough or fever, expectant mothers should immediately consult a doctor instead of self-medicating. Highlighting the importance of proper care, Dr. Rashmi Yadav stated that pregnant women should never consume medicines purchased over the counter without medical advice. She also stressed the need for a nutritious diet, warm fluids and adequate rest during the winter season. Meanwhile, hospitals are also witnessing an influx of elderly patients and other residents suffering from cough, cold and fever due to the cold weather. Doctors have urged everyone—not just pregnant women—to take precautions by avoiding cold food, drinking lukewarm water and covering the head while stepping outdoors to protect themselves from harsh winter conditions.

## Complete Resolution Day: 318 Cases Heard, Strict Action Taken Against Patwaris for Negligence

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj.** Public grievances were heard during the Complete Resolution Day organized in various tehsils of the district. A total of 318 cases were brought forward, many of which were resolved on the spot. Action was also taken against the concerned patwaris (village accountants) for negligence and indifference in their duties. In the Complete Resolution Day held at Tehsil Sadar, a total of 114 cases were brought for hearing, out of which 10 complaints were resolved on the spot. The application submitted by Vinod Kumar Nishad, a resident of Karelalbagh,

regarding old-age pension, was immediately addressed by obtaining a report, and the matter was resolved. In Tehsil Karchhana, a total of 102 cases were received during the Complete Resolution Day, out of which 3 complaints were resolved on the spot.

The report sent by the Tehsildar of Tehsil Bara to the District Magistrate stated that the complainants Om Narayan Pandey, Gram Pradhan Sarsedi, and Ram Gopal had complained about the removal of illegal encroachment from the land of the village road account. After a site and documentary investigation by the Revenue Inspector, the illegal

encroachment was removed from the concerned land. The complainant and other prominent persons were present during the action, and the complainant expressed satisfaction. In Tehsil Phulpur, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Phulpur took strict action against Patwari Anant Kumar Singh (Nevada area) and Patwari Sarvesh Kumar (Ustapur Mahmudabad) for negligence in resolving complaints received during the Resolution Day. Both patwaris were given an 'adverse entry' for failing to provide quality resolution despite repeated complaint applications and for not submitting satisfactory reports in IGRS

(Integrated Grievance Redressal System) cases. In Tehsil Koraon, Patwari Shiv Kumar Patel (village Kukarhata) has had his salary disbursement stopped until further orders due to his absence without prior notice or leave approval, disregard for the instructions of senior officers, and not residing in his assigned area. They have also been instructed to appear before the Tehsildar within three days and submit a written explanation. The administration has clarified that negligence in resolving public grievances will not be tolerated at any level, and strict action will continue to be taken against those responsible.

## Theft of lakhs of rupees, police still empty-handed after two weeks



**Jhansi.** The police have yet to make any progress in the case of a theft of lakhs of rupees that occurred two weeks ago in Triveni Puram, under the jurisdiction of the local police station. Despite a report being filed, there is no trace of the thieves, forcing the victimized family to repeatedly visit the police station in search of justice. Indu Gupta, who lives in a rented house, has a husband who works in Abu Dhabi. On December 24, she went to Bhopal with her children for their school holidays,

leaving the house locked. During this time, thieves targeted the locked house and stole 150 grams of gold jewelry and one lakh rupees in cash. The theft was discovered a week later upon

her return home. The police registered a case based on the victim's complaint, but the lack of concrete action has angered local residents and raised concerns about security.

## UP Youth Applaud Yogi Govt 3-Year Age Relaxation in Police Recruitment

### Lucknow



Lakhs of youth, especially from the general category, across Uttar Pradesh have warmly welcomed the Yogi Adityanath government decision to grant a three-year age relaxation in the direct recruitment of 32,679 Civil Police Constables and equivalent posts for 2025. Aspirants have described the move as timely, fair and a major relief after years of waiting for recruitment processes to resume. (Youth-Centric Governance) Young aspirants from several districts, including Muzaffarnagar, had recently raised concerns over age limits, stating that recruitment delays had pushed many beyond eligibility. The government swift

response has been seen as a clear message that the voices of youth are being heard at the highest level. Many candidates said the decision has renewed their confidence and given them a fresh opportunity to serve the state. Praising the move, state minister Kapil Dev Agarwal said the decision reflects the Yogi government commitment to the welfare of youth and the overall interest of the state. He

termed the age relaxation "a practical and sensitive step" that safeguards the future of hardworking aspirants, particularly those from the general category who were demanding equal relief. Once again, the Yogi Adityanath-led government has demonstrated that it remains deeply connected with people at the grassroots. By extending age relaxation across all categories,

### Varanasi

A one-day entrepreneurship awareness workshop was organized by the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, in collaboration with the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC) Extension Unit, Kanpur and the Sai Institute of Rural Development, Varanasi. The theme of the workshop was "Cultivation and Marketing of Aromatic Plants." The workshop was held at the Vishal Bharat Sansthan headquarters, Subhash Bhawan, Indresh Nagar, Lamhi, Varanasi. The program began with the lighting of the lamp by chief guest Dr. Bhakti Vijay Shukla. The Azad Hind Battalion, led by



Commander Dakshita Bharatvanshi, saluted the guests. Chief Guest Dr. Bhakti Vijay Shukla, in her address, praised the program and said that cultivating aromatic and medicinal plants can become a powerful and sustainable source of livelihood for rural youth and women. This sector offers great potential at a low cost and by adopting a scientific approach, the rural economy can be strengthened. Guest of Honour Ajay Singh, Director, Sai Institute of Rural Development, Varanasi, said,

"Aromatic and medicinal plants can not only contribute significantly to the country economy, but also provide a new direction to rural entrepreneurship. Such training programmes inspire youth and women to become self-reliant." In the technical session of the workshop Sanjay Rastogi, IPR Expert, provided detailed guidance on important technical points related to commercial cultivation, processing, branding, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and marketing of aromatic plants.

## Rural India towards self-reliance through cultivation of aromatic plants

## Efforts to Address the Issues Faced by Divyang Students

In this regard, the university has taken important decisions in line with the issues raised by students during the 'Divyang Vidyarthi Samvaad' (Interaction with divyang students) with the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi held on 29th September, 2025 at the Centenary Agricultural Auditorium. The decisions taken at the meeting of the Standing Committee for Persons with Disabilities held on 30th September, 2025 have been approved by the Vice-Chancellor. The OBC & Disability Cell has written to all Deans, Heads of Departments and administrative wardens of hostels requesting details of ramps, lifts and other facilities available for divyang students in their respective departments, faculties and hostels. The HOD have also been requested to do the needful for immediate allocation of supervisors to divyang research scholars, along with other research students. All Directors, Deans, HOD and administrative wardens of hostels have also been requested to prepare a panel of scribes for visually impaired students with 40 percent or more disability in regular and competitive examinations and to send a copy of the panel to the Disability Cell.

## Brisk Shopping Marks Conclusion of Doba Fair

### Erwa Katra

The fair organized at the Samadhi site of Sage Rishi Durvasa in Doba Mafi village of the region concluded on Sunday with heavy footfall and vibrant shopping activity. Pleasant weather and relief from the cold encouraged.

## Information

This is to inform the general public that my name is Mohammad Safi (MOHD SAFI), son of Ansar Ahmad, as recorded on my Aadhaar card, PAN card, and mark sheets. My passport shows my name as Mohammad Safi, son of Ansar Ahmad. Both names belong to the same person and are correct and valid.



# Kriya Yoga Camp Inaugurated in Magh Mela Area

**On the Holy occasion of Paramahansa Yogananda's birth anniversary, Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Maharaj will inaugurate the camp at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg in Magh mela 2026**

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj :** The Kriya Yoga camp was inaugurated in the divine presence of Guruji Swami Shri Yogi Satyam. It is noteworthy that January 5, 2026, marks the birth anniversary of the great yogi and spiritual master Paramahansa Yogananda. On this occasion, the camp located in the Magh Mela area was also inaugurated by Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Maharaj by lighting a lamp. The inauguration of the camp and the birth anniversary of the



great yogi Paramahansa Yogananda were celebrated in a spiritual manner by offering Kriyayoga Meditation

to all. A special program was organized for devotees and seekers on this occasion. As part of the birth anniversary



celebrations, the Kriya Yoga Magh Mela camp, located at the intersection of Mahatma Gandhi Marg and Lower Sangam Marg, was inaugurated by Swami Shri Yogi Satyam on Monday at 5 PM. The camp provides guidance on Kriya

Yoga, meditation, spiritual practices, and other topics related to spiritual life.

According to the organizers, this camp will serve as a means to spread the spiritual messages of Gyanavatar Yukteswar ji which was very well

spread by Paramahansa Yogananda to the masses and inspire seekers towards spiritual progress. On this occasion people from our great spiritual Nation Bharat ( India), USA, Canada, Singapore, Switzerland, Korea, Nepal, South Africa, North Africa, Netherlands, Gayana, Brazil etcDetailed information related to the camp is available on the organization's official website.For more information, devotees and interested seekers can visit [www.kriyayogisatyam.org](http://www.kriyayogisatyam.org)

## In the biting cold, a home is destroyed; fire snatches away a poor family's entire belongings

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Ghazipur.** In the Ghazipur district, under the limits of Mohammadabad Kotwali police station, a fire reduced a family's home and belongings to ashes. A hut, once adorned with the fruits of hard labor, was transformed into a pile of ashes in just a few moments. A sudden fire in Bachhal-ka-Pura village, under the local Kotwali police station area, snatched away everything from a poor family. In the biting cold, the family lost their roof over their heads, and fear and helplessness were clearly visible in the eyes of the innocent children. According to the information received, Gudia Devi, wife of Sukhari Yadav, who is the Tehsil President of the Bharatiya Divyang Shakti Organization, had gone to the Tehsil for some important work. Meanwhile, her husband, Sukhari Yadav, had gone to work as usual. There was no one at home. Suddenly, she received a phone call informing her that her hut had caught fire. Upon receiving the news, Gudia Devi rushed towards the village in a state of panic, but by the time she arrived, the fire had consumed everything. Years of hard-earned household items, clothes, grains, and important documents had all been reduced to ashes. Seeing the flames, the villagers were alarmed. The villagers immediately started a submersible pump and tried to extinguish the fire by carrying water in buckets. After much effort, the fire was brought under control, but by then the hut was completely destroyed. The affected family has four daughters and one son, who are now forced to live under the open sky. Upon receiving information about the incident, Uday Narayan Pandey, Sukhran Yadav, Bablu Ram, Santosh Tiwari, and other members of the Bharatiya Divyang Shakti Organization reached the spot and consoled the affected family. The organization also provided whatever assistance was possible. This incident once again highlights the insecure lives of poor families and the need for administrative assistance. In this cold weather, the affected family urgently needs immediate help and rehabilitation.



