

## Congress, BJP spar over Justice Nazeer's appointment as Guv

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the opposition Congress today entered into a severe slugfest over the appointment of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Nazeer as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Justice Nazeer was on the SC bench, which delivered the Ayodhya verdict.

The Congress objected to the appointment citing late BJP leader Arun Jaitley's remarks that post retirement desire for jobs influence pre-retirement judgements.

Citing the late BJP leader and former law minister Arun Jaitley's remarks against such appointments, the Congress said the move was a "great threat" to the independence of the judiciary.

Congress general secretary and communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh tweeted the video of Arun Jaitley's comment in 2012 that "pre-retirement judgements are influenced by post-retirement jobs... It is a threat to the Independence of the judiciary".

The BJP on Sunday rejected the Congress' criticism of the government over a former Supreme Court judge's



**CITING THE LATE BJP LEADER AND FORMER LAW MINISTER ARUN JAITLEY'S REMARKS AGAINST SUCH APPOINTMENTS, THE CONGRESS SAID THE MOVE WAS A "GREAT THREAT" TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY**

appointment as governor, saying such appointments have past precedents and they are also not barred by the Constitution.

BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni

said the Congress has a habit of politicising every issue, and it was unfortunate that the opposition party is doing so with the appointment of governors also.

"Former judges have been appointed to different positions countless times in the past. Our Constitution also says nothing against post-retirement appointment of judges," the Rajya Sabha member said, noting that previous Congress governments had done so on numerous occasions.

The Congress earlier attacked the government over retired Supreme Court judge S Abdul Nazeer's appointment as a governor by citing the late BJP leader Arun Jaitley's remarks against such appointments, and called the move a "great threat" to the independence of the judiciary.

Before his retirement on January 4, Justice Nazeer had led the Constitution Bench that held the notes ban by the government as valid. He was also part of the bench that gave a unanimous verdict on building Ram temple at Ayodhya.

Post a comment He was also part of the bench that declared 'right to privacy' a fundamental right and had delivered a minority verdict upholding instant "triple talaq". (With PTI inputs)

## Madani says Manu worshipped Allah, religious leaders storm off stage

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani on Sunday stoked a controversy when he claimed that "Om" and "Allah" were the same God worshipped by 'Manu', drawing objections from a prominent Jain monk who along with a group of other religious leaders stormed off the stage at an event of the prominent Muslim body.

Speaking on the third and final day of the 34th general session of the Jamiat at the Ramlika Maidan here, the Muslim cleric, who heads the Arshad Madani faction of the outfit, said he asked the "dharma gurus" as to who was worshipped when there was no Shri Ram, Brahma or Shiva.

"Some say Manu worshipped Shiva. Very few have pointed out that there was nothing in the world and Manu worshipped Om.

"I asked who is Om, many said 'it is just air, it has no form, it has no colour and it is everywhere, it made the sky and land'. I said this is what we call Allah, you call Ishwar, those speaking Persian call Khuda and those speaking English call God," Madani said.

"This means that Manu, that is Adam, used to worship one Om, that is one Allah," he said.

Manu is a term found in religious texts, referring to the first man or the progenitor of humanity.

Arshad Madani made the remarks while referring to the reported statement of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat that Hindus and Muslims of India share the same ancestry, and the contention from certain quarters that Muslims should make 'ghar wapsi' - return to the religion of their ancestors.

He said Islam is not a new religion for India and "Allah" that is 'Om' sent 'Manu' or Adam here and told him to worship 'Allah' that is 'Om', and the prophets who came after this also gave the same message".

Arshad Madani's remarks were strongly disapproved by Jain monk Acharya Lokesh Muni who walked out of the session, accusing Madani of digressing from talking about unity to spinning a story about "Manu and Allah".

"We only agree with living in harmony, but all these stories regarding Om, Allah, and Manu are all baseless. He (Madani) completely spoiled the environment of the session," Muni said. PTI

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Of course India belongs to every Indian, but...

## Ahead of General Elections, BJP retains Capt Amarinder 'for' Punjab

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

The Bharatiya Janata Party is understood to have retained former Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh for an important role in the state ahead of the crucial General Elections scheduled next year.

Besides, the state is also going for an important parliamentary by-election in Jalandhar necessitated by the death of the sitting MP Chaudhary Santokh Singh.

Although it was widely speculated that Capt Amarinder might be appointed Governor in one of the states, appointments for which were made today, he was himself believed to be not very keen about the gubernatorial assignment. He had told his close confidantes that it did not suit his temperament and nor did he want to leave active politics yet. He had also denied in his private and public interactions that the issue of his appoint-



ment had been discussed with him at any stage.

Highly placed sources in the BJP here revealed that the party is very keen to widen its footprints in Punjab. It already has a galaxy of senior political leaders, mainly from Congress in its fold. But it

has not been able to take off. The party has certain issues in Punjab as it may take some time to assimilate such senior leadership in the BJP.

The BJP of its own has a limited and far too junior team right now. With heavyweights like Capt Amarinder and Sunil

Jakhar and other senior leaders like Manpreet Badal, Arvind Khanna, Rana Sodhi, Balbir Sidhu, Gurpreet Kangar, Raj Kumar Verka and others in its fold, it should not be very difficult for the party to expand in Punjab.

At the same time the party realizes that its incumbent state president Ashwani Sharma's political stature does not match many of those who have joined the party. Right now, the party has decided to continue with him, but it may need to replace him with some one more senior and higher in stature. The new team definitely needs a strong and an experience captain to take it forward.

While the BJP may not nominate Capt Amarinder as the state president, as he has already been nominated to the National Executive, he can still lead and strategise things for the party. After all, it is his earlier team in the Congress, which is now in the BJP. He may not need to move around much in the state, as he

can coordinate and guide things from Chandigarh only.

The BJP sources disclosed that the party did not want to restrict Capt Amarinder to any Raj Bhawan, even if it was the neighbouring Haryana. The party believes that he still remains the most towering political figure in the state with strong pro-Punjab credentials like having opposed the Operation Bluestar and resigned from the Congress and the parliament in protest and also repealing the Water Sharing Agreements with neighbouring states to save Punjab's waters, which is quite an emotive issue for the Punjabis.

The party is believed to be considering to fight the Jalandhar parliamentary by-election under his "patronage and guidance". Party believes that it may not necessarily guarantee the victory, but it can certainly galvanise the party cadres into a strong, formidable and a challenging force.



## PUNJAB

# Debt relief fund should be set up for Punjab: Economists

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 12

**P**unjab should set up a debt relief fund with an appeal to people to voluntarily deposit money in it which will be used only for reducing the outstanding debt burden, three noted economists have suggested to the state government.

They pointed out that Punjab's outstanding debt is expected to reach Rs 3.80 lakh crore by March 2023.

These economists are Lakhwinder Singh, visiting professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, Sukhwinder Singh, former professor and consultant to Punjab Finance Commission, Chandigarh and Kesar Singh Bhangoo, former professor of economics, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Quoting Reserve Bank of India (RBI) statistics, they said Punjab borrowed from

various sources more than Rs 3 lakh crore up to March 2022, which amounts to 53.3 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

They said compared to other states, Punjab has the highest debt-GSDP ratio and is ranked number one.

which the Punjab state has been trapped, there is a ray of hope if the Punjab government takes concerted steps to come out of the double trap-slow growth trap and debt trap," they added.

Suggesting one of the options to reduce the debt, they said a debt relief fund

**DESPITE A PESSIMISTIC SITUATION IN WHICH THE PUNJAB STATE HAS BEEN TRAPPED, THERE IS A RAY OF HOPE IF THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TAKES CONCERTED STEPS TO COME OUT OF THE DOUBLE TRAP-SLOW GROWTH TRAP AND DEBT TRAP**

"This position has been mainly due to (the fact) that each government, (during) duration of its time in office, has borrowed beyond the means and added to the accumulation of debt," they said in a statement issued on Sunday.

"Despite a pessimistic situation in

should be set up.

"One option is to set up a debt relief fund and issue an appeal to all the concerned citizens to voluntarily deposit the money in the debt relief fund and this fund will only be utilized for reducing debt burden of Punjab, while making a

provision of tax exemption as in other similar cases," the economists said.

They said Punjabis all around the globe including those living in India are by nature helpful and well known in philanthropy. "This cultural trait of Punjabis will go a long way to deal with the debt," they said.

The economists also suggested that the state government can seek a moratorium on debt which will not only stop the debt payment but also will halt interest payments charged on the accumulated debt.

The other available option can be that the government can float bonds with a view to provide immediate relief from the mounting debt burden, they said.

The Punjab government should take into confidence the well-known intellectuals of Punjab and the leadership of

other political parties to develop a consensus and take up this matter with the union government for a debt relief package, they further added.

Punjab is a strategic state in terms of providing national security including food security and has a legitimate right to seek compensation to the state for improving the deficiency of investment which has occurred since the militant movement in the mid-eighties, they pointed out.

They said that it is their considered opinion that Punjab state can raise its own revenue and can make the required investment to revive the economic growth momentum of the economy, but accumulated debt will continue to remain a big constraint.

They had earlier written to the Centre that there should be a moratorium on Punjab's debt for seven years. **PTI**

## State govt's first 'Sarkar-Kisan Milni' held at PAU

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 12

**R**eiterating the firm commitment of the state government to make agriculture a profitable venture, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday advocated for new experiments in the field of agriculture to supplement the income of the farmers.

Presiding over the first of its kind initiative of Government-Farmer interaction (Sarkar-Kisan Milni), the Chief Minister said that this unique endeavour is aimed at ensuring the well-being of the farmers.

Nearly 15,000 farmers registered themselves at the Sarkar-Kisan Milni held at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, today.

The CM said that active participation of farmers is the need of the hour to bail them out from the ongoing agrarian crisis. Mann said that due to ever escalating input costs and diminishing returns agriculture is no longer profitable venture.

The Chief Minister said that due to this the farmers of the state are on cross roads. He said that the sole motive of organizing this interaction is to reduce the gap between decision makers and stakeholders so that policies are designed as per the needs of the farmers.

