



Anahat wins maiden PSA Bronze-level title
Teenage sensation and seventh seed Anahat Singh defeated top seed and World No 10. Georgina Kennedy of England with scores of 12-10, 11-5, 11-7 in the Squash on Fire Open final, earning her first PSA Bronze-level title.

Bad governance leading to erosion of lakes and water bodies
Years back, every village and settlement had a lake—protected by a raised embankment, a katta. The lake was not merely a water body but a living institution. Its embankment was guarded by local deities—Katta Maisamma, Gandhi Katta Maisamma.

Markets rise over 1% as value buying spurs rebound on D-St
Stock markets rebounded on Monday with benchmark Sensex jumping by 943 points on value buying in blue-chip oil & gas, banking and auto shares after facing a massive drubbing on the Budget day.

Pan-India 'Nagabandham' teaser announced
Abhishek Nama's much-anticipated mythological action drama 'Nagabandham', starring Virat Karina, is generating strong buzz, with the first-look posters receiving an immense response. The makers have now locked the teaser release for February 15.

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WINDOWS

Principal 'sacked' for asking students to offer namaz

MATHURA: A principal of a government primary school in Mathura was suspended and an inquiry initiated against him for allegedly asking students to offer namaz, officials said on Monday. Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Ratan Kirti said a complaint against the headmaster, Jan Moham-mad, was received on Janu-ary 30 from BJP's Nauheel block president Durgesh Chauhan. According to the complaint, Chauhan claimed that parents of students had approached him alleging that the principal asked students to offer namaz and that the national anthem was not being sung in the school. Taking cognisance of the complaint, the Basic Education Department suspended the principal and constituted an inquiry committee, Kirti said. "The inquiry committee has been directed to submit its report at the earliest. Further action will be taken after the report is received," the officer added. PTI

Two tigers found dead in MP's Shahdol district

BHOPAL: Two tigers were found dead in the forests of Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district on Monday, a senior forest official said. The car-casses of a tiger and a tigress were found in the North Shahdol forest area, and as per initial reports, one of them appeared to have been killed in a territorial fight, and the other was electrocuted, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) L Krishnamoorthy told PTI. "A team has rushed to the spot, and investiga-tions have begun. As per the initial report, one tiger seems to have been killed in a territorial fight, while the other died due to electrocu-tion," he said.

SC grants bail to SAD leader Bikram Majithia

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia in a disproportion-ate assets case. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta passed the order while hearing Ma-jithia's plea challenging the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order which denied him bail in the case.

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'MODI LEFT DECISIONS ON CHINA ON OTHER'S SHOULDERS'

Row in LS as Rahul cites Gen Naravane's unpublished memoir

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A row erupted in the Lok Sabha on Monday after Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi sought to quote from the unpublished "memoir" of former Army chief Gen M M Naravane (ret'd), but Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with other BJP members, strongly opposed it and accused the Congress leader of "mislead-ing" the House. As Gandhi rose to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the president's address, he said he would first like to respond to the charges made by the previous speaker, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, against the Congress

on nationalism and began quoting from what he stated was the "memoir" of Gen. Naravane talking about the India-China conflict of 2020. However, Singh strongly protested this and asked Gandhi to clarify whether the book had been published or not. The uproar went on for about 50 minutes with Speaker Om Birla repeat-edly stating that no book or newspaper clipping can be quoted on a matter not related to the proceedings of the House, and Gandhi insisting that the document was authenticated and he could quote from it. Quoting former army chief General MM Nara-vane's book: "I am not being allowed to speak. I just

- General MM Naravane's book: "I am not being al-lowed to speak. I just have to speak 2-3 lines. It is a matter of national security. These are the words of the Army Chief (former), and it is a conversation that he has had with Rajnath Singh ji and PM Modi"
- The leader of the country is not supposed to run away from decisions and leave decisions to other people's shoulders. That is what the PM has done...I want to speak in the House. I don't know why they are scared. The point here is exactly what the PM said

have to speak 2-3 lines. It is a matter of national security. These are the words of the Army Chief (former), and it is a conversation that he has had with Rajnath Singh ji and PM Modi. All I am saying is that I want to say in the House what the Army Chief (former) has written and what orders did Rajnath Singh and PM