# Three members of the same family murdered in Mauaima, missing since Saturday, search for bodies underway

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Prayagraj:** A major incident came to light in Prayagraj on Monday. Three members of the same family were murdered. Their bodies were found in a well near their house. All three had been missing since Saturday. The crime was allegedly committed by a young man from the same family. It is reported that the elder son killed his father, sister, and niece with an axe and threw their bodies into a well near the house. Upon receiving information about the incident, the police reached the spot. A dog squad and forensic team arrived at the scene to collect evidence. A land dispute is believed to be the motive behind the incident. According to the police, there was a dispute between the father and son over property division. There was also a dispute regarding this matter on Saturday, which was under



investigation. Ram Singh, a resident of Lokapur Vishani, has two sons. Mukesh Kumar is the elder, while Mukund Lal is the younger. Mukesh Kumar is married and lives with his father and other family members. Mukund lives separately. There has been a long-standing dispute between the two brothers over the division of

land. A dispute over land division occurred on Saturday. It is alleged that in front of their father, the elder brother Mukesh fired a shot at his younger brother. The bullet grazed the younger brother's face and neck. The injured Mukund Lal was admitted to the community health center. **Dispute with father over**

land

Mukund Lal was demanding his share of the land from his father, Ram Singh. Ram Singh was saying that he would give the land only after his daughters' marriages. This led to frequent arguments between the elder and younger brothers. It was over this matter that on Saturday, around 3 pm, Mukesh fired at Mukund Lal with a pistol at home. Villagers informed the police and took the injured Mukund to the hospital.

After treatment, doctors said that the bullet had only grazed him. It is in connection with this incident that Ram Singh, his daughter, and his daughter's child were murdered. Mukesh has confessed to the murders. Several police officers from various stations, along with other officials, arrived at the scene. The deceased have been identified as Ram Singh, Sadhana (21), and Aastha (14).

**Younger son filed a missing person report**

Mukund Lal stated that he was working on a shuttering project in Katnai, Bahariya, on Friday. He stayed in Katnai overnight. On Saturday afternoon, as soon as he reached home, his elder brother started arguing with him and fired a shot. After receiving treatment and filing an FIR, he returned home to find all his family members missing. According to Mukund Lal, his father's phone was switched off. Mukund Lal filed a missing person report at the Mauaima police station. He became worried when he couldn't find his father Ram Singh Patel (55), sister Sadhana Devi (24), and niece Aastha Devi (14) at home.

**The dispute was over four and a half bighas of land** There was a land dispute between Ram Singh's two sons. Ram Singh, his younger

son Mukund Lal, daughter Sadhana Devi, and granddaughter Aastha lived together. Mukesh Kumar, on the other hand, lived separately in a house he had built with his wife Pramila Devi, two daughters, and one son. Two years ago, Ram Singh Patel had transferred four and a half bighas of land to Mukund Lal. When Mukesh Kumar found out, he would argue with his father and brother, demanding a share of the land. On Saturday, Mukesh Kumar fired at Mukund Lal during this dispute. **DCP Gangapur arrived and conducted an investigation** Following the murder of three people in Lokapur Vishani, Mauaima, DCP Gangapur Kuldeep Singh Gunawat arrived at the crime scene and conducted an investigation. A forensic expert team and a dog squad team also arrived at the scene and assisted in the investigation.

## One Lakh Rupee Reward-Winning Liquor Smuggler Navdeep Singh Arrested

**Prayagraj:** A team of the Special Task Force (STF) arrested Navdeep Singh alias Navi Grewal alias Lucky, a notorious criminal carrying a reward of one lakh rupees for his involvement in liquor smuggling, from Zirakpur in Mohali, Punjab, on Monday. The accused's network extended to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand. Police had been searching for the accused since 2023. According to the STF, in 2023, the STF in Prayagraj seized illegal liquor being transported under the guise of eggs. This consignment was being sent to Bihar and Jharkhand by Navdeep's syndicate, a resident of SAS Nagar, Mohali. The truck driver was arrested, while Navdeep managed to escape. An FIR was registered against Navdeep at the



Nawabganj police station in Prayagraj for liquor smuggling. A reward of one lakh rupees was announced for his arrest in this case. Since then, the team had been searching for the accused. Meanwhile, information was received that Navdeep had made his hideout in Mohali, Punjab. Acting on this information, a team led by STF Inspector Jai Prakash Rai reached Zirakpur and apprehended the accused. During interrogation, he revealed that he, along with his friend Manveer Singh alias Mannu, a resident of

Hisar, Haryana, and other associates, had been operating an interstate liquor smuggling syndicate for several years. He used to hide illegal liquor in trucks carrying eggs, poultry feed, and plastic scrap from Chandigarh and Punjab and send it to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand.

**FIRs Registered in These Districts** The STF investigation revealed that FIRs have been registered against the accused in Prayagraj, as well as Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Barabanki, Kanpur, Bhadohi, Raebareli, and Ranchi in Jharkhand. The accused was arrested and jailed in 2022 in a liquor smuggling case in Ranchi, Jharkhand. STF officers said that after Navdeep's arrest, he will be brought to Prayagraj on transit remand.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

**Ghazipur.** A comprehensive grievance redressal day was held at the Kasimabad Tehsil under the chairmanship of Avinash Kumar and in the presence of Superintendent of Police Dr. Eray Raja in the Tehsil auditorium for the quick resolution of public problems. 58 complaints/petitions were received, of which 5 were resolved on the spot.

According to the information from all seven tehsils, a total of 279 complaints/petitions were received during the comprehensive grievance redressal day, of which 25 were resolved on the spot. In the same vein, 53 complaints/petitions were received in Sadar Tehsil, of which 1 was resolved on the spot. In Mohammadabad Tehsil, 43 complaints/petitions were received under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, of which 7 were resolved on the spot. In Zamania Tehsil, 40 complaints/petitions were received under the chairman-



ship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, of which 4 were resolved on the spot. In Jakhania Tehsil, 43 complaints/petitions were received under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, of which 3 were resolved on the spot. In Saidpur Tehsil, 15 complaints/petitions were received under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, of which 2 were resolved on the spot, and in Sevarai Tehsil, 27 complaints/petitions were received under the chairmanship of the Tehsildar, of which 3 were resolved on the

spot. The District Magistrate, on the occasion of the comprehensive grievance redressal day, listened attentively to the complaints of the general public and resolved some complaints on the spot. The remaining complaints were forwarded to the concerned officers with instructions for timely and quality resolution. On this occasion, the officers/employees of the police and revenue departments were instructed that land disputes and mutual disputes are related to the same subject, therefore, the officers of the revenue department and the police department should

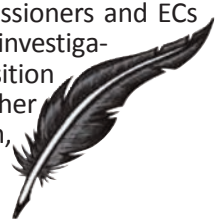
ensure the resolution of disputes by establishing mutual coordination. All the revenue officers of the tehsil were instructed that minor problems of the complainants, which can be resolved immediately, should be addressed without causing any inconvenience to the individuals. On this occasion, Chief Development Officer Santosh Kumar Vaishya, District Development Officer Subhash Chandra Saroj, Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Kasimabad, Tehsildar of Kasimabad, Circle Officer of Kasimabad, and all district-level officers were present.



## Editorial

### Amit Shah looks sure of ruling till 2049 but Team Modi is losing steam and imagination

Amit Shah had declared at the Bharatiya Janata Party's national executive meeting in 2018 that the party will win the 2019 Lok Sabha election and "no one can dethrone the BJP for the next 50 years"—that is, till 2069. Last month, the Union Home Minister and BJP chief strategist said in the Lok Sabha that the Opposition parties would be there (on the Opposition benches) "for the next 20 years"—that is, till 2045. Let's make it 2049 because the Lok Sabha election will have taken place in 2044. It also takes into account Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of making India a developed country by 2047. Modi is looking to remain at the helm till 2035, at least. In his Independence Day address, he said that "in the coming 10 years, till 2035, I want to expand this (national security shield) ...strengthen it, modernise it". "I" is key here. He will be only 85 by then. And he is much fitter than Joe Biden who demitted the US President's office at 82. Mahathir Mohamad was the Prime Minister of Malaysia till he was almost 95. You may think I can't be serious. Talks of 20 or 50 years are just rhetorical, aren't they? A former BJP MP advised me not to take PM Modi's reference to 2035 seriously. "The day a leader throws a hint that he is even thinking of a retirement plan, everybody around him starts abandoning him. You can't afford to do that in politics," he explained. Maybe. What if BJP leaders truly believe what they say? How else could you explain the Modi-led government's sudden decision to bring the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, envisaged to unseat the Prime Minister, chief ministers, and ministers on the 31st day of their arrest or detention in custody? The PM figures in it for effect, of course. The proposed legislation places the CMs and ministers at the mercy of mostly Central investigation agencies whose track record in impartiality is better left undiscussed. These central agencies are known to often go out of their way to please the political bosses. The CMs and ministers who are not from the ruling party/coalition at the Centre have reasons to be alarmed by the proposed legislation. It is always prone to being used against the Opposition. Former Union minister Sharad Pawar recently pointed out how during the Manmohan Singh government, it was P Chidambaram who had backed the amendment in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to put the onus to prove innocence on the accused. Pawar told Singh that it was dangerous. "If the government changes, we will also have to face consequences. But the advice was not heeded," disclosed Pawar. In 2019, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Chidambaram in a PMLA case. He had to spend 106 days in jail before he got bail. The proposed law—Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill—can potentially be weaponized by a ruling party at the Centre (not necessarily BJP) to destabilise governments in states ruled by rival parties (the BJP, included). So, why would Shah or the BJP want to make such a law? The most conceivable answer is that the BJP doesn't see itself sitting on the Opposition benches in the Lok Sabha ever—till 2049, at least. Look at the Centre's stand on the Supreme Court setting a timeline for the governors to act on the bills passed by state assemblies. It wants the elected governments in the states to be placed at the mercy of its nominees in the Raj Bhawans. Only a party that is confident of being in power at the Centre forever would want to take such a stand. This confidence of the BJP is reflected in so many other ways—from overturning the SC's ruling to end government's control over the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioners and ECs to the alleged use of central investigative agencies to target Opposition leaders. There are many other instances. Here is the catch, though.