Mann called upon the farmers to shun traditional methods of agriculture and adopt modern techniques for maximizing their profit adding that the state government will ensure complete support and cooperation to them.

The Chief Minister said that the state



government is already pursuing the matter of providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers on alternative crops with the Government of India. He said that this will help in supplementing the income of the farmers on one hand and weaning away the menace of stubble burning on the other.

Mann said that the state government is also laying major thrust on the food processing sector and processing plants for sugarcane, leechi, garlic, kinnow and other fruits will soon be set up in the state.

The Chief Minister also said that the state government is also planning to boost the agro-industry in a big way. He said that Punjab produces 80%

of the total Basmati produced in the country adding that this production will be further enhanced in the coming days.

The Chief Minister gave a clarion call to the farmers to adopt Basmati cultivation across the state. He assured the farmers that the state government will make every effort to ensure that they do not suffer any sort of loss in cultivation of Basmati. Mann also said that every effort will be made to ensure that assured price is made available on Basmati cultivation.

He said that the irrigation network across the state will be further spruced up to benefit the framers.

The Chief Minister said that in a major

pro-farmer initiative, no power cut was imposed in the state during the previous paddy season due to which farmers got uninterrupted and regular supply of power.

Renowned Punjabi singer and lyricist Debi Makhoosuri and Raj Tewari enthralled the audience with their performances.

Prominent amongst others present on the occasion included Cabinet Ministers Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Laljeet Singh Bhullar, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Lal Chand Kataruchak, Brahm Shankar Jimpa, Chetan Singh Jauramajra, Inderbir Singh Nijjar and Harbhajan Singh ETO, MPs Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal and Sanjeev Arora and others.

## Over 6,000 farmers given advanced dairy farming training: Bhullar

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 12

**I**n order to make rural youth self-reliant through dairy occupation, Punjab Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar, on Sunday, informed that around 6116 farmers have been given advanced dairy farming training this year under the Dairy Entrepreneurship Training Programme.

The four-week long dairy entrepreneurship training programme will also be organised to impart technical skills to farmers aspiring to set up their own dairy farms from February 20 at nine dairy training and extension centres by the Dairy Development Department.

Bhullar said that to make dairy farmers efficient dairy managers, this programme will be started at Dairy Training and Extension Centres at Chitamali (district Ropar), Bija (district Ludhiana), Gill (district Moga), Phagwara (district Jalandhar), Abul Khurana (district Sri Muktsar Sahib), Verka (district Amritsar), Tam Taran, Sardulgarh (district Mansa) and Sangrur, in which advanced training will be imparted to modernize existing dairy farming in a scientific manner.

The Cabinet Minister said that aspiring dairy farmer of age between 18 to 45 years and residents of rural area, who should have passed matric, having 10 dairy milch animals and land for green fodder cultivation, can appear for counselling on February 13 at the nearest dairy training and extension centre with matric certificate, Aadhaar card and passport size photo or contact concerned Deputy Director Dairy of their district.



## PUNJAB

# Water cannon used against AAP workers protesting against Adani in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 12

The Chandigarh Police on Sunday used water cannon to prevent AAP workers from moving towards the BJP office here as part of their protest against the Centre over the Adani issue.

Aam Aadmi Party workers, gathered from various parts of Punjab, wanted to "gherao" the office of the Punjab BJP in Sector 37 here to register their protest against the party-led central government.

Barricades were put up and a heavy deployment of police was made to prevent the protesters from heading towards the Punjab BJP office.

Police used a water cannon when AAP workers tried to force their way towards the BJP office, said officials.



Carrying party flags, AAP workers shouted slogans against the BJP government over the Adani issue.

AAP MLA from the Jalalabad constituency Jagdeep Kamboj slammed the BJP alleging that it has failed on all

fronts. Later, police detained several party leaders and workers.

Earlier speaking to reporters at the party office, AAP leader Harchand Singh Barsat alleged that the Adani Group's fortunes rose under the BJP rule.

Another AAP leader, Sunny Ahluwalia, said the party will continue to raise its voice over this issue.

Adani Group stocks had taken a beating on the bourses after US-based activist short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including fraudulent transactions and share price manipulation, against the Gautam Adani-led group, which has dismissed the allegations as lies.

Opposition parties have been demanding a joint parliamentary committee probe into the issue. **PTI**

## Bhagwant Mann is looting Punjab: Sukhbir

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 12

S hiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Sunday alleged that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had fooled the people of the state to grab power and is now looting Punjab on the orders of his boss AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal.

Interacting with the media at Fatehgarh village in Sangrur district, the SAD chief said the welfare of Punjab and its people was never on the agenda of Mann. "His only motive was to loot and ruin Punjab and he is doing exactly that," Badal alleged.

Asserting that Punjab had "never seen such a useless and non-performing chief minister in its history", Badal said people should refer to the CM as "Bhagwant Singh Beiman."

He said it was appalling that the same Bhagwant Mann who used to mock ruling party leaders over their security cover has now deployed the largest number of security personnel for himself, his wife, mother, sister and other family members.

"It is a fact that a large chunk of Punjab Police is deployed for the security of the Mann family," Badal said, adding that those who needed security were denied the same. The SAD chief said the onus of singer Sidhu Moosewala's killing was on Mann.

The former Punjab deputy CM said people in Punjab are living under the constant threat of extortions and killings. He claimed that businessmen were being forced to shell out Rs 25-30 lakh as protection money. "This is the reason why businessmen are choosing to shift base to Uttar Pradesh and other states," he said.

Asserting that scams had become a regular affair in the AAP regime, Badal referred to the multi-crore Naib Tehsildar recruitment scam. He said it was unfortunate that people with no agenda of welfare had not only come to power for the first time in Punjab's history, and are looting the state's resources to promote their political party and boss.

## 'Law and order situation improved under Mann'

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said that Punjab's law and order situation has seen a huge improvement under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Tagging a media report on how the law-and-order situation has improved under Mann, Kejriwal tweeted that earlier, gangsters had political protection but now that scenario has changed. **PTI**

## Cold weather conditions continue in Punjab, Haryana

CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 12

Cold weather conditions prevailed in many parts of Punjab and Haryana while minimum temperatures stayed close to normal levels at several places of both the states on Sunday.

Amritsar in Punjab recorded a minimum temperature of 6.6 degrees Celsius while Ludhiana's low settled at 8.9 degrees Celsius, according to a report of the Meteorological Department here.



Patiala's minimum was 8.8 degrees Celsius while Pathankot's minimum was 6 degrees Celsius.

Bathinda, Faridkot and Gurdaspur

registered their respective minimum temperatures of 4.4, 4.8 and 10.5 degrees Celsius.

Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded a low of 9.6 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal.

In Haryana, Ambala's minimum was 11 degrees C while Hisar's minimum settled at 12.8 degrees Celsius.

Narnaul, Rohtak, Bhiwani and Sirsa recorded their minimum temperatures at 8.4, 8.6, 13 and 6 degrees Celsius respectively. **PTI**

## Ludhiana man collects rare artifacts

LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 12

A 52-year-old man from Punjab possesses a rare collection of more than 80,000 coins belonging to several rulers going back to 600 BC, handwritten manuscripts, and ancient weapons which he has collected over the years.

Narinder Pal Singh, a mechanical engineer, spent his fortune on collecting the rare artifacts for more than 35 years. With passion for collecting rare coins, Sikh relics and arms and armour, he is no ordinary collector.

"I started collecting coins and stamps when I was 14-year-old. It became my hobby. My grandfather gave me some coins from the British India period. But gradually my curiosity level in collecting more coins increased and it turned into a passion," said Singh.

Singh's deep passion drove him to collect more than 80,000 coins belonging to several rulers since 600 BC including medieval, Mughal and British periods.

But he has a keen interest in collecting coins during the Sikh-rule.

"During collection of coins, I found that unlike during ancient times, medieval, Mughal and British periods, coins issued during Sikh rule starting from Sikh 'misls' (1765 till 1799) till Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1801 till 1839) did not have names of rulers."

"The coins were released only in the names of Guru Nanak Dev and Guru Gobind Singh and they had the mention of 'Akal Sahai'. They were called 'Nanakshahi' and 'Gobindshahi' coins," said Singh.

However, he did find two coins in the name of Maharaja Sher Singh and



Maharaja Duleep Singh who ruled between 1839 to 1849.

Singh said his collection includes coins from mints in Amritsar, Lahore, Multan,

Peshawar, Kashmir, Dera Ghazi Khan and Anandgarh, during the Sikh rule period. The coins had mention of 'zarab' (Persian word and it means mint) along with the name of the captured area, showing at which mint the coin was made.

Singh's collection also included copper and silver coins during the rulers of Patiala, Nabha, Kaithal, Faridkot and Jind.

Singh, who is the general secretary of the National Numismatic Society, said he purchased rare coins through online auctions and sometimes bought them at twice and thrice the prices from jewellers who got them from elderly villagers for extracting silver and even scrap dealers.

Not only rare coins, the Ludhiana man also collected handwritten manuscripts written in Gurmukhi language.

He said he has manuscripts of 'Adhyatam Parkash Granth', 'Panj Granthi'

and 'Dasam Baani Das Granthi' written in Gurmukhi.

Besides, 'Bhagavad Gita', 'Ramayana' and 'Hanuman Natak' written in Gurmukhi script are also part of his collection. Rice paper has been used in these 'granthi', he adds.

Singh also possesses a wide range of weapons including swords, daggers, Katars and arrows which were at the time of Mughal period.

He also has arrow-heads used during the time of tenth Sikh Guru Gobind Singh.

"Through my collection of coins, weapons and manuscripts, I want the coming generation to know about our rich Sikh heritage," he says.

Asked how much money he has spent on procuring his collections, Singh said, "I have invested all of my earnings and even sold my properties for these antique items." **PTI**



# ADGP calls for intensifying efforts to neutralise terrorists active in Rajouri

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

**A**dditional Director General of Police (Jammu Zone) Mukesh Singh on Sunday called for maximum effort to neutralise terrorists and their overground workers active in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

Singh was speaking at a joint security review meeting in Rajouri -- the border district where seven people, including two children, were killed and 14 injured in a terror attack on January 1.

