

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Friday 04 October, 2024

UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

## Haryana assembly elections 2024: Campaign ends, all set for BJP vs Congress contest

**NEW DELHI:** Will people of Haryana give ruling BJP consecutive third term in office or will the Congress snatch power from the saffron party after staying in opposition for 10 years? With campaign for the October 5 assembly elections for the 90-member assembly drawing to a close, the stage is set for an interesting contest that will decide the fate of the two contenders. Both the BJP and the Congress went all out with a very aggressive campaign to woo the people of Haryana. While the BJP is banking on its development report card of 10 years, the Congress is trying to capitalise on anti-incumbency and on issues like the farmers protest and the Agnipath Scheme - which provides short-term recruitment in armed forces. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who led the BJP campaign, is confident that the Congress will fall flat on October 8 when the votes are counted. In a post on X, PM Modi said that he has observed the enthusiasm and support for the



### PM also blasted the Congress for its alleged divisive and negative politics

The patriotic people of Haryana will never accept the divisive and negative politics of the Congress," the Prime Minister said. PM Modi also blasted the Congress for its alleged divisive and negative politics and said the patriotic people of the state will never accept it. "The Congress means a syndicate of fixers and son-in-law," he said in an apparent reference to controversial land deals involving Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law

Robert Vadra when the party was in power during 2004-14. He also targeted Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his MP son Deepender Singh Hooda and alleged that the main goal of father-son politics is only self-interest. Modi called the Congress a "party of 'dalalon' (middlemen) and 'damadon'". The Prime Minister held 4 rallies in the state and targeted Congress on issues like corruption in land deals, urban-Naxal agenda, reservations, appeasement.

BJP after travelling all over the state."The cam-

campaign for the Haryana assembly elections will

### The Congress campaign focussed on misgovernance

The Congress campaign on the other hand focussed on issues of alleged misgovernance by former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who led the BJP government in the state for almost 9 and a half years. BJP removed Khattar ahead of Lok Sabha elections and made Nayab Singh Saini the chief minister. Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi addressed several rallies in the state but at the centre of Congress's campaign was senior leader and former state chief minister

end shortly. I have travelled all over the state in the last few days. The enthusiasm I have seen among the people gives me full confidence that the people of Haryana will once again give their blessings to the BJP.

## Pak rolls out red carpet for Naik: Is Islamabad setting stage for another conflict with India?

**NEW DELHI:** Zakir Naik, a controversial Islamic evangelist who is wanted in India on terror-linked charges, landed in Islamabad on October 1 with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcoming the fugitive with wide arms and cosy hugs. Pakistan's move to roll out the red carpet for Naik, who is there for a month-long visit, reek of mischief by the Sharif dispensation with the objective of opening up a new front of confrontation with India, which has virtually suspended its bilateral relations with Islamabad since the 2017 Uri and 2019 Pulwama terror attacks. India had carried out surgical strikes and Balakot air strikes in response to these terror attacks. The tension between India and Pakistan was palpable at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meeting last week, when external affairs minister S Jaishankar tore into Islamabad and warned that its "cross-border



### India's quiet diplomacy in UK's return of Chagos Islands to Mauritius

**NEW DELHI:** India played a quiet yet significant contribution in the historic transfer of the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands from the United Kingdom to Mauritius. According to ANI sources, India had steadfastly and unwaveringly advocated for "the need to do away with the last vestiges of colonisation"

terrorism policy can and will never succeed". In a strong-worded reply to Pakistani PM Sharif's UNGA speech where he accused New Delhi of "escalating tensions" in Kashmir, Jaishankar warned that

during the negotiations. The joint statement released by UK and Mauritius also acknowledged New Delhi's involvement in the matter. The statement specifically mentioned, "In reaching today's political agreement, we have enjoyed the full support and assistance of our close partners."

Islamabad's "will most certainly have consequences". In the backdrop of such strained relations, Pakistan's invitation to Naik has raised eyebrows, with view that the fugitive's visit is likely planned to fuel tension.

### Iran-Israel war: 4 Indian IT companies with presence in Israel

**Iran-Israel war:** 4 Indian IT companies with presence in Israel Oil prices surged and major stock markets retreated on Thursday, October 3, as investors grappled with escalating tensions in the Middle East. Brent crude topped \$77 per barrel, while WTI flirted with \$74, both rising over 5% before paring some gains. The Dow and S&P 500 declined in New York, while the Nasdaq gained. European markets closed in the red. The dollar strengthened, buoyed by its safe-haven status. The British pound fell over 1% against the greenback as the Bank of England hinted at faster interest rate cuts. In Asia, Tokyo closed 2% higher as the yen weakened, benefiting Japanese exporters.

### 'Excessively harsh': Centre opposes marital rape criminalisation in Supreme Court

**NEW DELHI:** The central government on Thursday opposed the criminalisation of marital rape in the Supreme Court, stating that matter relating to marital rape needs "a comprehensive approach" rather than a "strict legal approach" as it can have very far-reaching socio-legal implications in the country. If sexual acts by a man with his own wife is made punishable as "rape", it may severely impact the conjugal relationship and lead to serious disturbances in the institution of marriage, the Centre told the Supreme Court, according to news agency PTI. In its preliminary counter affidavit in the top court on the marital rape issue, the Centre further said that "while exercising such judicial review on such subjects (marital rape), it is to be appreciated that the present question is not only a constitutional question, but essentially a social question on which Parliament, after being apprised and being aware of all sides of the opinion on the present issue, has taken a position." Centre informed the court that Parliament has decided to retain Exception 2 to Section 375 of IPC in 2013 while amending the said section in the year 2013. "Furthermore, it is submitted that striking down Exception 2 of Section 375 of IPC on the ground of its constitutional validity will have a far-reaching effect on the institution of marriage if sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife is made punishable as 'rape'," the Centre said in its affidavit, according to news agency PTI. "It is submitted that the act colloquially referred to as 'marital rape' ought to be illegal and criminalised. The central government asserts that a woman's consent is not obliterated by marriage and its violation should result in penal consequences.

## Trump tried to steal 2020 election knowing he had lost: US special counsel

**WASHINGTON:** Former President Donald Trump's attempt to wrest the White House despite conclusively losing the presidential election in 2020 returned centerstage on Wednesday with a federal judge unsealing a partially redacted 165-page filing by the Justice Department to reveal details of what transpired in the days leading up to the January 6 insurrection.



Among them, Trump was told by his lawyers that his claims of voting fraud would not stand up to scrutiny, but he blew them off, saying, "the details don't matter," as he challenged the results. He later doubled down, saying, "It

doesn't matter if you won or lost the election. You still have to fight like hell." Trailing Biden during vote counting at some centers, Trump aides searched for excuses to litigate even if it meant riots. And

when told by an aide that his Vice President (Mike Pence) was in peril during the storming of the Capitol, Trump replied, "So what?" Several such disclosures form special counsel Jack Smith's fresh filing in the election interference case in which he argued that Trump can still be prosecuted for private actions aimed at overturning his 2020 election loss, despite the US Supreme Court.

## 'Biased organisation with political agenda': India rejects US religious freedom report

**NEW DELHI:** India on Thursday rejected the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) report, calling the body "a biased organisation with political agenda". Sharing New Delhi's take on the report, the ministry of external affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said the USCIRF "continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India". "Our views on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) are well known. It is a biased organization with a political agenda. It continues to misrepresent facts and



peddles a motivated narrative about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves to discredit USCIRF further," Jaiswal said. He further said: "We would urge USCIRF to desist from such agenda driven efforts. The USCIRF would also be well advised to utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States." The US federal government commis-

sion had flagged the alleged worsening of religious freedom in India and called for it to be designated as a "Country of Particular Concern". "This report highlights how, throughout 2024, individuals have been killed, beaten, and lynched by vigilante groups, religious leaders have been arbitrarily arrested, and homes and places of worship have been demolished. These

events constitute particularly severe violations of religious freedom," the USCIRF said. Beginning with the previous Manmohan Singh-led UPA government, India has consistently denied visas to USCIRF members to visit the country, citing "interference" in its internal affairs, it added. India and several Indian-American groups have in the past accused the USCIRF of biased, unscientific and agenda-driven reporting to malign the country. "It (the report) further describes changes to and enforcement of India's legal framework to target and disenfranchise religious minorities

## Congress minister in legal soup over Chaitanya-Samantha divorce

**NEW DELHI:** Under fire from the Tollywood fraternity and slapped with multiple legal notices, Congress minister Konda Surekha on Thursday had to retract her controversial remarks over BRS leader KT Rama Rao's involvement in actors Samantha and Naga Chaitanya's divorce. "My comments are meant to question a leader's belittling of women and not to hurt your sentiments. The way you (Samantha)



have grown up with self-power is not only an admiration for me, but also an ideal," the tweeted addressing the actor after a massive outrage. A host of stars such as Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, junior NTR, Venkatesh, Prakash Raj and Khushbu took strong exception to her remarks. Actress

Samantha also took to social media and lashed out against the "baseless" allegations made by Konda Surekha. Meanwhile, veteran actor and KT Rama Rao took the legal route and slapped the minister with legal notices on the remark they regard as "baseless". Konda Surekha alleged BRS leader KTR's involvement in drug-related parties and claimed that he was responsible for Naga and Samantha Ruth Prabhu's divorce..

### Muda agrees to take back plots allotted to Siddaramaiah's wife

**NEW DELHI:** The Mysuru Urban Development Authority (Muda) on Tuesday decided to take back the 14 plots allotted to Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi B M. The Muda has also ordered to cancel the sale deed of these plots. "Smt. Parvathi's son Dr Yathindra, a MLC, had submitted a letter...we have gone through the provisions in our act. There are provisions in our act to take it when given (back) voluntarily," Muda commissioner A N Raghunandan said.

### Virat Kohli says rivalry against Australia was intense at the start, but now it has...



**NEW DELHI:** Batting exchanges and aggressive gameplay. However, Kohli explained that with time, both teams have developed a greater understanding and admiration for each other's skills and achievements. Kohli echoed his sentiments on the Star Sports promo for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy, starting on November 22, which will also be the first five-match Test series between the two teams since 1991/92.

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### District Magistrate reviewed the beneficiary schemes of cow shelter site/ animal department, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries department

Bhadohi: The review meeting of beneficiary schemes of cow shelter site/animal department, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries department was held in the department-wise collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Vishal Singh. In the meeting, the District Magistrate directed the concerned four department heads to give wide publicity to the schemes of the department and present the list of beneficiaries covered scheme wise in the next meeting. During the review of the Fisheries Department, all the members of the fishing community should be registered in the Accident Insurance Scheme. The District Magistrate gave instructions. He directed the LDM to organize camps and ensure that the fishing community gets KCC cards as part of a campaign. The District Magistrate directed the Senior Fisheries Inspector to ensure that all the beneficial schemes of the Fisheries Department are covered by the schemes by giving them wide publicity among the fishing community. During the review of the Agriculture Department, the District Magistrate gave wide publicity to various schemes dedicated to the interests of farmers and directed the District Agriculture Protection Officer to cover them with beneficial schemes. District Horticulture Officer Mamta Singh while reviewing the schemes of Integrated Horticulture Development Mission, Scheduled Caste/Tribe, Horticultural Development Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Irrigation Yojana, Horticulture Scheme in the river bank of Ganga (Namami Gange), Nurseries, PMFME etc. in the review of Horticulture Department, instructed to ensure access to the beneficiaries. Chief Development Officer Dr. Shivakant Dwivedi directed the above mentioned four department heads to cover the eligible persons with the public welfare schemes of the department. ARTO Ram Singh, Deputy Commissioner Industries Ashutosh Sahay Pathak, District School Inspector Anshuman, District Basic Education Officer Bhupendra Narayan Singh, District Information Officer Dr. Pankaj Kumar, all Block Development Officers and concerned officers were present in the meeting.