## Why Modi, BJP should worry about bad blood between CEC Gyanesh Kumar and Rahul Gandhi?

Amit Malviya must be a harried man as Rahul Gandhi set out on his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar on Sunday. Bharatiya Janata Party's social media department, headed by Malviya, is facing flak in the Right-wing ecosystem. The reason: its purported failure to counter the Opposition's narrative about the Election Commission's special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. Let's look at one such thread. Tushar Gupta, whose bio proclaims him to be "anti-Left", took to X to express his concern about the "fake news" being spread about the electoral process. "Absolutely zero resistance. ECI's press releases are not going to cut it..." he wrote. His argument was that the 18-24 age group in 2029 would be "reelers", not readers, and could be easily swung by Gandhi. "And this is exactly what he (Gandhi) is doing right now," he added. X users reacted to the thread, venting their ire on Malviya, with some even demanding his resignation as the BJP's IT cell chief. Dr Ratan Sharda, who has written several books on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), agreed with Tushar and said that Gen Z is "not clued on" to the BJP. "The communication, the enunciation, the slogans — all present a middle-aged projection of a young successful party led by the most popular PM of all times whom youth love. @BJP4India needs to reinvent its SM approach and communication," he wrote. To be fair to Malviya, headline management and narra-



tive-building aren't so easy after 11 years in power. The belligerence of the Election Commission (EC) in dealing with the Opposition isn't helping him either. "Give an oath or apologise to the nation. There is no third option," Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said at a press conference Sunday, taking on Gandhi's 'vote theft' charge. Many Constitutional experts like former Lok Sabha Secretary General PDT Achary have rubbished the EC's demand for Gandhi's oath under Rule 20(3)(b) of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960, maintaining that it does not apply in this case. Kumar wouldn't bother. Since when has the CEC assumed the authority to instruct public representatives to apologise? Even former CEC MS Gill, who joined the Congress and went on to become a Union Minister after retirement, never demanded it from Opposition leaders as long as he helmed the EC. One may not agree with Gandhi's phraseology—from 'chowkidar chor hai (the gatekeeper is the thief)' to 'vote chori (vote theft)'. He often gets carried away, trying to bring

'earthquakes' in Indian politics. But that can't be the reason for a constitutional body to publicly berate the Leader of the Opposition. Also, it's not the first time that the EC has been accused of favouring the ruling party. After all, the fact is that the CEC was and still is essentially Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handpicked man—the ruling party's choice in that chair. After losing the South Delhi Lok Sabha seat to the Congress in the 1971 elections, Jan Sangh leader Balraj Madhok had gone to court complaining of rigging allegedly facilitated by the ruling Congress and the EC. He had alleged that the ballot papers were chemically treated and mechanically stamped to favour the Congress candidate, Shashi Bhushan. The Supreme Court dismissed his appeal. In 2002, then Gujarat Chief Minister Modi drew censure from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for attacking CEC JM Lyngdoh. There are myriad instances of politicians attacking the EC, but no CEC made it a personal issue until now. The body is entrusted to conduct free and fair polls, with no malice toward any party or politi-

cian. If there is bad blood and a public spat between the CEC and the Opposition leaders, it will shake the people's trust and faith in the election results. And that is the worst thing that could happen to Indian democracy. Instead of attacking Rahul Gandhi, the EC could have simply ordered an investigation into his claims of fake voters in Bengaluru's Mahadevapura—or, for that matter, the supposedly inflated number of voters in Maharashtra. It could have done a Bihar-like special intensive revision (SIR) in Mahadevapura immediately to rebut the allegations. That would have bolstered its credibility and its Bihar SIR case. BJP leader Anurag Thakur also made allegations about fake voters in the constituencies of Opposition leaders such as Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, and others. Thakur also accused them of 'vote theft'. Gandhi and Thakur were making the same disclosure—that voter lists across the country have issues. CEC Kumar hasn't reacted to Thakur's allegations yet. Fake voters' list is no news, anyway. The CEC could have thanked the Congress and BJP leaders for highlighting this issue again and used it to justify a countrywide SIR. What to speak of allegations of irregularities in Assembly or Lok Sabha elections, in the recent Delhi Constitution Club election (in which incumbent and former MPs are voters), Congress leader and former MP Brijendra Singh found to his dismay that his vote had already been cast. So did

another former MP from the BSP. It's plausible that Kumar—who was Secretary in Amit Shah's cooperation ministry—is extremely upset by Gandhi's diatribe against the Commission. The best way to deal with this would have been to invite Gandhi over for Kashmiri Kahwa, as he used to treat journalists with, and thrash it out. But Kumar has chosen to slug it out publicly with the Opposition. What must worry the BJP is the fact that the Opposition's diatribe against the EC seems to be resonating on the ground. As per a Lokniti-CSDS survey published in The Hindu on Sunday, 45 per cent of the respondents believe that genuine voters may get removed from the voters' list under the SIR, as against only 25 per cent who said 'no'. Only 60 per cent of respondents were very or somewhat confident of the EC's ability to ensure inclusivity. The survey was conducted in six states: Delhi, Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. The Lokniti-CSDS survey, as compared to its 2019 and 2024 post-poll surveys, shows declining trust in the Commission. In Assam, the number of respondents who said they have "no trust" in the EC increased from 6 per cent in 2019 to 10 per cent in 2024 and 17 per cent in 2025. In Kerala, this increased from 10 per cent in 2019 and 2024 to 24 per cent in 2025. In Madhya Pradesh, the lack of trust in the EC rose from 6 per cent in 2019 to 22 per cent in 2024 and 2025.

### After rosogolla, Odias and Bengalis fight over Mamata's Jagannath Dham

In the season of Conclave, what if a church suddenly decided to call itself Vatican — not just a tribute, but a claim to spiritual status? That's what the Mamata Banerjee government effectively did, as far as Odias are concerned, when it named the new Jagannath temple in Digha after Jagannath Dham in Puri, Odisha. For the Odias, this 'appropriation' was the last straw and has put them eyeball to eyeball with the Bengalis like never before. Why did Banerjee tread this path? If a temple was her big trip, why a Puri Jagannath lookalike and not something in the tradition of Bengal's own terracotta temples that dot Bishnupur in Bankura district? Alternatively, it could have opted for something original. Bengalis, it seems, have a peculiar fondness for replicas. During Durga Pujas, Buckingham Palaces, Golden Temples and the Pyramids pop up all over the state — pandals built with bamboo and tarpaulin to house the goddess in the festive season. But

those are temporary structures, dismantled once the pujas end. The Jagannath Temple in Digha is permanent, a silent testimony to the Bengalis' copycat gene. A few months after becoming the chief minister in 2011, Banerjee was on her way home via Newtown, parts of which today resemble Gurgaon from 50 years ago, when she suddenly halted her vehicle, got off, and stood to survey 480 acres of green dotted with waterbodies. On the spot, she declared it a park — and the next thing we know, in 2013, she was inaugurating Eco Park, a brand-new destination in Kolkata a la Victoria Memorial, or the historic Botanical Gardens with the centuries-old Banyan Tree. That wasn't the end of it. Past the tree-lined boundary came up the Pyramids of Giza, an Eiffel Tower, a Taj Mahal, a Colosseum, and even a towering Christ the Redeemer — all of them exact replicas of the originals in miniature form.

### History teaching requires revision more than textbooks

What does it mean to be a historian in India? Both of us have formally studied the subject. In the years we've spent working as public historians, we've told myriad stories of India's chequered pasts through heritage walks, museum trails, cultural events, podcasts, an annual journal, book reviews, articles, and social media posts. We've pored over archives and conducted on-ground research. We've also translated scholarship into language and experiences that anyone, from an academic to a casual listener, can connect with. Yet, despite this range of work, one question almost always follows when we explain what we do: "Okay, but what is your real job?" The question says as much about our profession as it does about how history itself is perceived in India. After all, how often do Indian households encourage history as a job? A base-level problem here is: how do you support the study of history when it isn't even clear what a historian does? In childhood, history may occasionally bask in the dreamy, cinematic glow of Indiana Jones and Night at the Museum. Or Bharat Ek Khoj, Akbar-Birbal adaptations, the delightfully

gory Horrible Histories, and Amar Chitra Katha. In adulthood, though, it either fades into collective amnesia, gets wrapped in nostalgia, or turns into a battlefield of contested claims. Where is the middle ground where we carry forward that childlike curiosity, tempered with adult discernment, to engage with the past with the depth and nuance it deserves? A polarising debate has recently been sparked after yet another round of revisions in NCERT history textbooks. But more than textbooks, history teaching requires revision. What do you remember from your history classes? For most, the answers fall into familiar buckets: rote learning of names, dates, dynasties, and wars. There was little room to explore the texture of lived experience, or to ask: how can this subject help me become a better thinker, a more reflective human? The discipline was frozen in time, and with it, many of us felt we too were trapped — learning about the past in a way that felt wholly disconnected from the present, let alone the future. This is part of the reason historical studies aren't seen as foundations for sustainable careers. But

paradoxically, history seems to dominate our headlines. It's everywhere: in TV debates, political speeches, social media threads. Everyone, it seems, has something to say about the past. That's why the current debate on revisions matters. The problem isn't with 'updating' history. Our understanding of the past evolves as our present changes. Every historian is shaped by their time, drawing not only on the materials and theoretical bases available, but also on their own perspectives and questions. So revisions themselves aren't the issue.

