



CHAMPIONS BRING THE TROPHY HOME! JAI HO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai
India sealed an unprecedented third Champions Trophy triumph with an unblemished record as Rohit Sharma combined his inherent freedom with steely resolve to inspire his side to a four-wicket win in a closely-fought final against New Zealand, here on Sunday.
India won the trophy without losing a match, reflecting their dominance in the tournament which they won back in 2002 and 2013.
No other team has won the event thrice. Well-timed fifties by Daryl Mitchell (63) and Michael Bracewell (53) steered the Kiwis to 251 for seven after Indian spinners led by Kuldeep Yadav applied the squeeze for a large part of their innings.
Indian batters needed to capitalise on that fine effort of the bowlers, and Rohit, who many believe was featuring in his last ODI match for India, led from the front, slipping into his tur-



bocharged version almost immediately. The chase of 252 grew tight in the business end while the Blackcaps spinners were operating on a sluggish pitch, but skipper Rohit's ebullient 83-ball 76 had already given them the cushion to overhaul the target in 49 overs.
KL Rahul with his 34 not out, there was no dramatic twist to the tale, leading the side past the finish line after India lost well-settled batters.
Pacer Nathan Smith, who replaced injured Matt Henry in the line-up, felt the heat as the 37-year-old Rohit hammered him for two sixes and as many fours in the beginning of the chase.
At the other end Shubman Gill (31), who helped Rohit to raise 105 runs for the opening wicket, was more subdued and the lone spark in his innings was a maximum off spinner Rachin Ravindra.



WINS THROUGH DECADES		
Year	Winner	Margin of wins
1998	South Africa	South Africa won by 4 wickets
2000	New Zealand	New Zealand won by 4 wickets
2002	Sri Lanka and India	India and Sri Lanka declared co-champions
2004	West Indies	West Indies won by 2 wickets
2006	Australia	Australia won by 8 wickets
2009	Australia	Australia won by 6 wickets
2013	India	India won by 5 runs
2017	Pakistan	Pakistan won by 180 runs
2025	India	India won by 4 wickets

India, what is wrong with these men?

Macabre carnality in Hampi

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ Bengaluru
Hampi, a UNESCO world heritage site in Karnataka, is in the news for wrong reasons as two women including an Israeli tourist, were raped at knifepoint by a group of local persons who robbed their mobile phones and Rs 9,500 cash late Thursday night.
An Orissa youth Bipash, who was with the victims at the time of attack, was bashed up by the group and thrown into Thungabhadra Canal. His body was recovered on Friday morning while two friends of the victims jumped into the canal and swam to safety. One of the victim was a US citizen while the other person was from Nashik in Maharashtra.
The Israeli lady and her female companion, who was the former's host, went to the scenic Koppal for stargazing around Thursday midnight, when the attack happened. The police, according to Ram Arasiddi, the Superintendent of Police, Koppal told media persons that two of the attackers have been arrested and a search was

on to trace the third person. The arrested duo has been identified by the victims and their associates. Both the women are undergoing treatment at a government run hospital in Koppal.
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar took to social media and condemned the incident. Siddaramaiah described the attack on women as a most heinous act. The police are yet to catch hold of the third attacker even at the time of going to Press on Sunday evening. Police said the names of arrested persons were Handi Malla (22) and Chetan Sai (21).
What has upset the local population is the timing of the incident as this is considered as a tourist season in Hampi which draws a lot of tourists from India and abroad. "This is likely to cause a rethinking on the part of travelers who had selected Hampi, which is hardly 25 km away from the spot," said M R Hari, CEO, Invis Muti Media, tourism management and consultancy services.

Perverse depravity in Pune

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Pune
A man arrested for alighting from a BMW and urinating at a traffic junction in Pune was on Sunday remanded in police custody till March 10 along with his co-passenger. A video of the act, which took place on Saturday morning in Shastrinagar in Yerawada area, had gone viral on social media, prompting police to book Gaurav Ahuja (25) and Bhagyesh Oswal (22) for public nuisance, rash and negligent driving, causing danger on public roads and other offences under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Motor Vehicles Act.
While Oswal was arrested from his residence on Saturday, Ahuja, who was driving the car, was detained hours later from Karad in neighbouring Satara district and was placed under arrest in the early hours of Sunday, a

police official said.
In the clip that went viral on social media platforms, Oswal can be seen occupying the front seat of the luxury car, while Ahuja is urinating at a traffic junction before taking to the wheel and speeding off after making an obscene gesture at a person videoling the incident.
Ahuja and Oswal were produced in the sessions court here, with the public prosecutor seeking seven-day police remand to allow a probe into whether the two had consumed any narcotic substance. The duo's lawyer opposed the remand plea claiming police was working under political and media pressure and had invoked BNS sections that did not apply to the case. After hearings arguments from both sides, the court remanded Ahuja and Oswal in police remand till March 10.

Sick obscenity booked in Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Patna
Bihar Police has ordered a statewide crackdown on the public playing of double-meaning Bhojpuri songs, calling it a "burning social problem" that endangers women's security and has a "perverse effect" on children's minds. The move comes as authorities aim to curb the growing influence of vulgar songs in public spaces, warning of strict action against violators.
A circular issued by the state Police Headquarters directs all Inspector Generals (IGs), Deputy Inspector Generals (DIGs), and railway police to take action against those playing such songs in public spaces. "A special drive must be carried out across the state to identify those who indulge in such activities and promote vulgar and double-meaning Bhojpuri songs," the circular stated. The move comes swiftly after renowned actress Neetu Chandra took a strong stance against vulgarity in music by filing a PIL in the Patna High Court. Her petition specifically targets singer Yo Yo Honey Singh's latest song, Maniac, citing its objectionable content. Neetu who authored an article for The Pioneer on the

issue on occasion of Women's Day, also urged the court to impose a ban on Bhojpuri songs that promote misogyny, arguing that their lyrics often objectify and demean women. In this regards she also met top Bihar police officials including DGP Vinay Kumar on Sunday.
The letter highlights concerns about the impact of these songs on society. "It becomes embarrassing for women when they hear such vulgar and double-meaning Bhojpuri songs at public places, functions, buses, trucks, and auto-rickshaws," it read.
The directive also stressed that such songs create an unsafe atmosphere. "Sometimes they feel insecure also when such songs are played. Strict action should be taken against those who are caught violating the directive in this regard," the circular added.
People caught playing such songs in public spaces will face legal action under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The issue has been a subject of concern in the Bihar Assembly as well. Responding to the demand, the state government had assured that "strict action would be taken against those who promote obscene and double-meaning Bhojpuri songs."

Terror continues unabated in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu
Amid large scale protests against the 'targeted killing' of three members of a Hindu family in the remote Billawar area of Kathua, the Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan Sunday chaired a high level security review meeting with different heads of the paramilitary forces, senior army and intelligence agency officers in Jammu to chalk out a 'comprehensive strategy' to tackle the threat on ground zero.
According to highly placed official sources, the Union Home Secretary was briefed in detail about the dynamic deployment pattern of additional troops inducted in the region to further beef up security ahead of the summer season.
Senior BSF and CRPF officers who attended the meeting were directed to enhance vigil and surveillance along the border villages to prevent any fresh infiltration.
The intelligence agencies also briefed the Union Home Secretary about the efforts being made to generate pin pointed human intelligence to flush out the Pakistani terrorists hiding in the region with the help of their sympathizers and over ground workers.
The J and K police Chief and army commanders briefed the Union Home Secretary about the ongoing anti-terrorist operations launched across the Jammu region to neutralise these foreign terrorists. Recent assessment of various intelligence agencies suggested presence of several groups of Pakistani terrorists across several districts of Jammu region. During the meeting a thorough review of security arrangements for the proposed start of railway services connecting Kashmir Valley with the rest of country was also reviewed.
Ahead of the crucial security review meeting the entire Billawar belt and other adjoining areas witnessed complete shutdown against the rising

incidents of civilian killings.
Local BJP MLA Satish Sharma and leader of the opposition in the J & K Assembly Sunil Sharma visited Billawar to pacify the agitated residents and delivered a strong message on behalf of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to stay united in the decisive fight against the 'faceless' enemy.
As situation remained volatile in the absence of a postmortem report of the deceased civilians including a teenager, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Sunday ordered a thorough and transparent investigation into the killing of three relatives of a family in Kathua. The doctors panel handed over the dead bodies of the deceased to their relatives late Dunday afternoon. The last rites will be performed on Monday.
This is a clear case of target killings by terrorists...we want the government to intensify the anti-terrorist operations in the forests to neutralise them.
— Gopal Krishan, BJP leader
The probe was ordered after Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh directly pointed to the involvement of terrorists in the killing of three civilians.
According to police, the bodies of Varun Singh (15), his paternal uncle Yogesh Singh (32) and maternal uncle Darshan Singh (40) were found from the Ishu nullah in the remote Malhar area in the higher reaches of the district on Saturday. The trio had gone missing on March 5.
"I have ordered a thorough and transparent investigation, and all the necessary support to the families will be provided," the LG said in a post on X.
He said he was shocked and saddened beyond words at the brutal killing of the three.

"I assure the people that the perpetrators will be brought to book at the earliest. Justice will be ensured and accountability will be fixed," Sinha said.
He offered his condolences to the families and friends of the deceased.
However, the Union Minister said the killings were a matter of great concern.
"The brutal killing of 3 youth by terrorists in Bani area of district Kathua is extremely sad as well as a matter of great concern. There appears to be a deep conspiracy behind spoiling the atmosphere in this peaceful area," the minister, who represents Udhampur Parliamentary constituency that covers Kathua, said on X.
"We have discussed this matter with the officials concerned. The Union Home Secretary himself is reaching Jammu so that the situation can be assessed on the spot. I am confident that it will be ensured that such incidents do not happen again and the confidence of the people remains strong," he said.
Addressing a gathering of protestors in Billawar local BJP leader Gopal Krishan said, "This is a clear case of target killings by terrorists, engulfing the peaceful area in fear and anger...we want the government to intensify the anti-terrorist operations in the forests to neutralise the terrorists hiding in the forests for the last one year".
He said the people will not allow the terrorists to succeed in their designs and harm the communal harmony by carrying out selective killings.
Senior BJP leader and Billawar MLA Satish Sharma, who visited the deceased family, said it is premature to say who killed the three civilians. "It is a matter of investigation as nobody has seen how they were killed. Police are looking in all aspects, including the terror angle, in the case," he said.

