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TRAGEDY STRIKES DELHI'S HEART, ELEVEN DEAD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

In a tragic incident, a nightmare unfolded in Mustafabad area of North East Delhi in the early hours of Sunday when a four-storey building came crashing down like a stack of cards, leaving 11 people dead including two women. Atleast 11 of them were pulled out alive by rescue teams and rushed to a hospital, where five are undergoing treatment, while six have been discharged.

Using cranes and thermal cameras, rescue teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire services, Delhi Police and other volunteers carried out rescue efforts for over 12 hours at the site of the 20-year-old four-storey structure that collapsed in the Mustafabad area of the national capital around 3 am, trapping several under the rubble. The congested bylanes of Mustafabad are making it harder to move heavy equipment.

Reacting to the incident, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta expressed her condolences and ordered a probe into the incident, assuring that strict action will be ensured against the culprits. "May God grant peace to the departed souls and give strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss," she said on social media. CM Gupta said the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Service (DFS), and other agencies are engaged in relief and rescue efforts. "Arrangements have been made for proper treatment of all the injured," she said. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi, in a statement, said that the structure was around 20 years old and was fully occupied.

According to police, there were 22 people at the building, most of them

Rescue operation underway after a building collapsed at Shakti Vihar area in New Delhi. 11 died and several others are feared trapped after the four-storey building collapsed . RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

families. The owner of the building, Tehseen, and six from his family were among the 11 who died in the building collapse.

Police said they received information about the building collapse around 3.02 am at Dayalpur police station. A police team rushed to Gali No. 1, Shakti Vihar, where the building was found to have collapsed. Rescue teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Services (DFS), and ambulance services were immediately pressed into action. Police said around 22 people were reported to be trapped when the building collapsed.

According to Rajender Atwal, Divisional Fire Officer of the Delhi Fire Service, the office was alerted about the incident at 2.50 am. When the fire officials reached there, they found the entire building had collapsed and some were trapped, he said. CCTV in an adjacent alley has captured the moment the building collapsed. The footage showed a sudden spark and a thick cloud of dust filling the alley, preventing any further recording. The police said that several families were suspected to be staying inside the building on rent and the tragedy occurred when the occupants were sleeping.

It was a harrowing experience for neighbours living next to the ill-fated building as some of the residents said it felt as it an earthquake had hit them. Even before they could comprehend as to what was happening, everything was covered in dust, shaken survivors recounted. "It felt like an earthquake. The floor shook beneath us and before we could understand anything, everything was covered in dust," said Shiv Vihar local Ryan who lives next to the building that collapsed on Saturday morning.

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MHA issues digital fraud alert for pilgrims, tourists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has alerted the public about online booking frauds, especially those targeting Char Dham pilgrims and tourists, across the country.

These frauds are being perpetrated through fake websites, deceptive social media pages, Facebook posts, and paid advertisements on search engines such as Google, the home ministry said in a statement. The scams involve the creation of professional-looking but fake websites and social media profiles and WhatsApp accounts offering various services.

These include helicopter bookings for Kedarnath, guest house and hotel bookings for Char Dham pilgrims, online cab or taxi reservation, holiday packages and religious tours, according to the statement. Unsuspecting individuals, upon making payments through these portals, often realise they have been duped when no confirmation or service is received and the contact numbers become unreachable. People are advised to exercise extreme caution, the ministry said in the statement.

"Always verify the authenticity of websites before making any payments. Verify before clicking on 'sponsored' or unknown links on Google, Facebook or WhatsApp. Cross-check bookings only through official government portals or trusted travel agencies," it added.

The Ministry also urged the public to report such websites immediately on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal at cybercrime.Gov.In or call 1930 in case of any fraud.

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Protect minorities without excuses: India tells Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

India on Saturday condemned the alleged abduction and killing of a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh and called on the interim government in Dhaka to live up to its responsibility of protecting the minorities. Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the "brutal killing" of Bhabesh Chandra Roy follows a "pattern of systematic persecution" of Hindu minorities in Bangladesh."We have noted with distress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh," he said in his social media post.

"This killing follows a pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government even as the perpetrators of previous such events roam with impunity," Jaiswal said.

"We condemn this incident and once again remind the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing excuses or making distinctions," he added.

The Congress also condemned the killing and demanded that the government take up the matter with Dhaka, saying

There has been a sharp downturn in India-Bangladesh relations after Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka in August last year in the face of a massive anti-government protest

silence and inaction were not options when such targeted violence was being allowed to take root.

Reacting to the killing, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the party stood in solidarity with the Hindu community in Bangladesh and added the government should ensure efforts were made to ensure transparent action to bring the culprits to book. "The Indian National Congress strongly condemns the brutal killing of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a prominent leader of the Hindu community in Dinajpur, Bangladesh. The abduction and assault leading to his tragic death is a chilling reminder of the growing sense of insecurity among religious minorities in the region," he said in a post on X.

Noting that this was not an isolated incident, he said there had been repeated and deeply disturbing instances of attacks on minority communities in Bangladesh over the past months — from desecration of Hindu temples to targeted attacks on the homes and businesses of minorities.

"This pattern of intimidation and brutality cannot be ignored," Ramesh said.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said that according to the government's reply in Parliament, there were 76 attacks on Hindus in the previous two months, leading to the deaths of 23 Hindus.

"Recently the chief advisor of Bangladesh made a very condemnable and disappointing comment about the north-eastern states of India. The atrocities against religious minorities in Bangladesh, human rights violations and the attempt to eliminate the memories of the 1971 Liberation War are efforts to weaken the relations between India and Bangladesh," Kharge said.

From 1971 to today, the Congress president said, India had always sought peace and prosperity for all the people of Bangladesh as it was in the best interest of the subcontinent.

There has been a sharp downturn in India-Bangladesh relations after deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka in August last year in the face of a massive anti-government protest.

The relations nosedived dramatically after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus failed to contain attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country.

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Indian team to visit US ahead of BTA negotiations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Indian and US officials will hold three-day talks from April 23 in Washington for a proposed trade pact with terms of references (ToRs) covering around 19 chapters such as tariffs, non-tariff barriers, and customs facilitation, official sources said.

The Indian official team is visiting the US to give further impetus to the negotiations in the 90-day tariff pause window and discuss these ToRs to iron out differences on certain issues before formally launching talks for the bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

India's chief negotiator, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal, will lead the team for the first in-person talks between the two countries. Agrawal was appointed as the next commerce secretary on April 18. He will assume office from October 1.

"Both sides will discuss the level of ambition. The ToRs will be further developed and discussed. What will be the pathway for talks? The ToRs will include issues like tariffs, non-tariff barriers, rules of origin, goods, services, custom facilitation and regulatory issues," the official said, adding general contours of the pact will be discussed, besides scheduling, so that things can be finalised in 90 days.

The three-day deliberations assume significance, as a senior government official had recently stated that an interim trade agreement between the two countries could be finalised in the 90-day tariff pause announced by the Trump administration if it is a "win-win" for both sides.

In international trade parlance, the level of ambition refers to the extent to which two countries are willing to commit to specific trade liberalisation measures. The visit also follows senior official-level talks held between the two countries last month here.

Brendan Lynch, the Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia, was in India from March 25 to 29 for cru-

The deliberations assume significance, as a senior official had recently stated that an interim agreement could be finalised in the 90-day tariff pause period

cial trade discussions with Indian officials. The two sides are keen to utilise the 90-day tariff pause, announced by US President Donald Trump on April 9, to push the talks.

On April 15, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal had stated that India will try to close the negotiations as quickly as possible with the US. India and the US have been engaged in negotiating a bilateral trade agreement since March. Both sides have targeted to conclude the first phase of the pact by the fall (September-October) of this year, with an aim to more than double the bilateral trade to $ 500 billion by 2030, from about $ 191 billion, currently. In a trade pact, two countries either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. They also ease norms to promote trade in services and boost investments.

While the US is looking at duty concessions in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles (electric vehicles particularly), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, and agriculture items such as apples, tree nuts, and alfalfa hay; India may look at duty cuts for labour-intensive sectors like apparels, textiles, gems and jewellery, leather, plastics, chemicals, oil seeds, shrimp, and horticulture products.

From 2021-22 to 2024-25, the US was India's largest trading partner. In the last fiscal, India's exports to the US rose by 11.6 per cent to $ 86.51 billion as against $ 77.52 billion in 2023-24. The imports were up by 7.44 per cent in 2024-25 to $ 45.33 billion against $ 42.2 billion in 2023-24. With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of $ 41.18 billion in goods in 2024-25.

America accounted for nearly 19.78 of India's total exports and 6.29 per cent of the total imports.

To address the gap and boost manufacturing, the Trump administration announced sweeping tariffs on April 2, including 26 per cent on India. It was later suspended for 90-day till July 9.

In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations and biologicals ($8.1 billion), telecom instruments ($ 6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones ($ 5.3 billion), petroleum products ($ 4.1 billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery ($3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton, including accessories ($ 2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel ($ 2.7 billion). Imports included crude oil ($ 4.5 billion), petroleum products ($ 3.6 billion), coal, coke ($ 3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds ($ 2.6 billion), electric machinery ($ 1.4 billion), aircraft, spacecraft and parts ($ 1.3 billion), and gold ($ 1.3 billion). Meanwhile, imposition of high tariffs to protect domestic industries, once criticised by developed nations, is back in global trade and the rationale for levying such duties, which was earlier championed by developing countries, is also making a comeback in trade talks, sources said.

Without naming countries like the US, they also said that now the advanced economies are also talking about protecting livelihood of fishermen and farmers.

Now, the whole concept that livelihood fishing and farming are different from commercial activities is making a comeback. The same principles once raised by developing countries - previously dismissed - are now resurfacing in global discussions, they added. "Developed countries are using tariffs which they had left during GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) to come back and say that tariffs are necessary for protection. We have been arguing about this when we gave the infant industry argument that developing countries' industries require some kind of tariff protection, the whole world went against this and they stated that your tariffs are very, very high and now the same sectoral tariffs are being used," one of the sources said.

The US imposed sweeping tariffs on April 2 which were later suspended for 90-days except on China, which is facing 245 per cent duty. The US has imposed 25 per cent duty on steel, aluminium and auto components.

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For the first time in Ranchi, Indian Air Force's prestigious Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) enthralled the audience with a breathtaking show at the Namkum Army Ground on Saturday. Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, senior defence and administrative officials were present at the event, which was split into two phases. The event will continue in Ranchi on Sunday as well, followed by an air show in Patna on April 22-23. PTI

India rings happiness, warmth for armymen at high-altitude Siachen

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

In the cold desert region of Ladakh, the Indian Army is 'warming up the hearts' and 'ringing in happiness' for thousands of families of soldiers, standing guard at the Siachen glacier — the world's highest battlefield and several other high-altitude forward locations, both in the eastern and western Ladakh sector, by providing round-the-clock seamless high-speed mobile connectivity thereby enabling them to stay in touch with each other.

For a long time, soldiers deployed in high-altitude forward locations, including the Galwan valley, used to wait for their turn to make a return call to speak to their loved ones and ask about their well-being. Due to adverse weather conditions and inhospitable terrain, they even failed to make calls and returned to their barracks with a heavy heart.

Senior Army officials deployed in the Ladakh region said the Indian Army has fulfilled its long-pending commitment by bridging the digital divide and providing high-speed mobile connectivity across the remote and high-altitude areas of Ladakh, including forward locations in eastern Ladakh, western Ladakh, and the Siachen Glacier.

The Indian army has successfully completed the installation of a 5G mobile tower on the Siachen Glacier — the highest battlefield in the world — showcasing India's technological prowess and resolve.

Following this, the mobile tower network was further expanded to provide 4G and 5G mobile connectivity to the foot soldiers deployed in some of the world's most inhospitable terrains — such as Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), Galwan, Demchok, Chumar, Batalik, Dras and the Siachen Glacier.

By extending this facility, the Indian Army has brought soldiers closer to their families in such inhospitable forward locations.

A senior Army officer observed that ever since we have extended this high-speed mobile connectivity, the morale of the soldiers deployed in remote locations is relatively high. "We have also observed that their emotional health has improved as they can regularly speak to their loved ones and share their emotions".

The pioneering effort has been made possible through a collaborative approach under the Whole-of-Government framework, wherein the Indian Army — leveraging its robust optical fibre cable infrastructure — has partnered with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and the UT administration of Ladakh.

Ladakh-based Fire and Fury Corps has also played a leading role in enabling this synergy, resulting in the installation of multiple mobile towers on Army infrastructure, including four key towers in Ladakh and Kargil districts alone, the Army officials said.

By extending this facility in the region, the Indian Army is already reaping rich dividends. Its impact can be felt beyond the troop welfare. It is a significant nation-building endeavour transforming the socio-economic fabric of remote border villages.

By integrating 'First Villages' into the national digital network, this effort is bridging the digital divide, boosting local economies, promoting border tourism, enhancing medical aid and emergency services, and enabling educational access.

The officials said local populations have welcomed this initiative with overwhelming gratitude. Mobile connectivity is not just a communication tool; it is now a lifeline for remote communities, fostering inclusion, opportunity, and dignity.

This visionary initiative by the Indian Army stands as a testament to its enduring commitment to national integration and development, echoing the spirit of 'Viksit Bharat' - India@2047, the officials added.

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₹23L extorted from retd HAL employee by cyber thugs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Gorakhpur

Cyber thugs extorted Rs 23 lakh from a retired employee of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited after holding him digitally arrested for hours at his house in Indira Nagar by accusing him of funding terror outfits and having links with terrorists.

The victim, Rajesh Kumar Kureel of Indira Nagar, received the call first on April 16 and thereafter he received several calls from four mobile numbers. The callers told him that his Aadhaar number was used in opening bank accounts through which many transactions were made to people linked with terrorist organisations.

The victim was forcibly quizzed and harassed about his links with terrorist organisations and people spreading terror and was told that the CBI team would investigate his bank account.

Later Kureel received a video call from another mobile phone number ant the man on other end told him that they would sympathetically consider his case as he was an elderly man and asked him to send Rs 23 lakh from his bank account to 'CBI investigation officer' C Manoj for giving him reprieve and promised that the amount would be refunded in an hour after the CBI probe concluded.

The victim said that he was alert about such scamsters but was deceived as they gave him exact information about the money in his bank account and other details.

"I sent Rs 23 lakh in the account mentioned by the fraudsters through RTGS. After that, when I did not get the money back as promised, I realised that I had been cheated," he said.

According to Cyber police station in-charge Brajesh Yadav, the cyber fraudsters kept the person under digital arrest for a few hours and made him transfer the amount to their account.

"It has come to light that a Cambodian gang is behind this which empties the bank account of victims in a few hours by using such modus operandi. Information is being collected about the people associated with the gang," he said.

The cyber police station is tracking cyber thugs on the basis of mobile number and account number.

CM braves rain to address public grievances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Gorakhpur

Despite heavy rain on Saturday morning, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath upheld his commitment to public service by holding the Janata Darshan in Gorakhpur, defying expectations of cancellation.

The event was smoothly shifted indoors to the auditorium of Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan, where proper seating was arranged. Chief Minister Yogi met nearly 300 people, patiently heard their grievances, and assured them that addressing public issues remains a top priority for his government. He handed over the petitions of grievance to officials concerned with clear directives to resolve every issue promptly, transparently, and satisfactorily.

Emphasising a zero-tolerance policy towards injustice, he assured the public that no individual would be wronged under his administration. He specifically instructed officials to avoid unnecessary delays in resolving police and revenue-related matters. Taking serious note of complaints about land encroachments, the chief minister ordered strict action against land mafia and local bullies.

Chief Minister Yogi issued clear directives on police-related matters, emphasising prompt registration for FIR and strict adherence to legal procedures. For family disputes, he urged officials to prioritise resolution through mutual dialogue.

Several people came seeking financial help for the treatment of serious illnesses and the chief minister directed officials to expedite completion of the estimate process for their medical expenses and send it to the government. He assured that enough funds would be provided and no one's treatment would be stopped due to lack of money.

The chief minister became emotional when he saw a partially disabled woman and her child who had come to Janata Darshan. He instructed the officials to resolve their issue immediately and to offer them tea. During the event, the chief minister lovingly interacted with children who accompanied their parents. He blessed them, encouraged them to study well, and gave them chocolates. Despite heavy rain on Saturday morning, Chief Minister Yogi's routine at Gorakhnath temple remained unchanged. He offered prayers to Guru Gorakhnath, paid respects at the statue of his Gurudev Brahmalin Mahant Avaidyanath, and reviewed arrangements within the temple premises.

CM extends support to family of visually impaired daughters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

After distressing visuals of a struggling family in Hania Tola, Lakhimpur Kheri, went viral on social media, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath promptly intervened. Acting on his directives, officials delivered essential food supplies and conducted an on-site inquiry.

The investigation revealed the family's severe financial hardship and the presence of visually impaired daughters. In response, authorities initiated immediate action to extend benefits under relevant government welfare schemes.

As soon as the family's plight surfaced online, Chief Minister Yogi directed District Magistrate Durga Shakti Nagpal to ensure immediate relief. Within hours, the tehsildar, lekhpal and other officials reached the family with essential supplies.

Nagpal stated that on the chief minister's instructions, relief was not only provided instantly, but efforts were also initiated to connect the family with multiple government welfare schemes and soon they will receive a food card and other necessary support. Pratap's family consists of six members — his three daughters and two sons. Among them, daughters Soni and Moni are visually impaired. Their mother, Ramrati, passed away two years ago. Pratap has been struggling to provide for his family, but poverty has continued to overshadow his efforts. However, Chief Minister Yogi's personal intervention has brought them much-needed relief. Pratap expressed, "I never imagined our voice would reach this far." The items delivered to the family include 15 kg rice, 15 kg wheat flour, 10 kg potatoes, 2 kg onions, 1 kg tomatoes, 1 litre mustard oil, 1 kg salt, packets of spices and turmeric and 3 kg arhar dal.

Eviction notices to Dalit families in Garhmukteshwar suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ HAPUR

The district administration in Hapur has temporarily suspended eviction notices for alleged illegal land encroachment issued to Dalit families residing in houses provided under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in Garhmukteshwar, officials said.

A three-member committee has been constituted to conduct a detailed investigation into the matter after it came to light that the land was recorded as a pond in revenue records though Garhmukteshwar municipality had granted residents leases for 100 square yards each after collecting a fee in 1986, they said.

The notices served by the Nagar Palika on April 8 gave residents 15 days to vacate the premises.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Hapur, Sandeep Kumar, on Saturday said that "the notices issued to 41 individuals by the Nagar Palika have been withdrawn on Friday".

"The District Magistrate has formed a three-member committee to resolve the issue. It is expected to submit its report within two weeks after hearing from all parties concerned," he said.

A spokesperson for the district administration explained that a revenue team's on-site and documentary investigation in Garhmukteshwar revealed that the land is recorded as a pond in revenue records despite a residential colony, approximately 35 to 40 years old, existing on the site.

Residents of the Indira Nagar Colony claimed that in 1986, the Nagar Palika Garhmukteshwar granted them leases for 100 square yards each after collecting a fee. However, these leases were not recorded in the revenue documents.

Consequently, the Nagar Palika Parishad Garhmukteshwar issued encroachment removal notices to 41 residents. However the colony residents presented documents related to the 1986 leases and demanded a re-investigation.

"Based on these documents, the District Magistrate of Hapur has formed a three-member inquiry committee, headed by the Additional District Magistrate and comprising the Sub-District Magistrate of Garhmukteshwar and the Executive Officer of the Nagar Palika Parishad, Garhmukteshwar. This committee is tasked with clarifying the situation within two weeks," said the officer.

Until the committee submits its report, the eviction notices issued by the Nagar Palika Parishad to all 41 individuals have been rescinded.

Residents of Indira Nagar Colony, a Dalit settlement, were rehabilitated at this location in 1986 with the issuance of residential leases and had been earlier living temporarily near the Garhmukteshwar water tank.

Over the past 35-40 years, residents have established their homes in the colony, with some even constructing houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and others taking bank loans to build their dwellings.

The recent cancellation of the leases by the local administration had placed these 60-70 families on the verge of homelessness.

Massive blaze in warehouse of tent material supplier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA/PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Prayagraj

Firemen douse a fire at a godown in Prayagraj on Saturday PTI

A huge fire broke out in the warehouse of a company, which supplied tenting materials for the recently-concluded Maha Kumbh, at the Parade Ground early on Saturday, officials said and added that the blaze was brought under control after six hours.

While there was no loss of life, two officers and five employees of the Fire Department suffered minor burn injuries while dousing the flames at the Lallu Ji and Tent Company warehouse in the Daraganj area, they said. Chief Fire Officer Rajiv Kumar Pandey said the blaze had been completely controlled. He said 18 fire-tenders, including four from the army, were pressed into service to extinguish the blaze that erupted early on Saturday. These also included 10 water tenders called in from Handia, Meja and Soraon.

He added that he himself, another officer and five employees, suffered minor burn injuries while extinguishing the fire.

Pandey said efforts of the firefighting personnel led to tent material and bamboo sticks worth crores of rupees in many nearby warehouses being saved. Four municipal corporation vehicles were deployed for sprinkling water to protect the nearby godowns. At the same time, 20 employees were evacuated from the burning warehouse. Pandey said the surrounding settlements, including a slum, were also saved from the fire.

The fire caused four LPG cylinders to explode while two scooters parked on the warehouse premises were burnt to ashes.

District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) Abhishek Bharti and other senior officers present on the spot coordinated the firefighting efforts.Several companies supplying tenting materials built their warehouses at Kali Marg of Parade Ground for the Maha Kumbh. After the congregation ended, tenting materials were removed from the fair area and stored in these warehouses.

