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

## 'Who will guard the guards?' Opposition on Hindenburg allegations on Sebi chief

**NEW DELHI:**

Congress called upon the central government to act swiftly to address potential conflicts of interest within the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) after fresh allegations leveled by US short-seller Hindenburg Research against Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch. The opposition party also said that the "seeming complicity of the highest officials of the land" can only be unraveled through the establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to fully investigate what it described as a "mega scam." Hindenburg Research, which has previously raised serious allegations against the Adani Group, issued a new blog post on Saturday



**It is this dichotomy that has led to Sebi drawing a blank worldwide**

It is this dichotomy that has led to Sebi drawing a blank worldwide," Ramesh said, quoting the Expert Committee. Ramesh further targeting Sebi chairperson Buch. The post accused her and her husband of holding undisclosed stakes in offshore funds allegedly used in the Adani money laundering scheme. The research firm also criticised Sebi for its alleged lack of enthu-

asserted that the new allegations from Hindenburg show that both Buch and her husband were financially connected to the same offshore. siasm in pursuing investigations into Adani's purported web of shell companies based in Mauritius and other offshore locations. "Sebi has shown a surprising lack of interest in Adani's alleged undisclosed web of Mauritius and

offshore shell entities," Hindenburg report said. In response to these developments, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh released a statement condemning Sebi's reluctance to thoroughly investigate what he termed as the "Adani mega scam." He pointed to observations made by the Supreme Court's Expert Committee, which noted Sebi's dilution and subsequent removal of reporting requirements related to the ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign funds in 2018 and 2019. "This had tied its hands to the extent that 'the securities market regulator suspects wrongdoing, but also finds compliance with various stipulations in attendant.

## 'Malicious' and 'mischievous': Adani Group rejects allegations in new Hindenburg report

**NEW DELHI:**

The Adani Group on Sunday vehemently denied the latest allegations made by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research. The group characterized the allegations as "red herrings thrown by a desperate entity with total contempt for Indian laws." The new Hindenburg report claimed that Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch and her husband had stakes in offshore entities involved in the alleged Adani money siphoning scandal. In a statement, Adani group described the allegations as "malicious, mischievous and manipulative selections of publicly available information to arrive at pre-determined conclusions for personal profiteering with wanton disregard for facts and the law." "We completely reject these allegations against the Adani Group which are a recycling of discredited claims that have been thoroughly investigated, proven to be baseless and already dismissed by the Hon'ble



**PM Modi hails President Murmu for being conferred with Timor-Leste's highest honour**

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed President Droupadi Murmu on being honoured with the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste and said that it reflects the strong ties and mutual respect between the

two countries. Murmu arrived in Dili (Timor-Leste) on Saturday on the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste. Murmu received the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest honour. Supreme Court in January 2024," the Adani Group said in its statement. The group emphasized that their overseas holding structure is fully transparent, with all relevant details regularly disclosed in numerous public documents. The statement also clarified that Anil Ahuja, mentioned in the

**Deputy NSA Pavan Kapoor discusses India's role in peace for Kyiv with Ukrainian president's top aide**

**KYIV:** Deputy National Security Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pavan Kapoor, met Andriy Yermak, the head of the office for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and discussed India's participation in restoring peace for Ukraine as the Moscow-Kyiv war continues. Andriy Yermak expressed hope that PM Modi will contribute to these efforts. "Met with the Deputy National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of @AmbKapoor. I emphasized the importance of restoring a just peace for Ukraine and for India's participation in this process.

## 'It's her happy place': Sunita Williams' husband on her extended stay in space



**Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore's missions on the ISS were extended following issues with the Boeing Starliner spacecraft. Due to a helium leak, their return, initially planned for June 2024, is now uncertain. Nasa has indicated an alternative return plan using SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule, potentially in February 2025, posing challenges for Boeing. Sunita Williams's husband Michael shared that space is her "happy place," despite the current situation caused by issues with their Boeing Starliner spacecraft.** Michael told The Wall Street Journal that 'Space was her happy place, even if she had to be there indefinitely.' As reported by the Wilmore's wife Deanna said, "You know, we probably don't expect him until February, February or March." The Starliner spacecraft encountered a helium leak in its service module, a critical component for its operations, resulting in the astronauts' prolonged stay. Williams and Wilmore are currently on the ISS as part of Boeing's Starliner Crew Flight Test (CFT). Originally scheduled to return on June 14, 2024, their mission has been extended due to the technical issues with the Starliner. The spacecraft has been undergoing crucial testing and evaluations since docking at the ISS on June 6 to ensure a safe return.

## 'I could have stayed in power if ...': Sheikh Hasina claims US role in her ouster

**Former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, currently residing in India, has leveled accusations against the United States, alleging their involvement in her removal from power. "I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it, I resigned from the premiership.**



I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal. I beseech to the people of my land, 'Please do not be manipulated by radi-

cals,'" Hasina said in a message, she quoted her as saying. Saint Martin Island, a small landmass measuring only 3 square kilometers, is situated in the northeastern region of the Bay of Bengal, approximately 9 kilometers south of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula's tip, constituting the southern-most point of Bangladesh. In her message, Hasina urged Bangladeshi citizens

to resist manipulation by radical elements. Hasina expressed her deep sorrow over the killings of leaders, harassment of workers, and acts of vandalism, stating, "My heart cries upon receiving news that many leaders have been killed, workers are being harassed and their homes are subjected to vandalism and arson...With the grace of almighty Allah.

## As crime surges in Bangladesh, kin on this side pray for peace

**KOLKATA:** Deep Chowdhury (name changed) of Dum Dum is anxious about his mother, sisters and cousins who are now in Chittagong. Over the last two days, however, he has been feeling a little relieved. "My mother spoke to me over phone and said that the atmosphere of tension and fear was abetting though a fear factor still persisted. The cause of concern is indiscriminate robbery targeting minority



areas. Night guard groups have been formed. The apartment they live in has residents from Hindu and Muslim communities so the night guard party consists of members from both," said Deep.

"Hope the situation will be changing for good soon. The schools are now functioning but my nephew and niece Rajarshi (15) and Rajanya (7) are still not attending classes. It will be a real pleasure when the children will be comfortable enough to go out to study and play," adds Deep. Prasenjit Ghose, a tour operator in Kolkata, is in regular touch with his cousins Uttam and Goutam in Noakhali.

## Bangladesh unrest: 12th gen priest of 583-year-old Kali mandir says 'won't leave temple & motherland'

**DEHRADUN:** Shekhar Lal Goswami, 73, a 12th generation family priest of the over five centuries old Sri Sri Siddheswari Kali Mandir situated at a prominent locality in Dhaka, says he won't budge amid all the violence and reports of attacks on the minorities in his country. "I won't leave this temple come what may... I've seen worse," Goswami told TOI on Saturday. He lives with his two uncles, son and family, in his house next to the temple in Siddheswari lane near the capital's busy Mouchak Bazar. The septuagenarian recalled the incidents when he was "abducted twice from the 583-year-



old temple by Pakistani troops in 1971, before going on to join the Mukti Bahini force to fight in the liberation war that year, with the assistance of the Indian Army". "Was blindfolded, bundled into jeep by Pakistani troops in 1971' When I was abducted the first time, I was around 20-years-old and was offering prayers in front of Maa Kali in a priest's attire. It was

April 17, 1971. I was blindfolded and bundled into a military jeep by Pakistani troops. I'd then given up hope of returning alive. But they released me. Eleven days later, the troops took me again. They wanted to instil fear to make me flee my land... But then I came back alive both times due to Maa Kali's blessings," said Goswami, adding that he then crossed over to Agartala in Tripura

for "arms training". Shekhar Lal Goswami offers prayers at Sri Sri Siddheswari Kali Mandir in Dhaka on Friday. "I had gone there with eight others including my elder brother and friends. After training for around 45 days, we returned to fight the Pakistani troops and ultimately succeeded to free our motherland with all the other great freedom fighters," Goswami, who had five siblings including three sisters, further said. Goswami (in blue) with students Muztahid Abrar Siddique, Robin Mojumdar and Abrar Faiyaz, guard the temple on Friday night.

## 13-year-old dies due to electrocution at cricket ground in outer Delhi's Ranhola area

**NEW DELHI:** A 13-year-old boy died due to electrocution at a cricket ground in outer Delhi's Ranhola area. According to the police, a PCR call around 1.30 pm was received on Saturday that a 13-year-old boy was playing cricket on the Cricket Ground in Kotla Vihar Ph-2 when he got an electric shock from an iron pole carrying electric wire to a Gaushalah situated in a corner of the said ground when he went to get the ball. The body was immediately taken to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) hospital by PCR van. The hospital authorities declared him dead, said the police. FIR u/s 106(1) BNS has been registered.

## Third Wave Coffee outlet under fire after woman finds phone hidden in washroom

**Bengaluru :** The Bengaluru police have arrested an employee of Third Wave Coffee of BEL Road, Bengaluru for hiding a mobile phone in the dustbin of the women's restroom to secretly record videos. The incident occurred on Saturday, with the accused staffer using his phone to record in the toilet for about two hours. A customer, present at the coffee shop during the incident, shared details on social media. She described discovering the phone hidden in the restroom dustbin with the video recording function on. "It was on flight mode so that it makes no sound, and was carefully hidden in the dustbin bag which had a hole made in it so that only the camera is exposed. It was quickly found that the phone belonged to one of the men working

there. The police were called and ... action being taken," she said. Woman shared on Instagram "This was horrific to witness. I will be vigilant at any washroom I use from now on, no matter how well-known the chain of cafe or restaurant is. And I request all of you to do the same. This is absolutely disgusting," the customer added. The management of the coffee shop responded to the incident by stating, "The safety and well-being of our customers is always our priority. The coffee shop has a stringent zero tolerance policy and the person under question at the BEL Road store has been immediately terminated, with necessary legal action being initiated."

## Sawan Mahotsav celebrated by Poonam Sant Mahila and Vikas Samiti

Prayagraj: Sawan Mahotsav was organized by Poonam Sant Mahila and Vikas Samiti at a hotel located in Civil Lines. The Sawan Mahotsav started with Ganesh Vandana, along with this, dance, bhajans and singing were presented by the women of the organization on the songs of Sawan. Along with this, Kajri songs were also sung which was the main attraction of the program. All the women present were gifted green bangles, bindi, mehendi etc. makeup items by the organization on the auspicious occasion of Sawan. The program was inau-



gured by the President of the organization Poonam Sant by lighting the lamp. Poonam Sant extended hearty wishes and congratulations to all the women present on the holy festival of Sawan and along with this she also told how Sawan is a month that fills the lives of all of us Sanatanis with a different kind of enthusiasm and love. Along with this, National Vice President of the organization Ranjana Gulati praised and thanked all the artists for their daily singing and presentation. National Coordinator Isabelle Brandish, present in the program, also enjoyed the festival by telling all the women about the swing of Sawan and especially the importance of Lord Shiva and Parvati. The work of organizing the program smoothly was done by State President Kamini Jain and the program was conducted by City President Archana Maurya. A large number of women mainly Madhulika Singh, Savita Aggarwal, Priya Aggarwal, Sadhna Singh, Geeta Jaiswal, Bharti Singh, Mayuri Mehrotra, Anjana Banerjee, Anjali Ritu, Srishti Kumari, Rajni Rastogi, Pavani, etc. participated in the program.