The real concern is how history textbooks are revised. If these changes were aimed at helping students approach the past critically, and provided them with the historian's toolkit — by introducing them to a range of sources, perspectives, and debates — then they would be fruitful. Our NCERT textbooks have been subject to regular revisions, with new theories and ideas inserted alongside scholars' evolving approaches to history. This exercise is necessary, so long as the emphasis remains on updates that accurately convey the latest reflections on continuities.

### GST reform is pointless if it doesn't simplify tax slabs

Over the last few days, there have been extensive discussions on the prospects of reforming India's Goods and Services Tax (GST). An important element of the proposed reform is to reduce the present 4-rate structure to a 3-rate one. There could be several objectives behind such a reform. Simplification of the tax structure is an obvious one. Revenue mobilisation could be another, as simpler tax structures are easy to administer and improve compliance. The third is to provide a stimulus to the economy, which is presently dealing with significant uncertainty. I am young enough to be excit-

ed by the prospects of tax reforms, but old enough to know better. More so, given my prior experience in trying to understand the GST. Popular perception suggests there are just four GST tax slabs: 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent. Why so many slabs for an indirect tax? Because somehow Indian policymaking believes in the progressivity of taxes—even for consumption goods. A lesser-known reality of the GST is that it has a total of eight tax slabs, excluding the exemptions. These start at 0.25 and go all the way up to 28 per cent. Tax rates of 0.25, 1.5, 3 and 7.5 per cent apply to just 1.5 per cent of total

goods traded in India. Some sectors, such as construction services, have six different applicable tax rates ranging from 0 to 18 per cent. The sheer complexity of India's present GST, even after nine years of existence, should be reason enough for an urgent reform. A major issue with the GST's present structure is the pervasive use of end-use exemptions. That is, for certain items, a GST rate is applicable — but if the goods are used for a specific purpose, then there is no GST on the item. Therefore, the same item has two different tax slabs depending on the buyer and end-use of the item.

Moreover, it creates room for rent-seeking, as many would exploit the tax arbitrage introduced by having a 0 per cent and 18 per cent tax rate as applicable on the same goods. Administering such exemptions is excessively costly and goes against the spirit of a self-enforcing tax such as the GST. A comprehensive reform would do away with such end-use exemptions and identify a specific list of items, such as food — irrespective of whether packaged, processed, or prepared in a restaurant — to be classified as exempt. Similar exemptions could be extended to certain kinds of insurance.



## Assam Health Minister Ashok Singhal Inaugurates MRI Center in Tinsukia, Launches 'Swasthwan Shramik Yojana' for Tea Plantation Workers

Assam

Health and Family Welfare and Water Resources Minister Ashok Singhal participated in several programs during his visit to Tinsukia district on Monday. In the morning, the minister inaugurated the MRI room at Tinsukia Medical College and Hospital in Makum, Tinsukia district.

Addressing a meeting held alongside the inauguration ceremony, he stated that the MRI centers launched by the state government would greatly benefit the poor and needy, who would otherwise have to travel long distances or rely on expensive private diagnostic centers. The launch of these MRI centers will not only improve disease detection capabilities but also ensure timely diagnosis, better medical outcomes and reduced healthcare costs for the general public.

The meeting was attended by Tinsukia Assembly constituency MLA Sanjay Kishan, Mission Director of National Health Mission Assam Dr. Lakshmanan S., Superintendent of Tinsukia Medical College and Hospital Dr. Rupak Gogoi, Additional Secretary of Assam



Health and Family Welfare Department Dr. Pranati Gogoi along with several key officials, doctors and students. Later, to ensure health security for people living in tea plantation areas and provide accessible, quality healthcare services, Health Minister Ashok Singhal launched the state government ambitious 'Swasthwan Shramik Yojana' through a formal ceremony in the tea plantation area on Monday. Inaugurating the scheme, he described it as a powerful system for the welfare of the tea worker community.

Following this, he laid the foundation stones for Kakopthar Community Health Center and Bordirak Community Health Center. The meeting, held in the presence of Sadia Assembly constituency MLA Balin Chetia, was attended by

Joint Secretary of Assam Health Department Dr. Pranati Gogoi, Joint Director of Health Services for Tinsukia district Dr. Nirod Bharali other senior officials from the district health department, officials and staff from the National Health Mission Assam headquarters and Tinsukia block, as well as local dignitaries, medical personnel and public representatives from various sectors. Notably with funding from the Assam government 2024-25 financial year grant, Minister Ashok Singhal also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a classroom building at Kakopthar Shankar Dev Shishu Vidyalaya on Monday. He will stay in Tinsukia on Monday and participate in two programs in Digboi Assembly constituency on Tuesday.

## District Tuberculosis Officer held review meeting at community level regarding HIV awareness



Chandauli

today, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. at TI UPNP Plus, Chandauli office An in-depth review meeting of activities related to HIV awareness and prevention was organized by Rajesh Kumar (Chandauli) with the team of the organization, STI counselor of the district hospital and Cluster Prevention Officer of UPSACS, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). The meeting started with the introduction session by Archana. After this, quarterly progress report from October 2025 to December 2025 was presented. During this time Detailed information related to HIV and syphilis testing, regular health check-ups, HIV counseling and status

of HIV positive cases was shared. On this occasion the message was specifically given that "Condoms are the only protection—it is essential to make them accessible to every person in the community." Besides, the challenges faced in the implementation of various campaigns run by the organization were also discussed in detail. In the meeting, Counselor Upendra District Hospital said that the HIV awareness and prevention campaign run by the organization at the community level is very important and effective. The Cluster Prevention Officer said that the UPSACS guidelines are being effectively implemented by the institution, as a result of which the institution has received appreciation

and respect at the state level. During the meeting, Archana welcomed all the guests and presented flow-ers, informing about the progress of the organization, the project officer said that the basic objective of the organization is to keep the community safe from HIV. In the end, Project Director Rakesh Singh expressed his gratitude to all the participants and described the meeting as a future direction. In this review meeting, Project Manager Jitendra Kumar Gupta, Finance Officer Adarsh ?Kumar Gupta, Counselor Archana, Senior Field Officer Chauthi, Field Officer Durgesh, Divanshu, Soni, Peer Educator Parth, Safia, Amravati and other employees were present.

## Mircha Ghazipur defeated Assam in the inaugural match, entered the next round



Chandauli

The football tournament organized under the aegis of Amar Shaheed Sporting Club on Monday in the premises of Amar Veer Inter College located in the town was grandly inaugurated by Syedraja MLA Sushil Singh and special guest Dhanapur Block Chief Ajay Singh by cutting the ribbon and kicking the football. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, MLA Sushil Singh said that such sports events are highly commendable, in which the participation of teams from remote states like Assam further strengthens the sports spirit. He said that sports is not only a medium for physical and mental development, but it also promotes discipline, unity and a sense of brotherhood. Such competitions enhance the talent of the youth and provide positive direction to the society. The inaugural match was played between Mircha Ghazipur vs Assam in two halves of 45 minutes each. After winning the toss, Mircha Ghazipur team started aggressively. In the 10th minute of the match, Ehtesham gave the team the lead by scoring a brilliant goal. After this, Sachin Yadav scored two consecutive goals in the 18th and 34th minutes to make the score 3-0. For Assam, Wajid opened the team account by scoring a goal on an accurate pass from Visham, but ultimately Mircha Ghazipur won the match 3-1 and entered the next round. On this occasion, club patron Shah Alam Khan, Haji Bismillah, President Rustam Khan, Ashok Singh, Dilshad Khan, Kamalakant Mishra, Manish Singh, Durgesh and a large number of sports lovers were present. Rashid Khan played the role of referee in the match, while commentary was done jointly by Atif Khan and Inam Khan.

# Two Murder Accused Arrested Within 24 Hours, Illegal Knives Recovered

Etah

In a swift and commendable action, the Kotwali Dehat Police of Etah district have arrested two wanted accused in a sensational murder case within 24 hours of the incident. Two illegal knives used in the crime have also been recovered from their possession. According to police, on January 4, 2026 Raja Singh son of Horilal and a resident of Kanshiram Awas Colony, Manpur, Kotwali Dehat, Etah, submitted a written complaint stating that at around 12:10 pm the same day, his son Sahiba (approximately 25



years old) had gone to the house of Ramu, son of

Surajpal. There, an argument broke out over an old rivalry,

which escalated into verbal abuse. When Sahiba objected to the abuse, Ramu and his nephew Aman, son of Raju, allegedly attacked him with knives, causing serious injuries. Hearing Sahiba cries, his brothers-in-law Surjeet and Karan rushed to rescue him. During the scuffle, Ramu reportedly stabbed Surjeet in the chest, seriously injuring him as well. On receiving information, family members reached the spot, but the accused fled after issuing threats. The injured were rushed to the district hospital, where doctors declared Sahiba dead, while Surjeet is under-

going treatment. In this connection, a case was registered at Kotwali Dehat Police Station as Case Crime No. 02/2026 under Sections 103(1), 109, 532 and 531(2). Under the direction of Senior Superintendent of Police Etah, Shyam Narayan Singh and close supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police Shwetabh Pandey, the police team conducted prompt operations and arrested the accused Ramu, son of Surajpal (about 45 years) and Aman, son of Raju (about 25 years), residents of Jalesar area, presently residing near the Kanshiram Colony water tank

under Kotwali Dehat jurisdiction. Two illegal knives used in the crime were recovered from the accused. During the course of investigation, Sections 3(5) BNS and 4/25 of the Arms Act have been added to the case. Police stated that accused Ramu has a prior criminal history, while cases are also registered against Aman under relevant sections. The arresting police team included Station House Officer Vinod Kumar, Senior Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar Rana, Sub-Inspector Ajay Kumar, and Head Constable Brahmjeet Singh.