Despite a massive search operation to neutralise the terrorists behind the attack in Dhangri village, success has so far eluded the security forces.

Singh concluded his two-day visit to Rajouri by addressing the joint security review meeting attended by, among others, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Rajouri-Poonch Range) Mohd



Haseeb Mughal, Senior Superintendent of Police (Rajouri) Mohd Aslam and senior officers of the Army and the Central Reserve Police Force, a police

spokesperson said.

He stressed on strengthening both border and hinterland security grid, focused on counter-terrorist operations

and targeting the overground workers' (OGW) network of terrorists, the spokesperson added.

Singh also urged the officers to put in maximum effort for the arrest or elimination of terrorists operating in Rajouri.

He was briefed about a few measures taken by the district police in Rajouri, the spokesperson said, adding that Singh was also informed about a few terror cases that had been solved in record time.

The deputy inspector general and the senior superintendent assured Singh that efforts to counter terrorism would continue with full dedication so that the overall security situation improves and the general public feels secure and safe.

Singh, accompanied by Mughal and Aslam, earlier visited the district's Kalakote and Buddal areas and reviewed the security situation.

## 45 shops sealed, 2 demolished in Ramban

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

**A**t least 45 shops were sealed and two others demolished during the ongoing anti-encroachment drive in Banihal township of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Sunday.

Two political activists were taken into preventive custody before the start of the drive to retrieve state land along the sub-district hospital road amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

A team of revenue officials led by Tehsildar, Banihal, Imtiyaz Ahmad had on Saturday served notices to the owners of the shops, mostly pharmacies and clinical laboratories, triggering a protest.

The shopkeepers and local residents staged a sit-in at the tourist hostel, however, a police team swooped on the protesters around midnight and two sarpanches -- Mohd Ilyas Wani of Democratic Azad Party (DAP) and Qaiser Hamid Sheikh of Congress -- were taken into preventive custody, they said.

Additional security personnel were deployed across the town and the notified shops were sealed while two were demolished. The shops that were sealed, included 22 pharmacies, nine clinical laboratories and five optical shops, officials said.

## Childbirth over WhatsApp call

## Doctors assist pregnant woman in snow-covered remote Keran

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12

**W**ith snowfall ruling out the possibility of airlift, a pregnant woman who had a history of labour complications in the remote Keran in Jammu and Kashmir was assisted by doctors in delivering a healthy baby over a WhatsApp call.

"On Friday night, we received a patient in labour at the Keran PHC (primary health centre) with history of complicated delivery with eclampsia, prolonged labour and episiotomy," Block Medical Officer of Kralpora Dr Mir Mohammad Shafi said.

An air evacuation was required to take the patient to a hospital with maternity facilities as Keran remained cut off from the rest of Kupwara district during the winter.

Continuous snowfall on Thursday and Friday prevented the authorities to arrange an air evacuation, forcing the medical staff at the Keran PHC to look for an alternative way to assist in the delivery.

A gynaecologist in Kralpora subdistrict hospital, Dr Parvaiz, guided Dr Arshad Sofi and his paramedical staff at the Keran PHC over a WhatsApp call on the procedure to deliver the baby.

# LG Sinha addresses at SJCE Mysuru's Diamond Jubilee Celebration function

Says college played unique role in societal transformation

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
MYSURU, FEBRUARY 11:

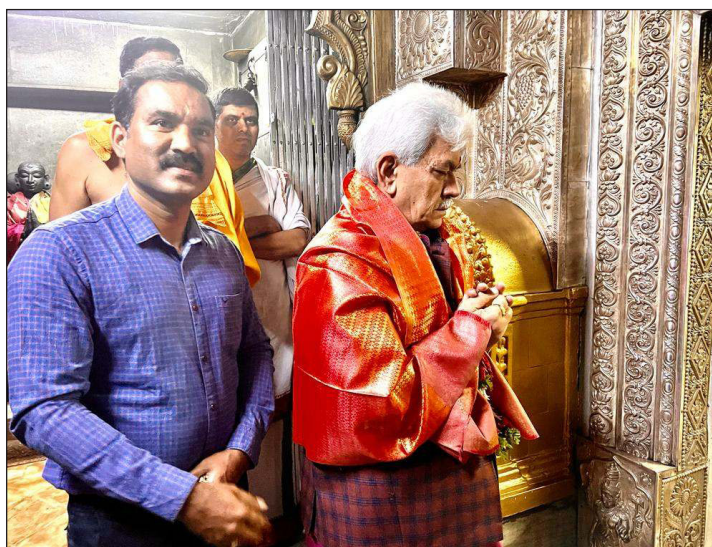
**L**ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the inaugural function of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering (SJCE), Mysuru today.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor paid his respectful obeisance to Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Mahaswami and Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswami.

"Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering has contributed immensely to the nation-building and has achieved recognition for playing a unique role in societal transformation," the Lt Governor said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said, India is prime mover of peace and prosperity in today's world and the educational institutions like JSCE has helped in technological advances that are taking place now.

SJCE under the aegis of JSS Mahavidyapeetha is transforming lives through its education, societal outreach and spirituality. Mahavidyapeetha has contributed to India's spiritual and knowledge heritage while guiding several generations to cherish our roots, our heritage with pride, the Lt Governor said.



**LT GOVERNOR SAID, INDIA IS PRIME MOVER OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN TODAY'S WORLD AND THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS LIKE JSCE HAS HELPED IN TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES THAT ARE TAKING PLACE NOW**

The Lt Governor said in the last eight years, the world has witnessed emergence of a new India which has resolved to regain its past glory, be the economic powerhouse and become the driving force for all-round development of humanity.

He also highlighted the key role of educational institutions to realize the undiscovered potential of the students.

"Education is the journey of the inner-self. This whole world is a university and every experience of life is educa-

tion," observed the Lt Governor.

Sharing the message of Mahatma Gandhi with the students, the Lt Governor said, the real meaning of education is to find the inner voice of oneself.

Rabindranath Tagore advocated trans-disciplinary learning. Knowledge gave rise to action and action gave rise to knowledge. We must take inspiration from the life experiences of great personalities and discover our inner-self and bring knowledge into practice, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor emphasized that colleges and universities must create an environment where students not just strive for marks and attain degrees but strive for experiential learning.

Today, Knowledge-economy is the gateway towards prosperity across the world. We should introspect how our educational institutions should contribute towards strengthening India's knowledge economy, the Lt Governor said.

His Holiness, Jagadguru, Shri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswami; Sh L Nagendra, MLA; saints, devotees associated with Suttur Mutt, Vice Chancellor, Faculty members of Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering besides other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



# HIMACHAL

## Will fulfil all duties, says new Governor

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
GORAKHPUR, FEBRUARY 12

**B**JP Rajya Sabha MP Shiv Pratap Shukla was on Sunday appointed the new governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Expressing his gratitude for the opportunity, Shukla said, "I would like to thank the President, Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the Union Home Minister for giving me this responsibility under their leadership. Whatever responsibility will be assigned to me, I will try to fulfil all and give my hundred per cent during my work tenure."

"I would also like to thank all my supporters and well-wishers who gathered at the residence to congratulate me. They all welcomed me with flowers, garlands and sweets and I am delighted," Shukla was quoted by ANI as saying.

Starting his political journey with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Shukla saw many ups and downs during his political career.

A resident of Rudrapur in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh, 70-year-old Shukla has been a four-time MLA, three-time Union Minister and a member of the Rajya Sabha. He also served as Union Minister of State Finance during the first tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shukla was also appointed chairman of the Ethics Committee of Rajya Sabha



**SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA WILL BE THE 29TH GOVERNOR OF HIMACHAL PRADESH. HE WILL REPLACE RAJENDRA ARLEKAR WHO HAD BEEN SERVING ON THE POST FOR THE LAST ONE-AND-A-HALF YEARS.**

in July 2020. The Ethics Committee is in charge of reviewing complaints against the behaviour and activities of MPs. The BJP had also appointed Shukla as the chief whip of the party in Rajya Sabha on July 21.

Meanwhile, Himachal Pradesh Chief

Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu congratulated Shiv Pratap Shukla for being appointed the new Governor of the state.

"Many congratulations and best wishes to Shri Shiv Prasad Shukla ji on becoming the Governor of Himachal Pradesh," Chief Minister Sukhu tweeted.

Sukhu also said Shukla's wide experience in public life will benefit the state and its people.

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri also congratulated the newly appointed Governor.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday announced the names for appointment to the posts of 12 governors for states and one Lieutenant Governor in the Union Territory of Ladakh.



## Fire engulfs old building near CM residence

SHIMLA, FEBRUARY 12

**A** fire broke out in a three-storeyed old heritage building situated about 200 metres from the chief minister's official residence here in the early hours on Sunday.

The fire broke out at around 4:30 am after which fire tenders were rushed from Mall Road, Chhota Shimla, and Boileauganj fire stations. The fire was under control but not fully extinguished and was still smouldering, officials said.

There was no loss of life as the owner of the building, Sandeep Sahni and the

caretaker, both were in Delhi, they said.

The building called "Firgrove" is about 200 metres away from "Oakover" (CM's official residence) in Shimla.

The fire spread very fast and engulfed the entire building in few minutes. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and loss to the property is being estimated, officials said.

Hidden among the pine trees, Firgrove had played a minor role in India's freedom movement as Mahatma Gandhi stayed at this house on one of his visits to the city. At the time the house belonged to Lala Mohanlal. **PTI**



## Chandigarh-Manali NH blocked due to massive landslide

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
MANDI, FEBRUARY 12

**T**he Chandigarh-Manali Highway was blocked for vehicular traffic between Mandi and Kullu due to a massive landslide in Mandi district on Sunday.

A long queue of vehicles was witnessed on both sides of the site of the landslide.

Workers of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) are clearing out the debris and boulders from the road to restore traffic on the highway.

Light vehicles have been diverted on alternative route between Mandi and Kullu via Mandi-Kataula-Kullu road.

Police officials said the highway will be restored to traffic soon.

## Horticulture project in Himachal gives new lease of life to farmers

SHIMLA/HAMIRPUR, FEBRUARY 12

**F**ields abandoned in lower hills of Himachal due to wildlife menace and lack of irrigation are now dotted with fruit trees under a horticulture project that provides for composite solar fencing and subsidy on agricultural equipment.