Opposition plots an EPIC session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi
The second leg of the Parliament Budget session will resume on Monday amid indications of an 'EPIC' showdown between the Centre and the Opposition, which is planning to raise issues such as the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls, the fresh bout of violence in Manipur and India's handling of the Trump administration.
The focus of the government will be on getting Parliament nod for the demands for grants, completion of the budgetary process, seeking approval for the Manipur budget and passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill.
Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution seeking Parliament approval for the proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also scheduled to table the budget for Manipur on Monday. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13 after the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.
The Opposition said it is set to corner the government over the issue of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. The Trinamool Congress has taken the lead in flagging the issue, following which the Election Commission declared that it would take corrective measures within the next three months.
The Election Commission had rejected the Trinamool Congress

claim that the voter lists were manipulated to allow voters from other states to exercise their franchise in West Bengal.
The poll body also made it clear that while the EPIC numbers of some voters "may be identical", other details such as demographic information, Assembly constituency and polling booth are different. Trinamool Congress leaders are meeting the Election Commission on Monday and have also rallied other opposition parties, including

A Joint Committee of Parliament submitted its report on the bill in the Lok Sabha amid vociferous protests by the opposition.
Issues such as the fresh violence in Manipur, the threat of reciprocal tariffs by US President Donald Trump, the political furor over the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies are also expected to find an echo in Parliament.
Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has said the opposition INDIA bloc leaders will hold "extensive consul-



Manipur far cry from normal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Imphal
Normal life was affected in Kuki-dominated areas of Manipur on Sunday as agitators enforced an indefinite shutdown called by Kuki-Zo groups against a "crackdown by security forces".
The situation in Kangpokpi district, where at least one person was killed and 40 others were injured in clashes between Kuki demonstrators and security forces on the previous day, remained tense but calm on Sunday.
In other Kuki-dominated areas in Churachandpur and Tengnoupal districts as well, protesters burnt tyres and blocked roads with boulders, which the security forces were seen clearing. However, no fresh violence has been reported so far.
Business establishments remained closed and few vehicles were seen plying the roads in Kuki-dominated areas in the state. Agitators were seen asking people to remain indoors.
Additional security forces have been deployed in Gamghiphal and other parts of the district along the NH-2 (Imphal-Dimapur Road) and

vehicular patrolling was being conducted to ensure law and order, a district official said.
A protester was killed while over 40 others, including women and policemen, were injured in clashes between Kuki demonstrators and security forces in different parts of Kangpokpi district on Saturday, officials said.
Clashes erupted between demonstrators and security forces in the Kuki-dominated district after police fired tear gas shells to disperse them, as they opposed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive allowing free movement across the state. Protesters clashed with security forces till late on Saturday night as the agitators used catapults against the law enforcers, he said, adding windshields of at least five vehicles of the security forces were damaged.
The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a Kuki-Zo body, extended support to the indefinite shutdown called by Kuki Zo Council (KZC) in all areas inhabited by the community in Manipur to protest the crackdown of security forces on demonstrators protesting free movement along all roads in the ethnic strife-torn state.

Rahul Gandhi's mochi steps into global shoes

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Sultanpur
A year ago, Ramchet, a 60-year-old cobbler from Sultanpur, spent his days stitching and repairing footwear in a small roadside shop, barely making ends meet. Today, he is gearing up to launch his own footwear brand, 'Ramchet Mochi', thanks to the support and mentorship of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.
Ramchet's journey took a turn when Rahul Gandhi, during his outreach programs, noticed his craftsmanship and decided to help. The Congress MP from Rae Bareilly gifted him a machine to improve his work and later invited him to Delhi, where he had the opportunity to present his handmade slippers to Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at 10, Janpath.
In a further push to his entrepreneurial dream, Rahul Gandhi arranged for Ramchet to visit Mumbai, where he met Sudheer Rajbhar, a well-known leather entrepreneur and founder of the design brand Chamar Studio. For Ramchet, who had never boarded a flight before, the experience was

eye-opening.
"I saw innovative footwear and bag designs using the wood and rubber. I also experimented with machine-based crafting techniques. Rahul Gandhi



Rahul Gandhi arranged for Ramchet to visit Mumbai, where he met Sudheer Rajbhar, a well-known leather entrepreneur. PIONEER PHOTO

and Sudheer Rajbhar encouraged me to take my skills to the next level," Ramchet told local reporters in Sultanpur.
Since then, Ramchet has expanded his work. He has set up a small workshop with a few artisans and invested in better tools. His son, who once had no interest in the trade, now spends hours each day learning the craft. The cobbler who once earned Rs 100-150 per day now earns in thousands and dreams of building his own brand.
Rahul Gandhi, who shared their meeting on social media on March 6, praised Rajbhar's success story as an example of Dalit entrepreneurship and the potential of traditional artisans when given access to opportunities.
For Ramchet, the dream is no longer just about survival. With his new brand taking shape, he hopes to inspire other local artisans to believe in their craft and strive for something bigger.
Congress leaders have praised Rahul's initiative, calling it a model for grassroots entrepreneurship.

Mamata created Frankenstein's monster at JU: Adhikari

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

The Frankenstein's monster at the Jadavpur University (JU) is a creation of Mamata Banerjee, State Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari on Sunday said adding the former had manufactured the entanglement inside the JU campus in order to afford a lease of life to the Marxists and make them relevant in the State politics once again. This, in order to divide the anti-Trinamool Congress votes and impede BJP's ascendancy. Adhikari who led an impressive rally of saffron workers skirting the Jadavpur University campus said, "The Frankenstein's monster at Jadavpur has been manufactured by Mamata Banerjee. The entire drama is being directed by her to give the CPI(M) a fresh lease of life in Bengal Trinamool Congress has teamed up with the Left to make them relevant again in the State," in order to divide the Hindu votes and hinder BJP's emergence to power.

Adhikari organised the rally more than a week after a commotion broke out inside the JU campus where the Left wing students including the CPI(M) affiliated Students' Federation of India gheraoed State Education Minister Bratya Basu whose vehicle then allegedly forced its exit out of the campus grievously injuring a couple of students. Basu visited the University to attend a meeting of the Trinamool Congress-backed West Bengal College and University Professors' Association (WBCUPA). The students were demanding from the Minister a deadline for staging of students' body elections in the State. The elections to the students' unions have not been held for the past eight years. Adhikari who also demanded the arrest of Basu for the JU incident said, "This is a drama that has been jointly enacted by Salim and Hakim — (read CPI(M) State secretary Md Salim and senior TMC leader and Minister Firhad Hakim) — in order to divert the attention of the people from other more important issues and



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

once again divide the Opposition vote, but we will expose them soon. Jadavpur has become a hub of anti-national elements who thrive by drugs and impose their hegemony inside the campus. We will organise a mass convention after March 15 and go out on an awareness campaign throughout the State where we will tell the people about this TMC-Left camaraderie. We will not leave them." Adhikari's colleague in the State Assembly Amarnath Shakha too attacked the Left from "perpetrating a goonda raj inside the Jadavpur campus. Mamata Banerjee's Government cannot take care of them. They are hand in gloves with them, leave them up to the BJP. It will take half-an-hour to restore order in JU. The CPI(M) and TMC are destroying the campus which was once a seat of nationalist learning." Curiously the TMC leadership too had issued similar threats against the JU students. While Bengal Minister Arup Biswas said that it would take one minute for his party

men to enter and subjugate JU, his party colleague and MP Sayani Ghosh said that it was because of the restraint being exercised by Mamata Banerjee that JU were perpetrating their illegal acts. "Mamata Banerjee is showing remarkable patience despite provocations by the Left-wing students. Due to the patience shown by the CM, police are not entering the campus despite the attack on the Minister." The Left however "invited" the TMC and BJP to enter JU forcibly and "see the consequence." CPI(M) leader Sriyan Bhattacharya said that "repeatedly these leaders of BJP and TMC are issuing threats this means the students are on the democratic track let them enter the campus and then face the consequence in the people." Meanwhile much like what happened in the aftermath of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case a section of the civil society on Sunday took out a long procession demanding justice for the students of JU.

Worker dies in factory collapse, rescues ongoing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ludhiana

One more worker died in the factory building collapse here, while the rescue operation was still on, as another worker was stated to be trapped under the debris, officials said on Sunday. The worker's body was brought out from under the debris on Sunday, taking the death toll in the incident to two, they said. On Saturday evening, a worker was killed after the building of a textile factory collapsed in the focal point area here. Two teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), along with police, fire brigade and the municipal corporation, were undertaking the rescue operation, the officials said. Sources said repair work was being taken up in the factory when a pillar gave way. An eyewitness on Saturday said a loud sound was heard before the building caved in. On Sunday, Deputy Commissioner Jitendra Jorwal said that two workers have died in the incident. The rescue operations are still going on to locate one worker who is stated to be



Rescue work underway after a multi-storey building of a textile factory collapsed in Ludhiana

trapped beneath the debris after the incident that occurred around 5 pm Saturday, the officials said. Due to the substantial amount of debris, rescue teams are removing it carefully using manual equipment, they said. Deputy Commissioner Jorwal said a magisterial probe has been ordered to

investigate the exact cause of the incident. An FIR has also been registered in connection with the incident. Compensation will be provided to the families of the deceased while the government will cover the medical expenses for the workers who were injured in the incident, the officials said.

Mumbai's electric bus drivers trained at Dindoshi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

More than seven years after inducting its first electric bus, the civic-run Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking has started training drivers at Dindoshi centre in north Mumbai for the changes in technology the vehicles come with, an official said on Sunday. The trigger apparently is the accident of a 12-metre electric bus on the congested SG Barve Marg in Kurla West on December 9 in which nine persons died, several others were injured and more than 20 vehicles suffered damage. The driver of the vehicle had been deployed on the bus since December 1 after just three days of training, which some experts claimed may have been the cause of the accident. They had flagged "human error". A panel of experts appointed by BEST after the

accident had recommended that private bus operators deploy a couple of e-buses to facilitate the training of drivers. The first e-bus was inducted into the BEST fleet in November 2017. Most e-buses have automatic transmission and do not have clutch like conventional manual transmission buses, the official said. "The Dindoshi facility used to train drivers for diesel buses. Now, an old 12-metre e-bus from Olectra has been deployed for training purposes. It has been made into a dual-control bus fitted with a secondary brake system on the left side for effective control and has been approved by the RTO for exclusive drive training," the official said. The bus has been provided by EveyTrans Private Limited, which has bagged two separate contracts for supplying 2100 and 2400 buses, respectively, to BEST, the official said.

J and K achieves single digit neonatal mortality rate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jammu

The neonatal mortality rate (NMR) has reached single digit at 9.8 per 1,000 live births in Jammu and Kashmir, recording a 13.3-point decrease, while the sex ratio at birth has recorded significant improvement from 923 to 976, official data showed. The infant mortality rate (IMR) also dipped to 16.3, marking a drop of 16.1 points, according to the Economic Survey Report for 2024-25 tabled by the Jammu and Kashmir government in the Assembly on March 6. The report said the government is continuing its efforts to enhance basic health infrastructure at all levels, including technical manpower and medical equipment to provide improved healthcare delivery with special focus on maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and to face the upcoming challenging ailments. Jammu and Kashmir has moved forward from the category of 'performers' to 'front-runners', as per the SDG India Index 2023-24 released by the NITI Aayog, with the score of the health sector increasing from 70 to 78. "The NMR has reached a single digit of 9.8 per 1,000 live births, a 13.3-point decrease, while the IMR has dipped to 16.3 with a decrease of 16.1 points. Sex ratio at birth also recorded a significant improvement, from 923 to 976," the report said. The percentage of fully-immunised children against preventable diseases has increased to 96.5 per cent, it said. Institutional births have increased from 85.6 per cent to 92.40 per cent, while life expectancy at birth in J-K has reached 74.3 years — the highest in the country after Kerala and Delhi — against a national average of 70 years, the report said. Since its inception, 100 per cent families have registered and 86.12 Lakh Ayushman Golden cards have been issued under the AB-PMJAY — SEHAT scheme, it said, adding that this initiative has facilitated treatments worth ₹2,800 Crore, benefiting 15 Lakh individuals. As many as 489 ambulances have been geo-tagged and integrated with online 108 or 102 ambulatory services. These efforts have enabled quick response times (average response time less than half-an-hour) and served more than 4.50 lakh beneficiaries since August 2020. Over the past four years, J and K has significantly expanded its healthcare workforce, including hiring of 10,919 doctors and paramedical staff under the National Health Mission (NHM), alongside filling up of 36,274 regular positions in health and medical education, besides supporting 13,965 ASHA workers, the report said. Infrastructural upgradation and consolidation of health institutions include two AIIMS, two state cancer institutes and two bone and joint hospitals, the report said.