## Khatri Sabha Mahila Mandal holds Hariyali Teej event

Prayagraj: A successful colorful cultural program of Hariyali Teej was presented by the executive members of Khatri Sabha Mahila Mandal Prayag, in which women



of the society participated. The work started with lamp lighting, caste song, Ganesh Vandana, in between there was also a round of question and answer. Everyone appreciated the program very much. The program was completed with the help of president Reena Kapoor, Malika, Deepa, Kirti, Rasna, Shikha, Soni, Anjani, Deepali, Rajni, Ritu, Pooja, Anju Pooja and program coordinator Shweta Tandon and Neha Kakkar.

## Maha Kumbh Mela: Review meeting seeks action plan for crowd control, traffic and movement

Prayagraj: Safe and smooth organization of the Maha Kumbh Mela-2024-25. In view of this, a review meeting was held in Prayagraj Fair Authority on 10-08-2024 regarding developing a strong and systematic action plan for crowd control, traffic and movement. In which a presentation was presented regarding the demands of security plan, traffic plan, police management plan and logistics requirements. Thereafter a visit was made to



the Senior Superintendent of Police Kumbh Mela office. In the review meeting and tour, Additional Director General of Police Zone Prayagraj, Additional Director General of Police Traffic and Road Safety, Lucknow UP, Commissioner of Police Prayagraj, Inspector General of Police Zone Prayagraj, Additional Commissioner of Police Prayagraj, Deputy Inspector General of Police Railways, Fair Officer, Senior Superintendent of Police Fair, Deputy Commissioner of Police City. / Yamunanagar/Ganganagar/traffic and other police/administrative officials were present.

## Indian hockey team congratulated on winning Olympics bronze medal

Prayagraj: Vijay Group of Jhushi Hockey Academy players cheered the Indian team by playing drums and DJ on the arrival of the medal, by waving the tricolor flag and feeding each other sweets. On this occasion, Anwar Khan, the international hockey player, came to Prayagraj and welcomed him at the Triveni Puram sports ground. By organizing a one-day match, the best and best players and girls were also honored. On this occasion, Councilor



# For unity and integrity, keep burning flame of revolution in heart: Mayor

Prayagraj: Freedom Fighter Ramchandra Vaishya Park Kakori Train Action Centenary Memorial Lecture at Ram Bhawan under the leadership of President of the Tribute Group Rajesh Kesarwani by Amar Krantikari Tribute Group Prayagraj. Tricolor Yatra was organized in the memory of the revolutionaries of Mala and Kakori Action. On this occasion, the chief guest of the program, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, while paying tribute to all the revolutionaries of Kakori Train Action, said that the great revolutionaries of the country risked their lives for the freedom of India. He continued to struggle against the British government for his mother but he never gave up. He said that this is the

land of Chandrashekhar Azad who had said that we will face the bullets of the enemy, we are free, were free and will remain free and said that we will be free in the period of Mughals. We also kept struggling, we are not among those who accept defeat, our history has been of winning, of struggling and said that we have to maintain the ideals of the great revolutionaries and great men of our country and to build the India of their dreams. We will have to fight the traitors sitting inside. To build a developed India for the unity and integrity of the country, we will have to keep the flame of the blazing revolution inherited by the great revolutionaries burning in our hearts and fight the enemies and traitors of the country



by hoisting the tricolor flag in every house.

On this occasion, the special guest of the program, Vishwa Hindu Parishad's state vice president Suresh Aggarwal, busi-

ness leader Satish Chandra Kesarwani, former councilor Vijay Vaish, state president Janhit Karini Sushil Jain remembered the martyrs of Kakori Action. On this occasion, the special guest of

the program was Vishwa Hindu Council's state vice president Suresh Aggarwal, business leader Satish Chandra Kesarwani, former councilor Vijay Vaish, state president public interest activist Sushil Jain, BJP vice president Vivek Aggarwal remembered the martyrs of Kakori Action. While presiding over the program, Rajesh Kesarwani was the chief guest of the program. It was welcomed by presenting the Tricolor to him. After the seminar, Tiranga Yatra was taken out under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan in the memory of the revolutionary of Kakori Action. Chief coordinators of the program were

Shatrughan Jaiswal, Abhilash Kesarwani, Ajay Agrahari, Padmakar Srivastava. The program was conducted by Manoj Mishra. On this occasion, Rajesh Sharma, Padmakar Srivastava, Pramod Modi, Raju Pathak, Girjesh Mishra, Neeraj Kesarwani, Kamlesh Kesharwani, Abhilash Kesarwani, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Ajay Agrahari, Sachin Gupta, Deepak Kesarwani, Dinesh Vishwakarma, Shivmohan Gupta, Prateek Malviya, Shri Bhagwan. Kesarwani, Sanjay Mishra, Akhilesh Vaish, Subhash Kumar, etc. paid tribute to the revolutionaries of Kakori Action and participated enthusiastically in the Tiranga Yatra organized in their memory and pledged to install the Tricolor in their house.

## Curtains draw over CISCA UP UK Regional Aquatics Competition at SJC

Prayagraj: Under the endless skies of the open road, where the horizon stretched out like an unfurled canvas waiting for those who master their art to fill them with their potion of talent, skills, experience and what not. The day 2 at St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj along with Prayagraj Swimming Pool, hosted for CISCE Regional UP & UK Swimming Competition for three categories U-14, U-17 and U-19, for both boys and girls.

The meet started with the unfolding of sheer will, driving force, dexterity in the most potent elements of nature "WATER", 400 professional swimmers come together from 13 different zones which were Agra, Bareilly, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur North & South, Lucknow A & B. Meerut, Prayagraj, Uttarakhand and Varanasi to take part in this event and to attain a resounding tri-

umph. The mistress of ceremony for the second day Mrs. S. Banerjee enthralled the audience with her resounding voice and directed the dissemination for various events such as



800m Free Style, 400m Individual Medley,

200m Breast Stroke, 100m Back Stroke, 100m Butterfly, 200m Free Style, 4X100 Medley Relay. The swimmers showed their utmost strength, the team cheered their hearts off and the coaches who worked tirelessly to carve a profes-

sional swimmer out of these youth made this event more exciting. It was a propitious moment for the students to display their sterling swimming skills on way also. Not only the participants but the

swiftly conquered the pool's length. There were moments of breath-taking sporting ability as some swimmers easily outstripped the other in the lanes next to them.

The audience was elated to have our respected Bishop Most Rev. Louis Mascarenhas, Roman Catholic Diocese of Allahabad who distributed the prizes to the winners and congratulated them for a brighter future. Sister Lissy CJ, Principal of St. Mary's Convent, Prayagraj along with Rev. Fr. Walter D. Silva, Principal of St. Joseph's College, and Rv. Fr. Melvin Paise, the College Headmaster also gave away the prizes. Gaurav Aggarwal and Saumya Aggarwal also distributed the prizes. The Chief Coordinator Jyoti Dubey, S. Bannerjee, Dr. V. Deb J. Joseph, Jeevika Menezes, K.C Biswas and Shabi Rafique, A. Fredrick gave away the prizes.

spectators were also equally excited as the competition began. Their enthusiasm requires authenticity of which can only be confirmed through empirical evidence.

It was display of beautiful athleticism and sportsmanship as swimmers dove into the inviting water and

## Traders troubled by threat of cyber thugs

Prayagraj: Mohammad Imran, resident of Kasari Masari police station Karaili, complained of a serious cyber crime before Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Prayagraj. Imran has claimed to have received threat regarding loan through a link named SWAP LEND on his mobile. He told that on August 2, 2024, Rs 6000 was deposited in his account as loan, after which he received a threatening call from an unknown number on August 8, 2024. The perpetrator threatened to send obscene pic-



tures to Imran and circulate them on social media. Also, Imran says that he is receiving obscene material and abusive calls from different numbers and information of his relatives and friends has also been obtained. According to Imran, obscene photos and abuses were also sent to him. The thugs are continuously harassing him from different numbers, which include 6287722781928, 6285761839728, 923115807561, 923185292037, 9000583762, and 324846904020. Imran has appealed to investigate these numbers and take strict action against the culprits. Imran says that such problems are affecting his personal and family life.

## All HC validates Fastag toll plaza rule, petition rejected

Prayagraj: Allahabad High Court rejected the PIL filed regarding toll fee. It was argued in the petition that declaring all the lanes of the toll plaza as Fastag lanes is unconstitutional and arbitrary, due to which double the fee is being charged for not installing Fastag. Petitioner Vijay Pratap Singh argued that collection of toll and payment of road tax amounts to double taxation. The court clarified



that toll fee is collected under the provisions of Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956 and related rules 2008. The court accepted the argument of the defendant's lawyer Pranjal Mehrotra, which said that the facility of toll payment through Fastag is beneficial for the passengers and there is no unconstitutionality in it. The Court also said that the purpose and authority of road tax and toll charges are separate and independent of each other. The contentions raised in the petition had no solid basis, and hence it was dismissed.

## Installation of imagePRESS V1000 Color Production Printers

Prayagraj: Committed to leading through innovative technologies and solutions, Canon India, has announced the installation of its flagship imagePRESS V1000 in Prayagraj at Classic Printer. Having set the standard for the new generation of imagePRESS printers for over a year, the V1000 is designed to deliver high-quality, reliable, and efficient printing solutions. The imagePRESS V1000 is equipped to handle a broad range of printing tasks, from simple documents to premium marketing materials on various substrates. This digital color press printer showcases a perfect synergy of advanced technologies, building on well-established previous models, with enhanced media flexibility and increased productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. C Sukumaran, Senior Director, Products & Communication, Canon India said "Innovation is the

cornerstone of Canon India's commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions that address the evolving needs of our customers. The imagePRESS V1000 is a testament to this



philosophy. Its installation in Prayagraj marks another significant step in our journey to empower businesses with technology that enhances productivity, quality, and flexibility. We are confident that the V1000 will be a game-changer for Classic Printer and the wider

print industry in the region, setting new benchmarks for efficiency and output excellence. Through the technological synergy of our new printers, we are creating opportunities for both Canon

Jogendra Gupta, Owner, Classic Printer, said, "We have been collaborating with Canon India for the past eight years to consistently deliver high-quality prints using equipment's like imagePRESS C10000VP and imagePRESS C850. Recently, we added the imagePRESS V1000 to our printer fleet and are extremely satisfied with the output it delivers. With over three decades of experience in the printing industry and witnessing 4-5 types of established Printing Processes capable of producing variety Print Applications, I have chosen Digital Printing Services as key driver for my business growth. I have observed that in Digital Printing Space, Canon's after-sales commitment to its products has always been exceptional. Our ongoing reliance on Canon reaffirms our dedication to delivering top-notch results and embracing innovation at Classic Printer."

Talking about his experience with Canon and the recent installation, Mr.