MISHAP CLAIMS TWO LIVES

Two women died in an accident near Shahipur village under the Handia police station area on Saturday. Police said the speeding tractor went out of control and hit the women walking on the roadside. The deceased women were identified as Urmila Devi and Rekha Devi.

25 Indian tourists injured in Nepal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Balrampur

At least 25 Indian tourists were injured when the bus ferrying them to Nepal's Pokhara met with an accident in the neighbouring country's Dang district, police said on Saturday. The police said 19 tourists were admitted to the community health centre in Tulsipur in this Uttar Pradesh's district, which shares a border with Nepal.

Three of the injured are in critical condition and are undergoing treatment in a Nepal hospital.

The accident on Friday is suspected to have been caused by a brake failure. Most of the injured are from Lucknow, Sitapur, Hardoi and Barabanki districts of Uttar Pradesh, the police said.

Receiving information about the accident, police from Nepal's Gadhawa reached the spot and admitted the injured to a local health centre from where 19 people were brought to Tulsipur.

Circle Officer (Tulsipur) Brijnandan Rai confirmed that 19 Indians were undergoing treatment at the local community health centre.

Acid thrown on youth in brawl

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

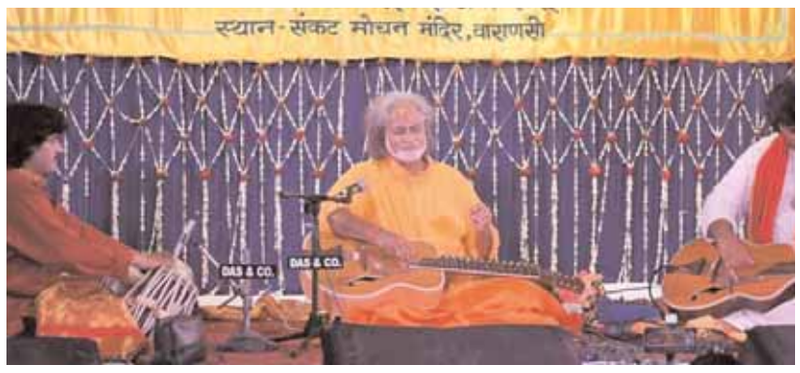
A youth was beaten and acid thrown on him during a brawl over alleged obstruction of common passage between the houses of both the parties in Dubagga on Friday.

As per reports, a fight broke out between Ashish, a resident of Saita in Dubagga, and his neighbour Mahesh, over installation of a door in the common passage between their houses on Friday. Mahesh was installing the door in the common passage and was obstructing the passage, the victim alleged.

Ashish said Mahesh was ignoring the fact that a dispute regarding the road is subjudice in court. "Because of court case, I objected to installation of the door. Mahesh got angry at this and he started abusing me," he alleged. Ashish said when he protested to Mahesh's abusive language, Mahesh along with Vinod Kumari, Anujlata Sharma, Madan and other family members attacked him with sticks. According to Ashish, he fell down after getting injured in the attack. During this, the accused threw acid on him and he suffered burn injuries. After this, the accused fled the scene sensing police action against them. While fleeing they handed out a threat to kill the victim.

Vishwa Mohan Bhatt mesmerises audience

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Varanasi



A unique and rare *'tribandi'* of classical and fusion music was witnessed during the third night of the six-day internationally famous Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroh. The day's event was inaugurated with this grand union of classical and fusion music in Karnataka style. While U Rajesh presented Carnatic style on mandolin, Sankat Mochan Temple Mahant Prof Vishwambharnath Mishra preserved Hindustani music on Pakhavaj and great percussionist Pandit Shivmani added the 'tadka' of fusion through various tools and weapons including drums, octoban, darbuka, udukai, ghatam etc.

The day's programme which began with a unique fusion, ended in the early hours of Saturday amidst the presence of a good number of classical music lovers when Pt Harish Tiwari who came from Delhi ended the singing with a *bhajan* after singing *khayal* in Raga Bhatiyar. His singing was memorable and he was accompanied by Pt Mithivalesh Jha on tabla and Pt Vinay Mishra on samvadini.

Earlier, in the second performance of the day, Saurav-Gaurav Mishra started Kathak dance and ended the performance by performing the traditional style of Kathak. They were accompanied by Ustad Akram Khan on tabla, Pt Ravishankar Mishra on 'bol padhant' (vocal support), Udayshankar Mishra on *pakhavaj,* Mohit Sahni in singing, Aneesh Mishra on *sarangi* and Mitesh Mishra on sitar.

In the next performance, world-renowned Mohan Veena player Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Satvik Veena player Pt Saleel Bhatt, who have become synonymous with Mohan Veena, mesmerised the audience by presenting Raag Jog. After Alapchari in Raag Jog, they played Gatkari Teentaal Nibaddh of Vilambit, Madhya and Drut rhythm. They concluded the performance with Ramdhun. Himanshu Mahant played a wonderful performance with them on tabla. Then vocalist Omkar Havaldar from Bengaluru presented singing Raga Abhogi Kanhada. He sang compositions in Ektaal and Teentaal in Raga Abhogi.

The audience was overwhelmed by his melodious voice and his singing was full of charm. After singing compositions in Ektaal and Teentaal in Raga Abhogi, he ended the performance with a bhajan. In the fifth performance, Deepika Varadarajan from Chennai enthralled the audience. The next performance was by famous santoor player Pt Abhay Rustam Sopori. After this, Rajendra Sejwar who came from Gaya presented a song. After singing khayal in Raga Natbhairav, he ended the performance with a Thumri. He was accompanied by Pt Kubernath Mishra on tabla, Pt Dharmanath Mishra on samvadini and Sandeep Mishra on sarangi.

Youth held for black marketing IPL tickets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

The greed to earn fast bucks by black marketing tickets among cricket fans landed a youth in jail. The Sushant Golf City police caught the youth on the charges of black marketing IPL match tickets near a mall in the area. The arrested youth disclosed his name as Sujit Yadav of Prithvipuram Ahimamau.

As per reports, a person made a video of the accused black marketing tickets and posted it on social media. After this, the local police reached the spot and nabbed the accused and took him to the police station. When the police frisked the accused, 43 tickets of the IPL match were recovered from him. Subsequently a case was registered against him and he was sent to jail on Friday.

BEAUTICIAN's DEATH

In the case of a beautician's death in Banthra, the police shared details of postmortem examination on Saturday, stressing that she died as she was crushed under the car and that she was not assaulted. "According to the postmortem report there is no injury caused by any sharp object on the deceased's body and her death was caused due to injuries she sustained in the accident and she had spinal cord injury," the police spokesman said.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

नन्दनी मौर्या पुत्री संजय कुमार मौर्या निवासिनी, पोस्ट खुरहुरिया,ग्राम सेहुडा, सुहुरा, सिद्धार्थनगर उप्र , हाई स्कूल के मार्कशीट के अनुसार नन्दिनी मौर्या (NANDINI MAURIYA) सही नाम है। आधार कार्ड में भी नन्दनी मौर्या को अब नन्दिनी मौर्या (NANDINI MAURIYA) किया जाए।

NOTICE

I, Vimla Gupta Spouse of Gopal Ram Resident of Plot No 109, Safipur 2nd Bangali Colony, Harjinder Nagar Kanpur Nagar have changed my name from VIMALA to VIMLA GUPTA Vide Affidavit dated 15.04.2025 at Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was KABEER MALIK which is now changed To KABEER YASEEN MALIK. In future I shall be known as KABEER YASEEN MALIK S/O. YASEEN MALIK Flat No- 315 B Regal Shipra Suncity Indirapuram Ghaziabad UP.

NOTICE

I have changed my name Mohammad Suhail to Mohd Sohail S/o Mohammad Sharif for future purpose. Add-88/185 Chamanganj Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I Veeresh Pandey Spouse of Kripa Shanker Pandey R/O House No. 286/10 Kailash Nagar, Jajmau Kanpur Nagar 208010 have changed my name from Veeresh Pandey to Veeresh Kumari Pandey vide affidavit dated 18 Apr 2025 at Court of Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

Amber singh sengar s/o Raman Pratap Singh,Gooba Gardan Plot no.10,Scheme no.2,Radhapuram, Kalyanpur, Kanpur,U.P. 208017 Changed my name from Amber sengar to Amber Singh Sengar vide affidavit dated 19/04/2025 sworn before Notary Balram Yadav at Kanpur.Henceforth,I shall be known as Amber Singh Sengar for all purposes.

सूचना

सूचना

मूल पट्टा विलेख पत्र सं० डी/बही सं० 1 जिल्द सं0 18 दिनांक 19/05/1967 एवं मुल बिक्री विलेख जिल्द सं0 3775 पृष्ठ सं0 163 से 168 दिनांक 10/05/1982 प्लाट सं० 9 ब्लाक यू गोबिन्द नगर कानपुर नगर का कहीं खो गया है अब मैं मोना केसवानी उक्त संपति को भारतीय स्टेट बैंक की कानपुर आर०ए०सी० पी०सी० शाखा (कोड 05183) से ग्रह ऋण ले कर खरीदना चाहती हू और उक्त संपति को बंधक बनाना चाहती हू साथ ही इसकी इफआईआर दर्ज करा दी गई है जिसका एल०ए० आर० संख्या 20240000 672301 दिनांक 08/04/2025 पर है। –मोना केसवानी पुत्री सुगनोमल टेकचन्दानी

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was SAURABH KUMAR SINGH which is now changed to SAURABH SINGH . In future I shall be known as SAURABH SINGH S/O- Upendra Singh , D- 1/312 Kalindipuram Rajrooppur, Prayagraj UP.

NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that the original allotment letter of my house number 4/97 Vibhav Khand Gomti Nagar Lucknow issued on dated- 20/07/2022 has been actually lost, the use of which will be considered illegal Paramhans Rai s/o - Ishwar Dev Rai HN - E 1/642 Vinay khand Gomti Nagar Lucknow

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है

मदरसा सईदुल उलूम बेहका पूरामुफ्ती प्रयागराज में एक स०अ० तहतानिया का पद रिक्त है। शैक्षिक योग्यता आलिम अथवा इण्टर (उर्दू) वेतनमान 35400–112400 लेविल–06 एवं अन्य भत्ते न्यूनतम आयु 18 वर्ष। इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन की तिथि से 21 दिन के अन्दर अपना आवेदन पत्र समस्त शैक्षिक योग्यताओं के साथ प्रबन्धक के पदनाम से मदरसा उपरोक्त पर भेजें एवं साक्षात्कार हेतु सूचना पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा अलग से दी जायेगी।

प्रबन्धक
मदरसा सईदुल उलूम
बेहका पूरामुफ्ती प्रयागराज

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Nikita Katiyar D/o Rajeev Katiyar R/o khanpur, Masaini, Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh-209601 have changed my name to Sarika Katiyar.

PD(1866)C

Rajnath inaugurates Khel Mahakumbh

(Left) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak during the inauguration of Sansad Khel Mahakumbh at KD Singh Babu Stadium in Lucknow on Saturday (right) girls performing yoga on the occasion PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Saturday that it was the right time for Lucknow to host the National Games after a gap of 75 years.

Singh expressed these views at the inauguration of the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium.

Speaking on the occasion, the defence minister said that many MPs under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had organised sports competitions in their respective constituency, establishing a new path for the development of society. He stressed that in the development of any society it was not only important to understand the value of sports and sportsmen but also give them opportunities to move forward.

"Lucknow is known for its sporting culture not only in Uttar Pradesh but also in the country and abroad. Famous hockey player KD Singh 'Babu' spent a considerable time in the state capital and improved the sports standards prevailing in the city. Lucknow has also been the karmabhoomi of famous Olympian Chaman Lal. Indian Premier League matches are also being played in the city and there was a time when the Sheesh Mahal tournament was also played and it used to attract celebrity cricketers," he added.

Singh emphasised that the city's sporting culture can be estimated from the fact that soon after Independence, the National Games were held in Lucknow in 1948. "This has been followed by several national and international sporting events being held here regularly and now the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh is also a part of the sports calendar," he said.

The defence minister said that there was a time when people without understanding the importance of sports events would say 'kheloge kudoge to banoge kharab, likhoge padhoge to banoge nawab', but now they say 'padhoge likhoge aur uske saath kheloge to banoge usse bade nawab'.

He said that people's perception about sports personalities had changed. "Today's parents want their children to become Leander Paes, Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, PV Sindhu, Neeraj Chopra etc," he said.

He explained that apart from seeing sports from the point of view of career, it has the advantage of bringing about a comprehensive development in the personality. "Sportsmen work hard to achieve results and then work harder if they fail. They work as a team and know well how to face challenges," he added.

Rajnath Singh pointed out that when players step out to play, they have only one aim which is to win the game. "They rise above being individuals and this is a feeling which helps in the building of the nation in future," he added.

Singh pointed out that a new sporting culture has developed in the nation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Earlier, sportsmen were only satisfied by simply participating in the games but today the players are being taken seriously at the international levels and this is a matter of pride for us. Another factor which has helped is the sports-friendly policy of the state and the Central governments," he said.

Singh stated that many sportsmen and women are taking training under Khelo India Centres. "In this changed scenario the rural sports talent is also coming forward," he added.

He stressed that a sportsman never loses he either wins or learns something in the process. "The results of the Sansad Khel Mahakumbh will be seen in the days to come when sportsmen from Lucknow will win medals in national and international events," he said.

Singh said the Central government took sports very seriously and was making full efforts to organize the 2036 Olympics in Gujarat and was also working in the direction of holding other international sports events in India too.

He emphasised that the entire country is thinking like sportsmen in terms of Nation First. "We have a target of 2047 as Viksat Bharat. I believe that every citizen has a responsibility to work towards Viksat Bharat. The concept of Viksat Lucknow is also connected to this," he added.

MEETS PARTY WORKERS

Meanwhile, Rajnath Singh, in a dialogue organised with senior Bharatiya Janata Party party workers of Lucknow West assembly constituency at a lawn in Munnu Kheda, enquired about the problems and development needed in the area. He said that it was always his priority to work according to the needs of the people of

When the workers raised the issue of the sewer lines, Singh said that the sewage system in Lucknow was not as it should be and for this he had spoken to the minister concerned who had assured that after holding a meeting with the officials and within 15 days, this problem would be resolved soon under the Amrit Yojana.

Senior BJP worker Satish Sharma said that the development witnessed in Para area had never happened before.

Councillor Guddu Yadav said the defence minister had set a record with his string of developmental works.

Abhay Upadhyay, a party worker, requested for solution to the problem of traffic jams caused due to encroachment when descending from Chowk to Haiderganj overbridge.

Party law cell convenor KK Mishra raised the issue of problems caused by traffic jams around the civil court and the old high court and demanded its resolution. The defence minister asked Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

CM: Dynasts can't accept 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in a sharp critique of opposition on Saturday, said those with authoritarian and dynastic mindsets cannot tolerate the idea of inclusive development, focusing only on personal and family gains.

"Such individuals cannot accept the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. People with such an ideology had imposed Emergency in 1975 and enforced censorship on the media. Even today, they continue to issue fatwas against the media from time to time," he said. "These leaders were only concerned about their personal gains, which left the people of the state struggling for identity," the chief minister said while addressing the inaugural session of a media group's event. He said the state, once seen as 'BIMARU' state, was now driving the country's economy.

"Before 2017, UP's economy stood at ₹12.75 lakh crore. Today, in just eight years, it has grown to ₹30 lakh crore," he stated.

He also mentioned that the per capita income, which was ₹46,000 in 2017, has now risen to ₹1.10 lakh.

"Before 2017, there was only one expressway in Uttar Pradesh, but in the last eight years, six expressways have been built, and work is ongoing on seven more. UP now has the largest highway network and the best interstate connectivity," he said and mentioned the introduction of the first rapid rail and inland waterway service in the state.

The chief minister also underscored that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for India's development was more than just a slogan. "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas is not just a slogan, it is a mantra of capability," he said.

He further highlighted that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India's economy has risen from the 11th to the 5th largest in the world, and is set to become the 3rd largest in the next two years. The chief minister stressed the importance of collaboration to overcome challenges as India moves towards becoming a 'Viksit aur Atmanirbhar Bharat' by 2047, the centenary year of India's independence. "To fulfil Prime Minister Modi's vision for a developed India, we all need to face the challenges together," he said.

The chief minister reflected on the transformation of Gorakhpur, stating that before 2017, the city faced a significant identity crisis. There was a lack of connectivity, widespread migration among the youth, and the city struggled with lawlessness. Industries were closing down, and the district was grappling with floods, malaria, and encephalitis. At one point, Gorakhpur and Eastern Uttar Pradesh were plagued by gang wars between mafia.

The chief minister also highlighted the changing image of Prayagraj, noting that conversations now centre on the grandeur of Maha Kumbh 2025 rather than mafia activity.

He praised the city's ability to host crores of devotees, recalling that over 66 crore people attended the 45-day Maha Kumbh and lauded the administration's exceptional management and hospitality.

"Farmers no longer commit suicide. The poor no longer die of hunger. Today, 80 crore people in the country and 15 crore people in the state are receiving free rations. Ten crore people have access to Ayushman health coverage. Four crore people in the country and 60 lakh people in the state have benefitted from the PM Awas Yojana," the chief minister said.

Meanwhile, addressing the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony for projects worth ₹1,500 crore at Manbela ground in Gorakhpur on Saturday. Chief Minister Yogi said that Uttar Pradesh had remained free from mafia, goons, and riots for the past eight years and was now recognised for its development and progress. "There is no substitute for development," he said.

The chief minister gave a major boost to Gorakhpur's development by inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for 146 development projects worth around ₹1,500 crore. These projects cover key sectors including road connectivity, sewage systems, healthcare, and tourism.

'Disputes over delimitation, NEP hurt people, nation'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Lucknow

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Saturday said it was "natural" that disputes between states and the Centre over the delimitation, National Education Policy "for political gains" hurt the people and the nation. Good governance is that which takes the entire country along as per the Constitution," the former chief minister of UP said.

In a post on X in Hindi, she said, "It is natural that public and national interest is hit by the use of disputes between the states and the Centre for political gains regarding census and re-allocation of Lok Sabha seats on its basis, the new education policy and the imposition of language, etc."

Mayawati said the government should instead pay attention to how children studying in government schools, especially those from the oppressed groups and are poor, Dalit, tribal or from the backward class, can progress in IT and skilled fields without acquiring knowledge of English. "Hatred towards language is inappropriate," she posted.

Mayawati said the government should instead pay attention to how children studying in government schools

The central government and southern states are engaged in a tussle over delimitation exercise scheduled for next year. The Tamil Nadu government and the Centre are also clashing over the issue of the implementation of the National Education Policy, and the debate around the "imposition of Hindi" linked to it.

The NEP and language imposition debate has recently emerged even in Maharashtra where the BJP government has decided to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools across the state, in a departure from the practice of studying two languages.

Opposition parties have termed the move as "undermining" Marathi.

SP, Cong trying to incite caste-based conflict: Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Gorakhpur

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused Congress and Samajwadi Party of creating division and unrest in society by creating caste-based divisions. He accused both parties of trying to incite caste-based conflict.

"One SP MLA insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji and praised Aurangzeb. Their MP insulted Rana Sanga and glorified Babur, who demolished Ram Janmabhoomi. Their leaders even belittled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel while praising Jinnah, the man responsible for the violence against Hindus in Pakistan and Dalits in Bangladesh," he said, adding that the interest of all sections of society lies in self-reliant and developed India.

The chief minister was speaking at a seminar held at Gorakhpur Club as part of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan. He said that Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar endured hardship and humiliation to break social barriers and earn respect for the entire country. It was because of Babasaheb that every citizen got the right to vote, he added.

He said, "Many leading countries with developed and modern democracies granted voting rights to black people and women much later, but India, with the formation of its Constitution, gave the right to vote to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and women in the very first general election of 1952. This was made possible through Babasaheb. The credit for binding the country in the thread of unity goes to Babasaheb."

He said that Dr BR Ambedkar worked tirelessly to draft the Constitution, but he was agitated when the Congress began making repeated amendments to it. Despite Congress trying to stop him from entering the Constituent Assembly, Babasaheb's popularity and commitment to the nation ensured he became a member. He was later made chairman of the Drafting Committee, though even that appointment was opposed by some, including Pandit Nehru.

"There were conspiracies to stop him, but through his intelligence and hard work, he gave India a Constitution that made us the world's largest democracy," the chief minister stated.

Chief Minister Yogi pointed out that in 1952, Congress prevented Dr Ambedkar from winning elections and even awarded the opponent who defeated him with a Padma honour. In 1954, Congress fielded its personal assistant against him in a by-election, which led to his defeat again. He only entered Parliament when a Hindu Mahasabha MP vacated the Pune seat.

According to the chief minister, Congress was afraid of Dr Ambedkar's dedication, wisdom, and his strong support for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and national unity. "RahuI Gandhi now carries a copy of the Constitution, but it is ironic because these are the same people who disrespected Dr Ambedkar in the past," he said.

Accusing the SP of deliberately erasing Dr Ambedkar,s legacy, Yogi recalled how in 2012, soon after coming to power, the then SP government announced plans to demolish memorials built in Lucknow in the names of icons like Dr BR Ambedkar, Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule and Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj. He said the SP removed his name from the Kannauj medical college and renamed a proposed university in Lucknow from Kanshi Ram to one focused on Urdu, Persian and Arabic.

"We opposed it and said if you try to break them, we'll resist, because these great personalities led the movement for social justice and gave voice to the voiceless," he said and added, "Now, our government restored these names because we honour these leaders not for votes, but for their values."