Kaihdru village on the Shimla-Hamirpur National Highway is once such village which has come alive with lush pomegranate orchards.

Farmers Prakash Chand and Ramesh Chand of Kaihdru are a happy lot as their sweet lime and pomegranate plants have started bearing fruits.

Madan Lal, a horticulturist, said his family was upset due to crop damage by wild animals. However, the situation changed when the family switched to fruit crops.

Similarly, another farmer Ram Chand said the new cropping idea had changed

the life of his family and they are now ready to adopt fruit crops in a big way.

The change is the outcome of Himachal Pradesh Sub-tropical Horticulture, Irrigation, and Value Addition (SHIVA) Pilot Project which envisaged horticulture development on the basis of seed to market concept with provision for composite solar fencing to protect fruits from wild animals and subsidy on agricultural equipment and drip irrigation system.

About 75 percent of the cultivable land in Himachal is rainfed and hundreds of farmers had given up farming due to the menace of wild animals.

"Under the pilot project, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) had finalised Project Readiness Financing of Rs 75 crore for testing of four fruits – guava, litchi, pomegranate and citrus fruits – in 17 clusters of 12 development blocks in four districts covering a total of 200 hectares of area and the

results were very encouraging," said Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi.

The project will turn Himachal Pradesh into a fruit state with collective management, production and marketing, value addition and processing of crops produced from orchards being established under this project, he said and added that provision has been made for land development, seed, plantation, irrigation, fencing, mass production, marketing, processing, and other facilities.

"I have visited several blocks and the response is overwhelming and farmers want more area to be covered under the project," he told PTI.

About 6,000 hectares of land has been identified in 28 development blocks of seven districts of Sirmour, Solan, Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra and Mandi, which will benefit more than 25,000 farmer families under the main project.



## EDITORIAL

The Express India NEWS

## Earthquake; lessons and relief

The death and destruction caused by the massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria is catastrophic and devastating beyond imagination. 28,000 people have been counted dead so far. There are fears and apprehensions about more casualties as the debris is being cleared and aid workers are desperately trying to search for the living from the concrete debris. And there are stories of hope with survivors being found even after five days of the devastating quake. The visuals of the two-month old toddler found alive and smiling after remaining under debris for over 120 hours are really reassuring.

There are many more such stories where people have come out alive. Unfortunately such stories are rare and exceptional. As the times pass by, the hope of finding more survivors also fades. This is despite the fact that the entire world has joined ranks to provide relief and help in rescuing people. Aid workers have moved from across the globe to Turkey and Syria. Syria, in fact, has been ravaged by a civil war for the last ten years already. As if that was not enough to unleash misery on people, the devastating earthquake took place.

Such devastating tragedies should be a lesson for the world that nature is more capable of unleashing her wrath on humanity. Be it cyclones or earthquakes, it does take its toll on humanity. While cyclones are now being predicted with much more accuracy, the earthquakes, as of now, are impossible to be predicted. The natural calamities and disasters like earthquakes cannot be prevented, but man made tragedies like the wars can be prevented and stopped and precious lives saved. Wish some sense prevailed among the warmongers that they realize the futility of war as it only leads to death and destruction that too induced by the human beings themselves against their fellow human beings.

## Chandigarh '2-wheeler' ban ill conceived

The Chandigarh administration has banned the registration of the fuel-based two-wheelers in the city. This has been apparently done, or it is claimed so, to promote the use of electrical vehicles/two wheelers. The city became the first in the country to do that. However, this decision is unilateral and completely ill conceived and without any convincing logic. It is even alleged that this has apparently been done to promote the sales of the E-vehicles/two-wheelers, which are far more expensive than the fuel based two wheelers.

Two-wheelers are mostly driven by the people belonging to lower income groups who survive on paltry incomes and salaries as also by a lot of students. Moreover, there is no such evidence that the fuel-based two-wheelers cause all the pollution. Yes, they do contribute towards air pollution, but not as much as the four-wheelers and other heavy vehicles do. By banning the registration of the fuel-based two wheelers, the administration has betrayed its callous ignorance about the needs of the people on the bottom of the economic ladder. The orders to ban registration of fuel-based two wheelers must be withdrawn forthwith.

## Of course India belongs to every Indian, but...

BY VIMAL SUMBLY

The Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind leader Maulana Mahmood Madani on Friday made a strong assertion that India belongs as much to him as it belongs to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat. Madani's tone was not conciliatory, but confrontational. Yes, India belongs to everyone including Madani and Modi, but why draw comparisons. Who is questioning your right of belonging with the country? It is a deliberate attempt to create an "other" and play the "victim" and cry "persecution". Why does Madani need to tell the Prime Minister or the RSS Chief that "India belongs to me as much as it belongs to you?" Who is questioning his right over the country? Why selectively pick up the two prominent leaders of the country for comparisons?

Madani was also incorrect on certain facts. India was not the birthplace of Islam, as Madani was quoted having said in the newspaper reports. It was neither the first homeland of Muslims. It is a fact of history that the Islamic rulers conquered India by force through wars and not by peaceful means. They did not come to seek refuge in India, but they came to conquer it. Yes it is believed that Imam Hussain, the son of Hazrat Ali and grandson of Prophet Mohammad who was killed in the battle of Karbala had tried to seek refuge in India, but he was not allowed by Yezid, the ruler of the time against whom he fought the Battle of Karbala.

The first Muslim invader of India was Muhammad ibn al-Qasim, also known as Muhammad bin Qasim, who conquered parts of modern day Sindh in the eighth century defeating its Hindu ruler Raja Dahir. The Islamic conquest of Delhi, never the entire India, took place in the eleventh century. The Muslims ruled India, most parts of it never whole of it, from eleventh century to seventeenth century, before the British East India Company established its foothold in the country. India later came under direct control of the British crown. And when the British left India, they fragmented it into two parts, handing over an "Islamic homeland" of Pakistan to the Muslims of India. It is also a fact that an overwhelming majority of the Muslims in the united British India supported the creation of Pakistan. The Muslim League was more popular in United Provinces and Central Provinces, Bengal, Hyderabad and other parts, which later remained in India, than in Punjab and North West Frontier Province.

This historic fact cannot be wished away that the majority of the Muslims who 'HAD' to stay back in India, did not opt for India out of any secular belief, just because the part of the country they were living in remained with India and they had certain compulsions to stay here. The sweeping claims made by Maulana Madani in his speech are overly exaggerated. It is a fact that the Muslims fought along with the Hindus in the first war of Independence in 1857, but the majority of the

**ASSERTING YOUR RIGHT OVER INDIA IS ALWAYS WELCOME. AT THE SAME TIME IT MUST BE MATCHED BY DEEP INTROSPECTION AS WELL. IF ONE CLAIMS CERTAIN SPECIAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS A MINORITY, THEN IT OWES CERTAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THE MAJORITY AS WELL. THIS IS A MUTUAL AND TWO-WAY PROCESS. IF PRESERVING AND SAFEGUARDING THE MUSLIM IDENTITY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE "IDEA OF INDIA", SO IS THE PRESERVING AND SAFEGUARDING THE HINDU IDENTITY. IF ASSERTION OF MINORITY IDENTITY IS SECULARISM, THE SAME ASSERTION BY THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY CANNOT BE DEEMED AS "COMMUNALISM" AND "FASCISM". HINDU MAJORITY IS A FACT OF INDIA AND IT HAS TO BE ACCEPTED. IT IS NOT FAIR TO BRAND AN ENTIRE MAJORITY AS "COMMUNAL AND FASCIST" BECAUSE IT HAS ITS OWN IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL BELIEFS.**

The Express India NEWS

Muslims gradually drifted away from the national freedom movement. And it climaxed after the formation of the Muslim League, founded in 1906 by the Nawab of Dhaka, Khwaja Salimullah. By the time it was taken over by Ali Mohammad Jinnah, most of the Muslims in United India, identified with the league. For them the Indian National Congress that time was a "communal Hindu organization", and was treated the same way as the Bharatiya Janata Party is treated now.

After the partition of the country, it was not easy for that generation which had nourished the idea of a "separate Islamic State" and had not been able to live there despite its creation there remained a crisis of identity. That generation had to stay back in India, for multiple reasons, and belief in Indian secularism was certainly not one of those reasons, despite such great fascination and fondness of the new Islamic State of Pakistan. It is that generation which found it difficult to reconcile to the "idea of India", when a separate Muslim Homeland had

already been established, and there was an element of "alienation" and sense of loss prevailing and persisting in it, which was transferred to the next generation and so on.

It was this feeling of alienation among the community which manifested in multiple ways, at times very aggressively, within the independent India that led to the rise of Hindu nationalism in the country. Had the majority of Muslims any belief in India being their Homeland, there would never have been a demand and subsequent creation of Pakistan. After all, the demand for a separate Islamic Homeland was not raised due to any victimization or intimidation by any "fascist Hindu Rule" in India, but during the British rule, which was more friendly and kind towards the Muslims than towards the Hindus.

The Muslim leadership of the post-independent India made no efforts to reconcile with the idea and the fact of Indian nationalism. This leadership of Muslims instead tried to assert and defend an exclusive identity, which at times was even confrontational. Resistance to sing India's national song, "Vande Matram" is one such example. It is one thing to join the majority of Indians in condemning Nathuram Godse, because he belonged to some extreme unknown ultra-fanatic stream, but it is a different thing to praise Gandhi. How many of those condemning Godse are praising Gandhi. They always accepted and preferred Jinnah over Gandhi.

These are just a few historical facts, which cannot be razed or wished away. Asserting your right over India is always welcome. At the same time it must be matched by deep introspection as well. If one claims certain special rights and privileges as a minority, then it owes certain duties and responsibilities towards the majority as well. This is a mutual and two-way process. If preserving and safeguarding the Muslim identity is an integral part of the "idea of India", so is the preserving and safeguarding the Hindu identity. If assertion of minority identity is secularism, the same assertion by the majority community cannot be deemed as "communalism" and "fascism". Hindu majority is a fact of India and it has to be accepted. It is not fair to brand an entire majority as "communal and fascist" because it has its own ideological and political beliefs. Like the way the majority cannot dictate its terms to the minority, so cannot the minority dictate its terms to the majority. If the majority resists, which it naturally will, it does not mean it is fascist.