Rescue operation underway to trace workers trapped inside SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool

Cadaver dogs deployed in SLBC tunnel rescue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nagarkurnool

Cadaver dogs will be deployed inside the partially collapsed Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel here on Sunday to search for human remains, as the rescue operation to save eight trapped persons entered its 16th day. The dogs joined the rescue efforts on March 7, when they were taken inside the tunnel. The canines, specially trained to detect human remains, would be taken into the tunnel on Sunday, a police official said. Rescue teams will dig beyond five feet at two points identified by Human Remains Detection Dogs (HRDDs), as workers may be trapped in the second layer of the dismantled tunnel boring machine (TBM), according to a senior official on Saturday. The Kerala police's Belgian Malinois breed dogs are capable of detecting

scent from a depth of up to 15 feet. The Telangana government has decided to deploy robots for the rescue operation from March 11 to ensure the safety of rescue personnel, as the challenging conditions inside the tunnel, including water and slush, pose significant risks. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has submitted an initial report in which, among other things, it has cautioned that rescue operations should be carried out with extreme caution and care in the last 70 metres (at the accident site), the official said. As the fragments of the huge TBM got submerged under water, soil and stones inside the tunnel, they caused a hazard to the rescue team. The rescue operation has been going on amid challenging conditions, including muck and seepage of water. Eight persons — engineers and labourers — have been trapped in the SLBC project tunnel since February 22

Nitish Kumar issues appointment letters to new teachers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Patna

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar handed over appointment letters to 51,389 newly recruited teachers on Sunday. These teachers were recruited by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) through the third phase of the Teachers' Recruitment Examination (TRE-3). Speaking at the function, the CM said that apart from 2,68,548 teachers recruited in the three phases, 42,918 candidates have cleared the exam for headmasters

and they will get the appointment letters next month. "Further, 2,53,961 teachers, who were earlier appointed by Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies, also cleared competency test to get the government employee status," he said. "Now, the total number of government teachers in the state will be 5,65,427," he added. Kumar said his government is taking all measures to ensure the overall development of the education sector in the state. "The share of the state budget ear-

marked for education has reached 22 per cent, and it will be further increased. Right from the beginning, education, especially that for girls, has remained the top priority of the state government," he said. Leader of the opposition in the assembly Tejashwi Yadav said the process for the recruitment of these teachers started during the previous Mahagathabandhan government. Yadav was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an RJD protest to press for the implementation of 65 per cent reservation for backward communities in state government jobs.

Three injured in Mumbai gas pipeline fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Three persons suffered burn injuries after a leaking gas pipeline caught fire on a road in Mumbai's Andheri area early on Sunday, an official said. Two vehicles were also damaged in the incident, he said. The Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) in a statement later said the pipeline was damaged due to the "JCB impact during unauthorised, uncontrolled digging". The blaze erupted at 12.35 am in a heavily leaking supply pipeline of the MGL, passing through the middle of a road at Sher-E-Punjab society near a gurdwara at Takshila in Andheri (East) area, a fire official said earlier in the day. It was a "level-one" fire which was confined to two moving vehicles, he said. A two-wheeler rider, Arvindkumar Kaithal (21), suffered 30 to 40 per cent burns, another biker, Aman Harishankar Saroj (22), sustained 40 to 50 per cent burn injuries, and auto-rickshaw driver



Repair work underway after leaking of a gas pipeline in Mumbai

Suresh Kailas Gupta (52) suffered 20 per cent burns, he said. A water tanker, a fire engine and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was extinguished by 1.34 am, the official said. The three injured persons were taken to the Balasaheb Thackeray Trauma Care Centre in Jogeshwari for treatment. Kaithal and Saroj, however, took discharge against

medical advice, the official said. The MGL in its statement said the gas pipeline was damaged due to the JCB (earth-excavating machine) impact during unauthorised and uncontrolled digging last night, leading to the fire. The fire brigade and the MGL emergency team extinguished the blaze. The gas supply was stopped for repair work of the pipeline, it said.

ASHA workers combat TB stigma in UP with nationwide screening initiative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Ranjana Chaudhary, a 28-year-old ASHA worker in Uttar Pradesh's Siddharthnagar visits six to seven houses in Madhubeniya village every day with an aim to eradicate the stigma behind Tuberculosis and encourage villagers to get screened for the disease. "Social stigma is still a major impediment due to which people do not readily come forward for testing for the deadly contagious air-borne disease. "No no, why should I have TB?" she said irritatingly. Chaudhary and lakhs of ASHA workers in remote areas of the country face the daunting challenge of convincing people to attend tuberculosis screening camps and

are mobilising vulnerable people to such camps under the ongoing pan India 100-Day Intensified Campaign to Eliminate TB. Aimed at accelerating efforts towards eliminating Tuberculosis from the country, the government has been proactively screening and testing vulnerable populations such as diabetics, smokers, alcoholics, those who are malnourished, people living with HIV, individuals with a history of TB or COVID, the elderly and household contacts of TB patients. Since the launch of the 100-day campaign in December last year, the TB programme has notified over 6.1 Lakh TB patients across the country of which 4.3 Lakh patients were diagnosed from the 455 intervention districts. "Often we don't tell people that it is a TB screening camp and tell them to attend it saying a free health check-up camp is being held nearby. Even if detected for tuberculosis people generally prefer to keep it under wraps for fear of isolation and social stigma," Chaudhary said.

"By virtue of the fact that TB is a communicable disease, stigma is manifold. Especially if a woman is diagnosed with the disease, the family considers it as a curse and tries to hide it for fear of the girl remaining unmarried. Lots of families also try to keep it confidential thinking they would be ostracised from the community," said another ASHA worker Sunita. Dr Shailendra Bhatnagar said TB is a very peculiar disease. If you do not get the right treatment at the right time you may infect other family members of the family and neighbours. "If a TB-positive patient is not treated he or she can create 15 new patients in one year. Similarly further if this new lot of 15 new patients are not treated in the second year the figure becomes 225 and similarly the chain can go on and on," he explained. Dr Bhatnagar stressed that as soon as one gets any of the symptoms, he or she should get tested. If found positive, the entire family is examined.

Contact tracing, which became popular during the COVID-19 pandemic, is a terminology that has been used in TB programmes for several years now, Dr Bhatnagar informed. It is being done with the intention that if one index patient gets Tuberculosis, his or her household members and the people they interact with on a routine basis in work areas or elsewhere are examined for signs of TB. The household contacts are 10-60 times more at risk of getting the disease. "Even if their close contacts test negative at that moment, they are put on preventive TB treatment," he said. "However, before initiating TB preventive treatment to contacts, it is mandatory to rule out active TB disease by a qualified doctor," Dr Bhatnagar said. The identity of TB patients is not revealed to the public, and in several cases, the Ni-kshay Poshan kit is being delivered to their doorstep, he added. To mitigate stigma, the national TB elim-

ination programme has adopted a multi-pronged approach. TB champions/TB Vijaetas - persons who have overcome the deadly disease are being engaged and made ambassadors of awareness, counselling, and patient support. They routinely support patients and their families by paying them house visits, guiding them through their treatment and nutrition requirements and helping them mitigate any stigma or misinformation about the disease. Along with them, Gram Pradhans are also being sensitised under the TB-Mukt Panchayat Abhiyaan, where they are briefed about the TB disease, how it is diagnosed, and patient entitlements. They are also encouraged to talk about TB during their Panchayat meetings, monitor progress indicators of the program and support TB patients as Ni-kshay Mitras. Since the launch of the campaign, around 12 Lakh Ni-kshay Shivirs (TB screening camps) have been held across the country and 11 Crore persons who are vul-

nerable to being affected by TB have been screened across the country. Such mass mobilisation has been possible through different levers the National TB Elimination Programme has tapped into to combat stigma around TB and encourage early testing and screening. Through the course of the campaign, over 27,000 elected representatives across different levels (union and state ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and Gram Pradhans), have been engaged to increase awareness, participate in Ni-kshay Shivirs and provide nutrition support to TB patients and their families through the Ni-kshay Mitra programme. As part of the campaign, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare sensitised over 250 parliamentarians during the winter session of parliament, and the Union Health Minister JP Nadda, chaired meetings with Chief Ministers or LGs and Health Ministers of implementation states, encouraging them to actively monitor and participate in campaign activities.

Trump's transactional approach driving force on world stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

Donald Trump, the real estate developer turned commander in chief, is laying bare his style of diplomacy in the early weeks of his new term: It's a whole lot like a high-stakes business deal, and his No. 1 goal is to come out of the transaction on top. The tactics are clear in his brewing trade war with Canada and Mexico, in his approach to Russia's war on Ukraine and in his selection of the first country he will visit in his second term.

"President Trump approaches diplomacy and engages in a very transactional manner, with economics as the foundation and driving force behind international affairs," retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, the president's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, explained at an event in Washington this past week.

For Trump, it's about leverage, not friendship; dollars as much as values; and hard power versus soft. It's not just a matter of negotiating style. At stake is the post-World War II international order as Trump's actions raise doubts about American leadership around the globe.

He's shaping a foreign policy that's more inward looking and conscious of the bottom line, dismissing American soft-power levers such as the US Agency for International Development as dubious and riddled by waste and suggesting that the United States might not defend fellow NATO members that aren't meeting defence spending benchmarks set by the alliance. Politics and presidents to a certain degree are all transactional. But Trump, who helped make himself a household name by burnishing an image as an intrepid real estate dealmaker, is taking it to another level as he navigates an increasingly complicated world.

The Republican president, in his previ-

ous life as a real estate titan, saw every deal as one in which there were clear winners and losers. In his return to the White House, he is more demonstrably injecting a what's-in-it-for-me approach to his dealings with both friend and foe.

Money talks: Edward Frantz, a University of Indianapolis historian who has studied the American presidency, said Trump's "ledger" approach might not be the most practical way to conduct diplomacy. Frantz observed that Trump, 78, a baby boomer and football fan, seems inspired in his foreign policymaking by the ethos of legendary pro football coach Vince Lombardi, who famously said, "Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing."

"But diplomacy, especially in a more complicated world, might be more like soccer," Frantz said. "Sometimes you just need a tie. Sometimes you need to just survive and move on."

Trump on Thursday told reporters that he has decided to make Saudi Arabia the first overseas visit of his new term because the oil-rich kingdom has agreed to make a huge investment in the United States over the next four years. "They've gotten richer, we've all gotten older. So I said, 'I'll go if you pay a trillion dollars, USD 1 trillion to American companies,'" Trump said. He also made the kingdom his first overseas stop during his first White House term after the Saudis promised USD 450 billion in US investment. Trump acknowledged that the United Kingdom, one of America's oldest allies, has traditionally been the first stop for US presidents. But money talks.