The chief minister said that SP got four chances to rule the state but failed to provide basic rights to the poor, including homes, land, health cards, ration and support for daughters' marriages and only developed their families, while the Bharatiya Janata Party's mantra was 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

Taking a swipe at the opposition alliance, Chief Minister Yogi said, "Parties in the INDI Alliance tried to mislead people during the Lok Sabha elections, but it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who placed the original copy of the Constitution on his head while entering the new Parliament, a true mark of respect."

Chief Minister Yogi concluded with a strong appeal to society: "Let us not divide ourselves on caste lines. Instead, join the mission for 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat[."

Karni Sena activist booked for objectionable remarks against AKY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Aligarh

Police in Aligarh have booked a Karni Sena activist, who announced a bounty on the head of Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Lal Suman last week, after he allegedly used objectionable and provocative language against Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Police arrested Mohan Chauhan, whose remarks were circulating on social media, on Friday night from his residence under the Jawan police station limits in view of the "threat" to peace posed by his "inflammatory" comments.

Circle officer Abhay Kumar Pandey said the case against Chauhan was registered on the basis of a complaint filed on Wednesday by SP district president Laxmi Dhangar. During probe, it came to light that there were more than six cases registered against Chauhan since 2016. Chauhan was earlier booked for allegedly announcing a reward of Rs 25 lakh on the head of SP Rajya Sabha MP Suman, who recently stoked a controversy with his statement on 16th-century Rajput king Rana Sanga, calling him a "traitor" for allegedly inviting Babur, the founder of the Mughal dynasty, to defeat Ibrahim Lodi. In a video, Chauhan was purportedly heard saying that Suman would have to pay the price for his comments. He was also heard saying that given the opportunity, he would personally carry out the act. Aarti Singh, the SP Mahila Sabha chief for Aligarh, lodged a complaint against Chauhan for his remarks targeting Suman at the Gandhi Park police station on March 29. On Wednesday, the complaint was transferred to the Jawan police station, under whose jurisdiction Chauhan lives.

Mayor injured in accidental fall

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

Lucknow Mayor Sushma Kharkwal had an unfortunate accident during a programme organised in Munnu Khera on Saturday. She slipped on the mat and seriously injured her leg, after which she was admitted to Balrampur Hospital. Doctors have put a plaster on her leg and advised her to rest for 10 days.

As soon as this news spread, a wave of concern overtook city residents, well-wishers and supporters. #GetWellSoonMayor started trending on social media and every corner echoed with prayers for her speedy recovery.

Despite the injury, the mayor's smile and passion touched people's hearts. Even in the hospital, she communicated with everyone and assured them that she will soon recover and return to serving the public with more energy than before.

Sambhal CO gets clean chit over remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Lucknow

Police have given a clean chit to Sambhal Circle Officer (CO) Anuj Chaudhary regarding his controversial statement about Holi and *'Jumma namaz'* (Friday prayers).

Before Holi, Chaudhary had told reporters after a meeting, "Holi is a festival that comes once a year, whereas Friday prayers take place 52 times in a year. If anyone feels uncomfortable with the colours of Holi, they should stay indoors on that day. Those who step out should have a broad mindset, as festivals are meant to be celebrated together."

A senior police official of Sambhal told PTI on Saturday, "CO Anuj Chaudhary has been given chit (for his Holi and *Jumma namaz* remarks)."

The senior police official refused to elaborate further.

Sambhal has been tense since November 24 when violence took place during a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid in the Kot Garvi area of the city. It resulted in the deaths of four people, with several others injured in the clashes that erupted between locals and security personnel. So far, 81 people have been taken into custody in connection with the case.

Chaudhary's remarks had come under attack from a section of the people and a probe was launched following a complaint filed by former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur in March.

In the circumstances prevailing before Holi, Chaudhary emphasised the need for communal harmony and strict vigilance to maintain law and order. He said peace committee meetings had been going on for a month at various levels to ensure smooth celebrations.

He urged both communities to respect each other's sentiments and also appealed to people to avoid forcibly applying colours on those who do not wish to participate.

"Just as Muslims eagerly await Eid, Hindus look forward to Holi. People celebrate by applying colours, sharing sweets and spreading joy.

"Similarly, on Eid, people prepare special dishes and embrace each other in celebration. The essence of both the festivals is togetherness and mutual respect," he had said.

Chaudhary's remarks had come under attack from a section of the people and a probe was launched following a complaint filed by former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur in March.

Reacting to the development, Thakur in a statement on Saturday said, "From the probe report, it is clear that the statements of Anuj Chaudhary and two other witnesses — Jitendra Verma and Mohammad Yaseen — were taken but surprisingly, my (complainant's) statements were not taken."

"This is sad and objectionable. I was also not allowed to submit my evidence. Hence, it is requested to provide an opportunity to the complainant to put forward his point of view, and the allegations be probed by a senior officer," Thakur said.

Bank of India
Relationship Beyond Banking

Zonal Office
128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur-208011, Tel: 0512-2985004

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule 8 (1)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices to below mentioned Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest at other charges with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the below mentioned properties in exercise of power conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower/guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India. The borrowers/guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Dt. | Possession Date Amount as per Demand	Description of Properties Mortgaged/Owner of the Properties
Branch: Jhansi Branch, Plot No. 331/2-331/B 1 Jhokanbagh, Near Narayan Dharmshala, P.P. Plaza, First Floor, Private Shop No. F-2, Jhansi (U.P.) 284401		
Borrower: Mrs. Durga w/o Mr. Prakash Kushwaha Guarantor: Mr. Prakash Kushwaha s/o Mr. Ram Das	Demand Notice Dt. 28.01.2025 | Possession Date 15.04.2025 Rs. 2,07,029.80 (Rs. Two Lakh Seven Thousand Twenty Nine and Paisa Eighty Only) + applicable interest and other charges	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at part of Arazi No. 1941, Mouza Jhansi Khas, outside Aligol Khidki, Tehsil & District Jhansi. **Name of Owner:** Mrs. Durga Devi w/o Mr. Prakash Kushwaha **Land Area:** 1838.25 Sq Ft. or 170.84 Sq Mtr. Boundaries of the property as per Sale deed: East: 20 Feet wide road, West: Farm of Bhagwan Das, North: Farm of Devi, South: Farm of Devi.

Date: 20.04.2025 Place: Jhansi Authorised Office: Bank of India

PM Modi to visit Saudi Arabia for bilateral talks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning Tuesday with focus on further expanding bilateral cooperation in several key areas including energy, trade and defence.

A number of agreements will be inked between the two sides following talks between Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud.

The visit will be hosted in the city of Jeddah, where Prime Minister Modi's engagements will include a ceremonial welcome by the Crown Prince. Additionally, the two leaders will co-chair the second meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council, aimed at building on the already strong bilateral relationship.

The visit will provide an opportunity to build on the already strong strategic partnership between the two countries, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said here on Saturday at a media briefing. There will an effort to infuse a strategic dimension to the India-Saudi Arabia energy cooperation, he said.

The Foreign Secretary highlighted the importance of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia, stating, "The visit is significant due to Saudi Arabia's role as a strategic partner for India. The country is home to one of the largest Indian expatriate communities globally.

Additionally, Saudi Arabia is a key voice in the Islamic world and is increasingly influential in regional matters. This visit presents an opportunity to further strengthen the already robust ties with this strategic partner. The Prime Minister and Crown Prince share a strong personal bond, marked by mutual respect, which has greatly benefited the bilateral relationship."

FILE PHOTO

Prime Minister Modi is visiting Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. This will be the third visit of the Prime Minister to the Kingdom after his previous visits in 2016 and 2019.

The visit follows the State Visit of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to New Delhi in September 2023 to attend the G20 Summit and co-chair the first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

India and Saudi Arabia share close and friendly ties with a long history of socio-cultural and trade contacts. As strategic partners, the two countries share strong bilateral relations across various areas including political, defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, health, education, culture and people-to-people ties.

India's relations with the Kingdom have evolved into a stronger and enduring partnership in the past decade, expanding into many strategic domains, with growing investment commitments, broadening of defence cooperation and intensive high-level exchanges across sectors.

Modi's visit reflects the importance India attaches to its bilateral relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It will provide an opportunity to further deepen and strengthen our multi-faceted partnership, as well as to exchange views on various regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Inherited truth, courage from Nehru: Rahul Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Jawaharlal Nehru's greatest legacy was giving Indians the courage to resist oppression and claim freedom, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday and added he inherited "truth and courage" from his great-grandfather — the country's first prime minister.

In a free-wheeling conversation with party leader Sandeep Dikshit that was posted on the former Congress chief's social media handle and YouTube channel, Gandhi talks about his pursuit of truth and his willingness to stand by it no matter what the cost.

"Nehru didn't teach us politics — he taught us to confront fear and stand for the truth. He gave Indians the courage to resist oppression and ultimately claim freedom," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said in the post on X.

"His greatest legacy lies in his relentless pursuit of truth — a principle that shaped everything he stood for," he added.

The video has been uploaded on Gandhi's YouTube channel with the caption "Truth and Courage - What I Inherited from Nehru".

"This one's personal. In this podcast-style conversation with Sandeep Dikshit, I speak about what drives me — the pursuit of truth — and how that pursuit is inspired by my great-grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru. He wasn't just a politician. He was a seeker, a thinker, someone who walked into danger with a smile and came out stronger," Gandhi wrote in the video description.

"His greatest legacy lies in his relentless pursuit of truth — a principle that shaped everything he stood for. He didn't teach us politics — he taught us to confront fear and stand for the truth. That need to seek, to question, to stay rooted in curiosity — it runs in my blood," the former Congress chief added.

Gandhi said his grandmother — former prime minister Indira Gandhi — told him stories of how Nehru nearly fell into a glacier in the mountains he loved, how animals were always part of the family, or how they never missed an hour of exercise.

"My mother still watches birds in the garden. I do judo. These aren't just hobbies — they're windows into who we are. We observe. We stay connected to the world around us. And what we carry most deeply is the instinct to face challenges with quiet strength," he wrote.

Centre engages fishermen to combat pollution in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In a bid to combat escalating plastic pollution in the Ganga, a government-funded study has proposed a "cash-for-nets" scheme aimed at incentivising fishers to return worn-out or abandoned fishing nets.

These abandoned, lost or discarded synthetic nets -- referred to as "ghost gear" -- pose a severe, long-term threat to aquatic ecosystems.

Conducted over five years by the Wildlife Institute of India, the study forms part of the long-term conservation initiative -- Planning and Management for Aquatic Species Conservation and Maintenance of Ecosystem Services in the Ganga River Basin for a Clean Ganga.

Based on extensive riverine and socioeconomic surveys, the study recorded 72 incidents of aquatic species becoming entangled in fishing gear -- both active and abandoned. The researchers documented fishing gear and materials every five kilometres along the river.

For the socioeconomic survey, 150 key informant interviews, 10 focal group discussions with fishers, and personal observations were used.

The 'vulnerable' Indian flapshell turtle accounted for the highest number of entanglements with 21, followed by the 'critically endangered' gharial with 11.

However, the study cautioned that these figures likely underrepresented the actual scale as it was limited to incidents observed during the brief survey window (30 days per year) or reported by local communities. Approximately 40 per cent of the respondents reported witnessing aquatic species trapped in ghost gear.

Low level of education among fishing communities was identified as a key barrier to awareness and access to information about the environmental and economic impact of ghost gear.

The report also pointed out systemic shortfalls -- none of the 20 block and panchayat offices surveyed across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal had the infrastructure to collect, store or recycle ghost gear.

The abandoned nets can take up to 600 years to decompose, continuing to entangle fish, turtles and other riverine species long after their use.

As they degrade, they break down into microplastics, polluting the food chain and further deteriorating water quality.

Pollution levels were found to be particularly severe in West Bengal, where more than 4,600 abandoned nets were documented in a single survey area.

"The highest concentration of fishing nets was observed in the lower stretches of the river, with West Bengal (4,690) leading, followed by Uttar Pradesh (2,131), Bihar (1,194), and Jharkhand (191)," according to the report.

Low level of education among fishing communities was identified as a key barrier to awareness and access to information about the environmental and economic impact of ghost gear

With nearly 30 lakh fishers relying on the Ganga for their livelihoods, the study underscored a critical knowledge gap.

Despite being directly affected by the problem, most fishers are unaware of the long-term damage caused by abandoned gear. While about 80 per cent of the respondents admitted to having lost fishing gear, only 25 per cent understood the environmental consequences of "ghost nets".

The study also highlighted economic pressures -- poverty, a lack of alternative livelihoods and rising demand -- exacerbating unsustainable fishing practices.

"The cost of fishing gear plays a crucial role in usage patterns. Traditional gear with larger mesh sizes is more expensive. Therefore, lowering the cost of sustainable, natural fibre-based alternatives and offering incentives could encourage eco-friendly practices," the Wildlife Institute of India said in its study report.

The proposed "cash-for-nets" scheme suggests rewarding fishers for depositing worn-out or abandoned nets to designated collection points, potentially managed through the existing network of fair price shops. The nets would then be transferred to block-level processing units and subsequently consolidated at the district level.

Identified recycling partners appointed by the government would collect the nets for upcycling and recycling.

The model calls for a multi-stakeholder, multi-tiered approach backed by robust policy measures to create strong upstream and downstream linkages.

Beyond one-time payments, the initiative proposes a rewards-based system -- fishers who responsibly use nets could access subsidised rates for replacements -- tracked through biometric IDs.

The longer a net is appropriately used, the greater the subsidy on its replacement -- promoting both economic and ecological benefits. The plan also envisions broader community participation.

The Wildlife Institute of India suggested involving self-help groups (SHGs) in the collection, sorting and recycling process, creating income opportunities while supporting river conservation.

BJP steps up attack on Supreme Court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, one of the more vocal party members in the Lok Sabha, launched a broadside against the Supreme Court on Saturday, saying Parliament and state assemblies should be closed down if the apex court has to make the laws.

He accused the court of arrogating to itself Parliament's legislative powers by striking down laws passed by the legislature and even giving directions to the President who, Dubey noted, is the appointing authority of Supreme Court judges. "Kanoon yadi Supreme Court hi banayega to Sansad Bhavan bandh kar dena chahiye," the BJP MP said in a social media post. His comment came following the Centre's assurance to the court that it would not be implementing some of the contentious provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act till the next day of hearing after the court raised questions over them.

It is hearing several pleas challenging the constitutionality of the Act, which was passed by Parliament in the first week of this month.

Dubey appeared to question the court's critical observations on the Act's dilution of the "Waqf by use" provision, saying it has sought documentary proof in cases involving temples, including Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, but has chosen to ignore the similar need in the ongoing case.

The SC's decision to set a timeline for the President to take a decision on the bills sent to them has triggered a fresh round of debate, with VP Dhankhar voicing strong disapproval of the judgement

Citing Article 368 of the Constitution, he said that law-making is the job of Parliament, and the Supreme Court is meant to interpret the laws.

The court can order the government but not Parliament, he asserted.

Dubey cited the court's earlier decisions to decriminalise consensual homosexuality, which was covered under Section 377 of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code, and to strike down Section 66(A) of the IT Act to target its alleged overreach.

He claimed that the court decriminalised homosexuality despite all religions considering it wrong and that Section 66(A) was required to curb the increasing misuse of online platforms to send objectionable contents.

Dubey, an MP from Godda in Jharkhand, is often in the vanguard of the BJP's political attacks on its rivals in the Lok Sabha and in articulating the ruling party's stand on various issues.

The apex court's recent decision to set a timeline for the President of India to take a decision on the bills sent to her has triggered a fresh round of debate, with Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar voicing strong disapproval of the judgement.

Dhankhar has also been maintaining that the apex court was wrong in striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act in 2015.

On the other hand, opposition parties have lauded the court's direction to the President as well as the proceedings in the apex court in the Waqf (Amendment) Act matter.

The discovery of a huge amount of cash last month in an outhouse at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma, who has since been transferred from Delhi High Court to Allahabad High Court, has also reignited debate over the issue of judicial accountability.

Railway added more facilities since 2014

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ New Delhi

With no facility of on-board lavatories for the railway loco pilots in 2014, the Indian Railways enhanced with more than 9,000 facilties to improve the working conditions of train pilots.

The facilities includes urinals, air conditioned well furnished running rooms. As per railways data, before 2014 there was not a single running room with adequate recreational facilties for the loco pilots who at one go ferries about 1000 lives from one destination to another.

Further more than half the locomotive cabs have been upgraded with ergonomic seats, air conditioning and other improvements. "Toilets are being fitted in all new locos manufactured henceforth. This was not even part of the production plan before 2014.

Older locomotives are being retrofitted with toilets. Design modifications are being done in older locomotives for this purpose. New running rooms are being added on the routes with heavy congestion. These steps have already brought down the working hours significantly," said a senior railway official.

FILE PHOTO

New safety features like fog safety devices, Kavach, driver alert systems and better technology for braking systems are further improving safety. Onboard facilities, better technologies, and better rest timings are also improving the working conditions, claimed the officials.

"Railway takes care for necessary requirements of all type of loco pilots. Goods Trains stop at many stations and yards for significant time. Timing at these stations is sufficient for using toilets. Crew also use this time for light snacks,' added the official.

"In suburban trains, loco pilots work on short distance trains and crew of these trains use toilets at terminal stations. Crew of passenger trains use toilet of train when train is standing at station and also use this time for snacks. All above steps are continuously being implemented," he explained.

Last year in July Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi courted a controversy after he visited New Delhi railways station and raised work conditions of the loco pilots which was immediately countered by Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw who accused the Opposition of trying to demoralise the Railway family with fake news.

Waqf by user issue deliberately raised by Centre to bring properties to dispute: Mallikarjun Kharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said the Supreme Court has given importance to the points raised by the Congress and other opposition parties on the Waqf (Amendment) Act and alleged that the government had raked the 'Waqf by user' issue deliberately to create a dispute over such properties.

Addressing a meeting of general secretary and in-charges here, Kharge said former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were named in the Enforcement Directorate chargesheet and National Herald properties in Delhi, Lucknow and Mumbai were attached with a "spirit of vendetta".

Referring to the Waqf (Amendment) Act that is being heard in the Supreme Court, he said, "I am happy that the Supreme Court has given importance to the points raised by the Congress and other opposition parties."

He accused the BJP and the central government of misleading people on the issue of Waqf. "Especially the issue of 'Waqf by user' has been deliberately brought up by the government to put Waqf properties into dispute," he alleged.

Kharge said the Congress would be cowed down by the Enforcement Directorate's action in the National Herald case. "You must have noticed how, as part of a big conspiracy, the names of CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have been put in the charge sheet in the National Herald case. But no matter whose name they put, we are not going to be afraid," Kharge said.

PTI

"Just two or three days before that, the properties of National Herald in Delhi, Lucknow and Mumbai were attached. There is no doubt that all this is being done out of a spirit of vendetta," he said.

Asserting that 'Young Indian' is a 'not for profit' company, Kharge said this means that no one can take or transfer the shares, properties or profit of AJL.

"The BJP people are misleading people by lying. We have to tell the truth to the public," he said.

The Enforcement Directorate filed the chargesheet against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others before a special court here in the National Herald case, accusing them of laundering ₹ 988 crore.

It is alleged that a "criminal conspiracy" was carried out by Congress leaders to "usurp" properties worth Rs 2,000 crore of its public company Associated Journals Limited(AJL) by transferring 99 per cent shares to their private company named Young Indian for just Rs 50 lakh, a firm where Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are the majority shareholders.

Amit Shah urges Naxals to surrender, join mainstream

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday asked all underground Naxals to surrender as soon as possible and join the mainstream, saying the government is determined to free the country from the scourge of Naxalism before March 31, 2026.

Shah also said that the Cobra commandos and Chhattisgarh Police have arrested 22 notorious Naxalites with modern weapons and explosive materials in various operations in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district. He said that 11 Naxalites have also surrendered in Badesetti Panchayat of Sukma due to which this panchayat has become completely Naxal-free.

"I appeal to the hiding Naxalites to lay down their arms as soon as possible and join the mainstream by adopting the surrender policy of the Modi government. We are determined to free the country from the scourge of Naxalism before 31 March 2026," Shah said in a social media post..

Addressing the CRPF raising day function at Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh earlier on Thursday, the home minister said that Naxalism is now confined to just four districts in India.

"Naxalism has been confined to just four districts in India. The menace will end in the country by March 31, 2026, as stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) and the CRPF, especially its CoBRA battalion, are playing a major role in eliminating Naxalism from the country," he said.

The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is a specialised unit of the CRPF, known for its proficiency in guerrilla and jungle warfare, particularly in combating the Naxal menace

The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is a specialised unit of the CRPF, known for its proficiency in guerrilla and jungle warfare, particularly in combating the Naxal menace.

Shah said the the CRPF has set up over 400 forward operating bases in Naxal affected areas and violence in these regions has come down by more than 70 per cent because of this and "we are now close to ending it".

On Thursday, he said the CRPF's contribution to national security is unparalleled, whether it is fighting terrorists in the Kashmir valley, ensuring peace in the Northeast, or confining hardened Naxalites to just four districts today.

"In all these achievements, the CRPF jawans have played a major role. No number of books can do justice to their bravery, sense of duty and courage," he said

Bhutan King visits Assam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk arrived at Jogighopa in Assam's Bongaigaon district on Saturday to inspect India's first International Multimodal Logistics Park (MMLP), a state minister said.

He arrived by a royal helicopter and landed inside the MMLP, where the King was received by Assam Minister for Public Health and Engineering Department Jayanta Malla Baruah.