Muslim leaders like Maulana Madani can do great favour to the country and the community by enlightening and encouraging it (the community) to integrate and assimilate with the social and political mainstream, instead of insisting and asserting the right to sectarian exclusivism and glorifying and celebrating the invaders like Mahmood Ghazni and communal bigots like Aurangzeb. You can't condemn Godse and glorify Aurangzeb.



## NATION

# UP 'capable and ready' to become India's growth engine: President Murmu

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 12

**H**ailing the Uttar Pradesh government for successfully holding the Global Investors Summit, President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said the state is "capable and ready" to become India's growth engine.

She said that through the summit the state got investment proposals worth Rs 35.5 lakh crore. Addressing the valedictory session of the Global Investors Summit here, President Murmu said she was glad to note that many countries showed their interest in the growth and development of Uttar Pradesh.

"Uttar Pradesh, which is at the top population wise, is also the first in the country in economic contributions. I appreciate farmers and entrepreneurs of the state for this. To play the role of India's growth engine, Uttar Pradesh is 'saksham' (capable) and 'taiyar' (ready)," Murmu said.

The president said the state ranks first in India in many areas in terms of contribution to the country's economy.

Murmu, during her address, said she was happy to note that sessions such as 'Leveraging Food Basket of India: Opportunity for Food Processing' and 'Unlocking Opportunities in Dairy and Animal Husbandry Sector' were organised during the summit.



Underlining that political stability and proper administration prove very helpful for investors, the president said at present, Uttar Pradesh has "a stable and decision-making government".

The state government envisioned far-sighted policies and implemented them. Due to this, the state is capable and ready to play the role of growth engine of a "New India", Murmu said.

Through this summit, an investment

of about Rs 35.5 lakh crore is estimated in Uttar Pradesh which is expected to provide employment opportunities to lakhs of people, she said.

The president said after "the success of the previous investors summit in 2018, the latest meet was organised on a large scale". Uttar Pradesh has about 95 lakh Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the highest in the country, she noted.

Murmu said apart from being the backbone of the country's industries, MSMEs also provide the largest number of employment opportunities after the agriculture sector.

"It is a matter of happiness that in achieving the goal of making India a USD 5 trillion economy, the state government has resolved to make Uttar Pradesh a USD 1 trillion economy," she said.

## Rejig in several states, 6 new Governors appointed

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

**T**he government on Sunday appointed six new faces as governors, including retired Supreme Court judge S Abdul Nazeer, who was part of the historic 2019 Ayodhya verdict, and four BJP leaders, besides carrying out a rejig of the gubernatorial posts in seven states.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson, President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignations of Bhagat Singh Koshyari and R K Mathur as the governor of Maharashtra and the lieutenant governor of Ladakh respectively.

Ramesh Bais, who was the governor of Jharkhand, has been appointed governor of Maharashtra, the official said.

Koshyari, who has been in the line of opposition fire over his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji, said last month that he had conveyed his desire to quit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that he would like to spend the remainder of his life reading, writing and in other activities.

Koshyari, 80, took charge as Maharashtra governor in September 2019 at a time of a political turmoil in the state following Shiv Sena severing its ties with the BJP.

He administered the oath of office to Devendra Fadnis as the chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar as the deputy chief minister, which lasted only three days.

It was not immediately known what reasons prompted Mathur's resignation.

The President appointed Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig B D Mishra (retd) in his place, the spokesperson said.

Justice Nazeer, a former Supreme court judge, according to the spokesperson, was appointed as the new governor of Andhra Pradesh. The incumbent, Biswa Bhushan Harichandan, has been shifted to Chhattisgarh.

Justice Nazeer, who retired on January 4, has been part of several path-breaking verdicts, including those on the politically sensitive Ayodhya land dispute, instant 'triple talaq' and the one that declared 'right to privacy' a fundamental right.

The President also appointed Lt Gen Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (retd) as governor of Arunachal Pradesh, the spokesperson said.

Four BJP leaders, including two from Uttar Pradesh, were also appointed as new governors.

According to the spokesperson, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, C P Radhakrishnan, Shiv Pratap Shukla and Gulab Chand Kataria have been appointed as governors of Sikkim, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Assam respectively.

Other than Bais, Mishra and Harichandan, the other transfers included the shifting of Anusuiya Uikye from Chhattisgarh to Manipur, La. Ganesan from Manipur to Nagaland, Phagu Chauhan from Bihar to Meghalaya and Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar from Himachal Pradesh to Bihar.

## Development in border areas ignored Cong feared enemy could exploit new roads: PM

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
DAUSA, FEBRUARY 12

**P**rim Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the Congress of underestimating the valour of the armed forces and said its governments did not carry out development work in border areas, fearing the enemy could exploit the new roads to advance into the country.

He was addressing a BJP rally here, soon after a ceremony a few kilometres away to inaugurate the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which he said would bring pace to development in Rajasthan as well.

Modi also accused the Congress government in Rajasthan, where assembly polls are due this year-end, of lacking vision and hindering the state's development, and said its plans and announcements remained just on paper.



### FIRST PHASE OF DELHI-MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY INAUGURATED

soldiers. Our forces know how to stop the enemy at the border and give them a befitting reply," he said.

The prime minister said his government has created a network of roads and rail in border areas in the last nine years.

Before addressing the rally, Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The PM pressed the button of a remote to mark the foundation laying/inauguration of four projects worth more than Rs 18,000 crore.

He said the 246-km Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot section will reduce the travel time between Jaipur and Delhi to half and will bring new tourism and employment opportunities to the youths in Rajasthan.

Modi said when the government

invests in highway projects, ports, railways, optical fibre, and opens medical colleges, it gives strength to traders, small shopkeepers and industries. "Investment on infrastructure attracts more investment." Built at a cost of more than Rs 12,150 crore, this first completed section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will provide a major boost to the economic development of the entire region.

The PM said those who travel to Delhi for work can now come back to home in the evening after finishing their task. The PM said that rural 'haats' are being developed around the expressway where the local artisans can sell their article.

Law and order situation in Rajasthan under the Congress rule is deteriorating day by day, he said adding the state needs freedom from uncertainty and it needs a stable and growth-oriented government.

Modi said Rajasthan would have progressed better if it had the double-engine government of the BJP, referring to the possibility of his party being in power both at the Centre and in the state.

"Congress governments did not carry out development work in border villages and areas because they were scared, and they have said in parliament that what will happen if the enemy comes on the roads made by us," Modi said at a BJP rally in Dausa district.

"The Congress has always underestimated the valour and bravery of our

## NATION

## World Radio Day

# Just tune in, radio's charm persists on simplicity, accessibility !!

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

**“Y**ou had your time, you had the power, you’ve yet to have, your finest hour, radio...” Thirty-nine years after Queen’s cult song “Radio Ga Ga” rocked the airwaves, listeners are agreed the best may still be around the corner for that much loved, so familiar and evolving with the times ‘audio device’. Quite simply, the radio.

It was sometime in the 1960s. Nemichand Barola was about 10. And remembers vividly melodious tunes from Radio Ceylon playing from a radio in a tiny paan shop in his hometown Ajmer adding to lazy afternoon vibes.

On the eve of World Radio Day on Monday, it is the simplicity, reach and accessibility of the medium that still connects the likes of Barola to the old-worldly charm of the radio in an age of innumerable news channels and music streaming services, say experts.



“Radio is a very convenient and easy medium that can be accessed by anyone anywhere. You don’t require internet connection, you don’t require electricity to operate

it. And you don’t need to sit in front of it to listen,” said Jainendra Singh, retired broadcaster and additional director at All India Radio.

The days of transistor sets are long over but the means of listening to radio have increased with the introduction of smartphones, audio platforms that customise playlists, FM radio in automobiles and devices such as Sony’s music streaming ‘box’ Caravan’.

In rural areas and economically marginalised sections, a large number of people rely on basic mobile phones that come with an in-built radio feature: a real gamechanger, according to Arti Jain of community radio station ‘Gurgaon Ki Awaaz’.

The persistent attraction of the radio is evident from the latest Economic Survey which noted that FM radio has flourished in the last few years.

According to it, the number of private FM radio stations has increased from 243 in the quarter ending December 2015 to 388 in the quarter ending June 2022.

## Cong's promises shall be foundation of '5 Star Meghalaya'

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

**C**ongress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said the promises made by the party in Meghalaya shall be the foundation of a '5-star' state.

The Meghalaya Congress on Saturday promised one job to each household, free healthcare for all and free education for all girls up to class 12, if voted to power. In its manifesto for the February 27 election which was released on Saturday by senior leader Jairam Ramesh, the Congress also promised free roofing materials, free power of up to 200 units and free LPG cylinders quarterly to BPL families across the state.

In a tweet, Kharge said, "Dear people of Meghalaya, @INCMeghalaya has made 5 solemn promises for your future. Our commitment shall be the foundation of a '5 Star Meghalaya'." "Empowering Women; Power cut Free Meghalaya; Drug Free Meghalaya; Unemployment Free Meghalaya; Corruption Free Meghalaya," the Congress chief said referring to the five commitments made by the party earlier to make Meghalaya a '5-star' state. Polling in Meghalaya for the 60 assembly seats will be held on February 27 and the counting of votes will take place on March 2.

## Two youths killed in Jammu road mishap

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

**T**wo youths were killed when their speeding motorcycle skidded off a road and rammed into the boundary wall of a house here today.

Rohit Kumar (20) and Aman Sharma (19) were on their way to Devipur from Bomal around 10 pm Saturday when the accident took place at Nai Basti Nud in the Akhnoor area, officials said.

The youths suffered critical injuries and taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared Kumar dead on arrival. Sharma succumbed later while being shifted from Jammu to Punjab for specialized treatment.

The officials said both the deceased were cremated on Sunday.