## Vehicles will be stopped for 12 hours each in five police station areas, holding Areas will be created, Mahakumbh-like traffic system will be implemented, auto-rickshaws will run on six routes

Varanasi

Varanasi the Commissionerate Police has implemented traffic restrictions in connection with the Magh Mela and the Prat Pravah. Similar arrangements will be in place for the Maha Kumbh Mela at key locations. Holding areas have been established at five locations to prevent traffic congestion. Vehicles will be stopped for 12 hours each in Mirzamurad, Rajatalab, Rohaniya, Ramnagar and Lanka. The Maidagin and Chowk Godaulia areas will be desig-

nated as no-vehicle zones. Autos and e-rickshaws will operate on six routes within the city. Outside vehicles will be stopped on the highway and parked in designated parking spaces. Special attention has been given to Dashashwamedh Ghat, Assi Ghat and the city internal ghats. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Anshuman Mishra stated that if the crowds increase, four-wheeled vehicles will also be banned on the Rajghat Bridge. Private buses and

four-wheeled vehicles from Ghazipur and Azamgarh going to the Magh Mela will travel via the Ring Road. Entry into the city will be restricted. Vehicles from Bihar and Chandauli going to the Magh Mela will have to travel via NH 19 Vishwasundari Bridge, Akhri and Mohansarai. According to the police, no vehicles will be allowed to travel from Sonarpur Tiraha towards Godaulia Square. These vehicles will be diverted towards Broadway Tiraha to Divert.

# Total Solution Day organized in Sadar Tehsil Auditorium

Chandauli

For quick resolution of the problems of the common people, a district level complete solution day was organized in Sadar Tehsil Auditorium on Monday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Chandra Mohan Garg and Superintendent of Police Aditya Langhe. A total of 68 applications were received during the entire resolution day, out of which 06 were disposed of on the spot. Teams were sent on two and the remaining were directed to the concerned authorities for disposal in a quality manner. On this occasion, the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and other officers listened seriously to the problems of the complainants and



gave instructions to the concerned officers for quality disposal in a timely manner. The District Magistrate directed all the officers to provide benefits to the villagers by implementing the schemes run by the government. Apart from this, the concerned departments kept checking the quality of the ongoing

construction work related to government departments from time to time. The District Magistrate directed all the concerned officers to solve the public problems and provide justice to the poor and suffering people on priority basis. He said that redressal of public problems is one of

the priorities of the government, hence all officers should take interest and ensure their redressal in a quality manner. Giving strict instructions, he said that if any kind of negligence is found by any accountant, appropriate action will be ensured. During this, Chief Medical Officer Dr Y.K Rai, Deputy

District Magistrate Divya Ojha, PDD RDA BB Singh, Police Area Officer Sadar Devendra Maurya, District Panchayati Raj Officer, Deputy RMO, Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar, Police Station Head, Block Development Officer and other concerned officers were present.



# Kylie gets emotional as BF Timothée thanks her

American media personality Kylie Jenner and actor Timothée Chalamet have finally confirmed their relationship, which began in 2023

American media personality and businesswoman Kylie Jenner and actor Timothée Chalamet have finally confirmed their relationship. Despite several public outings and cosy displays of PDA, the two had never commented on their relationship status until now.

On Saturday, January 4, Timothée won the Best Actor award for Marty Supreme at The Critics Choice Awards 2026, which was held at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, California, and his speech melted hearts as he gave a sweet shout-out to his ladylove, who was cheering for him from the audience.

After accepting the award, Timothée said, "I don't know if I'll be up here again, so give me a second..." He went on to thank his team members and the cast, and concluded his speech with a heartfelt nod to Jenner. "And lastly, I'll just say, thank you to my partner of three years. Thank you for our foundation," Chalamet said.

For the first time ever, the actor publicly declared his love for Kylie, saying, "I love you. I couldn't do this without you." The Kylie Cosmetics founder appeared visibly overwhelmed with emotion upon hearing her boyfriend's speech. Later, cameras captured Jenner mouthing "I love you" in a sweet response to his heartfelt words.

Timothée's speech appears to con-



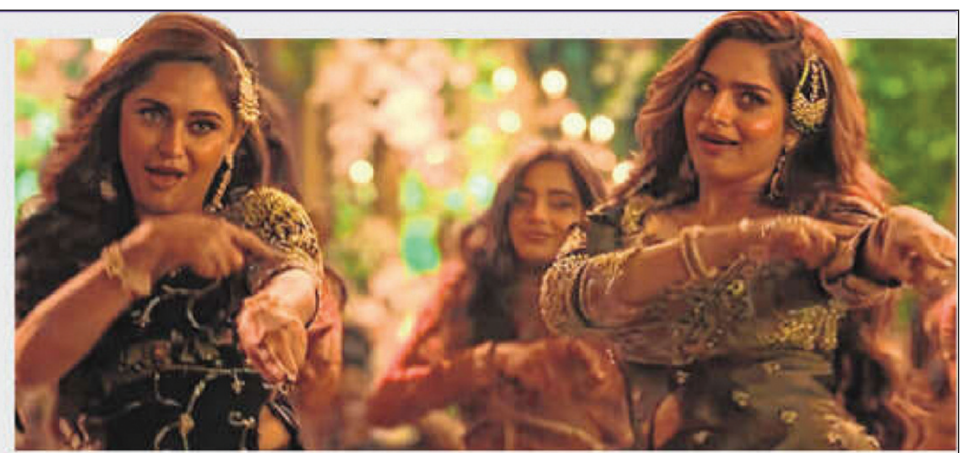
Timothée Chalamet

firm that the pair indeed began dating in 2023.

In January 2023, reports stated that at Paris Fashion Week during the Jean Paul Gaultier show, the couple was seen enjoying each other's company. They were later spotted sharing a public kiss at Beyoncé's Renaissance World Tour.



Kylie Jenner



## Pak women dance to Dhurandhar item song

A video from a Pakistani wedding has gone viral, showing two women dancing to Ranveer Singh's *Dhurandhar* item song *Shararat*, which had Ayesha Khan and Krystle Dsouza

The buzz around *Dhurandhar* is no longer limited to Indian cinemas, as the hype surrounding Ranveer Singh's film has clearly crossed borders. A viral video circulating on social media shows a choreographed dance to the film's title track, not from India, but from a wedding in Pakistan.

In the clip, two women are seen dancing to the hit item song *Shararat*, featuring Ayesha Khan and Krystle Dsouza. The performance has quickly grabbed attention online.

In the video shared on X by an user @rose\_k01 shows two women dressed in shararas, similar to Ayesha and Krystle's looks in the song,



were seen performing in front of wedding guests, moving in perfect sync and recreating the same dance steps, including the hooksteps featured in the track.

Soon after the video went viral on social media, netizens reacted, with several also criticising the women for performing to a Bollywood track despite ongoing tensions between the two

countries. A user commented, "They cannot do without Bollywood." Another user joked, "Pakistan literally crossed 1.8 million pirated downloads of *Dhurandhar*. Ban nahi hota toh *Dhurandhar* would have easily crossed 1800 crores by now." Another added, "Well done, this song is made for a great dance. Music is a language of universe."

## First-look poster of Dil Diya – A Naked Truth revealed

*Dil Diya – A Naked Truth* has formally stepped into the spotlight with the release of its title and first-look poster, marking the first public move for the upcoming feature



The reveal, carried out by Spirit director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, has sparked early interest across industry circles, setting the stage for the film's rollout. Produced by Poorna Naidu under the Sreyas Chitra – A Poorna Naidu Production banner and written and directed by K. Kranthi Madhav, the film positions itself as a contemporary drama rooted in emotional conflict and personal relationships.

For K. Kranthi Madhav, *Dil Diya – A Naked Truth* continues a body of work defined by emotional sensitivity and narrative restraint. Over the years, he has earned recognition for telling stories that engage deeply with human vulnerability rather than surface-level drama. Films such as *Onamalu*, *Malli Malli Idi Rani Roju*, and *World Famous Lover* reflected his interest in love, moral dilemmas, emotional breakdown, and inner conflict. With *Dil Diya – A Naked Truth*, he returns to similar emotional terrain, this time

**The film stars Chaitanya Rao Madadi, Ira, Sakhee, and Jessy in the lead roles**

contemporary lens shaped by obsession, failure, intimacy, and self-worth.

The film stars Chaitanya Rao Madadi, Ira, Sakhee, and Jessy in the lead roles, supported by Mani Chandana, Pramodini, and Veera Shankar in key supporting parts. The casting reflects the film's grounded narrative approach, favouring performances that feel organic and lived-in. Rather than leaning on heightened drama, the storytelling allows emotion to emerge naturally through character interaction and consequence.

The first-look poster offers a restrained but telling glimpse into the film's emotional world. Minimal in design and free from visual excess, the imagery hints at vulnerability, contradiction, and inner turbulence. Instead of spelling out its themes, the poster suggests

driven by personal truth. This visual language aligns closely with Kranthi Madhav's filmmaking sensibility, where emotional clarity and honesty take precedence over stylised spectacle.

Produced by Poorna Naidu with Srikanth V serving as co-producer, *Dil Diya – A Naked Truth* is backed by a strong and experienced technical team. P.G. Vinda handles cinematography, expected to bring an intimate yet cinematic visual texture. Music is composed by Phani Kalyan, while editing is by Ra-Sha (Ravi – Shashank). Chinna oversees production design, Dhani Aelay handles publicity designs, Star Circle manages digital marketing, and publicity is led by S.K. Naidu along with Phani Kandukuri (Beyond Media).

Positioned as a youthful love story with emotional depth, *Dil Diya – A Naked Truth* aims to present an honest and unfiltered portrayal of modern relationships. Moving beyond idealised romance, the film engages directly with emotional complexity and personal consequence, seeking to redefine intimacy within contemporary Telugu Cin-

## Of cons, frauds & financial scams

Here are five titles that shine a light on the dark world of financial scams

From small-town cyber frauds to billion-dollar corporate deception, financial scams often thrive in plain sight, masked by ambition, influence, and credibility. Over the years, we have seen many such

stories being brought to the screen, unpacking how these schemes are built, who they benefit, and the moment when the illusion finally cracks. Equal parts cautionary and compulsive, these narratives reveal that when money, power, and ego collide, the fallout is rarely small.



