

ROY GUILTY IN RG KAR MURDER CASE In another first, poll freebie for Delhi tenants



Police personnel keep vigil as Sanjay Roy, accused in the alleged rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, is brought to the Sealdah court in police vehicle on the day of the verdict, in Kolkata. PTI

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A Kolkata Sessions Court on Saturday held prime accused Sanjay Roy guilty in the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case. The quantum of punishment will be pronounced on Monday, District and Sessions Judge of Sealdah Court Anirban Das told Roy in a 12-minute hearing, adding that he had been held guilty in the case and could be condemned to death or imprisonment for life. Roy was convicted of rape under Section 64 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and murder under Sections 66 and 103(1). The body of the victim, a 31-year-old postgraduate lady doctor working in the Chest Medicine Department of the RGMCH who was brutally raped and murdered, was discovered inside the seminar room of the said hospital in the wee hours of August 9 last year, triggering nationwide protests. Subsequently, on the basis of

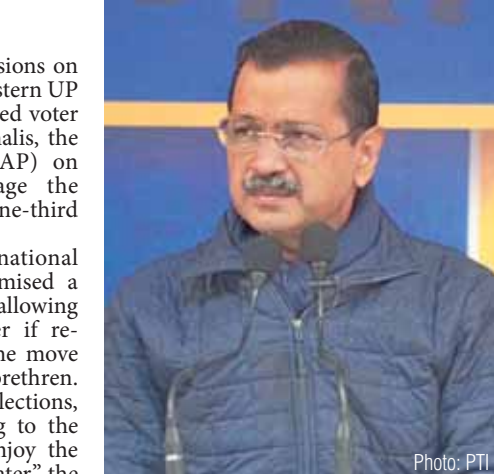
the CCTV footage, the Kolkata Police on August 10 arrested Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer with the police. He was seen entering the seminar hall and coming out of it after about half an hour. The judgment was delivered 57 days after the trial commenced in-camera on November 12, during which 50 witnesses were examined. The hearing in the case concluded on January 9. "When the Court held Sanjay Roy guilty of the crime of rape and murder, he continued to call himself innocent and a victim of conspiracy. The honorable Sessions Judge told him that he had been found guilty of the crime which could invite capital punishment like death or life imprisonment... the quantum of punishment shall be given on Monday when the Judge will also hear out the convict," the advocate of the victim's family said, adding that justice will not be fully complete until other people who might have been involved in the case were punished.

"Though the copy of the judgment is likely to be uploaded on Monday," the Court did not seem fully satisfied with the investigation as "it often raised the issues of lacuna and loopholes in the process of investigation... we will have to see whether these things find place in the judgment or not," the advocate said. The parents of the victim also held the same opinion, wondering why the administration would not go after the masterminds of the crime. "We have 20 questions that are yet unanswered. Let the agencies, be it the CBI or the state police answer them," said the mother of the victim, partially welcoming the judgment. The mother of an only child, she said, "Sanjay's guilt was proved through biological evidence. He is only one person but not the only person who has killed my daughter. The entire medical fraternity, the entire hospital says so, the truth is known to every brick, every wall of the

hospital, and the names of the real accused are being discussed but why it was not taken up judicially is not known to us. There are others who haven't been arrested yet. So, justice hasn't been fully delivered. We are people of humble background and have nothing to lose so we will continue our fight for justice till the last day of our life." The father of the victim, who had on Friday held the Mamata Banerjee government guilty of brushing the case under the carpet again, said, "I have many questions. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee herself kept awake the whole night and supervised the investigation. Where was a need for her to do so? The investigation was nothing but an act of erasing evidence. The police destroyed evidence, which finally led to the other culprits either not getting arrested or two others getting bail. The entire medical fraternity knows that this rape and murder is not the work of only one person." Dr Utpal, a senior doctor who had been in the forefront of the movement, wondered why the investigating agencies had preferred to ignore forensic reports. "What about the four DNA imprints that were found on the person of the victim. What about the forensic experts' comment that the murder might not have taken place at the place where the body of the victim was found. Why did the agencies not take into account the telephonic conversations that had taken place between the top police officers and some top political persons of the State."

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A few days after casting aspersions on the residents of Bihar and eastern UP by claiming that the BJP had faked voter lists in the names of Poorvanchalis, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday attempted to assuage the mollification directed at the one-third chunk of electors in Delhi. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal promised a freebie guarantee for tenants, allowing them free electricity and water if re-elected to power, stating that the move would benefit the Poorvanchali brethren. "We will ensure that after the elections, tenants, many of whom belong to the Poorvanchal region, will also enjoy the benefits of free electricity and water," the former Delhi CM said. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal stated that tenants have been unable to access the free electricity and water scheme for several reasons. He emphasized that tenants are also part of Delhi's population, and the AAP will extend these benefits to them. The announcement comes as the Aam Aadmi Party ramps up its campaign for the Delhi assembly elections slated for February 5. "Wherever I go, I meet people living on rent who say they benefit from good schools and hospitals but are deprived of free electricity and water schemes. Across Delhi, we have provided free electricity and water to residents. However, it is unfortunate that tenants do not get these benefits. Today, I want to announce that after the elections, if our government is formed, we will introduce a system ensuring tenants also receive free electricity and water," Kejriwal said. The ruling AAP has proposed freebies including the Mahila Samman Yojna, Sanjeevani Yojna, free metro, free scholarships to Dalit students, salaries for pujaris and granthis, free metro rides for students, waivers in water bills, and funds for residents' welfare associations to recruit security guards,



Arvind Kejriwal speaking at a press conference. Photo: PTI

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With campaigning for the Delhi Assembly elections heating up, claims and counterclaims erupted between AAP and BJP as the former alleged that AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal's car was pelted with stones in New Delhi constituency on Saturday. However, BJP leader and New Delhi candidate Parvish Verma refuted AAP's allegations, saying the AAP chief's car hit three youths who had been protesting against him. Verma claimed it was Kejriwal who asked the driver of the car to crush them. "Fearing defeat, BJP panicked, got its

adding to its existing schemes and programs such as revamped government schools, mohalla clinics, and free electricity that the AAP government offers to citizens in Delhi. In competition, the BJP, in its manifesto released on January 17, announced several aids, keeping women at the center of its poll pitch. The manifesto emphasizes women and promises Rs 2,500 monthly aid under the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana.' The BJP, in its manifesto, also announced Rs 21,000 and six nutrition kits for every pregnant woman under the 'Chief Minister Matritva Suraksha Yojana.' The party has also promised LPG cylinders at Rs 500 for the poor, with one free cylinder on Holi and Diwali.

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Kejriwal car convoy attack; AAP, BJP exchange blows



Arvind Kejriwal and Parvish Verma at a press conference. Photo: PTI

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

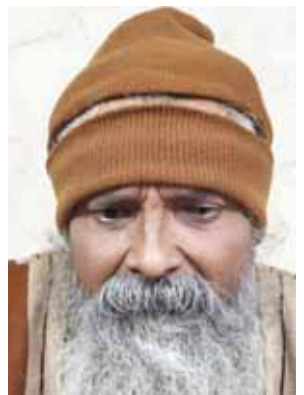
goes to attack Arvind Kejriwal," the AAP, which has been ruling Delhi since 2013, posted on X within minutes of the attack on its leader. The AAP convener also said the Delhi Police on Saturday stopped the screening of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) documentary Unbreakable on January 18, citing non-compliance with election guidelines. AAP convener and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using the Delhi Police to stop the screening. However, the Delhi Police denied these allegations. The Delhi Police said that "no permission" was taken for the screening of the documentary. The police emphasized that political parties must apply for permission for such events through a single-window system at the District Election Officer's (DEO) office. It further added that such permission could not be granted or rejected by the police at this time. The documentary Unbreakable, which explores AAP's journey during Kejriwal's leadership and the party's activities during and after his imprisonment, was scheduled to be screened at Pyarelal Bhawan, ITO, at 11:30 AM.

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Butcher of Delhi arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Crime Branch has apprehended Chanderkant Jha, a "serial killer" who had terrorised the national capital between 2006 and 2007 and evaded arrest for more than a year, an official said on Saturday. His case received a significant media attention and was the subject of an OTT platform documentary "Indian Predator: The Butcher of Delhi". "Jha was on the run after jumping parole in October 2023. The 57-year-old was arrested from Old Delhi Railway Station on Friday following an intensive operation," Additional Commissioner of Police (crime branch) Sanjay Kumar Sain said. Jha, who had been serving a life sentence for three murders, carried a bounty of Rs 50,000 for his capture, he said. The officer further said the Crime Branch formed a team which included senior police officers to locate Jha. "Over six months, the team traced Jha's network of family, friends, and associates. They conducted reconnaissance at his previous crime spots and interrogated individuals in fruit and vegetable mandis across Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where Jha had once worked," said the Additional CP. Analysing voluminous call data records, the team identified a suspicious mobile



number that ultimately led them to Jha's location. Acting on a lead, the team arrested Jha on January 17 as he attempted to flee to Bihar from Old Delhi Railway Station, he said. Police said a history of gruesome crimes between 2006 and 2007, Jha's modus operandi left Delhi shaken. Originally from Bihar, Jha resided near Azadpur Mandi in Delhi and befriended young men, often migrants, by helping them find jobs and offering them meals. However, minor disagreements or perceived infractions would trigger his homicidal rage. "Jha would tie his victims hands, claiming he would punish them, and then strangle them with a locally made nunchaku. He would dismember the bodies meticulously, ensuring minimal blood splatter. The

remains were then packed in plastic bags and transported using his modified cycle-rickshaw before being dumped at pre-determined locations, often near Tihar Jail," Sain added. He said adding to the horror, Jha would leave handwritten notes with the dismembered bodies, taunting the police and challenging them to catch him. Jha's first recorded murder dates back to 1998 when he killed Mangal alias Aurangzeb in Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, dismembering the body and scattering its parts. Arrested in 1998, he was released in 2002. After his release, he resumed killing, police said. In June 2003, Jha murdered his associate Shekhar in Haiderpur for being a drunkard and liar, disposing of the body in Alipur. In November 2003, Umesh, a migrant from Bihar, was killed for alleged betrayal, and his body was dumped near Tihar Jail. In November 2005, Jha killed Guddu for his habits, including smoking marijuana and disposed of his body in Mangolpuri, police said. In October 2006, Amit, accused of womanizing, met a similar fate, with his body left outside Tihar Jail. In another case Upendar was murdered in April 2007 for a love affair deemed inappropriate, his remains left near Tihar's Gate No 3.

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Israeli soldiers work in staging area on the Israel-Gaza border after returning from the Gaza Strip. PTI

Israel-Hamas ceasefire to go into effect on Sunday

PTI ■ CAIRO

The ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will go into effect in less than 24 hours, Qatar's foreign ministry said on Saturday. In a post on X, foreign minister Majid al-Ansari said the ceasefire will start at 8:30 am local time (6:30 GMT) on Sunday, and advised people to exercise caution and wait for directions from officials. Early Saturday morning, Israel's Cabinet approved the deal for a ceasefire in Gaza that would release dozens of hostages and pause the 15-month war with Hamas, bringing the sides a step closer to ending their deadliest and most destructive fighting ever. Despite the ceasefire news, sirens sounded across central Israel on Saturday, with the

army saying it intercepted projectiles launched from Yemen. The Iran-backed Houthis have stepped up their missile attacks in recent weeks. The group says the attacks are part of its campaign aimed at pressuring Israel and the West over the war in Gaza. There were also continued Israeli strikes into Gaza. The Palestinian health ministry said at least 23 people were killed the previous day. Under the first phase of the ceasefire, 33 hostages are set to be released over the next six weeks, in exchange for hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. The remainder, including male soldiers, are to be released in a second phase that will be negotiated during the first.

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Saif attack suspect arrested in Chhattisgarh

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel detained a 31-year-old suspect in the Saif Ali Khan attack case at the distant Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh on Saturday afternoon, offering a ray of hope to the Mumbai police, who had been searching for over 48 hours for the elusive assailant. Acting on a lead provided by the Mumbai police, RPF officials detained the suspect, identified as Aakash Kailash Kanojia, from the Mumbai-Howrah Jnaneswari Express when the train arrived at Durg railway station at 2 pm. "We identified the suspect based on a photograph, train number, and location details sent to us by the Mumbai police. He was sitting in a general compartment. A Mumbai Police team will soon arrive here to take him into custody," a senior RPF official said at Durg railway station. Enquiries by the RPF revealed that the suspect was travelling without a ticket. When questioned, he initially stated that he was going to Nagpur but later corrected himself, saying he was on his way to Bilaspur. During the initial questioning, the suspect claimed that he stayed in Byculla, south Mumbai. The RPF officials arranged for him to speak to the Mumbai police via video call. A Mumbai police team is



Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan and suspected attacker.

expected to take custody of the detained suspect late on Saturday and bring him to Mumbai for further investigation. However, there was no formal statement from the Mumbai police regarding the suspect detained by the RPF at Durg railway station. Earlier, fresh CCTV footage aired by some television channels showed the assailant at Dadar in north-central Mumbai at 9 am on Thursday, buying a pair of headphones before heading to the railway station. So far, five CCTV clips have surfaced, including two purportedly from the staircase of the actor's building "Satguru Sharan," showing him going up and then coming down, one at Dadar station with a change of shirt, and two more from Saif.

Dadur had sustained six stab wounds, including one to his spine, while grappling with an intruder who had broken into his 12th-floor apartment in the posh "Satguru Sharan" building, located at the junction of 29th and 24th Roads in Bandra (W) in north-west Mumbai. The knife attack on the actor took place between 2 am and 2:30 am on Thursday, following a failed burglary attempt by the yet-to-be-identified intruder. After being admitted to Lilavati Hospital, the actor underwent surgery to remove a knife lodged in his spine and to plug a spinal fluid leak. "The actor was brought to our hospital with six injuries, two of which were deep. We performed surgery near his spine and removed a 2.5-inch piece of knife from the spine," said Dr. Niraj Uttamani, Chief Operating Officer of Lilavati Hospital, on Thursday.

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Thanks to Maha Kumbh, Uttar Pradesh's 75 districts unite to reap economic rewards

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj is not just a religious event; it has transformed into a massive economic engine driving growth across Uttar Pradesh. With preparations in full swing to welcome over 400 million pilgrims, the event has become a source of livelihood and opportunity for artisans, traders, and entrepreneurs from all 75 districts of the state. Over its 45-day duration, this mega-event is expected to generate economic activity on a scale that rivals the GDP of some countries, with small-scale artisans and micro-enterprises alone securing orders worth Rs 10,000 crore. "This is not just an event for the

faithful; it's an economic festival," said Mahendra Goyal, Uttar Pradesh head of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). "The state government's Rs 7,500 crore investment will generate at least ₹25,000 crore in revenue and facilitate business worth Rs 2 lakh crore. It is a win-win for faith and the economy." The demand for basic necessities such as groceries, edible oils, vegetables, dairy products, bedding, and hospitality services has surged. Entrepreneurs from districts like Kanpur, Varanasi, and Gautam Buddha Nagar are leading the charge, with key sectors like groceries expected to generate Rs 4,000 crore and dairy products contributing Rs 4,200 crore. Speaking about the influx of opportunities, Ravi Tiwari, a

vegetable supplier from Kanpur, shared, "The orders I have received for the Maha Kumbh are more than what I usually supply in six months. This event is a game-changer for small businesses like mine." Employment opportunities have also multiplied across various sectors. Neeraj Singhal, National President of the Indian Industries Association, remarked, "The demand for services such as hotels, restaurants, food stalls, air travel, railways, and road transportation has increased by nearly 80 times. Construction, security, sanitation, and healthcare services are employing over 10,000 workers and unskilled laborers, with many of them coming from districts like Kushinagar, Ballia, and Maharajganj."

Artisans and manufacturers have seen unprecedented demand for their products. The Small Industries and Manufacturers

Association reported a significant rise in sales of food, worship materials, clothing, and souvenirs. Entrepreneurs from regions such as



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh takes a holy dip at the Sangam during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. PTI

Unnao, Ghaziabad, and Mirzapur have directly benefitted. Rajeev Mishra, an artisan from Mirzapur, said, "This is the busiest we have been in years. Orders for clay ware and handicrafts have poured in, and we are working round the clock to meet the demand." The infrastructure developed for the event has also brought economic benefits to districts like Meerut, Hapur, and Lucknow, where workers have been employed to build roads, ensure sanitation, and maintain utilities. Tourism, transport, and the sale of worship materials have further benefitted regions such as Mathura and Hardoi. Vinod Pandey, a hotel owner in Varanasi, noted, "We have been booked solid for months. The influx of pilgrims is not limited to Prayagraj

only. After taking a dip at Sangam they are coming to Varanasi. This huge footfall has not only boosted my business but also created jobs for locals." Additionally, major brands have tapped into the opportunities presented by the Maha Kumbh. A total of 82 Uttar Pradesh-based brands and 178 national brands have created 9,000 temporary jobs for youth. The tent city set up for the event alone has generated over 2,000 permanent positions. The Maha Kumbh 2025 has proven to be a unifying force, not just spiritually but economically, with its impact felt in every corner of the state. As Ashok Kumar, a shopkeeper from Prayagraj, aptly said, "The Kumbh doesn't just bring pilgrims; it brings prosperity."

Student hangs self in Kota, fourth such death this year

PTI ■ KOTA

A 16-year-old JEE aspirant allegedly hanged himself at his grandparents' house here, less than 48 hours after another aspirant from Odisha killed himself in his hostel room, police said on Saturday. This is the fourth case of suicide in the city famous for its coaching centres. Officials said no suicide note was recovered from the room. The incident occurred in Jawahar Nagar area on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. According to police, Manan Jain, a Class 12 student from Indergarh town in Bundi district, had been living with his maternal grandparents' to prepare for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for the past three years. Police received information about the incident around 9.15 am on Saturday and sent the body for a post mortem. Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Jawahar Singh said,

The officer said said Manan had studied with his cousin until midnight on Friday. When he did not respond to calls the following morning, his cousin peaked into the room and found him hanging from the iron railing of the room's window. He said no suicide note was recovered from the room and the reason behind the suicide is yet to be ascertained. Manan's family refused to have a postmortem but chose to donate his eyes before taking possession of the body, the ASI added. Manan, who had been living in Kota for the past three years to prepare for the IIT-JEE was a brilliant student and was scheduled to appear for the JEE-Main exam on January 22, his maternal uncle Mahaveer Jain said. Meanwhile, the body of Abhijeet Giri (18), who also hanged himself on Thursday, was handed over to his family after a postmortem. He was earlier reported as a NEET

aspirant, was confirmed to be a JEE aspirant by his elder brother Bipin Giri. On January 16, Abhijeet Giri, hailing from Mayurbhanj district in Odisha, hanged himself to a ceiling fan in his hostel room in Ambedkar colony in Vigyan Nagar area. Bipin said that his brother had scored 93-94 per cent in Class 10 and was a diligent student who was good in studies and attended his coaching classes regularly. He further said that Abhijeet last spoke to him on a call on Wednesday evening and told him that he would return home next month after exam. The city, a prominent hub for coaching institutes, saw 17 such cases in 2024. On January 8, a 20-year-old JEE aspirant, Abhishek, allegedly died by hanging himself from a ceiling fan in his PG room. He hailed from Madhya Pradesh and was preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) at a coaching institute since May, 2024.

Minister cites 'love affairs' as a cause of Kota student suicides

PTI ■ KOTA

Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar on Saturday cited "love affair" as a cause of student suicides in the coaching hub of Kota, even as he urged parents to be attentive and not mount pressure on their children to study. In some cases, there are "love affairs" and the students commit suicide due to that, the minister noted. The parents need to be attentive about their children's movements and routines. However, they are actually not so careful.