# Micro quakes preventing large-scale event in India

**Country prepared for any eventuality: Experts**

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK NEW  
DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

**M**icro tremors have been helping release tectonic stress and protecting India from a devastating event, experts said and asserted that the country has seen a paradigm shift towards effective response and mitigation.

They said India is well-prepared to deal with the fallout of large-scale earthquakes as it has a dedicated, well-equipped and trained force in the form of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

The impact of a large-scale earthquake can also be reduced if people and institutions strictly comply with the bylaws and codes to build resilient structures, they said.

"The triple junction on India's western side near the border with Pakistan is continuously releasing stress due to the occurrence of micro-level earthquakes.

**BUILDINGS HAVE NATURAL FREQUENCIES OF VIBRATION, ALSO KNOWN AS RESONANT FREQUENCIES, WHICH ARE DETERMINED BY THEIR MASS, STIFFNESS AND SIZE. THE GROUND MOTION DURING AN EARTHQUAKE CAN EXCITE THESE NATURAL FREQUENCIES, CAUSING THE BUILDING TO VIBRATE AT ITS RESONANT FREQUENCY.**

There are a few earthquakes of magnitude 4 and 5 as well," said OP Mishra, director at the Ministry of Earth Sciences' National Centre for Seismology.

A triple junction is a point where three tectonic plates meet and interact. These are important areas of geological activity and can be sites of significant seismic and volcanic activity.

The movement of the plates can cause significant build up of stress and strain in the Earth's crust that is eventually released in the form of earthquakes.

"Triple junctions are rigid and compact and withstand a lot of stress. If it breaks, the entire stress is released,

causing a lot of damage," Mishra explained.

There are two triple junctions in Türkiye. One of them is where the Arabian Plate, the African Plate and the Anatolian Plate meet. The breaking of this junction led to the massive earthquake that devastated Türkiye and Syria, leaving more than 25,000 dead, he said.

"Since there had been no small earthquakes in this region, a lot of stress accumulated there. Türkiye saw several powerful earthquakes within 24 hours because the couple zone area was quite big and it took time to break away,"

Mishra said. A couple zone is a region where two tectonic plates horizontally slide past each other.

"India is located in a seismically active region but we are lucky that we have a lot of micro earthquakes occurring every day. So the store-up energy is being released," the scientist said. He added that the impact of a large-scale earthquake can be reduced if people and institutions strictly comply with the bylaws and codes to build resilient structures. According to experts, the resonant frequency of a building can play a critical role in determining the level of damage it experiences during an earthquake.

Buildings have natural frequencies of vibration, also known as resonant frequencies, which are determined by their mass, stiffness and size. The ground motion during an earthquake can excite these natural frequencies, causing the building to vibrate at its resonant frequency.



## WORLD

# Shall welcome any effort by India to end hostilities in Ukraine: US

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 12

The US will welcome any attempt that could lead to ending the raging Russia-Ukraine conflict, including any effort that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is willing to undertake, the White House has said.

The remarks by National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby came on Friday, days after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held talks with Russian leaders, including President Vladimir Putin.

When asked if there is still time for Prime Minister Modi to convince Russian President Putin to stop the war, Kirby said: "I think there's still time for Putin to stop the war. I think there's still time for it." "PM Modi can convince; I will let PM Modi speak to (or make) whatever efforts he's willing to undertake. The US would welcome any effort that could lead to an end of hostilities in Ukraine that are in keeping with President (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy's objectives and his leadership, his deter-



mination of what is acceptable to the Ukrainian people," Kirby said.

India has repeatedly called on Russia and Ukraine to return to the path of

diplomacy and dialogue and end their ongoing conflict.

Prime Minister Modi has spoken to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine on

multiple occasions and urged for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue for the resolution of the conflict.

In his remarks, Kirby said the single person responsible for what the Ukrainian people are going through is Putin.

"And he could stop it right now. Instead, he's firing cruise missiles into energy and power infrastructure, and trying to knock out the lights and knock out the heat so the Ukrainian people suffer even more than they already have.

"He could end it right now. And since he's not willing to do that, clearly, we've got to make sure we can help the Ukrainians succeed on the battlefield so that when President Zelenskyy determines it's time to negotiate — and he's the only one that can make that determination — he can do it with the strongest hand possible," Kirby said.

The ties between India and Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. India's import of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few months despite increasing disquiet over it in many Western countries.



## Jemima Khan turns scriptwriter for UK romcom

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
LONDON, FEBRUARY 12

English writer and television producer Jemima Khan has turned her hand to scriptwriting for a new romcom 'What's Love Got To Do With It?' that captures her change of heart towards arranged marriages after seeing them up close during her life in Pakistan, as the ex-wife of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The film, directed by award-winning filmmaker Shekhar Kapur and released in the UK at the end of this month and in India early in March, charts 49-year-old Khan's personal change of opinion to see certain merits in the seemingly unromantic consensual arrangement that brought couples together.

Over a decade in her 20s living in Pakistan, where she had her two sons Sulaiman and Kasim with Imran Khan, she saw many arranged marriages succeed and was also witness to many new ones being arranged.

## Shahabuddin set to become next B'desh President

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS NETWORK  
DHAKA, FEBRUARY 12

Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu, a former judge, is set to become Bangladesh's next president after the ruling Awami League, which holds an absolute majority in Parliament, nominated him for the top post. Chuppu, 74, will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, whose tenure ends on April 24.

"The Election Commission (EC) has received his (Chuppu's) nomination paper submitted by Bangladesh Awami League," a spokesman of the independent statutory body said. He said the EC would now accomplish the procedural formalities for his election by Members of Parliament. The Awami League has 305 seats in the 350-member House.

EC officials and political analysts said Chuppu's installation as the 22nd president of Bangladesh was now a matter of mere formalities as the official Opposition in parliament Jatiya Party decided to nominate none for the highest office.

The main Opposition outside Parliament, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), cannot nominate anyone since all of its seven lawmakers resigned in December 2022 as part of their anti-government campaign ahead of general elections expected to be held in December this year.

## 8 injured in attack at cop's house in Waziristan

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS SERVICE  
PESHAWAR, FEBRUARY 12

Some unknown militants on Sunday stormed the house of a police officer and opened indiscriminate firing, injuring eight persons in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, local police said.

The militants attacked the house of the police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) in the Ghulam Khan area of the tribal district of north Waziristan bordering Afghanistan, and injured eight people, including the ASI and two women, the police said.

The condition of three people is said to be critical.

Meanwhile, the vehicle carrying the injured also blasted on the way, but authorities managed to shift the victims to the hospital, the police said.

The police rushed to the site and began an investigation into the incident.

## Indian man facing deportation

# London resident group pledges to fight for Pandya

EXPRESS INDIA NEWS SERVICE  
LONDON, FEBRUARY 12

A residents' group from south-east London has pledged to fight on after a "beloved community member" lauded by the late Queen's representative for his services over the COVID pandemic lost a legal visa battle and now faces deportation to India.

The Rotherhithe Residents group have gathered over 177,000 signatures through an online petition in support of Vimal Pandya, who came to the UK from India on a student visa but was left in limbo after his education institution lost its licence to sponsor foreign students.

The 42-year-old lost a hearing at the immigration tribunal recently and is now said to be in talks with his lawyers for a way forward.

"We are devastated. He is devastated. But we will not give up the fight, if any path forward can be found," the residents said in a Change.Org petition update last



week.

"Vimal has always shown how much he cares about the Rotherhithe community where he's lived for 11 years. So many of us have benefited from his help and support over the years, which is why we are fighting to stop him being unjustly deported," they say.

Having arrived in the UK from India in 2011 to study, Pandya was refused re-entry following a return home in April 2014 to take a seriously ill relative back to her parents.

UK Border Force officials informed him that the college at which he was

enrolled had lost its right to sponsorship, but neither the college nor the Home Office had reportedly informed him of this.

Then without access to his original passport and other documents he faced an uphill struggle to address the issue. Since then, he has spent thousands of pounds attempting to regularise his immigration status and complete his education, in addition to the many thousands of pounds in lost college fees and a mounting debt burden.

"While awaiting permission to continue his studies, Vimal has become an integral part of the Rotherhithe community. Now he is truly indispensable, and we don't want him to leave," the group of his local supporters said.

During the pandemic, Pandya was employed as a local shopkeeper and is said to have worked tirelessly by dedicating "every waking hour" to ensure those in self-isolation during the national lockdown received regular food and essential supplies.



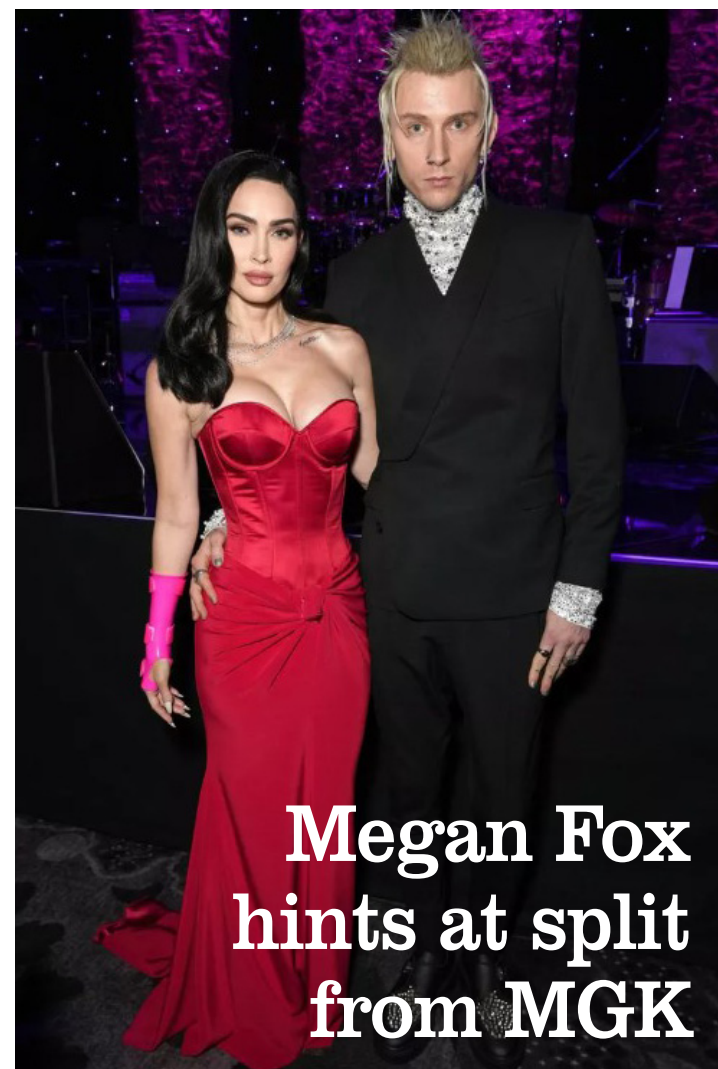
## ENTERTAINMENT/HEALTH

# Kangana slams Tanmay for child rape tweet

**B**ollywood's controversy 'Queen' Kangana Ranaut has an opinion about everything and she is not afraid to share it, either. Be it expressing her views on actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui and his wife's ugly legal battle or her reaction to viral videos and news, Ranaut never leaves a chance to put out her unfiltered opinion.

