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## BJP's pro-Dalit policies beat Congress quota narrative: Experts

**NEW DELHI:** BJP swept all the seven seats reserved for Scheduled Castes in Jammu, while bagging eight of the 17 in Haryana, leading its functionaries to claim that Congress's allegation that the Modi gov't was conspiring to scrap caste quotas has petered out. In 2019, BJP had won five seats reserved for SCs in Haryana while Congress won six. In the 2014 polls in Jammu & Kashmir, before delimitation in 2022 which resulted in an increase of seats from 83 to 90, BJP won five seats reserved for SCs in Jammu and Congress bagged one. Speaking at the post-poll celebrations at BJP headquarters on Tuesday evening, PM Narendra Modi had highlighted BJP's strong performance in constituencies reserved for SCs. **Dalits ditch Congress in Jammu and Kashmir** "People have seen through the falsehood Rahul Gandhi spread during Lok Sabha polls," minister Dharmendra Pradhan,



**Hooda's moves end in anti-climax as state stalwart loses the plot again**

**CHANDIGARH:** After Congress staged a strong comeback, winning five of 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, former CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda had emerged as the man of the moment for his party. Now, his inability to secure a majority for Congress to return to office in Haryana after a 10-year hiatus is likely to have a major impact on his political career, especially as his detractors have already started criticising his leadership. Given a free hand in ticket distribution who was in-charge of BJP's Haryana cam-

margin among reserved seats in Haryana was recorded in Pataudi, where BJP's Bimla Chaudhary defeated Congress's Pearl Choudhary by 46,530 votes. In Jammu, the largest winning margin was seen in Akhnor constituency, where BJP's Mohan Lal defeated Congress's Ashok Kumar by 24,679 votes. Anand Kumar, retired professor of sociology at JNU, said BJP's improved showing in Haryana was because of Congress's projection of B S Hooda as its CM candidate at the cost of Kumari Selja, former Union minister and the party's biggest Dalit face in Haryana. The two previous tenures of Hooda were identified with Jat hegemony and instances of high-handedness against Dalits, especially the killing of two Dalits in Mirchpur. BJP talked up the incidents during the campaign, besides accusing Congress of marginalising Selja because of her Dalit background. The party also supported the demand for sub-categorisation

## India loses a Ratan: The visionary who took India Inc global passes away at 86

**MUMBAI:** Ratan Naval Tata, whose long stewardship saw the Tata Group transform into a global powerhouse, passed away at Breach Candy Hospital around 11pm on Wednesday night. The 86-year-old was admitted for dehydration issues on Monday. Tata's passing marks the end of an extraordinary corporate journey, one that not only reshaped the Tata Group but also set new benchmarks for Indian industry on the global stage. Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons & billionaire of hearts, passes away: Life, education, business career milestones & timeline of India's industry giant Under his stewardship, the group's revenue surged from \$4 billion in 1991 to over \$100 billion by 2012, when he retired, making it the first Indian conglomerate to achieve such a milestone. Born to Soonoo and Naval Tata during British rule in Mumbai (then Bombay), Ratan



**Visionary who led Tatas' revenue from \$4bn to \$100bn**

Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 86 in a Mumbai hospital. (Photo: Instagram @Ratatata) Tata Group today boasts a staggering revenue of \$165 billion, but back in 1991, when Ratan Tata took the helm, the picture was far less impressive with \$4 billion in annual turnover. Inheriting a fragmented and bureaucratic empire, Tata didn't just add zeros to the top line through innovations, new business ventures, and international expansions, but also transformed how the group operated. visionary who took India Inc global. throughout his life. He is survived by two brothers, Jimmy and Noel, and their families, along with his stepmother, Simone Tata. Educated at three prestigious institutions including Campion School.

### China's promotion of disgraced Covid official sparks

The promotion of a Chinese official disgraced for abusing Covid controls has sparked a fresh firestorm, prompting claims online that her elevation underscores ingrained institutional injustice. Zhang Linlin was demoted in 2022 for manipulating pandemic health codes to clip the movements of rural investors, who were trying to return to the central Chinese city of Zhengzhou to vent claims of being swindled out of billions of dollars. That misuse of apps designed to stop the spread of Covid was met with nationwide outrage. Despite that, Chinese media reported this month that Zhang was now serving as party chief of the manufacturing hub's culture and tourism bureau. That post matches her old rank and likely paves the way for a government role as head.