### Avnish Awasthi honored the participants with medals at the closing ceremony of the two-day state level archery competition

Bhadohi: The prize distribution and closing ceremony of the two-day Uttar Pradesh State Level Archery Competition was done by Chief Guest Avnish Kumar Awasthi, Advisor Chief Minister/President Archery Association Uttar Pradesh, former IAS. The program was organized at KNPG Hostel grounds. More than 300 participants of the age group of 10, 13 and 15 years boys and girls from the entire state participated. Avnish Awasthi said, when a player faces difficulties in the initial stages of the game, success begins from there. Expressing his commitment to make every possible effort and help for the development of archery competition, he said that this competition provides an opportunity to the youth to showcase their talent. We work to inspire the youth of Uttar Pradesh to achieve excellence in archery. do." On this occasion, Avnish Awasthi congratulated the participants and appreciated their talent. He said that this competition will inspire the youth of Uttar Pradesh to make their career in archery. He encouraged all the winners by giving them medals.

District Magistrate Vishal Singh appreciated the sporting spirit of the players and said that it is a matter of pride to have a state level archery competition in Bhadohi district. He is always ready for the development of sports and players. Superintendent of Police Dr. Meenakshi Katyayan said that such state level events provide a golden opportunity to the players to showcase their talent. Today, Indian players are winning medals with their excellent performance in global competitions including the Olympics. Women players have also registered their strong participation. Former MLA Ravindra Tripathi also encouraged the players. The organizers of the competition said, "We are happy with the cooperation and support of Avnish Awasthi. This competition will inspire the youth of Uttar Pradesh to achieve excellence in archery."

## Nationwide Sankalp Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir reached Prayagraj



### Forgetting self-knowledge is the cause of suffering.

Our ignorance is the reason for our sorrows. No person is incapable. Good and bad are present in everyone. We should not be afraid of weaknesses and difficulties. The inspiration, power, strength to overcome those difficulties is definitely received by a seeker from the light of spirituality, from the voice of Swarved. Because God is present within us in the form of soul.

The above expressions

were expressed by the founder of Swarved Kathamrit, revered Saint Pravar Shri Vigyan Dev Ji Maharaj, in the midst of Sankalp Yatra, among all the devotees present in the Jai Swarved Katha and Meditation Sadhna session organized at Kesari Bhavan, Tularam Nagar in the city.

Maharaj Ji told that due to lack of control over the mind, anomalies are increasing in the society. A preamble of UNESCO says that the walls of war emerge from an evil mind. There-

fore, control over the mind is necessary.

He said that our mind has immense power. God has given us a conscience with great powers. There is unrest in the human mind and as long as this unrest exists, peace in the world cannot be imagined. The unrest of the mind can be removed through the meditation of Vihangam Yoga.

During Jai Swarved Katha, he said that the name of the soul of India is spirituality. It is because of the spiritual great men that India has been the world

leader, is the world leader and I say that India will remain the world leader.

Saint Pravar Shri Vigyan Dev Ji Maharaj taught the practical yoga sadhana of Vihangam Yoga to the devotees present. He said that this sadhana is to erase the distance between oneself and oneself.

The divine voice of Saint Pravar Shri Vigyan Dev Ji Maharaj flowed in the form of Jai Swarved Katha for about 2 hours. All the listeners were mesmerized by the musical presentation of the couplets of Swarved.



The organizers informed that on the occasion of the centenary celebration of Vihangam Yoga Sant Samaj and 25000 Kundiya Swarved Gyan Mahayaga, Sankalp Yatra has been started by Saint Pravar Shri Vigyan Dev Ji Maharaj from South India Kanyakumari on 7 July.

After Sankalp Yatra in South India, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, the

Sankalp Yatra program concluded in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

On the upcoming 6th and 7th December 2024, a 25000 Kundiya Swarved Gyan Maha Yaga is to be held in the holy premises of the largest meditation center Swarved Mahamandir, Varanasi. In the same sequence, this Sankalp Yatra is being organized so that maximum number of people across India can benefit from it.

This nationwide Sankalp Yatra will go till Srinagar in Kashmir.

## There is no greater happiness in the world than the joy of retrieving a lost, beloved object or an important record: District Minister Rajesh Tiwari

### Light the light of truth and justice. Sing the virtues of humanity by giving happiness to others

Koraon, Prayagraj: There is no other happiness in the world greater than the happiness felt on retrieving a lost beloved object or an important record. This expression was expressed by District Minister of Association Boring Technician Prayagraj, Rajesh Tiwari, from private four-wheeler driver Sonu Kumar Choudhary. In the courtyard of Aunta Meja somewhere in Prayagraj. It was informed

that a purse belonging to the driver Shri Choudhary had fallen in Meja Road, which was found by the family members of the District Minister's very dear friend, educationist Ram Prasad Patel. When the District Minister received the information, he immediately met the District Minister Shri Choudhary. He became desperate to return it. Coincidentally, Mr. Choudhary's mobile number was also found in that purse. Immediately the District Minister made a call to Mr. Choudhary and called him to the courtyard of Aunt Mahavir because the District Minister had come to Aunt Mahavir for the darshan of Bajrang Bali. After waiting for about an hour, Mr. Choudhary reached the courtyard of Aunt Mahavir and while introducing himself, he told his address as Monai Aunta Meja, Prayagraj. His lost purse was returned to Mr. Choudhary in the midst of the District



Minister and his loved ones. Mr. Choudhary informed That in this purse there were about five hundred rupees and driving license, Aadhar card, PAN card and some photographs of family members, which I received safe and sound and I am very happy to receive it and I humbly pray to Lord Bajrang Bali. I wish to keep his entire team including the District Minister always happy and provide long life.

The District Minister said in his address that there is no greater happiness in the world than the happiness felt on recovering a lost, beloved object or an important record. The District Minister said that senior social worker Pt. Sheshamani Shukla had a special contribution in this noble work and further said that the light of truth and justice should be lit, the virtues of humanity should be sung by giving happiness to others. On this occasion, senior social worker Pt. Sheshamani Shukla Said that it is a great privilege to have the birth of a District Minister as our leader, who always keeps moving forward on the path of truth and justice while doing human welfare work, awakening the light of love in everyone. During this great and noble work, Acharya Prakashanand Maharaj And educationist Ram Prasad Patel was present.

## One month henna training program completed by Arya Kanya Degree College and IQAC

Prayagraj: Arya Kanya Degree College and I.Q.A.C. A one month henna training program was conducted by. Which started from 04.09.2024 and ended on 03.10.2024. 72 girl students participated in this training program. The valedictory function was presided over by Pankaj Jaiswal,



Chairman of the Governing Body. He said that henna is not only a good means of employment, but applying henna is also beneficial for health. Principal, Prof. Archana Pathak welcomed everyone and said that this type of training programs will provide new opportunities to the girl students. The program was conducted by Dr. Ranjana Tripathi and vote of thanks was given by Prof. Nilanjana Jain. Director of the Faculty of Law, Dr. Mamta Gupta, Vice Principal Prof. Ibha Sirothia were present in the program.

## Hindu society should vote for cow protectors only

### The day cow slaughter stops, all our debt will start getting paid off

### Jyotishpeethadhishwar Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwarananda Saraswati '1008'

On the 12th day of the Godhwaj Sthapana Bharat Yatra, Ashwin Shukla Pratipada, accordingly, on 3 October 2024, after worshipping as per the rituals in the very ancient Shankar Math of Howrah, the main metropolis of West Bengal, the "Gopratishta Flag" was installed with the lotus feet of His Holiness P a r a m d h a r m a d h i s h U t t a r a m a n a y a Jyotishpeethadhishwar Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Avimukteshwaranand: Saraswati '1008' Maharaj.

It is worth noting that Shankaracharya Maharaj started this journey by reaching Ayodhya Dham on 22 September 2024 and circumambulating Ramkot to get cow declared as the mother of the nation. This historic journey has established the Gopratishta flag

by going to almost all the states of the Northeast.

This historic journey got a big success recently when, on the instructions of Shankaracharya Maharaj, Chief Minister of Maharashtra Government, Eknath Sambhaji Shinde declared Desi (Rama) cow as State Mother and handed over the copy of the cabinet proposal at the feet of Shankaracharya.

Through this historic journey, Pujya Shankaracharya Maharaj wants to completely eradicate the stigma of cow slaughter from the land of India and get Mother Cow declared as the Mother of the Nation.

On the first day of Navratri in West Bengal, the land of Shakti worship, I strengthened myself by establishing the Gopratishta

flag in the Shankar Math.

Addressing the devotees, Pujyapad Shankaracharya Maharaj said that this movement of Gopalmani, who seeks the blessings of Go Ganga, is very sacred, hence we are engaged in this campaign to strengthen this movement.

Those who consider cow as milk and those who consider cow as meat, both are ignorant of the importance of cow, in Bhagavad Gita God says that God has manifested Yagya with us and we are created for each other. Once, the lord of the universe, Brahma invited the gods, demons and humans. After the preparation, a delicious dish was served but the servants of Brahma loka tied a long stick with a rope in everyone's hand. The demons boycotted the food and left from

there. The gods and humans helped each other and



fed each other and felt the ultimate satisfaction. We Indians are satisfied by feeding others. We prepare

food for our gods, guests and children, this is called

yajna. Yajna is performed with mantras and oblations, which pleases the gods. Brahmins and cows perform

the yajna. All worship without cow is useless, serving

33 crore gods is cow service. We dedicate the first roti to our cow, who is the embodiment of 33 crore

gods.

Maharaja Dilip was all-powerful but was unhappy because he was childless. Following the orders of Guru Vashishtha, he served cows day and night for 40 days. As a result, he was blessed with a son named Aaja. Later, in this pious lineage, Lord Ram, the epitome of character, was incarnated.

If you want to attain God then serve cows, God has said - 'Gaavaan madhye vashmyaham', I always reside among the cows.

'Matiti Mata' the one who includes everyone within herself is the mother. Cow contains everything. In Lalitasahasranam, Bhagwati is addressed as 'Gomata'. Cow is the goddess who fulfills all wishes, we Sanatanis serve cows not only for milk but also for blessings.

This yatra will reach Jamshepur in Jharkhand state from Howrah tomorrow. The day after tomorrow, on 5 October 2024, the Gopratishta flag will be installed in the capital Ranchi.

Present in today's program were Swami Prajnanand Saraswati, Swami Ambrishanand Saraswati, Brahmachari Brahmavidyanand, Dr. Parameshwamath Mishra, leader of the Go Ganga Kripakanshi Gopalmani, Swami Ramanand Tirtha, Swami Tejeshwaranand Saraswati, Yatra in-charge Mukundanand Brahmachari, Secretary Devendra Pandey, Bengal in-charge Niranjan Das, Prabhu Sharan Das, Sarvabhutahridayanand, Sarvabhutamandan, Sarvabhutanandan, Arvind Bhardwaj, Saksham Singh, Gaurav Kumar, Sunil Upadhyay etc.