### THE TINDER SWINDLER

This true-crime documentary chronicles a modern conman who used dating apps to emotionally manipulate women into funding his extravagant lifestyle. By blending romance with deception, the film highlights how financial scams have evolved in the digital age—where trust is built quickly and exploited just as fast.

All these titles are available to watch on Netflix



### MADOFF: THE MONSTER OF WALL STREET

This docuseries chronicles the rise and fall of Bernie Madoff, the architect of the largest Ponzi scheme in history. Once a trusted Wall Street insider, Madoff siphoned off billions by promising consistent returns and paying old investors with new money. The series exposes how reputation, blind trust, and regulatory failures allowed the scam to run unchecked for decades.



### BAD BOY BILLIONAIRES: INDIA

The investigative docuseries returns with its recently released fourth and final episode, *Riding the Tiger*, which revisits the Satyam scandal—often referred to as India's Enron. Centred on Ramalinga Raju, once celebrated as Hyderabad's ethical poster boy, the episode traces Satyam's rise from its founding in 1987 to becoming a global IT outsourcing giant, before revealing how

Raju overstated the company's cash and bank balances by over \$1.5 billion (approximately ₹7,000 crore), triggering one of India's most significant corporate frauds. The earlier episodes profile other infamous business magnates including Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Subrata Roy, making the series a comprehensive look at financial deception at scale.



### JAMTARA-SABKA NUMBER AYEGE

Set in a quiet town in Jharkhand, *Jamtara* exposes the mechanics of organised phishing scams run by young men who turn cold calls into quick cash. What begins as a grassroots hustle soon expands into a dangerous ecosystem involving politicians, middlemen, and rival gangs. The series captures how cyber fraud became scalable, sophisticated, and deeply entrenched in everyday life.



### INVENTING ANNA

Inspired by real events, *Inventing Anna* follows Anna Delvey, who infiltrated New York's elite circles by posing as a wealthy German heiress. Stylish and unsettling, the series shows how confidence, social access, and perception can be leveraged into financial fraud—raising questions about who gets believed, and why.



### US V-P's Ohio house windows found broken, suspect nabbed

**Washington:** One person was arrested and a probe was launched following an incident that caused property damage at the Ohio residence of V-P JD Vance, authorities said, CNN reported.

The Vance family was not in Ohio at the time, as per the US Secret Service. Photos from news outlets showed damage to the windows of the residence. A Secret Service spokesperson said the suspect was detained "for causing property damage, including breaking windows on the exterior of a personal residence associated with" Vance.

The incident happened shortly after midnight. "The US Secret Service is coordinating with Cincinnati Police Dept and the US Attorney's Office as charging decisions are reviewed," spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi said.

Officials are probing if the suspect was targeting Vance or his family, an official said. They don't believe the person entered the V-P's home. A White House official said the Vance family had already left the town before the incident happened. "A crazy person tried to break in. We try to protect our kids as much as possible from the realities of this life of public service. In that light, I am skeptical of the news value of plastering images of our home with holes in the windows," said Vance.

## 'RUNNING' VENEZUELA | POTUS says won't station troops if new president toes the line Trump warns Delcy of 'big price'

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump in an interview with The Atlantic on Sunday said Venezuela's Vice-President Delcy Rodríguez could "pay a very big price" if she did not do what he thought was right for the South American country.

That contrasted with the Republican president's comments about Delcy on Saturday when he said Secretary of State Marco Rubio had spoken to her and she was willing to do what the US thought was needed to improve the standard of living in Venezuela.

Notably, Delcy criticised Maduro's removal and sought his immediate return.

Trump told the magazine, "if she doesn't do what's right, she is going to pay a very big price, probably bigger than Maduro." The president told the 'New York Post' in an interview the US wouldn't need to station troops in Venezuela if she "does what we want".

Meanwhile, in an Instagram post, Delcy said, "A message from Venezuela to the world, and to the US: Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to peace and peaceful coexistence. Our country aspires to live without external threats, in an environment of respect and international cooperation. We believe global peace is built by first guar-

### HISTORY WILL TELL WHO TRAITORS WERE, SAYS MADURO'S SON

**Caracas:** Nicolas Maduro Guerra, son of deposed Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro, said history will tell who the traitors are after a US military operation led to the capture of his father and First Lady Cilia Flores, who have been transferred to New York to face trial, local daily El-cooperativo reported.

In an audio message circulated on social media, Maduro Guerra warned of possible betrayal within the ruling movement and said history would expose those responsible. "History will tell who the traitors were, history will reveal it. We will see," he said, hinting at an internal conspiracy. Maduro Guerra, a lawmaker from La Guaira state and a member of the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), said the party would remain united despite the recent developments. He spoke of the need for "political and military coordination" to respond to what he described as "external aggression".



—Agencies

anteeing peace within each nation. We prioritise moving towards balanced and respectful international relations between the US and Venezuela, and between Venezuela and other countries in the region, premised on sovereign equality and non-interference. These principles guide our diplomacy with the rest of the world."

Despite the US's indication Delcy would be their choice of leader in a post Maduro scenario, she indicated loyalty to Maduro, saying her message of peace and dialogue had also been his message.

"We invite the US government to collaborate with us on

an agenda of cooperation oriented towards shared development within the framework of international law to strengthen lasting community coexistence. President Donald Trump, our peoples and our region deserve peace and dialogue, not war. This has always been President Nicolas Maduro's message, and it is the message of all of Venezuela right now. This is the Venezuela I believe in and have dedicated my life to. I dream of a Venezuela where all good Venezuelans can come together. Venezuela has the right to peace, development, sovereignty and a future," she said.

### Guterres 'deeply concerned'

At the emergency meeting of the UN security council, UN secretary general António Guterres issued a statement that was read out by diplomat Rosemary DiCarlo. "I am deeply concerned about the possible intensification of instability in the country, the potential impact on the region, and the precedent it may set for how relations between and among states are conducted," Guterres said. "The latest developments follow a period of heightened tensions, beginning in mid August, as discussed in this council on two previous occasions. I have consistently stressed on the imperative of full respect by all for international law, including the Charter of the UN, which provides the foundation for the maintenance of international peace and security. I remain deeply concerned rules have not been respected."

**CHINA, RUSSIA SLAM US** At the UNSC's emergency meet, China condemned the US action. "As a permanent UN member, the US has disregarded the grave concerns of the international community, wantonly trampled upon Venezuela's sovereignty, security and legitimate rights and interests, and seriously violated the principles of sovereign equality. No country

### PRESIDENT'S ARREST KIDNAPPING, RELEASE HIM: DEFENCE MINISTER

**Caracas:** Venezuela's Defence Minister **Vladimir Padrino Lopez** strongly condemned the Maduro's arrest, dubbing it a "kidnapping" and demanding his immediate release along with that of First Lady Cilia Flores, reported Elcooperante.

At a press conference, Padrino Lopez said the detention of Maduro amounted to a serious violation of Venezuela's sovereignty and constitutional order. "Yesterday they kidnapped the person whom the Venezuelan people chose as their president, elected for the 2025-2030 term. Maduro is the genuine constitutional leader of all Venezuelans," he said.

### '32 Cuban officers died in operation'

**Havana:** The US operation in Venezuela killed 32 Cuban officers over the weekend, Cuban government said on Sunday in the first official death count provided in the South American nation. The Cuban military and police officers were on a mission the Caribbean country's military was carrying out at the request of Venezuela's government, according to a statement read on Cuban state TV on Sunday night. What the Cubans were working on in the South American nation was unclear, but Cuba is a close ally of Venezuela's government and has sent military and police forces to assist in operations for years. Rumours of the deaths circulated on the island over the weekend. "You know, a lot of Cubans were killed yesterday," US President Trump said aboard Air Force One as he flew on Sunday night from Florida back to Washington. "There was a lot of death on the other side. No death on our side."

can act as the world's police." Fu Cong, China's representative to the UN, China called for the US to release Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores from detention. Russian envoy to the UN condemned the US "act of armed aggression" and called for Maduro's release.

"There is no and can be no justification for the crimes cynically perpetrated by the United States in Caracas. We firmly condemn the US act of armed aggression against Venezuela, in breach of all international legal norms," the Russian envoy said.

### Indian woman, 27, found dead in America

**Cops allege ex-BF killed her, fled to India Las Vegas/New York:** A 27-year-old Indian woman, reported missing last week, was found dead and police were looking for her former boyfriend. The cops alleged he killed her and fled to India.

Nikitha Godishala of Ellicott City was reported missing on January 2. Police said she was found deceased with stab wounds in the Columbia, Maryland apartment of her ex-boyfriend Arjun Sharma, 26. An arrest warrant for Sharma on first and second-degree murder charges was issued.

The Indian Embassy in Washington said it was in touch with Godishala's family and extending all possible consular assistance. It was in touch with local authorities.

Authorities said Sharma made the missing person police complaint, and he last saw Godishala on December 31 in his apartment in Maryland.

Police learnt on the same day when the report was filed, Sharma fled the country on a flight to India. The next day, detectives executed a search warrant for his apartment and located Godishala dead. Detectives believed Sharma killed Godishala after 7pm on Dec 31.

—PTI

### Andhra techie, wife killed in US car crash

**Washington:** A Telugu couple from Palakollu in Andhra's West Godavari died in a car crash in the US, while their two kids were wounded, authorities said.

The accident took place in Washington, where software engineer Krishna Kishore and his wife Asha were travelling by road with kids. The couple lost their lives on the spot after their car was involved in a crash.

The couple was living in the US for work. They visited their hometown Palakollu 10 days ago and returned to the US recently. During the return, the family reportedly celebrated the New Year in Dubai. The couple's son and daughter were stable.

WASHINGTON

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's capture by US forces wasn't just a military victory. It was a major security failure that began with his own bodyguards. Multiple intelligence sources confirmed members of Maduro's personal security detail handed him over to American forces. These were elite bodyguards handpicked for their loyalty, Prime News 24 reported.