### RBI defers exchange-traded currency derivatives rules

**MUMBAI:** RBI has deferred the implementation of its rules on exchange-traded currency derivatives by a month, resulting in traders scrambling to square off their positions. RBI's circular, which was scheduled to come into effect on April 5, said that only traders with an underlying forex exposure can trade in currency derivatives. Exchange-traded currency derivatives, like futures contracts, help companies hedge against currency risk. For instance, an Indian exporter expecting payment in US dollars in three months. s can use currency futures to mitigate potential losses from adverse exchange rate movements. By entering a futures contract to sell US dollars at a predetermined rate, the exporter locks in a viable exchange rate. The market for exchange-traded currency derivatives has been thriving for a decade because of positions taken by investors with a view on the currency. However, RBI said that its recent circular only reiterates its existing position. "The regulatory framework for exchange-traded currency derivatives has remained consistent over the years, and there is no change in RBI's policy approach," it said. The circular, issued on Jan 5, retained most of the earlier regulations, including a requirement that trades over \$100 million would require proof of exposure. This requirement of proof for higher value trades was being interpreted by participants to mean that those who did not have any exposure could participate in lower value transactions.

## Delhi HC has asked its judges to prioritise hearing of all criminal cases

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi HC has asked its judges to prioritise hearing of all criminal cases, appeals and revisions concerning MPs and MLAs so that the cases can be decided expeditiously and effectively. A division bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora passed the order while dealing with a suo motu PIL to monitor cases pending

against MPs and MLAs in trial courts as well as the high court. The matter will be heard on May 20. **'Refrain from adjourning cases related to MP, MLAs'** The court also asked its registry to reallocate or redistribute cases pending before a single judge of the court in which an order of stay of trial has been passed and the stay is continuing for more than six months. There are 34

such cases. This is to ensure that the "stay applications are disposed of in the subject cases expeditiously and trial of such cases can conclude before the designated special courts," the court said in its order. Further, directing the registry to circulate the judgment among judges of the high court, the bench said, "In line with the directives passed by Hon'ble Chief Justice

## 'Biggest security breach': 1000s of pagers explode across Lebanon

**Lebanon** Hundreds of Hezbollah fighters and medical personnel, were severely injured when their communication pagers exploded across Lebanon. Described as the biggest security breach in almost a year of conflict with Israel, ambulances rushed through Beirut's southern suburbs amidst chaos. Ongoing detonations and numerous injuries

were reported by local sources. At least 9 people were killed and over 2,000 people, including hundreds of Hezbollah members, fighters and medical personnel, sustained serious injuries on Tuesday after thousands of pagers exploded across Lebanon. Two of the deceased were Hezbollah fighters, read an official statement. **'Security breach'** A Hezbollah official

described the pager explosions as the "biggest security breach" the organisation had experienced in almost a year of conflict with Israel. "The enemy (Israel) stands behind this security incident that targeted the devices," the official said, without elaborating. The Israeli military, which has been engaged in an exchange of fire with Hezbollah since October, coinciding with the Gaza war.

## Congress bent on dividing Hindu society on caste lines: PM Modi

**NAGPUR/NEW DELHI:** A day after BJP's win in Haryana, PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday doubled down his attack on Congress for trying to divide Hindu society for its partisan ends and said the opposition, which consistently talks about castes among Hindus, never talks about castes among Muslims, potentially setting the tone for the coming contest in Maharashtra. "They (Congress) never discuss caste within the Muslim community, but when it comes to Hindus, they rake up caste issues to divide us," the PM said while virtually inaugurating projects worth more



than Rs 7,000 crore for poll-bound Maharashtra. "Congress's formula is simple: keep Muslims under fear, turn them into a vote bank, and stoke divisions in Hindu society to benefit electorally," he said. He termed the party's tactics a betrayal of national unity. While the accusation that Congress had been seeking to split Hindu society for political gains is not

new, it is perhaps the first time that Modi had accused the opposition party of keeping mum on castes among Muslims. Significantly, the PM had spoken about the backwardness of Pasmandas, the OBC among Muslims. Modi said Congress wants to keep Hindu society simmering by any means to make political gains. "Wherever elections take place, Congress

### Coach Class: Tim Walz and a teachable moment in US

**WASHINGTON:** Presented as a regular guy, a workaday dad, a teacher and a coach from the time he came into national limelight, Minnesota governor Tim Walz accepted the Democratic vice-presidential nomination on Wednesday at the party convention with an address highlighted by a memorable teachable moment. Walz was speaking about reproductive rights being infringed on by and the infertile couples face when attention turned.

### 'Kejriwal will be back', says Atishi after staking claim



**NEW DELHI:** Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal proposes the name of Delhi minister Atishi as the new Chief Minister. She has been elected as the leader of Delhi AAP Legislative Party. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday congratulated Atishi (43) on being designated Delhi's chief minister, calling her "combative" and "determined". The former UP chief minister said on hand she has to continue public service and on the other face BJP's "negative politics". Earlier in the day, the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) unanimously agreed on Atishi's name as the next chief minister of Delhi. AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal had proposed her name. "Best wishes to Atishi ji for fulfilling the responsibility she has been given as the new Chief Minister of Delhi! On one hand she has to continue her work of public service, and on the other hand she has to face the negative politics of the BJP. As a combative and determined young chief minister, may she be successful in every role of hers!"