Who has the cards' matters to Trump: In his dealings with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump has highly focused on who has the leverage. Putin has "the cards" and Zelenskyy does not, Trump has said repeatedly.

Zelenskyy appeared to be making some strides in assuaging Trump after their recent rocky meeting in the Oval Office ended with Trump and Vice President JD Vance criticising the Ukrainian leader for what they said was insufficient gratitude for the tens of billions of dollars in US assistance provided in the three years since Russia invaded. Zelenskyy said later that how that meeting went down was "regrettable".

He also made clear he was ready to sign off on a minerals deal with the US — even without the explicit American security guarantees sought by the Ukrainians — that Trump wants.

In his Tuesday address before a joint session of Congress, Trump acknowledged Zelenskyy's fence-mending efforts. Trump also announced plans to send top advisers to Saudi Arabia this week for talks with Ukrainian officials. But soon Trump was back to criticizing Zelenskyy, saying he does not have the leverage to keep fighting the war with Russia.

"I'm finding it more difficult, frankly, to deal with Ukraine, and they don't have the cards," Trump said. "In terms of getting a final settlement, it may be easier dealing with Russia, which is surprising, because they have all the cards."

Trump departs from years of US scepticism toward Russia: Trump's push on Zelenskyy — and pivot toward Moscow — marks a significant departure from traditional US foreign policy toward Russia since the Cold War. Others before Trump, including Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama, have tried resets with Russia, but perhaps never at a time as fraught. Deep scepticism toward Moscow, even in the best moments in the relationship, has been the standard operating posture in both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Houston teen indicted for terrorism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Houston

A 17-year-old has become the first person in Harris County to be indicted for terrorism under a new state law, officials say. Laith Adil Shehzad appeared in the court on Friday, wearing an orange jumpsuit and showing no apparent nervousness, even smiling at the cameras.

Prosecutors say the FBI was alerted by Meta in August 2024 about messages between Shehzad and an alleged ISIS militant jailed in the Philippines. Court documents state Shehzad sent photos of himself holding a Glock with extended magazines via Facebook messenger on August 17. The next day, as the FBI agents arrived at his home, he allegedly dumped the gun and ammunition in a detention pond before speaking with investigators.

The prosecutors also claim that Shehzad sought guidance on martyrdom and was previously under juvenile supervision for possessing homemade explosives. The investigators believe that he was radicalized as early as 2021, at the age of 13.

Defense Attorney John Stevenson described Shehzad as young and scared, arguing that many Texas teenagers post with firearms. "This case involves a lot of words and no one was actually harmed," he said. Prosecutors allege that Shehzad planned an attack but was unable to carry it out because his Uber account was suspended. A grand jury indicted Shehzad under a law targeting those who conspire to commit crimes "to intimidate or coerce the public".

"I'm incredibly grateful to law enforcement for preventing what could have been a tragic act," said Harris County DA Sean Teare. Shehzad remains jailed without bond and faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Panama releases dozens of detained deportees from US into limbo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Panama City

After weeks of lawsuits and human rights criticism, Panama on Saturday released dozens of migrants who were held for weeks in a remote camp after being deported from the United States, telling them they have 30 days to leave the Central American nation.

It thrust many like Hayatullah Omagh, a 29-year-old who fled Afghanistan in 2022 after the Taliban took control, into a legal limbo, scrambling to find a path forward.

"We are refugees. We do not have money. We cannot pay for a hotel in Panama City, we do not have relatives," Omagh told the Associated Press in an interview. "I can't go back to Afghanistan under any circumstances... It is under the control of the Taliban, and they want to kill me. How can I go back?"

Authorities have said deportees will have the option of extending their stay by 60 days if they need it, but after that many like Omagh don't know what they will do.

Omagh climbed off a bus in Panama City alongside 65 migrants from China, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Nepal and other nations after spending weeks detained in poor conditions by the Panamanian government, which has said it wants to work with the Trump administration "to send a signal of deterrence" to people hoping to migrate.

Human rights groups and lawyers advocating for the migrants were waiting at the bus terminal, and scrambled to find the released migrants shelter and other resources. Dozens of other people remained in the camp. Among those getting off buses were migrants fleeing violence and repression in Pakistan and Iran, and 27-year-old Nikita Gaponov, who fled Russia due to repression for being part of the LGBTQ+ community and who said he was detained at the US border, but not allowed to make an asylum claim.

"Once I get off the bus, I'll be sleeping on the ground tonight," Gaponov said. Others turned their eyes north once again, saying that even though they had already been deported, they had no other option than to continue after crossing the world to reach the US.

The deportees, largely from Asian countries, were part of a deal struck between the Trump administration and Panama and Costa Rica as the US government attempts to speed up deportations. The administration sent hundreds of people, many fam-

ilies with children, to the two Central American countries as a stopover while authorities organize a way to send them back to their countries of origin.

Critics described it as a way for the US to export its deportation process. The agreement fuelled human rights concerns when hundreds of deportees detained in a hotel in Panama City held up notes to their windows pleading for help and saying they were scared to return to their own countries. Under international refugee law, people have the right to apply for asylum when they are fleeing conflict or persecution. Those that refused to return home were later sent to a remote camp near Panama's border with Colombia, where they spent weeks in poor conditions, were stripped of their phones, unable to access legal council and were not told where they were going next.

Lawyers and human rights defenders warned that Panama and Costa Rica were turning into "black holes" for deportees, and said their release was a way for Panamanian authorities to wash their hands of the deportees amid mounting human rights criticism.

Those who were released Saturday night, like Omagh, said they could not return home. As an atheist and member of an ethnic minority group in Afghanistan known as the Hazara, he said returning home under the rule of the Taliban — which swept back into power after the Biden administration pulled out of the country — would mean he would be killed. He only went to the US after trying for years to live in Pakistan, Iran and other countries but being denied visas.

Omagh was deported after presenting himself to American authorities and asking to seek asylum in the US, which he was denied. "My hope was freedom. Just freedom," he said. "They didn't give me the chance. I asked many times to speak to an asylum officer and they told me No, no, no, no, no."

Still, he said that leaving the camp was a relief. Omagh and other migrants who spoke to the AP detailed scarce food, sweltering heat with little relief and aggressive Panamanian authorities. In one case, Omagh and others said, a Chinese man went on a week-long hunger strike. In another, a small riot broke out because guards refused to give a migrant their phone. The riot, they said, was suppressed by armed guards.

Macron's diplomatic comeback: From France's domestic crisis to reshaping Europe's defence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron is back at the centre of global diplomacy, seeking to ease relations with President Donald Trump, championing a Ukraine peace plan alongside his British counterpart, and seeing his longstanding desire to boost European defence turning into reality. Six months ago, Macron seemed weaker than ever after his call for early legislative elections produced a hung parliament, sparking an unprecedented crisis. Known for his nonstop political activism, Macron shifted his focus to foreign policy, leaving domestic struggles largely to the prime minister.

Now, he appears as the one leader who speaks to Trump several times per week and takes the lead in European support for Ukraine, while positioning himself as the commander-in-chief of the European Union's only nuclear power.

Key world player: Macron, 47, is one of the few leaders who knew Trump during his first term in office, maintaining despite disagreements a cordial relationship, which both describe as "friendship". He was the first European leader to visit Trump since his reelection, seeking to persuade him not to abandon Ukraine in pursuit of a peace deal with Russia. Macron is also a heavyweight of European politics, and shifting US policies gave momentum to his longstanding views.

Since he was first elected in 2017, Macron has pushed for a stronger, more sovereign Europe. That same year, in a sweeping speech at Sorbonne University, he called for a common European defence policy, with increased military cooperation and joint defence initiatives.

He later lamented the "brain death" of the NATO military alliance, insisting the EU should step up and start acting as a strategic world power. On Thursday, EU leaders committed to strengthening defences and freeing up hundreds of billions of euros for security in the wake of Trump's warnings that they might face the Russian threat alone.

Nuclear power: In a resounding declaration last week, Macron announced he would discuss extending France's nuclear deterrent to European partners to help protect the continent.

France's nuclear power is inherited from the strategy set by wartime hero Gen. Charles de Gaulle, president from 1958 to 1969, who sought to maintain France's independence from the US and assert the country's role as a global power.

That went through the development of an independent French nuclear arsenal. Poland and Baltic nations welcomed the proposal. France's Minister for European Affairs Benjamin Haddad praised Macron's efforts, saying they were aimed at ensuring that "in the face of this world upheaval, Europeans are not spectators but players".

New British and German partners: Some other key players appear to back Macron's approach. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, in office for eight months, has sought closer defence cooperation with Europe as part of a "reset" with the EU after years of bitterness over Brexit.

Macron and Starmer are now spearheading a desperate diplomatic drive to bolster Ukraine's defences, drawing up a peace plan with Kyiv at its core. That plan includes the possibility of sending European troops to Ukraine to enforce a potential peace agreement. Meanwhile, Germany's conservative election winner Friedrich Merz said his top priority would be to "strengthen Europe as soon as possible" and gradually move toward "real independence" from the US.

Only three days after his victory last month, Merz, who has called for a discussion on "nuclear sharing" with France, travelled to Paris for a working dinner with Macron. No statement was released after the meeting, but French officials with knowledge of the matter said both men's visions for Europe align. They spoke anonymously because the talks were not to be made public.

Russia's criticism: Russia's foreign ministry accused Macron of "demonstrative militarism dictated by the domestic agenda". The ministry said that Macron seeks to distract the French public from "worsening socio-economic problems in France and the European Union". Moscow dismissed Macron's nuclear deterrent offer as "extremely confrontational," saying the remarks reflected Paris' ambitions to "become the nuclear patron of all of Europe", despite the fact that France's nuclear forces are far smaller than those of the US.

Armed man shot near White House

Washington (PTI): An armed man believed to be travelling from Indiana was shot by US Secret Service agents near the White House after a confrontation early Sunday, according to authorities. No one else was injured in the shooting that happened around midnight about a block from the White House, according to a Secret Service statement. President Donald Trump was in Florida at the time of the shooting.

The Secret Service received information from local police about an alleged "suicidal individual" who was travelling from Indiana and found the man's car and a person matching his description nearby. "As officers approached, the individual brandished a firearm and an armed confrontation ensued, during which shots were fired by our personnel," the Secret Service said in a statement.

The man was hospitalised. The Secret Service said his condition was "unknown". The Metropolitan Police Department will investigate because the shooting involved law enforcement officers. A message left Sunday for the police department wasn't immediately returned.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh brace for upcoming food reductions

Cox's Bazar (PTI): Rohingya refugees in cramped Bangladeshi camps say they are worried about a US decision to cut food rations by half beginning next month, while a refugee official says the reduction will impact the nutrition of more than 1 million refugees and create "social and mental pressure".

President Donald Trump abruptly stopped most foreign aid and dismantled the US Agency for International Development, which has significantly hampered the global humanitarian sector. Trump's Jan 20 executive order froze the funding for a 90-day review.

The World Food Programme, the main UN food agency, recently announced that cuts to food rations will take effect from April 1 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where dozens of camps are inhabited by Rohingya refugees. More than 700,000 Muslim Rohingya fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar starting in late August 2017 when Myanmar's military launched a "clearance operation". The ethnic group faces discrimination and are denied citizenship and other rights in the Buddhist-majority nation. Following a military takeover in 2021, the country has been engulfed in an armed conflict widely seen as civil war.