The 'Dhakkad' actress recently took a jibe at comedian Tanmay Bhat for his old tweet on child rape after a financial services company announced him as the face of their digital campaign. She re-shared the old screenshots of Tanmay's tweet where he talked about child rape. Scroll below to read the scoop. Ranaut reacted to a post questioning company's decision to choose Bhat as the face for their digital campaign and wrote, "Problem with the most right-wing ideologists is that they perceive leftists' choices as their mistakes. Please understand Tanmay has been chosen as a brand match for precisely what you are objecting to. Child porn is a huge industry. What democrats doing in USA leftists all across." The actress further added, "Entire world's leftists will reflect that. Most brands have made it evident what they stand for. The latest Balenciaga child porn campaign and shocking rise in child mastectomy in the USA is every right winger's hell. The question is not what they doing, the question is what are we doing?" She further said, "this is how right-wingers need to make things happen even at the cost of their personal/financial good/profit. We need strategies. If the system doesn't support it, we need to make it happen individually."

It may be recalled that Tanmay Bhat faced serious accusations during the 2018 #Metoo movement because of an employee in his company, AIB.



## Megan Fox hints at split from MGK

**J**ust a week after appearing together at the Grammys, it looks like Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly are headed for a split.

Fox took to Instagram in the early hours of Sunday to hint at the news. She posted a series of photos of herself wearing a sexy, cut-out jumpsuit while posing for selfies in a bathroom mirror. Her photo dump included a video of a fire burning a letter and other personal items. The post's caption, which is a quote from Beyonce's "Pray You Catch Me," a song off her album Lemonade, is what caught the netizens' attention.

"You can taste the dishonesty, it's all over your breath," Megan captioned the post. Lemonade is Beyonce's 2016 album, which she famously wrote after

being cheated on by JAY-Z.

In addition to this savage post, fans also noticed that Megan deleted all of her photos with MGK on her Instagram feed. She now only follows three people on Instagram, including a newly single Harry Styles, as well as MGK's nemesis Eminem, and Timothee Chalamet. Interestingly, just hours before this post, Megan was seen with MGK wearing the same outfit as in the photos she shared. The two were holding hands as they left Drake's Super Bowl party together. She was also by the rocker's side at the Grammy Awards on February 5, and posted a tribute to him on Instagram after he lost the award he was nominated for. The post has been deleted.

# Jim, Ishwak coming back with 'Rocket Boys 2'

**T**he official teaser of 'Rocket Boys 2' is finally out! Starring Jim Sarbh and Ishwak Singh in lead roles, the second season of the acclaimed SonyLIV web series will focus on how India became a nuclear nation and how scientists conducted the nuclear bomb test in Pokhran in May 1974. 'Rocket Boys 2' will start streaming this March.

The teaser, released on Sunday, shows India going against all odds, with its team of scientists - Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Dr Homi Sethna and Dr Raja Ramanna - and the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who plan to conduct a nuclear test. The one-minute 16-second teaser keeps the

momentum strong, as it builds tension to highlight something historic is on cards.

"Amidst global conflict and enemies charging our borders, India becoming a nuclear nation was the only deterrent to imminent threats of war. Witness the incredible journey of India's greatest scientists shaping a new era where no one dared to challenge their country's sovereignty," the official synopsis reads.

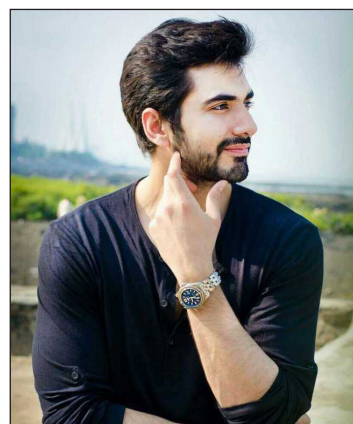
Written and directed by Abhay Pannu, the first season of the Hindi period drama premiered on SonyLIV on February 4, 2022.

Through the lives of nuclear physicists Dr Homi Bhabha (Jim Sarbh) and Dr

Vikram Sarabhai (Ishwak Singh), the first installment of "Rocket Boys" mapped the scientists' efforts in nuclear science and space programme while also showcasing an India on the cusp of freedom in 1940s to a newly independent country trying to find its feet on the world stage.

The series also stars Arjun Radhakrishnan, Regina Cassandra, Rajat Kapur, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Namit Das, Saba Azad, and Charu Shankar.

Created by Nikkhil Advani, Roy Kapur Films & Emmay Entertainment, "Rocket Boys" is produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, Monisha Advani, and Madhu Bhojwani.





# BUSINESS

## US advocacy group hails UP investment measures

BY LALIT K JHA

Washington, Feb 12 (PTI) The head of an India-centric US business advocacy and strategic group on Saturday lauded the Uttar Pradesh government for taking steps to attract investments across various sectors and improving the business ecosystem in the state.

The Uttar Pradesh government hosted a three-day gala global investors summit between February 10-12, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the roadshows ahead of the summit attracted investment proposals worth about Rs 33 lakh crore.

Over 18,000 MoUs were signed with various companies during the run-up to the event, the state government said, pointing at the possibility of 92 lakh new jobs over the next few years.

"The (UP) government has made a concerted efforts to attract investors across tech, manufacturing, green energy, education, pharma, and the health-care space," Mukesh Aghi, president of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said after the conclusion of the investors summit.

A number of companies from the US have attended the summit and applauded the state government for taking steps to attract investment and improve the business ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh.

"I commend the government on PLI

## President hails UP as India's promising growth engine

LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 12

Hailing the Uttar Pradesh government for successfully holding the Global Investors Summit, President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday said the state is "capable and ready" to become India's growth engine.

Addressing the valedictory session of the Global Investors Summit here, President Murmu said she was glad to note that so many countries showed their interests in the growth and development of Uttar Pradesh.

"Uttar Pradesh, which is at the top population wise, is also the first in the country in economic contributions. I appreciate farmers and entrepreneurs of the state for this. To play the role of India's growth engine, UP

is 'saksham' (capable) and 'taiyar' (ready)," Murmu said.

She said that after the success of the previous investors summit in 2018, the latest meet was organised on a large scale.

Murmu reached Lucknow earlier in the day on a two-day visit.

She will attend a civic reception to be hosted in her honour by the Government of Uttar Pradesh at Lok Bhavan here.

On Monday, the president will grace the 10th convocation of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow.

Before returning to Delhi, she will visit the famed Kashi Vishwanath Temple and attend a "Ganga Aarti" in Varanasi. **PTI**

reforms at the state level, given the focus on making India a manufacturing hub. The Prime Minister's economic vision at a global level and the Chief Minister's vision at the state level make for a compelling picture for the overseas investor," Aghi said.

In December last year, a high-profile delegation of the UP government visited the US to woo American investors.

"We saw a tremendous response across the US when the visiting delegation from UP arrived in December last year," he added **PTI**

## Amazon, others served notice for selling drugs

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

Amazon and Flipkart Health plus are among the 20 online sellers that have been issued show-cause notices by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) over the online sale of drugs in violation of norms.

The show-cause notice dated February 8 by DCGI V G Somani cited a Delhi High Court order dated December 12, 2018, which prohibits online sales of medicines without a licence.

The notice stated that the DCGI had forwarded the order to all state and Union Territories in May and November 2019 and again on February 3 for necessary action and compliance.

"In spite of the same, you are found to be engaged in such activities without a licence," the notice to the online medicine sellers said.

"...You are hereby asked to show cause within 2 days from the date of issue of this notice, why action shall not be taken against you for sale, or stock, or exhibit or offer for sale or distribution of drugs in contravention of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and rules made thereunder," the notice said.

The notice states that the sale or stock or exhibit or offer for sale or distribution of any drug requires a licence from the concerned state licensing authority and conditions of a licence are required to be complied with by the licence holders.

The DCGI has said that in case of no reply, it will be presumed that the company has nothing to say in the matter and necessary action will be initiated against them without any further notice.

When contacted, Flipkart Health Plus

said that it is a digital healthcare marketplace platform that enables easy and convenient access to genuine and affordable medicines and healthcare products, from independent sellers, for millions of customers across the country.

"We have received the notice from CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation) and are responding to it appropriately. As an organisation, we remain committed to complying with the laws of the land and towards continuous improvements of our processes/checks and controls on our marketplace platform to build trust and enhance customer experience," Flipkart Health plus said.

Email queries seeking comments over the development sent to Amazon India and others did not elicit any reply.

Traders body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) National President BC Bhartia and Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal in a joint statement demanded the government to strictly enforce the law and the judgment of the Delhi high court and ensure that no e-commerce company is selling medicine violating the Drug and Cosmetic Act.

"Government must take strict action against the e-commerce, e-pharma intermediaries, marketplace platforms including Amazon and Flipkart who are selling the medicine without obtaining the requisite license-added the trade leaders," the statement said.

CAIT added that several online medicine sellers are foreign-controlled and therefore, are ineligible to seek these retail licences as this would be a violation of the extant Foreign Direct Investment policy in the multi-brand retail sector or inventory-based e-commerce. **PTI**

## Indian exporters feel Turkey tremor aftershocks

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

India's merchandise exports of commodities such as cotton, manmade yarn and textile dyes may be impacted in the short run to earthquake-hit Turkey, according to exporters.