AIMIM, BSP, BLP launch door-to-door campaigns ahead of Delhi polls

STAFF REPORTER N NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the assembly elections, Munish Kumar Raizada's Bharatiya Liberal Party (BLP), Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), and Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) are working to expand their presence in the national capital by engaging voters through grassroots campaigns, including street plays, wall paintings, and cricket matches with children. The elections in Delhi will be held on February 5. BLP chief and candidate from the New Delhi constituency, Munish Kumar Raizada, who was once a friend of Kejriwal, has focused on a grassroots-level campaign. His team has been actively visiting JJ clusters, all 16 Dhobi Ghats, Muslim colonies, and Valmiki Sadan, conducting door-to-door outreach. Additionally, the party is using wall paintings, distributing pamphlets, billboards, and stickers, and leveraging their Facebook and Instagram handles to reach a wider audience. "We are not relying on AI-generated content, movies, or songs like other parties. Our creative slogans and campaign songs are connecting with the people," Raizada said, emphasizing the authenticity of their campaign. Among the slogans, "Samaya nahi,

Samadhan chuniye; Delhi mein Khuda chuniye" is one that has resonated strongly with locals, calling for change and action in the face of a stagnant political climate. When not engaging with voters, Raizada and his team play cricket with children in the JJ clusters, which has earned him the affectionate title of "Doctor Uncle." "It's not just about politics, it's about being with the people, listening to their issues, and helping in any way I can," he said, noting that he has used his medical expertise to assist locals in need of health support. Raizada's team conducts 8-9 Nukkad Natak (street plays) weekly, addressing key issues like corruption, unemployment, and development. "I will always be among the people. I won't just appear during election time like other politicians," Raizada said, highlighting his commitment to representing the community genuinely. The AIMIM has launched an intensive door-to-door campaign, particularly in Okhla, where its candidate Shafa-ur-Rehman and his wife are leading outreach efforts, along with student activists from Jamia Millia Islamia and former Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens

(NRC) protesters. "Family members, the student wing from Jamia, activists from the CAA-NRC protests, and party leaders are conducting a robust door-to-door campaign. Shafa-ur-Rehman, our candidate from Okhla, and his wife, along with party members, are effectively leading the outreach," AIMIM Delhi party president Shoab Jamai said. Nukkad Sabhas (street meetings) are also being held regularly, and the party has prioritized social media as part of its strategy, he said. "We have a dedicated social media team highlighting past statements and actions of AAP MLA Amantullah Khan while also showcasing videos of areas lacking development to present a real picture to the voters," Jamai said. The BSP, which plans to contest all 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly elections, has adopted a traditional approach to connect with the voters. The party is focusing on door-to-door campaigning, supported by senior party leaders, and conducting Nukkad meetings, said Central Coordinator of the BSP Nitin Singh. Along with posters and pamphlets, the party is utilizing media to reach out to people.



Delhi orders resumption of physical classes in all schools

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has issued a notice directing all schools to resume physical classes after anti-pollution measures were lifted in the national capital. The Directorate of Education (DoE), in a notice dated January 17, said the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had decided to lift measures under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) with immediate effect. As a result, all classes in both private and government schools will be conducted in physical mode, effective

immediately, it said. The DoE said in the notice, "...All government, government unaided, unaided recognised private schools of the DoE, NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council), MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi), and the Delhi Cantonment Board are informed hereby to resume offline classes. Thus, all classes in all schools are to be held in physical mode with immediate effect." The DoE also instructed the heads of the schools to promptly inform students, staff and parents about the decision. Regular physical classes are expected to resume on Monday.

Bodies of three recovered from collapsed cement plant in Odisha

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The bodies of three missing labourers were on Saturday recovered from the debris of a collapsed iron structure on the premises of a cement plant in Odisha's Sundergarh district, after a 36-hour rescue operation, police said. The deceased were identified as Susanta Rout (58), Ranjit Bhol (24) and Dashrath Patra (42), who were engaged by a contractor at the captive power plant in Rajgangpur, they said. The workers were trapped

after a coal hopper - a big iron structure used for storing large quantities of coal - collapsed on Thursday evening, said Brijesh Kumar Rai, DIG, Western Range (Rourkela). The coal hopper was operated by a third-party vendor engaged by Dalmia Cement, the company had earlier said in a statement. Over 60 other workers were safely rescued on the day of the accident, officials said. Personnel of the fire service department, Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and local police teams carried

out the rescue operation. Following the incident, the government barred Dalmia Cement from operating the coal bunker and connected circuit of the power plant with immediate effect. In the order, the additional director of factories and boiler said that a similar incident had taken place in the cement plant on November 26 but there were no casualties. It also recommended a 10-point safety norm for the cement plant. In a statement, Dalmia Cement said, "We are

extending full support to the bereaved families in close coordination with the district administration, including education, livelihood and compensation." "We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the three workers who lost their lives in this incident," it said. The statement said the company is committed to the safety and well-being of workers, and employees. District Collector Manoj Satyawan Mahajan visited the plant and spoke to company officials.

Rudraksha Shivlings: A unique sight at Maha Kumbh

PTI ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

In Shiv Nagari at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, 12 Jyotirlingas made from 7 crore 51 lakh Rudraksha beads are attracting devotees from far and wide. Constructed in Sector 6 of the Maha Kumbh, each Jyotirlinga stands 11 feet high, 9 feet wide, and 7 feet thick, with a garland of 7 crore 51 lakh Rudraksha beads draped around it. These beads were collected by begging and walking through 10,000 villages. Sharing information with PTI about these Jyotirlingas made under the open sky, Mauni Baba said, "With the aim of eradicating terrorism and protecting Bangladeshi Hindus, an iron Shivaling was made, and Rudraksha beads were then placed on it." He continued, "Years ago, I had resolved to establish a Jyotirlinga made of Rudraksha. For the past 37 years, I have been making Shivlings out of Rudraksha and worshipping them. White, black, and red Rudraksha, ranging from one Mukhi to 26 Mukhi, have been used in the Jyotirlingas here." Mauni Baba explained that this Shiv Nagari, made entirely of Rudraksha, is a unique city in the world, where six Shivlings face south and six face north. He also mentioned that the only Shivaling in the world facing south is the Mahakal Shivaling. He said that Rudraksha is like an idol, whose Pran Pratishtha is performed, and that Rudraksha cannot be worn without it. Rudraksha only fulfills wishes after Pran Pratishtha. The Baba explained that one-faced and two-faced Rudraksha are very rare. Three-faced white Rudraksha can be found in some places, while four-faced Rudraksha is associated with Purusharth. Five and six-faced Rudraksha are for householders, while seven-faced Rudraksha is considered the best for students. He also mentioned that if eight and nine Mukhi Rudraksha become 'siddh' (perfected), Goddess Lakshmi will never leave the house. Ten and eleven Mukhi Rudraksha elevate a person's career. He stressed that Rudraksha should not be bought and worn, but rather should be worn only when it is given by someone else. Mauni Baba further stated that devotees visiting this Shivnagari are being provided accurate information about Rudraksha and misconceptions surrounding Rudraksha are being cleared. Camps by Netra Kumbh, Divya Prem Seva Mission and Swaminarayan Akshardham are attracting people on Bajrang Marg in Sector 6 of Mahakumbh Nagar.

In another first, poll freebie for Delhi tenants

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The BJP said it will increase the senior citizen pension for people aged between 60 and 70 from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500; and for senior citizens, widows, divyangs, and destitute people aged 70-plus from Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000. Kejriwal highlighted concerns raised by tenants across Delhi and said that tenants have often praised Delhi's schools, hospitals, and free bus services, but they have expressed anguish over not receiving free electricity and water services that other residents get. The AAP Chief noted, "Many tenants in Delhi come from Purvanchal. They live on rent and often belong to very poor backgrounds. I have seen instances where a single building houses hundreds of tenants. Soon, all these people will also start benefiting from free electricity and water." The AAP has built its campaign around its welfare initiatives, presenting free utilities and improved public services as its core strengths. The party has introduced a scheme aimed at providing financial support to women, promising to increase their allowance to Rs 2,100 if re-elected.

Saif attack suspect arrested...

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Meanwhile, in a statement recorded before the Mumbai police on Thursday night, Saif Ali Khan's wife, actress Kareena Kapoor-Khan, said that although jewelry was lying in the open, the attacker did not touch any of the ornaments. "The attacker was aggressive. I saw him attack Saif repeatedly... Our priority was to take Saif to the hospital," Kareena told the police. In a video that has surfaced, Kareena is heard saying that after her husband Saif left for the hospital, she was

Roy guilty in RG Kar murder case

From page 1

Senior Dr Tamta said how "even the Supreme Court had admonished the agencies calling it one of the shabbiest investigations that the police could have done." Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari, however, welcomed the verdict. "We welcome the judgment. But we would have been happier if the former principal of R G Kar hospital, Sandip Ghosh, and former Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal were also punished today. The

allegations of a bigger conspiracy leveled by the parents and junior doctors must be looked into. It must be seen whether anyone else was also involved in the crime or not." The junior doctors' forum, supported by a section of the civil society, immediately took out a long procession demanding justice for Abhaya as the victim is popularly known. "While Sanjay has been convicted, what about the other culprits?... no doctor worth his salt will say that this is an act that can be done

alone... we will continue our struggle till the remaining people of influence are punished," junior doctor Aniket Mahato said. Incidentally, former principal of RGKMCH Sandip Ghosh, who had been arrested by the CBI, subsequently got bail as the agency could not submit the chargesheet within the stipulated 90 days. The doctors circulated a list of 20 key questions about the case, which they claimed remain 'unanswered,' and pointed out that the crime scene had been tampered with.

Israel-Hamas ceasefire to go into effect on Sunday

From page 1

Hamas has said it will not release the remaining captives without a lasting ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal. According to the ceasefire plan, approved by the Cabinet and signed by Israel's national security advisor, the exchange will begin Sunday at 4 pm (14:00 GMT). During each exchange, prisoners will be released by Israel after the hostages have arrived safely. The plan says that during phase one, some 1,900 Palestinian prisoners will be released, in exchange for 33 Israeli hostages, both alive and dead.

Among the prisoners, 1,167 are residents of Gaza who were held by Israel but were not involved in the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas. All women and children under 19 from Gaza held by Israel will be freed during this phase. All Palestinian prisoners who were convicted of deadly attacks will be exiled, either to Gaza or abroad, and barred from returning to Israel or the West Bank. Some will be exiled for three years and others permanently, according to the plan. However, key questions remain about the ceasefire, — the second achieved during the war — including the names of the 33 hostages who

are to be released and who among them is still alive. Hamas has agreed to free three female hostages on Day 1 of the deal, four on Day 7, and the remaining 26 over the following five weeks. Palestinian detainees are to be released as well. Israel's justice ministry has published a list of more than 700 people who are to be freed in the deal's first phase, saying the release will not begin before 4 pm local time on Sunday. All people on the list are younger or female. Also during the first phase, Israeli troops are to pull back into a buffer zone about a kilometre wide inside Gaza,

along its borders with Israel. The move will allow displaced Palestinians to return to their homes, including in Gaza City and northern Gaza. With most of Gaza's population driven into massive, squalid tent camps, Palestinians are desperate to get back to their homes, even though many were destroyed or heavily damaged by Israel's campaign. The largely-devastated territory is expected to see a surge in humanitarian aid. Trucks carrying aid lined up on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing into Gaza on Friday. On Saturday, two Egyptian government ministers arrived in the northern Sinai

Peninsula to oversee the preparations for the delivery of aid and to receive the evacuation of wounded patients, the health ministry said. Hamas triggered the war with its October 7, 2023, cross-border attack into Israel that killed some 1,200 people and left some 250 others captive. Nearly 100 hostages remain in Gaza. Israel responded with a devastating offensive that has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and militants but say women and children make up more than half the dead.

Butcher of Delhi arrested

From page 1

In May 2007, Dilip, who ate non-vegetarian food, was killed and dumped near Tihar's Gate No. 1. Jha was convicted of three murders, earning two death sentences in 2013. These were commuted to life imprisonment without remission in 2016. In October 2023, Jha was granted parole for 90 days but failed to surrender, choosing instead to go underground. "His evasion prompted the Delhi Police to issue a reward for his capture. Despite his

efforts to remain hidden, including staying in various parts of Bihar and Delhi and maintaining minimal contact with known associates, Jha was apprehended as he attempted to flee Delhi," said the officer. Jha, who studied up to the eighth grade, migrated to Delhi in 1990 and worked in various low-income jobs. He was married twice and fathered five daughters. Jha's seemingly kind demeanour masked a savage killer, who viewed minor infractions by his victims as justification for extreme punishment, police added.

Kejriwal car convoy attack; AAP, BJP exchange blows

From page 1

Its timing coincided with the Delhi Assembly elections, intensifying the political discourse in the capital. The Aam Aadmi Party wrote on X on Saturday that Kejriwal was attacked by the "people" of BJP candidate Parvesh Verma. "The AAP further alleged that BJP's Parvesh Verma, son of former Delhi Chief Minister Sahib Singh Verma, got his supporters to attack the AAP leader to stop him from campaigning, adding that the people of Delhi will give a befitting reply." The goons of BJP candidate Parvesh Verma targeted Arvind Kejriwal with stones so that he could not campaign. Listen, BJP, Arvind Kejriwal is not going to back down because of your

cowardly attack on him. The people of Delhi will give you a befitting reply," the AAP posted on X. Manish Sisodia, Kejriwal's party colleague, was quick to condemn the BJP over the attack. In a purported video of the incident, Kejriwal can be seen sitting in a vehicle with police personnel clearing the route for it. A black SUV, as shown in the video, is surrounded by security men on either side as a few protesters try to obstruct the car's way. A big stone comes flying from one end, hits the roof of the car in which Kejriwal is seated, and falls away, as the video shows. Reacting to the AAP's allegations, Verma said, "Arvind Kejriwal hit two youths with his vehicle. Both were taken to Lady Hardinge Hospital. Seeing imminent defeat,

(he) forgot the price of human lives." "When AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal was campaigning door-to-door near Lal Bahadur Sadan, people of the New Delhi assembly constituency were asking questions to Kejriwal about employment, etc. When three residents named Vishal, Abhishek, and Rohit, who are unemployed, tried to ask questions to Kejriwal, Punjab Police beat them up and a worker's phone was broken," Verma said. He further claimed that Kejriwal signaled the driver to crush them. "AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal's car hit the three youths, and the driver of the car applied brakes after seeing the three youths, but Arvind Kejriwal signaled the driver to crush them. They have been injured. This is an

attempt to murder, and I am going to the police station. The three youths will also file an FIR, and a case of attempted murder will also be registered," he added. Police also said that no one pelted stones at Kejriwal's car, but some people were trying to show black flags to the former chief minister, who was immediately removed from the spot. Earlier in the morning, the AAP convener shared a picture of the venue of the screening at Pyarelal Bhawan at ITO, showing a heavy police presence. He charged that the police did not allow the screening at the behest of the BJP. "The BJP is completely scared of the documentary because it uncovers the secrets and conspiracies behind the arrest of AAP leaders in the past two years.

It exposes the illegal and unconstitutional activities of the BJP," he alleged. The AAP chief further questioned why permission was needed for a private screening event. He told a press conference that the documentary Unbreakable was to be shown to the media at the private event, and it was not any political program. Kejriwal said that the screening was stopped by the Delhi Police because the BJP was scared of this film. "A film has been made on Aam Aadmi Party. Today, when this film was to be shown to journalists, look there, BJP prevented the screening of this film by deploying a huge police force. BJP is very scared of this film," the AAP national convener said in an X post in Hindi.

"Why? Why does the BJP want to stop this film? What is there in this film that the BJP is scared of? This film exposes all the secrets behind the scenes when AAP leaders were wrongly arrested. It exposes the illegal and unconstitutional actions of the BJP government," he added. "No votes were going to be sought at the event, nor was anything to be said against any party," Kejriwal said. Reacting to the accusations, the police said that "no permission" was taken for the screening of the documentary. The police emphasized that political parties must apply for permission for such events through a single-window system at the District Election Officer's (DEO) office. It further added that such permission could not be granted or rejected by the

police at this time. The force urged the political parties to follow the election rules and regulations during the election period. "For the said event, no such permission was taken, and hence it would have been a violation of guidelines. We urge all parties to follow the election rules and regulations at this time. As elections have been declared, political parties must apply for permission through a single-window system at the DEO office. This is a standard process during elections," the Delhi police said. "Further, it is clarified that Delhi Police can neither grant nor reject such permission at this time, as all permissions for political activity are granted through a single-window system in the concerned DEO office," it added.

Saif Ali Khan attack suspect detained in Chhattisgarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) on Saturday detained a 31-year-old suspect in connection with the stabbing of Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan from a train at Durg railway station in Chhattisgarh.

The suspect Aakash Kailash Kannoja was traveling by the Jnaneshwari Express which runs between Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) to Kolkata Shalimar and held at Durg in the afternoon, Durg RPF Inspector SK Sinha said.

RPF Durg alerted its counterpart at Rajnandgaon station (which comes before Durg on the train route) but the suspect could not be located when the train halted there, Sinha added.

He was found in the front general compartment in the train at Durg station, the RPF official added.



Mumbai Police have been informed about the arrest of the suspect and their team will reach Durg soon to take him

into custody, he added. Khan, 54, a popular Bollywood star, was stabbed repeatedly by an intruder at

The suspect Aakash Kailash Kannoja was traveling by the Jnaneshwari Express which runs between Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) to Kolkata

his 12th floor residence in Mumbai this week.

The actor was recovering from his injuries, as per the doctors treating him.

58K people get 'Swamitva Cards' in Chhattisgarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

As many as 58,011 homeowners and landowners in Chhattisgarh received ownership cards called 'Swamitva Cards' of the Pradhan Mantri Swamitva Yojana on Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed the ownership cards to over 65 lakh beneficiaries in about 50,000 villages across the country through video conferencing.

The scheme provides ruralites with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

Under this, ownership rights are being provided to the owners of houses in inhabited rural areas.

This scheme helps in the monetisation of properties, eases loan procedures, reduces property-related disputes, facilitates better assessment of



property and property tax in rural areas, and promotes holistic planning at the village level.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai presided over the

programme in Mahasamund district. Sai said that this will be helpful in building better roads, health centres, schools, and other infrastructure, which will accelerate the pace

of development.

He also spoke about the "Sugam App" to make the registry processes transparent and the work underway to digitise documents.

Govt to boost development in Sakti dist

STAFF REPORTER ■ SAKTI

Chhattisgarh's Sakti district received development works of Rs 168 crore on Saturday.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated and laid

the foundation stone for 173 development works to expand public facilities.

Sai said that his government was committed to all-around development of the district.

He announced the development of the Damau



Dhara waterfall as a tourist destination. He also said that his government will soon provide Rs 10,000 annually to over 5.62 lakh landless labourers of the state.

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao and MP Kamlesh Jangde were present.

MoU inked to provide employment, skill development



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Saturday signed a MoU with three organisations to provide employment opportunities and skill development training to the youth.

The Department of Skill Development, Technical Education and Employment signed the MoU with CSRB

Foundation, CII Young Indians, and Apnatch Private Limited in Raipur.

Home Minister Vijay Sharma and Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap were present.

Through the MoU, free certification courses will be provided in ITI, engineering, and polytechnic colleges of the state. Students will be trained as per global standards.

On this occasion, Sharma

said that the government will ensure that every student gets a fair opportunity.

Our aim is not only to provide jobs to the youth, but to provide them with such skills so that they can become self-reliant and reach new heights, he said.

He urged the youth to register at the Chhattisgarh Rojgar Portal so they can receive directions as per their abilities and qualifications.



A total of 11,737 schoolgirls in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district have received health education and haemoglobin tests as of Saturday under the Swasth Noni programme.

Ayurveda can be new hope for Alzheimer's Disease, claims new study

AGENCIES ■

Scientists at the Bose Institute in Kolkata, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology, have shown that Ayurveda can provide new hope for Alzheimer's Disease.

The team, led by Professor Anirban Bhunia, employed two distinct strategies to fight amyloid proteins and peptides, known to play a pivotal role in various neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease (AD).