'This morning, as per the directives of Hon'ble CM Dr @himantabiswa dangoriya (respected senior), I had the honour of welcoming His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk ji, the King of Bhutan, to Assam for his visit to inspect India's first-ever International Multi-Model Logistics Park (MMLP), currently in its final stages of construction under the Bharatmala Project (sic),' Baruah said in a post on X.

Besides the MMLP, the King also visited the Inland Water Transport (IWT), which is under construction on the Brahmaputra river, he said.

'I am truly overwhelmed by His Majesty's affection towards Assam and extend my heartfelt gratitude to him for this gracious visit to our state,' Baruah said.

Constructed by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), the park will seamlessly integrate road, rail, air and waterways upon completion, the minister said.

Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk visited India's first International Multi Model Logistics Park at Jogighopa in Assam on Sturday PIONEER PHOTO

'Spread across 317 acres on the banks of Brahmaputra, this project will unlock immense economic potential for our state by facilitating trade with neighbouring countries like Bhutan and Bangladesh,' the minister said. "The strategic proximity of Bhutan's visionary urban development initiative — The Gelephu Mindfulness City, will also undoubtedly contribute to the success of the MMLP," Baruah added.

Security has been tightened in and around the MMLP, with the local police and personnel from Bhutan deployed in the area, officials said.

The King's visit took place amid strict diplomatic protocol and mediapersons were barred from entering the park.

Akhilesh Yadav condemns attack on SP MP Ramjilal Suman's residence in Agra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Agra

Samajwadi Party (SP) president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav strongly condemned the recent attack on the residence of SP Rajya Sabha MP Ramjilal Suman in Agra, allegedly carried out by members of the Karni Sena. Calling it a "planned conspiracy," Akhilesh said the assault was not just an act of political aggression but a targeted attempt to instill fear among Dalits and the broader PDA (Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak) communities.

"This was not an ordinary incident. The attack on a Dalit leader's home is a message — a dangerous one — to those who dare to speak up for the rights of the backward, Dalits and minorities. It is a calculated attempt to silence their voices and create an atmosphere of terror," Akhilesh said after meeting Suman at his residence in Sanjay Place.

Akhilesh alleged that the attack was carefully orchestrated and carried out with full knowledge of its implications. "This was not a sudden outburst. The attackers came with a clear intention — to cause harm, to intimidate and to send a message to the PDA communities that they should remain silent. This is part of a larger, sinister design to divide society and crush dissent," he added. The attack reportedly took place days after a controversial remark was made in Parliament regarding historical figure Rana Sanga. The Karni Sena, known for its aggressive stance on issues related to Rajput pride, held Suman responsible for the remark and allegedly vandalised his property.

The incident has sparked a fresh political storm in Uttar Pradesh, where caste and identity politics continue to dominate the political discourse

Akhilesh was quick to dispel any notion that his visit was meant to mobilize political support or display the party's street power. "I did not come here to demonstrate political strength. I came to meet a senior leader of my party, to stand by him during a difficult time. We had made it clear from the beginning that this visit would be peaceful — no protests, no sloganeering," he said.

Despite this, hundreds of SP supporters gathered near Suman's residence even before Akhilesh's arrival. Anticipating possible unrest, the Agra administration had made heavy security arrangements from Hariparvat Chauraha to Speed Color Lab. Police personnel were deployed in large numbers and kept on high alert. Thankfully, the visit remained peaceful and no incidents of violence or disruption were reported.

Reiterating his party's commitment to the PDA communities, Akhilesh said the Samajwadi Party will not be deterred by such attacks. "We will continue to speak up for justice, for equality, and for the rights of every marginalised person in this country. Those who think they can silence us through violence are mistaken. We will not be intimidated," he asserted.

The incident has sparked a fresh political storm in Uttar Pradesh, where caste and identity politics continue to dominate the political discourse.

SP leaders have demanded strict action against those involved in the attack and accused the ruling BJP of tacitly encouraging such groups for political gain. As tensions remain high, the spotlight is now on how the administration and political parties respond to the growing discontent among marginalised communities who see the attack on Suman as an attack on their voice and representation.

CM Nitish using public funds for JD(U) campaign: RJD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Patna

Opposition RJD on Saturday accused Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of "institutionalising" corruption in the state and using government funds for electoral campaign ahead of the assembly polls due later this year. It also alleged that the NDA government in Bihar was responsible for "financial anarchy" in the state. The ruling JD(U), however, termed the allegations "baseless".

"Nitish Kumar is responsible for institutionalising corruption in Bihar, the CM is using state government funds for his party's poll campaign," RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said at a press conference here. He also alleged that the recently launched 'Mahila Samvad' initiative to connect with and inform women about welfare measures was a part of the JD(U)'s electoral campaign "by using government funds". "The cabinet approved ₹225 crore for it.

Reacting to Yadav's allegations, JD(U) national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said people of the state are well aware of the development work undertaken by CM Nitish Kumar

The state government is using public money for its campaign, there is nothing concrete on the ground for women of the state, but crores are being spent for propaganda," Yadav asserted. The former deputy chief minister also hit out at the state government over "global tenders" for construction work. "The cabinet has cleared proposals for ₹76,622-crore funds for construction activities in the state from December 2024. Surprisingly, for the first time, the government has floated global tenders for such work, what was the reason for floating global tenders?" the young RJD leader said.

"Also, we have seen that bridges have been constructed without approach roads, several buildings are ready but the departments concerned were not taking possession, (new) hospital buildings are without equipment or doctors, several crores were spent on the 'Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal scheme' but there is no supply of water," Yadav said. He also claimed that ministers in the state government were paid hefty commissions in lieu of projects. "I have heard that around 30 per cent commission of the total amount is paid to the ministers concerned for each project, and through this, the NDA government is trying to cover election expenses," alleged Yadav. The RJD leader criticised the Bihar government over rising liabilities of the state, too. "The government's wasteful spending of public funds on campaigns for elections is highly condemnable, liabilities are increasing day by day. The Bihar government is paying at least ₹25,000-30,000 crore annually as interest for its loans," he said.

Reacting to Yadav's allegations, JD(U) national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha said people of the state are well aware of the development work undertaken by Nitish Kumar across Bihar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during a meeting in New Delhi PTI

Delay in MP BJP chief appointment worries party cadre

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Madhya Pradesh finds itself at an organizational crossroads as the long-anticipated appointment of a new state president continues to face delays. As per the original timeline, the election for the state unit chief was to be completed by January 15, 2025, but as April nears its end, there has been no official movement—fueling speculation and unease within party ranks.

The absence of a new president has created a leadership vacuum in the state unit and is now being seen as a bottleneck in the BJP's national organisational roadmap, particularly the selection of a new national president, which is to follow the completion of state-level appointments. VD Sharma, the incumbent state president, has been at the helm since February 2020. Though his term formally ended in February 2023, he was granted an extension to steer the party through the November 2023 assembly elections. Despite earlier indications that a successor would be announced by mid-January, the process remains stalled.

Party insiders attribute the delay to several factors, including the central leadership's preoccupation with the Delhi Assembly elections, ongoing internal deliberations, and the challenge of choosing a candidate who can uphold the party's organisational goals while navigating Madhya Pradesh's intricate caste dynamics.

Traditionally, the BJP has maintained a strategic caste balance in Madhya Pradesh by selecting a Chief Minister from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and appointing a state president from the upper castes. This formula has helped consolidate the party's support base across communities. With Chief Minister Mohan Yadav belonging to the OBC category, expectations point toward an upper caste or minority community leader taking over the state unit to maintain this equilibrium.

However, there is also growing pressure on the party to enhance representation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women, reflecting the evolving political and social landscape of the state.

Several names have surfaced as contenders for the top post, including Narottam Mishra, Gajendra Singh Patel, Alok Sharma, Raghvendra Sharma, and Hemant Khandelwal. Among them, Hemant Khandelwal—a legislator from Betul and a prominent Vaishya community leader—is reportedly emerging as a consensus candidate, acceptable to multiple factions within the party.

He is seen as a strong contender with cross-sectional appeal. Sources suggest that the party high command is cautious about appointing a leader who could evolve into an alternative power centre in the state, particularly in parallel to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. This strategic consideration is believed to be one of the key reasons behind the prolonged decision-making process.

The delay has also disrupted the party's internal organisational framework. Although elections at the booth and mandal levels have been completed, the finalization of district presidents has faced multiple hiccups.

Some appointments were even revoked due to non-compliance with internal guidelines, further slowing down the structure-building process.

Rajneesh Agrawal, State Co-Election Officer for the BJP's organisational elections, told The Pioneer that the state unit is fully prepared for the election and is currently awaiting approval from the central leadership.

Assam CM invites PM Modi to Hazarika centenary launch

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday and invited him to the year-long celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary, beginning in September.

Hazarika was born on September 8, 1926, and the Assam cabinet had recently decided to hold a year-long celebration of the music maestro.

"It was my privilege to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji in New Delhi today. I had the honour of inviting him to Assam as the Chief Guest for the inaugural ceremony of the year-long celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary," Sarma posted on X.

Events across India, release of Hazarika's biography and commemorative coin among others, have been planned. 'I also took the opportunity to request his gracious presence for the inauguration of the Assam Bio-Ethanol Plant, with a production capacity of 49 KTPA ethanol, using 300 KTPA bamboo as feedstock," the Chief Minister said.

Assam Bio Ethanol Private Ltd (ABEPL) is the first bio-refinery to produce fuel-grade ethanol from bamboo biomass and has been formed as a joint venture company between Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL) and two Finnish companies, Fortum and Chempolis Oy.

"In addition, I also requested him to lay the foundation stones of two key infrastructure projects: the ₹5,700 crore Guwahati Ring Road project and the Darrang Medical College and Hospital," Sarma said.

The CM said the prime minister has "agreed to grace these important occasions on September 8, 2025".

Principal Secretary to PM envisions $5 trillion economy to eradicate poverty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
Sambalpur (Odisha)

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr P K Mishra, on Saturday said the vision of a $5 trillion economy is not just a GDP figure — it is about millions lifted from poverty, world-class infrastructure, energy security, and digital empowerment.

Addressing the graduate students during the ninth Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management at Sambalpur, Mishra drew inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's grand vision of Amrit Kaal. Mishra reiterated PM wants all of us to take the country to the next level through the process of "reform, perform and transform". In this endeavour all of us will be playing a critical role in ensuring that India becomes a developed country by 2047. Speaking on a theme "Opportunities and Challenges in the Current Geopolitical and Economic Context", Mishra opined that we are living in an interesting and challenging time as the global economy is at a critical juncture, facing an array of complex challenges including disruptions in global supply chains, protectionist policies, heightened geopolitical tensions, and changing global trade patterns.

Mishra exemplified India's prowess in becoming a global innovation powerhouse. He mentioned that with over 100 unicorns, we are the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world. Talking about Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes across sectors such as electronics, pharma and solar are driving manufacturing resurgence, Mishra highlighted that this opens up exciting roles in operations, logistics, supply chain strategy and manufacturing excellence.

Dr Mishra encouraged the students to be courageous and resilient in adversity. In line with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – "The world is one family", Dr Mishra concluded his deliberations by saying that leaders who think beyond profits and positions. He exhorted the students to be managers who can manage not only businesses but also values, diversity and change.

Punjab police bust two ISI-backed Khalistani terror modules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chandigarh

With the arrest of 13 people, Punjab Police on Saturday claimed to have busted two major ISI-backed Khalistani terror modules that were being run from abroad and seized two rocket-propelled grenades, two hand grenades, IEDs and RDX along with other munitions.

The first terror module was operated by France-based Satnam Singh alias Satta and the second by Greece-based Jaswinder alias Mannu Agwan, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

These modules, which were backed by Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), were being operated by a proscribed terrorist outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) from abroad, Yadav said. This is a major blow to transnational terror networks targeting peace and stability in Punjab, said Yadav in a post on X. Sharing details, the DGP said the police seized two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) including a launcher, two IEDs (2.5 kg each), two hand grenades with detonators, two kg RDX with remote control, five pistols (Beretta and Glock), six magazines, 44 live cartridges, one wireless set and three vehicles.

The arrested have been identified as Jatinder alias Honey, Jagjit alias Jagga, both residents of Kapurthala, Harpreet and Jagroop, both from Hoshiarpur, said the DGP, adding their terror module was operated Satta. He said a case has been registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Explosives Act in Amritsar.

VHP demands President's rule in West Bengal after Murshidabad violence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi/Kolkata

The Vishva Hindu Parishad on Saturday staged protests in different parts of the country against the recent communal violence in West Bengal's Murshidabad over the amendments made to the Waqf law, demanding immediate imposition of President's Rule in the state.

The protests were held in Murshidabad, Delhi and Noida, among other places, with VHP members claiming a complete breakdown of law and order in the Mamata Banerjee-ruled state where clashes claimed at least three lives last week. In Delhi's Nangloi Chowk, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) general secretary Bajrang Bagda led a protest condemning the violence in West Bengal. In Noida, the VHP took out a rally raising slogans against the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal led by its national spokesperson Vinod Bansal.

"Protests were held at multiple locations across the country, barring Punjab, because the Trinamool Congress is carrying out a cycle of oppression and repression of Hindus in connivance with Bangladeshi-Rohingya infiltrators," Bansal said.

"The recent incident of violence in Murshidabad was only a 'gruesome form' of the ongoing oppression (of Hindus) in Bengal under Trinamool's watch. In Bangladesh, what began as protests against reservation eventually went on to target Hindus. But we will not tolerate such Bangladeshi mindset in our country," Bansal said. The VHP demands immediate imposition of President's Rule in West Bengal, fencing of borders in the state, adequate compensation to the victims of violence in Murshidabad and ensuring the safety of Hindus in Bengal, the VHP leader said. "The VHP also demands that land grabbing in the name of Waqf be immediately stopped and a a high-level inquiry be ordered into the properties acquired in the name of Waqf," Bansal said. "We also demand that authorities identify the Bangladeshi-Rohingya infiltrators in West Bengal and drive them out. Strictest action should be taken against the perpetrators of violence in Murshidabad," he said.

Ricky Rai shot near Bidadi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Ramanagara (Karnataka)

The son of late underworld don N Muthappa Rai was allegedly shot at by unidentified assailants near his residence in Bidadi here, police said on Saturday. Ricky Rai is currently undergoing treatment at Manipal hospital in Bengaluru, they said.

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said he was aware of the incident and sought details from the police. "I was told that the incident happened at 1:30 or 2 am. I have asked for details. He (Ricky) has been admitted to Manipal Hospital and I'm told he is out of danger. Police have begun the investigation at the spot by deploying extra force," he told media. The incident occurred between 1 am to 1.30 am (late Friday night) near his residence when he was travelling from Bidadi to Bengaluru in his car. According to police, some unidentified people allegedly opened three rounds of fire and a bullet struck the vehicle. He was seated in the rear along with his gunman when the bullet pierced through the driver's seat, injuring both the driver and Rai.

Citing preliminary inquiry, a senior police officer said Ricky, who usually drives himself, sustained injuries to his nose and arms. Both the driver and the Ricky are stated to be out of danger. Initially, Ricky was taken to a private hospital in Bidadi and later referred to Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru for advanced treatment. Based on the complaint of his driver, a case has been registered against Muthappa Rai's second wife Anuradha, entrepreneur Rakesh Malli (close associate of Muthappa) and Niketan trust, the senior police officer said.

Thackeray cousins' reunion on cards

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

In a significant development that created a sensation in Maharashtra politics, the hither-to estranged Thackeray cousins — Uddhav and Raj — have dropped considerable hints about their sinking their differences and working together in the larger interests of the state.

More than 19 years after he quit the Shiv Sena headed by late Bal Thackeray and founded the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), Raj Thackeray held out olive branch to his cousin and Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray — which the latter showed sure signs of accepting it.

Participating in a podcast by senior filmmaker Mahesh Manjrekar, Raj said: "For me, the interest of Maharashtra is bigger and everything else is secondary before it. For that I can set aside minor disputes and I'm ready to work with Uddhav. Only question if he too is ready for it," said Raj Thackeray.

"I do not feel that coming together or remaining together is so very difficult… The question is of desire… not my willingness alone or for my selfish purposes… We must look at the larger picture. I feel that the Marathi people from all parties must unite and form a single political party," Raj said.

Responding positively to the expression of interest shown by Raj, Uddhav — speaking at a function organised by Shiv Sena (UBT)-run trade union Bhartiya Kamgar Sena — said on Saturday : "There were no differences between us… I am prepared to set aside minor differences in the overall interests of the people of Maharashtra".

Uddhav said that while he was ready to join hands with Raj, the MNS chief should make his stand clear whether he `will come with me, or go with BJP or 'gaddar-sena' (Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena)'. "He (Raj) should take the oath to this effect in the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj".

What lent credence to the possible patch-up between Raj and Uddhav was that the Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut spoke to the media and said: "Both are Thackerays and both are (cousin) brothers. That relation is permanent. They may have had some political differences, so they went on independent paths… We are looking at it from a positive perspective. But, we shall adopt a wait-and-watch attitude".

Raut said that given that the ruling BJP "wants to erase the Thackeray name from Maharashtra politics", so the people of the state would welcome if the Thackeray cousins patched up and worked together in the larger interests of Maharashtra.

> I am prepared to set aside minor differences in the overall interests of the people of Maharashtra
> – UDDHAV THACKERAY, SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

It may be recalled that three months after he rebelled against Uddhav's leadership and quit the united Shiv Sena on December 18, 2005, Raj founded the MNS on March 9, 2006. After that the MNS contested five to six elections independently. It is another matter that after initial success, the MNS did not make much of a headway in Maharashtra politics.

More than six and half years after he had rebelled against his elder cousin and walked out of the Sena and subsequently founded the MNS , Raj had on July 16, 2012 made the first move to improve his strained relations with Uddhav, by visiting the latter at the Lilavati hospital, where the latter subsequently underwent an angioplasty for removal of three major blockages in his coronary arteries.

Raj had driven back Uddhav to "Matoshri" from Lilavati Hospital on that occasion. Raj had also met ailing Thackeray at"Matoshri" – in the presence of Uddhav – at least on three occasions a fortnight ahead of the Sena patriarch's death on November 17, 2012.

Similarly, Uddhav had tried to reach out Raj in the run-up to the recent Assembly polls, when the latter fell ill and had to cancel his electioneering for some days. Uddhav had visited Raj's daughter Urvashi at Hinduja Hospital on November 2, 2014 when the latter was admitted there for injuries sustained in a road mishap.

Raj himself made a disclosure on October 9 2014, six days ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, that Uddhav had telephoned him to forge a pre-poll alliance between the MNs and Sena, but the initiative did not materialise. Not surprisingly, both Raj and Uddhav did not speak against each other at their public rallies held in the run-up to the State Assembly polls held in October last.

Trial in 2008 Malegaon blast case over

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Mumbai

The special NIA court on Saturday reserved the Malegaon blast case for verdict following completion of trial almost 17 years after it shook the communally sensitive town in Maharashtra's Nashik district.

Six people were killed and over 100 injured when an explosive device strapped on a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon, a town about 200 km from Mumbai, on September 29, 2008.

The prosecution on Saturday filed its final written arguments, with some citation marking the end of hearing in the case, after which Special Judge A K Lahoti adjourned the case to May 8 for judgment. During the course of trial the prosecution had examined 323 prosecution witnesses, of which 34 had turned hostile. Lieutenant Colonel Shrikant Prasad Purohit, BJP leader Pragya Thakur, Major Ramesh Upadhyay (retired), Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, Sudhakar Chaturvedi and Sameer Kulkarni are facing trial under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The case was initially probed by the Maharashtra Anti Terror Squad (ATS) before being transferred to NIA in 2011. The NIA, after taking over the case, had filed a chargesheet in 2016 giving a clean chit to Pragya Thakur and three other accused — Shyam Sahu, Praveen Takalki and Shivnarayan Kalsangra — saying it found no evidence against them and they should be discharged from the case.

The NIA court, however, absolved Sahu, Kalsangra and Takalki and ruled that Pragya Thakur will have to face trial. The special court, on October 30, 2018, framed charges against seven accused under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code (IPC).

They are facing trial under sections 16 (committing terrorist act) and 18 (conspiring to commit terrorist act) of the UAPA and under IPC sections 120 (b) (criminal conspiracy), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 153 (a) (promoting enmity between two religious groups).

TTD Chairman seeks Anti-Corruption Bureau probe into temple irregularities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ TIRUPATI

TTD Chairman B R Naidu on Saturday said he would request Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to initiate an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) investigation into all alleged irregularities at the Lord Venkateswara temple here over the past five years.

His remarks come in the wake of allegations by YSRCP leaders that over 100 cows died at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams' Goshala (cow shelter) in the past three months. "As soon as the Chief Minister returns, we will submit a representation requesting an ACB enquiry into all irregularities that occurred over the past five years," B R Naidu said at a press conference following his visit to the Goshala.

According to the chairman, certain individuals are deliberately spreading a "false campaign" against the temple administration through mainstream and social media. Refuting these allegations he blamed the previous YSRCP government, stating that it had even failed to provide fodder for the cows during its tenure.

"They (the YSRCP government) sold donated cows in Ongole and are now engaging in false publicity against the TDP government," he alleged, adding that "God will punish those who commit sins." Noting that some individuals are threatening to file Public Interest Litigations regarding the deaths of cows at the Goshala, Naidu said he welcomed such actions, provided the PILs also include complaints about the alleged misuse of TTD funds during the YSRCP's five-year rule. He promised full cooperation with such legal proceedings and maintained that "no irregularities" had taken place at TTD during the past 10 months under the TDP-led NDA government. "It is inappropriate to issue petty threats and indulge in cheap, diversionary politics. I strongly condemn this," he asserted.