As explosions were heard across capital Caracas, Venezuelan forces scrambled to respond to attacks on Fort Tuna and La Carlota airport. But a much smaller operation was unfolding elsewhere. A

## Maduro betrayal: Bodyguards who sold prez

team of Delta Force operators, transported by stealth helicopters, landed near Maduro's location.

According to sources, these US commandos just walked in as the outer perimeter guards had been told to stand down, security cameras had been disabled, alarm systems had been deactivated. When the US team reached Maduro's personal quarters, they found only two bodyguards still at their posts, and they immediately surrendered.

The entire extraction took less than 12 minutes from landing to take off. Maduro and his wife were aboard a US

aircraft before Venezuelan military command even understood what was happening.

US operatives working through CIA and Defence Intelligence Agency had been studying Maduro's security apparatus for months and found his bodyguards, despite their elite status, were facing the same economic hardships as ordinary people. US intelligence identified three bodyguards. The first was a senior member of the presidential security team, a man in his late 30s. He had a sick daughter who needed medical treatment unavailable in Venezuela.

The second was younger,

frustrated by the lack of advancement opportunities in a system based entirely on political loyalty rather than merit. The third was a veteran security official who had served under Hugo Chavez and had grown disillusioned with what he saw as Maduro's betrayal of Chavez's vision.

The US offered life-changing sums of money — approximately \$10-20 million per person. More importantly, they offered escape from Venezuela and a future for their families. The first bodyguard was promised treatment for his sick child in a US hospital. The second was offered US citizen-

ship. The Chavez loyalist was told he could live his days in peace, knowing he had helped free Venezuela from tyranny.

To gain their confidence, the US extracted their families first. But the plan required more men. So, the three were asked to identify others. By the time the operation was ready to execute, at least eight members of Maduro's security detail were compromised.

Some were active participants who would facilitate the US insertion. Others simply agreed to look the other way at critical moments. A few were just given instructions to keep them away from their

posts at the crucial time.

There were several false starts when Maduro changed his schedule or location unexpectedly. The breakthrough came when one of the compromised bodyguards was assigned to overnight duty at the safehouse where Maduro would be sleeping. He was able to provide real-time updates on the president's location and the disposition of security forces. He confirmed the number of guards present, their position and critically, who were part of the plan.

When the US team received the final green light, they knew exactly what they were walk-

ing into. They moved through the building, encountering no resistance. When they entered Maduro's bedroom, the president was apparently asleep. There are conflicting reports about Maduro's reaction. Some sources say he immediately understood he had been betrayed and went quietly. Others claim he thought it was a training exercise of his security team. One dramatic account suggests he tried to appeal to his bodyguards' loyalty.

Soon, Maduro and wife were flex cuffed, hooded and carried to the choppers. The team was airborne in minutes. By the time the rest of Maduro's security apparatus realised something was wrong, it was far too late to respond.

### Briefs

#### UK to seize phones, SIMs of illegals

Mobile phones and hidden SIM cards can be seized from migrants arriving illegally in the UK on small boats across the English Channel under new powers enforced from Monday. Law enforcement agencies can now seize electronic devices like mobile phones and SIM cards from illegal migrants without needing to arrest them. This is intended to help them gather intelligence to track down and arrest people smugglers.

#### Guinea's junta leader prez-elect

Supreme Court in Guinea upheld the poll win of Gen Mamadi Doumbouya, cementing the junta leader's transition to a democratically elected president 4 years after staging a coup in West African nation. Doumbouya won the country's first poll since 2021 coup after polling 86.7% votes, according to the General Directorate of Elections. His victory, which had been predicted by analysts, was confirmed by SC in capital Conakry.

#### 3 kids dead in Iran protests

At least three children are reported to have been killed and more than 40 minors arrested after eight days of the ongoing protests across Iran, as human rights groups accuse the regime's security forces of "indiscriminate targeting of civilians".

## Don: Ukraine didn't target Putin house

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE

President Donald Trump on Sunday told reporters US officials have determined Ukraine did not target a residence belonging to Russian President Vladimir Putin in a drone attack last week, disputing Kremlin claims that Trump had initially greeted with deep concern.

Trump said "something happened nearby" Putin's residence, but American officials didn't find the Russian president's residence was targeted. "I don't believe that strike happened," Trump told reporters as he travelled back to Washington on Sunday after spending two weeks at his home in Florida. "We don't believe that happened, now that we've been able to check."



### ZELENSKY REPLACES SECURITY CHIEF

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy replaced the head of Ukraine's security service on Monday, continuing a top-level reshuffle ahead of a trip to Paris where he hoped to finalise agreements with allies on how to ensure that Russia doesn't repeat its invasion if a peace agreement is signed.

Zelenskyy is trying to revamp his administration as the grinding war of attrition with Russia marks its fourth anniversary next month. He is keen to keep up the momentum of US-led peace talks as well as sharpen Ukraine's focus on defence if those efforts collapse.

## 10 guilty of cyberbullying Macron wife: Paris court

PARIS

A Paris court on Monday found 10 people guilty of cyberbullying France's first lady Brigitte Macron. The court convicted all defendants to sentences, ranging from a cyberbullying awareness training to 8-month suspended prison sentences.

The court pointed to "particularly degrading, insulting, and malicious" comments referring to false claims regarding alleged trans identity and alleged pedo criminality targeting Brigitte Macron.

The defendants, eight men and two women aged 41 to 65, are accused of posting "numerous malicious comments" falsely claiming President Emmanuel Macron's wife was born a man and linking the 24-year age gap with her husband to paedophilia. Some posts were viewed tens of thousands of times.

Brigitte Macron did not



attend the two-day trial in October. Speaking on TF1 national television on Sunday, she said she launched legal proceedings to "set an example" in the fight against harassment. Her daughter, Tiphaine Auziere, testified about what she described as the "deterioration" of her mother's life since the online harassment intensified.

"She cannot ignore the horrible things said about her," Auziere told the court. She said the impact has extended to the entire family, including

Macron's grandchildren.

Defendant Delphine Jegousse, 51, who is known as Amandine Roy and describes herself as a medium and an author, is considered to have played a major role in spreading the rumour after she released a four-hour video on her YouTube channel in 2021.

The X account of Aurélien Poirson-Atlan, 41, known as Zoé Sagan on social media, was suspended in 2024 after his name was cited in several judicial investigations.

### SEDITION CASE AGAINST HASINA

## B'desh court to frame charges on January 21

DHAKA

A Bangladesh court on Monday set January 21 as the date for framing charges in a sedition case against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 285 others.

The case relates to allegations that Hasina and several hundred Awami League members took part in a virtual meeting of a group called the 'Joy Bangla Brigade' in December 2024, during which they allegedly plotted to overthrow the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, news portal tbsnews.net reported.

The group is a strong supporter of Awami League and the legacy of Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Judge Abdus Salam of Dhaka Special Judge's Court-9 set January 21 as the date for

framing charges against Hasina and 285 others, it said.

### FINAL CHARGESHEET IN HADI MURDER BY JAN 7: B'DESH INTERIM GOVT

The final chargesheet in the murder case of student leader Sharif Osman bin Hadi will be submitted on Wednesday, the Bangladesh interim government said on Monday, asserting that justice will be delivered within its tenure.

General elections are scheduled in Bangladesh on February 12.

The interim government is treating Hadi's case with utmost importance, Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury told reporters after a meeting of the Advisory Council on law and order at the Secretariat.

The final chargesheet in his murder case will be submitted on January 7.

## Swiss police identify all 116 hurt in bar fire

**Crans-Montana:** Swiss police said on Monday they had identified all the people injured in the bar fire. They put the total at 116, more than two-thirds still in hospitals.

They are 68 Swiss citizens, 21 French, 10 Italians, 4 Serbs, 2 Poles and 1 each from Australia, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Portugal and Republic of Congo. There were 4 dual nationals: of France and Finland, France and Italy, Switzerland and Belgium, Italy and the Philippines.

## Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss, stepsister of Anne Frank, dies

LONDON

Auschwitz survivor **Eva Schloss**, the stepsister of teenage diarist Anne Frank and a tireless educator about the horrors of the Holocaust, has died. She was 96.

The Anne Frank Trust UK, of which Schloss was honorary president, said she died on Saturday in London, where she lived.

Britain's King Charles III said he was "privileged and proud" to have known Schloss,



who co-founded the charitable trust to help young people challenge prejudice.

"The horrors she endured as a young woman are impossible to comprehend, and yet she devoted the rest of her life to overcoming hatred

and prejudice, promoting kindness, courage, understanding and resilience through her tireless work for the Anne Frank Trust UK and for Holocaust education across the world," the king said.

Born Eva Geiringer in Vienna in 1929, Schloss fled with her family to Amsterdam after Nazi Germany annexed Austria. She became friends with another Jewish girl of the same age, Anne Frank, whose diary would become one of the most famous chronicles of the Holocaust.



## Briefs

KOLKATA

## Manoj Kothari passes away



Former world billiards champion **Manoj Kothari** died on Monday following a massive cardiac arrest at a hospital in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, a family member told PTI. He was 67, and survived by his wife and son Sourav Kothari. Based in Kolkata, Kothari had a liver transplant 10 days ago at the Kauvery Hospital in Tirunelveli, more than 600km from Chennai. "Surgery was successful and he was sitting and talking on the third day. But he had a lung infection a few days back and this morning at 7.30am he succumbed to a massive cardiac arrest," a family member said. Kothari won the world billiards championship title back in 1990. His son Sourav is also a former world billiards champion, having won the title in 2025. Sourav was mentored by his father.

MUMBAI

## World Champ Indian teams honoured



Nita M Ambani called the second edition of United in Triumph a thank you on behalf of every Indian to India's three World Cup winning teams: men's, women's and blind women in Mumbai on Monday. Ambani said, "I think we are starting the New Year's with a very special occasion. All three cricket teams, the men's cricket team, the women's cricket team and the blind cricket team of India are all here under one roof, and on behalf of every Indian, we are going to honour them tonight for giving us so much joy and happiness." Speaking about the unique power of sport and its transformational impact, Mrs. Ambani said, "Sport joins hearts and India. Today we are united in triumph. We are going to celebrate them and celebrate their victories."