It was not immediately clear if the WFP's decision was directly related to the Trump administration's action. "We received a letter that (says) previously it was \$12.50, and now it is \$6. They used to get \$12.50 per month, and from now \$6, this will greatly affect them," Shamsud Douza, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner of Bangladesh, told The Associated Press.

"As the food is cut, they will get less nutritious food, which may lead to a lack of nutrition. There will be social and mental pressure created amongst the Rohingya people in their community. They will have to look for an alternative for the food," he said. Douza said there are more sectors where budgets have been cut beyond the food rations, but he would not say whether WFP cuts were related to the U.S. funding rollback. "Generally, there will be less (support) for the (Rohingya) response after the funding cuts. The response already has been slowed, and some people, including Rohingya, have lost their jobs, and some services are reduced. It does not bring a good result when the available services get reduced," he said.

The interim Bangladesh government said the end of USAID payments would stop other projects in Bangladesh, but funding for Rohingya refugees will continue to flow. The US has been the top donor to Bangladesh for Rohingya refugees, providing the UN with emergency food and nutrition assistance. The US usually provides almost half of the aid money spent on the humanitarian response to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, which provided about \$300 million in 2024.

Helicopter companies require registration before flying in Nepal's Annapurna area

Kathmandu (PTI): Helicopter operating companies now require registration before flying to the Annapurna Base Camp area, authorities said. Annapurna Rural Municipality in the Kaski district of western Nepal enforced regulations for flights at the base camp area at an altitude of 4,130 metres.

Helicopter companies registered with the rural municipality are required to pay Rs. 10,000 per flight, said Bishnu Bahadur KC, chairman of the rural municipality. Rs. 20,000 will be charged per flight for the unregistered companies, he said. "The rural municipality for-

mulated the Annapurna Base Camp Helicopter Flight Tourism Fee Management Procedure in 2023 but was not strictly adhered to," he said. Now the rural municipality has strictly enforced the regulation, requiring the helicopter companies to register their company. So far three helicopter companies — Simrik Air, Air Dynasty, and Heli Everest — have registered their helicopters with the rural municipality, he said.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gemarbhai Momanbhai Vankar S/o Shri Momanbhai Vankar R/o H.NO.-1745, First Floor, Block G, Jahangir Puri, Delhi-110033 declare that My name has been wrongly written in My bank Account as Gemar Instead of Gemarbhai Momanbhai Vankar. Hence, Gemar & Gemarbhai Momanbhai Vankar both are the Same & One Person.
PD(1654)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Rekha Rani W/o Sh. Chandar Pal R/o A-155, Defence Colony, Bhopur, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005 have severed their all relations with their son Deepak Chaudhary and her wife Aakasha Chaudhary debarred/dissolved their from movable and immovable properties/assets. My clients shall not be liable for their any act of deeds in any manner whatsoever. Anybody dealing with them will be at his own cost and risk.
Yogesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch.No. M-11, Western Wings Near SBI, Tis Hazari Court Delhi-110054

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that one Mrs. Swati Rastogi W/o Mr. Vikas Rastogi (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagee/Purchaser) have agreed to create mortgage in respect of the Property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written in favour of my client PNB Housing Finance Limited, 8th Floor, DCM Building, Barakhamba Road, C/P New Delhi - 110001 to the Seller Mrs. Ruby D/o Mr. Charan Singh has (mistakenly placed the Original Sale Deed executed by Mr. Madan Mohan Jaiswal W/o Mrs. Isha Ram in favour of Mr. Anand Chugh) S/O Late Mr. R.C. Chugh, registered on 05.08.2010 in the Office of Sub-Registrar-A/1, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi/Delhi as per Book No. 1 (2) No. 827 Page No. 177/184 & Document No. 3667, in respect of the said property. Any person having any claim against or in respect of the said property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable or deposit of title deed or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise whatsoever are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to me with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned here below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim, if any, of such person will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned by my client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and creation of mortgage on the scheduled property. The Schedule showing the description of the property Freehold Residential Second Floor Portion (without roof right) of Built-up Property bearing No. 15421, having its covered area 58.63 sq. mtr., Out of Khata No. 15421 & 15422 situated at Ballar Nagar, Gurgaon, Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana. The Seller Mrs. Ruby D/o Mr. Charan Singh has (mistakenly placed the Original Sale Deed executed by Mr. Madan Mohan Jaiswal W/o Mrs. Isha Ram in favour of Mr. Anand Chugh) S/O Late Mr. R.C. Chugh, registered on 05.08.2010 in the Office of Sub-Registrar-A/1, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi/Delhi as per Book No. 1 (2) No. 827 Page No. 177/184 & Document No. 3667, in respect of the said property. 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IPO activity slows down, listings pulled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

After heightened activity in 2024, there has been a slowdown in new listings, with no main-bourse Initial Public Offerings (IPO) hitting the market in the past three weeks due to a correction in the secondary market.

This slowdown in IPO activity is reflected in the numbers, as only five companies went public in January and four in February, compared to 16 listings in December 2024.

Quality Power Electrical Equipment Limited was the recent IPO—which opened for three-day bidding on February 14. However, the trend of slower activity is evident as at least three companies—Advanced Sys-tek, SFC Environmental Technologies, and Viney Corporation—withdrawn IPO plans by pulling their draft papers in January and February.

This shift follows a remarkable 2024 in which 91 maiden public issues collectively raised ₹1.6 Lakh Crore, driven by robust retail participation, a resilient economy, and booming private capital expenditure.

Bhavesh Shah, Managing Director and Head of Investment Banking at Equirus, said that the slowdown is largely a result of the secondary market correction, especially in January and February, which negatively impacted the share prices of several listed companies.



As a result, investors have shifted focus to their existing portfolios rather than exploring new listings.

Shah emphasised that the diminished investor attention on new IPOs has contributed to the slowdown in market activity.

Despite this caution, V Prashant Rao, Director and Head of ECM Investment Banking at Anand Rathi Advisors,

pointed out that the longer-term outlook remains positive, with a strong IPO pipeline.

"We are seeing an impressive number of documents getting filed and waiting for market conditions to stabilise. Currently, 45 companies with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval are looking to raise over ₹67,000 Crore and 69 companies are awaiting SEBI-approval,

aiming to raise over ₹1.15 Lakh Crore.

Notably, out of the 69 companies, 45 companies filed DRHPs in the last couple of months," he said.

In the last two months alone, close to 30 companies have filed preliminary IPO papers with SEBI, and in addition, Knowledge Realty Trust sponsored by Sattva Group and Blackstone last week filed documents to launch its maiden REIT public issue to raise more than ₹6,200 Crore.

This influx of filings suggests that while market conditions are currently subdued, the IPO market is not stagnant.

Looking ahead, Equirus' Shah remains optimistic, forecasting a revival of the IPO market in the next few months as market conditions stabilise.

He believes that investors will eventually return to fresh investments in new companies, supported by strong mutual fund inflows, which continue to show resilience despite some impact from market volatility.

To maintain investor interest amid these fluctuating conditions, Shah suggests that issuers may need to recalibrate their IPO valuations in line with the current market realities, potentially offering more attractive pricing to entice investors.

"To sustain investor interest amid this volatility, the companies may do some adjustments in the IPO pricing, potentially offering more attractive valuations," Anand Rathi Advisors' Rao said.



People shop for colours and other essentials ahead of Holi

PIONEER PHOTO

High demand for Indian products in Holi, says BJP MP

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The festival of colour 'Holi' this year is all set to bring cheer to business communities in the country as it is expected to generate business worth around ₹60,000 Crore for traders and retailers.

For playing Holi with colors, people are demanding white T-shirts, kurta-pajamas, and salwar suits. At the same time, T-shirts with "Happy Holi" written on them are also witnessing steady demand in the market.

According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Secretary General and BJP MP from Chandni Chowk, Praveen Khandelwal, only Indian-made herbal colors, gugal, water guns (pichkari), balloons, sandalwood, puja materials, apparel, and other items are being sold extensively.

"Along with these, sweets, dry fruits, gift items, flowers and fruits, clothing, furnishing fabrics, groceries, FMCG products, consumer durables, and many other products are also in high demand across markets. Due to increased consumer spending, various business sectors are witnessing a sharp rise in Holi-related sales," he said.

Holika Dahan will be held on March 13, while the festival of colors will be celebrated on March 14.

According to CAIT data, the Holi festival this year is expected to generate business worth over ₹60,000 Crore, reflecting a nearly 20 per cent increase compared to the previous year's figure of ₹50,000 Crore.

In Delhi alone, an estimated business of over ₹8,000 Crore is anticipated.

Khandelwal further mentioned that large-scale Holi celebrations are taking place across Delhi and the entire coun-

try, leading to a high demand for venues. As a result, banquet halls, farmhouses, hotels, restaurants, and public parks are fully booked for Holi events.

More than 3,000 Holi Milan celebrations of varying scales are being organised in Delhi alone, bringing visible joy and enthusiasm among the people. Several business, social, cultural, and religious organisations are actively hosting Holi Milan events.

The BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal said that similar to previous years, this time too, both traders and customers have boycotted Chinese goods during Holi sales.

Praveen Khandelwal emphasised that India is a land of festivals, and every festival or religious occasion inevitably boosts trade. Holi is expected to stimulate economic activities, benefiting local businesses, small traders, small-scale industries, and the MSME sector in particular. This Holi festival will also prove to be highly beneficial for traders and retailers across the country.

As the festival of Holi approaches, Delhi's wholesale and retail markets are completely decorated and stocked.

Shops are witnessing heavy footfall, especially for gugal, pichkari, and other festive items as expected, sweets shops are experiencing a massive surge in sales, particularly for Holi-special gujiyas and other festive treats. Markets are already embracing the festive spirit with colorful gugal, water guns, gujiya garlands, and dry fruits filling shop displays.

The increasing number of shoppers indicates a strong festive buying trend.

Praveen Khandelwal also noted that it is customary for people to gift dry fruit garlands along with sweets and fruits to their relatives, which has further boosted market activity.



SRM University's collaboration with Carnegie Mellon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Amaravati

SRM University-AP (SRM-AP), Andhra Pradesh announced a transformative five-year collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science (CMU SCS), US— one of the world's foremost institutions in artificial intelligence (AI) and cutting-edge research. This strategic collaboration aims to push the boundaries of knowledge, innovation and education in AI-related disciplines, including machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, infrastructure and systems, and AI ethics and policy.

At the heart of this collaboration is a shared vision to foster an ecosystem that nurtures groundbreaking research, cultivates exceptional talent and accelerates advancements in AI-driven technologies.

"CMU's School of Computer Science is excited to work with SRM University-AP on this landmark collaboration to advance research and bolster AI education. Together, we will shape the future of AI and empower the next generation of researchers, educators and industry leaders to push the frontiers of technology and drive meaningful change in society," said Professor Martial Hebert, Dean of CMU's School of Computer Science.

As part of this collaboration, SRM University-AP's research faculty and researchers will have the opportunity to engage directly with the esteemed faculty and researchers at CMU's School of Computer Science. They will immerse themselves in CMU SCS's pioneering AI labs, working alongside global experts in key research domains.

This will facilitate research, knowledge sharing and the development of state-of-the-art AI innovations that address real-world challenges.