Meanwhile, former TTD Chairman and senior YSRCP leader B Karunakara Reddy recently alleged that nearly 100 cows had died at the TTD Goshala in the past three months due to "negligence". Demanding a thorough investigation, Reddy stood by his statement, saying he had done no wrong and did not fear any threats. While TTD Executive Officer (EO) J Shyamala Rao stated that 43 cows had died, BR Naidu claimed the number was 22 — both contradicting CM Chandrababu Naidu's claim that there had been no deaths.

CBI arrests man for using DJB's logo to deceive people

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The CBI has arrested a man from Patna for allegedly using the logo of Delhi Jal Board to deceive gullible victims into installing a malicious software on their phones to steal sensitive data.

Bittu Kumar was arrested from a petrol pump in Patna on Thursday when he was swapping a debit card to withdraw cash, the CBI said in a statement, adding that the accused is being brought to Delhi.

The CBI registered an FIR on April 15 on the basis of a complaint lodged by a woman alleging that she was tricked into installing a malware-laced mobile application disguised with the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) logo, the statement said.

The application fraudulently claimed to help resolve pending water bill issues and avoid service disconnection. Once installed, the malware allegedly allowed Kumar to access the complainant's WhatsApp account, financial data and other sensitive information, the CBI said in the statement.

A CBI spokesperson said Kumar used the compromised WhatsApp accounts of his victims to propagate malicious links, creating a chain of infections.

The accused used the DJB logo as his profile picture to appear legitimate, the statement said.

"Searches conducted at three locations led to the recovery of 11 mobile phones, 14 debit cards, cash, a money-counting machine, and other incriminating items," the CBI said in the statement.

Baruva Beach to be developed into tourism hub: Rammohan Naidu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Srikakulam

Union Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Saturday announced that Baruva Beach in this district will be developed into a tourism hub, offering water sports like scuba diving, paramotor flying, and eco-tourism experiences.

After launching the beach festival here, Naidu unveiled these plans.

The Union Minister of Civil Aviation K Rammohan Naidu told reporters, "Plans are underway to transform Baruva into a mini Goa. Youth will be trained in diving, guiding, and event management to create local employment."

Creator's economy is growing exponentially, says Vaishnaw

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said the world of creators and their economy is going through a fundamental change. He mentioned that the creator's economy is growing exponentially. He said this while interacting with the news media ahead of the maiden World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit scheduled in Mumbai from May 1 to May 4. The Minister said that our visionary Prime Minister acknowledged the work of the creators and their contribution in the economy by promoting India's soft power globally. WAVES seeks to evolve itself as a global platform for media and entertainment, just as Davos serves as a global platform for economic policies, he added. .

Talking on the challenges faced, the Union Minister said that with the advent of technology, the old model is giving way to the new model, creating opportunities as well as challenges. Citing an example, Vaishnaw said that gone are the days when a big studio was needed for creating content as today a creator from a remote village from Jharkhand or Kerala can create good quality and get millions of views.

India's creative economy has received an overwhelming boost, with more than one lakh registrations for WAVES 2025. The top innovators will be honoured with Awards, celebrating their contributions to the evolving global media and entertainment landscape. Vaishnaw said, we are finding a way to connect the world with our creators. WAVES is emerging as a global connector between creators, buyers, and markets for scalable creative solutions, the Minister said. Through WAVES, buyers and sellers are getting a platform, where creators can offer their content and firms can source quality creative work.

Secretary, MIB Sanjay Jaju welcomed all the participants and dignitaries, highlighting the significance of collective dialogue in shaping the future of the media landscape. He emphasised the Ministry's commitment to engaging with stakeholders across platforms and appreciated the active participation of media organisations in the lead-up to WAVES 2025.

NHRC, NCW teams, Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose meet Murshidabad riot victims; TMC criticises visits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Kolkata

Amidst patrolling by central and police forces in the riot-hit parts of Murshidabad district, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose and National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women teams on Saturday separately visited the affected areas and interacted with the victims, assuring them of all possible help.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), however, criticised the visits and questioned the political motives behind them.

Violence broke out in Samsherganj, Suti, Dhulian and Jangipur areas of Murshidabad over anti-Waqf Amendment Act protests on April 11 and 12 that left three persons dead and hundreds displaced as their homes were burnt down and vandalised by miscreants.

During his visit to the district, a day after meeting riot-displaced people in Malda relief camps, Bose went to the home of Harogobindo Das and his son Chandan in Jafrabad, Shamsherganj, who were killed in the violence. He met their grieving families, listening to their pleas for justice and demands for security.

"I will look into their requests. They have asked for permanent BSF outposts in the locality as they were concerned about their security. I will take up the matter with the appropriate authorities. Some proactive action will definitely be taken. I have also shared with them the 'Peace Room' number (Raj Bhavan helpline)," Bose told reporters after visiting their residence. Later, after speaking to locals in Dhulian Bazar area, Bose said, "I have asked them (the victims) to feel free to talk to me. They want justice and they will get it. I am with the people of Bengal. I will function within the Constitution and establish the rule of law." On Friday, despite Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's request to postpone his visit, Bose visited Malda and met people who have taken shelter in a temporary relief camp after fleeing the violence-hit areas of Murshidabad district.

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose speaks with locals during a visit to a violence-hit area, in Murshidabad district, West Bengal PTI

A NCW delegation, led by its chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, also met riot-hit people in Murshidabad district and assured them that the Centre would take necessary steps to ensure their safety.

During the visit, affected women shared their harrowing experiences from the recent communal violence and demanded the establishment of permanent BSF camps in select areas and called for an NIA probe into the clashes. Rahatkar said, "I am dumbfounded by the agony these women are having to suffer. What they went through during the violence is beyond imagination." The NCW chief assured the victims that there was "no cause for worry" as the Centre is with you. The villagers were seen holding placards that displayed messages such as 'We don't want Lakshmir Bhandar, we want BSF camp. We want security'. Lakshmir Bhandar is an empowerment project for the poor and underprivileged women launched by the TMC government.

"From what we've seen so far, the situation is extremely distressing. We can feel their pain and sufferings," the NCW chief said. Slamming the NCW's visit, the TMC raised serious questions about the commission's neutrality and political motivations behind its narrative against Bengal.Party's Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale said NCW member Archana Majumdar, who has been prominently featured in media reports talking about the visit, is a "card-carrying BJP worker" who contested the 2021 Bengal elections on a BJP ticket before losing the race.

MHA issues digital fraud alert for pilgrims, tourists

Continued from >> P1

Helicopter bookings for Kedarnath can be done via heliyatra.Irctc.Co.In, Somnath Trust's official website is somnath.Org that can be also used for guest house bookings. To check such scams, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) is adopting a multi-prolonged strategy. Among the steps taken include scam signal exchange through which scam signals are being regularly exchanged with IT intermediaries such as Google, WhatsApp, Facebook for proactive detection.

Cybercrime hotspots are being identified and states and Union territories from where these originate are being sensitised. Fake websites and advertisements and impersonating social media accounts access are being disabled to protect citizens.

Suspect checking and reporting features on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal are being developed to facilitate hassle-free reporting, according to the statement.

Tragedy strikes Delhi's heart, eleven dead

Continued from >> P1

A police source said construction work in the "two-three shops" on the ground floor could have led to the collapse. Locals said construction work going on at a new shop could have triggered the collapse. They also expressed concern about the fragile state of four to five buildings. Waste water from the sewer has been seeping into the walls of the buildings for years, and over time, the moisture has weakened the structure, causing the walls to develop cracks.

NDRF DIG Mohsen Shahidi said "We call this a 'pancake collapse' — a particularly dangerous type where chances of survival are minimal. Still, we hope there are lives that can be saved and we are actively searching." He added that debris is being cleared slowly as this is a highly congested area, making the rescue efforts challenging. " The use of heavy machinery to clear debris is limited due to space constraints. Apart from the NDRF and fire services teams, Delhi Police personnel and and volunteers are working together in the rescue operation, he said.

AAP supremo and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal also extended his condolences to the bereaved families. MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar has been ordered to investigate the incident and has also been directed to suspend the concerned officers for their negligence.

Protect minorities without excuses: India tells Bangladesh

Continued from >> P1

Last year, following the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das at Dhaka airport, India repeatedly reminded Bangladesh of its duty to protect the rights of minorities.

Even Jaiswal urged the Yunus administration to protect minorities, while stating that the reported acts of violence against minorities can't be dismissed as "media exaggeration."

According to local media reports on Friday, the body of 58-year-old Bhabesh Chandra Roy was recovered on Thursday night after he was allegedly kidnapped from his house in north Bangladesh.

Roy's wife told The Daily Star that he had received a call around 4:30 pm, allegedly made by the accused to find out if he was present at that time. She further claimed that her husband was forcefully taken from their premises half an hour later and taken to Narabari village, where he was allegedly beaten up.

When Roy was sent back to his home in an unconscious state, the neighbours rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead. According to local reports, the police are yet to locate the suspects in connection with Roy's brutal murder.

Integrated Control Centre for issues of waterlogging, traffic congestion: Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Delhi government will set up an Integrated Control Centre for better coordination among all departments to address pressing issues of waterlogging and traffic congestion.

The decision in this regard was taken in a recent meeting chaired by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta with the heads of several departments, including power and PWD, where the issue of traffic congestion and flooding points was discussed.

The official said that instructions have been given "to complete the work on 233 traffic congestion points marked to make the traffic system of the capital smooth".

> A majority of the waterlogging hotspots and traffic jam locations are under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (PWD)

"An Integrated Control Centre will be created for better coordination and monitoring of all these works so that all departments can work in synergy," he added.

This Integrated Control Centre, according to officials, will help in managing issues like waterlogging and eliminating dark spots across the city besides traffic congestion.

A majority of the waterlogging hotspots and traffic jam locations are under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (PWD), which manages 1,400 kilometres of road network in the city.

"The chief minister has asked to ensure that major jam areas are improved and traffic is improved with proper guidelines," the official said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Traffic Police has identified 4,780 dark spots. The street lights have been repaired at 1,989 out of about 3,000 dark spots under the PWD's jurisdiction.

The chief minister has directed immediate corrective action on all other marked dark spots and the PWD has been instructed to cover all remaining dark spots in the next 10 days, he added.

This comes as multiplicity of authorities has always been a major challenge in the national capital's progress. Several infrastructure projects are mostly completed past the set deadlines because of lack of coordination among different agencies.

Indian team to visit US ahead of BTA negotiations

Continued from >> P1

These duties on steel or aluminum or auto components are being imposed to create a tariff wall and to protect those segments.

"So whether a tariff is good or bad, will depend upon what is the stage of your development," they said adding the way free trade agreements are now negotiated has also changed, as rich nations are pushing for non-trade issues in such pacts.

It is the world which does not believe in principles of special and differential treatment (SDT), common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and duty free tariff preferences (DFTP) for least developed nations.

"Now the rules of the game have completely changed," they said.

Buttler's 97, Prasidh's four-for lead GT to 7-wicket win over DC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ahmedabad

Jos Buttler braved cramps to rustle up a tempestuous unbeaten 97 to guide Gujarat Titans to a wonderful seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals here on Saturday.

After the impressive Prasidh Krishna-led (4/41) Gujarat pacers limited Delhi to 203/8, the home side paced their chase impeccably to reach 204/3 in 19.2 overs as Buttler played the protagonist role during his 54-ball innings.

There were mini-hiccups for the Titans in the form of early dismissals of skipper Shubhman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan (36), who helped Buttler add 60 runs for the second wicket.

But Buttler batted around them with collectedness in the company of Rutherford (43) until the left-hander was dismissed in the penultimate over.

The English-West Indian pair milked 119 runs for the third wicket that pushed GT closer to the shore.

Buttler's batting is aesthetically violent as he exploited a pitch on which the ball came fluently on to the bat. The Somerset man has all the shots in the book but plays them in the calmest of ways.

Instead of moving around the crease like modern T20 batters, Buttler often relies on a strong body core and quick hands to unfurl his shots.

There was a telltale example of his methods when he biffed Mitchell Starc for five boundaries in a row in the 15th over.

Buttler did not move towards the ball but reached out with a feet firmly rooted on the ground as the ball sped to the ropes between covers and point regions.

On the other hand, Rutherford's batting was all about brute power, as he showed while pulling pacer Mohit Sharma for two consecutive sixes as GT motored on.

There was not a popular Buttler hundred as Rahul Tewatia finished off the match with a six and four off Starc with four balls to spare.

The result also helped the Titans to move to the top of the table with 10 points, same as Delhi but the former has a better net run rate of 0.98 against their opponent's 0.58.

Earlier, Gujarat bowlers led by Prasidh, produced a disciplined effort to stifle the Delhi batting unit.

It started from the top-order. Abhishek Porel (23) started well, hammering pacer Mohammed Siraj for 16 runs in the first over.

The barrage included two fours and a six and he looked set for a bigger score. But he perished in the next over to Arshad Khan, clubbing his over-pitched delivery straight to Siraj at mid-on.

KL Rahul (28, 14b) and Karun Nair (31, 18b) added 35 runs for the second wicket and played some delectable shots.

Rahul's six over long-on off Siraj and Karun's pick-up flick for a six off Arshad were simply wonderful.

But Prasidh trapped his Karnataka teammate Rahul with a searing yorker that pinged his back foot to break the promising alliance.

Karun tried to ramp Prasidh but Arshad took an easy catch at wide third man as DC slipped to 93 for three despite consuming only nine overs.

The visitors then weaved another good stand of 53 runs through Tristan Stubbs (31) and Axar Patel (39) for the fifth wicket.

Stubbs's cover drives off Prasidh that raced to the fence testified his grace and power.

Avesh stars in LSG's 2-run win over RR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jaipur

Pacer Avesh Khan held his nerve in the death overs to help Lucknow Super Giants pull off a thrilling two-run win over Rajasthan Royals with a tight three-wicket spell in their IPL match here on Saturday.

The Royals were cruising at 156 for 2 at the end of the 17th over, needing 25 runs from three overs with eight wickets in hand. But, Khan conceded five runs in the 18th over and took two wickets — Riyan Parag and Yashasvi Jaiswal — before defending nine runs off the final over.

In a tense final over, Khan dismissed Shimron Hetmyer (12) and conceded just six runs to hand LSG a memorable victory as RR ended at 178 for 5 in 20 overs, while chasing 181 for a win.

It was heartbreak for the Royals, who lost from a dominant position to slump to their fourth straight loss — and sixth defeat in eight matches.

In the run chase, Jaiswal (74 off 52 balls) continued his roaring form with an entertaining fifty, while 14-year-old IPL's youngest player Vaibhav Suryavanshi (34 off 20 balls) made an instant impact on his debut as the left-handed opening duo stitched 85 runs in 8.4 overs in an rolicking partnership.

Jaiswal anchored the innings, hitting five fours and four sixes during his knock.

The Royals' run chase began in spectacular fashion with Suryavanshi coming out as impact substitute, along with Jaiswal, as the Sawai Mansingh Stadium cheered him all through. All of 14 years and 23 days, Suryavanshi struck a six in the first delivery of his IPL career, hoisting Shardul Thakur over extra-cover boundary to join an exclusive 10-member club.

He meted out the same punishment to Khan in the next over in a sensational start to his career. Suryavanshi was, though, dropped on 14 by Ravi Bishnoi.

The other opener Jaiswal, who is nine years older to Suryavanshi, then took over, hitting Shardul for a six and a four and two maximums off Aiden Markram. Another six off Jaiswal who was on fire took the Royals to 61 for no loss at the end of powerplay. They were on song at 10 runs an over before Suryavanshi's entertaining innings of 34 off 20 balls came to an end.

The youngster was beaten by a slower delivery from Markram and Pant affected a stumping.

Suryavanshi took the referral but he was unsuccessful. He left the pitch distraught though he has made an impact on his debut.

Nitish Rana, who scored a half century in RR's previous match, did not last long as he got out in the last ball of the 10th over for eight runs from seven balls.

The Royals were well-placed at 94 for 2 at the halfway stage with a well-set Jaiswal.

RR needed just 25 runs from the final three overs but Khan turned the match on its head in the magical 18th over.

He yorked Jaiswal with the first ball, and then had Parag LBW off the last one with a similar delivery.

Earlier, Markram and Ayush Badoni struck half centuries to help LSG recover from initial batting slump and post a competitive 180 for 5.

Markram (66 off 45 balls) and Badoni (50 off 34 balls) stitched 76 runs for the fourth wicket to resurrect the LSG innings after they were reduced to 54 for 3 in the eighth over.

Captain Rishabh Pant's decision to bat first after winning the toss looked like to be backfiring but Markram and Badoni rescued the visiting side with some solid batting.

Abdul Samad then played a cameo of 30 not out off just 10 balls down the order, hitting six fours from the final over bowled by Sandeep Sharma.

For the Royals, Wanindu Hasaranga (2/31) was the most successful bowler while Jofra Archer, Tushar Deshpande and Sandeep Sharma took one wicket apiece.

Archer conceded two fours to Markram in the first over but he came back to dismiss in-form opener Mitchell Marsh (4) in his second over with Shimron Hetmyer taking a fine catch after the batter edged the ball. Markram was going strong at the other end but wickets fell around him with Sandeep getting rid of Nicholas Pooran (11), the leading run-scorer, leg-before after the batter committed far too early to a slower delivery.

LSG were 46 for 2 after powerplay and they were in a spot of bother in the eighth over with Pant falling cheaply for just three runs after his fine 63 against Chennai Super Kings. Before that, his highest score was 21.

Pant miscued a Hasaranga delivery that bounced a bit more than expected and wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel did the rest.

With Markram smashing two consecutive sixes in the 10th over, LSG were 76/3 at the half-way mark.

IPL: CSK take on Mumbai Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) poor form may take the sheen off the return leg of this year's IPL Clasico but for Mumbai Indians (MI), the contest will present a challenge to change strategy in order to maintain their winning run here on Sunday.

Mumbai Indians have done well to resurrect their faltering campaign with two consecutive wins over Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad, but Hardik Pandya's seventh-placed side still needs to steer through mid-table traffic with several other teams in a similar situation.

Mumbai Indians were spot on with their planning an execution on a tricky pitch here at the Wankhede Stadium on which they took apart SRH's explosive batting style with precision.

That surface, an uncharacteristic one for Wankhede, had turn and grip for spin as well as pace off the ball for seamers which took the fight out of SRH batters.

But such an approach against the spin-heavy CSK would not be the right way and has the potential to backfire.

Noor Ahmad has thrived in CSK colours with 12 wickets in seven matches which includes his three wickets against MI earlier this season, while the five-time winners also have two seasoned exponents in Ravichandran Ashwin (5 wickets) and Ravindra Jadeja (4).

MI, however, would still have the upper hand given their current form despite having lost to CSK in their season-opener in Chepauk. Rohit Sharma has not notched up a big score yet but his brisk start against SRH gave MI the impetus they needed. Tilak Varma has been on a roll and so has been Suryakumar Yadav, with Ryan Rickelton's contribution at the top and Will Jacks' all-round show giving MI the fuel for their win. MI would be pleased with how their bowling department is finding its rhythm with Trent Boult causing a lot of trouble with his perfect execution of the yorkers in recent outings, and Jasprit Bumrah also finding his lengths in the contest against SRH.

Pandya has floated well through his roles as a bowler and batter but he will continue to rely on Naman Dhir for some aggressive batting in death overs.

Karn Sharma suffered a finger webbing split while fielding against SRH and given the lack of turnaround time between matches, he is an injury concern.

On their part, there are no signs yet that CSK have been able to end their troublesome run of four consecutive losses with a five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants. But MS Dhoni's return to the Wankhede — the venue for many battles between these teams — should spur the visiting side. Dhoni was the difference between MI and CSK the last time these two teams clashed here in 2024, with his four-ball 20 with three sixes off Pandya.

Dhoni's return as full-time skipper for the remainder of the season and CSK finding "manoeuvrability" with their bowling line-up was one positive sign for the old warhorse, who faces the task of reviving their disappointing campaign, contribute with the bat in death overs, and manage his knee injury amid all this.

CSK have added former MI player Dewald Brevis but it remains to be seen if the South African batter, as well as young Mumbai recruit in Ayush Mhatre, would slide into the playing XI immediately given their limited knowledge of conditions and pitch here.

Teams

Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Robin Minz, Ryan Rickelton (wk), Shrijith Krishnan (wk), Bevon Jacobs, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Mitchell Santner, Raj Angad Bawa, Vignesh Puthur, Corbin Bosch, Trent Boult, Karn Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Ashwani Kumar, Reece Topley, VS Penmetsa, Arjun Tendulkar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Jasprit Bumrah.

Chennai Super Kings: MS Dhoni (C&wk), Dewald Brevis, Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Shaik Rasheed, Vansh Bedi, Andre Siddharth, Ayush Mhatre, Rachin Ravindra, Ravichandran Ashwin, VIjay Shankar, Sam Curran, Anshul Kamboj, Deepak Hooda, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Noor Ahmad, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Shreyas Gopal, Matheesha Pathirana.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru eye comeback against PBKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mullanpur

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have very little time to pick up the pieces after a debilitating loss as they eye a much-improved display from their batting unit in a return Indian Premier League match against in-form Punjab Kings (PBKS) here on Sunday.

With the exception of Tim David, the RCB batters had a night to forget as they slipped to 95 for nine against PBKS in Bengaluru on Friday, losing the match by five wickets. In a rain-curtailed 14-over-a-side match, the RCB batters cut a sorry figure with the likes of Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, skipper Rajat Patidar and Liam Livingstone failing miserably in front of their home crowd.

Patidar acknowledged the batters' failure at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"Initially it was sticking and two paced, but we could have done far better as a batting unit. Partnerships are important, we have lost wickets in quick intervals and that's a big lesson for us," Patidar had said after the loss against Punjab Kings.