## Allegation: Occupying room of Waqf Dargah

Prayagraj: For the last few days wild allegations are being made about me in the media by Mohammad Nafees Ansari son of late Sattar, resident of 552 Bahadurganj Which has nothing to do with truth due to which I am being insulted. In order to clarify my point, I consider it necessary to make the general public aware of the truth. Nafees Ansari Waqf Dargah Hazrat Mushkil Kusha Situation Bahadurganj Prayagraj has been illegally occupied for the last many years Nafees Ansari himself admitted in his press conference that he has been occupying a room in the Waqf Dargah for 65 years, for which he has never paid any rent Apart from being an illegal encroacher, Nafees

Ansari himself keeps gathering anti-social elements in the locality and surrounding areas and runs a furniture factory by illegally installing Katiyas in the Dargah premises itself, due to which he causes trouble to the devotees, especially women, who come to Darshanath at the Dargah. Have to face In my capacity as a Mutawalli, when I asked the said Nafees Ansari to vacate the room of the Waqf Dargah, due to being very old, I started abusing and threatening me. He got angry and never filed a police report In view of Nafees Ansari's anti-Waqf activities, legal action will definitely be taken to evict him and contempt proceedings will be initiated soon.

# Ganga e-way inspection: Minister Nandi seeks work plan report by Aug 20

## Seeks completion by Dec 31 this year ahead of Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi visited Prayagraj on Saturday to know the speed and progress of construction of Ganga Expressway among the priority tasks set by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for Maha Kumbh 2025 and also to remove obstacles coming in the way in the construction work. He conducted on-site inspection of the Ganga Expressway being built from Meerut to Pratapgarh. Expressing his displeasure over the slow pace of earthwork work, Minister Nandi directed the officials to increase the pace of work and under any circumstances complete the construction work of the first carriageway of the 596 km long Ganga Expressway by 31 December 2024. Minister Nandi gave a clear warning to the concerned officials that negligence in this work will not be tolerated at all. Minister Nandi said that either increase manpower or machinery, but in any case complete the work by the stipulated date.

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Ganga Expressway that the construction of the main carriageway of Ganga Expressway has to be completed by 31 December 2024 under any circumstances. You should know how to complete it, but negligence in this work will not be tolerated at all. All responsible officers should make a day by day plan. Review and remove whatever shortcomings and problems are arising. If there is any problem at any level, resolve it immediately. Minister Nandi said that aim to achieve more than the set target and make an inverted chart. Then by going somewhere you can accomplish your set goal.

Submit a report by 20th August as to how the work will be completed by 31st December. Minister Nandi, after finding slow pace of work during the on-site inspection of the under-construction Ganga Expressway, asked the officials to submit a report by 20th August that the work on the main carriageway of the Ganga Expressway will be completed by 31st December 2024. How will you complete it? Increase the dumper or man power, but speed up the earth work.

Officials as well as the contractor informed about the slow pace of earth work of the under construction Ganga Expressway and the need to get the earth from long distances. On which Minister Nandi said that the work of soil is the most important, in which work of many layers is done. This work takes the most time. Therefore, if soil is being procured from far away, the number of dumpers should be increased and if necessary, manpower should be increased further. In any case, complete the main carriageway work by 31 December 2024 so that a large number of devotees can easily come to Prayagraj in Mahakumbh 2025 and take a holy dip. In the review meeting, ACEO UPEDA Hari Pratap Shahi, Senior Chief General Manager UPEDA RR Singh, Chief Engineer UPEDA RK Chaudhary, Chief General Manager AK Pathak, Senior Land Earning Officer Chinkuram Patel, General Manager UPEDA Anurag Asthana, Chief Executive Officer SK Goyal, Chief General Manager IRB Anoop Singh, General Manager UPEDA SP Rao etc. officers were present.

## HC gives strict instruction to Rly & admin on over bridge and service lane road case

Prayagraj: Allahabad High Court gave strict orders to the Railway and District Administration officials on the over bridge and service lane road being built in Ibrahimpur Bamrauli. Allahabad High Court has relied on the joint report of Railway and District Administration officials dated 11.01.2022. In which it has been said that for the construction of the service lane, 200 square meters of land of the farmers of village Shekhpur Ibrahimpur Bamrauli Araji No. 11,20, 21,23,57 and 59 will be affected. Petitioner's advocates Atif Ahmed and Navneet Kumar Singh said. That what is the case of the petitioners is that the respondents without any formal acquisition and payment of compensation want to take their Bhumidhari land for the construction of service road connecting Mander Deh Mafi Mohaddinpur Bharetha i.e. Railway Over Bridge.

Additional Chief Standing Advocate Rajeev Gupta presented the written instructions received from SDM Sadar Prayagraj, which has been placed on record, according to which the land of the petitioners is not being affected due to the construction of the Railway Over Bridge. He submits that whenever the service lanes are constructed, the respondents will acquire the private role which may come within its scope either on compulsory acquisition or on the basis of negotiations with you. The Hon'ble High Court has also directed that unless the respondents acquire the private role as per law the possession of the petitioners will not be disturbed until ownership of the land is obtained. This order dated 09.08.2024 was given by Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta and Justice Manish Kumar Nigam on Munnu Lal and others vs Union of India and others.

## Special prayer of thanksgiving on golden jubilee of LDTA

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Lucknow Diocesan Trust Association (LDTA), a branch of the Diocese of Lucknow (CNI), a special prayer of thanksgiving was offered by the Bishop of Lucknow, Rev. Morris Edgar Dan, at All Saints Cathedral Church located in the historic Civil Lines of the city, on Sunday at 9 am. It will be conducted under the leadership of Morris Edgar Dan. Principals and pastors of all the educational institutions of the institution will participate in this very special occasion. The church service will be conducted by the pastor of the church, Rev. Dr. Vineeta Isubius. Giving information about this special program, media in-charge Sunil Kumar Verma said

that to enthrall the program, singing groups from all the schools associated with the organization have been called and the church has been decorated with flowers under the leadership of the priest committee. He said that he has been serving the organization as an employee for more than 20 years, but during the tenure of Bishop Morris Edgar Dan, there is no doubt that the way the organization is being taken on the path of progress, it has not been seen in the past. This is not only a matter of respect for any particular community but is a unique step for all religions. This information was given by media in-charge Sunil Kumar Verma via a press communiqué.

## Completion of training on natural farming at KVK, SHUATS

Prayagraj, Naini: Completion of training on natural farming (5 days) at KVK, SHUATS, Prayagraj Chaired by Chief Guest Dr. Praveen Charan, Director Prasar SHUATS. In which he said that natural farming is the need of the hour because our land is becoming unhealthy in which the amount of fossil carbon has gone down a lot, which is not a good sign. If we want to make our land healthy and get more yield then it is necessary to do natural farming. NEDA and Minor Irrigation Project Officer E. Kumar Gaurav made the farmers aware about the PM Kusum scheme and asked the farm-

ers to use solar energy. He also informed about the micro irrigation scheme. KVK Head Senior Scientist Dr. Mukesh P. Masih said that if we have to reduce our costs in farming and keep our health healthy, then we will have to depend on natural farming. In the 5-day training, the coordinator of this training, Dr. Ajay Kumar

Scientist Krishi Vigyan Kendra, explained to the farmers what is natural farming, its benefits and the inputs used in natural farming like - Bijamrit, Ghanjeevamrit,

Government of India and State Governments have been asked to give grants to farmers for natural farming. Farmers from many villages of different blocks partici-



## Powerful depiction of composite culture 'Panch Parmeshwar'

Prayagraj: On the fifth evening of Celebrating Nautanki Mahotsav, the Panchayat sitting on the stage of NCZCC in which Algu Chaudhary gave the verdict in favor of justice on the dispute between Jumman Sheikh and his aunt. The close friendship between Jumman Sheikh and Algu Chaudhary turned sour and friends became enemies. Then after some time, the Panchayat again sat in the dispute between Algu Chaudhary and Samjhu Sahu and this time everyone was surprised by the decision given by Jumman Shaikh. But amidst all this, one thing was proved that the decision of Panch Parmeshwar is always in favor of justice. Under the directorial skills of Atul Yaduvanshi, the artists of Swarga Rangamandal gave a new dimension to NCZCC by adapting 'Panch Parmeshwar' into the traditional singing and craft of Nautanki and gave the most significance and artistry to this story of Munshi Premchand. The fascinating harmony and blend of sour,

sweet and spicy experiences of life seen in the stories and plays of Katha Samrat Munshi Premchand ji is incomparable. In Munshi ji's story 'Panch Parmeshwar', where the emphasis has been laid on not shying away from the truth while sitting on the

complaint, the Panch is given the status of God in the village. Algu Chaudhary, who holds the post of Sarpanch of the Panchayat, goes against his best friend Jumman and gives a verdict in favor of Budhi Khala. Jumman Miyan gets angry

stream of tears washed away the filth of the mind and when the two friends hugged, all the gaps that came between their friendship were bridged. The importance of justice had been re-established.

Ranga-Dheeraj Agarwal, Rangili- Priya Mishra, Jumman Sheikh- Neeraj Agarwal, Algu Chaudhary- Manoj Kumar, Khala- Shivani Kashyap, Samjhu Sahu- Shiv Kumar Srivastava, Kariman- Shradha Deshpande, Chaudharyin- Shanta Singh, Sahuin- Ananya Mohile, Ramdhan Mishra- Aryan Mohile, Panch- Sachin Kesarwani, Rajendra Kumar, Ram Surat, Basant Lal Tyagi, Sarpanch- Manoj Kumar and Neeraj Aggarwal performed excellently in their roles. In the musical aspect, Harmonium- Dilip Kumar Gulshan, Dholak- Mohammad Sajid, Nakkara- Nagina, Decoration- Mohammad Hameed, Publication Direction- Sujoy Ghoshal, Clothing Design- Shilpi Yaduvanshi, Set Construction- Sant Lal Patel and unique, theatrical adaptation Rajkumar Srivastava.



seat of justice and doing justice by giving milk to milk and water to water, the common culture of our country and co-Existence has been displayed very beautifully. Jumman Shaikh and Algu Chaudhary were close friends of each other despite belonging to different religions. Under the influence of his wife, Jumman misbehaves with his aunt. The aunt goes to the Panch with her

with Algu Chaudhary due to this and their friendship turns into mutual hostility. After some time, Algu Chaudhary stands in the Panchayat against the moneylender in the buying and selling of bulls. But after sitting on the seat of the arbitrator, Jumman Miyan gives the same decision which is true and correct and the decision is in favor of Algu Chaudhary. At the end of the story, the

## Haritalika Teej and Sawan Mahotsav celebrated

Prayagraj: Haritalika Teej and Sawan Mahotsav were celebrated enthusiastically by Radhe Radhe Yoga Aerobics Group at Hotel Pride Inn. The program was inaugurated by Yoga Group trainers Anjali Verma, Lakshmi Kesarwani by lighting the lamp. The program was conducted by Ira Sethi, Pragati, Rakhi. In the Teej Mahotsav



program, all the women of the group participated enthusiastically in group bhajan, kajri, poetry, drama and dance and games, fashion ramp walk in which game winner and Teej queen was also selected. Radhe Aerobics class was free for five years at Shivaji Park. It is being run in which even today 60 to 70 women come to do yoga every day. The program was started by Ganesh and Shivastuti. The program was made successful by its coordinator - Monisha, Pooja, Doli Roli, Pamela Sharma, Ragini, Rita Khare and all the women of the group including Sangeeta Ranjana, Nikita Sachan. Dr. Jaya Khare was the chief guest of the program.

## "Hot Seat Debate Competition" organized

Prayagraj: SparkAid (young student group) organized "The Hot Seat Debate Competition" at Delight Public School, Jhansi in the city. There was fierce debate among the students in the debate competition on the advantages and disadvantages of smartphones. Ms.