Dr P Sathyanarayanan, pro-chancellor of SRM University-AP said that "To further strengthen research capabilities, this collaboration will also pave the way to

establish advanced AI labs at SRM University-AP.

These labs will be incubators for novel AI research, fostering a stimulating environment that promotes academic rigor, interdisciplinary collaboration and technological innovation."

Beyond research, this collaboration is designed to enrich the academic experience of SRM-AP's teaching faculty and research scholars.

Selected faculty members and scholars can audit cutting-edge AI courses at CMU's School of Computer Science as visiting participants.

This exposure will allow them to engage with CMU SCS faculty and contribute to developing robust AI curricula at SRM-AP.

They will also gain hands-on experience in designing assignments, worksheets and examinations that mirror real-world AI problem-solving scenarios, enhancing the quality of AI education at SRM University-AP.

Professor Manoj K Arora, Vice Chancellor of SRM University-AP expressed that "In a move that underscores its commitment to nurturing future AI leaders, the collaboration will offer SRM-AP students the opportunity to undertake research internships at CMU's School of Computer Science."

Selected students will spend approx. six weeks each summer immersed in a world-class research environment, gaining first-hand experience in tackling complex AI challenges alongside leaders in the field.

This experience will provide students with unparalleled insights and exposure to global research methodologies, setting them apart in the highly competitive AI landscape.

By leveraging Carnegie Mellon University's SCS's expertise and SRM-AP's commitment to academic excellence, this collaboration will drive innovation, expand knowledge horizons and create a lasting impact on the AI ecosystem between the universities.

Chhattisgarh FM presents 100-page handwritten Budget

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Raipur

In an age where even court rulings are drafted using AI-powered chatbots, Chhattisgarh's Finance Minister OP Choudhary showcased his personal dedication by presenting a 100-page handwritten Budget in Hindi, reflecting his hands-on approach and commitment to the budget preparation process.

Choudhary, a former IAS who quit service to join politics as he saw it as a bigger medium to serve the public, literally burnt midnight oil, hardly sleeping for a couple of hours in the day's leading to the March 4 presentation of the Budget for the fiscal year starting April 1 in the Chhattisgarh Assembly.

The rare act that displayed a sense of ownership and dedication to the state's financial planning and goals stood out, especially since most Budget documents are typically prepared by a team of officials or typed out on computers.

"I was writing my own (Budget)

speech and I realised that a handwritten document expresses my feelings, my emotions, my vision, my commitment, and my attachment more. And so, I thought, I should write in my own handwriting," he said.

A handwritten document reflects the attachment and emotions better, he said, displaying his handwritten 100-page document. Asked how long it took to write the entire document, he said the Budget had been in the works for five-six months but the actual writing on the components of the Budget started about a week or 10 days before the presentation.

"I literally did not sleep for four nights (prior to the Budget presentation). I hardly slept one to one-and-a-half hours in those four nights. And this is when I wrote the Budget," he said. The act, he said, about his personal involvement and commitment to the state's finances. This is perhaps the first time a finance minister has presented a handwritten annual Budget in the Assembly.

India, European Union to hold next round of free trade agreement talks amid tariff threats



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen at the Hyderabad House

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India and the 27-nation European Union (EU) bloc will start the tenth round of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement from Monday in Brussels amid Trump tariff threats, according to an official.

The talks are expected to focus on

resolving remaining issues so that the agreement can be finalised by the end of this year.

During the recent visit of EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic, the two sides have discussed ways to accelerate efforts towards a balanced and mutually beneficial trade pact.

ONGC's OPaL exits from Dahej SEZ, eyes local market

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

ONGC PetroAdditions Limited, a subsidiary of the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has relinquished its 'only-for-export' unit status as it aims to tap into the booming local petrochemical market to drive a turnaround.

In a stock exchange filing, ONGC said OPaL has received the final approval for its exit from the Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

"Accordingly, OPaL shall operate as a Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) unit with effect from March 8, 2025," ONGC said. "Further, this exit from SEZ will improve the competitiveness of OPaL for supplies to be made to the DTA."

This essentially means primarily catering to the domestic Indian market instead of focusing on exports, which is the primary purpose of an SEZ unit. It will now not have to pay customs duty on products sold within India, helping improve margins.

The move is primarily to gain access to the wider domestic market and potentially benefit from the lower corporate tax regime. ONGC's C2C3 project extracts ethane (C2) and propane (C3) from the liquefied natural gas (LNG) imported from Qatar. C2 and C3 - the basic building blocks of petrochemicals - are provided to OPaL which uses them to make polymers and chemicals like benzene and butadiene.

High debt and unattractive exports had pushed OPaL into the red. It made a loss of ₹3,546 Crore in the 2023-24 fiscal year and ₹2,392 Crore loss in the first nine months of the current year. To mitigate the situation, ONGC extended financial support. It infused additional equity capital upto ₹10,501 Crore, converted back stopped compulsorily convertible debentures (CCDs) amounting to ₹7,778 Crore and paid ₹86 Crore with respect to share warrants, totaling ₹18,365 Crore. This has led to its stake in the company rising from 49.36 per cent to 95.69 per cent. OPaL dealt with global geopolitical uncertainties "by focusing on the strategic pillars of cost-efficiency programs, innovation, brand building, and distribution in order to sustain growth and profitability and a judicious improvement in the petrochemical export market share," according to its latest annual report.

Cityflo expands to Delhi, plans to deploy 100 buses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Premium app-based commute service Cityflo has launched operations in Delhi, aiming to transform daily travel for corporate professionals. Founded in 2015 by IIT Bombay alumni, the Mumbai-based company has already served over 2.5 Million commuters in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

Cityflo will initially operate on key routes like DL0 Cyber City, targeting 100 buses and 80,000 riders in its first year. The expansion is expected to add ₹25 Crore to its topline.

Backed by marquee investors, Cityflo promises a reliable, comfortable alternative to existing transport options.

US tariffs to hit pharma sector, auto minimal effect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Enhanced tariffs on pharma imports in the United States (US) can severely impact Indian drug manufacturers as it would lead to higher production costs, making shipments less competitive against products from other countries.

Smaller drug firms operating on thin margins can face severe pressure potentially forcing consolidation or closure.

The automobile sector, on the other hand, is expected to have a very minimal impact owing to the US being a small export market.

Terming India as a very high tariff nation, US President Donald Trump has said that reciprocal tariffs on countries that impose levies on American goods will kick in on April 2.

India currently levies around 10 per

cent import duty on American drugs, while the US does not charge any import duty on Indian drugs.

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas and Co Partner Arvind Sharma said as of recent history, the US has been a net importer of pharmaceutical products to meet its domestic demand.

"In the event the US decides to impose substantial tariffs on pharmaceutical imports from India, the impact could send noticeable ripples through the Indian pharma sector and simultaneously disrupt its own domestic consumption," he noted.

Indian pharmaceutical companies supply a substantial proportion of drugs to US residents, with four out of ten of all prescriptions filled in the US in 2022 being supplied by Indian companies.

As per industry sources, overall, medicines from Indian companies provided

\$219 Billion in savings to the US healthcare system in 2022 and a total of \$1.3 Trillion between 2013 and 2022.

Generics from Indian companies are expected to generate an additional \$1.3 Trillion in savings over the next five years.

Sharma stated that India's pharmaceutical industry, at present, significantly relies on the American market, with the US accounting for roughly a third of its total exports.

"A sudden tariff increase could significantly raise the cost of medicines manufactured in and exported from India to the US, making them less competitive against products from other countries," he added.

By imposing tariffs, the US might inadvertently increase its domestic healthcare costs, burdening consumers and, in turn, making healthcare access scarcer,

Sharma stated.

Additionally, in the situation where substantial tariffs are imposed by the US on Indian pharmaceutical products, then that might encourage Indian pharma companies to diversify their export markets, possibly shifting focus to Europe, Latin America or Africa, he said.

Elaborating on the automobile sector, Shashi Mathews, Partner, IndusLaw, said the recent announcements and pushback by the Trump Administration on India's tariff, especially in the auto sector, will have a very minimal impact.

"Reason being that while entry into India may be well protected and thus, heavily taxed, a reciprocal tariff for importing into the US, which is a smaller export market for the Indian automotive sector will not affect us much," he added.

Holistic Beauty in a Hectic Lifestyle

In a conversation with **ABHI SINGHAL**, renowned ayurvedic beauty expert Shahnaz Husain offers vital advice on self-care, achieving radiant skin, and inner balance for women juggling with the relentless pressures of modern life



Since women get less time for themselves, what are some affordable and natural skin care routines that women can perform at home?

Neem is the best skin ingredient that comprises natural sulphur compounds that are good for hair and skin. Prepare Neem water by adding Neem leaves to 5 cups of water, bringing it to a boil, and straining the water. This water is a potent elixir for soothing skin, you can rinse your face with this water daily or use it on your hair to keep your hair and skin healthy. For moisturising and cleansing your skin, milk is the best. Use a cup full of milk and add a few drops of Olive oil to it. Use it on your face for cleansing and moisturizing.

What are some of the biggest skin health mistakes that you see women make, and how can they be avoided?

Often, I have seen women complain about dry, flaky skin with a suntan. This is the result of UV rays damage and sun damage to the skin. Avoiding sunblock even if the weather is cloudy is a big mistake. It is essential to use a good quality sunblock and it should not be less than SPF 40 for better protection. Remember to reapply it every 2 hours. The next biggest mistake would be not exfoliating your skin and forgetting to moisturize it.

How can women in their 30s and 40s maintain youthful skin while managing work and family life?

Managing your skincare schedule between your 30s and 40s is difficult. You can begin with including Vegetable Peel and a Thermoherb mask. These are two specialised skin rejuvenating treatments that have produced good results. Some plant extracts used in the formulation of skincare products are powerful rehydrants like Cactus, Aloe Vera, Seaweed and Ginseng.

On this Women's Day, what message would you like to give to women who struggle to prioritise self-care?

I would like to emphasise that self-care is not limited to surface beauty but comprises of maintaining healthy mind and body. Meditation, yoga, healthy diet, including seeds and nuts in your platter and following a de-stressing activity are all a part of self-care.



IN CONVERSATION WITH **SHAHNAZ HUSAIN**

Women today are often overwhelmed by their multiple roles. What are your top recommendations for quick self-care practices for a busy schedule?

Exposure to sunlight, pollution and irregular dieting results in premature skin ageing. It appears tired, dull, dry and flaky, so regular facials are recommended to help manage the symptoms. The Diamond Facial or Pearl Facial are designed

to provide the skin with ample nourishment and rejuvenate the skin, restoring its elasticity. The Ash of Diamond and Pearl Powder acts as a stimulant and awakens dormant cells, giving life and restoring the natural dynamics of a youthful appearance.

With the abundance of skincare products available, what are the key ingredients women should look for, especially those dealing with stress-related skin issues?

These days, the beauty industry is booming, with numerous new brands coming up overnight, and it is hard to choose the right one that is suitable for your skin. Therefore, you must check the labels that state ingredients like extracts of almonds, apricots, cabbage, Carrot, Wheat Germ, essential oils, Vitamins and other botanical extracts. While choosing creams for skincare and treatments, you must keep a lookout for these ingredients suitable for your skin type.