# DM held a review meeting with all the nodal officers regarding IGRS

Prayagraj: A review meeting was organized with all the nodal officers regarding IGRS in Sangam Auditorium on Thursday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandad. Reviewing the complaints received on the IGRS portal, the District Magistrate said that redressal of complaints on the IGRS portal is the main priority of the government and it is being monitored daily by the Chief Secretary. While reviewing the status of the feedback given by the applicant on disposal, the District Magistrate found that 240 feedbacks are left against the total feedback of 405 by the Executive Engineer Electricity, 39 feedbacks are left against the total feedback of 52 by the Executive Engineer of the Provincial Division, and 32 feedbacks are left by the Settlement Officer against the total feedback of 32. Expressing strong displeasure over the number of relative residual feedback being 24, he cautioned them that in future, all the feedback must be taken while ensuring quality disposal of all the complaints. Expressing concern over the poor ranking of the district and the high number of dissatisfied feedback, he said that this situation is unacceptable, therefore all of you should review the complaints related to your department on the IGRS portal daily and

will personally talk to the complainant and if the complaint is justified, then we will ensure its timely and quality disposal. He has asked to mention to whom, employees every week. While directing all the officers, he said that quality disposal of complaints should be done on the IGRS portal and their categorization must be ensured. In the meeting, the District Magistrate, while providing the report format for disposal of IGRS complaints to all the officers, directed everyone that while disposing of the complaints, everyone will provide the report of each disposal on this format. Following this strictly, the reports will be provided on this prescribed format. He said that if cooperation is required from other departments, then they should coordinate and resolve the matter. It will also be necessary to mention in the report whether the required

complaint. He said that if a field visit is made by an L-1 level employee to resolve the complaint, then the spot memo, names, signatures and mobile numbers and photographs of the witnesses should be attached to the report. He has asked that the reviewer and the forwarding officer must write their comments regarding quality disposal in the format. Said that if the work is not capable of being done, it should also be clearly mentioned. The District Magistrate said that if the complaint is not related to you, then re-

turn it on the same day mentioning the concerned department or forward it to the concerned one. Any kind of delay in this is not forgivable. He has asked the Additional District Magistrates to review the IGRS cases of two tehsils every day and after talking to 10 complainants to get their feedback, asked whether the concerned officer took the disposal of the case seriously and took effective action or not. To investigate this, I will also take feedback of 10 complaints disposed every day. The District Magistrate said that all the officers must hold a public hearing in their office between 10 to 12 noon and even after that they must meet all the people who come with representations and if the work can be done immediately, then the concerned officers/employees of their office should try to satisfy them by getting the matter resolved through this. He said that all of you should hold a meeting with all the personnel under you and ensure that the work is completed in an efficient manner. He said that if your subordinate employee is negligent or lax in his work, then take action against him. On this occasion, Chief Development Officer Gaurav Kumar, Additional District Magistrate Administration Pooja Mishra, Additional District Magistrate Nagar Madan Kumar, Chief Revenue Officer Kunwar Pankaj, all the Sub-District Magistrates and senior officials of all other concerned departments were present.



# Offering of immortal sacrifices in Pitru Paksha

Prayagraj: On Pitru Visarjan, the workers of Prayag Dakshin of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh paid tribute to the known and unknown immortal martyrs, revolutionaries and volunteers. On the new moon day of the end of Pitru Paksha, at 7:00 am in the morning, the immortal sacrifices were performed as per the rituals in

ji. As the keynote speaker, Shri Amit Saraswat lit the lamp and in his address spoke about the historical Neem tree and the sacrifices made here. Gave comprehensive information in. Sangh driver Rajendra Mishra paid tribute by remembering all the known and unknown martyrs. The program was conducted by Nagar Karyavah Avinash.



the square under the historical Neem tree. In the special function organized on this occasion, pictures of Mother India, Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, leader Subhash Chandra Bose were installed and garlands were placed on them. Social worker Mohan Tandon bhaiya, after garlanding, described in detail the Kotwali incident related to the immortal martyr Nanka

The workers performed Shradha and Tarpan for all the sacrifices and volunteers who were hanged to death. Ram Prakash Jaiswal, Akhilesh presented patriotic songs in the program. On this occasion, all the good morning citizens and workers of the area including Vishnu Kumar, Dau Dayal, Akhilesh, Uday, Arun, Girish, Kishan, Yogeshwar, Amit Soni, Dinanath, Deepu Anil, Ravi Kishan, Saubhagya... were present.

# ABVP launched public awareness campaign on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Prayag Mahanagar launched a public awareness campaign through cleanliness message, Green Prayag-Clean Prayag poster at Subhash intersection, Civil Lines. During the public awareness campaign, an appeal was made to all the people regarding cleanliness through various posters. Media coordinator Ayush Vishwakarma said that ABVP Prayag Mahanagar will run a special cleanliness message campaign in the upcoming Mahakumbh. Through which an appeal will be made to all the devotees coming to Mahakumbh regarding cleanliness and a special cleanliness campaign will also be run by the Vidyarthi Parishad workers at the great festivals and major places of the upcoming Mahakumbh. Metropolitan Co-Minister Yasharth said that cleanliness is an important aspect of our life. We can get rid of many problems by adopting cleanliness in our life. Metropolitan President Dr. Manish Srivastava said that cleanliness is a mega campaign that runs every day, every year, from generation to generation. Therefore, public participation is very important to make this great campaign successful. On this occasion, Abhinav Pandey, Aman Shukla, Vidit Shukla, Gyan Prakash, Shantanu Mishra and other workers of Vidyarthi Parishad were present.



# Special arrangements for the convenience of passengers at Vindhyachal station during Shardiya Navratri Fair

Prayagraj: On 03.10.2024, a first aid camp was started at the Vindhyachal station premises of St. John Ambulance Brigade, Prayagraj to serve the devotees coming to Vindhyachal Kunwar Navratri Mela. In this camp, free services will be provided to the devotees from 03.10.2024 to 13.10.2024. In this medical camp, work will be done to take the injured and sick people to the nearest health center in Vindhyachal along with first aid. The camp was inspected by Assistant Commercial Manager and Divisional Commander Administration St. John Ambulance Brigade, Shri Dinesh Kumar. In this inspection, Commercial In-



pector, S. Of. Akela balance Brigade Brigade North Central Railway/ Prayagraj are working un-

der the supervision of Chief Medical Superintendent and Dr. Satya Prakash Sharma. This brigade is being led by Divisional Secretary, Alok Kumar Verma and Anup Kumar Srivastava. St. John Ambulance Brigade provides 24x7 first aid facility to the pilgrims visiting the fair by setting up first aid camps during the fair held twice every year in Vindhyachal. First aid was provided to 993 pilgrims who had come to the last Chaitra Navratri fair. In this camp today J. Of. Vishwakarma, Pawan Kumar, Vijay Prakash Ram, Amit Kumar Maurya, Naresh Kumar, Tej Bahadur Yadav, Arjun Kumar will be providing service to the devotees.

# International Olympiad based on spirituality will be held in 300 districts across the country

## Countrywide registration of candidates begins

Many students and parents including Vidhi Singh, Kavyanjali Dwivedi, Arnav Abhiraj Dwivedi registered

Objective test will be based on Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Geeta, Indian philosophy and thoughts, prizes worth about Rs 3 crore will be given

Prayagraj: International Olympiad based on spirituality is going to be organized for the first time in India. This event is being organized by the Spiritual Olympiad Council with the aim of arousing interest in Indian culture, tradition, philosophy and spirituality among students, youth and common people and to make them well aware. For this, a comprehensive curriculum has been prepared by incorporating subjects like Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Geeta, Mahabharata, Rishi Tradition, Indian Philosophy-Thinking and Non-Indian Philosophy-Thinking, Spirituality and Modern Science etc. This book is being prepared in Hindi and English respectively with the name

"A for Spirituality" and "A for Spirituality". This book is being prepared by a team of scholars of Indian knowledge-tradition and culture. The nationwide registration campaign for the International Spiritual Olympiad being held for the first time in India is starting from October 5. This project is being started on the first day of Sharadiya Navratri. Online registration can be done on the website of International Spiritual Olympiad Council < www.isocouncil.org >, through educational institutions or directly. Candidates will be registered in a total of 6 categories from Group A to F. Group A will have students of class 1 and 2. Group B will have students from class 3 to class

5, Group C will have students from class 6 to 8, Group D will have students from class 9 to 12, Group E will have students of graduation, PG, research etc. and Group F will have parents of these students. Offline pen-paper examination will be conducted simultaneously on 31 August in about 300 districts of 36 states and union territories of India. The medium of examination will be Hindi and English. A book is also being prepared in different sections for all the groups. This book will be sent to the addresses of the candidates who register online on the website of International Spiritual Olympiad. This book will also have objective questions. Objective type questions will be asked

in the examination of 31st August from various chapters and model questions prize of Rs 10 lakh each. The second place winner will be given a cash prize of Rs 5 Rs 1 lakh each. MP Jain said that the result of the nationwide examination to be held on 31 August 2025 will be released on 28 September. In this, top 50-50 candidates from all 6 groups will be selected from the National Merit List. After this, from the remaining merit list, one topper each from all 6 categories in all 36 states will also be selected from this result. Thus, a total of 516 topper candidates will be selected from the result of 28 September. The International Spiritual Olympiad Council will invite them to Delhi along with their two guardians. The ISO Finals com-

petition will be held among those 516 candidates on 14 December next year in 2025. Out of these, 5 toppers will be selected from each of the 6 groups who will be given cash prizes ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakh as mentioned above. For this, a grand event will be held in Delhi on 15 and 16 December. Out of the total 516 candidates selected for the final examination (ISO Finals), scholarships will also be given to poor (BPL) students. In the 300 districts where the examination is held, the district toppers and one runner up of all 6 categories, i.e. a total of 3600 candidates, will be awarded special trophies and medals. 3 educational institutions each from all 300 districts, i.e. a total of 900 institutions will also be honored by presenting trophies and med-

als for their special contribution to the International Spiritual Olympiad. In the coming years, there is also a big plan to prepare curriculum in regional languages ??and conduct examinations in those languages. The entire structure of the International Spiritual Olympiad has been prepared after extensive discussions and brainstorming with prominent saints of India, religious leaders, Shankaracharya, Ramana Maharishi, Madhvacharya, Ramana Maharishi, Vallabhacharya, Acharya Mahamaheshwar of Akharas, as well as important people having significant involvement in various fields including spirituality, yoga, education, army, administration.



and answers of this book. The first prize will be Rs 10 lakh each. In the final competition of International Spiritual Olympiad (ISO Finals), each winner of first prize in all 6 groups will be given a cash