They began by using chemically synthesised peptides to combat amyloid beta aggregation.

Next, they repurpose a drug called Lasunadya Ghrita (LG) from Ayurveda.

The traditional Indian medicine system has previously shown efficacy in treating depression-related mental illnesses.

The non-toxic compounds of LG and their components were characterised and repurposed for use against amyloid beta 40/42 aggregation.

"The water extract of these compounds, referred to as LGWE, not only disrupted the fibrillation process during the elongation step but also inhibited the formation of oligomers in the initial stages of the fibrillation pathway," said the researchers at Bose Institute.

Further, these compounds demonstrated greater efficacy in breaking down amyloid aggregates into non-toxic



smaller degradable molecules compared to the chemically designed peptides. This suggests its novel role in disaggregating amyloid-prone proteins.

These chemically designed

peptides are "non-toxic, serum-stable, and effective in inhibiting as well as disaggregating amyloid proteins," said Professor Bhunia, along with his collaborators from the Saha

Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP) Kolkata and IIT-Guwahati, in the paper published in the journal Biochemistry (ACS).

In addition, other Ayurveda experts from the State Ayurvedic College and Hospital at Lucknow University, along with other researchers from the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, demonstrated how natural compounds can enhance the inhibition and breakdown of amyloid beta more effectively than the chemically designed peptides. The findings highlight the potential of Ayurveda as a viable solution to complex neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's, and dementia.

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POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	G.E. Road Branch Raipur 9752410756	Mr. Anshu Verma & Mr. Vishal Verma Residing at Sec. - 3, Near Bijli Office, Shivanand Nagar, Khamtarai, Raipur, C.G. - 492001 & Mr. Karan Jaiswal, Shivanand Nagar, 30th Block, Near Samudayik Bhawan, Shree Nagar, Khamtarai, Raipur, C.G. - 492001.	Land and Building bearing part of Kh. No.- 683/2, area - 780 Sq Ft. situated at Mouza Gondwara, P.H No. - 38/37, RIC-1, Raipur, Tahsil & Dist. - Raipur (C.G.). Bounded by North - House of Rao, South - House of Dip Prakash, East - house of Satya Rao, West - Road.	11.09.2024 Rs. 19,06,444.99 + interest + other charges 14.01.2025 Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 19.01.2025, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:-

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor/Guarantor/Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060122009172, Mohammad Ishak (Borrower), Smt. Hamida Bano (Co-Borrower), Mohammad Ismail (Co-Borrower)	15-Oct-24 ₹ 25,41,910/- Rs. Twenty-Five Lac Forty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Only as on 10-Oct-24	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures (Property 1) Property Situated At-Khasra No 290/2 And 285/40 And 290/26 New 290/2 And 290/2 And 285/4 Old, P.H.No.7/24, Village Awrethi, Saanjan Ward Teh Bhatapara Balodabazar, Simga, Distt- Raipur, CG Admeasuring 972 Sqft. (Property 2) Property Situated At- Khasra No 285/39 New 285/4 Old, P.H.No. 7/24, Village Awrethi, Saanjan Ward Tehsil Bhatapara Balodabazar, Simga, Distt- Raipur, CG. Admeasuring 297 Sqft.	14-Jan-25
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060718189973, Chhaya Traders (Borrower), Nand Kumar Sonkar (Co-Borrower), Smt. Rambati Sonkar (Co-Borrower)	15-Jun-24 ₹ 28,07,583/- Rs. Twenty-Eight Lac Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Three Only as on 11-Jun-24	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At - Kh No 118/1, Bagdehi R I C Navapara, Th & Dist- Raipur, Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 2178 Square Feet	15-Jan-25

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said [Act 2002] read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table.

"The borrower's 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."

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

Date : 18/01/2025 Place : Raipur, CG Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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PM Modi distributes more than 65 lakh property cards under SVAMITVA scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 65 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme, and said it will bolster economic activities and help in poverty alleviation. The prime minister virtually addressed the event and also interacted with some beneficiaries. He also said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance".

The property cards are being distributed to beneficiaries across more than 50,000 villages in 10 states -- Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and two Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Modi said the scheme will help people get loans and

benefits of other government schemes. "Around 2.24 crore beneficiaries in villages will now have SVAMITVA property cards after 65 lakh cards are distributed today," the prime minister said. "Property rights are a major challenge across the world. Years ago, the United Nations had held a study, which revealed people did not have legal documents for property rights in several countries. The UN has said property rights are important for poverty alleviation," he said. Modi said an eminent economist had opined that property in villages is a "dead capital" because people cannot do anything with it, and it can't help increase their income. "India was also impacted by this challenge. People in villages have property worth lakhs of crores (of rupees), but they did not have papers for it. There were disputes, properties were snatched, and even banks did not provide loans over it," he said. The prime minister



emphasized that no sensitive government could leave its villagers in such distress. "Previous governments should have taken steps to do something about it but nothing much was done," he said. Modi said Dalits, backward classes and tribals were the worst affected by this. Elaborating on the SVAMITVA Yojana, he said it involved mapping houses and

lands in villages using drones and providing legal documents for residential properties to villagers. He added that the benefits of this scheme are now visible. "India has over six lakh villages, with drone surveys completed in nearly half of them," Modi said. He highlighted that after receiving legal documents, lakhs of people had taken loans from banks based on

their properties and started small businesses in their villages. "After getting legal property rights, lakhs of people have taken loan. They have used this money to start their businesses. Many of these are farmers, for whom this property cards is a guarantee to financial security," he said. Modi said that once property cards are issued in all villages, the scheme will unlock

economic activities worth over Rs 100 lakh crore. He emphasized the substantial capital that will be added to the country's economy. Noting that earlier, land disputes were common for farmers and obtaining land documents is challenging, often requiring multiple visits to offices and leading to corruption, the prime minister said that land records are being digitized to

deal with these issues. Highlighting that SVAMITVA and Bhuaadhaar are foundational systems for village development, he said that Bhuaadhaar provides a unique identity to land, with around 23 crore Bhuaadhaar numbers issued, making it easy to identify land plots. "Over the past seven-eight years, approximately 98 per cent of land records have been digitized, and most land maps are now digitally available," Modi added. Later, in a social media post, the prime minister said rural land digitisation is "furthering rural empowerment by leveraging the power of technology and good governance". Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj S P Singh Baghel and Ministry of Panchayati Raj Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj were also present at the event. It was attended virtually by several chief ministers, Union

ministers and state ministers. Events are also being organised in over 230 districts for physical distribution of property cards. It is expected that around 13 Union ministers will physically join from designated locations from across the country to oversee regional distribution ceremonies of property cards. The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme was launched in 2020 to enhance the economic progress of rural India by providing 'Record of Rights' to households owning houses in inhabited areas in villages through the latest drone technology for surveying. The scheme also helps facilitate monetization of properties and enabling institutional credit through bank loans; reducing property-related disputes; facilitating better assessment of properties and property tax in rural areas and enabling comprehensive village-level planning.

Congress's new HQ narrates tale of party's 139-year history

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Several leaders who left the Congress and even mounted stinging attacks on it find a place in the pictorial representation of the party's history spread across the five storeys of its new 9A Kotla Road office. Ahead of a media tour of the office, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken Saturday told reporters at the first press conference at the Indira Gandhi Bhawan that the building was built at an estimated cost of Rs 200-225 crore with some dues still left to be paid to Larsen and Toubro (L&T) construction company. The Congress headquarters was inaugurated on Wednesday, as the grand old party turned a page in its history after operating from its iconic 24, Akbar Road premises for the last 47 years. Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi inaugurated the plush building in the presence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, among other senior leaders. "Today we will introduce you to a temple of democracy - Indira Bhawan, the headquarters of the largest opposition party of the country at present," Maken told the press conference along with AICC general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh and party's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera. "The government of India allotted this land to us on November 19, 2007. Its foundation stone was laid in 2009 and finally we received the 'completion cum occupancy certificate' on January 14, 2025, while it was inaugurated on January 15," he said. Indira Gandhi Bhawan, designed by Hafeez Contractor, narrates the tale of the party's 139-year-old history with its walls adorned with pictures from the freedom struggle to the party's governance achievements. From VP Singh to Ghulam Nabi Azad and from Suresh



Pachouri to Rita Bahuguna Joshi, many leaders who left the party, including some who joined the BJP, and made stinging attacks on the party, find a place in the slew of photographs and pictorial representation of the party's history adorning the walls of the new office. As one enters the building, the wall in front adorns the pictures of the party's first president W C Benerjee and current chief Kharge. A striking picture on the ground floor is that of Sonia Gandhi leading a march with the likes of Pachouri, Joshi and P Sudhakar Reddy, all now in the BJP, accompanying her. Also there in the photograph is Ashok Tanwar, who left the Congress for the BJP, but returned to the party fold last year. In another epic picture, Rajiv Gandhi, when he was prime minister, is seen flanked by Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao and VP Singh (who all became prime ministers) and K R Narayanan (who became president later). On the fourth floor, which showcases the party's history from 2014-2023, a picture from 2019 adorns the wall in which Azad is seen standing with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, taken at Rajghat during a protest against CAA and NRC. Another interesting photo that adorns the walls on the fourth floor is that of Sonia Gandhi and then president Sitaram Kesari during a campaign rally in Rohtak in January 1998. A few months later Kesari was forced out and Gandhi took over as party chief. Asked about party leaders

Bhawan not only symbolises the ambitions and aspirations of the country with the largest youth population in the world, but also that the party is also ready to play the role of a vigilant opposition and protect democracy," Maken said. In the times to come, such processes are being developed in Indira Bhawan so that Congress workers from all over the country are welcomed in this building and senior party office bearers can easily interact with them, he said. The objective of Indira Bhawan was to create a place that would not only be the headquarters of the party but also symbolise its heritage and values, Maken said. The design reflects the glorious history and democratic principles of the party while at the same time having the amenities of a modern workplace, he said. "We have sought to create a welcoming environment that encourages collaboration and participation, and that our headquarters is both inspiring and practical. In addition, special emphasis has been placed on incorporating elements of transparency and openness in the design to reflect the values of inclusion and democratic dialogue," Maken said. The building, spread over a total area of 2,100 sq m, has its own auditorium with 276 seats, numerous meeting rooms, and adequate seating arrangements for the officials of every front organisation and cell of the Congress, he said. There are 134 trees, 8675 plants and 264 art works and paintings, he said, adding that the cafeteria has paintings of Nand Lal Bose which were made on the request of Mahatma Gandhi for the Haripura Congress session of 1938. Maken said each floor represents an era in the history of the Congress. "The new Congress Bhawan is not a building, but a glorious legacy of freedom. At the base of this Indira Bhawan is an ideological movement and at its peak is the resolution to protect the Constitution," he said.

US-India sign cybercrime pact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days before it hands over power to President-elect Donald Trump, the Biden administration signed a pact with New Delhi that provides for boosting cooperation in combating cybercrime and related challenges such as terror financing and violent extremism. The agreement on cybercrime investigations, signed in Washington on Friday, allows the agencies concerned of the two countries to step up the level of cooperation with respect to cyber threat intelligence and digital forensics, according to an Indian readout. It is the second such move in the last few days by the outgoing Biden administration that reflected the overall upward trajectory of relations between the two nations. The US on Wednesday removed restrictions on three Indian nuclear entities -- Bhabha Atomic Research



Centre (BARC), Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR) and the Indian Rare Earths (IRE). The lifting of the restrictions is aimed at implementation of the historic India-US civil nuclear deal sealed around 16 years ago. The Memorandum of Understanding or MoU on cybercrime investigations was signed by Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra and Acting US Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Kristie Canegallo. "Cybercrime has intricate

linkages with the common security challenges faced by India and the US such as terrorism and violent extremism, terror financing, drug trafficking, organised crime, human trafficking, illegal migration, money laundering and transportation security," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in the readout. "The MoU on cybercrime investigations will enable further strengthening of India-US security cooperation, as part of our

comprehensive and global strategic partnership," it said. From New Delhi, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) of the Union Home Ministry will be responsible for execution of the MoU, the MEA said. From the US side, it will be the Department of Homeland Security, and its constituent agencies -- the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Homeland Security Investigations Cyber Crimes Center (C3) which are tasked to execute the pact.

Indian Navy participating in mega wargame 'La Perouse' with naval forces from eight other nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is participating in a mega wargame along with naval forces from eight nations including the US and France against the backdrop of increasingly fractious geopolitical environment and China's military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific. The naval exercise 'La Perouse' is underway in the straits between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as well as Malacca, Sunda and Lombok. These straits are largely considered as very crucial for global maritime trade. The nine-day exercise that

began on January 16 aims to enhance cooperation among the participating nations in areas of maritime surveillance, interdiction operations, air operations and information sharing. French Carrier Strike Group (CSG), led by nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, is the mainstay of the mega exercise. India's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai is part of the exercise, according to the Indian Navy. Besides, India, the US and France, naval forces from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada and the UK are participating



in the exercise. "The exercise provides an opportunity for like-minded navies to develop closer links in planning, coordination and information sharing for enhanced tactical interoperability," the Indian Navy said on Saturday. "The exercise will witness complex and advanced multi-domain exercises including surface warfare, anti-air warfare, air-defence, cross deck landings and tactical manoeuvres, as also the constabulary missions such as VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) operations," it said in a statement. The Indian Navy's participation in the exercise

showcases the high levels of synergy, coordination and interoperability between the like-minded navies and their commitment to a rules-based international order in the maritime domain, it added. The Australian Navy has deployed its frontline destroyer HMAS Hobart, while Canada has sent its warship HMCS Ottawa. The United States deployed combat ship USS Savannah, Malaysia sent destroyer FFG Lekir and its embarked helicopter and the vessel Gagah Samudera, The United Kingdom is participating in the exercise with offshore patrol vessel HMS Spey and Singapore

with the patrol vessel RSN Independence. "Strengthening maritime security will be at the core of this exercise, with the development of interoperability and the ability to act collectively in the event of a maritime crisis, which will contribute to it," a French readout said. It said the planned interactions will enable work on a broad spectrum of maritime security operations. "The various forces distributed in the area will train to search for and then intervene on ships suspected of illicit activities; with suspect vessels being played by vessels of the force," it added.

Christian man unable to bury father: SC raps Chhattisgarh Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court slammed the Chhattisgarh Government and sought its response on a plea filed by a Christian man who said he is unable to bury his pastor father in Chhindawada village as people have aggressively objected to it and police have threatened him with legal action. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma expressed surprise that the body was lying in a mortuary in the district hospital and medical college, Jagdalpur since January 7, when the man died and the police have not taken any action since then. Bench rapped the Chhattisgarh Government while seeking its response on the plea filed by the son. "Leave the village panchayat, even the High Court has passed a strange order. What is the State Government doing," the bench said while issuing notice to the Chhattisgarh Government.



The matter will be heard on January 20. The top court was hearing the appeal filed by Ramesh Baghel, belonging to the Mahra caste, challenging an order of the Chhattisgarh High Court which disposed of his plea seeking burial of his father who was a pastor in the area specified for Christian persons in the village graveyard. Relying on a certificate issued by the gram panchayat's sarpanch that there are no separate burial grounds for Christians, the High Court denied him permission saying it may cause unrest and disharmony in the public at large. The pastor died due to prolonged old age illness.

Import of refurbished medical devices not allowed, says CDSCO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed at curtailing the influx of unregulated second-hand medical devices in the country, the apex drug regulator Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has informed the Customs Department that import of refurbished devices is not allowed. In a letter to the Principal Commissioner of Customs, the CDSCO said that all medical devices are regulated under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. "However, there is no specific provision for regulation of refurbished medical devices under the said rules. Hence, no licence is issued for import of such devices and it cannot be imported under Medical Devices Rules for sale and distribution," the CDSCO said. Manufacturers of medical devices have welcomed the move, stating this decisive clarification reinforces the regulatory framework designed to ensure the highest standards of patient safety.

Dr Sudhir Srivastava, former Chair of the Medical Device Committee at PHDCCI, said that the decision by CDSCO marks a pivotal step towards reinforcing India's self-reliance in medical technology. "Allowing refurbished medical devices into the country would have jeopardized the quality of healthcare, disincentivized local innovation, and undermined the spirit of the 'Make in India' initiative," Srivastava said. Indian manufacturers are making significant strides in research and development, delivering "cutting-edge solutions tailored to our healthcare needs," he said. "By curbing refurbished imports, we not only protect the integrity of our medical ecosystem but also send a strong message to global investors that India is committed to building a robust, indigenous medical device industry. This move safeguards both the future of healthcare innovation in India and the well-being of our patients," he added.

Sangam witnesses sea of devotees, 7.5 Crore take the holy dip in five days

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The air thrummed with spiritual fervor as millions descended upon the Sangam, the sacred confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers, for the Mahakumbh Mela. In just five days since its commencement, an astonishing 7.5 crore devotees have taken the holy dip, a testament to the enduring power of faith and tradition. On Saturday, the banks of the Sangam witnessed a breathtaking spectacle as over 19.84 lakh pilgrims, including over 10 lakh Kalpvasis dedicated to a month-long spiritual immersion, participated in the sacred bath. "It is truly humbling to witness this sea of humanity united in devotion," remarked Shri Ram Narayan Das, a revered sage attending the Mahakumbh for decades. "The energy here is palpable,

a powerful blend of faith, humility, and joy." The Mahakumbh, one of the largest religious gatherings on Earth, has transformed Prayagraj into a vibrant tapestry of colors, sounds, and spiritual experiences. From the chanting of mantras to the rhythmic beats of devotional music, the atmosphere is charged with an undeniable sense of collective upliftment. "I have traveled from the southernmost tip of India to experience the sanctity of the Sangam," shared an elderly woman, her eyes glistening with tears of joy. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to cleanse my soul and connect with the divine." Beyond the religious significance, the Mahakumbh also serves as a powerful testament to the unifying force of faith. People from all walks of life, irrespective of caste, creed, or social standing, come



Newly-initiated Naga sadhus perform rituals at the Sangam area during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 PTI

together to partake in this grand celebration of spirituality. "The Mahakumbh is not just a religious event; it is a celebration of humanity," stated Shri Ajay Kumar, District Magistrate of Prayagraj. "The administration has been working tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of all pilgrims, while also striving to maintain the sanctity of this sacred event." As the Mahakumbh progresses, millions more are expected to join the festivities, making this year's edition an unforgettable testament to the enduring power of faith and the timeless allure of the Sangam. Rajnath Singh takes a dip. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Prayagraj on Saturday to attend Mahakumbh. He was received at Bamrauli Airport by MLA Minister Nand Gopal Gupta, with MP Sudhanshu Trivedi also accompanying him. Upon reaching Prayagraj, the Defence Minister took the sacred dip at Triveni Sangam, chanting slogans such as "Sanatan Ki Jai" and "Ganga Maiyya Ki Jai." Following the ritual, he visited Akshayvat, Patalpuri, and Bade Hanuman Ji temples and reviewed the preparations for the Mahakumbh. Later in the evening, the Defence Minister is scheduled to meet with Army officials to discuss security arrangements for the Mahakumbh. Speaking on the occasion, Singh remarked, "I consider it my great fortune to have taken a holy dip in the Sangam at Prayagraj today. The Mahakumbh is a grand spiritual and cultural festival that embodies the essence of Indianness. It transcends associations with any particular sect, community, or religion.