Modi give him..." "I want to speak in the House. I don't know why they are scared. The point here is exactly what the Prime Minister said and what Rajnath Singh Ji said. Whether the land was taken or not, that's a different question. We'll come to that. But before we come to that, the leader of the country is



supposed to give direction. The leader of the country is not supposed to run away from decisions and leave decisions to other people's shoulders. That is what the Prime Minister has done..." Government sources said Gandhi was read-ing "concocted things" on China. They said there was ample material in the public domain on the decisions taken by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on China, and alleged that he "surrendered thousands

of acres of land just to further his own statesman-ship." Gandhi said he never wanted to speak on the particular issue, but decided to do so after BJP's Surya questioned the patriot-ism of the Congress party. Singh maintained that the book had not been published. Gandhi then said he was quoting from a magazine article to put forth his views. Birla again disallowed it and Parlia-mentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju called for

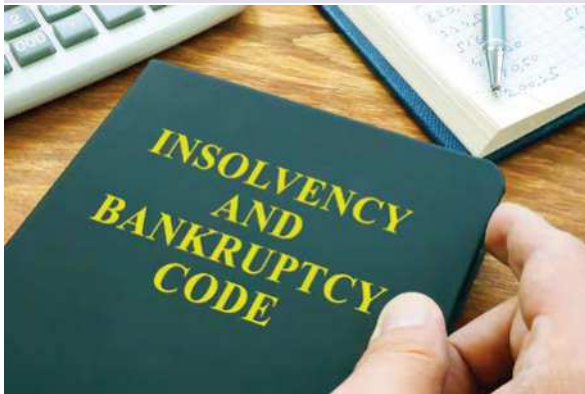
the Speaker's ruling to be adhered to. Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav supported Gandhi and urged the Speaker to allow the Con-gress leader to speak. With both the treasury and op-position MPs unrelenting, the Speaker adjourned the House till 3 pm. Several opposition leaders, includ-ing TMC's Mahua Moitra and Kalyan Banerjee, RJD's Manoj Jha, and SP chief Ya-dav, rallied behind Gandhi over the issue.

IBC Amendment Bill in 2nd half of Budget session: FM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

FINANCE Minister Nirma-la Sitharaman on Monday said the government intends to introduce the Insol-vency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the second half of the Budget session beginning March 9 as the parliamen-tary committee has already submitted its report. The proposed amend-ments to insolvency law would help further enhancement in the time-lines and effectiveness of proceedings as well as align-ment of India's insolvency regime more closely with the global best practices. The parliamentary com-mittee has submitted its report as far as proposed legisla-tion with respect to Insol-vency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is concerned, she said during an interaction with the media a day after presenting Budget 2026-27 in the Lok Sabha. "I expect, subject to conditions, to table the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill in the second half of the Bud-get session starting March 9 incorporating suggestions of the committee," the Finance Minister, who also holds the Corporate Affairs

- STT hike to secure household savings from speculative bets: CEA Anantha Nageswaran
- 'Purpose is to ensure hard-earned savings are used to maximise wealth in households'



Ministry portfolio, said. This is going to be the sev-enth amendment to the IBC Act implemented in 2016. So far, it has undergone six legislative interventions since its enactment and the last amendment was in 2021. Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Monday that the increase in Securities Transaction Tax on deriva-tives trading announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 is aimed at securing house-hold savings from highly speculative bets rather than generating revenue for the government. "The purpose (of STT

hike) is not revenue gen-eration... the purpose is to ensure hard-earned savings are used to maximise wealth in households. The SEBI has pointed out how people lose money through F&O," the CEA told journalists. The Union Budget 2026-27, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sithara-man on Sunday, proposed raising STT on futures to 0.05 per cent from the present 0.02 per cent and on options premium and exercise of options to be raised to 0.15 per cent from the present rate of 0.1 per cent and 0.125 per cent, respectively.

Ex-ICC official blames BCCI for the turmoil

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

CRITICAL of the BCCI's handling of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman's ouster from the IPL, former ICC Head of Communica-tions Sami-ul-Hasan Burney on Monday said the Indian Board could have saved the T20 World Cup from the current turmoil by being more tactful. Rahman's release from a contract with the Kolkata



Sami-ul-Hasan Burney

Knight Riders triggered a chain of events that led to Bangladesh's exit from the event starting February 7 after refusing to play in India due to "security concerns".