Kirti, Ms. Honey and Mr. Dilip Singh participated in the program as chief guests. All the judges unanimously reached the conclusion of the debate - We should only accept the good things, if any, while avoiding the shortcomings of anything. Ms. Honey and Mr. Dilip emphasized that participating in the competition is the biggest victory. In the anchoring competition of the last phase of the program, Yashasvi of class 8 stood first, Siddhant stood second and Sara stood third. School Principal Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh and chief guests honored the winners with trophies, gift hampers, certificates etc. At the end, everyone was energized by refreshments.

## UP Secondary Teachers Assn takes out bike rally

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Secondary Teachers Association, Prayagraj, on the call of the state leadership, took out a bike rally from the District School Inspector's office today at 4:00 pm as per the fully scheduled program. The bike rally reached the District Magistrate's office from Medical Square via Balsan

rally was taken out in the entire state today. Our main demands are old pension, free medical facility, Equal pay for equal work for unaided teachers, regulation of ad-hoc teachers, easy transfer system, withdrawal of sections 12, 18 and 21 of the Selection Board Act, etc. The movement will continue till the demands are met. The next



Square, Anand Bhawan. Along with Uttar Pradesh Secondary Teachers Association, officials of Uttar Pradesh Primary Teachers Association were also included in the rally. Despite heavy rain, 300 teachers from every corner of the district participated. After the rally, a memorandum addressed to the Honorable Chief Minister was presented to the representative of the District Officer. In his address while presenting the memorandum, Divisional Minister of Uttar Pradesh Secondary Teachers Association, Anuj Kumar Pandey said that in the second phase of the ongoing movement for our demands, a bike

phase of the movement will be announced by the state leadership. On this occasion, Divisional President of Uttar Pradesh Secondary Teachers Association Ramesh Chandra Shukla, Divisional Minister Anuj Kumar Pandey, District Minister Jagdish Prasad, District President of Primary Teachers Association Devendra Srivastava, District Minister Shiv Bahadur Singh Yadav, Rajesh Yadav of Secondary Teachers Association, Umashankar. Prominent people like Yadav, Umesh Dwivedi, Dr. Chandramani Shukla, Mr. Sudhir Mishra, Mr. Ebadur Rahman, Mr. Rehan Ahmed, Mr. Satish Tiwari etc. were present.

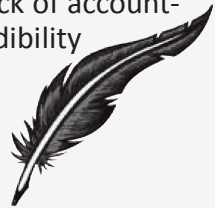
## Editorial

### Why are UN peacekeepers unpopular in Africa?

In recent news, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is gearing up for elections, but a significant security development is poised to make waves—the departure of a long-standing UN peacekeeping force. Stationed in the DRC since 2010, this force, known as MONUSCO (United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), has become a subject of celebration as it concludes its mission. However, the jubilation is not due to the success of fostering peace but rather a reflection of the controversial legacy left by the peacekeeping mission. The DRC has been plagued by conflict for years, especially in its eastern regions, witnessing violent clashes between armed groups. The UN mission was expected to bring stability and peace to the region, but unfortunately it fell short of expectations. Instead of being a force for good, MONUSCO became entangled in a web of criticism and controversy. The primary reason behind the lack of enthusiasm for MONUSCO's departure is its perceived ineffectiveness. Despite its decade-long presence, the mission did not succeed in quelling the ongoing conflicts in the region. Moreover, the peacekeepers themselves faced accusations of misconduct including involvement in sexual abuse scandals. The issue was not confined to the DRC alone, as similar incidents have marred UN peacekeeping missions in various parts of the world. One glaring example is the reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel, as documented by the UN itself. The perpetrators, often repatriated to their home nations, rarely faced legal consequences, contributing to a pattern of impunity that has tarnished the reputation of UN peacekeeping forces globally. The backlash against UN peacekeeping missions is not unique to the DRC. Across the globe, these missions are increasingly viewed with scepticism. The fundamental issue lies in the structural problems inherent in these operations.

#### Structural challenges

UN peacekeeping forces lack a standing army and rely on member nations to contribute soldiers voluntarily. This practice, while noble in principle, introduces several challenges. Firstly, these missions operate on a donation-based model for both troops and funding, making them susceptible to shortages and delays. The reliance on the generosity of member nations hampers the rapid and effective deployment of peacekeepers. Furthermore, the immunity and lack of oversight enjoyed by peacekeeping forces create a scenario where perpetrators of crimes often escape justice. The UN's inability to punish wrongdoers results in their repatriation to their home countries, where they may face minimal consequences. This lack of accountability undermines the credibility and effectiveness of UN peacekeeping missions. As UN peacekeeping missions face increasing criticism and challenges, the need for reform becomes evident.



## US can't build a meaningful strategic partnership if it stays blind to India's core concerns

American exceptionalism dies hard. A messianic belief in own superiority, virtuousness and indispensability — that has remained constant for the last two centuries — shapes its foreign policy outlook and governs its gaze towards other sovereigns. This is and has been a common trait of all great powers. It looks great during unipolar moments, but as middle powers become more influential, power is diffused, balance shifts and unilateralism slowly erodes, the sense of entitlement seems out of place. Consider the fact that the United States is trying to develop a meaningful strategic partnership with India, a rising middle power with great power aspirations with whom Washington has dramatically transformed its relationship across a range of domains, and yet it insists on extracting taxes and peans from its purported strategic partner while appearing blissfully unaware of issues that are central to India's security concerns, such as terrorism and separatism. American insularity, even when unintentional, can be disconcerting. US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti had let slip in September that India has invited Joe Biden as the chief guest for Republic Day, that would have made Biden the second US president to attend the celebration after Barack Obama. After a period of suspense, Washington told New Delhi last week that Biden won't be able to make it due to "scheduling demands". India



wouldn't have made the invitation official or even public before getting a confirmation from the White House, but Garcetti's indiscretion puts New Delhi in a tight diplomatic spot. It couldn't have shortlisted a second option before Biden's denial, and whoever it approaches now to grace the occasion, a day of immense importance for the Indian Republic, will get an impression of being the second choice. The fiasco also leaves India seemingly at the receiving end of a nasty snub, at a time when America has levelled a "serious allegation" that a serving Indian government employee is involved in an assassination plot of a designated terrorist, an American citizen, on American soil. The plot was apparently foiled, and an Indian citizen named Nikhil Gupta has been detained by Czech authorities in Prague pending extradition to the US. The US

Justice department unsealed an indictment on November 29 in a New York court, claiming that an Indian spy had ordered a 'murder-for-hire' plot through Gupta, an intermediary, to take out a Sikh separatist named Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, chief of the banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) whom New Delhi identifies as a terrorist involved in instigating violent secessionism to carve out a Sikh theological state, Khalistan, out of India. The timing and manner of Biden's announcement left both sides scrambling to deny any link between the so-called murder plot and its investigation. US national security adviser Jake Sullivan told Washington Post that Biden "remains personally committed to carrying forward this partnership, which he has often described the most consequential partnership for the United States over the century unfolding",

and that both leaders have "affirmed a vision" of the two countries as "among the closest partners in the world" and that their partnership in emerging technologies, space and defence will continue. Sullivan also told the Hindustan Times that Biden shares a "close personal bond" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and looks forward to engaging with Modi "in the weeks and months ahead". The severity of the protestations, that the US side was forced to make through media outlets to delink the two incidents, point to a culture of callousness in Washington's public diplomacy that has almost become systemic. As if the US is so convinced of its indispensability that it expects its allies and partners to absorb and adjust to its quirks. It also throws into sharp relief the more measured and calibrated approach to ties that India

brings to the table.

Throughout the Pannun episode, the one impression that the US has managed to get across is one of inconsistency and contradiction. The Biden administration has been at pains to sequester the controversy to insulate the relationship. The day after the US DOJ unsealed the charges and the story exploded on public domain, US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby called for "accountability" while insisting that "India remains a strategic partner, and we're going to continue to work to improve and strengthen that strategic partnership with India. There have been countless high-level visits from the Biden administration to manage the crisis while sending out a message of stability, commitment, and continuity. But the signals have been mixed, mercurial, and even paradoxical. While the executive is trying to fix the issue and move on, that can't be said about the US Department of State, the heavily politicised DOJ, US senators who have their own fat to burn or the security establishment, the perma-bureaucracy of the so-called 'deep state'. In a previous column, I dwelt at length on the glaring inconsistencies and loopholes in the indictment that gives the impression that we are reading the script of an Austin Powers flick. No doubt some of these aspects would be highlighted in the looming legal battles ahead.

### What Wild Wild West of influencing is telling you about influencers

In the month of August this year, in the American state of Utah, a 12-year-old child climbed out the window of a house. He was malnourished and had deep lacerations. But the boy ran to a neighbour, asking them to call the police. Because he was being held captive along with his sister. Eventually the cops arrived, and the siblings were taken to a hospital. And soon after, two women — Ruby Franke, Mother of the children, who was ironically also a parenting influencer and her former business partner, Jodi Hildebrandt, a counsellor and life coach — were arrested. It was Hildebrandt's house where the children were being held. The boy had been tied up with ropes (and hence, the lacerations). On Monday, Franke pleaded guilty to abusing and starving two of her children. "With my deepest regret and sorrow for my family and my children. Guilty," said Franke. Question is, how did it come to this? How did someone — who preaches about parenting — abuse

her own children? The answer is simple: This world of influencing is like the wild, Wild West. Laws are inadequate. Regulatory oversight is lacking. So disorder prevails. Anyone with a mobile phone having access to the internet can become an influencer. Once they do, money comes easily and frequently, there is a term for this which is called the "creator economy". It is powered by millions of people who are building and monetising their own brand selling products, advice, inspiration, attention, and even fun to their followers. It may sound superficial. But this industry is projected to reach 480 billion dollars by 2027. Of some 2,000 global brands, 80 percent use influencer marketing, and 54 percent youngsters say they would become influencers if they could. Seems almost euphoric, but it really isn't. There are big loopholes here: Why are influencers saying what they are? Are they being paid to do so? Can you really trust what they say or do?

### Why Gen Asim Munir is key to ensuring Nawaz Sharif's comeback and Pakistan regaining US trust

It is now almost certain that elections will be held for the Pakistan National Assembly (NA) as well as the country's four Provincial Assemblies on 8 February. The Election Commission confirmed the election date after the Supreme Court cleared objections raised by the Lahore High Court against the appointment of civil servants as returning officers for the polls. The Supreme Court has also brushed aside specific grievances with the delimitation exercise. It held that as the election date has been announced these objections cannot be entertained. After the delimitation exercise the strength of the NA is 336. Of these 266 are to be general seats, 60 seats will be reserved for women and 10 for non-Muslims. The women and non-Muslim seats will be allotted to the parties on the basis of their performance in the general seats. The allocation of general seats on a provincial basis is thus: Punjab—141, Sindh—61, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa—45, Baluchistan—16 and the Federal Capital area—3. This election, as those in the past, will be won or lost on the basis of the performance of the parties in the general seats. Also, as in the past, Punjab has more seats than the combined number of the other three provinces and the Federal Capital Area; thus, the party which controls Punjab controls Pakistan. This is a permanent feature of Pakistan's political life. Army chief General Asim Munir will seek to make sure that former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) does not succeed in the elections. The events of 9 May when the PTI workers and supporters attacked army installations and the monuments of martyrs have ensured that the gulf between Khan

and Munir cannot be bridged. Khan has been in prison since May because he has been charged in a number of cases and the courts have not given him bail. Munir has also purged a large number of senior officers who were believed to have sympathies for Khan. The army is, therefore, firmly under his control. There have been desertions of leaders from the PTI. As of now, it appears that the army's desire to finish off the PTI electorally will prevail. With that, the PML(N) of the Sharifs should succeed in the Punjab. Its chances have increased with the return of its leader Nawaz Sharif two months ago from London where he has been since 2019.