Many women suffer from stress-related skin issues. What natural remedies do you recommend for healthy skin?

I would like to remind you that our kitchen is a natural pharmacy that is full of countless herbs useful in treating skin-related issues and healthy skin. For instance, Turmeric is anti-inflammatory & antiseptic and helps in maintaining healthy, glowing skin. Mixing a pinch of Turmeric with 1 tsp of curd will help achieve an even skin tone, remove tan. However, you need to keep it on for 15 minutes and then rinse off your skin with water. Also, honey has excellent moisturizing properties. Apply raw honey on your face and let it sit for 20 minutes, and then rinse it off with water. Those who have oily skin can use honey with Rose water and a few drops of Lemon juice. It naturally moisturizes your skin without making it greasy.



Every morning is a hectic morning in a woman's life. The alarm blares, and before the snooze button is even considered, the day begins. After waking up, there is a quick breakfast, a hurried school drop-off, a barrage of work emails, and a mental checklist that grows every minute. This is the reality for countless women today. In all this hurricane responsibilities self-care often takes a backseat. But amidst this chaos, women are reclaiming their well-being, recognising that nurturing themselves is not a luxury but a necessity.

To illuminate the path to healthy skin, we turned to Shahnaz Husain, a luminary in Ayurvedic beauty. She offers invaluable guidance for the time-pressed woman, revealing swift self-care practices, nature's potent remedies, and crucial skincare components. Husain champions a holistic approach, advocating for herbal solutions and stressing the imperative of prioritising personal wellness amidst life's relentless pace.



Skin and Hair: Pre and Post Holi Care



The celebration of colours, *Holi*, brings excitement, happiness, and a burst of colour. However, your skin and hair may suffer from the harsh chemicals in synthetic colours, extended sun exposure, and frequent water splashes. This is your go-to resource for preserving your attractiveness throughout this colourful festival.

Pre-Holi Care for Skin

Moisturize Generously
Colours are more difficult to remove from dry skin because it absorbs them more quickly. Apply a thick layer of moisturizer, coconut oil, or almond oil. Particular attention should be paid to the hands, elbows, neck, and face.

Apply sunscreen

Since Holi is celebrated outside, exposure to the sun can cause skin damage and tanning. At least half an hour before leaving the house, apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 50 or higher. "A waterproof sunscreen is ideal, as water splashes are inevitable."

Use Very Little Makeup

Steer clear of excessive makeup as it may cause skin discomfort due to colour reactions. To keep your lips nourished, use waterproof lip balm and a mild, tinted moisturizer if needed.

Guard Vulnerable Areas

Use petroleum jelly on your lips, ears, and nails to keep colour from getting stuck in nooks and crannies that can be difficult to remove later.

Pre-Holi Care for Hair



Oil Your Hair

To build a barrier against colours, apply coconut, almond, or olive oil to your scalp and hair. Colours are easier to remove from oiled hair since they can't penetrate the cuticles.

Tie Your Hair Up

To reduce exposure, wear your hair in a ponytail, bun, or braid.

Cover Your Hair

Putting on a cap, bandana, or scarf helps shield your hair from colour fading and keep it from being dry and brittle.

Avoid Heat Styling

Refrain from using heat styling tools like straighteners and curling irons a day before Holi, as they can dry out your hair, making it more vulnerable to colour penetration.

Post-Holi Care for Skin

Use Gentle Cleansers

Do not scrub your skin vigorously to remove colours, as this can cause irritation. Instead, use a mild cleanser or oil-based makeup remover to break down colours before washing your face.

Exfoliate with Natural Remedies

Use a homemade scrub of gram

flour (besan) and yogurt or a mixture of honey and oatmeal to gently exfoliate your skin and remove residual colour.

Apply a Soothing Mask

Aloe Vera gel, curd, or mashed banana masks can help soothe any redness or irritation caused by colours. They also help in restoring the skin's natural moisture.

Hydrate and Moisturize

After cleansing, apply a hydrating serum followed by a thick moisturizer.

Avoid Harsh Chemicals

Do not use alcohol-based toners or harsh face washes immediately after Holi, as they can dry out the skin further and increase sensitivity.



Delhi's Growing Waistline

Delhi faces a critical health challenge as obesity rates surge, transforming the city into an obesity capital, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

World Obesity Day cast a stark light on Delhi's escalating health crisis. The city is rapidly becoming an obesity epicenter, with over 80% of residents in the NCR region classified as overweight or obese. This condition, far from a mere aesthetic issue, acts as a silent killer, significantly increasing the risk of severe health problems.

The consequences are devastating. Obesity fuels heart disease, high blood pressure, type-2 diabetes, and various cancers. Breathing difficulties, infertility, and osteoarthritis are also common. Beyond physical ailments, it takes a toll on mental well-being, contributing to depression and anxiety.

Experts identify a confluence of factors driving this epidemic. Processed foods, sugary drinks, and large portions have become dietary staples. Stress-induced overeating and a sedentary lifestyle, propelled by excessive screen time and limited physical activity, further compound the problem. Urban areas like Punjabi Bagh, Rohini, and South Extension are particularly affected.

"Obesity is not merely a cosmetic concern but a severe medical condition that



can lead to diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and even various types of cancer," stated *Dr Sachin Ambekar*, Medical Director and Director of Minimal Access Surgery at MASSH Hospital. Modern medical advancements, including minimally invasive surgical techniques, offer effective solutions. Tackling this issue requires a collective effort. Promoting healthy eating habits, encouraging exercise, and reducing screen time are crucial.



POST-HOLI CARE FOR HAIR

Rinse with Cold Water First

Before applying shampoo, rinse your hair thoroughly with cold water to remove as much colour as possible. This prevents the colours from further settling into the hair shaft.

Apply a Gentle Shampoo

To gently cleanse your hair without depleting it

of its natural oils, use a shampoo without sulfates. To prevent injury, lightly massage your scalp.

Give Your Hair a Deep Conditioning Treatment

To replenish hydration and nutrients, use coconut or argan oil for an oil massage or a deep conditioning hair treatment.

Steer clear of Instant heat styling

After washing, let your hair air dry naturally. To give your hair time to heal, refrain from using curling irons, straighteners, or blow dryers for a few days.

— **By Dr Shweta Mishra**, Facial Cosmetic & Aesthetic surgeon

WPL: Mumbai Indians to face Gujarat Giants



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

With two games left in the league stage, Mumbai Indians will look to make the most of the opportunity and push for a first-place finish on the WPL points table, starting with the clash against in-form Gujarat Giants here on Monday.

UP Warriorz's win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru by 12 runs knocked the defending champions out from the race to the playoffs on Saturday, confirming the

qualification for Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Giants in the process.

But what remains is the final classification of the points table. Harmanpreet Kaur's MI, who return to the Brabourne Stadium here for the final leg of the third WPL — their home ground where they had won the inaugural edition in 2023 — will look for a top-place finish.

The team that tops the points table at the end of the league round will get a direct entry into the final and MI, who play back-to-back matches on Monday and Tuesday,

will aim to go past DC who are currently at the first spot with 10 points and a Net Run Rate of 0.396.

For MI, topping the table will also help them avoid a possible fourth game in a span of six days — the Eliminator — which could test the squad to the hilt in hot and humid conditions here.

MI are currently third with 8 points and NRR of 0.267 and if they win both these matches — against GG and RCB — they can finish at the top with a maximum of 12 points.

The Giants, currently placed second 8 points and NRR of 0.334, can finish at best with 10 points provided they beat Mumbai Indians, which would place them at even keel with DC. In such a scenario, the NRR will determine how teams are placed on the points table.

The teams that finish second and third will meet in the Eliminator on Thursday, with the summit clash slated to be played on Saturday.

But it won't be an easy task to begin with for MI as the Giants have been on a roll recording three heavy wins on the trot to make it to the final three.

Not only have the Giants' batters been firing in unison, their bowlers have also found their rhythm which makes them a team to beat in this knockouts round.

A maiden appearance in the WPL playoffs would certainly inspire the Giants, who turned things around after a dismal start that had them losing three of their first four matches.

On the other hand, MI have four wins and two defeats in six outings so far which has helped them to make their third WPL playoffs. Once again, overseas stars Nat Sciver-Brunt (309 runs and 8 wickets), Hayley Matthews (181 runs and 9 wickets) and Amelia Kerr (10 wickets) have been at the forefront of their charge with skipper Harmanpreet (126 runs) in tow.

For the Giants, the troika of skipper Ashleigh Gardner (235 runs, 7 wickets), Beth Mooney (224 runs) and Harleen Deol (200 runs) in the batting line-up have found strong backing from their bowlers.

West Indies' all-rounder Deandra Dottin (132 runs, 9 wickets) has not really put a foot wrong but the revelation has been India's uncapped Kashvee Gautam (9 wickets) this season. Tanuja Kanwer (7 wickets) is not too far behind.



Paris Saint-Germain wins 4-1 at Rennes in Ligue 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Paris

Ousmane Dembélé came off the bench to score twice and help a shaky Paris Saint-Germain win 4-1 at Rennes to stay unbeaten in Ligue 1.

Bradley Barcola got one goal and set up another as PSG moved 16 points ahead of second-placed Marseille, which conceded a stoppage-time goal in a 1-0 home defeat to Lens in the late game on Saturday.

Third-placed Nice can move level on points with Marseille if it beats Lyon at home on Sunday.

PSG coach Luis Enrique rested captain Marquinhos ahead of the return leg at Liverpool in the last 16 of the Champions League next Tuesday. PSG lost the first leg 1-0 despite dominating.

Dembélé was joined on the bench by right back Achraf Hakimi, winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma.

PSG controlled the first half but made many mistakes after the break as Rennes attacked strongly, before Dembélé wrapped up the win late on.

Barcola put PSG ahead in the 28th minute when he placed the ball through goalkeeper Brice Samba's legs. Ludovic Blas almost equalised moments later and 17-year-old striker Mohamed Meité headed against the crossbar.

Barcola broke down the left again and picked out striker Gonçalo Ramos in the 50th for 2-0. Three minutes later, sloppy defending allowed defender Lilian Brassier to pull one back and it galvanized Rennes, which came close to equalising several times. An awful mistake from PSG defender Lucas Beraldo saw him

pass to Meité, giving him an easy chance from six meters. But the young striker hesitated to shoot with his weaker left foot and his tame shot with his right was blocked.

Dembélé's stoppage-time brace took him this season to 20 league goals for the first time.

Canada striker Jonathan David moved onto 14 league goals — third in the Ligue 1 scoring charts — after scoring in Lille's hard-fought 1-0 win against rock-bottom Montpellier.

The win moved fifth-placed Lille level on 44 points with Monaco, which is ahead on goal difference, in the race for one of the four Champions League spots.

Marseille loses to Lens

Marseille's Mason Greenwood — second in the scoring charts with 15 goals — was named as a substitute along with Brazilian winger Luis Henrique. Both players came on at the start of the second half at Stade Velodrome.

Luis Henrique's close-range volley was expertly stopped by Lens goalkeeper Mathew Ryan in the 83rd. Moments later, he made a superb one-handed save low to his right to deny forward Neal Maupay. Marseille paid the price when Lens launched a counterattack in the fourth minute of stoppage time and Colombia defender Deiver Machado teed up Neil El Aynaoui for a fine finish as Lens moved up to eighth.