## Editorial

### Russian economy is unaffected by the sanctions

The President has chosen deputy prime minister and long-time economic advisor Andrei Belousov to replace Shoigu, who in turn has replaced Patrushev. The latter's new appointment remains unknown. The move is being seen as an effort to reduce the unsustainable and soaring costs of the war in Ukraine. It also challenges the narrative that the Russian economy is unaffected by the sanctions in the long-standing war. For 2024 alone, Putin has allocated \$117 billion for the special military operation against Ukraine. His war economy runs feverishly in an overheated mode. Most international estimates state that 7.5 per cent of Russia's GDP is directed to the military-industrial complex although Kremlin's official estimates claim it is 6.7 percent. It is a rare submission of a rising-cost problem from Putin, who had preferred to continue with his hunting-holidaying excursions pal Shoigu despite repeated allegations of systemic corruption and inefficiency against him for years. These allegations became the order of the day when mercenary group Wagner, led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, was brought to deliver victory in the infamous battle for Bakhmut in 2023. Putin's slighting of Prigozhin's outright allegations against Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov led to the incredible Wagner mutiny against the two generals, which ended up with Prigozhin's death in uncanny circumstances. It, however, unleashed an investigation into rampant corruption inside Russia's military leadership, of which Prigozhin had become the most notorious victim. Russia-watchers had an inkling of Shoigu's exit after Prigozhin and his aides were made to bid adieu into the flannel skies, and many corrupt links started to get exposed in the Ministry of Defence. The inkling became stronger as Shoigu's deputies, including Timur Ivanov, got arrested on corruption charges last month. Soon, two other deputy defence ministers allegedly backdated their resignations before 9 May, or the Soviet Victory Day. The Russian army was supposed to make an impressive win in Chasiv Yar on the eastern front but had to make do with American tanks captured at a small village called Berdychi when Ukrainians retreated, running out of ammunition to fire. All has certainly not been going as planned. The latest reshuffling in key defence and security offices has been Putin's biggest shake-up in the past 15 years. There are two reasons for this. One is ensuring economic efficiency at a time when the stakes are very high for Russia and Putin. And two, Shoigu's leadership has not been able to yield the anticipated results in the Ukraine war. His current appointment is a step-down with little direct authority. Getting an economist like Belousov in the key position of a defence minister also shows that Putin is preparing for the longer haul. It is a solemn reiteration that the Ukraine war has indeed been reduced to a grinding war of attrition, with both sides lacking the capabilities to end it anytime soon. Europe's combined strategies to support Kyiv militarily won't come to fruition until mid-2025. American aid and the conditionalities attached are likely to help Ukraine stay afloat, but not gain a decisive edge. That said, Russia, too, has been astonishingly lacklustre in exploiting the window of opportunity that had remained open for the last six months as Ukraine was outgunned and outnumbered with a lack of troops and ammunition..

## "Priyanka Bishnoi was synonymous with women's empowerment"

A Rajasthan bureaucrat passed away on night following surgery at a Jodhpur hospital. She died at a hospital in Ahmedabad two weeks after she underwent surgery at a private hospital in Jodhpur on September 5. Her family has accused the doctors of negligence, claiming she was administered an "excessive dose of anaesthesia." Her demise has sparked anger in the community, and an inquiry has been ordered after the allegations.

### Botched surgery

Priyanka Bishnoi, 33, was a 2016 batch officer posted as a sub-divisional magistrate in Jodhpur.

She underwent surgery for a myoma on September 5 at Jodhpur's private Vasundhara Hospital. When her condition worsened after the surgery and was unable to recover, her family alleged that the surgery was botched and shifted her to Ahmedabad. She allegedly went into a coma after she was given an excess dosage of anaesthesia during her surgery, according to them. "We lost her due to the carelessness of doctors at Vasundhara Hospital," Sahiram Bishnoi, her father-in-law, told ETV Bharat, while demanding strict action against the responsible doctors.

The hospital administration has denied allegations of negligence. They say there



**After an electrolyte imbalance was discovered by blood testing, she was sent to the intensive care unit (ICU) for additional care. She was still irritable despite this. Dr Makwana described a battery of tests that were performed, including an echocardiography and an abdominal scan.**

was no medical complication in the treatment and a "problem" was detected during her tests. They added that Bishnoi was "under stress" before the surgery.

At Vasundhara Hospital, Dr. Sanjay Makwana, chief medical director, reported that Bishnoi had recovered from the surgery and had been moved to a ward. Makwana claimed that following the exam, she became irritable

and restless the next morning. After an electrolyte imbalance was discovered by blood testing, she was sent to the intensive care unit (ICU) for additional care. She was still irritable despite this. Dr Makwana described a battery of tests that were performed, including an echocardiography and an abdominal scan. He stated that after the family chose to transfer her to Ahmedabad

on September 7, a medical team accompanied her there. She was intubated because her symptoms continued. When she got there, Makwana said, a CT scan showed several brain haemorrhages, which were linked to an arteriovenous malformation (AVM). AVM is uncommon and typically congenital, he told Indian Express. Bishnoi passed away on Wednesday

at CIMS Hospital in Ahmedabad, and her body was then taken to AIIMS Jodhpur for a postmortem. The final rites were performed at Surpura, which is close to Jodhpur, by the family.

### Inquiry and calls for CBI probe

Gaurav Agarwal, the district collector of Jodhpur, launched a probe into the claims made by Bishnoi's family two days before her demise. The investigation will be carried out by a team of five people, under the direction of Bharti Saraswat, principal of Sampurnanand Medical College (SNMC) in Jodhpur. Leader of the Bishnoi community, Devendra Budia, has called for a CBI investigation and said there was a conspiracy behind the bureaucrat's death. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma condoled Bishnoi's demise and said on X, "The demise of Rajasthan Administrative Service Officer Priyanka Bishnoi ji is extremely sad. I pray to Lord Shri Ram to give a place to the departed soul at his feet and give strength to the family members to bear this grief." Former CMs Ashok Gehlot and Vasundhara Raje also expressed sadness over her death. Raje said that "Priyanka Bishnoi was synonymous with women's empowerment."

### Milestone. With its presence in Chabahar, India aims to circumvent reliance

After extensive negotiations, India and Iran have finally sealed a historic 10-year bilateral agreement for the operation of the strategically located Chabahar Port on the Gulf country's eastern coast. While India initially engaged in short-term agreements with Iran starting in 2016, the newly inked deal marks a significant milestone. With its presence in Chabahar, India aims to circumvent reliance on Pakistan's ports in Karachi and Gwadar, facilitating smoother access to landlocked Afghanistan and other Central Asian nations via Iran.

This deal has a lot of economic significance for India. Despite the nation's preoccupation with the ongoing Lok Sabha election, the

Narendra Modi government's decisive action, including the special permission reportedly obtained from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to dispatch a central minister to Iran, underscores the paramount importance of this deal for the nation's strategic interests and economic future. In geopolitical dynamics, this deal is a major achievement for India and a testament to Modi's personal diplomacy. It marks our first step into managing overseas ports and serves as a strategic move against the emerging

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Its timing, amid the chaos in West Asia disrupting important trade routes, makes it even more significant.

Furthermore, beyond these tangible benefits, India's diplomatic success shines through the forging of successful ties with conflicted powers. Its diplomatic success is evident in its ability to foster friendly relations with Israel while extending support to Palestine. Simultaneously, New Delhi adeptly navigates deepening ties with the United States and successfully negotiates with Iran, showcasing its diplomatic prowess. Meanwhile, our long-standing partnerships with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Japan continue to flourish. India's leadership roles in the G20 forum and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) highlight that its diplomacy is actually working.

### A sign of serious concern

These figures have been in the public domain for the last five years, still, it is amazing that in this country, we have some eminent journalists and political commentators misinterpreting the 2019 election as mostly decided on the basis of Pulwama and Balakot. Coming to the 2024 elections, Lokniti-CSDS released a pre-poll survey in April where the data pointed out that the satisfaction level towards the Modi government has seen a dip of around 8.1 per cent — a sign of serious concern for the BJP. Increasing unemployment (12.2 per cent), price rise (7.6 per cent) and falling income (4.1 per cent) are some of the crucial issues in the survey that matter to voters. The pre-poll survey also points out that there is an increase of around 5 per cent in support for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi — 26.5 per cent — as the next prime minister compared to the 2019 pre-poll survey. Interestingly, there is also a 2 per cent increase in support for Narendra Modi — 47.5 per cent — as the next prime minister. This is despite 10 years of anti-incumbency. Many journalists and political commentators are seen discussing that Ram Mandir in Ayodhya isn't a poll issue. First of all, this isn't an issue for a particular election — Ram Mandir is a sentiment for the Hindus. That said, it's still an issue in this election. According

to the pre-poll survey, for 7.5 per cent of voters, Ram Mandir is an important issue when they vote, with an additional 2.3 per cent of voters separately pointing to Hindutva as an important issue when they vote. Clearly, the BJP's Hindutva agenda remains a significant factor for 9.8 per cent of voters in this election, though a small fraction of them may be anti-Hindutva voters. Unemployment remains the most important issue for voters — 27.3 per cent — when they vote. However, it is wrong to conclude that all voters citing unemployment as an important issue are necessarily anti-BJP voters. If they vote for the Modi-led BJP, liberals and Leftists label them as being "blind" towards basic issues like unemployment and price rise. Interestingly, according to the pre-poll survey, 9.1 per cent of voters cited employment as the most liked work of the Modi government — the second most liked factor after Ram Mandir. This means that there is a section that believes that although unemployment is a burning issue, the Modi government has been working to address it. After unemployment, price rise has been cited by 23.4 per cent of voters as an important factor. However, it's worth noting that despite price rise being an important issue during the 2009 elections, the

Congress-led UPA came to power with an increased number of seats. This is not to deny the disillusionment of voters towards the Modi government on price rise. However, welfare schemes, cited by 18.1 per cent of voters as the biggest change since Modi became prime minister, and infrastructure-related works are likely to aid the government, lessening the impact of this disillusionment and preventing it from converting into votes against the BJP-led NDA. Liberals and Leftists aren't happy with Narendra Modi's election speeches targeting Congress-led Opposition for Muslim appeasement. They argue that this is not a significant issue. While the Congress manifesto does not discuss wealth redistribution, the CSDS-Lokniti pre-poll survey suggests that concerns about policies targeting Muslim communities resonate with some voters. The survey found that 47.3 per cent of voters agreed that Muslims are unnecessarily pampered, compared to 32.2 per cent who disagreed, while 20.4 per cent chose not to respond. Modi's speeches on Muslim appeasement, targeting the Opposition, particularly Congress, aim to address the concerns of these voters, close to 50 per cent of those surveyed, while also appealing to undecided voters.

### Channelise the strength of the alliance

Though some point out that Kharge and not Nitish was foisted as the chair of the alliance, given his track record, the Bihar chief minister's opposition to the BJP was always suspect. The second move by the Congress has been to channelise the strength of the alliance partners to keep itself afloat. To this end, the Congress is contesting only 328 seats this time, significantly fewer than the 421 it contested in the 2019 polls. This number would have been 330, but one candidate's nomination papers were rejected in Surat, and another withdrew in Indore. This means that the Congress

in INDIA has created an alliance base that is much wider than that of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). This also means that the party has shrunk from the position of a dominant partner to a senior partner with some other members of the bloc like the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab not even entertaining an alliance. Those in charge of forging alliances for the Congress claim that this time the grouping is much more pragmatic than in 2019. Uttar Pradesh is a case in point. In 2019, the Congress went into the polls alone, with no major allies. Facing both

the BJP and the SP-BSP alliance, it contested 67 of the state's 80 seats but could win only one: Sonia Gandhi in Raebareli. This time, in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, it is contesting just 17 seats, down by 50. People close to poll planning point out that it has been done to conserve the party resources for more realistic contests. Similarly, in West Bengal, from contesting 40 seats in 2019, the Congress is taking on just 14 seats this time, giving the remaining Ones to its alliance partner, the Left. The Congress has extended its alliances with Left parties in Andhra Pradesh, giving the Araku seat to the

CPI(M) and Guntur to the CPI. It has also partnered with local parties in other states, such as ceding the Dibrugarh seat in Assam to the Assam Jatiya Parishad and allocating three seats to regional parties in Rajasthan. To avoid repeating past mistakes, the Congress allocated one seat to the Samajwadi Party in Madhya Pradesh. Ironically, the SP candidate's nomination papers were rejected, leading the Congress and SP to back a candidate running on the All India Forward Bloc symbol. Similar arrangements have been made in Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. How would this affect.