Come Sunday, and RCB, who are placed fourth in the points table, would bank on Salt and Kohli to provide an explosive start and the onus would be on Patidar, Livingstone, Jitesh Sharma, Krunal Pandya and David to lend stability in the middle-order. On the bowling front, Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar will be spearheading the attack but they will need a lot more support from people like Yash Dayal, Krunal and Suyash Sharma.

Despite their third loss at home, Hazlewood sought to look at the positives.

"Quite unreal schedule in the last few days, well, we are playing again tomorrow. Yeah it is something different and I think the way we went about it (defending the total) on the field was a positive, to take wickets and put them under a little pressure and we can take that momentum to the next game," he said.

PBKS, on the other hand, are going great guns under Shreyas Iyer's leadership and are currently placed second in the standings with five wins in seven games behind table toppers Delhi Capitals.

What has stood out for PBKS this season is their bowling department.

Arshdeep Singh, Xavier Bartlett and Marco Jansen have been brilliant on the pace front, while leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has reignited himself, taking crucial wickets in the middle overs.

Chahal's attacking bowling has reaped rich dividends for Punjab Kings, something which the team's skipper Iyer acknowledged.

"Personally I had a chat with Chahal. I told him you are a match winner and you need to get us wickets as much as possible. You do not need to be safe in your approach and he has got the capability of bouncing back. That's what we appreciate of him as a leggie," Iyer said.

It is great to learn from Bhuvi: Josh Hazlewood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Josh Hazlewood smiled wistfully as he ran past a dumbstruck Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer after dismissing him with a climbing delivery in the channel just outside the off-stump. The moment had two layers of significance to it.

It was the third time Hazlewood had the number of Shreyas in four IPL innings, conceding just eight runs.

So, it was a personal victory for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer. But more than stamping the authority over a familiar rival, it signalled the Australian's ability to learn from past mistakes.

His previous two spells at the Chinnaswamy Stadium were ordinary — 1/43 against Gujarat Titans and 0/40 against Delhi Capitals where Jos Buttler and KL Rahul took him to cleaners despite the track here offering more assistance to the bowlers.

For a master metronome like Hazlewood, those punishments would have hurt his pride immensely.

But he changed the script on his third visit to the venue — 3/14 off three overs but it was a travesty that such an excellent effort ended up in a losing cause.

However, the spell was an underliner of Hazlewood's efficiency across the formats and it's based on relentlessness rather than magic. If you have a keen eye, then shades of Australian legend Glenn McGrath is unmistakable.

Like the 'Pigeon', Hazlewood too is a master of the 6-metre length and it's not surprising that he has close to 60 dot balls in this edition of the IPL alone.

It's an incredible stat as the 34-year-old bowls at least 12 balls in the Power Plays, and his dot ball percentage during that phase is approximately 73 per cent.

"I find if you really hit the wicket hard on that six to eight metres, it's quite tough to bat. I think it's just about trying to read the play, read the batter," Hazlewood said in the post-match press conference.

"I think sometimes you get that sense that they're either going to come at you or sit deep and you can just make subtle changes of that length and can make a big impact," the Aussie detailed his modus operandi.

Along with his ability to adapt, the high release point makes Hazlewood a tricky customer to deal with on any kind of surface, as it allows him to find that disconcerting extra bounce.

Shreyas will vouch for that. The ball pitched slightly behind the good length but it bounced above the batter's midriff, robbing him of space to execute the cut/slash past the point fielder.

All the PBKS skipper could manage was a tame edge for Jitesh Sharma behind the stumps and now Hazlewood shares the Purple Cap with Chennai Super Kings' spinner Noor Ahmad with 12 wickets.

"Yeah, it's just, I think, trying to sense the batter and what mindset he's had and just those subtle changes when required. Yeah, potentially, I think it just could have been that balance of how hard to go," he noted.

Hazlewood has also benefited from the presence of the vastly experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar at the other end, and the two have been the acoustic hearts of RCB new ball attack.

They operate rather similarly too — troubling batters with hard-to-notice changes in line and length. Hazlewood accepted that. "I think to bowl with someone like Bhuvi, who's been around for so long, so skilful at the start and at the end, it's great to learn from as well.

"But I think just the variety, we are all a little bit different, complement each other really well. So yeah, it's exciting," he said.

Perhaps, Hazlewood will be rewarded more suitably when RCB face Rajasthan Royals here on April 24.

Yuzvendra Chahal one of the best bowlers in IPL: Iyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Punjab Kings (PBKS) captain Shreyas Iyer has called Yuzvendra Chahal "one of the best bowlers" in the Indian Premier League and said he has asked the seasoned leg-spinner to always look for wickets instead of worrying over leaking runs during a "personal chat."

After a subdued start to the this edition of the T20 tournament, the Punjab Kings spinner has found his rhythm and took the wickets of Rajat Patidar and Jitesh Sharma in PKBS' five-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on Friday. "Personally I had a chat with Chahal. I told him you are a match winner and you need to get us wickets as much as possible. You do not need to be safe in your approach and he has got the capability of bouncing back. That's what we appreciate of him as a leggie," Iyer said.

"He is one of the best bowlers in the IPL, probably the best bowler in the IPL so far. You to back that all the time," he said after the win over RCB.

Punjab Kings produced an inch-perfect bowling effort to restrict RCB to 95 for nine in a rain-curtailed 14 overs-a-side match at the Chinnaswami Stadium.

In reply, PBKS competed the chase in 12.1 overs with Nehal Wadhera making a match-winning 19-ball 33.

> Personally I had a chat with Chahal. I told him you are a match winner and you need to get us wickets as much as possible
> — SHREYAS IYER, PBKS CAPTAIN

The Player of the Match award, however, went to RCB's Tim David who proved to be their lone-ranger in an otherwise forgettable batting display, with a blazing 50 off 26 balls.

"As they say variety is the spice of life. We are able to experience all kinds of games over here. It is a great challenge," Iyer said. "There was no thinking to be honest. I was making instinctive moves and obviously we were getting wickets. I didn't want the new batsman to come in and settle straightaway," the skipper said of his decisions on the field.

Asked to bat first, RCB lost wickets at regular intervals with the likes of Arshdeep Singh, Chahal, Marco Jansen and Harpreet Brar doing the bulk of the damage for the visiting team.

"Marco was able to extract little bit of bounce on this wicket. He was bowling lethal. He basically steadied the ship. And the rest of the bowlers they helped him.

"To be honest, we did not know how the wicket was going to play and I personally feel the bowlers they adapted according to it," Iyer said. "When I had a chat with Arshdeep, he said, the hard length balls were very difficult to hit on this wicket because I did not see a single six off a fast bowler hit down the ground. That was the chatter going around and they were fantastic in executing it." On expected lines, Iyer lavished praise on Wadhera for his attacking knock.

"Yes absolutely, you need one batsman to take the charge. Nehal was brilliant in his approach today. The attitude was top notch. I hope he continues the same form."

Could have done better as batting unit: Rajat Patidar

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) skipper Rajat Patidar acknowledged that his batters left a lot to be desired, especially those slotted in the middle-order as the pitch eased up a bit in the second half of their innings.

"Initially it was sticking and two paced, but we could have done far better as a batting unit. Partnerships are important, we have lost wickets in quick intervals and that's a big lesson for us," Patidar said.

Asked about leaving out Devdutt Paddikal from the playing XI, he said the decision was made taking into account the conditions. We have had to make that change due to conditions. The wicket was not that bad, it was under covers for a long time, it helped their bowlers, credit goes to them. No matter how the wicket plays, we need to bat well and get a winning total," Patidar said.

Indian hockey has great depth, says Craig Fulton

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Impressed with talent on show at the National Championship, Indian men's hockey team chief coach Craig Fulton on Saturday said the country has great depth but the players' ability to adapt to new tactics quickly will be key, going forward. He emphasised that the next 18 months will be crucial for creating a squad with sufficient bench strength.

Fulton, who closely monitored the recently-concluded Nationals, highlighted the competitiveness of the matches when the top teams clashed.

"When we put strength on strength, the games were very, very close. There's good depth — particularly in goalkeeping and across the board — which was great to see. It was also encouraging to spot players who haven't featured in the league before," Fulton was quoted as saying in a Hockey India release.

Asked about positional gaps, Fulton acknowledged the need for improvement in scoring field goals and handling various tactical scenarios. "We want players who can move the ball effectively against both man-to-man and zonal defenses, press intelligently, and outlet under pressure. Versatility is not the main focus — it's more about athleticism, game awareness, and the ability to quickly adapt to new tactics," Fulton remarked.

Commenting on regional performances, the coach observed that while winners Punjab stood out with a strong representation of international players, the top four teams overall demonstrated good balance and quality. "Some regions were definitely stronger than others. Punjab, for instance, stood out with the highest number of international players, which gave them an edge. At the same time, there was a healthy balance of talent across the top four teams. Beyond that, however, the depth and overall quality did dip a bit."

With a new core group being formed for the Asia Cup cycle, Fulton emphasised that the primary focus is not on age but on finding the right players for specific roles. "It's not about bringing in more youth — it's about identifying the right players for the right positions," he said.

"A training camp with 54 probables is scheduled soon, from which a core group of 40 players will be selected. We have been speaking about creating depth for a while now. The next 18 months are crucial in building a squad with sufficient bench strength," Fulton explained.

The coach also shed light on his scouting criteria. "We looked at individuals, of course, but also how they operated within their team's tactical framework. The biggest attribute we assessed was defense — both one-on-one and group defence."

With PR Sreejesh being the only retirement after the Paris Olympics, Fulton confirmed that the core group will largely remain intact.

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THE BEAUTY LIES IN THE DETAILS, A TURNED LEG, A WORN HANDLE, AN OLD LIGHT SWITCH. THESE ARE HOMES THAT WELCOME, NOT IMPRESS. AT A TIME WHEN SPEED DEFINES MOST CHOICES, SPACES LIKE THESE CALL FOR THOUGHT

When Walls Hold Stories

These homes show how vintage design can make spaces feel warm, lived-in and personal, says ***SAKSHI PRIYA***

Step inside a home that tells a story and time slows down. The scent of polished wood, the soft glow of aged brass, the weight of a mirror with history in its frame-these are not impulse buys. They are chosen, kept and remembered. In a world driven by constant novelty, vintage interiors offer something far deeper: character. The design world has begun to shift. Clean, modern lines may still dominate, but they are often softened by a velvet armchair with studded legs or a table with claw feet. One, shaped by Anjaleka Kriplani through Angie Homes and the other, the deeply personal residence of Ragini Mehra, CEO of Silhouette Salon de Beauté at The Oberoi, New Delhi. Each holds a unique voice, yet both embrace history through objects and design choices that elevate lived experience over surface styling.

Vintage as a Way of Life

Anjaleka Kriplani approaches vintage interiors with a sense of permanence. Her curated collections feature teak sideboards, carved headboards, and low tables with intricate brass inlay. Spaces feel collected, not styled. Nothing is hurried; every element adds to the room's quiet confidence.

Textiles create warmth-mustard velvets, deep indigos, and brocade with gold tassels. Colours hold depth, often bold but never brash. Curtains fall with a certain weight. Armchairs in mohair or linen invite pause. Perfection is not the goal. Slight irregularities bring charm. A crack in a table leg, the worn polish of a wooden bench-these details add presence, not flaws. Lighting is selected with restraint. Linen lampshades cast a warm glow, echoing the gentle angles of mid-century design. Wooden rafters, carefully preserved, lend a lived quality to the room. This approach treats interiors as layered narratives rather than stage sets.

A Home That Holds Memory

Ragini Mehra's residence is where every corner tells a story, as she is a professionally trained Interior Architect. Known for her impeccable taste and strong design sensibilities, Ragini Mehra's home is a visual diary of textures, memories and artistic expression. Her journey began with a degree in Interior Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where she honed her keen eye for aesthetics and detail.

From heritage-inspired statement pieces and modern minimal elements to unique décor accents sourced from her travels, the home strikes a balance between luxury and character. Persian rugs and Indian Carpets further enrich the space, adding texture and a sense of timeless elegance. The spaces are large, where both the empty and filled areas

blend to create an aesthetic and serene environment allow the design to breathe without feeling overcrowded. Furniture includes exquisite pieces from Bo Concept, Maitland-Smith, Baker and Henredon, each contributing its own character to the overall aesthetic. Each room is designed to look beautiful and feel lived-in, layered, and deeply personal.The unmistakable individuality of the space is shaped by her experiences, intuitions and affections.

Wear What Reflects, Not Just Shines

BY TEAM VIVA

Is jewellery still about luxury or is it becoming something deeply personal? This is a question worth asking as more women turn to jewellery as a means of self-expression. No longer tied to tradition, ritual or display, jewellery has entered a new space of individuality.

This shift reflects a cultural change in how women engage with design. Jewellery is selected for its alignment with personality and purpose. Jewellery has become part of how women see themselves and how they wish to be seen.

Designer Janvi Sachdeva has embraced this evolving sensibility. Her new collection, **The Symphony of Wild Flowers**, captures a gentle strength. Working in 92.5 silver, she creates forms inspired by nature, floral shapes, delicate birds, textured leaves, shaped into pieces that are both elegant and wearable. There is no excess here, only attention.

A triangular purple gemstone necklace is one of the collection's highlights, where design precision meets a striking palette. Elsewhere, vivid birds set in silver pendants suggest joy and movement. These are thoughtful pieces, crafted for those who value detail and delicacy.

The collection stands out for its adaptability. Emerald-toned chokers pair with matching bracelets and rings, creating harmony without repetition. Each stone, each clasp, each engraving is part of a larger dialogue between the wearer and the world around her. This kind of jewellery does not depend on excess or volume. It invites interpretation. It's a question worth asking: Are we entering an era where the value of jewellery is measured less in carats and more in character?

If so, the answer lies not in market trends but in the mirror. woman is no longer waiting to be adorned — she selects, she curates, she defines. Jewellery, then, becomes her punctuation, graceful, sharp and entirely her own.

WHAT SHE WEARS, SHE MEANS — NOT FOR SHOW, BUT TO FEEL LIKE HERSELF, ALWAYS

A Bold Sequel Unmasking the Perils of Totalitarian Ideologies

BY TEAM VIVA

Crimson Crescent — The Last Quarter, a riveting 105-minute feature film by acclaimed filmmaker Mayank Jain, emerges as a powerful and timely sequel to the 2005 documentary Bangla Crescent -- ISI, Madrasas & Infiltration.

The original film, launched by senior IPS officers Late KPS Gill, Prakash Singh and Late R.K. Ohri, was a path-breaking exposé of indoctrination and infiltration in the Indian subcontinent. Twenty-five years later, Crimson Crescent arrives with undiminished urgency. These 25 years have been largely wasted. Infiltration has not ceased. Indoctrination through madrasas has not slowed. And most alarmingly, the threats identified in Bangla Crescent ISI, madrasas & Infiltration have only metastasised — spreading far beyond borders.

A Global Canvas: From South Asia to Europe and the Middle East While Bangla Crescent -- ISI, madrasas & Infiltration focused sharply on Bangladesh and Pakistan's role in radicalisation and infiltration, **Crimson Crescent — The Last Quarter** greatly expands its scope. The film explores the rising aggression in many European countries grappling with mass immigration from Middle Eastern, African and Pakistani regions. It captures the social unrest, ideological clashes and erosion of public safety emerging from these demographic and cultural shifts.

The documentary also covers the volatile Middle East, diving into the complex dynamics of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria and Israel. Here it examines not only the geopolitics but also the internal ideological conflicts and state-sponsored radical narratives that continue to destabilise the region. Encouragingly, signs of rationality and scientific thinking are beginning to emerge within the highest echelons of power-a welcome and much-needed development.

Crimson Crescent draws a provocative and compelling parallel between three major ideological threats of the past and present: Nazism, Communism and Jihadism. All three, the film argues, are driven by a thirst for absolute control and the destruction of dissent. Each has claimed millions of lives and eroded the moral foundations of societies they have touched.

Mayank Jain asserts that these ideologies thrive by silencing reason, glorifying violence and promoting absolute truth claims — often using religious or revolutionary fervour as a shield. The film is a cautionary tale of what happens when indoctrination replaces education and belief systems abandon dialogue in favour of dogma.

A central theme of the film is the insidious power of indoctrination through institutions like madrasas. It reveals how such education systems instil rigid ideological thinking, leading to intolerance, polarisation and often violent radicalisation. The film critiques societies that fail to challenge these systems and instead allow radical narratives to flourish in the name of tradition or religious freedom. A lesser-acknowledged but crucial aspect the film highlights is that Muslims themselves are often the first victims of Islamist extremism. From Shia Muslims targeted in Pakistan to the marginalisation and persecution of other minority Muslim sects, Crimson Crescent explores the deep fractures within the Muslim world.

Amidst the bleak landscape, Crimson Crescent also offers hope. It recognises the growing internal reform movements within radical Islam where bold voices from within the community are challenging violence and calling for rationality in discourse. The film uplifts these efforts, urging both policymakers and civil society to support rational reformers rather than extremists.

"Reason is humanity's shield against ideological tyranny," says Jain, reinforcing the film's core message: that education, critical thinking and open dialogue are the only long-term antidotes to radicalisation.

Resist Absolutism, Embrace Dialogue

This is not just a documentary, Crimson Crescent — The Last Quarter, is a call to action. It appeals to governments, communities and individuals to resist the growing appeal of absolutism and divisive ideologies. It advocates for education policies that foster rational thought and for a cultural shift toward Universalism, intellectual freedom and unity.

Mayank Jain is a renowned filmmaker with over 27 years of experience and more than 50 critically acclaimed films to his credit. His work spans governance, national security, public health and social reform and is known for tackling complex issues with intellectual rigour and cinematic clarity.

He rose to national prominence with India Tomorrow — The Gujarat Miracle, a documentary on Gujarat's development model under Narendra Modi. As Content Head of NaMo TV during the 2012 Gujarat elections, he shaped political communication strategies with high-impact visuals. Mayank's portfolio includes politically resonant films like Gujarat Fast Track, Gujarat Tomorrow and No to Terror and public health documentaries.

SUGGESTED BINGES

Logout
OTT – ZEE5
Cast – Babil Khan, Rasika Dugal

Khauf
OTT – Amazon Prime Video
Cast – Monika Panwar, Rajat Kapoor, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Shilpa Shukla, Chum Darang

Daveed
OTT – Zee5
Cast - Antony Varghese, Mo Ismail

Stranger Things: The First Shadow
OTT – Netflix
Cast - Kate Trefry, Stephen Daldry, Justin Martin

The Stolen Girl
OTT – JioHotstar
Cast - Denise Gough, Beatrice Cohen, Robyn Betteridge, Jim Sturgess

Get in touch at vivacity@dailypioneer.com

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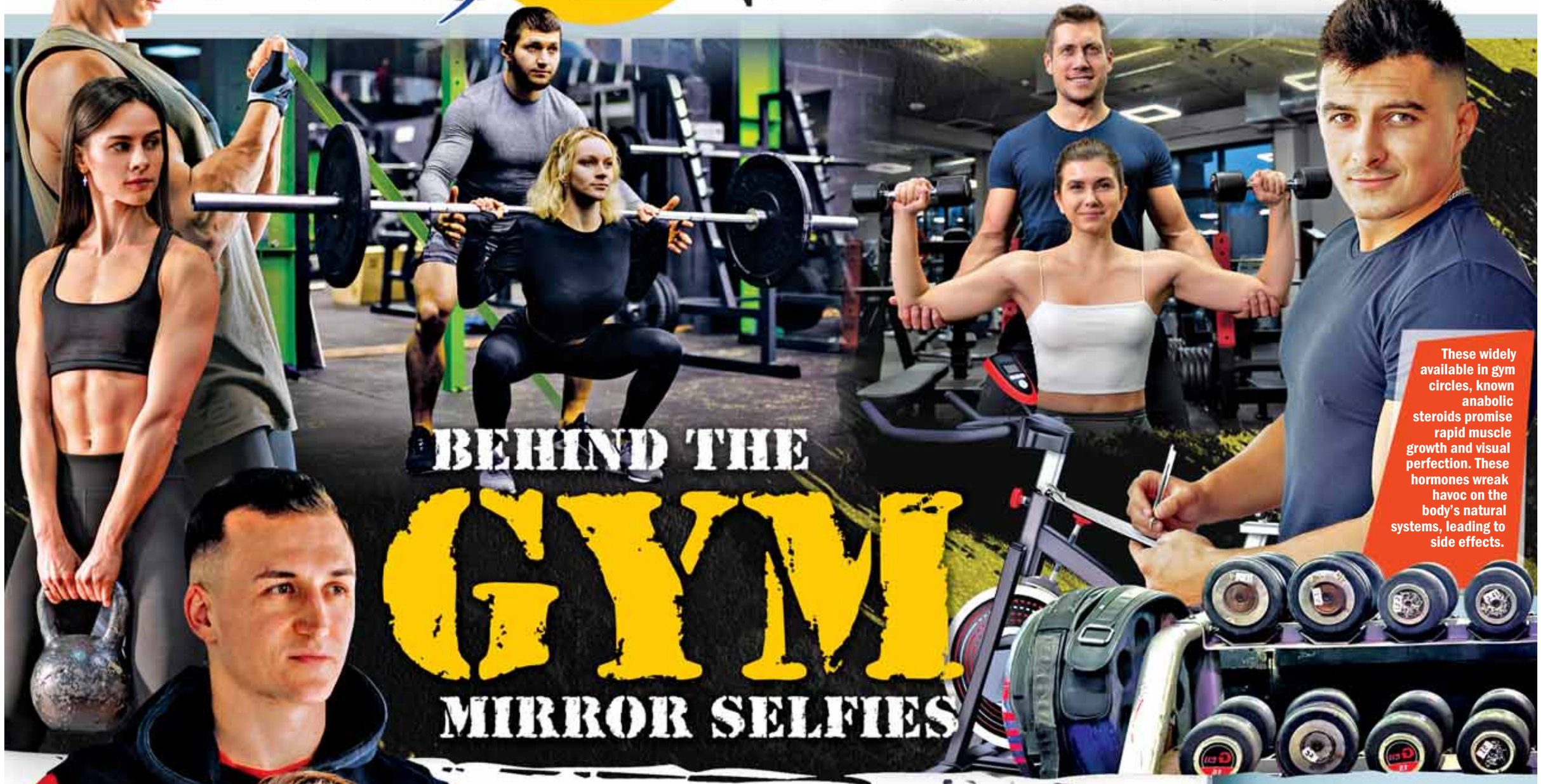
The Pioneer
AGENDA

"Don't worry about what other people are doing. Worry about your own training"
— Ronnie Coleman



BEHIND THE GYM MIRROR SELFIES

These widely available in gym circles, known anabolic steroids promise rapid muscle growth and visual perfection. These hormones wreak havoc on the body's natural systems, leading to side effects.