Two powerful earthquakes hours apart on Monday last week caused widespread destruction of property and killed more than 28,000 people, leaving millions homeless in Turkey.

The earthquakes also caused damage to the infrastructure and logistics network with the Port of Iskenderun remaining closed for around a week.

Exports to Turkey increased to USD 6.2 billion during April-November 2022 against USD 5.1 billion in the corresponding period in 2021.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Fieo) Director General Ajay Sahai said that the extent of the damage in Turkey is yet not known and

**EXPORTS TO TURKIYE  
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IN 2021**

thus its impact on exports is difficult to ascertain.

However, the earthquake will further depreciate Turkish Lira, which has significantly depreciated recently, and has touched its record low following the earthquake making imports costlier and impacting the demand, he said.

"Since the textile manufacturing centres of Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş provinces are worst-affected, our exports of cotton and manmade yarn and textile dyes may be impacted in short run," Sahai said.



Gaziantep is a province in south-central Turkey. It is a major manufacturing hub of that country.

Sharing similar views, Hand Tools Association President S C Ralhan said that India's exports to Turkey are increasing. "Trade may get impacted in the short-

term only due to the earthquake there, but not in the long run. There was no news so far from the MSME segment exporters of any issue while exporting to Turkey so far," Ralhan said.

In 2021-22, India's exports to Turkey stood at about USD 9 billion, while

imports aggregated at USD 2 billion in the same fiscal.

The major Indian exports to Turkey include mineral oils and fuels, man-made filaments and staple fibres, automotive spare parts and accessories, organic chemicals.

Turkiye's exports to India include broken/unbroken poppy seeds; machinery and mechanical appliances, iron and steel articles thereof, inorganic chemicals, pearls and precious/semi-precious stones and metals (including imitation jewellery), and marble.

The Indian community in Turkey is small, mostly working in business establishments and universities in Istanbul and Ankara. A small number of professionals also work on certain projects there.

State Bank of India has a representative office in Istanbul. Turkish Airlines (in a code sharing arrangement with Air India) operates daily flights from Istanbul to Mumbai and Delhi. **PTI**



## SPORT

## Women's T20 World Cup

## India beat Pak by 7 wickets

CAPE TOWN, FEBRUARY 12

Experienced batter Jemimah Rodrigues produced a master class of an innings as she and youngster Richa Ghosh held their nerves under pressure to guide India to a seven-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan in their opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup here on Saturday.

Jemimah (53 not out off 38 balls) and Richa (31 not out off 20 balls) stitched 58 runs for the unconquered fourth wicket as India chased down a challenging target of 150 with six balls to spare.

Shafali Verma (33 off 25 balls) and Yastika Bhatia (17) gave a good start to the Indian run chase, stitching 38 runs in 5.3 overs. The powerplay overs yielded 43 runs for one wicket.

One-down Jemimah survived a close stumping call as India reached 67 for 2 at the halfway mark with the experienced captain Harmanpreet Kaur having arrived at the crease.

India needed 83 runs from the last 10 overs and despite the fall of crucial wickets, the good start and batting depth kept India in the hunt. But the run rate kept climbing for India as they needed 47 from the last five overs.

With Jemimah and new batter Richa getting the boundaries often, the equation became 28 runs from three overs.

Richa turned the match on its head as she hit three successive boundaries in the first three balls of the 18th over



bowled by Aiman Anwer.

Needing 14 from the last two overs, Jemimah struck three fours in the penultimate over to end the match in a jiffy.

Earlier, Pakistan posted 149 for 4 after electing to bat, their highest T20 World Cup total.

Pakistan were reduced to 43 for 3 in the eighth over but they made a brilliant recovery, scoring 91 runs in the second half of their innings with captain Bismah Maroof (68 not out) and Ayesha Naseem (43 not out) stitching 81 runs for the unconquered fifth wicket.

Maroof struck seven fours during her 55-ball unbeaten knock while Naseem hit two fours and two sixes from 25 balls during her unbeaten innings.

Pakistan scored 58 from the last five overs, as Maroof and Naseem frustrated the Indian bowlers for more than eight overs to take their side to a challenging total.

For India, left-arm spinner Radha Yadav was the most successful bowler with figures of 2/21 while Deepti Sharma and Pooja Vastrakar got one wicket each.

Pakistan showed attacking intent even

after the early jolt as captain and one-down Bismah Maroof hit two consecutive boundaries in the fourth over. Pakistan were 39 for one at the end of powerplay overs.

The two quick wickets set Pakistan on the back-foot from a promising position as they were reduced to 58 for 3 at the halfway mark.

Harmanpreet complimented Jemimah and Richa, saying they played really well. The skipper added that successfully chasing a challenging total had given her team a lot of confidence. **PTI**

## India-Australia test being 'shifted out' of Dharamshala

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 12

The third Test of the ongoing series between India and Australia scheduled to be played in Dharamshala from March 1 to 5 is all set to be shifted to another venue as the relaid outfield is not match ready, according to BCCI sources. It is understood that BCCI curator Taposh Chatterjee visited the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium to inspect the pitch and the outfield. He will submit his report to the top brass of the BCCI for a final call.

Bengaluru and Visakhapatnam are among the venues where the third Test can be shifted to. "There are certain BCCI parameters that one needs to fit in in order to host the match. No competitive game has been played on this ground and also the outfield isn't ready," a senior BCCI source said. While 16 days are left for the match to begin, weather in Dharamshala can also play spoilsport as back-to-back international games there were washouts.

The outfield has bald areas and forecast of rain in next few days could halt the work under progress. "We have told that given a chance we would like to host the game but it's up to the BCCI to decide. The curator's report would be based on parameters," a HPCA source privy to development said. A Test in Dharamshala is one of the most awaited matches as that is considered to be a track conducive for pacers and also a destination ideal for cricket tourism. **PTI**

## India lose to Pak in Asia Junior Squash championship

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 12

The Indian team went down 0-2 to Pakistan in the men's final of the HCL 21st Asian Junior Team Squash Championship 2023 here on Sunday.

In the clash between the top-seeded Pakistan and the second-seeded home team, the former came out on top with Noor Zaman and Muhammad Hamza Khan securing the wins.

While Zaman had to work hard to beat Krishna Mishra in four games, Khan overpowered Paarth Ambani in straight games.

Zaman was extended by Mishra in the first game before he won it 12-10. He lost the second 9-11 before taking the next two 13-11, 11-9 to secure a 1-0 lead for Pakistan. In the second tie, Khan had no trouble beating Ambani 11-7, 11-5, 11-4. In the women's final, Malaysia beat Hong Kong China 2-0 to claim the title. **PTI**

## Bengal to meet Saurashtra in Ranji final

INDORE, FEB 12

Riding on a dominant all-round performance, Bengal stormed into the Ranji Trophy final, ousting defending champions Madhya Pradesh by 306 runs at the Holkar Stadium here on Sunday.

Bengal, who last won the Ranji title in the 1989-90 season, will face Saurashtra, who beat Karnataka by four wickets in the other semi-final.

Bengal will host the final against Saurashtra, by virtue of having secured more points than its fellow finalist in the group stage in a repeat of the 2020 final. The star of the semi-final for Bengal was Akash Deep, who wrecked the home side with his six wickets to take the team to their second Ranji final appearance in three seasons.

Anustup Majumdar and Sudip Kumar Gharami also contributed heavily, scoring 200 and 153 runs respectively in the first innings that took Bengal to a massive 438. Pradipta Pramanik also impressed with his all-round skills, scoring an unbeaten

## Brief Scores:

Bengal 438 and 279 in 119.4 overs. Madhya Pradesh 170 and 241 in 39.5 overs (Rajat Patidar 52; Pradipta Pramanik 5/51, Mukesh Kumar 2/35). Bengal won by 306 runs

60, followed by a superb five-wicket haul in the second innings. Earlier, on the fifth and final day of the semi-final clash, Bengal posted 279 in their second innings, thereby setting a mammoth 548-run target for the reigning champions.

Chasing a big score, Madhya Pradesh got off to a positive start, thanks to openers Yash Dubey (30) and Himanshu Mantri (16). But Shahbaz Ahmed and Akash Deep got rid of the openers to reduce the home side to 67/2.

Rajat Patidar (52) and Shubham Sharma (24) played sensibly to score some handy runs but the target was too big to chase on a final day pitch.

Young left-arm spinner Pramanik did

not let the batters settle down as he dismissed Shubham and incoming batter Venkatesh Iyer (19) while Mukesh Kumar got rid of Patidar to have half their side back in the hut at 179/5.

Thereafter, Pramanik also sent Kumar Kartikeya (6), Avesh Khan (0) and Gaurav Yadav (0) packing to bag a superb five-wicket haul and send his team into the final. Playing on home turf, Bengal will look to avenge their loss in the 2020 final when they lost to Saurashtra on first-innings lead at Rajkot. "It's still a long way to go, we have not yet achieved anything great to celebrate. I can only say the boys are playing well and captain Manoj Tiwary is leading from the front," said Bengal head coach Laxmi Ratan Shukla.

"The atmosphere is really good in the dressing room. The players are playing hard and backing each other. Of course the team is happy on reaching the final. But they are focussed. Winning the Ranji Trophy is a great motivation and flying the CAB (Cricket Association of Bengal) flag high is something each and every one of us wants to do," Tiwary said.

## Paes laments state of Indian Davis Cup team

KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 12

Indian tennis icon Leander Paes is pained by the relegation of the country's Davis Cup team and feels it will take a "better half of a decade" to lift the standard.

The Indian Davis Cup team was relegated to World Group 2 for the first time after a 2-3 loss to Denmark in their away fixture earlier this month.

"I feel like it's going to take a few years, until the Davis Cup team has some serious talent in it," said the player with a record 45 doubles victories in Davis Cup.

Indian tennis' decline was apparent during the Australian Open last month when, for the first time since 2017, no player from the country could make the cut to compete in the qualification round of a Grand Slam. **PTI**