However, Nawaz Sharif, thrice prime minister in the past is a shadow of the political leader he was. He looks infirm and without vigour. Instead of rousing his supporters and others by giving out a firm programme which will seek to resolve Pakistan's myriad problems, beginning with its grave economic situation, he is obsessed with the past injustices he and his daughter Maryam Nawaz have had to face. He is railing against his past adversaries, including the army, which manoeuvred the 2018 national elections in favour of Imran Khan. Nawaz Sharif is relying on Munir to create conditions which will tilt the electoral field in PML(N)'s favour in the polls. It was he who had insisted that Munir should succeed the former army chief General Qamar Bajwa in November 2022 even though there were technical difficulties in his elevation to head the army. Obviously, Nawaz Sharif feels that Munir nurses great grievances against Khan going back to the period when Khan, as prime minister, had pressured Bajwa to oust him from the DG ISI's post.

## Security walls and closed doors: Unravelling Global North's refugee response

The number of refugees hosted by the Global North is much smaller. It is estimated that only 27 per cent of the refugees and asylum seekers are in countries of the Global North. More than just the distance refugees have to travel to get there, it's the security walls that these nations have built over decades and the new mechanisms that are created every passing year, that deter refugees from seeking entry. As forced displacement and refugee outflow reach unprecedented levels, policies and actions of the Global North are being driven by fear, self-inter-

est and racism. Asylum routes are being shut down and irregular routes weaponised forcing people to death. This approach has been followed for decades now — prevent any inflow, except if it is for cheap labour and temporary residence. In contravention to the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (which includes both the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol), most European countries and the US have only tightened anti-migration and refugee-accepting approaches. Italy's recent anti-migration plan pro-

vides for the pushback of mostly male asylum seekers of adult age rescued in the central Mediterranean whom Rome does not deem qualified for international protection. UK's Illegal Migration Bill plans to house illegal migrants on ships before sending them back to their country of origin or a third country that is deemed safe. A settler colonial state itself, the Government of Australia had in 2012 set up offshore processing of asylum seekers arriving by boat to Nauru and Manus islands in Papua New Guinea. More recently, the United

Kingdom arrived at a bilateral deal with the Government of Rwanda for offshoring asylum seekers on Rwandan land, till their applications were processed. In 2021 the then Danish minister for immigration and integration has obtained from Denmark's Parliament a bill requiring all applicants seeking refugee status to be relocated to a "non European" country preferably in Africa while their situation was assessed with no eventual guarantee to be transferred to Denmark. Though it was later put on hold given group resistance, the trend continues.

## Two day sub junior, junior and senior Sqay state level competition concludes



### - Chief guest Dr. Vinod Sharma honored the winners

**Chandigarh:** In collaboration with Sqay Association Chandigarh and Adarsh Public School Sector 20, Sub Junior, Junior and Senior Sqay state level competition was conducted. This two-day competition was organized at Sector 20 Adarsh Public School. 125 players from around 7 schools of

Chandigarh participated. Anil Thakur Director of School inaugurated it. In the closing ceremony, Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma, State Secretary of Hindustan Scouts and Principal of Maharishi Dayanand Public School, MDAV Bhawan, Daria, Chandigarh, participated as the chief guest and encouraged the players. Prizes were distributed to the winners. On the occasion of this sqay competition, Varinder Pahwa coach S. D.K.D. Club Sector-28, Poonam

Patel Coach, Arun, Ashwani Kumar Chief Secretary Amateur Karate Association Chandigarh Mansaram Maurya, Treasurer, Hindustan Scouts and Guides and Co-Secretary Chandigarh Sqay Association Gurdeep Khokhar, Surindra Bhandari MDAV. - 22 were especially present. Director of Adarsh Public School, Anil Thakur expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries present and congratulated the winners. One attachment

## Paramount Communications Ltd. Reports Robust Earnings for FY24, Crosses Rs. 1,000 Cr Revenue mark

**Chandigarh:** Paramount Communications Limited, established in 1955, a leading player in India's wire and cable industry, has announced its earnings for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2024. The company recorded a Robust order book of Rs. 4,951.6 Mn, coupled with Strong performance across product range, especially led by strong growth in Power and Railway cables. Exports continue to remain healthy as we achieve similar volumes as compared to FY23. Increasing production

driving economies of scale and profitability. Healthy Balance sheet with debt equity ratio of 0.16 and Current Ratio of 3.40. The Company is poised to become debt free during FY25 after full repayment of ARC debt of Rs. 862.5 Mn. Revenue from domestic operations in FY24 amounted to Rs.7,944.8 Mn, showing a 100.5% Y-o-Y increase from Rs.3,961.8 Mn in FY23. In terms of sales mix, domestic sales stood at 74.2% and exports stood at 25.8%. Commenting on the results Mr. Sanjay

Agarwal, Chairman & CEO said, "FY24 has been a remarkable year for Paramount Communications Limited. We have achieved strongest ever performance in terms of Revenue and Profitability. This year, we reached a significant milestone by surpassing Rs.1,000 crore in revenue showing a growth of 34.4% y-o-y. This achievement is underpinned by strong demand for our product portfolio and not only highlights the strength of our client relationships.

## 'International Khan Market gang': Jaishankar on Western media

**NEW DELHI:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar slammed the Western media and called the anti-India ecosystem the 'international Khan Market gang'. On the portrayal of India by the Western media, Jaishankar said

we must ask "why they are doing it". He said that just like there's a 'Khan Market gang' in India, there also exists a global extension of it, 'international Khan Market gang'. "In the country today, there is a certain thought process,

or entitlement process for which the metaphor of 'Khan Market gang' is a very good description. Countries which have to go to court to decide result of polls are giving us lectures about how to conduct elections: EAM Jaishankar.



## Key portfolio firms' stock surge as investors ignore Adani Group toolkit

**Delhi:** The flagship Adani Enterprises (NS:ADEL) Ltd. (AEL) recovered losses of over \$30 billion from the short-seller firm Hindenburg's report. The Adani Enterprises stock has risen 12% in five trading sessions. Financial giant Cantor Fitzgerald has set a Rs 4,338 target price. In addition, investors have received 53% gains on the stock in the past six months. The stock soared from its February 2023 low. AEL shares were practically unchanged at Rs 3,381 on BSE. While Adani Green Energy (NS:ADNA) shares jumped 1.8%, Adani Total Gas (NS: ADAG) rose 2.5%, and Adani Energy Solutions rose 0.5%. Investors rejected The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and Financial Times (FT) investigation targeting the world's largest domestic corporate empire "all in the name of investigative journalism".

## Paytm will grow payment services with UPI, card processing, and EMI

**Delhi:** Paytm said it is optimistic on UPI, card processing, and EMI payments to expand its payment services business. These business segments could help Paytm revive and sustain its payments leadership in India. UPI, which earlier generated 70% of Gross Merchandise Value (GMV), now accounts for almost 80-85%, highlighting its importance in the business strategy. Paytm also stressed merchant GMV recovery during an earnings call on Wednesday after reporting Q4 FY24 and FY24 results.

## Formation of State Executive of Indian Association of Press -N-Mediamen

**Chandigarh:** The state team meeting of the Indian Association of Press -N-Mediamen was held. This meeting was held in the office of a media house in local Sector 29D. In this meeting organized under the chairmanship of State President Dr. Vinod Sharma, the first discussion took place regarding the executive and assuming responsibilities. After discussion, the state team was reconstituted unanimously. State team includes the President: Dr. Vinod Sharma, Senior Vice President: Shiv Kumar Verma, Vice President: Pradeep Sharma and Pradeep Shukla, General Secretary: Amit



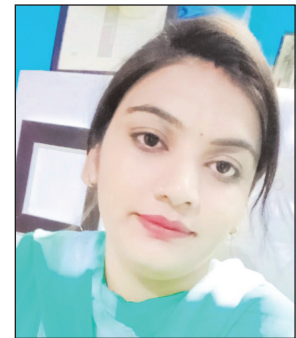
Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary: Prosan Burman, Finance Secretary: SP Chopra, Joint Finance Secretary: Ramesh Sachdeva, Statutory Secretary: Karan Shukla, Executive Members: Rakesh Kumar, Shiv Maurya, Sunny Kumar and Rimpi were declared from the entire committee. In this series, Advisor: Prem Vij and

Patrons: Shrikant Acharya and Sushil Kumar were made. After the formation of the team, State President Dr. Vinod Sharma while congratulating everyone said that today's meeting was very positive, I have full confidence that our team will continue to fight for the interest of the media. Later he said that in future, small units of

the association will be formed in other cities also, so that the problems of the media persons there can be solved. The entire team of the state also decided to submit a memorandum of its demands to the PIB and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after the Lok Sabha elections. Patron Sushil Kumar, present in the meeting, said that the way the state team has been formed with new energy, it seems as if now the problems of media persons will gradually end. He also stressed that along with the state team, the national team will also have to move forward with our problems.

## Daughters should study by setting goals, they will get success: Neetu

**Kaithal:** Neetu Sharma, member of Shri Krishna Kripa Seva Trust Regd. Dhand and Director of Ishani Makeover International Certified Academy, said that in the present times, women are coming forward in every field and establishing new dimensions. Along with their work, women also manage the household very well. The whole country is proud of the ability and talent of daughters. The interest of the society lies in the interest of women. She said



that today women have proved their talent in the fields of sports, medicine, education, science, judicial system, army, police etc. If daughters determine their goals and study regularly, then it is possible that every goal of life will be

achieved. While talking in an interview in the academy located in the town, Neetu Sharma said that in the constitution of our country, women have been given equal status and the right to vote. Earlier, evils like Sati Pratha, widow marriage etc. were prevalent in the society. All those evils have been removed. Today women are coming forward in every field. She said that good values are acquired at home only. If one has a cultured family then there is no need.

## NSE Listed Companies' Market Capitalization Surpass USD 5 Trillion

**GURUGRAM :** The market capitalization of Indian listed companies on NSE surpassed USD 5 Trillion (Rs 416.57 trillion) on May 23, 2024. On the same day, the Nifty 50 Index touched an all-time high of 22,993.60 The Nifty 500 index also touched an all-time high of 21,505.25 today indicating that growth in equity market is not restricted to only the large, capitalized stocks. The journey of market capitalization of Indian listed companies from to USD 2 trillion (July 2017) to USD 3 trillion (May 2021) took about 46 months, USD 3 trillion to USD 4 trillion (December 2023) took about 30 months and the latest USD 1 trillion addition took only about 6 months.