Beneath the neon lights and monthly memberships of the gyms, lies a reality we're not talking about enough, says ABHI SINGHAL

It is always talked about certified things while you train or build your body but it is equally important to choose the right place while you workout. The clang of iron plates, LED-lit workout zones, and neon signage screaming 'TRANSFORM NOW', the gyms have become the modern sanctuaries of fitness. Across every urban block, new fitness centres sprout like cafés, each promising better bodies and faster results. What was once affair with morning walks in parks, yoga under the tree, or evening strolls around the neighbourhood with family or friends is steadily being replaced by treadmills and protein shakes.

More and more people are signing up for gym memberships, not just for health but often for aesthetics, validation and a fast track to physical change. The idea of fitness has shifted from functionality to form. The motto has shifted from feeling good to looking good within some years. But beneath the curated Instagram reels and sculpted abs lies a more pressing concern: *Are we choosing the right places to work out? And more importantly, are we trusting the right people to guide us through it?*

Gyms Are Everywhere, but Quality Isn't

Like not all that glitters is gold, not every gym with flashy equipment and discount deals is built for real fitness. The explosion of gyms across cities has brought with it a mixed bag — some well-equipped and guided by the certified professionals, others run by underqualified enthusiasts with little understanding of body or the process involved.

This boom in numbers doesn't guarantee quality or safety. While the fancy lighting and trending playlists may attract the crowd, the real test lies in the integrity of the space and the credentials of the trainers. A wrong choice can do more harm than good, both physically and mentally.

Fitness should energise the mind as much as it does the body. There are people who depend on external validation often spiral into cycles of anxiety, social withdrawal, or aggressive behaviour. The perfect body becomes a trap rather than a triumph. Unfortunately, many gyms are chosen based on popularity, influencer promotion, or peer pressure-not research or reliability. "People come to us saying, I just want a physique like a fitness influencer or a filmstar, they don't come in the gym for fitness or health. The main purpose of today's generation is just getting a good physique," said *Piyush Aggarwal*, Owner of *HAMR Fitness Centre* at Shankar Chowk, Northwest Delhi for the past 16 years.

It is important that people keep a check on the trainers and advice provided by them. *Piyush Aggarwal* further added that there are cases where people don't even talk to trainers or experienced people and start following diets and steroids on their own for cost cutting, which leads to cheap quality items and, in turn, affects their body.

A Trainer Can Make or Break Your Body

This brings us to the second part of the question: Do we trust the right people to guide us through it? Trainers are your fitness compass. The right trainer knows when to push, when to pull back, and when to say rest. Yet, many gym-goers fall into the trap of trusting unqualified trainers who hand out one-size-fits-all workout plans and unrealistic expectations.

A certified trainer doesn't just have the responsibility of guiding; they have the responsibility of assessing and educating. They chart workouts based on your goals, physical limitations and lifestyle. More importantly, they know how to prevent injuries and manage progression before it's too late. Talking to *Ayush Singh*, a certified trainer practising in Delhi, he said, "Qualified trainers make a customised plan for different body types. But if you go to unqualified trainers, they will go on with the same plan they have learned from someone else or used on their own body. This is a major difference. If a product is not suitable to you, a qualified trainer will switch it, but an unqualified one will keep pushing the same because he doesn't have alternatives."

It's easy to get lost in filters and reels but fitness, was never meant to be a popularity contest. It was meant to empower and to strengthen the body and the mind. Prioritise your health over haste and don't fall for dangerous shortcuts. So, yes join the gym. Push yourself. Challenge your limits.

Fitness should be a celebration of your body. So, most importantly train for life, not for likes. Because strength built the right way doesn't just change your body, it transforms your life.

THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE WRONG PROCESS ARE NOT JUST PHYSICAL; THEY CAN LEAD TO MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND LONG-TERM HEALTH CHALLENGES THAT AREN'T WORTH THE TEMPORARY HIGH OF A PERFECT PHYSIQUE TO SHOW OFF

The most disgracing factor is that all the joiners are asked to do the personal training just for the money factor regardless the fact that they actually don't need it. People don't even ask for certification and follow routines that look effective on someone else.

THE ILLUSION OF FAST RESULTS: THE STEROID SHORTCUT

In this pressure-filled ecosystem, where transformation pictures and social media likes serve as reward systems, people chase fast results and fall into darker traps. One of the most alarming trends is the misuse of steroids. "Nonprescription doses are usually many times higher than the doses prescribed for health conditions by your doctor. **These doses have short and long term side effects when misused like high blood pressure, liver damage, heart attack, increased aggression, acne, and even depression.** Young adults get attracted to improve body appearance which should not be done. These medicines should only be taken under medical supervision." said **Dr Paras Agarwal**, Clinical Director & Head - Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolic Disorders, *Marengo Asia Hospitals*.

CHECKLIST

It was equally important to speak to someone experienced who has practised gymming for years and competed at various levels. **Akshay Tyagi**, a fitness enthusiast, winner of many body building competitions like - *Mr. Delhi*, *National Dead Lift Championship*, *7th Amberprix Mr. India*, said, "**You have to keep a check from the start.** The most important thing is the equipment. It should not be outdated, must be serviced regularly, and shouldn't be broken. Faulty machines can cause serious injuries. It's not always important to choose expensive gyms but to go to the right one where you can work out properly."

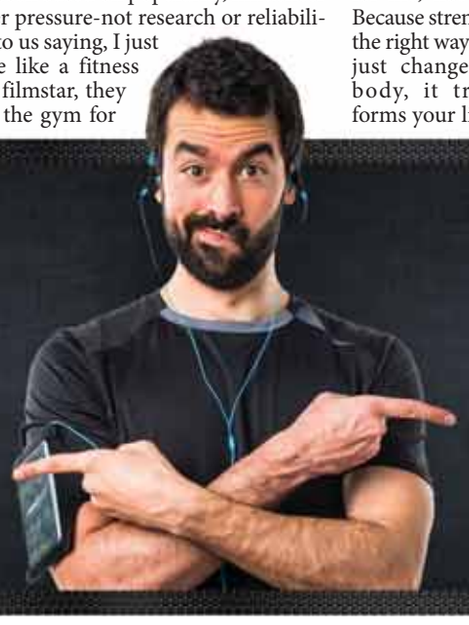
Before signing up, consider these: verify gym credentials, observe the environment, ask for an assessment and listen to your body.

FITNESS FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR SOCIAL FEED

True fitness isn't built in 30-day challenges or shortcut supplements. It's a lifelong journey rooted in discipline, consistency, and informed choices. A healthy lifestyle isn't a trend but it's a personal investment. **Dr Indramani Upadhyay**, MPT (Ortho), HOD Physiotherapist at *The Centre for Knee & Hip Care*, says, "**Overtraining or poor guidance from unqualified trainers can lead to both short- and long-term health issues.** Some red flags in your gym trainer's guidance will be seen as persistent fatigue, recurring injuries, lack of recovery days and sleep disturbances."

MOVES TO KEEP IN MIND FOR YOUR GYM SUCCESS

- Your body is unique. Follow a plan that suits your fitness level, body type, goals and lifestyle and is ideally one crafted by a certified trainer or coach.
- Progress in fitness doesn't come overnight. Consistency beats intensity. Show up regularly, even if some days are light.
- Nutrition is key. Focus on balanced meals like protein, good fats, complex carbs, fibre. Stay away from fad diets or extreme calorie deficits.
- Learn the basics of anatomy, movement, and nutrition. It helps you make informed decisions and avoid blindly following trends.
- Stick to basic, tested supplements like whey protein, creatine, multivitamins — and only if needed. Always consult a trainer or a nutritionist.
- Seek guidance only from certified trainers (ACE, ISSA, ACSM, etc.). They are trained to guide you smartly — not push you into harm.
- Focus on your routine and stick to your plan. Avoid getting distracted by others or feeling pressured to do what they're doing.
- Ask questions from the trainers if you're unsure about how to use a machine or do an exercise, ask a trainer instead of guessing.
- Keep a track of your progress by using a journal, app, or progress pictures for your ownself to stay motivated and track improvements over time.
- Dress comfortably and wear flexible gym clothes.



WORKOUT BLUNDERS YOU SHOULD SKIP IN GYM

- Steroids may promise faster gains, but they bring irreversible side effects — liver damage, hormonal imbalances, mood disorders, infertility, and more. They're not worth the risk.
- Avoid following gym "bros" or influencers who aren't qualified. What works for someone may harm you.
- Pro bodybuilders have years of experience and often unnatural aids. Their routines are not meant for beginners or average fitness goals. Don't try to be like them and follow them.
- Pain, dizziness, exhaustion, loss of motivation — these are all signs that something's wrong. Don't push through blindly.
- Starving your body will only weaken your immunity and metabolism. Long-term health always wins over quick fixes.
- Don't skip warm-ups or cool downs as this leads to stiffness, soreness, or worse that is injuries.
- Avoid texting or scrolling between sets as it disrupts your focus and slows your routine.
- Don't compare yourself constantly as everyone's fitness journey is unique. Celebrate your own progress, no matter how small.
- Don't rely on supplements alone as supplements are just the support systems but not the actual solutions. Real nutrition comes from real food.
- Don't neglect cleanliness. Always wipe sweat off equipment after use as it's basic hygiene.

"THE ONLY TIME TO EAT DIET FOOD IS WHILE YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE STEAK TO COOK"
– JULIA CHILD

A Toast to Taste

BY TEAM AGENDA

Somewhere between a laid-back hangout and a full-sensory culinary voyage, *Dos Delhi* is shaking up the city's bar culture, one artfully crafted cocktail at a time. Tucked into a lively corner of New Delhi, it is a mood. With its high-energy vibe, edgy design, and a menu that's unapologetically adventurous, this hotspot is redefining what it means to dine and drink in the capital. Now, the creative minds behind the concept — *Chefs Jatin Mallick* and *Julia Carmen De Sa* are raising the bar with the launch of a brand-new Beverage & Bar Snack Pairing Menu.

This isn't just about snacks that accompany your drink. It's a thoughtfully curated sensory experience where bold cocktails and inventive bites come together in a masterful dance of balance and contrast.

A sleek glass of *Truffle Spy*, made with gin, Martini Extra Dry, Cointreau, Campari, and a touch of truffle, paired with golden, crispy *Truffle Parmesan Fries* makes a day. What is refined, decadent, and almost too good to share are the fiery *Dos Me Up*, where tequila combines with wasabi, sour cream, cilantro, and basil. Its punch is balanced by the earthy calm of *Charcoal Grilled Snack Peppers with Yam Hummus*.

Each pairing feels like a little world of its own. The *Smirking Cacao*, with its heady mix of dark rum, vanilla liqueur, spiced vermouth, and cacao nibs, is like dessert in a glass. It is perfectly complemented by *Buttered Edamame with Thai Herbs and Lemongrass* Ketchup. Then there's the refreshing *Hot Russian Zombie*, a vodka-apple-citrus-based drink that comes alive with Potato Lavash topped with Avocado, Salsa Macha, and Chipotle Cheese Sauce. And if tropical and smoky is your flavour, the *Sexy Lady Stunner*, a blend of whisky, Martini Bianco, and roasted pineapple, pairs beautifully with Mustard Marinated Fish Belly Fingers and lemon marmalade.

However, *Dos Delhi* isn't only about the drinks. The bar snack menu is a genre of its own - part street-style comfort, part global fusion, and entirely packed with surprises. Take the *Guntur Chilli Glazed Crispy Chicken Wings* for instance, bold and spicy, and ideal with whisky. Or the *Flash-Fried Sweet & Sour Green Candy Tomatoes* served with *Yoghurt Tahina and Flour Crispies*, which offer a tangy, crunchy contrast to citrus-forward cocktails. If you love bold umami flavours, the *Dos Magic Spiced Cassava Chips* with *Sriracha Cheese Ketchup* deliver a satisfying punch. And of course, there's the ever-popular Cheese Garlic Bread, warm, gooey, and comfortingly familiar — especially when enjoyed with red wine sangria or a smooth whisky spritzer.

The ambience is as much a part of the experience as the food and drink. Spread over two floors, with both indoor and outdoor seating, the space pulses with a modern, welcoming energy. Contemporary artwork adds visual intrigue, while live DJs set the tone, with music that shifts seamlessly from laid-back evening grooves to weekend party anthems.

At its core, *Dos Delhi* is about slowing down, enjoying good company, and celebrating the pleasures of flavour and connection. So whether you're winding down after work, reconnecting with friends, or seeking your next great cocktail discovery, Beverage & Bar Snack Pairing Menu invites you to sip and savour.

FACT SHEET:
Name: Dos By Tres
Address: Shop No. 9 & 10, Fourth Avenue Road, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi
Price for Two: ₹2,500/-
Timings: Mon - Thu, Sunday: 12:00pm to 12:00am
Fri - Sat : 12:00pm to 01:00am

Chill Mornings with Light Breakfast

BY TEAM AGENDA

Breakfast is often called the most important meal of the day and for all the good reasons. A wholesome breakfast fuels your body, sharpens your focus, and sets the tone for a productive day. Especially during summer, starting your morning with light, nourishing, and refreshing meals becomes all the more essential to keep your energy up without feeling heavy.

In this spirit, we bring you two delightful breakfast recipes that are both satisfying and summer-friendly. First up is *Poha*, a light and flavourful dish made from flattened rice perfectly with a cup of chai. Then *Curd Upma*, a unique twist on the classic Upma that blends roasted semolina with curd.

CURD UPMA

Curd Upma, a dish combining the cooling effects of curd with the nutritional benefits of Upma, offers several advantages during the summer months. It helps to regulate body temperature, promotes digestion, boosts immunity, and provides hydration, making it a refreshing and healthy summer meal.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 Cups sooji
- 1 tsp mustard seeds
- 10-12 Curry leaves
- 1 tsp urad dal
- 1 tsp chana dal
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup vegetables of your choice, chopped
- 1 cup curd
- 1 tbsp ginger-garlic paste
- 2 Green chillies (slit)
- to taste salt
- to taste Red chilli powder
- for garnishing coriander leaves

INSTRUCTIONS:
- Roast sooji till fragrant. Keep aside.
- Heat ghee in a pan. Add mustard seeds, curry leaves, urad dal and chana dal. Wait till they splutter.
- Saute onion and ginger-garlic paste.
- When onion browns, add the vegetables, cover the pan and let the vegetables cook.
- Add curd water and saute for a minute. Add roasted sooji, 4 cups of water and let everything cook.
- Garnish with coriander leaves and serve hot.

POHA

Poha is a dish made from flattened rice, which is lightly steamed and cooked with onions, spices, and herbs. The term 'poha' refers both to the ingredient-flattened rice flakes, also known as beaten or parched rice - and the final prepared dish. These rice flakes are regarded as wholesome and nutritious, as they undergo minimal processing from raw paddy. This is a nutritious, traditional food widely eaten in many regions of India.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 cup poha (flattened rice)
- 1 medium onion (finely chopped)
- 1-2 green chillies (slit or chopped)
- 1/4 tsp mustard seeds
- 5-6 curry leaves
- 1/4 tsp turmeric powder
- Salt to taste
- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 small potato (optional, peeled and chopped small)
- 1-2 tsp sugar (optional, for a slight sweetness)
- 2 tbsp roasted peanuts
- Fresh coriander leaves (chopped, for garnish)
- Juice of half a lemon

INSTRUCTIONS:
- Rinse 1 cup poha in a colander under running water.
- Gently fluff it with your fingers and let it sit for 5-10 minutes to soften. (Make sure it doesn't become mushy)
- Heat 1 tbsp oil in a pan, add mustard seeds and let them crackle.
- Add curry leaves, green chillies, and peanuts.
- Sauté for a minute and add chopped onions and sauté until translucent. (If adding potatoes, cook them until soft before adding onions)
- Sprinkle turmeric powder and mix well.
- Add the softened poha, salt, and sugar. Mix everything gently.
- Cover the pan and cook for 2-3 minutes on low heat.
- Turn off the flame, squeeze lemon juice, and garnish with coriander.
- Enjoy your poha with a hot cup of tea!

Brewing Innovation: Microbreweries

BY AJAY GOWDA

The craft beer industry thrives on passion, innovation, and an ever-evolving consumer palate. In a dynamic market like India, where beer culture is rapidly evolving, *microbreweries* must continuously adapt to remain relevant. This evolution goes beyond brewing exceptional beer as it requires innovation in menu offerings, immersive experiences, and customer engagement strategies. Leading microbreweries recognise that craft beer is more than just a beverage; it is an experience that fosters a deeper connection between consumers and the craft. Reinvention is not merely a business strategy but it is a commitment to consistently enhancing the customer journey, offering authenticity, novelty, and lasting impressions.

Craft beer lovers seek a holistic experience that extends beyond the pint glass. At our brewing company we have always believed that a microbrewery is more than just a place to drink — it's an immersive experience. This means that while our beer remains at the core, our food menu, ambiance, and service must evolve to keep guests excited and engaged. Food and beer pairing is an area where we see constant innovation. The modern beer drinker wants to explore beyond traditional bar snacks, which is why we consistently experiment with our menu. A well-thought-out food pairing can enhance the flavours of a beer. Our recent menu refresh, inspired by global flavours while keeping our Viking spirit alive, is a testament to this philosophy. Beyond food, microbreweries are also diversifying their beverage offerings. Craft cocktails, beer-based drinks, and even house-made non-alcoholic options ensure that there is something for every guest, making the microbrewery experience more inclusive and engaging.

The modern beer seeks variety. The rise of unique beer styles such as hazy IPAs, barrel-aged stouts, and fruit-infused sours, demonstrates that consumers are open to experimentation. Reinvention is about adapting to what our consumers want before they even know they want it.

– The author is Managing Director of Byg Brewski Brewing Company

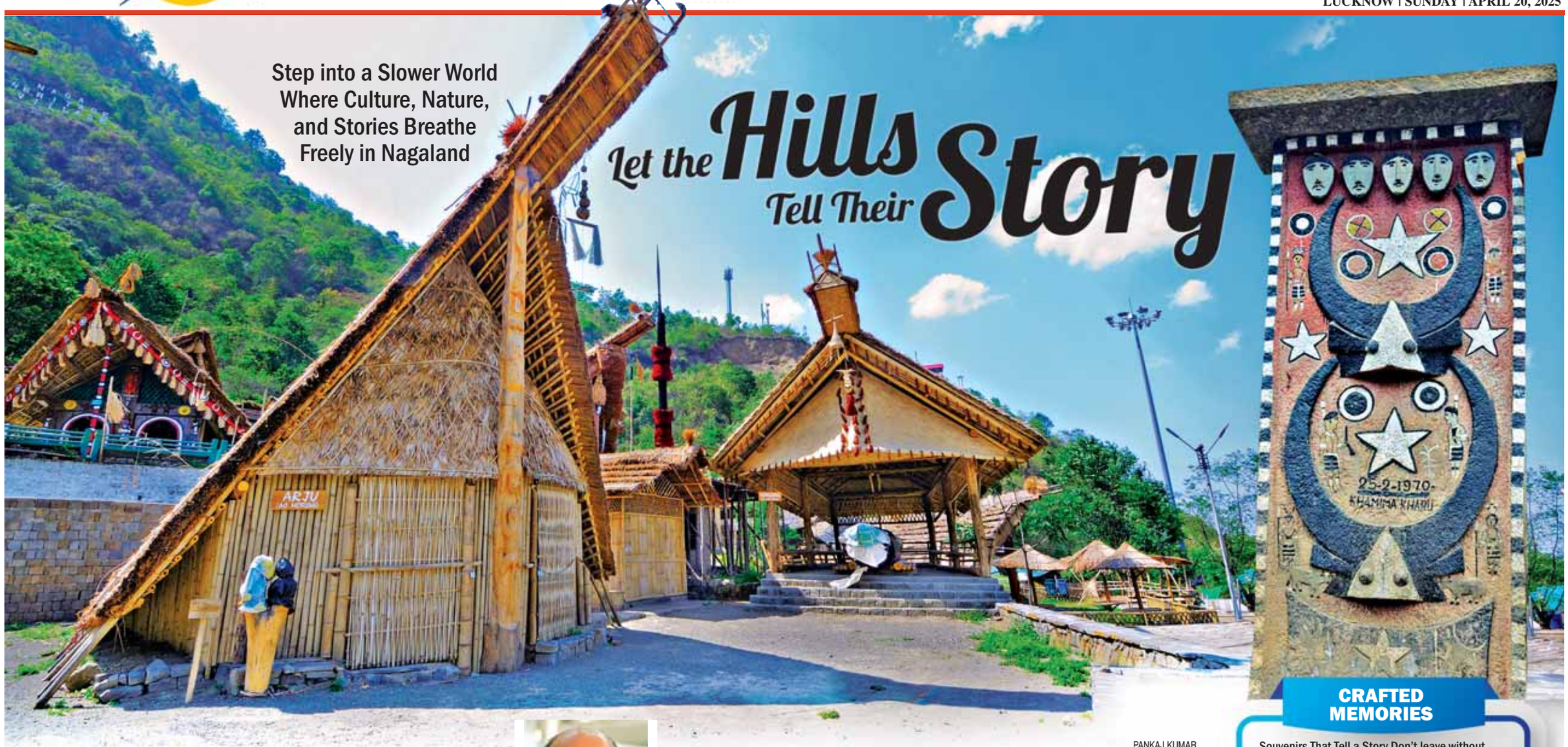
THE FUTURE

The microbrewery industry in India is at an exciting juncture. With evolving tastes, rising consumer expectations, and a growing appreciation for craft beer, reinvention is no longer an option but it is a necessity. As we look to the future, our focus remains on pushing boundaries while staying true to our core values of quality, craftsmanship, and experience.