Devotees gather to take a holy dip at the Sangam PTI

A night of service: Prayagraj police feed and comfort 24,000 stranded pilgrims at Maha Kumbh

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

In a heartwarming display of humanity and dedication, the police in Prayagraj turned saviors for over 24,000 pilgrims stranded outside Prayagraj Junction station late Tuesday night. After taking the holy dip on Makar Sankranti, the devotees faced bone-chilling cold and long delays caused by thick fog disrupting train schedules. The night saw policemen not just managing the massive crowd but going beyond their duty to serve food, water, and tea to the weary pilgrims until 3 a.m. Wednesday. Blankets and quilts were also distributed to



shield them from the biting cold. Speaking about the efforts, ACP (Kotwali) Manoj Kumar Singh shared, "We saw elderly people and children shivering, some of them

hungry and tired. It was impossible to stand by and do nothing. With help from NGOs and generous locals, we made sure everyone was fed and kept warm." Many police officers personally pitched in to ensure the smooth distribution of food and supplies. Sub-Inspector Ravi Shukla, who helped prepare and serve meals, said, "When I handed over a plate of food to a young boy, his mother's teary 'thank you' made all the effort worth it. This is more than a duty; it is humanity." The chaos caused by delayed trains and miscommunication also left many pilgrims at the wrong stations.

Mahakumbh to boost UP's economy by over one per cent, claim experts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
PRAYAGRAJ

Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj is poised to create a transformative cultural, social, and economic impact on Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasized the event's potential to generate Rs 2 lakh crore in business, with experts estimating an economic boost of over 1% to the state's GDP. This monumental gathering is also expected to significantly increase GST collections, with projections suggesting a potential threefold rise during the peak months of December, January, and February. The influx of millions of

domestic and international pilgrims over 45 days is anticipated to stimulate demand, increase production, create jobs, and enhance financial flows for businesses of all scales. The state government, which is investing Rs 16,000 crore in the event, plans to channel the revenue into infrastructure development, aligning with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of making Uttar Pradesh a one trillion-dollar economy. Economist and chartered accountant Pankaj Gandhi Jaiswal predicts Mahakumbh 2025 could boost both nominal and real GDP by 1%. With an estimated 45 crore visitors

expected to attend and average spending of Rs 10,000 per person, the total economic activity generated could surpass Rs 4.5 lakh crore. Even accounting for a 10% margin of error, the net contribution would remain above Rs 4 lakh crore. Such economic activity will not only bolster quarterly GDP but also contribute significantly to India's annual growth. "The state's investment will yield manifold returns," Jaiswal said. "An estimated Rs 4 lakh crore economic activity could result in GST collections of Rs 50,000 crore. Combined with income tax and other indirect taxes, the government's revenue

could exceed Rs 1 lakh crore." He further highlighted how this financial influx will stimulate sectors like tourism, transport, real estate, and retail, creating a cascading effect on economic growth. Chartered accountant Anil Gupta for Prayagraj echoed these sentiments, underscoring the significant economic contributions from infrastructure, transportation, and other sectors. Gupta noted the transformation of Prayagraj, which now boasts 5-star and 7-star hotels to accommodate global visitors, as a testament to the government's development initiatives.

Digital media centre boosts global coverage of Mahakumbh, emerges as information hub

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

To showcase the grandeur of Mahakumbh to the world, an advanced Media Center equipped with state-of-the-art technology is operational in the Mela area under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership. Boasting high-quality professional cameras worth crores of rupees, the Media Centre facilitates flawless recording and live-streaming of every moment of the Mahakumbh. This ensures that viewers experience the event in real time, offering an immersive digital experience to devotees worldwide. High-resolution cameras, featuring lenses costing up to Rs 50 lakh, are

broadcasting updates and news about the Mahakumbh on digital platforms. So far, 30 international journalists have conducted special coverage of the event, highlighting its cultural and spiritual significance. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to ensure that the Media Center provides all necessary facilities for both domestic and international devotees to stay informed. The demand for Mahakumbh-related news is particularly high in countries such as the USA, Russia, Germany, Japan, and Israel. Adding to its global reach, Mahakumbh programs aired on Swedish Radio have garnered significant



appreciation. The Media Center also features amenities such as tea, breakfast, and dining facilities, along with a well-equipped conference room. Comprehensive security arrangements have been implemented to ensure the safety and convenience of journalists and visitors alike.

Railway Minister Ashwini inspects undersea bullet train tunnel work



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
MUMBAI/THANE

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday inspected the work of the undersea tunnel of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor, popularly called the bullet train project, and expressed satisfaction at the "good progress" on the mega multi-billion dollar project. The 21-kilometre tunnel, which includes a 7 kilometre stretch beneath the Thane Creek, will connect the Bandra Kurla Complex station to Shilphata. The undersea tunnel is the first of its kind in the country. The undersea tunnel has been designed and is being

constructed with great care, Vaishnaw told reporters at the site in Ghansoli in neighbouring Navi Mumbai. "The technology being employed and the design of the tunnel makes it possible for two trains to pass through at speeds of 250 kilometres per hour. Environment protection has been taken care of along with ventilation and lighting. The construction on 340 kilometres of the project has made good progress," the Union railway minister said. Trains can pass at much higher speeds in the undersea tunnel than Kolkata Metro's under-river tunnel, he told reporters. "The project is seeing significant advancements in bridge construction over rivers

and station infrastructure. The station at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) is an engineering marvel, with a unique design featuring 10 underground floors and seven above-ground levels. The high-speed rail project is on schedule, with Japanese experts inspecting and approving the ongoing work," he said. The dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide an affordable, efficient transportation mode for the middle class is steadily becoming a reality, the Union minister remarked. The completion of the High Speed Rail route, the first in the country, will integrate the economies of the cities enroute, including Mumbai and Ahmedabad, and will greatly boosted urban development, Vaishnaw said. "The stations along the corridor will spur urban development and enhance daily commuters' productivity by significantly reducing travel time. Don't see the high-speed train as a transportation project, but as integration of the economy. It will elevate India's infrastructure and economic growth," Vaishnaw said. He lauded the efforts of Indian engineers, whose expertise has played a pivotal role in the project's success, adding it was a matter of pride for the entire country.

Simultaneous poll is unconstitutional, being brought with political motive: DMK

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
CHENNAI

The Centre's initiative of 'one nation, one election' was 'unconstitutional' and was being brought with a political motive, DMK senior and Tamil Nadu Forests Minister K Ponmudy said on Saturday. Speaking at the DMK legal wing's third state conference that began here, he said "the move is unconstitutional and is being brought with a political motive." Terming the move to enforce simultaneous poll as an attempt to dispense with the five-year term of assemblies and



downsizing the states to union territories, senior advocate Kapil Sibal said states will not be in the picture at all if one nation, one election law was enforced. "It will destroy the very federal structure of our country. The preamble of the Constitution

says that India is a union of states. You have diminished the states... You are destroying the basic structure of the state, and trying for one nation, one poll, one language, political party, one religion," Sibal said during a discussion on the topic. "The move amounts to destroying the essence of democratic functioning of our republic. Cronies support the idea without a national debate on it. I don't think the people of India and Tamil Nadu will tolerate it," Sibal said and claimed that it would also affect the education, health and other state specific issues.

CBI court convicts Himachal IG, seven other cops in custodial death case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
CHANDIGARH

A Special CBI court here on Saturday convicted the Himachal Pradesh Inspector General of Police and seven other policemen in the custodial death of an accused in the gang rape and murder of a minor girl in Himachal Pradesh's Kotkhai in 2017. The court of special judge Alka Malik will pronounce the quantum of punishment on January 27. The CBI court convicted IG Zahur Haider Zaidi, the then

deputy superintendent of police Manoj Joshi, then Sub-Inspector Rajinder Singh, then Assistant SI Deep Chand Sharma, then head constable Mohan Lal, Surat Singh, Rafee Mohammad and then constable Ranjit Sateta. The court acquitted the then Superintendent of Police DW Negi, his counsel Rabindra Pandit said. The accused have been convicted under various sections, including 302 (murder) read with 120-B, 330 (voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession), 348

(wrongful confinement to extract confession) and 195 (giving false evidence) of the Indian Penal Code, said CBI public prosecutor Amit Jindal. Zaidi and seven others were arrested in the custodial death case of Suraj, who was found dead at the Kotkhai police station on July 18, 2017. A 16-year-old girl went missing in Kotkhai on July 4, 2017, and her body was found in the Halaila forests two days later on July 6. The post-mortem report confirmed rape and murder and a case was registered.



Six Crore senior citizens brought under Ayushman Bharat, 45 per cent of population covered: Nadda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
AHMEDABAD

Ayushman Bharat has brought 6 crore citizens aged 70 and above under it, and the Centre's flagship health insurance programme now covers over 45 per cent of India's population, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said here Saturday. The Union Cabinet in October last year approved health coverage to all citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income under the 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (AB PM-JAY). "Under Modi 3.0, we have added 6 crore people above 70 under Ayushman Bharat. Now, more than 62 crore

people, or over 45 per cent of India's population, are covered, not in health insurance but under a 'health assurance' scheme with an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh," he said. Speaking at the 'IIMA Healthcare Summit 2025' organised at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, he called the scheme a game changer and said it has benefited more than 4.2 crore citizens. "These are poor people - rickshaw pullers, street vendors, bus drivers, conductors, lift men, security guards, barbers, shoemakers - who perhaps would never have thought about caring for their health," Nadda said.

Israel prepares for return of hostages

PTI ■ TEL AVIV

Israel is preparing for the return of the hostages from Gaza with the expectation that many are likely to have severe, life-threatening complications after more than a year in captivity in the Gaza Strip. While it's impossible to know the exact conditions in which hostages have been held, the Health Ministry and the Hostages Family Forum, which represents families of the hostages, are preparing for several different scenarios based on information gathered from hostages previously released or rescued.

Hamas militants abducted about 250 people during a cross-border attack on Oct 7, 2023, that also left 1,200 people dead. About 100 hostages are still being held, though Israel believes a third of them are no longer alive.

The war that followed the attack has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and militants but say women and children make up more than half of those killed. Hagai Levine, who heads the health team at the Hostages Families Forum, said he expects the hostages to return with cardiovascular and respiratory issues due to lack of ventilation in the tunnels. Among

multiple other afflictions Levine expects are vitamin deficiencies, starvation, dramatic weight loss, vision problems due to a lack of sunlight, broken bones, cognitive impairment and mental health trauma.

As a result, doctors are expecting the hostages will require longer and more complex medical and mental health interventions than did those who returned after the last ceasefire in November 2023, said Dr Einat Yehene, a psychologist at the Hostages Families Forum who oversees the captives' rehabilitation.

COMPLEX MEDICAL CHALLENGES

Doctors are keenly aware of the challenges they face in treating the surviving hostages. One of them is "refeeding syndrome" when exposure to certain foods or too much food can lead to profound health complications and even death in those with prolonged vitamin and nutritional deficiencies, said Dr Hagar Mizrahi, head of the Ministry of Health's medical directorate.

The Red Cross team that will transfer the hostages from Gaza to Egypt and the small Israeli military medical team that will meet the hostages at the border as they cross into Israel have strict guidelines for what the hostages can eat in

their first few hours, Mizrahi said.

Six hospitals are preparing to receive hostages, including two in the south, closer to Gaza, that will treat those with acute medical issues, health ministry officials said.

Yehene said the public should not expect joyful reunions like those seen following the last ceasefire, when released hostages ran through hospital halls into the ecstatic embraces of their loved ones.

"Given the physical and emotional conditions, we expect emotional withdrawal symptoms, such as maybe exhaustion, fatigue — and some will probably need assistance with their mobility," she said.

Medical officials are also prepared for the possibility that returning hostages will need speech therapy, especially if they have been kept in isolation, Yehene noted. She said some might be so traumatized or in shock from the transfer to Israel that they will be unable to speak at all.

To minimise the hostages' trauma and allow them to acclimate to their new reality, officials will try to limit the number of people who interact with them and have made accommodations to lessen their sensory stimulation, such as stripping down the hospital rooms and changing the lighting. Israel's Ministry of Social

Welfare has also planned temporary housing solutions if hostages feel unable to return directly from the hospital to their home.

'THE HOSTAGES DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING'

Experts are pleading with the news media and the public to give the hostages and their families privacy, despite intense interest in their plight.

"The first days back are really holy, when a person finally gets to meet with their family, and everyone else needs to take a step back," said Ofrit Shapira, a psychoanalyst who heads a group of health professionals treating freed hostages, their families, and survivors of the Oct 7 attack. Hospital wings housing the hostages are expected to be "sterilized," closed to all but direct family and doctors, to keep the public and news outlets away, medical officials have said.

"It doesn't matter how much we care about them; they're their own people, they're not ours," Shapira added. She noted that asking the hostages direct questions about their experiences can force them to relive their trauma. She said it's best to allow them to release information at their own pace.

"Our curiosity is really not important compared with

what the hostages need," she said. "It doesn't matter how much you volunteered or were active in this fight; they don't owe you anything."

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Some of the previously freed hostages and their families have volunteered to help counsel those now going through the same process, Levine said. He noted the strength of the bonds created between the relatives of the hostages, and between the released hostages, who have become like "psychological families" helping each other adapt and heal, he said. Many released hostages are neglecting their own rehabilitation because they are so wrapped up in the fight to bring the others home, Levine said.

A big priority is also to provide support for the families of hostages who did not survive. Israel has confirmed the deaths of at least a third of the approximately 90 remaining captives. But Hamas has not confirmed the status of the 33 who are expected to be freed in the first stage of the ceasefire. Some might no longer be alive.

"This moment of the releases is an emotional and psychological trigger for something they were supposed to experience, and they never will experience, because this deal took too long," Yehene said.

Impeached S Korean prez argues for his release



Supporters of impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol stage a rally to oppose his impeachment in Seoul, South Korea, on Saturday

PTI ■ SEOUL

South Korea's impeached President on Saturday argued for his release before a Seoul judge as the court reviewed whether to grant a law enforcement request for his formal arrest.

Yoon, who has been in detention since he was apprehended on Wednesday in a massive law enforcement operation at his residence, faces potential rebellion charges linked to his declaration of martial law on December 3, which set off the country's most serious political crisis since its democratisation in the late 1980s.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and the military, requested the Seoul Western District Court to grant a warrant for Yoon's formal arrest.

Yoon's lawyers said he spoke for about 40 minutes to the judge during the nearly five-hour closed-door hearing. His legal team and anti-corruption agencies presented opposing arguments about whether he should be held in custody. The lawyers did not share his specific comments. The judge is expected to make a decision by late Saturday or early Sunday.

Yoon's motorcade was seen leaving the court Saturday evening for the detention centre, where Yoon will await the decision.

If Yoon is arrested, investigators can extend his detention to 20 days, during which they will

transfer the case to public prosecutors for indictment. If the court rejects the investigators' request, Yoon will be released and return to his residence.

Yoon was transported to the court from a detention centre in Uiwang, near Seoul, in a blue Justice Ministry van escorted by police and the presidential security service.

The motorcade entered the court's basement parking space as thousands of Yoon's supporters rallied in nearby streets amid a heavy police presence, waving banners and shouting slogans calling for his release.

Some protesters temporarily broke through the police lines and tapped on the windows of his van as the motorcade slowed while approaching the court. Yoon did not speak to reporters before heading to the hearing.

It hadn't been clear until Saturday morning whether Yoon would choose to attend the hearing.

Defence lawyers met Yoon at the detention centre and he accepted his legal team's advice to appear personally before the judge, said Yoon Kab-keun, one of the president's lawyers. The lawyer said the president was to argue that his decree was a legitimate exercise of his powers and that accusations of rebellion would not hold up before a criminal court or the Constitutional Court, which is reviewing whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him.

Nine people, including Yoon's defence minister, police chief,

and several top military commanders, have already been arrested and indicted for their roles in the enforcement of martial law.

The crisis began when Yoon, in an attempt to break through legislative gridlock, imposed military rule and sent troops to the National Assembly and election offices.

The standoff lasted only hours after lawmakers who managed to get through a blockade voted to lift the measure. The opposition-dominated assembly voted to impeach him on December 14.

If Yoon is formally arrested, it could mark the beginning of an extended period in custody for him, lasting months or more. If prosecutors indict Yoon on rebellion and abuse of power charges, which are the allegations now being examined by investigators, they could keep him in custody for up to six months before trial.

Under South Korean law, orchestrating a rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Yoon's lawyers have argued that there is no need to detain him during the investigation, saying he doesn't pose a threat to flee or destroy evidence.

Investigators respond that Yoon ignored several requests to appear for questioning, and that the presidential security service blocked an attempt to detain him on January 3. His defiance has raised concerns about whether he would comply with criminal court proceedings if he's not under arrest.

Gunman fatally shoots two judges in Tehran

PTI ■ DUBAI

In a rare attack targeting the judiciary, a man fatally shot two prominent hard-line judges in Iran's capital Tehran on Saturday, state media

reported.

Both the deceased judges allegedly took part in the mass execution of dissidents in 1988.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the fatal shootings of the judges — clerics Mohammad Mogheiseh and Ali Razini.

However, Razini's involvement in the 1988 executions had likely made him a target in the past, including a failed assassination attempt in 1999. Their killings also come as Iran faces economic turmoil, the mauling of its Mideast allies by Israel, and the return of Donald Trump to the

White House on Monday. Both clerics served on Iran's Supreme Court, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

A bodyguard for one of the judges was also wounded. The gunman later killed himself, IRNA said.

"According to initial investigations, the person in question did not have a case in the Supreme Court, nor was he a client of the branches of the court," the judiciary's Mizan news agency said.

"Currently, investigations have been launched to identify and arrest the perpetrators of this terrorist act."

In January 1999, attackers on motorcycles hurled an explosive at Razini's vehicle, wounding him as he left work as the head of the judiciary in Tehran.

Both men had been named by activists and exiles as taking part in the 1988 executions, which came at the end of

Iran's long war with Iraq. After Iran's then Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini accepted a UN-brokered ceasefire, members of the exiled Iranian opposition group Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, or MEK, heavily armed by Saddam Hussein, stormed across the Iranian border in a surprise attack.

Iran ultimately blunted their assault, but the attack set the stage for the sham retrials of political prisoners, militants and others that would become known as "death commissions".

International rights groups estimate that as many as 5,000 people were executed, while the MEK puts the number at 30,000.

Iran has never fully acknowledged the executions, apparently carried out on Khomeini's orders, though some argue that other top officials were effectively in charge in the months before his 1989 death.

The MEK did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO BE KNOWN TO ALL THAT
SHABA KHATUN D/o MD. ABDUL GAFFAR KHAN, R/o HOUSE, A-161 MAJLIS PARK, NEAR BAJAJ FURNISHING HOUSE, ADARSH NAGAR, DELHI 110053 applied for issuance of certified copy of Demand cum allotment letter respect of EWS Flat No. 1209, Block No. 5, Shivaji Marg, Delhi-110015 allotted vide file no E/488(731/2018) DDA/14/SM, (Demand letter No. 126209, on dated - 20/05/2019, & 20/07/2020) The original document i.e. Demand cum allotment letter of the said flat has been lost. An online FR No. LR NO-2425916/2024 dated 23/12/24, has also been lodged to this effect in PS crime Branch. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write or contact to D/o Director (Janta) H, D-Block, 2nd floor, DDA Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023. Hence, you are requested to submit press clipping as per above format.

(SHABA KHATUN Mob: 9953024510)
Asstt. Director (Janta) H, DDA

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Dinesh Kumar Gupta S/o. Sh. Radha Prasad (Aadhar No. 241556221189) and Smt. Bindu Devi W/o. Sh. Dinesh Kumar Gupta both R/o. Sahajani, Bhojpur, Hasan Bazar, Bihar- 802204 and presently residing at H.No. 494, Gali no.11, Jeevan Park Sirasapur, Delhi-46 have debarred and disowned their son Sh. Dinesh Kumar from movable and immovable properties and served all his/her relation with him due to his misconduct and disrespectful behavior towards my clients. If any body deal with him will be at his own risk and my clients shall not be responsible for the same.
Jitender Yadav (Advocate) Ch.No. 517, Fifth Floor Rohini Court, Delhi-85, M. 9811168595

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that this is to inform you that Mrs. Reema Soni, Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, and Mrs. Kamlesh Verma are the independent owners of western side portion of Plot No. 7, with an area of 317 sq. yards, located at W.A.E. Ramnagar Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. The entire property was originally purchased by Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta (16th share), Mr. Satish Kumar (16th share), Mrs. Preeti Garg (16th share), Mr. Indar Garg (2/6th share), and Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta (1/6th share) from POI through DDA, via Conveyance Deed dated 10.04.2008. Later, Mrs. Preeti Garg sold her 1/6th share to Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, and Mrs. Kamlesh Verma dated 16.08.2023. Similarly, Mr. Indar Garg sold his 1/6th share to Mrs. Kamlesh Verma through a Sale Deed dated 16.08.2023 and sold his 1/6th share to Mrs. Reema Soni through a Sale Deed dated 16.08.2023. Now Mrs. Reema Soni, Mr. Sunil Kumar Soni, and Mrs. Kamlesh Verma are independent owners of western side portion of the said property. The property is being financed by RBL Bank, Branch GP 3, UGF Pitampura Road, Delhi-110034. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail failing which, in the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.
Ashwani Kumar (Advocate) Ch.No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI.