## Samvad Sahitya Manch organized Sabras Kavya Goshti

**Chandigarh:** Samvad Sahitya Manch organized Sabras Kavya Goshti in Phase-1 Mohali. Senior and young poets of Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu recited poems.

These were on social issues, relationships, corrupt politics and environment. At the beginning of the program, famous Ghazal singer Somesh Gupta sang Gandhiji's favorite hymn 'Jan To Tene Kahiye'. Samvad Sahitya Manch President Prem Vij and Dr. Vinod Sharma honoured Uma Sharma by giving her a shawl. During this, they also presented the newly published poetry collection 'Kavya Triveni'. Acharyakul, President K.K. Sharda said that Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri



made important contributions in the development of the country. Poetess Dr. Uma Sharma welcomed everyone. At the beginning of the poetry session, poet Prem Vij recited a poem on addiction and said - addiction is a slow poison, be careful, you have to save your home from it. Dr. Uma Sharma presented a ghazal and said - tears come and go from the eyes, still we keep smiling. Siri Ram Arsh, Dr. Uma Sharma, Dr.

Ajit Kanwal Singh Hamdard, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Prem Vij, Dr. Megha Singh, Dr. Sangeeta Sharma Kundra, Usha R. Sharma, Rekha Mittal, Daisy Bedi Juneja, Simarjit Kaur Grewal, Sushil Nagpal, KK Sharda, Somesh Gupta, Shayar Bhatti, Dhillon, Ashok Nadir, Dr. Anish Garg, Chandra Kanta Sharma, Simran, Ripundar Kaur, Gurpal Kaur, Raj Vij etc. were present in the poetry session.

### Reversing decision, Mayawati reinstates nephew Akash Anand as political heir

**Delhi:** Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati named Akash Anand as her successor, reversing her decision. BSP reader Sarvar Malik said Akash Anand will be national coordinator. BSP supremo Mayawati withdrew nephew Akash Anand as her political heir and from party office until he was "mature". Akash Anand became BSP National Coordinator. The party announced 13 star candidates for the Uttarakhanda Assembly by-elections.

### As MP, BJP's Bidhuri resigned as LoP in Delhi House

**Delhi:** After his election as the Lok Sabha member for South Delhi, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ramvir Singh Bidhuri resigned as opposition leader and Delhi assembly member. The development leaves the LoP job open, prompting a contest among BJP MLAs in the Delhi assembly, Delhi assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel

accepted Bidhuri's resignation and notified him. "I resigned as opposition leader and Delhi assembly member to speaker Ram Niwas Goel... Bidhuri thanked the assembly speaker and my fellow legislators for their support during my term. He won the 2020 Badarpur assembly constituency MLA election. The Delhi assembly

would have seven BJP MLAs and 61 AAP MLAs after Bidhuri's resignation. AAP MLA Raaj Kumar Anand was dismissed under anti-defection legislation weeks after joining Bahujan Samaj Party, decreasing the party's numbers from 62 to 61. Since the next Delhi assembly elections are in less than seven months.

## The Delhi government prohibits parking oversize automobiles in public spaces

**Delhi:** The transport department has issued a public notice prohibiting overage car parking in all public places, including those outside dwellings. To avoid car owner confusion, the agency defined public space. It noted, "Keep such a vehicle in a private parking space owned by the individual, not in a shared parking space, even if it is part of a residential complex." The statement added that a residential complex's owner-assigned parking space is private property. A senior department official said the notification was sent to prevent overage vehicles from leaving in shared or public locations, which can cause congestion and irritation to other people. He added the department encourages owners of such vehicles to discard or find private parking to comply with requirements. The Delhi government deregistered 5.5 million overage and petrol automobiles over 10 and 15 years old.



It added owners of such vehicles can get a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to take the vehicle out of Delhi within a year of its expiration date, but no NOC will be provided beyond that. The department stated owners can also use the Voluntary car Scrapping Application at any local registered car scrapping plant. The notice stated that the enforcement wing of the transport department, New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and Traffic Police

may impound vehicles parked in public spaces even if a NOC has been issued but the vehicle has not been moved out of Delhi within one month. Guidelines for Handling End-of-Life Vehicles 2024 allow prosecution of offenders. Delhi's Supreme Court prohibited diesel and petrol vehicles over 10 and 15 years old in 2018. It said that violating automobiles would be impounded. A 2014 National Green Tribunal order bans public parking of vehicles over 15 years old.

### UAPA tribunal notifies LTTE of show cause

**Delhi:** An Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) panel has issued a show cause notice to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to adjudicate its five-year ban. According to the Union ministry of home affairs' June 14 show cause notice, justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora's Delhi high court tribunal has given LTTE 30 days to respond to "why the organisation should not be declared as unlawful". LTTE has 30 days to object or respond to the show cause notice.

The MHA extended the ban on LTTE and stated that the organization is "clandestinely accumulating funds and spreading propaganda and that its residual leaders are seeking to revive it. The central government believes the LTTE is still threatening national security.

### 111 of 383 capital villages have PNG pipes: LG Saxena

**Delhi:** Lieutenant governor VK Saxena said that 111 of the Capital's 383 localities have PNG connections. Officials claimed Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has installed 77,513 PNG meters, constructed 672 km of pipelines in these 111 villages, and received 129,000 gas connection applications. They said the PNG network will reach 311 Delhi villages by the end of the year and 72 by March 2025. Delhi LG proposed PNG connection in Delhi's vil-

lages in June 2023 to improve the neglected areas. He met multiple times with IGL and other authorities, and PNG pipelines were laid in six months.

LG opened Qutabgarh's first PNG connection in December 2023. LG's official said this was IGL's first venture in rural Delhi, which was previously limited to urban residential complexes. Officials claimed Saxena ordered MCD, PWD, DDA, and NDMC to prioritize PNG pipeline

clearances and other formalities within 30 days at a review meeting. "The LG emphasised that this initiative will also prevent the villagers from the hassle of getting LPG cylinders refilled/replaced and this will result in huge savings in terms of money and energy for the local villagers," stated. The LG had stated that Delhi will be the first metropolis with piped gas in every home.

### LG authorizes new Bijwasan rly station police station

**Delhi:** After realigning the Delhi Cantt police station borders, LG VK Saxena sanctioned the formation of a new police station near Bijwasan railway station. Officials say the Delhi Cantt railway station police station oversees 13 railway stations. "After the creation of the new police station at Bijwasan railway station, Palam, S h a h b a d Mohammadpur and

Bijwasan, having a total length of about 9 kilometres, will come under its jurisdiction," stated a source. The new police station will cater to nearly 1.5 lakh population living in the area," he said. tnn Thane railway station officials allegedly beat a passenger over Rs 10 urinal usage charges. Railways Minister sees Bandel Junction reconstruction plan including pit.

### 2021 post-poll violence: 'Showing as if there is hostile environment'

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday pulled up the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking transfer of West Bengal post-poll violence cases on the ground that there is a "hostile environment" in the state courts. The top court rapped the central investigation agency's remark, saying not liking a particular state "does not allow them to cast aspersion on the entire state judiciary". "Mr Raju (additional solicitor general) what kind of grounds are taken in this? That all courts in West Bengal have hostile environment? Blanket averment that courts are illegally granting bail. This is casting aspersions that the entire judiciary is under hostile environment," Justice Abhay Oka was quoted as saying by. Additional solicitor general SV Raju, represent-



### ● BJP reported six deaths in the alleged backlash, including of a party worker in Kolkata

ing the CBI, said the application was badly drafted and withdrew it. Several incidents of violence were reported at various places after the announcement of the assembly poll results on May 2, 2021. After the incident, the Union home ministry sought a detailed report from the

Bengal government on the "post-election violence targeting opposition political workers in the state" that left 11 people dead by the evening of the result day. BJP reported six deaths in the alleged backlash, including of a party worker in Kolkata who was lynched soon after he posted videos on Facebook narrating how goons killed his pet dogs, and of an elderly woman in North 24 Parganas trying to save her son from a mob. Trinamool said it lost four workers in the wave of alleged political vendett.

## The government will purchase 156 light combat helicopters from HAL for 50k-cr

**Delhi:** The defence ministry has let Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) bid for 156 Prachand light combat helicopters (LCH) to strengthen the Indian Army and Air Force, officials said. According to anonymous authorities, the estimated cost of the new helicopters, 90 for the army and 66 for the IAF, is 50,000 crore. This will increase India's self-reliance. Two months earlier, the min-



istry let HAL bid for 97 light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1A) to help the IAF overcome a fighter squadrons shortage. The new fighter planes will cost 67,000 crore approximately. HAL has produced 15 limited

series Prachand helicopters for the IAF (10) and army (5), and soon series production will commence. Officials stated HAL will fulfill the 156 helicopter order in five to six years after signing the contract. The

series production LCH will have more than 55% indigenous content, up from 45%. The LCH can demolish enemy air defenses, target slow-moving and remotely piloted aircraft, destroy high-altitude bunkers, conduct counter-insurgency operations in jungle and urban areas, and support ground forces. The government's affirmative indigenisation lists limit the import of weapons, equipment, and ammunition.

## Delhi has practically exhausted groundwater

**Delhi:** While Delhi is facing a water crisis and civic authorities endeavor to boost groundwater availability, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reported that yearly recharge and groundwater for extraction had declined. The analysis anticipated Delhi's net annual groundwater recharge in 2023 at 0.38 billion cubic meters (bcm), 0.34 of which was accessible for extraction. Alarming, most groundwater has been removed. It means 99.1% of groundwater is



extracted. The 2022 groundwater recharge was 0.41 bcm, with 0.37 bcm available for extrac-

tion and 0.36 bcm pulled out. The analysis showed Delhi's groundwater extraction rising from 98.16% in 2022 to 99.13% in 2023 despite a drop in recharging. While some places have made headway in maintaining safe groundwater levels, Delhi still struggles to properly manage its groundwater resources. With 15% of Delhi's assessment units categorized as "safe" for groundwater levels in 2023, up from 12% in 2022, the CGWB report was pleased.