Services Limited, HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited and Bharti Airtel Limited. In the last 10 years, Nifty 50 index has delivered 13.4% returns (Total price index CAGR). During the same period, domestic mutual fund assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 506% from Rs 9.45 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 57.26 trillion end of April 2024. The Foreign Portfolio investors (FPIs) assets under management (Equity and Debt) increased by 345% from Rs 16.1 trillion end of April 2014 to Rs 71.6 trillion at the end

of April 2024. Growth in market capitalization is not restricted to the top companies but is observed across stocks. The constituents of Nifty 100 index now account for 61% of market capital as compared to 74.9% of total market capital as of April 2014. The resource mobilization by corporates including the Small and Medium Enterprise in the primary market has been encouraging and has provided an effective alternative mechanism in addition to the traditional methods of fund raising.

## "We The Change – Season 2: Transformative Journeys in Sports and Spirituality"

**"New Delhi** "We the Change," a groundbreaking talk show that explores the intersection of sports and spirituality, is set to premiere on DD Sports starting May 26th. The show's unique concept revolves around identifying the changes that have already occurred within ourselves, emphasizing the importance of introspection and spiritual growth. Through engaging discussions and insightful anecdotes, "We the Change" aims to inspire viewers to recognize their own spiritual evolution. This innovative program promises to inspire viewers to embark on a journey of self-discovery and personal growth through engaging discussions and transformative insights. Presented by

AUM sportainment private limited and under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the show is directed by Raadhika Khetarpal, with spiritual mentorship provided by Aushim Khetarpal. The show's concept revolves around recognizing the changes within ourselves, emphasizing introspection and spiritual evolution. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba, renowned Spiritual Mentor Aushim Khetarpal leads the conversation, setting the tone for meaningful dialogues and profound revelations. "We The Change" offers a platform for athletes to share their personal journeys and seek mentorship. Rooted in the guiding principle, "If I change, you can change; if you can

change, the world can change," the show invites viewers to explore the transformative power of practices like meditation in expanding perspectives and understanding the world. Season 1, comprising seven episodes, kicked off with introspective discussions airing every Sunday and Monday in the month of April 2024. In Season 2, commencing May 26th and running until July 22nd, "We The Change" continues its exploration with a diverse lineup of guests. Notably, it marks Raadhika Khetarpal's directorial debut, bringing her extensive experience as a film child actor in President Awarded Film - Shirdi Sai Baba in 2001 and now host for Award Winning Docu Drama Series featuring the grassroots strug-

## Rushil Decor Ltd. Board Approves Stock Split in 1:10 Ratio

**Chandigarh:** Rushil Decor Limited (BSE: 533470, NSE: RUSHIL), a prominent name in the manufacturing of eco-friendly MDF, laminates, and plywood, has announced that its board has approved a stock split the ratio of 1:10 i.e Sub-division/ split of each equity share of face value of Rs. 10 into 10 equity shares of face value of Re. 1, subject to the approval of the members of the Company. The Record Date for sub-division/ split of the existing equity shares will be intimated in due course. Earlier, the company announced its strategic expansion into South America. With exports already reaching over 50 countries, Rushil Decor is set to penetrate one of the largest markets for MDF globally. On the eve of Interzum

Bogota, Mr. Rushil Thakkar, Executive Director at Rushil Decor expressed hope and confidence about growing with the multi-billion-dollar global wood panel market. Bogota is an international industry fair for furniture and wood technology, being organized between May 14 and 17, in Colombia, South America. As a leader in MDF manufacturing in India, Rushil Decor is well-equipped to meet the high demand in South America. The company recently posted a 9% growth in the January to March 2024 quarter compared to the same period last year. Export revenue contributed 28% to the total revenue in the fourth quarter of FY24, highlighting the company's significant international footprint.

## Massive uproar in Rajya Sabha: Opposition stages walkout after tussle with RS chairman

**NEW DELHI:** Rajya Sabha on Friday witnessed a tense situation when the opposition walked out following a heated exchange with Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. The tussle arose after Kharge requested the chairman to expunge Tiwari's comments regarding his political journey, specifically mentioning that Congress president's "entire family was involved in politics." Ahead of the zero hour, Dhankhar reprimanded Congress MP Jairam Ramesh for speaking without the Chair's permission when the leader demanded Dhankhar's ruling on the remark made about Kharge. Dhankhar stated that Tiwari had not transgressed but rather praised Kharge's well-deserved reputation. "Opposition in the highest of traditions, and

expressing to me that he is prepared to apologize if he has transgressed in any manner. I have read it carefully. Not only was there no transgression by Ghanshyam Tiwari, he embellished the well deserved reputation of Mallikarjun Kharge," Rajya Sabha Chairman said. "If a member of this house with about four decades of parliamentary experience praises another member with five decades of experience, it's a joyous moment for us," he added. Dhankhar also had a confrontation with Jaya Bachchan after she questioned his "tone" in Parliament. Bachchan expressed her disapproval, saying, "I Jaya Amitabh Bachchan would like to say that I am an artist, I understand body language, expressions. I am sorry to say that your tone is not acceptable. We are colleagues, you may be sitting on the Chair..."

Dhankhar interrupted Bachchan and urged her to take her seat, emphasizing the importance of decorum. As the opposition MPs walked out, the Chairman referred to the anniversary of the Quit India movement and accused the Opposition of quitting parliament and their duty. Leader of House JP Nadda moved a "ninda prastav" over the behavior of the Opposition in the House, deeming it improper and condemnable. Dhankhar also accused opposition MPs of disrespecting the Constitution and democracy and not committing to nationalism. Speaking to reporters after the walkout, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused Dhankhar of disrespecting the leader of opposition, stating that Tiwari had repeatedly

### Govindarajan Padmanabhan to receive first Vigyan Ratna award

**NEW DELHI:** Celebrated bio-chemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan was selected for the first 'Vigyan Ratna' award, the top-most science award in the country, while Isro's Chandrayaan-3 team was selected for the first 'Vigyan Team' award with the govt on Wednesday announcing 33 names for the 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' 2024 under four categories. Padma Bhushan award recipient Padmanabhan is an honorary professor at IISc, Bengaluru.

### 'All political parties batting strongly for holding assembly elections': CEC Rajiv

**NEW DELHI:** Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Thursday gave an update on preparedness for holding the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls stating that the election commission is working on it as political parties recognised in the state are "batting strongly" for it. "We are committed to conducting polls in Jammu and Kashmir at

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed grave concern over the pittance of pension — between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000— received by retired HC judges, who were appointed as HC judges after spending their entire life in the district judiciary. These concerns were expressed by a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud, and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra after amicus curiae K Parameshwar sought early resolution of the issues relating to pensions of district judges, who get appointed as HC judges. The amicus had been advocating upward revision of the pension commensurate with the dignity of district judges. With both attorney general R Venkataramani and solicitor general Tushar Mehta present before the bench, CJI Chandrachud made an impassioned request to the top law officers to use their good offices for a satisfactory resolution of the vexed issue. When the AG said the govt

### Centre forms panel to monitor situation of minorities in Bangladesh

**NEW DELHI:** Amid the ongoing situation in Bangladesh, Union home minister Amit Shah announced on Friday that the Modi government has formed a special committee to closely monitor the developments along the Indo-Bangladesh border. The committee will work in coordination with Bangladeshi



needed some time to ponder over the issue which has multiple dimensions including huge financial burden, the CJI said, "I see your predicament. But look at the persons from district judiciary who after being appointed as HC judges have a tenure of less than four to five years. They get a pension of Rs 15-25,000. Their tenure in the district judiciary is not counted. We have a slew of petitions by such retired HC judges."

"To get a pension of Rs 15-25,000 after spending the entire life in the judiciary is no

social security for them. Look at the profile of such retired HC judges. They, except a few who can be counted on fingertips, do not return to practice nor do arbitration work after retirement. My earnest appeal to both of you (AG and SG) to sit down with the concerned officials (of the ministry) and examine the issue to arrive at a reasonable solution," the CJI said. Though the AG reiterated that the issue involves multiple aspects, the SG said he and the AG would surely examine the issues involved regarding the pension.

### No party corrupt than AAP: SAD MP Harsimrat

**NEW DELHI:** Hitting out at the AAP, Shirom Akali Dal (SAD) leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Friday said that there is no other corrupt party than the Aam Aadmi Party in the country, which is why their leaders are in jail. This statement comes after Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia was granted bail by the Supreme Court of India today. She further went on to say, that AAP government in Punjab have implemented the same excise policy which was implemented in Delhi by Kejriwal's government but the Centre hasn't taken any action against Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann. On Supreme Court granted bail to AAP leader Manish Sisodia, Badal said, "Only bail has been granted, not clean chit. There is no other corrupt party than AAP whose Chief Minister and various other ministers.

### Dhankhar, Kharge spar in Rajya Sabha, opposition walks out

**NEW DELHI:** Rajya Sabha saw a verbal spat between Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and leader of opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday when the latter sought to raise an "emergent issue" (disqualification of wrestler Vinesh Phogat) during the discussion on Appropriation Bill, but it was turned down by the Chair. When Kharge and Congress members asked why the Chair was not allowing him to speak, Dhankhar charged the Congress chief of questioning him at the drop of a hat. As Dhankhar insisted the LoP and Congress MPs to take recourse to rules and declined to accept their demand to intervene when the discussion was on, opposition members walked out of the House.

### 'Apka tone sahi nahi': Dhankhar and Jaya Bachchan spar in Rajya Sabha

**NEW DELHI:** Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar engaged in a heated exchange with Samajwadi MP Jaya Bachchan amid massive uproar in the Upper House on Friday. During the commotion, Dhankhar accused the opposition MPs of showing disrespect towards the Constitution and democracy. He then called upon Jaya Amitabh Bachchan to address the House. Bachchan questioned Dhankhar's "tone" in Parliament, triggering a rebuke from the Rajya Sabha Chairman. Bachchan expressed her disapproval stating, "I Jaya Amitabh Bachchan would like to say that I am an

artist, I understand body language, expressions. I am sorry to say that your tone is not acceptable. We are colleagues, you may be sitting on the Chair..." Dhankhar interrupted Bachchan, urging her to take her seat. "Jaya ji take your seat. You have earned a great reputation. An actor is a subject to the director. You are not seeing what I see from here. I am a person who has gone out of the way. Enough of this. You may be a celebrity, but you have to understand decorum," Dnkar said. Following the incident, Jaya Bachchan walked out of the Parliament her by her full name, and demanded an apology from the

Bangladesh Border (IBB). The committee will maintain communication channels with their counterpart authorities in Bangladesh to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals, Hindus, and other minority communities living there. The committee will be headed by the ADG, Border Security Force, Eastern Command."

Chairman. "I objected to the tone used by the Chair. We are not schoolchildren. I was upset with the tone and especially when the LoP stood up to speak, his mic was switched off. How can you do this? If he is not going to be heard in the House, then what are we doing? On top of that, every time (they are) using words which are unparliamentary," says Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan told reporters after walking out of the Parliament. This incident follows a similar exchange on Monday when Bachchan objected to Dhankhar addressing her by her full name, Jaya Amitabh Bachchan, calling it a "new drama."