"Meeting CRD" and Password for the date of hearing qua Officer to be taken by Hortile Conferecing or physical and for that purpose. All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" applications/software.
II. In possession of original documents may write or contact to D/o Director (Janta) H, D-Block, 2nd floor, DDA Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023. Hence, you are requested to submit press clipping as per above format.
Jitender Yadav (Advocate) Ch.No. 517, Fifth Floor Rohini Court, Delhi-85, M. 9811168595

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Gyanti Devi who is purchasing the Plot No.3, measuring 50 Sq. Yards (Southern Portion), Kharsa No.20/22, Waka Mauka Saran, Tehsil and Dist. Faridabad, Haryana from Mr. Indra Dev through GFA Mr. Chandar Mohan and same to be finance & mortgage by Mottial Oxwal Home Finance Limited. That, Mr. Indra Dev became owner of the said property, vide Sale Deed dated 10.12.1990 (Doc. No.9074). Further, Mr. Indra Dev transferred the said property to Mr. Chandar Mohan through Notarized GFA dated 21.04.2003, Notarized ATS dated 21.04.2003 and WILL dated 21.04.2003. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim (right/title/interest) creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucern Legal LLP B-9/3B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida UP-201301>ContactNo:120-4269379

LOST & FOUND

We, Shailesh Suyal, S/o Shri Puran Chandra Suyal and Madhu Suyal W/O Shailesh Suyal residents of B-302, Civitech Sampriti, Sector-77, Noida .Our Builder Buyer Agreement (BBA) of Flat No J-603, Ajnara Ambrosia, Sector-118, Noida has been lost in Sector-77 market during Photocopy. If some one gets it please Contact 9990035744.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern
This is to inform that I, Mandeeep Singh S/o Prakash Singh have lost my original Property documents Perpetual Lease of Plot No.-23, block-B, Kharsa No.-840/767, WEA Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. LR No.: 2501576/2025. If found, please return to the undersigned or contact at the above address. A duplicate certificate will be issued on production of this notice.
Mandeeep Singh
Email: IDayalingshmandeep@hotmail.com

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरसेल श्री राधे शंति स्पंज एण्ड पॉवर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम चांपा एवं कोटा, तहसील- तिलवा, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.) में प्रस्तावित ग्रीनफील्ड परियोजना के तहत DRI based Steel plant to produce Sponge Iron - 2.45,000 TPA (350 TPD x 2 Nos.), Mild Steel Billets - 2,74,400 TPA, Rolled Steel Products - 2,66,168 TPA (through Hot Charging - 2,01,684 and thru BRF (based on Coal Gasifier) - 64,484 TPA, SAF - 9 MVA x 2 No to produce SiMn-34,000 TPA and/or FeMn- 43,000 TPA and/ or FeSi- 19,000 TPA and/or Pig Iron - 68,000 TPA), Captive Power of - 25 MW (16 MW through WHRB and 9 MW through FBC) and Fly Ash Bricks - 39,800 TPA के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति बाबत लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 21/02/2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से स्थल- ग्राम चांपा, तहसील तिलवा, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.) स्थित परियोजना स्थल के प्रस्तावित रिक्त भूमि खसरा क्रमांक 429/1 में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेमोरेण्डम F.No.22-25/2020-IA.11 दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वाईरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षर पालन कराय जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा- संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अलावा कन/पटन हेतु सुप्रार्थक ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यालय कार साहिबी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डाइरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, अरुण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.), कार्यालय कलेक्टर रायपुर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.), मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत रायपुर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.), मुख्य महासंचालक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.), मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जनपद पंचायत- तिलवा, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.), कार्यालय संचयन/ सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत चांपा, तहसील- तिलवा, जिला- रायपुर, कार्यालय संचयन/ सचिव, ग्राम पंचायत कोटा, तहसील तिलवा, जिला- रायपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नॉ ऑफिस बिल्डिंग, सिंग रोड नं.- 2, टाटीबंध, रायपुर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.) एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।
सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Geeta who is purchasing the House of Area Measuring 37 sq. yds, Kharsa no-370, 371 & 372, Village Barola, Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar U.P./from Mr. Harender Singh owner vide Sale Deed dated 09.09.2024 (Doc. No.5628) & Correction Deed dated 03.12.2024 (Doc. No.9774) executed by Mrs. Laxmi Devi and same to be finance & mortgage by Mottial Oxwal Home Finance Limited. That, Original Sale Deed dated 25.10.2016 (Vide Doc. No.10258) executed by Mr. Sunil Kumar in favour of Mr. Suresh Kumar Tripathi has Lost So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person found the same or having any type of claim (right/title/interest) creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucern Legal LLP B-9/3B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida UP-201301>ContactNo:120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern
This is to inform that I, Mahendra Kumar, have lost my original Migration Certificate, issued by Jawaharlal Nehru University, bearing Certificate No. 9654, dated 20th August, 2024. If found, please return to the undersigned or contact at the below address. A duplicate certificate will be issued on production of this notice.
Mahendra Kumar, Date: 17th January, 2025
Jawaharlal Nehru University,
New Delhi - 110067, +91 79067 84255
mahendra.4555.kumar@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Surender Rana S/o Sh. Raj Rupa Rana R/o H. No. 1103, Preeti Apartment, Sector 13, Rohini, Delhi-110085 has cut off his relations and has disowned his wife Smt. Sushila Rana, his daughter Ms. Shalini, his son Sahil Rana and his daughter-in-law Smt. Navnet Rana W/o Sh. Sahil Rana from all his movable/immovable properties due to their disobedient nature and conduct toward my client. My client shall not be responsible for any of their acts & deeds in any manner in future. Anyone dealing with them has to deal at their own cost, risk and consequences.
Anil Dagar (Advocate) Ch. No. 915, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Rohini Court Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Anita Prajapati who is purchasing the Property No. B-272, measuring 41 Sq. Yards, Kharsa No.316, Village Gujran Khadar, Gali No.12, Bhajanpura, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110053 from Mr. Gajendra Singh who became owner vide Regd. Family GPA dated 16.07.2024 (Doc No. 2024/12/IV/1425), Notarized Gift Deed dated 16.07.2024 & Family WILL Deed dated 16.07.2024 executed by Mr. Awanih Kumar and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim (right/title/interest) creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucern Legal LLP B-9/3B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301>ContactNo:120-4269379

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Jagajeevan Lal S/o Amarnath G R/o 2A/242, Sector-2, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201012, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jagjiwan Lal.
PD(1280)A

I, No.6494093P Hav Mahentesh Kadakol, R/o Vill- Aladakkati, PO- Tallur, Teh- Savadatti, Dist- Belgaum, Karnataka- 591117, have changed my name from Mahentesh Kadakol to Mahantesh Kadakol, vide affidavit dated 18/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi

PD(1281)C

I, Bindhu S Raj, Mother of- No. 16034420P RFN Sbin S Raj, R/o - Abenazer Nivas, Thenguvilakuzhi Vadakka, Marumattuvam Post Office, Perumkadavla, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala- 695124, have changed my name from Bindhu S Raj to Bindulekha T, vide Affidavit dated 18/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1282)C

My Name Shekh Sabbu S/o Shekha Bahaudin wrongly written in my minor son Shekha Sameer School records, correct name is Shekh Mehrajuddin C - 170, /C - 262, Jahangirpuri Delhi - 110033

PD(1283)C

Tens of thousands to converge on Washington for march days before Trump takes office

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Eight years since its historic first march, the Women's March is returning Saturday to the nation's capital just before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration.

Rebranded and reorganized, the rally has a new name — the People's March — as a means to broaden support, especially during a reflective moment for progressive organizing after Trump's decisive win in November. The Republican takes the oath of office Monday. Women outraged over Trump's 2016 presidential win flocked to Washington in 2017 and organized large rallies in cities throughout the country, building

demands over megaphones and marched in pink pussyhats in response to Trump's first election win. "The reality is that it's just hard to capture lightning in a bottle," said Tamika Middleton, managing director at the Women's March. "It was a really particular moment. In 2017, US history. This year, the march is expected to be about one-tenth the size of the first one and comes amid a restrained moment of reflection as many progressive voters navigate feelings of exhaustion, disappointment and despair after Vice President Kamala Harris' loss. The comparative quiet contrasts sharply with the white-knuckled fury of the inaugural rally as massive crowds shouted

at it won't enforce the law on Sunday, the Democrat's final full day in office. On Friday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that actions to enforce the law will fall to the new administration due to "the sheer fact of timing." Meanwhile, Republican President-elect Donald Trump, who once also tried to ban TikTok, has now vowed to preserve access to the platform. But what his options will be following Monday's inauguration remains unclear. Among other points of confusion is what a ban on TikTok will look like. Experts have said the app will not disappear from existing users' devices once the law takes effect. But new users won't be able to download it and updates will not be available. That will

eventually render the app unworkable, the Justice Department said in court filings. All of this is "a reminder to the creator community that social media platforms can come and go," notes Kelsey Chickering, a principal analyst at Forrester, stressing the disruptions TikTok creators and influencers will feel if the ban takes effect. If access to is lost, she adds, many will have to pivot and re-build their presence on other platforms. While bracing for a potential Sunday ban, Wade is among creators who hope that something happens to avert the shutdown, although he thinks he has enough followers on other platforms to stay afloat. "I'm still remaining optimistic," he said. Still, many continue to express fears over the potential of losing TikTok.

TikTok users in limbo as ban looms

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The US is inching closer and closer to a potential TikTok ban — with the nation's highest court upholding a law that's set to halt new downloads of the app starting Sunday. But many questions around what exactly this ban will look like, and whether it will actually be enforced, remain. That puts millions of users and content creators in limbo — particularly influencers and small business owners who have come to rely on the megapopular social media platform as a source of income. Among those individuals is Terrell Wade, a comedian, actor and content creator with 1.5 million followers on TikTok under the handle @TheWadeEmpire. Wade, who has turned his TikTok presence into a full-time job, said he

expects "two days of chaos" as the Sunday deadline nears. "At this point, I really don't know what to believe," Wade told The Associated Press. In a unanimous decision on Friday, the Supreme Court upheld a federal law that will ban TikTok unless it's sold by its China-based parent company before January 19 — ruling that a risk to national security posed by the platform's ties to China overcomes First Amendment concerns about limiting free speech on and by the app. A sale does not appear imminent, meaning the ban should go into effect Sunday. But the ruling also arrives just days before the inauguration of a new president. President Joe Biden's administration has maintained that TikTok must change its ownership to address national security

concerns, but signalled that it won't enforce the law on Sunday, the Democrat's final full day in office. On Friday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that actions to enforce the law will fall to the new administration due to "the sheer fact of timing." Meanwhile, Republican President-elect Donald Trump, who once also tried to ban TikTok, has now vowed to preserve access to the platform. But what his options will be following Monday's inauguration remains unclear. Among other points of confusion is what a ban on TikTok will look like. Experts have said the app will not disappear from existing users' devices once the law takes effect. But new users won't be able to download it and updates will not be available. That will

eventually render the app unworkable, the Justice Department said in court filings. All of this is "a reminder to the creator community that social media platforms can come and go," notes Kelsey Chickering, a principal analyst at Forrester, stressing the disruptions TikTok creators and influencers will feel if the ban takes effect. If access to is lost, she adds, many will have to pivot and re-build their presence on other platforms. While bracing for a potential Sunday ban, Wade is among creators who hope that something happens to avert the shutdown, although he thinks he has enough followers on other platforms to stay afloat. "I'm still remaining optimistic," he said. Still, many continue to express fears over the potential of losing TikTok.

Rohit hints players have reservations about BCCI's 10-point diktat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma seems to have reservations about certain clauses in the 10-point disciplinary guidelines prepared by the BCCI at the behest of head coach Gautam Gambhir and India skipper is set to discuss the issue with the Board secretary Devajit Saikia.

The BCCI has not officially announced the guidelines but media has already reported on the 10-point diktat.

One of the major contentions in policy document is going back to the old days where families are allowed only for 14 days on long tours. Any deviation would need coach Gambhir's approval.

It is understood that this point has not gone down well in the team's rank and file.

As Rohit sat beside chairman

of selectors Ajit Agarkar before the start of the press conference, he was heard telling his former Mumbai teammate: "Ab mere ko baithna padega secretary ke saath. Family, wamily ka discuss karne ke liye, sab mere ko bol rahe hai yaar (I have to sit down with the secretary to discuss about family (travel guidelines). Everyone (players) is asking me."

Rohit's comment wasn't meant for the media but it was caught on the microphone and it was not difficult to read between the lines.

When Rohit asked about the guidelines, he retorted, "Who told you about these rules? Has it come from the official handle of the BCCI? Let it come officially."

However when Agarkar



spoke, he indeed admitted that an SOP has been drafted.

Agarkar was asked what exactly went wrong that within six months of winning the T20 World Cup with same set of players, BCCI needed a travel policy document?

Agarkar, who was also a part of that review committee meeting that discussed the Australia debacle, said, "We'll probably talk about it endlessly if we keep going on."

"I suppose every team has some rules in place. We've spoken about various things you see over the last few months where you can improve as a team, where you can get a bit closer as a team. It's not a school. It's not a punishment," he said, trying to rationalise.

"It's just (that) you have some rules in place and when

you're playing for the national team you just follow those rules. Again, these are mature individuals. They are superstars in their own rights in international sport."

Many former players have termed these rules as something that was always in place and Agarkar called them protocols that one has to follow while representing the national team.

"But at the end of the day you're eventually representing your country. There are certain things that you just inherently follow as every team does. I think a lot of them (rules) have been in place.

"Maybe we've spoken about it now and it's been put out, but a lot of them have been in place in any case. You keep on refining it as you go along eventually what suits the

team, you want to try and do."

There have been conjectures about Rohit's working relationship with the head coach and the skipper said that once he enters the playing arena, he is his own man. "Both (he and Gambhir) of us are very clear in what we want to do. I'm not going to sit here and discuss what goes behind every game tactically but it's very clear in my mind."

"Gautam Gambhir is somebody once we enter the field he trusts what the captain is doing on the field. The basic talks that happen are only off the field, in the ground or maybe the changing room.

"But once we take the field it's all about what I do on the field. That's the kind of trust we have in each other and that's how it should be. That's about it."

Number of controversial decisions in boxing could be reduced using AI-based technology

PTI ■ LONDON

Boxing, the "sweet science", is a theatre of skill, power and drama that has captivated audiences for centuries. Yet, behind the allure of championship nights and historic rivalries lies a persistent shadow — controversial decisions that spark cries of "robbery".

Boxing has had its fair share of controversial decisions which continue to spark debate among fans and experts alike.

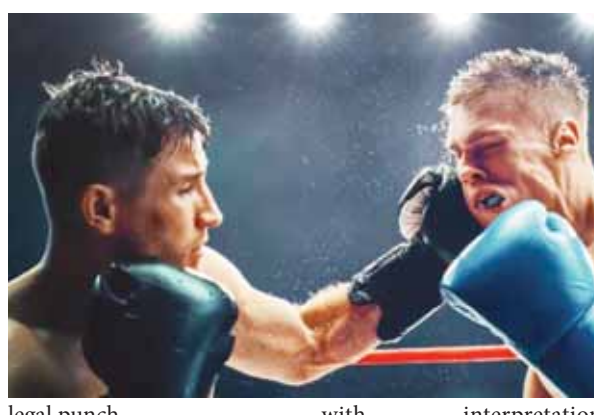
While technology in sports like football and cricket has supplemented objective rules, boxing's reliance on subjective judgement leaves it uniquely vulnerable to bias and error. Isn't it time the sport caught up?

The answer may lie in artificial intelligence (AI). Imagine a world where contentious decisions and accusations of bias become a thing of the past. Could the technology offer boxing the fairness and transparency it desperately needs?

Boxing's history is long and storied, tracing back to bare-knuckle fights and evolving into the regulated, global phenomenon it is today. But some things haven't changed. Chief among them is the subjective nature of judging. Unlike football's offside or cricket's LBW (leg before wicket) calls, boxing lacks hard and fast rules for scoring.

Decisions depend on referees and judges interpreting abstract criteria like effective aggression, defence and clean punching. While these standards sound straightforward, their application often varies wildly, leading to unpredictable results.

Take the infamous 2012 Olympics, which featured many scoring controversies that led to demands for reform. More recently, during the Oleksandr Usyk v Daniel Dubois bout, the referee ruled that Dubois had delivered a low blow to Usyk. This left fans divided, with some feeling it should have been a



legal punch.

It's one example of where a key decision has sparked widespread debate in the sport. But there are many others.

Other sports have adopted innovative technology in an attempt to reduce subjectivity: cricket uses ball tracking for precise decision making, football has VAR (video assistant referee) for disputed goals, and MMA (mixed martial arts) employs replays to confirm pivotal moments. But boxing remains stubbornly dependent on human eyes. Why? Because its unique pace and nuance present challenges that technology hasn't yet mastered.

For fans, what they might regard as an unfair decision can be a bitter pill. For fighters, it's devastating — years of training undone by a controversial call. And for the sport as a whole, the disagreement over decisions can tarnish its credibility.

Boxing is an industry worth billions. Sponsors, broadcasters and pay-per-view audiences demand a product they can trust. Controversies don't just upset fans, they jeopardise the sport's business model. To survive and thrive, boxing needs to evolve, and technology offers a way forward.

AI's potential in boxing

What makes AI so promising is its ability to process complexities. Rather than replacing human judgement, AI can supplement it, bringing much needed consistency to a sport fraught

with interpretation. Technology doesn't replace the human element, it supports it.

So what's stopping boxing? Critics argue that tools like replay systems could disrupt the flow of a fight. But smart integration can avoid this. Imagine video reviews used sparingly, only for game-changing moments like knockdowns or disputed low blows.

Here's how technology could reshape boxing. Sensors and AI could track punch accuracy, power and placement. This data would give judges a factual layer to complement their scoring. AI could also transform instant replays. Key moments, like knockdowns or potential fouls, could be reviewed quickly without disrupting the fight's rhythm.

Artificial intelligence could also assist scoring. Algorithms trained on historical data could suggest scores based on patterns and metrics, acting as a guide for judges. Finally, blockchain technology, where a record of decisions is maintained across linked computers, could log and secure judges' scores, creating a transparent record for post-fight analysis.

Progress and tradition

Boxing has always celebrated its traditions, and that's part of its charm. But clinging too tightly to the past risks alienating today's fans. Critics worry that too much technology might strip the sport of its human touch. But the goal isn't to replace tradition, it's to protect it by ensuring fairness.

Manchester United and Scotland soccer great, Denis Law dies at 84

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Denis Law, the Manchester United and Scotland great, has died. He was 84.

The death of Law, the only Scottish player to win the Ballon d'Or, was announced by his family through United on Friday. In 2021 he was diagnosed with dementia.

"It is with a heavy heart that we tell you our father Denis Law has sadly passed away. He fought a tough battle but finally he is now at peace," the statement read.