## Five-year Data Analytics and AI Integrated BBA-MBA to generate tech-savvy managers

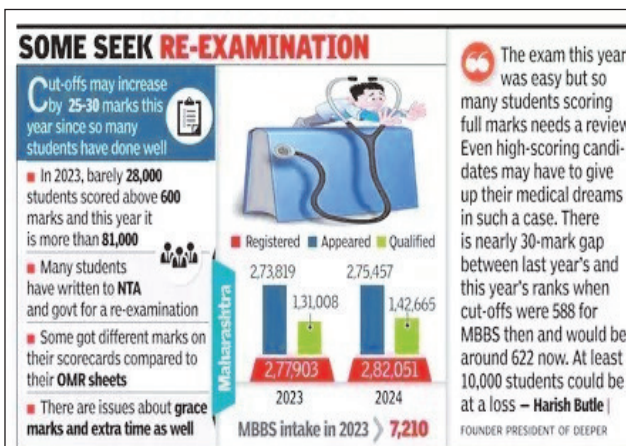
Delhi HEIs, including IITs, are offering five-year integrated BBA/BTech-MBA programs with Data Analytics and AI specializations. These programs prepare business graduates with AI and analytics abilities to make data-driven decisions. According to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, students seeking shorter postgraduate degrees are increasingly interested in these programmes. MEES is supported in integrated courses to promote learning flexibility. The first IIT to offer a five-year Integrated MBA (IMBA) program in 2024-25 was IIT Mandi. Students will learn management, analytics, data science, mathematics, and statistics. Future corporate leaders with a passion for technology and cross-functional management are sought by the institute. IMBA courses encompass pure management, Analytics, Data Science & AI, Mathematics and Statistics, Data Structures, Economics, Computer Programming, and Allied Science. The program's first three years lay the groundwork for students to attend AI and Data Science-based management courses in the future. The program covers Operations, Finance, Marketing, Organizational Behavior, Human Resource Management, Strategy, and Entrepreneurship. It also offers generic courses on Personality &



Skill Development, Creative Thinking and Problem Solving, and Leadership, says Dr. Anjan Kumar Swain, IMBA, IIT Mandi admissions chair. Swain said the five-year program centers on a six-month industrial internship and a year-long project to keep students current with industry demands. MEES offers the following exit options: The student would receive a BBA Analytics degree after three years and a BBA Analytics (Honours) degree after four years. Transition smoothly Karnataka's TAPMI IPM IT and Analytics are among the possibilities in the 5-year BBA-MBA integrated curriculum. If academically qualified, IPM students can graduate with a BBA in three years. "Students can expect a junior to middle management position in leading MNCs in India or abroad after five years. Most roles are in IT and analytics, consulting, BFSI, and retail, says Prof. Vishnu Chandar Venkatesh, assistant professor - Strategy, IPM chairperson, TAPMI, Manipal.

## As cut-off rises, NEET UG 2025 may see many repeat attempts

Delhi: After the National Testing Agency (NTA) released NEET UG 2024 re-test results, the number of perfect marks dropped from 67 to 61. Since more students are scoring 680-710, the race to get into medical school has risen. Experts warn that NEET UG 2024 cut-off marks will be substantially higher than NEET UG 2023, worrying applicants. Many students are considering repeating a year or attending a private medical school. National Medical Commission (NMC) secretary Dr. B Srinivas that a standard software from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) analyzes top rankers' data for counseling. Due to more high scorers, pupils may get into their selected colleges. He advises against comparing counselling results from past years because the process is totally computerized and only depends on the NTA's merits list. The government



and NMC only grant colleges based on NTA ranks and merits, not seat allocation. Automatic merit-based counselling is available. We cannot compare counselling 2024 college allotments to NEET UG 2023. It should be compared to existing students." Parijat Mishra, head-counseling division, Allen Career Institute Kota, Rajasthan, said the cut-off score would rise from 610 in 2023 to 645 in 2024, but medical college allotment will not change. "Our analysis shows that the NEET UG cut-off for MBBS courses would start at 645 marks and

close between 645 and 652 marks for general category applicants on all India counselling. 30,000-35,000 MBBS students are expected to earn Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) counselling seats. Last year, pupils with 610 marks ranked 23,500. Because of the simplest question paper in 26 years, the scoring range increased by 40-50 marks this year. Mishra claims the NTA is gradually easing NEET-UG question questions to decrease student stress. Mishra says the MCC may end BDS counseling at 640-635 marks.

## CAPSULES

### Sources predict mid-August NEET-PG

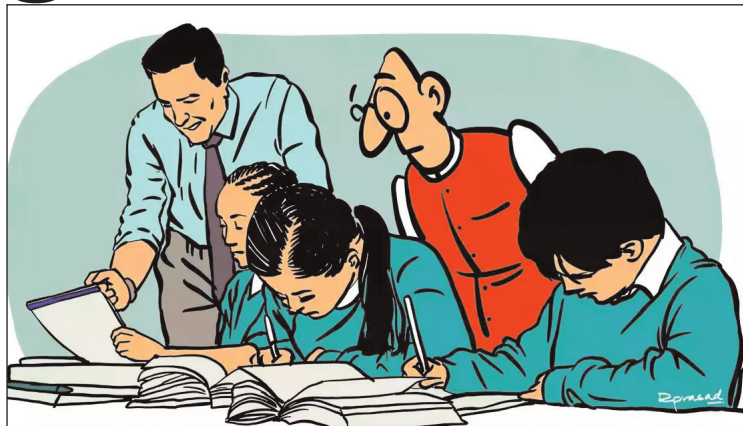
Delhi: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) 2024 will be held mid-August. The rescheduled medical entrance exam date should be published this week. The Health ministry, National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS), Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Cyber Cell discussed online NEET-PG preparation in the Union home ministry. "Besides the NEET-PG, the meeting was held to evaluate the robustness of the system for the conduct of the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination, which is scheduled for July 6," stated a source. The sources said the meeting checked the system's "robustness" for the exam in the coming days. It was reported that TCS executives briefed the meeting on exam procedures. In response to claims of exam integrity, the Union health ministry postponed the NEET-PG entrance exam on June 23 as a "precautionary measure" on June 22. In response to claims of exam integrity, the Union health ministry postponed the NEET-PG entrance exam on June 23 as a "precautionary measure" on June 22.

### UGC requires HEIs to include NCC as an elective, information here

Delhi: The UGC recently ordered higher education institutions (HEIs) to offer the National Cadet Corps (NCC) as an elective. NCC has also been proposed as an elective course for HEIs students. The UGC said that the director general of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) stated that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) must be affiliated with NCC troops to offer electives.

## Why are just 2% of Indian colleges autonomous?

Delhi: Academic autonomy is threatened. In several Indian states, the public university and its colleges seem to be fighting for freedom. India has about 45,000 colleges, yet just 995 are independent. The UGC has promoted autonomy for decades. The road to self-rule has been lengthy. Jharkhand, Manipur, Rajasthan, and Goa have the fewest autonomous colleges, while Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh have the most. Academic autonomy in its real sense is rare, even though it has been shown to improve higher education achievement. It should let universities



do what they do best—offer courses, change curricula, innovate in teaching-learning, and evaluate smartly—without meddling. Few people want it. Colleges nationwide are reluctant or delayed to go

foster college independence. A recent message reveals ground realities.

As per laws, some universities do not give autonomous colleges entire autonomy in establishing syllabus, introducing new courses, and evolving methods of assessing student performance. "Some universities require colleges to sign an MoU/agreement with terms and conditions that violate UGC regulations," it stated. Some Kerala principals said universities "don't want a high performing college to move out from their ambit" and discourage associated colleges from becoming autonomous.

## Engineering Physics connects Quantum Technology and AI

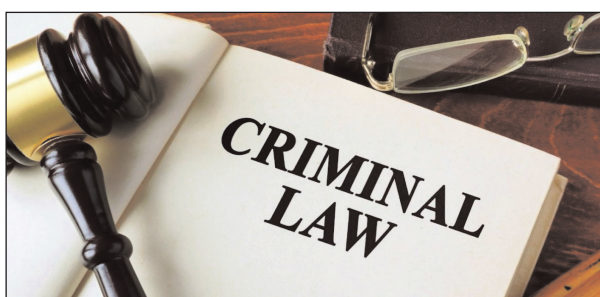
Delhi: The fast changing 21st-century technical world embraces new ideas and blurs technological sectors. Especially with Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), human intellectual capital faces major issues with narrow and shallow knowledge fields. In contrast, the second quantum revolution promises to handle the macroscopic quantum environment. Quantum Technology is advancing computing, communications, and cybersecurity. These two fields are popular in tech and society. For



a major portion, the trust is limited in learning how to handle Chat-GPT or run a code on IBMQ, but many desire to expand their expertise through rigorous and diverse training to contribute to these intriguing domains. A unique program, B Tech in Engineering Physics (EP), trains students in Physics, Mathematics, Electronics, and Computing to handle AI and QT's depth and width. Indian institutes (13% increase in seats at the IITs in the 2024-25 entrance cycle) shows the urgent need for cross-disciplinary science and engineering understanding.

## Criminal law curriculum will reform in law schools

Lok Sabha has submitted three proposals to reform colonial-era criminal laws. Once the bills become acts, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya will replace the British-implemented Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1898, and Indian Evidence Act-1872. The acts will affect the law school syllabus, which may be difficult for practitioners, teachers, and students. Reviewing and amending penal codes is welcome. Even IPC creator Thomas Babington Macaulay supported periodic law reviews, said Chanakya National Law University, Patna vice-chancellor Faizan Mustafa. Teaching the new laws requires comparing the old and new laws. Rearranged parts



are now clauses. Teachers must restructure their lessons to fit the new arrangements. Vageshwari Deswal, professor, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, says certain proposed additional laws are already discussed in criminal law classes. Clarifying the new criminal law syllabus and its effects on pupils, Assistant professor Arpit Jain, Law Government College, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, says, "Basically, there will be no major challenge for law college teachers. Teachers will have to plan an innovative and methodical delivery of

the new curriculum once the Act is enacted. The revisions will also lessen court pendency. Anurag Verma, advocate, adds, "One important change is that 'Summary Trials' has been expanded to cover offences, punishable up to three years, which means trials will be conducted quickly and with a simplified procedure. This helps resolve cases faster." Not a huge revision, but laws are rearranged. Varun Singh, the record advocate, says Article 348 of the Constitution requires all laws to be in English.

## The Uttar Pradesh government will host MotoGP for three years

Delhi: The Uttar Pradesh government will host MotoGP for three years starting in 2025. After UP signed an agreement with Dorna Sports, the commercial rights holder for Grand Prix racing, the announcement was made. The cooperation was sealed by Invest UP and Dorna Sports SL. Carmelo Ezpeleta signed the agreement for Dorna while Manoj Kumar Singh represented UP as chief secretary and infrastructure industrial development commissioner. In 2011 and 2023, Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida held Formula 1 and MotoGP races, two of the most watched sports events in the world. Industry experts believe the decision will position the state as a top destination for international events and investments. It will help UP reap significant eco-



nomical gains and improve its worldwide stature. The chief secretary called the agreement historic, saying, "Bringing MotoGP to Uttar Pradesh boosts tourism, hospitality, and related industries and puts our state on the global sports scene. Uttar Pradesh's ability to stage world-class sporting events would draw international tourists to this event." He also credited Invest UP with achieving this arrangement. The agency will professionally market and implement MotoGP. "Invest UP intends to boost Uttar Pradesh's economy and create many jobs by encouraging invest-

ments and economic activity. He said UP will display its infrastructure and organization at MotoGP, which draws international attention annually. The government also created a powerful executive committee to oversee MotoGP. Chief executives of NOIDA, Greater Noida, and Yamuna Development authority, ties, Gautam Budh Nagar district magistrate, and Dorna Sports chief sports officer will make up the committee, led by the chief secretary. A high-level executive committee will be formed closer to the event to streamline the world-class event, officials said.

## Non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal obtains a one-year extension in Davis Cup



Delhi: All India Tennis Association (AITA) reappointed Rohit Rajpal as Indian Davis Cup non-playing captain till December 31, 2024. The AITA said Rajpal's successful tenure was carefully considered and evaluated. "We're thrilled to prolong Rohit Rajpal's Davis Cup captaincy. He is an essential addition due to his leadership, game knowledge, and ability to bring out the best in our players." Secretary General Anil Dhupar stated. "We have full faith in his capabilities and believe that he will continue to steer the team towards greater success in the upcoming Davis Cup campaign." Rajpal was named non-playing captain of India in 2019 after Mahesh Bhupathi declared the team would not travel to Pakistan, requiring the match to be played in Kazakhstan. Rajpal was a non-playing captain for matches against Croatia, Finland, Denmark, and Norway. In March 2022, India defeated Denmark 4-0 on the grass courts at the Delhi Gymkhana Club, its lone win. India was relegated to World Group-2. After losing the February away match to Morocco 2-3, Rajpal led India to a 4-1 win over Morocco in Lucknow in September to qualify for the 2024 Davis Cup World Group 1 playoffs.