## The government issues clarification on documents needed for citizenship under CAA

**NEW DELHI:** The centre has expanded the ambit of the rules issued under the citizenship law CAA through which Indian nationality will be given to persecuted minorities coming from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, or Pakistan. The Union home ministry announced that "any document" issued by the central or state governments or quasi-judicial bodies in India proving that either of the parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents is or has been a citizen of one of the three countries will be acceptable. The clarification of the home ministry came after many applicants seeking Indian nationality under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 were reported to be facing difficulties due to a particular clause of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024. "Any document that shows that either of the parents or grandparents or great grandparents of the applicant is or had been a citizen of one of the three countries i.e. of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan," the earlier clause of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 says. In its latest clarification, the home ministry said: "It may be clarified that the documents under Sr No. 8 of the Schedule -1A may include any document issued by the central government/state government/ any judicial or quasi judicial body in India such as land record, judicial order etc., identifying or representing that the applicant or the parents or grandparents or great grandparents had been a national of Afghanistan or Bangladesh or Pakistan.

## 'Deeply concerned': RSS urges Centre to ensure safety of Hindus, other minorities in Bangladesh

**The** RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) expressed concern on Friday about the violence against Hindus and other minority communities in Bangladesh. They urged the Centre government to do everything possible to ensure their safety. RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale also called on

Bangladesh's interim government to take strict action immediately to stop the violence and protect the lives, property, and dignity of the victims. Since Monday, several Hindu temples, homes, and businesses in Bangladesh have been vandalised after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled to India, leaving

the country in chaos due to protests against her government over a controversial job quota system. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took over as the head of Bangladesh's interim government on Thursday, replacing Hasina. Hosabale also urged the global community and all political parties

## Air India suspends all Tel Aviv flights till further notice amid heightened tensions in Middle East

**NEW DELHI:** Air India on Friday announced the immediate suspension of all flights to and from Tel Aviv due to the ongoing unrest in parts of the Middle East. The airline said that it is closely monitoring the situation and prioritising the safety of its passengers and crew. "In view of the current situation in parts of the Middle East, scheduled operation of our flights to



and from Tel Aviv are suspended with immediate effect until further notice," said the airline in a statement. We are continuously monitoring the situa-

tion and are offering a full refund to our passengers with confirmed bookings for travel to and from Tel Aviv. Safety of our guests and crew

remains our topmost priority," the statement added. Earlier, Air India had announced on August 2 that it would halt its services to Tel Aviv until August 8 in response to the heightening tensions in the Middle East. The carrier, recently acquired by the Tata Group, typically operates five weekly flights from New Delhi to the Israeli city.

## Uttar Pradesh govt to commemorate Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

**LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh government is set to commemorate Partition Horrors Remembrance Day on August 14.

In a letter dated August 10, chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh said, "Like last year, paying homage to those who lost their lives during the partition of India, it has been decided to commemorate 'Partition Horrors Memorial Day' on August 14, 2024 in their memory."

The letter further said that the partition of the country was no less than a tragedy.

"Millions of Indians sacrificed their lives to achieve independence, at such a time the pain of the country being



divided into two parts struck millions of families like a wound. At the same time Bengal was also partitioned. In this, the eastern part of Bengal was separated from India and East Pakistan was formed; which became an inde-

pendent nation in 1971 as Bangladesh," the Chief Secretary said in a letter.

This geographical partition of India shook the people of the country socially, culturally, economically and mentally, the letter mentioned.

"'Partition Horrors Memorial Day' not only remind us to end discrimination, animosity and ill will but also inspire unity, social harmony and human empowerment," the Chief Secretary added. As in the past, the state

government will organise various events/programs in the entire state on the occasion of "Partition Horrors Memorial Day" on 14th August in all 75 districts of the state including Lucknow.

The letter stated that the members of families displaced during the Partition should be invited and two minutes of silence should be observed in memory of those who sacrificed their lives during the tragedy along with them. Instruction was issued to District Magistrates and Chief Secretaries across the state. The letter said that an exhibition related to the Partition should be organized in a large auditorium.

## Yogi govt starts flight service from Moradabad to Lucknow



**Lucknow**

**Chief Minister** Yogi Adityanath's vision to connect every district of Uttar Pradesh with air travel saw a new milestone. Exactly five months after its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first flight took off from Moradabad Airport to Lucknow on Saturday. Minister Dharmpal Singh flagged off the new 19-seater flight from Moradabad to Lucknow, which took off with 19 passengers on board. The aircraft was welcomed with a traditional water cannon salute, and

the ceremony included rituals and chanting of mantras by the Pandit. The new service significantly reduces travel time to Lucknow to just 75 minutes, with a fare set at Rs 1348. Cabinet Minister Dharmpal Singh emphasized that the new air service will greatly benefit Moradabad and the entire western Uttar Pradesh region. He also announced plans to extend air connectivity from Moradabad to major cities like Bengaluru and Mumbai, which will enhance the international profile of the city's brass

industry. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had virtually inaugurated five airports, including Moradabad's, on March 10. The other airports included Azamgarh, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Shravasti. The long-awaited air service for Moradabad, which officially began on Saturday, was a significant event for the local community. The inauguration ceremony was attended by a number of dignitaries, including Minister of State Baldev Singh Aulakh, Commissioner Anjay Kumar Singh, and the District Magistrate.

## PM hails President for being conferred with Timor-Leste's highest honour

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed President Droupadi Murmu on being honoured with the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste and said that it reflects the strong ties and mutual respect between the two countries. Murmu arrived in Dili (Timor-Leste) on Saturday on the first-ever presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste. Murmu received the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest



honour from President Jose Ramos Horta. "It is a proud moment for us to see Rashtrapati Ji being honoured with the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the nation's highest civilian award," Modi

said. "This reflects the strong ties and mutual respect between our countries. It is also a recognition of her monumental contribution to public life for several years," the prime minister said in a post on X.

## India 'fully ready' to add to fleet 2nd submarine with nuclear-tipped missiles



**NEW DELHI:** India is now all set to commission its second nuclear-powered submarine armed with nuclear missiles for strategic deterrence, while the project to build two nuclear-powered attack submarines with conventional weapons is also headed for final approval amid China's fast-expanding naval footprint in the Indian Ocean Region.

The 6,000-tonne INS Arighat, constructed at the ship-building centre (SBC) at Vizag, is "fully ready" for formal commissioning after extensive trials that saw some technical issues being ironed out with upgrades over an extended period. "The SSBN (naval parlance for nuclear-propelled submarines with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles) will be commissioned within a month or two. She will then join her sis-

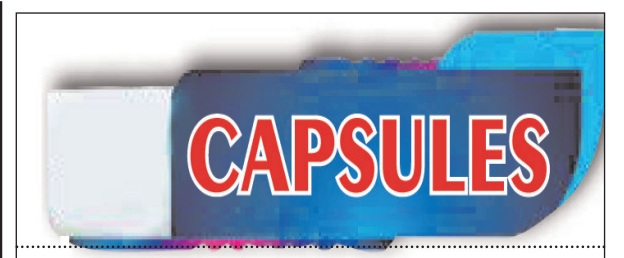
ter INS Arihant, which became fully operational in 2018," a source told.

Parallely, on the conventional (non-nuclear) warfare front, the around Rs 40,000 crore project to indigenously construct two nuclear-powered submarines, armed with torpedoes, anti-ship and land-attack missiles, is now before the PM-led Cabinet Committee on Security for the final nod after repeated iterations and inter-ministerial consultations, another source said. The initial case was for six such 6,000-tonne 'hunter-killer' submarines (called SSNs) under 'Project-77' at the SBC. But it was first whittled down to three and now stands at two vessels. It will take at least a decade to build the first two SSNs, which will be around 95% indigenous.

## MP was criticized as footage showed booze being given

**Delhi:** A BJP public rally to celebrate former minister K Sudhakar's election as Chikballapur MP was criticized as footage showed booze being given. Nelamangala hosted the event. Sudhakar, Opposition Leader R Ashoka, and JD(S) leaders attended. Sideline videos showed cops giving out booze packages and bottles to people in a long line. Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar criticized BJP. In Nelamangala, liquor was distributed publicly.

BJP National President JP Nadda must explain for registering a case. How could the MP distribute alcohol? "Said Shivakumar. "More than local leaders, it is important for the BJP's national leaders to tell citizens how their party is upholding culture by distributing liquor at public meetings," he said.



## Swachh Bharat Mission set to gain momentum in UP

**Lucknow**

To advance Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's commitment to transforming Uttar Pradesh into a clean state, the Urban Development Department held a thorough review and orientation workshop for Additional District Magistrates (ADMs) and Officers in Charge (OCs) of local bodies. The workshop took place on Saturday at the Local Urban Bodies Directorate. The workshop covered key aspects of urban development, focusing particularly on the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and associated campaigns. It included a thorough review of the Swachh Bharat Mission and highlighted the critical role of Additional District Magistrates (ADMs). The discussions emphasized their crucial contributions to Swachh Survekshan 2024, the Garbage Free City (GFC) initiative, and Open Defecation Free (ODF) protocols. The need for effective implementation and monitoring to meet the objectives of these programs was also underscored. The workshop, chaired by Amrit Abhijat, Principal Secretary of the Urban Development Department, included a comprehensive review of the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U). Key topics discussed were Material Recovery Facilities (MRF), compost pits, solid waste management plants, public and community toilets, and used water management. The use of funds for these initiatives was also examined. Additionally, the workshop covered various ambitious schemes of the state government, including the Mukhyamantri Vaishwik Nagarodaya Yojana, Aspirational Town Scheme, Namaste Yojana, Mukhyamantri Nagar Srijan Yojana, Park Adoption Policy, Kanha Gaushala, Funeral Site, Upvan Yojana, Vandan Yojana, and Chief Minister Green Road Infrastructure Development Scheme. Principal Secretary Amrit Abhijat outlined a detailed roadmap for the Urban Development Department, focusing on future directions and goals. Following this, Local Urban Bodies Director Anuj Kumar Jha addressed administrative issues and the roles of District Project Managers (DPMs) and District Coordination Officers (DCOs) in the effective implementation of urban schemes at the district level. The workshop was attended by Secretary of Urban Development Ajay Shukla, Additional Director of the Local Urban Bodies Directorate Ritu Suhas, Special Secretary of Urban Development Arun Prakash, and MB Singh.

## IN just four months, at least 1,068 farmers committed suicide

**Delhi:** With the government reeling under an enormous debt of Rs 7.9 lakh crore and the state's struggling farmers taking their own lives, Mahayuti government's Rs 11 crore gift for India's T-20 champion squad has drawn criticism from Congress's Vijay Wadettiwar, the head of Maharashtra's opposition. "In just

four months, at least 1,068 farmers committed suicide, but they get no assistance." The Maharashtra government gave wealthy cricket players an unjustified gift in order to further its own agenda, according to Wadettiwar. "We should support players but within our means and must give due weightage considering

the broader picture," Wadettiwar said. The opposition MVA coalition's unity and preparedness for this year's assembly elections in October and November was reiterated by the Bramhapuri MLA. "Shiv Sena (UBT), the National Congress Party (led by Sharad Pawar), and the other three opposition allies

## Traffic Police reported that 12,000 people were penalized

**Delhi:** Delhi Traffic Police reported that more than 12,000 people were penalized for DUI from January 1 to June 30, up 27% from last year. Rajouri Garden had the most drunk driving violations in the past six months, 770. Samaypur Badli had 514 instances, Rohini 441. Traffic police released data on Saturday showing that police penalized 12,468 intoxicated drivers through June 30 compared to 9,837 last year. Punjabi Bagh (387), Mehrauli (367), Mayur Vihar (364), Narela (364), Kalkaji (344), Karol Bagh (342) and Sadar Bazar (342) also had high drunk

driving rates in the first half of the year. The traffic police also examined the top 10 traffic circles with the most drunk driving challans. This research identifies areas with the highest traffic offenses, enabling focused enforcement to improve road safety and traffic law compliance, an officer stated. "Drunk driving endangers the driver, passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers. It impairs judgment, lowers reaction times, and increases accident risk leading to injuries or deaths. The officer cautioned that careless behavior can have dire consequences.