"We would like to thank everyone who contributed to his wellbeing and care, past and much more recently. We know how much people supported and loved him and that love was always appreciated and made the difference."

Law is forever linked with Bobby Charlton and George Best, the three-pronged strike force that led United to English league titles in 1965 and '67 and the European Cup in 1968 — a first for an English club.

"Everyone at Manchester United is mourning the loss of Denis Law, the King of the Stretford End," United said in a statement. "With 237 goals in 404 appearances, he will always be celebrated as one of the club's greatest and most beloved players. The ultimate

goal-scorer, his flair, spirit and love for the game made him the hero of a generation."

Law, Charlton and Best would be voted as European footballer of the year and win the Ballon d'Or in a five-season period from 1964-68. They are united in a statue at Old Trafford. Law is the only player with two statues at the stadium: He stands solo on the Stretford End concourse, naturally.

Law's 46 goals in the 1963-64 season remains a single-season record for United. His 237 goals for the club are bettered only by Charlton and Wayne Rooney, though his goals-per-game ratio is higher.

However, a goal he scored against United is arguably his most famous. In one of the last games of his career, Law was playing for Manchester City — where he had two spells — at Old Trafford in United's next-to-last game of the 1973-74 season.

His late goal, with an audacious back-heel flick he insisted was "a fluke," meant United lost 1-0 and helped to ensure its relegation to the second division just six years after being European champion.

Law did not celebrate his goal and was substituted with head bowed as United fans invaded the pitch before the game restarted.



His 30 goals for Scotland are matched by only Kenny Dalglish, though was achieved in just 55 games compared to Dalglish's 102.

UEFA was one of many to react to Law's death. On X it wrote, "On behalf of European football we are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Denis Law. One of Scottish football's true greats."

A player who would become fondly referred to as "The Lawman," Law left his northern Scotland hometown of Aberdeen as a skinny 15-year-old with poor eyesight. He became a feared penalty-area predator and a pioneer in a modernizing world of European soccer.

By the age of 22, both United and City paid English-record transfer fees to sign Law, and he had played one season in Italy — an exotic change of culture at that time, though he disliked the defensive nature of Serie A.

He returned from Torino in 1962 to begin an 11-year stint

at Old Trafford that helped re-establish United as an international power under manager Matt Busby.

Law joined a club that was still rebuilding from the airplane crash at Munich four years earlier. It took the lives of most of Busby's then-dominant team returning from a European Cup game.

Law's prolific scoring helped United win the FA Cup in 1963 for its first trophy since the Munich disaster, and then two league titles in three seasons.

Redemption for Busby's United was becoming European champion a decade after the tragedy.

Though Best and Charlton scored in the final, a 4-1 extra-time win over Benfica, Law missed the game at London's Wembley Stadium due to a knee injury that persisted in his career.

He had his own signature Wembley moment one year earlier. He scored Scotland's first goal in a 3-2 victory to inflict England's first loss since winning the 1966 World Cup final nine months previously.

As a proud Scot, Law refused to watch the final on television. He went to play golf instead.

Only in one of his last games would Law finally play at the

World Cup, in 1974 in West Germany.

Then a 34-year-old veteran, Law was selected for Scotland's opening match, a 2-0 win against Zaire. He was not picked for subsequent drawn games against Brazil and Yugoslavia as Scotland was eliminated.

Law chose to end his career in August 1974, by which time he'd etched his name in soccer's scoring history.

After his playing career, Law worked as a TV soccer pundit and presenter and was very much in the public eye in spending some of Best's last hours next to the Northern Irishman's hospital bed before his alcohol-related death in 2005.

Law recovered from prostate cancer, and was awarded a Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 2016 for services to soccer and charity.

When his dementia was publicly revealed four years ago, he said, "It is an incredibly challenging and problematic disease and I have witnessed many friends go through this. I recognise how my brain is deteriorating and how my memory evades me when I don't want it to and how this causes me distress in situations that are beyond my control."

Australian Open: Iga Swiatek is in total control during a 6-1, 6-0 rout of Emma Raducanu

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Everything came so easily for Iga Swiatek during a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Emma Raducanu on Saturday in the only Australian Open women's third-round match between two past Grand Slam champions — if you thought that meant it would be close, you would have been rather wrong — that this was how she described it:

"I felt like the ball," Swiatek said, "is listening to me."

Loud and clear. Asked to explain that sensation, Swiatek put her two index fingers a few inches apart and said, "It's just being able to aim for this kind of space." Then she spread her palms more than a foot apart to show that's the margin for error on other days.

The difference, she said, comes down to "being more precise and actually knowing where the ball is going to go, seeing the effects that you want it to."

When the five-time major champion and former long-time No. 1-ranked woman — now No. 2, behind Aryna

Sabalenka — is at the height of her powers, as she sure has seemed to be in Week 1 at Melbourne Park, it is hard for anyone to slow Swiatek down. The heavy-spinning, high-bouncing forehands. The squeaky-sneaker scrambling to get to every shot. The terrific returning. And so on.

Later Saturday, No. 4 Taylor Fritz, the runner-up at last year's U.S. Open, became the highest-seeded man to leave the bracket, defeated by 38-year-old Gael Monfils 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (1), 6-4. Monfils joined Roger Federer as the only men 38 or older to get to the fourth round in Melbourne since the field expanded to 128 players in 1988.

At the other end of the age spectrum, a pair of young Californians who have been pals for a while and trained together in the offseason — Learner Tien, 19, and Alex Michelsen, 20 — earned debuts in the fourth round at a major. Ben Shelton, who is 22, won, too, while another American, Marcos Giron, was facing No. 1 Jannik Sinner at night.

Tien, a qualifier ranked 121st,



followed up his surprising win against No. 5 Daniil Medvedev in a five-setter that ended at 3 a.m. On Friday with a 7-6 (10), 6-3, 6-3 victory over Corentin Moutet when he plays No. 8 Alex de Minaur, an Australian who beat No. 31 Francisco Cerúndolo 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-3. Tien faces 55th-ranked Lorenzo Sonego of Italy, a 6-7 (3), 7-6 (6), 6-1, 6-2 winner over Fabian Marozsan.

Against Raducanu, who won the 2021 U.S. Open as a teenage qualifier, Swiatek played at a level she called "perfect."

2023, defeated No. 16 Lorenzo Musetti of Italy 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5) and will take on Monfils on Monday.

Michelsen will try to send another high seed packing when he plays No. 8 Alex de Minaur, an Australian who beat No. 31 Francisco Cerúndolo 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-3. Tien faces 55th-ranked Lorenzo Sonego of Italy, a 6-7 (3), 7-6 (6), 6-1, 6-2 winner over Fabian Marozsan.

Against Raducanu, who won the 2021 U.S. Open as a teenage qualifier, Swiatek played at a level she called "perfect."

Indeed, Swiatek mounted a 24-9 edge in winners, made only 12 unforced errors — roughly half of Raducanu's 22 — and claimed 59 points to 29. That caused one spectator to yell out, "No mercy!" in the second set as Swiatek was reeling off the last 11 games after the match was tied at 1-all early with not a cloud in the sky and the temperature approaching 80 degrees Fahrenheit (above 25 Celsius).

"I think it was a little bit of her playing well, and me not playing so well," Raducanu said. "That combination is probably not good."

Swiatek, who agreed to accept a one-month suspension in a doping case late last year, owns four trophies from the French Open and one from the U.S. Open. But she's never been beyond the semifinals in Australia; she lost in that round to Danielle Collins in 2022.

A year ago, Swiatek was upset in the third round by teenager Linda Noskova.

Swiatek, who said she dedicated Saturday's win to her grandfather, has ceded a

total of only 10 games through three matches with new coach Wim Fissette sitting courtside. Next up will be 128th-ranked Eva Lys of Germany, who lost in qualifying but was given a spot in the main draw when someone withdrew about 10 minutes before her first-round match.

Lys defeated Jaqueline Cristian 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 and is the first "lucky loser" to get to the Australian Open's fourth round since the tournament moved to Melbourne Park in 1988.

Others who now will get a chance to play for a quarterfinal berth after victories Saturday included No. 6 Elena Rybakina, No. 8 Emma Navarro and No. 9 Daria Kasatkina. Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, beat No. 32 Dayana Yastremska 6-3, 6-4. Navarro eliminated three-time major finalist Ons Jabeur 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, and Kasatkina got past No. 24 Yulia Putintseva 7-5, 6-1. Unseeded Veronika Kudermetova beat No. 15 Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-4, 6-2.

Winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia signs with French champion PSG until 2029

PTI ■ PARIS

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia completed his expected move from Napoli to Paris Saint-Germain when he signed a deal until 2029 with the record 12-time French champion.

French media earlier reported the 23-year-old Georgia forward was in Paris to have his medical check, and PSG confirmed the transfer in a statement late Friday. "It's a dream to be here. I've heard a lot of very positive things about Paris Saint-Germain," Kvaratskhelia said. "I feel



immense pride in joining." No further information was given but L'Equipe estimated the transfer fee to be 70 million euros (\$72 million) without bonuses.

The move comes a day after he posted a farewell video to

Napoli fans, who affectionately nicknamed him "Kvaradona" in homage to Argentina great Diego Maradona, the club's greatest ever player. Kvaratskhelia starred in Napoli's Serie A title-winning team in 2023.

एनटीपीसी NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

NOTICE

Registered Office Address: NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003
Corporate Identification Number: L40101DL1975G0019766

The Petitioner above named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), New Delhi for determination of tariff of Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station, Stage-II (1500 MW) from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2029.

The beneficiaries of the generating station are:

- a) GRIDCO Ltd., 24, Janpath, Bhubaneswar – 751007
- b) Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya Bhawan, Race Course, Baroda – 390007
- c) Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Ltd., Shakti Bhawan, Vidyal Nagar, Jabalpur – 482008
- d) Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, "Prakashgarh", Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051
- e) Chhatisgarh State Power Trading Co. Ltd., Po. Sundemagar, Dhagania, Raipur, 492013.
- f) Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, 1st and 2nd Floor, Vidyal Bhawan, Silvassa-396230, DNH, India
- g) Uttar Pradesh Power Corp. Limited, Shakti Bhawan, 14, Ashok Marg, Lucknow – 226001
- h) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd., Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001
- i) Jaipur Vidyal Vitran Nigam Ltd, Vidyal Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur 302005
- j) Ajmer Vidyal Vitran Nigam Ltd, Old Power House, Hath Bhata, Jaipur Road, Ajmer
- k) Jodhpur Vidyal Vitran Nigam Ltd, New Power House Road, Industrial Area, Jodhpur
- l) Power Development Department (J&K), Govt. of J&K Secretariat, Srinagar
- m) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
- n) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., Shakti Kiran Bldg., Karkardooma, Delhi
- o) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd., NDPL House, Hudson Lane, Kingsway Camp, New Delhi-110009
- p) Haryana Power Purchase Centre Ltd., Shakti Bhawan, Sector-VI, Panchkula, Haryana-134109
- q) Punjab State Electricity Board, The 17 Mall, Patiala 18- 147001
- r) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, Vidyal Bhawan, Shimla-171004
- s) Power Department, Union Territory of Chandigarh, Addl. Office Building, Sector-9D, Chandigarh

2. Capacity of the generating station : 1500 MW
3. Approved capital cost of the project : Rs. 5690.56 Crore
4. Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CERC
5. Scheduled date of commercial operation : Not Applicable
6. Actual date of commercial operation of station : 20.03.2010
7. Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station : Not Applicable
8. Details of tariff :

Particulars	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined					
	Tariff for the previous year*	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
1. Capacity Charges (Rs./Lakh/year)	121044.67	118927.30	121832.60	126102.67	134243.94	142463.25
2. Energy Charges (Rs./kWh)	3.705			3.026		

* As per Petition for triung-up of tariff for 2019-24 period for Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station, Stage-II (1500 MW) filed with Hon'ble CERC.

9. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab "Notices".

10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : Noida (U.P.) (Prashant Chaturvedi)
Date : 27.11.2024 Addl. General Manager (Comm.)

Leading the Power Sector

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE CAST



PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR

The cast of *Swipe Crime* breaks down their roles, with Faisal Malik giving fans hope for Prahlad Cha's return, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

compelling character, adding another nuanced portrayal to his repertoire. Here, we dive into his thoughts on the series, his character and the lessons he's gathered along the way. In this gripping exploration of cybercrime, *Faisal* brings depth to a character that resonates with real-life personas. Here's a closer look at his journey with the show and the insights he shared about his craft.

The Concept and the Draw: For Faisal, the decision to join *Swipe Crime* was rooted in the script's quality and the universe it creates.

"What inspires every actor to do it? The character is good. The universe he has created is good. And it's very relatable as well as beautifully written. That's what inspires me," he shared.

Portraying His Character: Faisal's character in *Swipe Crime* stands out for its layered personality. He described it as someone who is multifaceted depending on perspective.

"I am a very nice, good person. But for my students, I am a badass. So they don't like me. And it's good for me," he explained. To bring authenticity to the role, Faisal drew inspiration from a real-life individual.

"There is a teacher on my campus, Mr. Sharma. He was like this. So I have just taken him and done it here."

Films vs OTT: Having worked in diverse mediums, Faisal finds the OTT format particularly appealing for its depth in storytelling. "Not platform, but the medium of series is good. Because one can easily explore the character and the person. It's not hero-centric at all," he stated, reflecting on the opportunities OTT platforms offer.

When Prahlad Cha Returns: Fans of Faisal's character from *Panchayat* are eagerly awaiting the return of Prahlad Cha. Faisal shared some insight on this during the interview, saying, "Ready ho raha hai. 8 or 9 months lagega abhi." This indicates that while the wait may be long, there are plans for Prahlad Cha's return in the future.



Lessons from the Industry:

The entertainment industry has taught Faisal valuable lessons, both professionally and personally. "For me, it's like to be good to people. Yeah, that's nice," he said, emphasising the importance of kindness and understanding. However, his journey also came with its challenges. "Someone told me a long time back to stop thinking about too much of anything. I used to produce shows and all. So in that entire journey, I was very bad to people. Because I was keeping my 24/7. So if some other person is not doing their work, then I become very bad. They all said don't do this. You are making enemies."

Advice to His Younger Self:

When asked what he would tell his younger self, Faisal offered an honest and surprising answer. "That's the worst thing I have done in my life, to think about work. Otherwise, I would be a lazy person. I would be sitting alone. I don't want to do anything. This is what I want to do: doing nothing," he said with a smile.

A Show That Resonates with Today's Audience

Swipe Crime is a thriller that mirrors society's growing dependence on technology and the vulnerabilities it exposes. The performances, led by Faisal Malik's gravitas, Rishab Chadha's depth, Diksha J Singh's charisma and Ronit Ashra's fresh energy, make it a must-watch for audiences of all ages. As Faisal Malik aptly put it, "Awareness is key. While technology evolves, it's up to us to use it wisely and protect ourselves." With a compelling storyline, powerful performances and a relevant message, *Swipe Crime* is set to leave a lasting impact on viewers, making them think twice about the digital footprints they leave behind.

The Cast Reveals All! Insights from the Cast and Crew:

OTT platforms have brought forth a wave of fresh, engaging content and *Swipe Crime* is the latest show garnering attention. With its intriguing storyline and complex characters, the show has created a buzz among audiences. Here's an exclusive look into the world of *Swipe Crime* with the cast members, Rishab Chadha, Diksha Singh, Ronit Ashra and the celebrated Faisal Malik.

Faisal Malik, known for his phenomenal work in *Panchayat*, shares his insights on the show, while the rest of the cast speaks about their challenges, character nuances and their experiences working together.

Faisal Malik on His Role and Reflections from the Industry:

Faisal Malik, best known for his remarkable performances, takes on a Professor role in the series *Swipe Crime*. He has cemented his place in the industry as an actor who brings depth and authenticity to every role. In *Swipe Crime*, a gripping series exploring the dark corners of cybercrime, Faisal takes on a



RISHAB CHADHA
Versatility and Dedication

Rishab Chadha, known for Drishyam and Khoobsurat, shines in *Swipe Crime*. Reflecting on his 18-year acting journey, he said, "I've spent so much time on my craft that nothing feels too challenging anymore. But this role was unique, requiring restraint and a transformation that I hadn't experienced before." On challenges, he shared, "A scene with alcohol and fire was intense. I unknowingly consumed alcohol, fainted post-shoot, but it's my best intro scene yet." Playing Vidhan Shastri, a shy yet ambitious UP engineering student, Rishab drew from personal experiences and the director's vision, saying, "Understanding the director is key."



DIKSHA J SINGH
From Model to Actress

Diksha J Singh is a multifaceted personality, an actor, model, and politician, best known for her role as Juhi in *Swipe Crime*. Talking about her character, she shared, "After a long time, I came across a script that offered so much for a woman to play, especially in a negative role from a college perspective. It's rare and refreshing." For Diksha, Juhi is mentally strong and incredibly clever, characteristics she found fascinating to portray. Though she did not share screen space with Faisal Malik, she expressed admiration for their performances and eagerly sought their guidance during promotions.



RONIT ASHRA
From Social Media to Acting Debut

Ronit Ashra, celebrated for his mimicry and content creation, makes his acting debut in *Swipe Crime*. Transitioning from a social media sensation to an actor, he remarked, "Acting has always been my passion. It feels great to finally bring it to life in a show like this." Ronit plays Nikhil Saxena, the studious son of an ITian who wants to carve his own path. Describing his character, he said, "Nikhil is a mix of intelligence and ambition, with a lighthearted dynamic with his parents." Ronit shared amusing anecdotes from the set, especially his improvisations with Faisal Malik. "We'd often create moments on the spot, making the process incredibly fun," he said.



Layers of Love and Craft

By **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Chandni Chowk has always been the heartbeat of wedding shopping in Delhi, and now, with the addition of *House of Surya* at *Omaxe Chowk*, bridal shopping has reached new heights of elegance. The store transforms this experience into an art form, showcasing timeless craftsmanship that speaks to the soul of traditional Indian fashion.

The *House of Surya* collection stands out with intricate details, from delicate hand embroidery to the rich textures of Banarasi silks and velvets. The colour palette spans from classic bridal reds to soft pastels and muted metallics, offering something for every bride and wedding celebration. Whether it's a grand lehenga for the main ceremony or a lighter outfit for pre-wedding events, the designs strike the perfect balance of luxury and wearability, catering to the vibrant celebrations that define Indian weddings.



The launch saw *Malaika Arora* bringing her signature grace and glamour, embodying the collection's ethos of confidence and elegance. Her presence highlighted how the designs resonate with today's brides, who seek a harmonious balance between tradition and individuality. Stepping into the store feels like entering a world of creativity and craftsmanship. The thoughtfully designed space invites customers into a world of creativity and detail. From ornate embellishments to the careful interplay of heritage and contemporary aesthetics, every garment has a personality of its own. The artistry and skill of Indian craftsmen shine through, with pieces that feel like heirlooms meant to be cherished. As wedding season peaks, this addition has quickly become a go-to for bridal wear that adapts to the varying needs of modern celebrations. From mehendi to reception, the collection caters to every event while maintaining the grandeur that Indian weddings are known for. The focus on craftsmanship is what makes this collection truly special. In a fast-paced world, it's refreshing to see a space that honours traditional techniques while keeping them relevant for the present day. For those stepping into the whirlwind of wedding preparations, this new destination is about connecting with a legacy of design and artistry. It offers not just garments but an experience, one that makes every bride feel unique and every occasion unforgettable.

GRITTY PICTURE OF TIHAR



Neflix's *Black Warrant* takes viewers into the life in Tihar Jail investigating power, corruption and survival in 1980s, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



Black Warrant is a crime drama series, premiered on *Netflix*. It has been adapted from the 2019 memoir 'Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer' by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury, the series offers a portrayal of life inside India's Tihar Jail during the 1980s.