BIRMINGHAM

## Anahat Singh in British U-19 Junior semis



Rising Indian player **Anahat Singh** moved into the women's semifinals of the British Junior Under-19 Open squash tournament here. The teenaged Indian top seed beat Egypt's Barb

**IPL** | The action to ban broadcast came a day after Bangladesh refused to travel to India for next month's T20 World Cup

## B'desh bans broadcast in another tough move

DHAKA

Bangladesh on Monday banned the broadcast of IPL's upcoming season to protest pacer **Mustafizur Rahman's** ouster from the world's biggest T20 league on BCCI instructions amid a steady deterioration of the country's diplomatic ties with India.

A statement from the information and broadcast ministry of Muhammad Yunus' interim government here stated that no "logical reason" was given by the BCCI while instructing IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders to release Rahman from its 2026 roster.

The IPL is due to start on March 26.

The move to ban IPL broadcast came a day after Bangladesh refused to travel to India for next month's T20 World Cup and requested the International Cricket Council to shift all its league games to Sri Lanka, the co-host of the tournament.

"No logical reason for such a decision (Rahman's release) by the BCCI is known, and such a decision has saddened, hurt, and aggrieved the people of Bangladesh," read the government notification.

"In this situation, until further notice, it is requested by order to stop the broadcasting/telecasting of all matches and programs of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

"This order is issued with the approval of the proper authority and in the public interest," said the signed by assistant secretary Feroz Khan.

BCCI secretary Devajit Salkia, while announcing the



Mustafizur Rahman

No logical reason for such a decision (Rahman's release) by the BCCI is known, and such a decision has saddened, hurt, and aggrieved the people of Bangladesh

## Bangladesh govt notification



Devajit Salkia

dictat to release Rahman, had merely stated that it was being done because of "developments all around", without explaining the specifics.

Bangladesh was scheduled to play three T20 World Cup matches in Kolkata and one in Mumbai.

Drawn in Group C, the team was due to face the West Indies in their opening match at Eden Gardens in Kolkata and subsequently compete against defending

champions England, Italy and Nepal.

The Indo-Bangladesh relationship has hit a rocky patch after the ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August last year following anti-government protests.

She was sentenced to death in absentia by a tribunal for her alleged role in a deadly crackdown during the agitation in which several students were killed.

Hindus have been targeted for violent attacks since Hasina's ouster and relations have been on the downward spiral since.



Rizwana Hasan

## Warriorz await CoE nod on Pratika's availability for WPL

The first leg of the fourth edition of the WPL will be held here at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai

MUMBAI

Head coach **Abhishek Nayar** on Monday said UP Warriorz are awaiting clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence regarding the availability of India batter Pratika Rawal for the upcoming Women's Premier League (WPL).

The first leg of the fourth edition of the WPL will be held here at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai from January 9-17, followed by the second leg in Vadodara from January 19 to February 5.

Pratika had suffered an ankle injury during the Women's ODI World Cup last November and missed the remainder of the tournament.

"Pratika, we (are) still. I'm not sure to be honest, but I think the NCO, the COE, as they call it now, I think they will take a call on it," Nayar replied when asked about the availability of the Indian opener. "But regardless, it's always exciting to have Pratika in the set-up and I feel any team is only a good team when you have contrasting players, not players who play the same style and brand of cricket," Nayar said during a press conference.

With the legendary Australian captain Meg Lanning set to lead UP Warriorz, Nayar said "best



Pratika, we (are) still. I'm not sure to be honest, but I think the NCO, the COE, as they call it now, I think they will take a call on it **Pratika Rawal**, India batter

teams have best captains."

"Something that was very important when we tried to form this squad was to get the best captain out there and someone who could lead this group. It was a very easy and obvious choice for us," he said.

"Having Meg there makes things easier for me. It's the

first time (as WPL head coach) for me, yes. But I've always believed the best teams have the best captains." "And this format, especially, is a captain's format. I wanted someone who could lead this team and having Meg there makes things very easy for me."

## Rejuvenated Indian shuttlers eye strong start to new season

Indian badminton endured a difficult 2025 marked by injuries and inconsistent performances

KUALA LUMPUR

With renewed vigour, Indian shuttlers, including the experienced duo of **Lakshya Sen** and P V Sindhu, will eye a strong start to the year when they take on the world's best at the season-opening USD 1,450,000 Malaysia Open Super 1000 tournament, beginning here on Tuesday.

Indian badminton endured a difficult 2025 marked by injuries and inconsistent performances at the top level. The focus is now on making an early impact and fine-tune preparations for next week's India Open Super 750 tournament in Delhi.

Lakshya, a 2021 world championships bronze-medallist, was the bright spot last season, returning to winning ways with a title at the Australian Open Super 500 after a lean run following his fourth-place finish at the Paris Olympics. The 24-year-old from Almora, who also reached the final of the Hong Kong Open, will look to carry



that momentum when he opens against Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh.

Youngster Ayush Shetty too showed promise, winning the US Open Super 300, and will aim to address issues of consistency when he takes on Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, the Paris Olympics bronze-medallist.

Two-time Olympic medalist Sindhu, however, endured a torrid phase due to fitness concerns and patchy form.

The former world champion, who missed competitions from October onwards while recovering from a foot

injury, will be keen to rediscover her best when she opens her campaign against Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun.

Unnati Hooda, after showing flashes of brilliance in a season highlighted by her second Odisha Open title, will face Tokyo Olympics gold-medallist and fourth seed Chen Yu Fei of China.

Malvika Bansod, returning after a six-month layoff due to a left knee injury, will begin her campaign against seventh seed Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand, a former world champion.

Focus will also be on Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded third, after the two became the first Indian men's pair to reach the semifinals of the season-ending World Tour Finals last year. The former world No. 1 pair was India's most consistent in 2025, reaching finals of Hong Kong Open and China Masters besides winning a second World Championships bronze and multiple semifinal finishes.

## Ashes: Root, Head's batting mastery on display

At stumps, Australia was 166/2 in reply to England's 384

SYDNEY

Joe Root made his second hundred of the series, while Travis Head closed in on his third, as Day 2 of the final Ashes test between Australia and England closed evenly poised on Monday.

England was bowled out just before tea for 364 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, with Joe Root leading with a masterful 160 for his best test score in the country from his four Ashes tours.

At stumps, Australia was 166-2 in reply in its first innings, with Travis Head again in imperious form as he slashed his way to 91 not out from 87 balls and nearing his third hundred of the five-match series. Ben Stokes had both wickets for the tourists, which struggled to stem the flow of runs in the final session but the wicket of the well-set Marnus Labuschagne late in the day buoyed England's hopes.

**Root's milestone ton** Earlier Monday, as wickets fell regularly around him,



Root showed all the composure of a 163-test veteran as he notched his 41st century off 146 balls, with 11 boundaries and celebrated with the same shrug gesture as when he broke through for his first ton in four Ashes tours at Brisbane last month.

"I just felt like we've had some amazing support throughout this series and we've not been able to achieve what we set out to as a group, but at no point has that (support) ever wavered," Root said.

"It (the celebration) is a way of saying thank you, really." Root's epic innings was finally ended at 160 from 242 balls

when he popped a return catch to Naser, who dived across the pitch to grasp the ball just inches above the ground.

While his disappointment was evident as he walked from the field, he received a standing ovation from the near-capacity Sydney Cricket Ground in what may be the veteran's last tour of a country that had provided his greatest batting challenge.

"Who knows? We'll see. I'd love to (play until then), but we'll see how things unfold in time," he said.

The England star is now level with former Australia captain Ricky Ponting on the

I just felt like we've had some amazing support throughout this series and we've not been able to achieve what we set out to as a group, but at no point has that (support) ever wavered

**Joe Root**

England batter

all-time list of test century-makers. Only Sachin Tendulkar (51) and Jacques Kallis (45) have more.

**Bowlers chip away** Scott Boland and Mitchell Starc made early breakthroughs Monday after Root and Harry Brook's partnership had moved to 169 runs and was threatening to take the test away from the hosts, who already have a winning 3-1 lead in the series.

## WPL

## Losing Meg big but Jemimah will succeed: Kapp

NEW DELHI

South Africa all-rounder Marizanne Kapp on Monday admitted that losing Australian great Meg Lanning was "big" but said Jemimah Rodrigues is the right candidate to replace the three-time Delhi Capitals skipper and will have full backing from senior players to succeed in the role.

Rodrigues was named Delhi Capitals captain ahead of the fourth season of the

Women's Premier League last month, replacing Lanning, who led the team to the finals in the last three editions.

"Look, I'm not going to lie. Losing Meg as a captain is obviously a big thing. She's a very successful captain, not only for DC, but in world cricket in general. But I mentioned actually a couple of years ago, when they asked me who should India's next captain be, I actually said Jemima," Kapp said during a virtual interaction.

"I feel like she's one of those players who can bring a team together, just her personality and a caring factor the way she is. I feel like she's always been a leader. And look, there will be challenges. Even if you are an experienced captain, there will always be challenges. I feel Jemima has a lot of senior players around her.

"We still have a lot of players here that's been here before. I mean, management is still the same. So she has a lot of support if she does

struggle. But I believe Jemima will take this opportunity with both hands and I think she'll be very successful."

Delhi Capitals' runners-up finishes boil down to a mix of bad luck and underperformance on the big day, said Kapp.

"I don't think it's a case of pressure. We've done so well over the past three years. I feel like at some stages, it was just a bit of bad luck.

"First season, I think we lost three wickets with full tosses that on any other day

could have ended up being no balls. Then second year, it was probably the slowest wicket we played on ... so it's a mixed bag of bad luck and us not playing too well, not having our best days in the finals." "Shafali a special talent"

India opener Shafali Verma, who played a crucial knock in the final to guide India to their maiden World Cup title, remains a key figure for DC after being retained ahead of the 2026 auction.



UP Warriorz captain Meg Lanning, centre, during a press conference. PTI