In an apparent show of solidarity, Pakistan has now decided to forfeit the match against India on February 15 on government instructions. Burney, who also worked as Media Director of Pakistan Cricket Board after the end of his ICC tenure, said the BCCI could have avoided public statements announcing Rah-man's ouster without actually specifying the reasons. "I mean, things could have been easily avoided if the cricket administrators or

people responsible for the game had been a little bit more careful and avoided public statements, like a Bangladesh player (Mustafi-zur) has to be removed from the franchise," Sami told PTI. "I mean they (the BCCI) didn't have to say it publicly. They could have easily privately told the franchise (KKR) to release the player and nobody would have known what happened and life would have moved on.

Budget boosts Central funding for Delhi: CM

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

DELHI Chief Minister Rekha Gupta outlined the financial al-locations made for the national capital in the Budget, saying the budget is designed to strength-en the economy while provid-ing support and confidence to citizens. She described it as a growth-oriented budget guided by three core priorities—speed-ing up economic growth, meet-ing public aspirations and ena-bling people to move forward. The Chief Minister said the budget would give fresh mo-mentum to the country's de-velopment and noted that the Delhi government is working closely with the central gov-ernment. The allocations are



in Delhi's interest, with the city receiving ₹1,348 crore in cen-tral funding. She added that the overall budget size has been significantly enhanced, rising from ₹6,275 crore to ₹15,380 crore.Gupta said the educa-tion sector would see major benefits, with increased fund-ing for school education. She also announced plans for the establishment of five univer-sities and the development of an education hub in Narela, aimed at strengthening educational infrastructure and expanding learning opportunities in the capital.

DALAI LAMA WINS GRAMMY

LOS ANGELES: The Dalai Lama has won a Grammy for his spoken word album "Meditations: The Reflections of His Ho-liness the Dalai Lama" at a glittering and politically charged music gala, the first golden gramophone for the 90-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader. The 68th Grammy Awards, hosted by Trevor Noah and held at the Crypto.com Arena here on Sunday night, recognised winners in over 90 categories. While the Dalai Lama's followers in the Himachal Pradesh town of Dharamsha-la and elsewhere celebrated, Indian and Indian origin artists, including Anoushka Shankar, fusion band Shakti and Siddhant Bhatia, were nominated but didn't manage a win. Singer Ru-fus Wainwright accepted the award in the category for 'audio books, narration and storytelling' on behalf of the Dalai Lama.



Delhi govt tells Supreme Court

New law to regulate school fees will not be implemented in 2025-26

- In view of the clarification of Raju that the legal regime will not be implemented with effect from 2025-26, no further orders are required
- The bench left all the issues open for being raised before the Delhi High Court which is hearing a batch of pleas challenging the 2025 Act

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government on Monday told the Supreme Court that a new law which regulates fees in private schools in the national capital will not be implemented

in the academic year 2025-26. The statement was made before a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe which was hearing a batch of pleas concerning the implementation of the Delhi School Education (Transpar-ency in Fixation and Regula-



tion of Fees) Act, 2025. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing

for the Delhi government, told the bench that the law will not be enforced in the

current academic year. "In view of the clarifica-tion of S V Raju... that the legal regime will not be im-plemented with effect from 2025-26, no further orders are required," the bench said. The bench left all the issues open for being raised before the Delhi High Court which is hearing a batch of pleas challenging the 2025 Act and its subsequent rules. The top court was hearing pleas, including those chal-lenging a January 8 order of the high court which

refused to stay a notifica-tion directing private schools here to constitute fee regulation committees but extended the time for setting up such panels. During the hearing, one of the advocates appearing in the matter said the high court must decide the issue at the earliest as a number of schools and lakhs of chil-dren are involved. "The high court is aware of it. There is no need to assume that the high court is unaware and we are the only ones who are aware of it," the

bench said. When another lawyer said the matter must be heard by the high court before March 31, the bench said the parties may make a request for early disposal of the petitions before the high court. While hearing the pleas on January 19, the apex court had questioned the Delhi government over its timing in enforcing the law. The bench had said implementation of the 2025 Act, when the academic year was already underway, appeared confused and potentially unworkable.