Conspicuous
The story revolves around *Sunil Kumar Gupta*, portrayed by *Zahan Kapoor*, a novice jailer who begins his tenure at Tihar Jail. As he becomes acquainted with the prison's operations under the guidance of *Rajesh Tomar* (played by *Rahul Bhat*), *Sunil Kumar Gupta* confronts the pervasive corruption and complex power dynamics among inmates and staff of Tihar Jail. The series excavates into *Gupta's* moral dilemmas and his interactions with notorious criminals, including serial killer *Charles Sobhray*.

A Stellar Ensemble
The cast of *Black Warrant* delivers outstanding performances, bringing depth to the series' deep story. *Zahan Kapoor* shines as *Sunil Gupta*, portraying a young, idealistic jailer coming to truth with the harsh realities of Tihar Jail. His portrayal of inner conflict and moral dilemmas adds a relatable human touch to the story. *Rahul Bhat* excels as *DSP Rajesh Tomar*, a hardened

mentor who embodies the complexity of law enforcement in a morally ambiguous environment.

Sidhant Gupta's performance as the cunning and calm *Charles Sobhray* is a standout, effortlessly having a scary vibe of his own. *Rajshri Deshpande* adds gravitas as *Pratibha Sen*, a journalist investigating the murky waters of prison politics. Supporting actors like *Tota Roy Choudhury* and *Joy Sengupta* skillfully portray senior prison officials, highlighting the institutional dynamics and their often questionable choices. Each actor contributes to the authentic portrayal of a prison system marked by power struggles, corruption, and humanity's darker shades. The ensemble's seamless chemistry elevates the series, making it a gripping watch.

Direction and Production
The series is a collaborative creation by *Vikramaditya Motwane*, *Satyanshu Singh*, and *Daniel Sharma*. *Motwane*, co-directs alongside *Singh*, *Sharma*, *Rohin Ravendran Nair*, and *Ambieeka Pandit*.

Episode Structure
"Black Warrant" comprises seven episodes, each ranging from 38 to 50 minutes. Each episode takes you through deeper into the challenges



faced by *Gupta* as he sails the double crossing environment of Tihar Jail.

Critical Reception

The series goes good on the part of authentic depiction of prison life and compelling storytelling of the Tihar Jail. The storyline is gripping and showcases the major part of how things roll in Tihar Jail. The dark side of corruption, the setting of inmates with the police, the violence inside the jail and the under trails is perfectly showcased in the film. With each episode centred on a different case, the show is meticulously scripted. Even if the majority of the plot seems authentic, it falls apart when *Sunil* is revealed as the system's sole saviour. It could have done better with the ending like the other episodes.

Closure

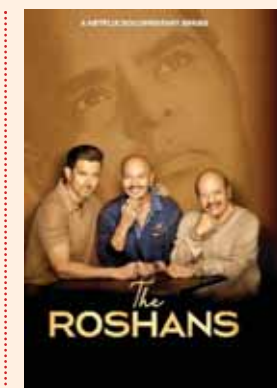
"Black Warrant" is notable for its honest and realistic depiction of the intricacies found in one of India's most infamous prisons. With excellent acting, especially from *Zahan Kapoor* and *Rahul Bhat*, the series explores themes of survival and division of power. *Black Warrant* is a notable addition to *Netflix's* library for fans who enjoy crime dramas based on actual events.

Rating - 4/5

SUGGESTED BINGES



PAATAL LOK SEASON 2
IMDB Rating: 8.9/10 (as of 18th Jan)
OTT: Amazon Prime Video
Director: Avinash Arun
Cast: Jaideep Ahlawat, Ishwak Singh, Anurag Arora



THE ROSHANS
IMDB Rating: 8.2/10 (as of 18th Jan)
OTT: Netflix
Director: Shashi Ranjan
Cast: Rakesh Roshan, Hrithik Roshan, Rajesh Roshan



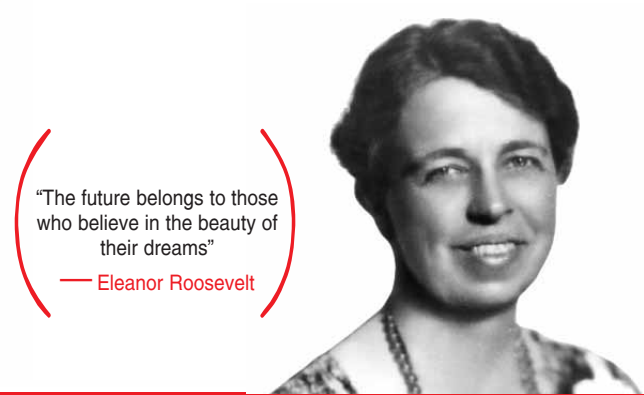
BACK IN ACTION
IMDB Rating: 6.5/10
OTT: Netflix
Director: J.J. Perry, Kristina M. Peterson
Cast: Cameron Diaz, Jamie Foxx, McKenna Roberts, Rylan Jackson



XO, KITTY SEASON 2
OTT: Netflix
Director: Katina Medina Mora, Steven Tsuchida, Anna Mastro
Cast: Anna Cathcart, Minyeong Choi, Gia Kim



WITH LOVE, MEGHAN
OTT: Netflix
Director: Michael Steed
Cast: Meghan Markle, Mindy Kaling, Prince Harry



real-A-life action hero

From Bollywood star to philanthropic icon, Sonu Sood's journey in Bollywood is a classic example of perseverance and resilience, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

@SonuSood who plays Villain in South and Bollywood, but he did such a thing in this tragedy that he is the biggest hero in my eyes. On a social platform like Twitter, by taking the details of the workers, they are arranging buses and transporting them to the own village.: Md Shahnawaz Alam @alamktr00

Md Shahnawaz Alam was not the only person praising Sonu Sood for helping migrants reach their homes during Covid when lockdown was suddenly announced and people were stuck across the country. It was crazy time. No one knew what was in store and how pandemic would unfold. It was particularly hard on migrant workers with meagre resources walked endless journey to their hometowns. In this situation *Sonu Sood*, a known name in Bollywood for playing mean villain came forward to help people and making arrangements for traveling to these workers. The twitter was abuzz with people asking 'Sonu bhैया' help and getting it. His twitter handle became a virtual helpline. Tweets like these flooded his social media handle. And he ready came for help. Genuinely. It was a gesture people reciprocated with warmth and *Sonu Sood* became a household name. It was indeed a turning point in the life and career of the star. And since then he did not look back. *Sonu Sood's* journey in Bollywood is a testament to resilience, hard work, and the power of perseverance. From humble beginnings to becoming a household name, *Sonu's* story is not just about acting but also about his extraordinary contributions to society through his philanthropic efforts. His rise to fame and his journey of selfless giving have made him one of the most admired figures in India, both on and off the screen. Born on July 30, 1973, in Moga, Punjab, *Sonu Sood* was not always destined for the glitz and glamour of Bollywood. Growing up in a middle-class family, *Sonu's* early life was filled with academic aspirations. He completed his engineering degree from the Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering in Nagpur. However, despite his technical background, his heart was always inclined towards acting. *Sonu* moved to Mumbai with dreams of making it in Bollywood. Like many aspiring actors, his journey was not without struggle. He started his career with small roles and often faced rejection. His initial years in the industry were difficult, and he struggled to find a breakthrough. He appeared in a variety of roles, including in films like *Kahan Hai Tu* (1999) and *Shaheed-E-Azam* (2002). These films, although not major hits, helped *Sonu* gain experience and sharpen his acting skills. *Sonu Sood's* breakthrough came with the film *Yuva* (2004), directed by Mani Ratnam. Playing the character of a strong-willed, determined man, *Sonu's* performance was well-received. This marked the beginning of his rise in the industry. His portrayal of negative roles in films like *Aashiq Banaya Aapne* (2005) and *Dabangg* (2010) further solidified his presence in

Bollywood. In *Dabangg*, his character, Chhedi Singh, was menacing, and his performance opposite Salman Khan earned him widespread acclaim. The turning point in his career came when *Sonu Sood* was offered roles that showcased his versatility. Whether as the villain or a complex character with shades of Gray, *Sonu's* consistent hard work and dedication to his craft saw him rise through the ranks of Bollywood's A-list stars. His powerful performances in films like *Jodha Akbar* (2008), *Simmba* (2018), and *Raju Chacha* (2000) earned him several awards and nominations. What sets *Sonu* apart is his ability to evolve with the changing dynamics of the film industry. He has played a range of characters, from a villain to a hero, from action-packed roles to romantic parts. His commitment to delivering quality performances, regardless of the scale of the film, has made him a dependable actor in Bollywood. While *Sonu Sood's* acting career has been remarkable, his philanthropic work during the COVID-19 pandemic made him a true hero in the eyes of millions. When the pandemic caused widespread suffering across the globe, *Sonu* didn't just stay confined to his home; he became the guiding light for thousands of people in need. *Sonu's* philanthropic efforts began when he started helping migrant workers stuck in different parts of India due to the lockdown. With his own funds and resources, *Sonu* arranged transportation for thousands of migrant workers to return to their homes, despite facing logistical hurdles and government restrictions. His initiative gained massive media attention, with people praising him for his quick and effective response to the crisis. In addition to helping migrant workers, *Sonu Sood* extended his support to the medical sector by arranging hospital beds, oxygen supplies, and treatment for those suffering from COVID-19. He provided financial aid to families who had lost their loved ones during the pandemic and launched multiple campaigns to help students, farmers, and the underprivileged access education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Through his organisation, the Sood Charity Foundation, *Sonu* has continued his philanthropic efforts, focusing on education, healthcare, and helping the underprivileged. He believes in the power of education and aims to provide quality education to children who do not have access to it. His efforts have not gone unnoticed, and he has received numerous accolades, including the prestigious International Humanitarian Award in recognition of his selfless work. *Sonu Sood's* success in Bollywood is a result of his unwavering dedication and hard work. He didn't come from a film family and had no Godfather when he reached Mumbai from his hometown Moga with just Rs 5000 in his pocket. He worked his way up to build his career from the ground up. His perseverance is a reflection of his commitment to his craft and his belief that success comes with consistent effort. What sets *Sonu* apart from many others in the industry is his work ethic and focus. He has worked in several regional film industries, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi cinema, which allowed him to understand the nuances of different audiences and cultures. This versatility has been key to his success, as he is equally comfortable playing a hero or villain in different languages and genres. In an industry where many actors rely on luck or industry connections to secure their place, *Sonu* has demonstrated that talent, dedication, and hard work are the true pillars of success. His journey is an inspiration to aspiring actors and those who believe in the power of perseverance. *Sonu Sood* has not only made a place for himself in Bollywood but has also become a hero for countless people across the country. His legacy, both as an actor and philanthropist, will continue to inspire generations to come.



Sonu Sood's journey in Bollywood is an incredible narrative of success, struggle and humanity. From a young man with dreams of becoming an actor to a respected figure in the Indian film industry, Sonu's dedication to his craft and his selfless philanthropic work makes him an iconic figure in India today. He was in Delhi at the premier of his latest offering 'Fateh' an action-packed film dealing with cybercrime. Sonu Sood talked to Gyaneshwar Dayal, about his acting, social responsibilities and future plans.

Could you tell us what scripts draw your attention?
I like to do the films which are close to common man, about his life and problems. Recently I did *Fateh* which deals with the cybercrimes which has become a menace in the country and people should know about it. So I thought why not make a film which would indeed not only entertain but also inform people about the dangers lurking in the digital domain. So I prefer films which are entertaining but also create awareness and talk about people's issues

You are known for action. Do you like action roles?
Yes of course. In my films people get to see a lot of action sequences which are world class and are at par with Hollywood films. We can say that we make action sequences which are world class and perfectly choreographed. *Fateh* is case in point.

How do you prepare for a role in a film?
Well acting comes naturally to me. I have always loved acting and so when I hear a character in the film I get the idea how to go about it. I can switch on and off between the roles and that is really important because Bollywood works like that. Yes, understanding of the role must be there so that you can do justice to it.

You do a lot of philanthropic work. So what you prefer action for the people in their dire times or action on the screen?
See, life is more than just lights camera action. When there are no lights or camera action continues in the real life. It is a great feeling when you can help someone in need when there is no light no camera. It is important to be sympathetic and have empathy, because cinema is one aspect of life not the other way round.

You have portrayed a range of roles, both positive and negative. Which type do you prefer, and why?
That's correct I accept all types of roles I think I can do justice to. But now on I want to do positive roles. I love playing positive roles and that is the kind roles I would be doing now on.



In *Sandburgs* you will find yourself immersed in an ambiance that feels straight out of America when they serve. The menu is crafted to teleport you to the street style of USA with their presentation, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



SLICE OF AMERICA ON YOUR PLATE

When you step into *Sandburgs*, you're instantly transported to the bustling streets of America usually you might have seen in the web series. From the rustic interiors to the vibrant menu, every corner exudes classic American charm. And the food? It's a culinary celebration of comfort and indulgence. Here's a deep dive into the unforgettable experience that *Sandburgs* offers.



lovers. This unique offering combines marinated cottage cheese with fresh veggies like onion, tomato, and capsicum. The *SB special mint mayo* and *tandoori sauce* elevate the flavours, creating a blend of smoky, tangy, and herby notes in every bite. The warm, crisp bread completes the sandwich, making it a satisfying meal on its own. Other options you could explore in the Sandwiches category are *Peri Peri Cottage press Sandwich*, *Classic Pollo press Sandwich*, *North Pollo Press Sandwich* which are like awesome for the fast food lovers.

BURGERS THAT SPEAK TO YOUR SOUL: The *Garden Dreams Burger* is a masterpiece that deserves a standing ovation. The handmade veggie patty is perfectly crisp on the outside and tender within, paired with fresh lettuce, juicy tomato, and a generous dollop of homemade harissa mayo that gives the burger a delightful kick. The caramelised onions and melted cheddar cheese add layers of sweet and savoury goodness, all nestled in a soft, freshly toasted bun.

CHEESINESS YOU CAN'T SAY NO TO: Cheese lovers, unite! The *Grilled Cheese* is a triple-threat of mozzarella, parmesan, and cheddar cheeses melted



to perfection. The caramelised onions tucked inside add a hint of sweetness that balances the richness of the cheeses. Toasted in freshly baked milk bread, it's a nostalgic nod to classic American comfort food, oozing with gooey goodness. You could also satisfy your taste buds by ordering *Shroom & Cheese* with assorted mushroom ragu with caramelised onion, mozzarella and parmesan cheese toasted in a freshly baked milk bread, *Ham & cheese* with premium pork ham with sharp cheddar cheese and golden fried egg toasted in a freshly baked milk bread.

SIDES THAT COMPLIMENT THE FEAST: What's an American-style meal without crispy potato fries? *Sandburgs'* fries are golden perfection, crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. The variety of dips, including the *Cheese Garlic Dip* and the *tangy BBQ Dip*, allow you to customise your experience. The *Spicy Dip* is a personal favourite, adding just the right amount of heat to the crispy fries.

COOL DRINKS AND COFFEE: The

beverages menu is equally impressive. The *Hazelnut Iced Latte* offers a smooth blend of nutty and creamy flavours, served over ice, making it a refreshing pick-me-up. The *Lemon Iced Tea* is a zesty and revitalising drink, perfect for pairing with the heavy-duty burgers and sandwiches. You could also try *Sundaes - Hot Chocolate Sundae* and *Salted Caramel Sundae* if you are an ice cream fan.

DESSERTS AND BEYOND: Although I didn't try the sundaes this time, their presence on the menu promises a classic American diner experience. The range of beverages, from *Coffee on the Rocks* to *Nice and Warm drinks*, ensures there's something for every palate.

Sandburgs deliver taste but on the promise of a true American-style dining experience. The presentation, flavours, and overall vibe make it a must-visit for anyone craving hearty comfort food. From the meticulous plating to the authentic taste, *Sandburgs* takes you on a culinary journey straight to the heart of America, one delicious bite at a time.



FACTSHEET
Restaurant Name: Sandburgs
Place: Unit 4/E-14, Upper Ground Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi (outlets in Gurgaon as well)
Price for 1: ₹700 approx

Revolutionising Dining Experiences

Japonico: Discover the joy of great food and creative flavours



Pawan Soni
Food critic and founder of the Big F Awards



In a culinary world where new menus often blur into monotony, *Japonico* on Golf Course Road stands out as a beacon of creativity and authenticity. This is a place where innovation meets artistry, delivering a dining experience that surprises and delights even the most seasoned food enthusiasts.

With a view of the bustling metro line on the golf course road, *Japonico's* interiors are a visual treat. The layout is thoughtfully divided: one side features a live wood Robata grill and family-style seating, while the other, overlooking the bar, offers a more high-energy vibe. Striking design elements, live projections on flowing water and giant pots, create a serene yet vibrant ambience. Subtle lighting is balanced by strategically placed spotlights, ensuring that every dish's presentation shines as brightly as its flavours.

A COCKTAIL JOURNEY LIKE NO OTHER: The experience begins with the drinks. *The Legacy*, a gin- and vodka-based martini, exemplifies the bar's mastery. Served with tobiko caviar, pickled radish, and an olive, each element adds depth: the tobiko bursts with wasabi and truffle notes, the radish enhances passion fruit flavours, and the olive ties it back to the martini's classic essence. *Japonico's* mixology programme promises a standard that few can match.

CULINARY HIGHLIGHTS: The meal starts strong with the *Mushroom Salad*, a delightful medley of textures and flavours. Crisp and dehydrated shiitake mushrooms pair beautifully with iceberg lettuce, red cabbage, mizuna, cucumber and avocado, all elevated by a gomasio dressing. The *Rocky Shrimp Tempura*, spiced with togarashi and creamy mayo, may not break new ground, but its flawless execution ensures it's devoured in no time. The dim sum, crafted with precision, leaves no room for leftovers. The star of the meal, however, is the *Atlantic Crab and Aji Chili Taco*. The sweetness of crab meat meets the heat of chilli and the crunch of a

perfectly crisp taco shell, all brightened by a hint of lemon. It's so irresistibly good, you might not want to share. If you're a crab lover, this dish alone is worth the visit.

From the Robata grill comes another standout: the Australian Lamb Cutlet, marinated in gochujang sauce for 24 hours. The result is tender, flavourful meat that melts in your mouth, delivering smoky richness with every bite.

THE TEAM BEHIND THE MAGIC: Great food and drinks require a great team, and *Japonico* is no exception. Restaurateur *Sahil Sambhi*, who I awarded the Best Restaurateur title in the 11th season of The Big F Awards, has honed his craft over the years, evolving from a nightlife innovator to a culinary trailblazer. Known for award-winning ventures like *Bawri* and *VietNom*, Sambhi's passion for innovation and excellence shines through in *Japonico*. At his side are talented mixologists *Chirag Pal* and *Jeet Rana*, and *Chef Roberto Blondi*, who brings Michelin-starred expertise to the table. Together, they've crafted a restaurant that's as much about the experience as it is about the cuisine.

SETTING A NEW STANDARD: As the first major restaurant launch of 2025, *Japonico* has raised the bar for the industry. It's not just a place to eat; it's a statement of what dining should aspire to be. Judging by the weekday crowd, diners agree, this is a benchmark that will be hard to beat.

FACTSHEET

RATINGS (Out of 5)
Food: 4.75 | Drinks: 4.75 | Ambience: 5.0 | Service: 4.5 | Overall: 4.75
Address: Japonico, 2nd Floor, Tower D, Vipul Tech Square, Golf Course Rd, near Sector 42-43, Sector 43, Gurugram
Phone: 9948000039

From Mangalore to Delhi's Table

By TEAM AGENDA

Food has an uncanny way of transporting us. A single bite can take us to a vibrant street, a quiet kitchen or even the shores of a distant coast. At *Chor Bizarre Chef Shriya Shetty's Mangalorean* pop-up did exactly that, bringing the soothing flavours of Mangalore to the heart of Delhi.

The vegetarian journey began with *THINDI*, the *Jowar Tartlet* filled with *red amaranth* cooked in coconut milk and topped with *bajeel* (tempered beaten rice). This delicate appetiser was a celebration of earthy, creamy flavours and contrasting textures.