"TAKE ONLY MEMORIES, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS"
— CHIEF SEATTLE

Let the Hills Tell Their Story

Step into a Slower World Where Culture, Nature, and Stories Breathe Freely in Nagaland



PAWAN SONI
COLUMNIST
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards

If you're weary of Insta-itineraries and whirlwind checklists, perhaps it's time to let **Nagaland** happen to you-slowly, deliberately, and with the grace of a place untouched by frenzy. This Northeastern gem invites not a race, but a pause. Here, you don't "do" a holiday; you dwell in it. The gateway to Nagaland is surprisingly accessible-courtesy of a direct flight from Delhi to Dimapur. No layovers, no fuss. From Dimapur, it's a picturesque 90-minute drive to Kohima, the state's capital, where the hills roll in like a lullaby and time decides to take the long road. For those who prefer to stay in Dimapur, you're still in the heart of it all-with the added advantage of being just 20 minutes from Khatkhati in Assam, where the spirit flows a little more freely (more on that in a bit).

A Walk Through History

Kohima holds within it the whispers of the past. The Kohima War Cemetery, perched gracefully over green slopes, honours the brave who fought in one of the Second World War's fiercest battles. It's not just a site; it's a silenced storyteller. The epitaph that reads "When you go home, tell them of us," is reason enough to spend a moment longer in reflection. In December showcases all this and more-dance, folklore, crafts, and cuisines that are as layered as the land. Now, here's the delightful surprise: while Nagaland's indigenous cuisine is a delight of lightly spiced, easy-to-digest dishes-think bamboo shoot pork, fresh river fish, sticky rice-there's no dearth of North Indian comfort food either. Craving choley bhature, jalebi, or a good old paratha? You'll find it in Kohima's modest eateries and hotels, served with the warmth of familiarity and a view to match.

Nagaland may be officially dry, but that doesn't mean you're cut off from your evening pour. A short ride to Khatkhati, across the Assam border, brings you to a clutch of bars and the emerging jewel of the local spirits scene-Dark Knight Distillery.

Here, I had the pleasure of sampling their range, including Infamous, a premium small-batch whisky with a smooth finish and surprisingly nuanced profile, and bought Lost Treasure, a cold-brew coffee rum for home as a souvenir. Dani Chand, the affable founder of Dark Knight, stated, "The response to Infamous has been overwhelming. We're still keeping it small-batch to retain quality, but expansion plans are definitely brewing."

This place is about learning to savour again, whether it's a bite of Naga stew or a verse of war history, So, take that flight. Take your time. Let Nagaland linger.

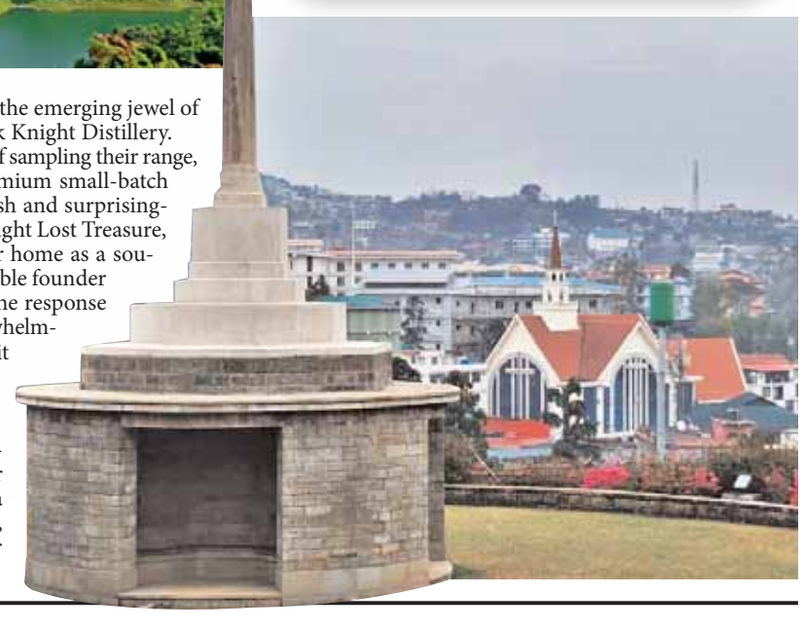
PANKAJ KUMAR

HORNBILL VILLAGE AND THE 16 TRIBES OF NAGALAND

Nagaland is home to over a hundred tribes, each with its own dialect, traditions, and legacy. Among these, 16 are officially recognised as major tribes, and their presence is vividly brought to life in the Hornbill Village — a living museum where tradition stands tall. Here, tribal architecture tells you as much as the elders do. You can walk through authentically built morungs, see traditional weaponry once used in headhunting days, and witness daily practices that have survived centuries.

CRAFTED MEMORIES

Souvenirs That Tell a Story Don't leave without picking up a bottle of Infamous-its bold character and striking design make it a gift worthy of your shelf. Handwoven Naga shawls, each tribe with its distinct pattern, ideal as a wrap or a wall accent. Tribal jewellery made from beads and brass-rustic, sustainable, and deeply symbolic. Bamboo and cane artefacts, from baskets to lampshades, crafted by local artisans. Smoked pork or dried bamboo shoot, vacuum-packed and available at select markets in Kohima. Locally grown wild Naga chillies, both fresh and in pickled form, for those who like their food fiery. Why Go Slow?



Luxury Beyond the Ocean's Horizon

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

As I boarded, the promise of an enchanting journey ahead filled the air. Flying Business Class with SriLankan Airlines transformed the journey into a memorable escapade. As I settled into my plush seat, the friendly flight attendants welcomed me with warm smiles and a glass of sparkling champagne that shimmered like the Indian Ocean below. Soon enough, we glided into **Colombo**, a city alive with culture and hues. Upon my arrival at the Anantara Peace Haven Resort, I was instantly lulled by the gentle sound of waves crashing against the shore.

The brutal noise of everyday life faded away, replaced by a peaceful ambiance suffused with the fragrance of tropical flowers and fresh seafood grilling nearby. My luxurious villa had a private plunge pool, which beckoned me for a refreshing dip. As I settled in, excited for what lay ahead, I could feel Sri Lanka's rich culture and bright spirit spilling from the very walls of this oasis.

WAVES, WELLNESS AND WONDERS

My adventurous side thrived during watching a thrilling surf lesson with an extraordinary instructor, who transformed missteps into pointers-by the end of it, you could be riding waves like a pro. A session of restorative yoga against the backdrop of the sun dipping into the ocean was the perfect balance, allowing me to connect both mentally and physically with nature. It was a moment of pure zen. Every treatment I enjoyed led me deeper into tranquillity, leaving me blissfully void of any worldly stress. Between flavours, surf and spa, I truly felt the essence of Sri Lanka's welcoming charm.

CULINARY BLISS BY THE SEA

Let's start with the food-where do I even begin? My culinary journey kicked off at Journey's, the resort's breakfast haven. The vibrant buffet was as impressive as an art gallery, boasting an array of dishes from traditional egg hoppers to decadent pastries.

My taste buds danced with delight at the first bite of savoury *fish curry* paired with that unique hopper texture. Post breakfast, I lounged by the infinity pool, which effortlessly merged into the horizon-each glance towards the ocean felt like I was shifting between reality and a surreal painting.

The true joy of dining at Anantara lies not only in casual meals between sun-soaked hours but in the mystical dinner experience that awaited me at Verele, the beachside *teppanyaki* restaurant. As the sun slipped below the horizon, live folk music curated a soothing backdrop to my BBQ feast.

I relished every moment as the skilled chefs prepared unique dishes, not just with ingredients but with love-a tradition handed down through generations. Each bite was an invitation into a world rich with history and vibrant flavours, a culinary dance of spices and textures that is quintessentially Sri Lankan.

Under the guidance of local chefs, I learned the secrets behind traditional Sri Lankan dishes, grating coconut and preparing aromatic curries. The air filled with laughter and the scent of freshly ground spices, and my creativity turned every dish into a small-plate masterpiece. Sharing what I cooked with fellow travellers over cocktails infused with innovative flavours like smoked Amarac was the cherry on top of this wonderful day.

— The author is an independent food & travel writer, a chef, and a catalyst

IN THE END, IT'S THE LAUGHTER SHARED OVER SPICES, WAVES RIDDEN, AND PEACE FOUND AMIDST VEILS OF PALM TREES THAT MAKES THE ANANTARA EXPERIENCE TRULY UNFORGETTABLE

"OLD LAYERS OF KARMA CAN STICK TO YOU ONLY IF YOU KEEP ADDING NEW LAYERS OF KARMIC GLUE"
— SADHGURU

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

This week may bring some financial disappointments for you. If you've set high expectations, you might find that things don't unfold as anticipated. In your work environment, confusion prevails, leaving you unable to make decisive moves. Tasks remain unfinished, and your organizational efforts feel scattered. Procrastination may take over, especially regarding work or travel plans. However, by midweek, you'll find a renewed sense of stability, and you will begin to approach your tasks with a clearer mindset. Connections from distant places could offer some benefits. Your colleagues and subordinates will expect more involvement from you, and you will rise to the occasion. But the week concludes on a challenging note, with family issues or health concerns demanding your attention, which might affect your professional commitments and result in some losses.

Lucky number 17 | **Lucky colour** Yellow
Lucky day Thursday

TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, a wave of positive energy surrounds you, bringing blessings from all directions. If you have children, expect their academic efforts to bear fruit, and any long-awaited projects will finally come to fruition. There's also a strong possibility of a new home entering your life, whether through a lucky break or a new opportunity. Your family and peers will be celebrating together further fortifying relationships and filling you with joy. You showcase personal magnetism, a trait which draws people toward you, making you an automatic leader within your community. With progression in the week, practices like meditation, prayer, or chanting will enable you to feel afresh a greater connection to the divine, which in turn will increase the flow of creativity and also enhance further growth on the spiritual level.

Lucky number 30 | **Lucky colour** Orange
Lucky day Monday

GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week encourages you to embrace all aspects of life: emotionally, spiritually, and materially. Initially, your financial goals will also be achieved, and there will be an increase in profits as the week progresses. Your bold approach, coupled with your caring nature, will allow you to foster warm relationships in the workplace. There's also a chance of travel for work or pleasure, which might include international or water-based travel. Midweek, you will focus on personal and professional life balance, handling household matters with a gentle touch. Toward the end of the week, you will gain the fruits of your toils which will manifest as good health, vitality, and creativity. The weekend leaves you a peaceful, pleasant time with to spend with family so you can recharge.

Lucky number 23 | **Lucky colour** Blue
Lucky day Saturday

CANCER June 21-July 22

Different shifts will give way to an undeniable feeling of amazement within your life. Suddenly, you find yourself in a situation where you feel composed, proud, and ready to accept the world. You will receive success in areas where there was once no hope of ever triumphing. You will gain respect for your achievements which will make you famous, winning both admiration and envy. True supporters will celebrate your progress. All areas that resonate best will align in your interests observing much progress. A challenge is now behind you, receiving the recognition of others towards your goals accomplished. You will be delighted because of the past, and by the end of the week, you will still revisit the positive moments and spend them with loved ones and younger people.

Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Red
Lucky dayTuesday

LEO July 23-Aug 22

Work is the primary focus of your energy this week. You could feel overloaded with work and unable to find time for even small breaks. The feeling of working towards something seems permanently out of reach, and slow advancement only exacerbates the feeling. Midweek, your stability might be shaken by unexpected factors like the arrival or departure of someone important. It is essential not to make hasty choices, particularly when one is muddled or burned out. Travel of some sort is probable, providing a refreshing shift. When uncertainty grips you, a few minutes of quiet contemplation can invoke poise. Even though facing tough decisions with fairness is your forte, acting too quickly might make your efforts null—it's wisest to avoid needless expenditure.

Lucky number 29 | **Lucky colour** Purple
Lucky day Sunday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Analyse the upcoming days as them bringing growth, personally satisfaction and financial gains all in one. Your work ethic and application of knowledge is noteworthy. Everything about your work endeavors right now starting from discipline, attitude towards time, and fairness ensures a solid financial foundation which offers safety and comfort. Inheritances or windfalls, expected or unexpected, could come your way. Increased recognition will accompany your confidence through promotions and salary boosts, delivering them at this time. Taking the time to contemplate past accomplishments is recommended. In closing, new projects, tasks, or roles which are around the corner will enable the effective usage of resources. Welcome those insights and put them into action for your professional life. This along with youthful energy from your kids and younger individuals surrounding you will elevate your overall wellbeing.

Lucky number 14 | **Lucky colour** Brown
Lucky day Tuesday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week, you will begin with a mini period of self-exploration to find answers that help you mitigate problems and help you achieve your desired outcomes. You have a few more hurdles to overcome, but you are standing right at the precipice of success. Romance is bound to make an appearance midweek, so expect a surge of it which will help further bond with your partner or spouse. You will likely, by week's end, find yourself in favorable scenarios concerning your most crucial property decisions like buying a new home or an automobile. In this week, you will be one of many who are placed in a fortunate position where favorable opportunities are abounding. With the full support of your family, you are healthy, feeling vibrant, and energized.

Lucky number 26 | **Lucky colour** Black
Lucky day Friday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, focus primarily on work and embracing the opportunities it brings. There's a strong potential to earn through your efforts, as the risk now presents itself as an opportunity. With a surge of creativity, you're equipped to push past any limitations. A challenge that has seemed insurmountable now becomes an achievable task, and your confidence will lead you to success. Midweek, expect guidance from a wise female figure in your life, such as a mother or mentor. Heed her advice, as it will bring valuable benefits. Strengthen your mind by engaging in intellectual activities like reading or puzzles, and prepare for a breakthrough that will deepen your spiritual understanding.

Lucky number 19 | **Lucky colour** Pink
Lucky day Wednesday

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week emphasizes the need for organization, focus, and discipline. However, confusion may cloud your thoughts, and there could be a rift between partners. In some situations, answers are available, yet fear may prevent you from accepting the truth. You might hesitate to confront reality, worried that acknowledging it could worsen things. Midweek may bring legal challenges or situations beyond your control, potentially leading to disappointment. Be mindful of your health and avoid unnecessary confrontations. It's best to hold back from arguments and take some time to rest. Reflect on your actions in solitude, heal, and approach your challenges with renewed strength. Patience is key—this is just a temporary setback, and things will improve with time.

Lucky number 21 | **Lucky colour** Grey
Lucky day Sunday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Your hard work will soon bear fruit. You are likely to focus on work-related issues during the first part of the week, paying attention to personal development as well. Your ability to progress and succeed will be determined by your attention to detail, how persistent you are, and how focused you are while handling what looks like overly complex challenges. Moreover, through this process, unwavering devotion will be rewarded, allowing you to appreciate the knowledge gained along the way, giving you a renewed sense pride. This time frame also supports spiritual development and reconnection with higher guidance. Towards the week's end, you may undergo deep healing on a personal level and with others. This can mean finding acceptance within oneself in love, or for some, being proposed to—which marks a major milestone.

Lucky number 12 | **Lucky colour** White
Lucky day Wednesday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Utilize this week as a timeline to achieve your goals and let your mental framework enhance your self-organization, gut feelings, and mental sharpness. Prepare yourself to receive an increase of love and joy as you are showered with riches and blessings. You can make remarkable strides in your goals and shift business outcomes magically. Claims and loved ones will become a main focus this week because all in your strife will finally come together. Fresh opportunities in your vocation or enterprise can come up too. Expect to feel vibrant and self-assured. Be at peace knowing that the universe is there to champion all your endeavors. Expect this week to provide richness not just in terms of finances, but your emotional, and personal development too.

Lucky number 27 | **Lucky colour** Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Success stems from collaboration and cooperation, fostering improved relations and understanding in your professional environment. This will allow you to appreciate your self-esteem and recognize your value, rejuvenating both your career and lifestyle with energy and creativity. Promising opportunities awaiting you look optimistic, including positive results from a recent endeavor. If you are working, perhaps a new employment opportunity will arise. Integration will be essential from a cooperation standpoint, and negotiations should go favorably. Spirituality and further divine creation are very relevant during this timeframe as well. For those waiting for joyful news, a happy family announcement for a new addition may be on the way. You, as a spearhead, are prepared to take on fresh challenges boldly and wholeheartedly without hesitation.

Lucky number 16 | **Lucky colour** Lemon
Lucky day Monday

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THOUGHTFUL INSIGHTS

Dr. Tanu Jain

Steps to Reconnect: Healing Relationships with Love

The beauty of life lies in meaningful, long-lasting relationships. True happiness does not come from material success or fleeting pleasures, but from deep, fulfilling connections with those around us

Have you ever experienced a friend suddenly stopping communication with you? Have you seen a loved one become distant, with no conversations for weeks or even months? Were these relationships always like this from the beginning? No. Every connection starts with warmth, affection, and mutual understanding. However, over time, misunderstandings, unresolved emotions, and changing circumstances can create distance, making communication difficult and eventually leading to broken ties.

Have we ever paused to reflect on why this happens? Is it simply because change is a natural part of life? What really transforms a relationship from closeness to estrangement? More often than not, we blame the other person for their changed behavior. But in reality, the root cause lies within the restless nature of our own minds. The human mind is inherently unsettled, untamed, and constantly moving from one thought to another. This restlessness influences how we perceive relationships, leading us to react impulsively, hold grudges, and drift away from people who once meant a lot to us.

Yet, deep within our hearts, we do not want our relationships to turn stale or bitter. We long for them to remain fresh, full of warmth and understanding. We wish to preserve the love and care that once brought joy into our lives. The good news is that it is possible to bring back the same delight and freshness we once had in our relationships. But this requires us to train our minds, overcome inner resistance, and take conscious steps toward reconciliation and emotional maturity.

So, how can we nurture our relationships and restore lost connections? Here, are some essential steps to cultivate spiritual maturity in relationships:

Train Your Mind to Stay Present The mind is always wandering, overanalysing the past or worrying about the future. Teach your mind to stay in the present moment. If you consciously ask it to stay, it will listen. Allow yourself to go with the flow rather than resisting change.

Be Mindful of Your Thoughts Observe how your mind functions. Meditation is a powerful tool to bring awareness to your thoughts and emotions. Instead of being consumed by mental restlessness, direct your focus to your surroundings, nature, or even the simple joys of life.

Let Go and Forgive Holding onto resentment only burdens your heart. Remember, life is fleeting — why waste it on grudges? Forgiveness liberates not only the other person but also yourself. It allows you to move forward with peace and clarity.

Overcome Prejudices and Assumptions
Many relationships suffer not because of real harm done by others, but due to our own assumptions and prejudices. Our mind often magnifies problems, making them seem bigger than they actually are. Let go of unnecessary judgments and look at situations with an open heart.

Express Your Emotions in a Healthy Way
Suppressing emotions leads to inner turmoil. Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you trust. If that is not possible, write them down or confide in nature. Releasing pent-up emotions helps in clearing mental clutter.

Take the Initiative to Reconnect
If a relationship has turned cold, don't wait for the other person to take the first step. Muster the courage to reach out. A simple message, a phone call, or a heartfelt conversation can rekindle lost connections.

Free Yourself from Expectations
One of the biggest barriers in relationships is the weight of expectations. We expect others to behave in a certain way and feel disappointed when they don't. Release yourself from the need for constant validation. Instead, focus on giving without expecting in return.

Respect People for Who They Are
Every individual is unique. Instead of trying to mold others into what we want them to be, appreciate them for who they truly are. Accepting people as they are strengthens relationships and fosters deeper understanding.

Adopt a Positive Mindset
Train your mind to see the good in people. Constantly finding faults leads to dissatisfaction and negativity. Make a conscious effort to switch to a no-complaint attitude, focusing on what is right rather than what is wrong.

Appreciate Strengths Instead of Focusing on Weaknesses
Nobody is perfect. Instead of dwelling on a person's shortcomings, recognise their strengths. Celebrate their positive qualities, and you will find that relationships naturally become more fulfilling .

The beauty of life lies in meaningful, long-lasting relationships. True happiness does not come from material success or fleeting pleasures, but from deep, fulfilling connections with those around us.

Spiritual maturity in relationships requires self-awareness, patience, and a willingness to nurture bonds despite challenges. By training our minds and letting go of ego-driven conflicts, we can create a life filled with love, understanding, and harmony. In the end, relationships thrive not on perfection but on the effort we put into keeping them alive. Choose peace, choose connection, and above all, choose love. As Lao Tzu wisely said: "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

— The author's views are personal.
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