## Govt. limits tur, chana stock until Sept to curb hoarding

### The import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024

Delhi: The Union Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said wholesalers, retailers, huge chain shops, millers, and importers will be subject to stock limits. The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits, and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order went into effect. Stock limits for

each pulse are 200 tonnes for wholesalers, 5 tonnes for retailers, 5 tonnes at each retail outlet, and 200 tonnes at the depot for big chain retailers; last 3 months of production or 25% of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for millers. The measures discourage stockpiling and boost market availability. Importers cannot keep imported merchandise after 45 days after customs clearance. Tur, urad, and chana prices have been constant yet high all year. India imports 15% of its pulses annually to meet demand. Legal companies

are required to report stock positions on the Department of Consumer Affairs portal. "In case the stocks held by them are higher than the prescribed limits then, they shall bring the same to the prescribed stock limits by 12th July 2024," the note added. As Kharif pulses like tur and urad are likely to rise, the government expects tur and chana dal prices to fall. The statement anticipates the import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024. A new crop of chana in Australia and its import from October 2024.

## Google cancels Play Store online gaming trial due to lack of rules

Delhi: Google paused its pilot program to list fantasy sports and rummy games on the Google Play Store, but gave India a "grace period". This means Google will not increase Play Store open access for more real-money games as planned in January. Existing Play Store apps will stay there. Google suspended the pilot, which began in July 2018 and was extended in January in India, Brazil, and Mexico, due to a lack of a "central licensing framework" that governs game legality. "Expanding our support of real-money gaming apps in markets without a central licensing

framework has proven more difficult than expected, and we need additional time to get it right for our developer partners and the safety of our users," a spokesman for Google said. The move hurts India's online gaming industry, which is divided over whether games are 'games of skill' or 'games of chance'. Supreme Court cases challenging Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's internet gaming prohibition remain pending. Google said it is developing a framework for permitted applications in this field. "In the meantime, in India, we are extending the grace period of

the pilot program so existing apps offering fantasy sports and rummy games in India can remain on Play Store," the spokesman said.

A senior Google executive said on condition of anonymity that the company intends to create a framework, but conversations are ongoing and there is no "specific timeline" for when these apps can be used again.

India's major online gaming companies by revenue—Sporta Technologies (Dream11), Gameskraft, and Games24x7—listed their fantasy and rummy apps on Play Store after

## RBI changes priority sector lending rules

Delhi: RBI has amended its priority sector guidelines to encourage banks to provide modest loans in economically challenged districts with low loan amounts. New rules discourage lending in districts with large average loans. Fresh priority sector loans in districts with low credit availabil-

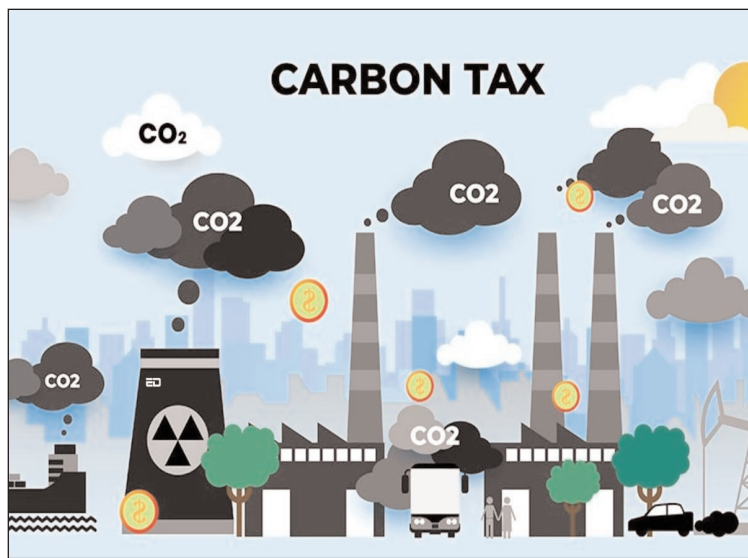
ity (less than Rs 9,000 per person) would receive 125% additional weight starting in FY25. In districts with substantial credit availability (above Rs 42,000 per person), loans weigh 90%. Except for outlier districts with poor credit availability and excessive loan sizes, all other dis-

tricts will remain 100% important. "RBI has decided to rank districts based on per capita credit flow to the priority sector, and to establish an incentive framework for districts with lower credit flow and a disincentive framework for districts with higher priority.

## Parliament group advises the government to suspend EU carbon tax for MSMEs for 3 years

### It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws

Delhi: A parliamentary panel advises India to request a three-year delay on the EU's carbon tax on engineering MSMEs since domestic manufacturers may not be able to afford it. The report advised prioritizing the development of a comprehensive framework to support and equip MSMEs to combat CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism). The EU will impose



CBAM on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertilizer, from January 1, 2026. Engineering goods are subject to this import duty. The department-related parliamentary standing committee on commerce's

report, Comprehensive Strategy to Map Major Products and Countries to Maximize Exports and Minimize Imports, advised the government to work at the highest level with the U.S. and EU to protect the domestic industry from additional tariffs and CBAM. "The Committee exhorts the government to seek the deferment on application of CBAM on MSME sector by at least three years," noted.

It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws because domestic coffee companies worry it will hurt exports. About 55% of Indian coffee exports go to the EU.

## GST Council to change alcohol tax legislation, settle disputes

Delhi: The GST Council is considering amending GST legislation regarding extra neutral alcohol (ENA), a highly pure alcohol used in liquor manufacture but not for direct consumption. These revisions explain that ENA should not be GST-taxable, which could relieve the spirits industry by avoiding dual taxes. In addition to legislative changes, the Council is anticipated to propose a mechanism that would allow central and state tax agencies to stop recovering past tax dues,

helping the spirits industry. This action is part of a larger attempt to settle tax disputes and streamline taxation. The GST Council will discuss officer committee revisions at its meeting in the national capital. According to two Centre-state sources, this committee was charged with drafting legislative revisions to keep ENA outside the GST regime, a decision made at the GST Council's 52nd meeting on October 7 last year. The proposed revisions clarify tax implementa-

tion by excluding ENA from GST under section 9 of the Central and state GST statutes. GST is currently applicable to non-alcoholic goods and services, however ENA is not mentioned. The clarification should reduce the alcoholic beverage industry's tax burden by preventing the same commodity from being taxed under several streams. The Centre would submit CGST and IGST Act revisions in Parliament, while states will alter SGST laws. Since the 2017 indirect tax reform.

## Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai



Delhi: The insurance regulator prohibits promoting Ulips and index-linked plans as investment products. The Irdai mandated tight standards for fund performance ads in a circular. They should show compounded yearly returns for the past five years with a caveat that past success does not guarantee future results. If applicable, benchmark index performance

must be stated with fund performance. The circular advised advertisers not to overestimate benefits, selectively offer benefits without constraints, or make derogatory comparisons to competitors or the industry. The laws compel insurers to form an advertisement committee and appoint distribution channel compliance officers to ensure compliance. These businesses strictly over-

see advertisement material and enforce restrictions. The regulator also requires companies to let policyholders pay premiums online or hire a new agent or direct sales staff if the policyholder's agent leaves. A any new policy from the allocated insurance agency or direct sales staff for the same policyholder if the assigned policy is not resurrected or abandoned within six months.

## Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

Delhi: LIC plans to sell some of its premium commercial buildings and land nationwide to raise \$6-7 billion (50,043-58,384 crore). LIC, India's third-largest landlord, has instructed an internal team to develop a selling plan for its real estate assets nationwide, according to two sources. The process may begin in Mumbai. The article listed LIC's premium assets as the Jeevan Bharti building in Delhi's Connaught Place, the LIC building in Kolkata's Chittaranjan Avenue, and

Mumbai's Asiatic Society and Akbarally's buildings. Two sources informed that LIC's real estate assets were valued at a cautious 50,000-60,000 crore during their latest valuation. "LIC-owned buildings may be revalued for the formal asset sale procedure. LIC buildings may have a market value of at least five times the conservative estimate of 2.5-3 lakh crore, as many have never been sold.

The first insider informed that LIC may incorporate a separate business to

keep and monetize real estate assets due to the difficulty of valuing them. He added LIC owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

"The insurance company owns numerous marquee buildings. The valuation must be done properly. Only piece-by-piece auctions can determine prices. However, the LIC Act must be amended and laws changed

## Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

Delhi: As India's e-commerce power-house targets rapid commerce, the sector will heat up again. Three sources told Entracker that Flipkart has begun building infrastructure for its rapid commerce play. "In six to eight weeks, Flipkart will launch 10-15 minute delivery in at least a dozen cities," stated an anonymous insider. "It's building up a chain of dark stores across several cities including Bengaluru, Delhi (NCR) and Hyderabad among others." Flipkart's move into rapid commerce comes as experts expect it to cut into India's e-commerce pie soon. A 2022 Redseer analysis estimates the Indian fast commerce market at around \$45 billion. More crucially, Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy's Instamart, and Zepto have shown investors that rapid

commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto received a unicorn round, but Blinkit (previously Grofers) and Swiggy Instamart have scaled up with improved profits for their owners. "Flipkart's latest launches indicate its move into fast commerce. It started same-day delivery in 20 cities a couple of weeks ago and delivered flowers and cakes around Valentine's Day (February 2024)," an e-commerce and rapid commerce analyst told Entracker, asking for anonymity. Flipkart will have a larger library than Zepto, Instamart, and Blinkit, according to sources. "The company will have a sharp focus on FMCG, grocery and daily essentials but it would also push categories such as electronics, fashion," said the aforementioned insider.

CAPSULES

## A Japanese company is creating battery material with an energy density that is 100 times higher

Delhi: TDK, a multinational electronics business based in Japan, has revealed that it has created a material for solid-state batteries that has an energy density that is roughly 100 times higher than that of traditional ones. The Tokyo-based company claims that a variety of wearable gadgets, including smartwatches, wireless earbuds, hearing aids, and environmental sensors, may make use of their technology. Although the new material is intended to replace current coin cell batteries, it makes use of lithium alloy anodes and an oxide-based solid electrolyte. "Batteries are quite safe since they employ solid electrolyte based on oxides. It stated in a statement that "it is intended for use in wearable devices and other devices that come into direct contact with the human body." "The battery can be applied for replacing coin cell primary batteries in compliance with EU battery regulations, which require them to be replaced by rechargeable batteries, which is expected to contribute to the reduction of environmental impact," it stated. According to the company, the new technology also makes it possible for batteries to be smaller and have a longer operating life.

## Voda to sell 10% Indus share for \$1.1bn

Delhi: Vodafone Group will sell 10% of India's Indus Towers for up to \$1.1 billion to service debt, according to a term sheet obtained by Reuters. Last week, Reuters reported that Vodafone was considering selling its 21.5% holding in mobile-tower operator Indus Towers through several group businesses.