KUNDAPUR featured the *7-Hour Mushroom Ghee Roast*, served in *Bombay pao* with *ridge gourd tztziki*, *pomegranate* and *cilantro*. The slow-cooked mushrooms were rich and spiced, beautifully balanced by the refreshing *tztziki*.

The *BAFAT* offering, *Mangalorean Sweet Potato Bafath*, came with *sannas* and *tamarind reduction*. This dish delivered a balance of sweetness and tanginess, made complete by the softness of the *sannas*.

The vegetarian MAINS, served *thali-style*, included *Kori Roti*, *Peas* and *Potato Gassi*, *Red Amaranth Raita*, *Ridge Gourd*



paired with luscious *Banana Mousse*, *cacao nibs* and a *tangy pickle drizzle*. *Chef Shriya Shetty's* pop-up offered a delightful way to explore *Mangalorean* culture through its comforting curries, distinct spices and unique pairings. Whether you choose the vegetarian spread or the meatier options, each dish brought the flavours of *Mangalore* alive in every bite.



FACTSHEET
Date & Time: January 19th, 2025
Lunch: 12pm & 2pm
Dinner: 7pm & 9:30pm
Price: Veg ₹1,300 (All Inclusive), Non veg ₹1,600 (All Inclusive)
Address: Broadway, 4/15 A, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi, 110012

Chutney, *Raw Banana* and *Carrot Sukkha*, *Ghee Rice* and accompaniments like *yoghurt* and *pickle*. The comforting *gassi* and *crispy kori roti* were the highlights, offering a fulfilling and balanced experience. For non-vegetarian diners, the *7-Hour Chicken Ghee Roast* from *KUNDAPUR* packed a flavourful punch, while the *Mangalorean Pork Bafath* from *BAFAT* delivered tangy notes with the *sannas* and tamarind reduction. The MAINS featured the *classic Chicken Gassi*, *Chicken Sukkha* and *Ghee Rice*, completing the hearty thali. The meal ended on a sweet note with the *DESSERT*, a warm, buttery *Ghee Cake*

ESSENCE OF ASSAM



The Brahmaputra Carnival celebrates the Assamese heritage, and culinary delights, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



Northeast India, a treasure of cultural diversity and natural beauty, is a region where traditions and modernity coexist in harmony. Among its enchanting states, Assam stands out with its lush tea gardens, lively festivals, and the mighty Brahmaputra River. Assam is all alive with the *Brahmaputra Carnival*, a grand celebration that promises to showcase the region's rich heritage, arts, and cuisine. Set against the stunning backdrop of the majestic river, the carnival features cultural performances, adventure sports, food festivals, and more. It's a unique opportunity to experience the soul of Assam like never before.

A fun carnival that looks like a colourful masterpiece made from Assamese soul, river breezes, and sunshine. On the banks of the majestic Brahmaputra River, Assam culture is celebrated at the *Brahmaputra Carnival*. The river itself is serving as the stage for this festival, which is organised by the Assam Government and is a symphony of culture, adventure, and unadulterated delight.

To make your experience even more fun and adventurous is The *Lachit Ghat* is the site of the *Brahmaputra Carnival*, and *Sandbar Island* serves as the *Tent City* during the event. It takes 15 to 20 minutes by speed boat from the *Lachit Ghat* to *Sandbar Island*, and the journey is visually stunning. If you're considering a trip to the northeast, the sunny and windy weather is ideal for a getaway.



the carnival pulsates with energy, yet maintains a serene undercurrent. The *Brahmaputra*, ever unpredictable, adds a touch of wildness to the festivities, reminding us of the raw power of nature. It's a retreat for the soul, where the peace of the river's embrace melds perfectly with the excitement of adventure.

GLAMPING IN STYLE: The festival provides a luxurious glamping experience with three categories of tents

namely the *Royal Tents*, *Premium Tents*, and *Deluxe Tents*. All of the three options offer you a comfortable and stylish retreat, complete with modern amenities and breathtaking river views that would blow away your mind. Also, one would enjoy the foggy views as soon as you get up and look outside of your tents. The foggy layers engulfing the *Brahmaputra River* will want you to have a cup of tea or coffee with those views and chills. You would also experience the open-air cinema magic



at *Brahmaputra Carnival Tent City*. Movies, fresh air, and unforgettable moments await you. The main part of the stay is the hospitality provided at your new home. The hospitality by *Gias* and his team of boys at the *Tent City* would truly make you comfortable and at home providing everything handy and in need.

ADVENTURES ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA: For the adrenaline junkies, the *Brahmaputra* is



an irresistible playground. At the *Sandbar Island* you would experience the speedboat rides cut through the water like a knife, while kayaking and jet skiing offer a more intimate encounter with the river's currents with your own rapid and water fun. For those seeking a true test of courage, bungee jumping provides an exhilarating leap of faith. And let's not forget the thrill of *ATV rides* and the exhilarating descent on the river rapids during a white-water rafting expedition.

This is not the end. You could also experience the *hot air balloon* rides up into the sky for beautiful views, *beach volleyball*, *beach cricket*, *archery*, *river rafting* and *water roller*. These adventures offer a unique perspective on the Brahmaputra, allowing you to experience its power and beauty firsthand.

At the *Lachit Ghat*, you would experience *Archery*, *River Rafting*, *Water Roller*, *Speed boat*, *Kayaking*, *ATV*, *Bungee Ejection*, *Mechanical Bull Ride*, *Bungee Trampoline*, *Air Gun Shooting*, *Zip Line*, *Rope Course* and *Zorbing*. All this will keep you hooked to the carnival and not wanting to leave it. *Take note that the water activities do not take place after the dark due to safety reasons.*



The *Brahmaputra Carnival* also takes you through the musical ears of *Assam* as bands perform in the concerts in the evening at the *Lachit Ghat*. On the *31st January* the *Carnival* will be graced by the melodic singing of the famous singer *Papon*, on *19th February* it will be *Rupam Buyan* and *19 January* will be rocked by *Kanawz & Company*.

THE TRADITIONAL TASTE: At the *Brahmaputra Carnival* you can indulge in local delicacies that savour the flavours of authentic *Assamese* cuisine. The carnival has food stalls with authentic *Assamese* touch. You would see *chicken momos*, *chicken vodka momos*, *prawns*, *silkworms* and so much more that would satisfy your mouth watery taste buds.

A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER: The *Brahmaputra Carnival* is more than just a festival; it's an invitation to experience the soul of *Assam*. It's a chance to connect with nature, have some adventure, and discover the magic of a land where the river dictates the rhythm of life. So, pack your bags guys, and prepare to be swept away by the essence of the *Brahmaputra Carnival*.





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

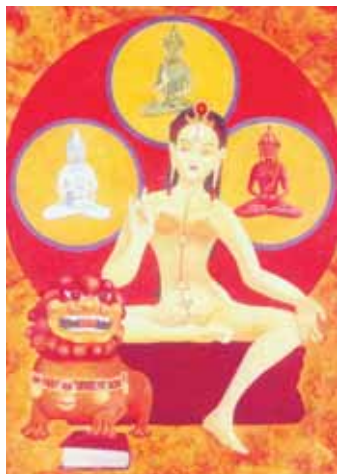
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week opens on a high note, bringing you much-deserved acclaim and a sense of triumph over challenges. At work, your innovative contributions, from fresh ideas to novel technologies, will be warmly embraced and celebrated, enhancing your professional stature. Your ability to explore and implement multifaceted solutions stands out, earning you respect and admiration from colleagues. As the week progresses, you may reconnect with a past acquaintance or visit a place steeped in nostalgic memories, enriching your emotional landscape. This period is marked by joyous family interactions, adding to the week's positive ambiance. Towards the week's close, you might feel a bit drained and concerned, yet your resolve remains unshaken, ready to tackle life's hurdles with confidence.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Midnight Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week is filled with potential and vibrancy, as you may encounter a blossoming relationship, heightened intuition, or a joyful addition to your family. Your innate sense of understanding allows you to identify issues before they are spoken, equipping you with the natural ability to offer timely and effective solutions. Midweek brings a surge of emotion accompanied by fresh hopes and decisive actions. This is a time when your deepest aspirations could begin to take shape, driven by a strong internal guidance. You might find opportunities for material prosperity, whether through professional endeavors or unexpected sources like a gift or legacy. As the week closes, you may find yourself reflecting on past events. It's essential to release these reflections and embrace the present opportunities and joys life presents.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

The week begins under challenging circumstances but concludes with uplifting developments that will inspire you. You may encounter difficulties, errors, and disputes that could sap your spirit. Yet, this period also marks the start of a new phase marked by perseverance and effort. Focus on sharpening your mental acuity by engaging in educational activities or improving your communication skills. Midweek, your attention might shift to matters concerning children, such as securing their admission to reputable educational institutions or addressing their career aspirations. It is vital to offer support and encouragement, particularly to those engaged in rigorous academic pursuits. As the week draws to a close, familial joy and a sense of closeness prevail, bringing satisfaction and good health. The joy brought by family members, especially children, will enhance your well-being.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Saffron
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week holds promising prospects for those feeling grounded and practical. Expect significant career advancements, potentially through a promising job opportunity or a notable increase in earnings. For the recently married, joyful news regarding family expansion may arrive. Prepare for travel, as an upcoming journey could yield substantial financial rewards. However, exercise caution during your travels, as there are indications of potential loss or misleading situations. Protect yourself from negative influences, as it seems some undesirable attention could be directed your way. As the week concludes, a sense of security and happiness will envelop you, supported by the warmth and cooperation of your family. Memories of simpler times may surface, bringing with them a wave of nostalgia. Generosity will be both received and rewarded, enhancing both personal and professional financial situations.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you may find yourself frequently on the move, balancing work commitments with enjoyable activities. You're likely to encounter opportunities for new projects or responsibilities. It will be crucial to allocate sufficient time and energy to ensure their successful completion. Midweek brings a shift towards social engagements, with possible events like parties or community celebrations, offering a delightful break from daily stressors. These gatherings are a chance to unwind and cherish moments with friends and family. As the week concludes, be prepared for increased competition or conflicts in your professional sphere. Tensions could arise, potentially from individuals who may not favor your success. It's important to respond thoughtfully to any challenges, as impulsive reactions could undermine your hard work. Exercise caution and strategic thinking to navigate through any disputes effectively.

Lucky number 25 | Lucky colour Tangerine
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, individuals typically characterized by diligence and a calm demeanor may find themselves quietly progressing toward their objectives, preferring a gentle approach. They may feel a strong sense of destiny guiding their actions more than their own efforts. Midweek could bring a sense of joy due to a significant financial achievement, marking a period of growth and prosperity in business endeavors. Income may increase from various sources, and many ambitious plans could be set in motion. Engagement in spiritual activities or rituals might also capture their interest, underscoring a period rich with favorable developments. Achievements will span several areas of life, including maintaining good health, family achievements, and an abundance of financial gains, all contributing to harmonious relationships with family and friends.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week brings unexpected financial rewards and introduces a compelling and profitable work project that could lead to significant recognition for your innovative ideas. You'll find yourself enjoying life's comforts and luxuries more than usual. Your hard work and perseverance are poised to elevate your professional status, supported by a sense of divine favor. This period also ignites a spiritual awakening, encouraging you to engage in reflective practices such as meditation, devotional activities, or charitable efforts. As the week concludes, a long-anticipated opportunity will present itself, offering the chance to pursue a cherished goal. Dedicate yourself fully to this endeavor to harness the full extent of your potential. Remember, perseverance and intelligence are key to capitalizing on this promising time.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week heralds a phase of abundance, accompanied by intellectual growth and a sense of fulfillment. Expect a strong foundation in your finances, ensuring stability and comfort. This could be the result of previous efforts or potentially from an unexpected source. Your discipline and achievements will not go unnoticed, earning you well-deserved recognition and pride. It's an opportune moment to initiate new ventures or relationships. Collaborations will flow smoothly due to your adept understanding of interpersonal dynamics. However, the latter part of the week might see a shift from clarity to uncertainty. It's important to avoid dwelling on past fears when facing the future. Rash decisions and confrontational behavior could complicate matters. Embrace calmness and clarity to navigate through any challenges, allowing you to find effective solutions effortlessly.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Violet
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week begins amid unresolved challenges that are causing you stress. A sense of isolation and a heavy air of doubt might be overwhelming. You find yourself perplexed, seeking a way out of these difficulties without a clear solution in sight. It's important to reflect on your past actions and future direction. Gaining this perspective will help smooth your path forward and shift from a negative to a more positive mindset. Embrace and honor your emotions; they hold significant power to positively transform your circumstances. When there's harmony between your physical and mental states, remarkable achievements become possible. As the week closes, anticipate significant life changes that will bring some relief to your mental tension. Joyful events, such as significant personal milestones or professional successes, are on the horizon, offering you moments of happiness.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Rose
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, those with sensitive dispositions might find themselves grappling with fluctuating emotions and a lack of mental balance. Several pressing matters require their attention, demanding immediate and decisive actions to move forward effectively. Amidst this mental unrest, there's a tendency to multitask excessively, which complicates setting priorities and achieving clarity. It's essential to cultivate focus to avoid becoming mired in indecision. Embracing practices like spiritual reflection, meditation, or yoga could greatly benefit mental stability. An unexpected reunion with a familiar face from the past promises delightful moments of nostalgia, enhancing emotional well-being. Support and wise counsel from a respected mentor will provide much-needed guidance, making it easier to navigate challenges. By week's end, a sense of stability and well-being, both financially and emotionally, is likely to prevail.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you may find yourself swiftly adapting to dynamic shifts in your life, which could include a sudden opportunity to join a new organization or company. This sudden influx of choices might leave you feeling uncertain and indecisive, but remember, a decision must be made. Expect a week brimming with activity and innovation. You are at the cusp of concluding one phase and embarking on a new, more profound phase of your journey. It's time to leave the past behind and set your sights on what lies ahead. A firm decision now will set the stage for a harmonious alignment of your thoughts and emotions towards the end of the week, enhancing your career prospects significantly. You'll emerge from this period feeling wiser and more emotionally mature.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

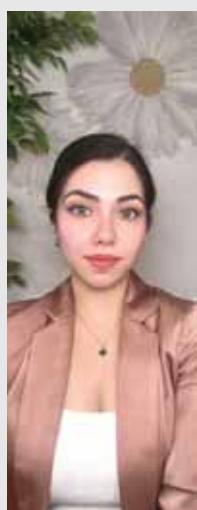
You may find yourself embarking on an extended trip soon, which includes participating in various meetings or workshops. Challenges could arise in your professional environment, potentially involving competition or difficult obstacles, so tread cautiously. Emotional connections may also be strained during this period, possibly leading to feelings of rejection or disconnection. Remember to prioritize your wellbeing during these times, but rest assured that these challenges are only temporary. By the end of this period, you'll notice a restoration of order and balance in your life, signaling a shift towards more positive circumstances. The comforting presence of maternal affection will bring a sense of security and warmth. If you're hoping to nurture new relationships, career opportunities, or ventures, give them the attention and patience they require to flourish.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Copper
Lucky day Tuesday

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The Power of Gratitude Journaling

THE LIFE GUIDANCE



Seerat Kaur Marwaha

The positive effects of gratitude extend beyond mental health. Gratitude journaling helps with better sleep, reduced blood pressure and improved immune function

Gratitude is often described as the quality of being thankful and the readiness to show appreciation for and return kindness. It is a fundamental human emotion, yet its potential to transform lives is frequently underestimated. *Gratitude journaling*, a simple practice of recording things you are thankful for, has emerged as a powerful tool for fostering emotional well-being, enhancing mental health, and even improving physical health. By consciously focusing on the positive aspects of life, gratitude journaling reshapes perspectives, rewires the brain, and cultivates happiness. The concept of gratitude has long been studied in psychology, particularly within the field of positive psychology. Researchers Dr. Robert Emmons and Dr. Michael McCullough are pioneers in studying gratitude. Emmons defines gratitude as a two-step process: recognising that one has obtained a positive outcome and acknowledging that there is an external source for this positive outcome. This perspective connects gratitude not only to personal satisfaction but also to relational and societal harmony. Neuroscience supports the transformative effects of gratitude. Studies using functional MRI scans show that practicing gratitude activates the brain's reward system, specifically the medial prefrontal cortex. This area is associated with decision-making and the regulation of emo-

tions. Furthermore, gratitude enhances the production of neurotransmitters like dopamine and serotonin, often referred to as the "feel-good" chemicals. These changes not only foster happiness but also mitigate symptoms of anxiety and depression. *Gratitude journaling* involves regularly writing down things you are grateful for. This practice may appear simplistic, but its effects are profound. Research indicates that *gratitude journaling* can reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. A 2015 study published in the journal *Psychotherapy Research* found that individuals who engaged in gratitude writing reported significantly better mental health outcomes compared to those who focused on negative emotions or did not engage in any writing practice. Gratitude helps reframe thoughts, reducing rumination and encouraging a focus on the positive. Putting gratitude on paper promotes emotional resilience by encouraging individuals to concentrate on their blessings rather than their shortcomings. This positive focus redirects attention away from stress and difficulties, fostering a mental buffer that strengthens the ability to navigate adversity. Research by Dr. Emmons highlights that gratitude significantly boosts optimism, a critical factor in building resilience. Reflecting on the kindness and support received from others through *gratitude*



journaling can significantly improve interpersonal relationships. By deepening appreciation for those around us, it strengthens social bonds. According to a study published in the journal *Emotion*, gratitude not only enhances feelings of connection but also inspires prosocial behaviour. The positive effects of gratitude extend beyond mental health. *Gratitude journaling* has been associated with better sleep, reduced blood pressure, and improved immune function. A study in the journal *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being* found that participants who practiced *gratitude journaling* for two weeks experienced better sleep quality and longer duration, likely due to reduced stress levels.

Incorporating *gratitude journaling* into daily life is simple and requires minimal resources. Dedicate a specific time each day for journaling. Many people find that writing before bedtime helps them reflect on the day and end it on a positive note. Begin by listing three things you are grateful for each day. These can be as simple as a good meal, a kind word, or a moment of laughter. Rather than writing "I am grateful for my family," elaborate on a specific moment, such as "I am grateful for the conversation I had with my sister today, which made me feel understood." Dive deep into one or two experiences rather than creating a long list. This approach helps reinforce the emotional impact of the practice. Incorporate gratitude for challenges and lessons learned. This reframes obstacles as opportunities for growth. If you struggle to get started, use prompts such as, "What made me smile today?" or "What is something I take for granted but am truly thankful for?" The power of this practice is evident in countless personal stories. For instance, individuals recovering from trauma often find solace in gratitude practices. One such example comes from veterans participating in a gratitude program developed by the University of California, Berkeley. Many reported reduced symptoms of PTSD and improved overall well-being after weeks of *gratitude journaling*. Similarly, organisations like schools and

workplaces have embraced gratitude initiatives to foster a positive culture. Employees and students who engage in gratitude practices report higher satisfaction, productivity, and collaboration. In today's fast-paced, often overwhelming world, journaling serves as a grounding practice. Social media, while connecting people, can amplify feelings of inadequacy through constant comparison. *Gratitude journaling* counters this effect by focusing on intrinsic values and personal blessings rather than external validation. Moreover, technological advancements have made this journaling more accessible. Apps like "Gratitude," "Five Minute Journal," and "Day One" offer digital platforms for consistent journaling, making the practice convenient and engaging. *Gratitude journaling* is more than a habit; it is a transformative practice that rewires the brain, reshapes perspectives, and fosters holistic well-being. By consistently focusing on the positive aspects of life, individuals can enhance their mental and physical health, build resilience, and nurture meaningful relationships. Scientific research supports the profound impact of gratitude, making it a cornerstone of emotional intelligence and personal growth. In a world that often emphasises what is missing, *gratitude journaling* reminds us to cherish what we already have, transforming lives one thought at a time.

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@dailypioneer.com