## Cong yet to raise voice on creamy layer issue seems

**LUCKNOW:** BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday said the Congress, which won Lok Sabha seats by promising to protect reservation, seems to be in favour of sub-classification within SCs and STs and is yet to raise its voice against the issue of exclusion of the creamy layer in these communities from the benefits of quota. On August 1, the Supreme Court held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and batted for the creamy layer be excluded from reservation. "The national president of the Congress (Mallikarjun Kharge) said before disclosing the party's stand on



sub-classification of SCs and STs, his party will consult NGOs and lawyers and others. This makes it clear that Congress is in favour of sub-classification," Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati said in a series of posts on X in Hindi. "The Congress has spoken in a vague manner about

the creamy layer issue. Despite it having 99 MPs, no voice was raised in Parliament till the adjournment to nullify the Supreme Court's decision, whereas this party has won these seats in the name of saving the Constitution and reservation," she said. Mayawati also said after the BSP's press

conference on Saturday, "we got to know about the statement given by the Congress president, in which the credit for reservation has been given not to Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar but to Pandit Nehru. and Gandhiji, in which there is not even an iota of truth." "Whereas in reality the entire credit for reservation goes to Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, whom the Congress conspired to prevent from entering the Constituent assembly and also defeated in the elections. He was also forced to resign from the post of Law Minister," Mayawati said. On Saturday, Mayawati had questioned the "silence of the Congress" on the August 1 judgment.

## A/to Meta, Facebook news may be blocked in Australia

Delhi: A corporate spokesman told a parliamentary hearing that Facebook's parent company, Meta, is thinking of removing news content from the platform in Australia if the government requires it to pay license costs. When questioned if Meta will prevent Australians from sharing news material in order to avoid paying fees, Mia Garlick, regional policy director for Meta, responded to lawmakers by saying that "all options are on the table". According to her, Meta was awaiting Canberra's decision on whether to implement an unproven 2021 law that would allow the government to determine how much US tech companies must pay media outlets for links. The statements provide the most evidence to date that Meta will adopt the same strict stance in Australia as it did in Canada in 2023 when that nation enacted



legislation of a similar nature. When the law was introduced in Australia, Meta signed agreements with News Corp and the Australian Broadcasting Corp, among other Australian media companies. However, Meta has since stated that it will not extend those contracts past 2024. The assistant treasurer of Australia will now have to determine if she wants to intervene and make Facebook pay for journalistic material. According to the assistant treasurer, Meta appears to follow the law only when it is convenient, but he is still gathering advice. Meanwhile,

Nine Entertainment and Seven West Media, Australia's two biggest free-to-air television broadcasters, said last week that they were slashing staff. They cited the loss of revenue when their contracts with Meta expire. When asked if banning Facebook news in Australia would be considered breaking the law, Meta's Garlick responded that it would be. "Every other law - tax laws, safety laws, privacy laws - we work to comply with," she stated. "It's just compliance would look slightly different in relation to this law if it's fully enacted."

## A NOTORIOUS BURGLAR ARRESTED BY THE STAFF OF PS KANJHAWALA

Under the ongoing operation "PARAKRAM", a team led by SHO/Kanjhawala under supervision of ACP/Begumpur and under overall supervision of DCP/Rohini was constituted to put a curb on the menace of snatching, robbery and burglary and theft incidents in Rohini District. The staff of PS Kanjhawala has done a commendable job by arresting one notorious burglar namely Sonu, Aged about 28 years on a secret information in case FIR No. 293/24, dt. 29.06.24, u/s 380/511



IPC PS Kanjhawala . Four stolen mobile phones were recovered from his possession. With his arrest, four cases of burglary/theft have been work out. **INCIDENT AND ARREST**: On 29.06.2024, an incident of burglary was reported at PS Kanjhawala. Accordingly, a case of

FIR No. 293/24, dt. 29.06.24, u/s 380/511 IPC was registered at PS Kanjhawala. In order to nab the offenders, a team comprising of SI Prashant, HC Lalit and Ct Sunny led by SHO/Kanjhawala and under supervision ACP/Begumpur was constituted and investigation was taken up into the matter.

## Wait 7 days to port after replacing the SIM

Delhi: New Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) rules require mobile phone users to wait at least seven days after replacing a lost or non-functional SIM card before switching service providers. The Telecommunication

Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, prevent fraudsters from porting to new service providers under new names. The service provider cannot give the user a unique porting code until this seven-day period ends. The customer

receives an alphanumeric porting code from the current TSP to port their phone number to a new TSP. TSPs had three-and-a-half months from the TRAI to modify their telecommunication systems to refuse UPC requests in the seven-day period.



## World Bank Backs India's Green Hydrogen Drive

Delhi: India's Green Hydrogen Mission received a second \$1.5 billion loan from the World Bank, raising its total financing to \$3 billion. To meet National Green Hydrogen Mission goals, India's domestic green hydrogen market must be strengthened and private investment encouraged. Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director for India, praised India's success, highlighting \$70 billion in tenders and indications of interest. Green hydrogen generation will benefit from Second Low Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Cooperation changes, focused on electrolyzers. The program supports renewable energy improvements, including battery energy storage subsidies. The World Bank wants India to produce at least 450,000 metric tons of green hydrogen and 1,500 MW of electrolyzers by FY 2025-26 under this program. Increasing private sector involvement is crucial. Mr. Kouame said, "Indian green hydrogen production is safe. The administration has taken substantial steps, and no limits appear." He suggested that banking partnerships might improve the local market and that regulatory frameworks should be expedited to attract private firms. One of the World Bank's most ambitious undertakings is in India's green hydrogen sector. If successful, India might become a leading green hydrogen generator, creating green jobs. Mr. Kouame noted, "India's Green Hydrogen Mission seeks 600,000 jobs, a large number for one industry. These less labor-intensive, knowledge-based employment are inclusive, especially for women."

## Kolhapur-Gaganbawda h'way work to hit trees

Kolhapur: Over 1,250 trees on the Kolhapur-Kale stretch will be felled for the first phase of the ongoing road widening works of the Kolhapur-Gaganbawda national highway (166-B). Many important medicinal and rare trees like terminalia, pinnata, bur-flower, shalmali, jamun, fig, banyan, peepal, baheda will be cut for this activity. The Kolhapur to Gaganbawda route was recently transferred from the Public Works Department (PWD) to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the four-laning of the highway. Large scale passenger traffic from Kolhapur to Konkan-Goa occurs on this route. Shubham Patil, junior engi-



neer of NHAI said, "More than 1,250 trees between Shingnapur phata till Kale section of Kolhapur-Gaganbawda NH will be cut in the first phase of road

widening works in the district. The forest department has also approved of the same. The assigned contractor for the works has shortlisted reserved forest

land at Bazarbhogaon village where he will be planting saplings. The contract will not complete unless the plantation is done. We will look to it that the trees get planted accordingly." A villager from Kale, Sachin Patil said, "It is said that five trees will be planted in place of one tree getting cut during the highway works. But in reality, the authorities plant saplings which does not grow. This road stretch offers a canopy of trees that should be preserved." Anil Chougale from Nisarg Mitra, an NGO for the environment said, "The banyan trees on this stretch are nearly a 100 years old. Plantation should be done from the seeds of different tree varieties.

## Indian Current Account Surplus After Last Quarter Deficit

According to CRISIL, India's current account surplus improved to \$5.7 billion in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024, or 0.6% of GDP. This is a considerable improvement from the \$8.7 billion deficit (1.0%) in the

third quarter and the \$1.3 billion deficit (0.2%) in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal year. The current account balance improved due to a shrinking merchandise trade deficit, an enhanced services

trade surplus, and rising remittances. Financial flows improved quarterly and annually, resulting in a \$30.8 billion foreign exchange reserve accretion in the fourth quarter, the biggest in ten quarters.

## Regional aviation gets Air India route



Delhi: Air India stated Friday that it would begin using Airbus A350-900s on the Delhi-London Heathrow route on September 1. On the route, the airline will fly twice daily. The A350-900 will replace the 777-300ER and 787-8 Dreamliner on 14 of 17 weekly flights. The business claimed in a news statement that the replacement would add 336 weekly seats on the Delhi-London Heathrow route. Flying our flag-

ship A350s and B777s with updated cabin interiors to London Heathrow is a milestone for Air India. It shows our dedication to providing a world-class travel experience and exceeding customer expectations as we upgrade our fleet, said Campbell Wilson, CEO & Managing Director, Air India. The new Airbus planes will enhance 90% of its trips to London Heathrow. Air India began flying the new Boeing 777-300ERs between Mumbai

## PLI policy boosts global tyre companies' make-in-India intentions

Delhi: Michelin, Bridgestone, and Goodyear are planning to invest in India's manufacturing industry, together with Yokohama and Birla Tyre, under a government system that links imports to local investment. These investments, estimated at Rs 3,000 crore, are a major response to the Centre's import curbs to increase domestic manufacturing. Yokohama, the largest investor, plans a plant in Haryana with roughly half a female workforce, creating several hundred employment. DPIIT linked the program to import approvals to stimulate capacity expansion. This resolves license issues that hampered international companies' high-end tire imports. "We are seeing the positive results of our initiatives and expect more companies to manufacture in India. "We are seeing the results of the steps we have taken and we are expecting more companies to come and make in India." The move supports the government's electric vehicle (EV) policy, which allows local manufacturers to import with lower duties. The Modi administration is recruiting Tesla to create jobs and accelerate the EV transition. Despite Elon Musk's canceled visit, officials are enthusiastic about future contacts. with Vinfast and others. The Department of Heavy Industries is working with stakeholders.

## Over three months, doorstep delivery has been discontinued

Delhi: A three-member Delhi ministerial fact-finding committee has issued letters to senior DDA, forest, and Delhi Police officials for reportedly destroying 1,100 trees in Ridge without authorization. On Saturday, ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, and Imran Hussain constituted a committee to report to the forest minister. Does the opposition's request for a SC-appointed inquiry into NEET-UG 2024 irregularities make sense? The committee has ordered the principal secretary, DDA vice-chairman, principal commissioner (LD and LM), DDA commissioner (housing), deputy commissioner of police (south Delhi), station house officer (SHO), and other senior officials to attend a July 11 meeting. The committee's factual report to Supreme Court is due July 11. "As the next date of hearing in this matter is 12.07.2024 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed GNCTD to file an affidavit based on the facts before 11.07.2024, your cooperation is needed to adhere to the strict timelines imposed by Supreme Court of India," Bharadwaj wrote in his email. Delhi's government and civic agencies were ordered to meet to consider comprehensive green cover measures by the court.

A vacation bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan expected the forest department and tree authority to monitor illegal felling. DDA lied in court, urban development minister Bharadwaj said after the hearing. He said DDA documents showed deputy governor VK Saxena and a chief engineer went to Satbari forest on Feb. 3 and verbally ordered 1,100 trees removed. Emails from DDA officials prove this, he added.

## Panel warns officials about illegal tree cutting

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