# India bloc to hit streets if J&K statehood not restored

"Rahul threatened to demonstrate inside and outside Parliament"

Delhi: Congress politician and Lok Sabha politician Rahul Gandhi threatened to demonstrate inside and outside Parliament to "force the BJP to grant Jammu and Kashmir its Statehood". "You deserve and will have statehood. Without it, J&K cannot progress. The INDIA coalition will pressure the BJP to reinstate Statehood. "If they do not, we will storm the well in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and



streets across the country," Mr. Gandhi declared during numerous electoral rallies in Jammu and north Kashmir. After meeting with local professionals in Jammu, Mr. Gandhi addressed a rally in Sopore, north Kashmir, a difficult area. He stated the INDIA coalition would reinstate Statehood if the BJP

didn't cave to the Opposition. "The INDIA bloc will take power soon. Mr. Gandhi said he wanted your statehood restored before the Assembly elections. In his remarks, Mr. Gandhi noted that other Indian States had been bifurcated before, but this is the first time a State has been made a Union Territory.

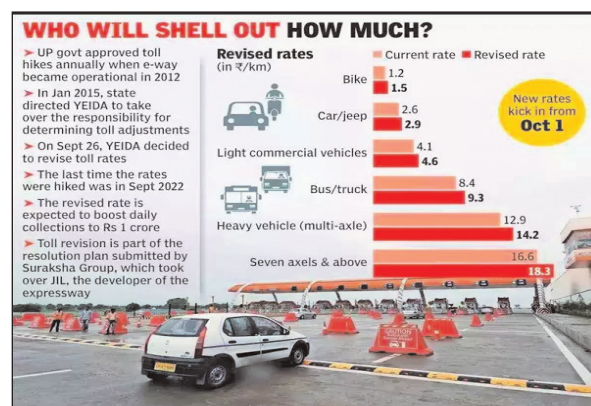
## Cong-ruled Himachal wants all restaurants to have nameplates after UP

Delhi: Himachal Pradesh's Congress government would require restaurants to list their owners and staff, following Uttar Pradesh's BJP government. Sources said a conference will finalize the rule, which will begin in January in Shimla. The period will be for "preparations" such ID card issuance. "We have decided to strictly enforce the rules in the state, much like Uttar Pradesh," Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh told reporters to ensure hygienic food supply. "The Urban Development Ministry and the Municipal Corporation, in a meeting, collectively took this decision while taking into account people's fears and apprehensions about the availability of food at food stalls," he stated. The Uttar Pradesh government required food outlets along Kanwar Yatra routes to post the names of restaurant owners, managers, and proprietors earlier this year, sparking a political outcry.

# Yamuna e-way tolls rose 12% in October

"The new toll structure charges two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and registered tractors Rs 1.50 per km"

Delhi: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) approved a 12% toll hike for the 165-kilometer road link between Greater Noida and Agra. New rates start October 1. The new toll structure charges two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and registered tractors Rs 1.50 per kilometre, up from Rs 1.25. Cars, jeeps, and light motor vehicles would pay Rs 2.95/km instead of Rs 2.60/km. Buses and trucks will pay Rs



4.60/km, up from Rs 4.15/km, and heavy vehicles Rs 14.25/km, up from Rs 12.90/km. Oversize vehicles would pay Rs 18.35/km, up from Rs 16.60/km. Since the Yamuna Expressway's 2012 construction, Uttar Pradesh accepted annual toll hikes until 2015, when it ordered Yeida to control them. Yeida's board meeting decided to let the toll operator collect Rs 1 crore a day. The debt-ridden Jaypee Infratech Limited was acquired by the Suraksha Group, which runs expressway tolls.

Yeida CEO Arun Vir Singh said that the toll operator requested an increase for three years but was denied to preserve public interests. Suraksha Group plans to develop blocked Jaypee residences depend on the annual toll hike, hence the hike was necessary. Yeida remarked that the toll operator had just revealed large highway losses, necessitating a hike. "If we spread the 12 percent hike over three years, it is only a 4 percent hike annually from 2021," Singh added.

# NCP, BJP, Sena to contest Maha elections

Delhi: Pawar's allegation about fighting the state elections with his Mahayuti partners comes as the Shiv Sena (UBT) says that the BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena are trying to remove his party from the government alliance. "We will fight to bring Mahayuti to power again," Pawar stated, adding that he wants to build Maharashtra. Dismal BJP performance in Maharashtra Lok Sabha elections and impending assembly elections. This is the third time August Ajit Pawar has publicly stated that he



made a mistake by fielding his wife against Sule, who won, despite him having dubbed it the party's decision. When asked if he regretted revolting against Sharad Pawar, the deputy CM said it was an old topic and did not need to be raised again. He said all NCP MLAs, including Sharad Pawar's, wrote

to him about joining the ruling Mahayuti when the MVA government collapsed. Ajit Pawar stated the COVID-19 outbreak had slowed several projects. His corruption claims have not been proven, according to the NCP chief. In the recent Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, the BJP and allies.

## Surjewala's son to face BJP veteran in poll debut



Delhi: A young debutant, the heir of a political dynasty, and an old warhorse fight for the Kaithal assembly constituency in north Haryana. Haryana has several third-generation politicians running for Congress, like Aditya Surjewala (25) A BJP candidate Shruiti Chaudhary, granddaughter of former chief minister Bansi Lal, is running for Bhiwani district's Tosham assembly segment against Congress's Anirudh Chaudhary, another grandson. Aditya Devi Lal, grandson of former CM Devi Lal, is the INLD candidate in Dabwali, running against Digvijay Chautala of the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), the great grandson of Surjewala, and two-time MLA Leela Ram Gujjar of the BJP. Surjewala, a commerce graduate from the University of British

Columbia in Canada, said his grandfather took him to public events while Haryana's unemployment problem was escalating. "There has been no consistent investment in areas far away from Gurugram (like Kaithal) to set up factories or office establishments... Our government will fill up all the two lakh 200,000 vacancies in government," stated. Only with domestic and foreign investment will the state have skilled job opportunities. Gujjar, a Kurukshetra University political science graduate, We are also building a 14-acre vegetable market in Kaithal "He sat down to meet a Haryana backward Prajapati (Kumhar) family. Gujjar attacked his challenger, saying Congress candidates have misled Kaithal residents for years.

## Soren raises farm loan waiver threshold to 2L

Delhi: Jharkhand hiked the farm loan waiver from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh, benefiting 1.77 lakh farmers. Farmers are the nation's backbone. They struggle to generate food due to weather and finances. Working to support 'annadatas' Chief Minister Hemant Soren stated. The government renewed its Medha Dairy MoU with NDDB for five years. The Soren-led UPA alliance promised a Rs 2L farm debt forgiveness before the 2019 elections, but the government only waived Rs 50,000. BJP calls enhanced loan waiver a jumla. "The Hemant government failed. Five years have passed without significant development. As its tenure winds down, the government appears to be making snap decisions out of fear of election retribution" BJP spokesperson Ajay Sah remarked.

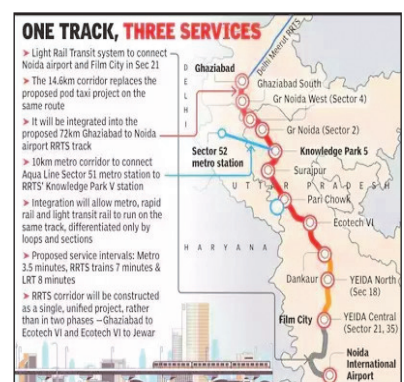


## YSRCP RS MP resigns from House, party

Delhi: YSR Congress MP Ryaga Krishnaiah resigned his seat in the Rajya Sabha. He is the third upper house MP from the party to resign. His resignation comes as the exodus of YSR Congress MPs from the Upper House continues. Earlier MPs M. Venkataramana Rao and Beedha Mastan Rao Yadav had tendered their resignation. With his resignation the YSR Congress is now reduced to eight.

## Light rail will link Noida airport, Film City off e-way

Delhi: A light rail transit will connect Noida International Airport to Film City off Yamuna Expressway via the RRTS. The decision was made at the YEIDA board meeting. NCR Transport Corporation presented its 72km quick rail link between the airport and Ghaziabad. Centre approval was sought. A previous idea called for pod taxis to connect the 14km route. Designed in 2021, the first tender for 12 highway stations was published in July 2018 for Rs 641.5 crore. Despite repeated extensions, no entity bid on the project due to feasibility concerns. The Uttar Pradesh government approved the 72km RRTS corridor between Ghaziabad and the airport, and NCRTC filed a project study to include pod taxi or light rail. "Metro, RRTS, and light rail will share tracks with just loops and sections. Metro trains run every 3.5 minutes, quick rail every 7 minutes, and light rail every 8 minutes. The UP government accepted this plan. It has been referred to the Union housing and urban affairs ministry for approval "Arun Vir Singh. No adjustments were made to the 72 km track plan either.



"The RRTS corridor was proposed in two phases—Ghaziabad to Ecotech VI and Ecotech VI to Jewar. It will now be built as one project," Singh remarked. Three lines will serve different purposes. Due to its quickness, rapid rail is preferred for airport travel. Metro will also use the same rails but stop at every station, taking longer to travel. Light rail will mostly serve the Yamuna Expressway between Film City and the airport. The RRTS project ends in 2031. The Centre and state governments would contribute 40%, while Greater Noida, Yamuna Expressway, and Ghaziabad would raise the balance.

## Singh: 'Corrupt' Soren claiming to be a martyr after incarceration

Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh criticized Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren for "pretending to be a martyr" following his arrest in an alleged land scam and saying "such a corrupt" leader cannot lead the state to progress. Singh continued his attack on Soren: "A corrupt chief minister cannot grow the state. Give the Bharatiya



Janata Party two terms for exceptional progress and expel such elements." State elections are scheduled for this year. The chief minister's wife Kalpana Soren accused the BJP

of importing "imposters" to the state to mislead voters before the elections. Soren and the JMM did not respond to Singh's comments. "The BJP has surrendered before Hemant's courage, that is why imposters from different states have come to Jharkhand, and are busy spreading hatred and misleading the people," she stated.

## After Tirupati row, Odisha to check Puri temple ghee

Delhi: Following the controversy over alleged animal fat in the ghee used for Tirupati lad-

us, the Odisha government has decided to conduct a quality check on the ghee used in the Puri Jagannath Temple. Puri district collector Sidharth Shankar Swain announced the decision, saying that the measure is intended to prevent any adulteration in offerings at the 12th-century temple. While there have been no complaints regarding the quality of ghee used, Swain said the administration decided to proceed with an examination to ensure its purity. The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation.

# Kerala has the worst youth unemployment in India



"Youth unemployment has prompted politicians to take many steps to create jobs. Experts say 7%+ economic growth isn't providing enough jobs"

unemployment was 10.2%, with 11% of girls and 9.8% of boys. In 2022-23, 10% of 15-29-year-olds were unemployed. Youth unemployment has prompted politicians to take many steps to create jobs. Experts say 7%+ economic growth isn't providing enough jobs. In the 15-29 age group, Lakshadweep had the highest unemployment rate at 36.2%, with females at 79.7% and

males at 26.2%. The next UT-Andaman & Nicobar Island has 33.6% unemployment. The unemployment rate was 49.5% for women and 24% for men. Nagaland, Manipur, and Arunachal Pradesh have substantial youth unemployment, whereas Goa had 19.1%. The July 2023-June 2024 data also indicated 24 states and UTs with double-digit unemployment. Youth unemployment was 14.7% in cities and 8.5% in rural areas. Female joblessness in urban areas was 20.1% and in rural regions 8.2%.