All the players in Saturday's games had "WO=MAN" written on the back of their jerseys instead of their names as part of the French league's initiative centered around International Women's Day.

Jeneath Wong becomes first Malaysian to win WAAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Da Nang

Saanvi Somu was the best Indian golfer at tied 38th while compatriots Guntas Kaur Sandhu and Mannat Brar finished way behind at the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific (WAAP) Championship here on Sunday.

Somu, who made the cut for the second year running, shot her second straight 1-under par 70. With rounds of 72-74-70-70, she totalled 2-over for the week.

The 14-year-old debutant Sandhu, who impressed by becoming the youngest Indian to make the cut at WAAP, had a

tough final round with a 7-over 78 and was 9-over to finish 47th.

Her aggression and some good putting helped her pick up 14 birdies, the most among the Indians, but she was held back by lack of experience of playing in strong windy conditions.

Brar, who made the cut after three unsuccessful attempts, had a very rough day when things just did not go her way. She shot 78 and with cards of 67-76-73-78, she finished at 10-over and in 48th place.

Meanwhile, Jeneath Wong, who moved to Australia when she was ten years old and

now plays at Pepperdine University in college golf in the United States, became the first Malaysian to win the Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship.

She turned in a superb finish which included a clutch par putt on the 16th, a perfect tee shot to within six inches on the 17th and a great pitch for a 8-foot birdie on the 18th for a round of 68.

Wong, who now gets to play three Women's Majors and a host of other iconic events, totalled 18-under, and won by one shot over Korea's Soomin Oh (66), who made a great charge with a bogey-free 66, but fell short in the face of a nerveless finish from Wong.

Wong finished 18th in her only previous experience in 2022, when she also had a hole in one on the second day. In the final round here in Vietnam, she almost had another one on the Par-3 17th, when her tee shot came inside six inches.

Three Koreans finished in top-four as Sumin Hong (68) was sole third while another Korean Yunseo Yang (66) and Australian Jazy Roberts (66) were tied fourth.

The 2026 Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship will be held in Wellington, New Zealand.



Morikawa birdies final hole for a 1-shot lead at Bay Hill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Orlando

Collin Morikawa made a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole on a baked out Bay Hill course for a 5-under 67, giving him a one-shot lead in the Arnold Palmer Invitational and a chance to win for the first time in 17 months.

Russell Henley on Saturday holed a long bunker shot for birdie on the opening hole, ran off four in a row to start the back nine and had a 67 to finish one shot behind. Corey Connors of Canada missed the 18th fairway, chipped out and made bogey for a 69 and was two back.

Even without much wind and occasional cloud cover, the heat and three days of sun brought a yellow shine to fairways and greens. Birdie putts from a reasonable range rolled out past the hole sometimes 8 feet or more away.

Shane Lowry, the 36-hole leader, got a taste of that at end. His tee shot on the 18th ran so far that only the collar of the rough kept it from rolling out into the water. He had a birdie chance just inside 25 feet and watched that roll 7 feet by the hole.

He managed to hole that for a 76, leaving him six shots behind. Rory McIlroy made bogey on three of his last four holes for a 73 to fall seven shots behind.

Scottie Scheffler tried to stay in range, except that birdies were hard to come by. He came up short on the 13th — a front pin and a crispy green — and went into the rocks. He managed to salvage bogey from that but he could only manage a 71 to fall eight shots back.

Collin Morikawa was at 10-under 206

"You have to hit good shots out there," he said. "It can get you from any direction." The final hour had Morikawa, Henley and Connors trading spots or sharing time

at the top. Morikawa was the only one to avoid a bogey over the final four-hole stretch. He laid up on the par-5 16th and hit lob wedge and let a 6-foot birdie trickle and swirl into the cup.

He barely touched his 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole. Every shot — trying to keep it in the fairway, on the green and putting — required respect. "Some of these pin locations, I feel I'm having to putt very defensively," Henley said.

Jason Day, who opened with a 76, put himself back in the mix with a tournament-low 64 on Friday and a wild round of 69 on Saturday. He was briefly tied for the lead until closing out the front nine with three straight bogeys. He was losing ground until making three straight birdies at the end, including a 20-footer on the 17th.

His measure of how firm it was from waiting his turn to putt. "Any time you put your putter down and you start sliding on your putter, that's when you know the greens are getting pretty slick," Day said. "They're changing colour and you can kind of start to see the change in color."

Michael Kim had two eagles on the back nine for a 67, joining Tony Finau (68) at 5-under 205. Kim is the only player among the top five going into the final round who is not already exempt for the Masters, and a win would take care of that.

Morikawa is a two-time major champion whose last victory was in October 2023 at the Zozo Championship in Japan. He got back with longtime coach Rick Sessinghaus, and that buttery fade that gives him such great control has been giving him more chances.

Golf Channel reminded him it had been 502 days.

"Thank you for putting that in exact days. I hope you have it in hours and minutes," he said.

Leverkusen loses to Werder Bremen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Berlin

Bundesliga leader Bayern Munich squandered a two-goal lead and lost at home to struggling Bochum 3-2, but Bayer Leverkusen was unable to take advantage.

Leverkusen on Saturday lost 2-0 at home to Werder Bremen, a team that lost its previous five games across all competitions.

The Champions League weighed heavily across the league on a day of upsets.

Borussia Dortmund lost at home to Augsburg 1-0, leading to a chorus of whistles from home fans before the "Black and Yellows" go to Lille for the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie on Wednesday. The teams drew the first leg 1-1 last Tuesday.

Also, Stuttgart was held to 2-2 by Holstein Kiel, and Wolfsburg drew with St Pauli 1-1.

Freiburg drew with Leipzig 0-0 in the late game, denting their hopes of

Champions League qualification. Both needed a win to keep pace with Mainz, which won Friday to boost its qualification prospects.

Wirtz injured

Leverkusen's loss — its second blow this week after Wednesday's 3-0 defeat to Bayern in Munich in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie — was compounded by an injury to star player Florian Wirtz early in the second half.

Wirtz, who had only gone on after the break as a substitute, was unable to continue after a foul from Bremen's Mitchell Weiser in the 52nd minute.

Weiser, who was booked, connected with Wirtz's right foot. Both Leverkusen and Bayern had rested players before they meet again for the second leg of their Champions League in Leverkusen on Tuesday.

Bochum wins in Munich

Bochum is celebrating its first win in Munich since 1991. It was also Bayern's

first defeat at home this season.

Raphaël Guerreiro got Bayern off to a flying start in the 14th minute, but Serge Gnabry missed a penalty shortly afterward when his effort crashed off the left post.

Harry Kane, who'd been rested, usually takes Bayern's penalties. Kane hasn't missed any of his last 30.

Guerreiro made the most of his rare start with his second goal in the 28th, only for Jakob Medic to pull one back three minutes later.

The game tipped in Bochum's favor when Palhinha was sent off in the 43rd for a studs-up challenge on Georgios Masouras' ankle.

Ibrahima Sissoko equalized in the 51st and Matus Bero put the visitors in front in the 71st. It proved to be the winner, but Bochum needed goalkeeper Timo Horn at his best to grab its first away win of the season.

Leverkusen's loss means Bayern still leads by eight points with nine rounds remaining.

Barcelona's Spanish league game postponed after death of team doctor



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Barcelona

Barcelona's home game against Osasuna in the Spanish league was postponed after the death of first-team doctor Carles Miñarro Garcia.

Fans were informed of the decision around 15 minutes before the game was scheduled to kick off at 9 pm local time (2000 GMT) in Barcelona at Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium on Saturday.

Barcelona said in a statement that it was "deeply saddened to announce the passing of first-team doctor Carles Miñarro Garcia this evening" and

extended its "heartfelt condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time." Barcelona did not immediately provide any details on the cause of death, which local media reports said was due to medical reasons.

"I can't believe it," Barcelona defender Ronald Araújo wrote on X. "Rest in peace, Doc."

The 50-year-old Miñarro Garcia joined the medical staff of Barcelona's first team last season after having previously worked with its futsal team.

Osasuna said it agreed to the request by Barcelona to postpone the match. The Spanish soccer federation confirmed that

the decision was official.

Barcelona club president Joan Laporta said that Miñarro Garcia had died "suddenly" as the team gathered hours before the game. Unconfirmed local media reports said the death occurred at a team hotel.

"The players, staff and coach were all incredibly sad because he was a man loved by everyone," Laporta said.

"We thought it was best to ask for the game to be postponed," Laporta thanked Osasuna and La Liga for their understanding. Barcelona leads the league by one point over Atletico Madrid. The Osasuna game will be rescheduled.

Winning with nine

Alaves held on to upset fifth-placed Villarreal 1-0 despite having two players sent off and an injury scare to goalkeeper Antonio Sivera.

Sivera was one of the Alaves players sent off — in the 58th minute — when he fouled Ayoze Pérez during a one-on-one situation that ended in a frightening collision. Sivera seemed to lose consciousness momentarily when his body went limp on the turf before he recovered and was able to walk off the field. Alaves also lost Antonio Blanco with a second yellow card during 15 minutes of second-half injury time.

Manu Sánchez scored the game's only goal in the 11th minute for Alaves' first home win since November 1.

Real Kashmir FC beats Aizawl FC 2-1 in I-League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Srinagar

Real Kashmir FC moved to third spot in the I-League standings with a hard fought 2-1 win over relegation-battling Aizawl FC at the TRC Turf Ground here on Sunday.

Real Kashmir's fifth straight home win, and fourth in the last five overall, took their tally to 32 points in 18 matches, two behind both Churchill Brothers and Inter Kashi.

With just four matches to go, the title race is set to go down to the wire. On the other hand, Aizawl missed the chance to climb out of the relegation zone. The Reds remained in 11th place with 16 points, one behind SC Bengaluru.

Senegalese Karim Samb (31st minute) put the Snow Leopards ahead before Lalrinzuala (58th) equalised for Aizawl with his ninth goal of the season. Brazilian Paulo César (77th), who came on as a substitute, scored the winning goal for the hosts, who also saved a penalty late on to grab all three points.

It was an end-to-end start with both goalkeepers making some routine saves in the early minutes.

Gradually, Real Kashmir began to boss possession and took the game to the visitors. In the 21st minute, Aizawl almost scored an own goal as Samuel Lalmuanpuia, intending to clear an Ocran Idan corner, flicked a header that went just wide of the far post.

The breakthrough for the hosts arrived through a defensive mix-up from Aizawl in the 31st minute. Karim Samb capitalised on it, burst into the box and slotted it past Md Rafique Ali Sardar to score his fifth goal of the season.

Aizawl began the second half better and found the equaliser in the 58th minute despite it coming due to a goalkeeping error. Lalrinzuala cut inside from the left but shot directly at Mohd Arbaz. What should've been a routine save was spilled by the Real Kashmir custodian and Lalrinzuala, the top Indian scorer of the I-League, was on hand to tap it in from two yards out and restore parity.

The contest became more equal after that and both teams came close to scoring again but were let down by poor finishing.

For Real Kashmir, Mohammad Inam crossed for substitute Paulo César, who headed it agonisingly wide from six yards. At the other end, Lalrinzuala cut it back for an unmarked Lalbiakdia inside the box, but he skied his first-time shot.

Eventually, Paulo Cezar did find the net in the 77th minute and it proved to be the match winner.