## Band display organized by 111 Infantry Battalion TA KUMAON

Prayagraj: To commemorate Territorial Army Day, a band display was organized by 111 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) KUMAON on Wednesday at Chandra



Shekhar Azad Park at Prayagraj. As part of an expedition to the National highlight the contribution of Territorial Army towards Development. The event witnessed of over local populace and children. The aim of this event was to spread awareness and motivate the youth to join TA & serve the nation.

## 'Pandal' made on pattern of Kali Temple located in Jharsuguda, Orissa Huge crowd of spectators thronging venue

Prayagraj: Mahamaya Barwari Pritam Nagar Durga Puja Committee has constructed the Kali Temple located in Jharsuguda, Orissa this year under the leadership and guidance of Shubham Wedding Planner. The special thing is that instead of West Bengal, skilled artisans



from Orissa have presented their talents for the construction of this pandal. Chairman of this committee, Gautam Banerjee said that the devotees are getting to see the image of a special Kali temple in the Mahamaya Pandal this year, where people are getting darshan of Goddess Durga by walking up the stairs at the entry. Vinay Raghuvanshi, media in-charge of Mahamaya Barwari Pritam Nagar Durga Puja Committee, says that this pandal was liked a lot by the people of Kolkata in the year 2023. A special craft fair for women and youth has been organized in the puja pandal. Through which everyone can enjoy the food and items of the country and other states.

## Hyundai Motor India Ltd's IPO to open on Oct 15

Varanasi: Hyundai Motor India Limited (the "Company"), a part of the Hyundai Motor Group, which is the third largest auto OEM in the world based on passenger vehicle sales in CY2023, according to the CRISIL Report, proposes to open its initial public offering of Equity Shares ("Offer") on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. The Anchor Investor Bidding Date is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, being Monday, October 14, 2024. The Bid/Offer Closing Date is Thursday, October 17, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed from ₹ 1,865 per Equity Share to ₹ 1,960 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 7 Equity Shares and multiples of 7 Equity Shares thereafter.

The Company's initial public offering comprises an offer for sale of up to 142,194,700 Equity Shares by Hyundai Motor Company (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder"). The Company will not receive any proceeds from the offer (the "Offer Proceeds").

## Vi Business and Genesys partner to bring next-gen cloud contact centre

Varanasi: Collaboration will provide Indian organizations with innovative AI-driven solutions, differentiated propositions and capabilities to enhance customer experiences. Vi Business, the enterprise arm of the leading telecom operator Vodafone Idea (Vi), today announced it will leverage its partner agreement with Genesys®, a global cloud leader in AI-powered experience orchestration, to enable Indian businesses with advanced cloud and telecom solutions, transforming their contact centre operations and strengthening customer engagement and services. This collaboration marks Vi's entry into the Contact Centre as a Service (CCaaS) sector, to introduce next-gen cloud and telecom solutions while offering a unified omnichannel customer experience (CX). This move will allow Indian enterprises to adapt to evolving customer needs, leverage cutting-edge technologies, and scale operations without the substantial capital investments typically required by traditional contact centre setups. Speaking on the partnership, Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea, commented, "We are thrilled to embark on this groundbreaking collaboration with Genesys.

# Man's bail rejected in friend's murder case

Prayagraj: About one and a half month ago, friend Akash Malviya, accused of holding hostage his friend Abhishek Kushwaha along with other associates from Atarsuya area and then killing him, has not got relief from the sessions court. District Judge Santosh Rai, after hearing the defense counsel and DGC Gulab Chandra Agrahari, rejected the bail application as there was no sufficient ground for bail.

According to the prosecution, the plaintiff Rajesh Kushwaha had filed an ap-

plication in the police station on 22nd August 24 that on the night of 21st August at around 8:30 pm, Aditya Malviya and an unknown person took away his son Abhishek Kushwaha from the Durga Puja Park. When he went to Aditya Malviya's house while searching, he was not found at home. When I talked to the boy on his mobile phone at 9 pm, he said that he was coming with Aditya. But he did not come. The next day the plaintiff came to know that his son's body had been dumped near the Atarsuya

garbage dump.

DGC told the court during the arguments that Aditya Malviya had told the police after his arrest that he and Akash alias Kallu had taken Abhishek on a scooty and had parked the scooty at Khushal Parvat. Then all three reached the boat club on their own, where he had called his friend Ali. After that everyone reached their village Gadra near their ancestral fields. After some time, Akash's brother Aditya came there with a bamboo stick. Then when everyone demanded the money taken

earlier citing his mother's cancer, he started talking nonsense. Then to get back the borrowed money, they beat him with sticks, kicked and punched him. When he started fainting, they thought he was acting. Then sitting in the car, after giving her water to drink, they brought him to Rani Mandi, who was dying on the way, and threw him in the garbage bin.

National Sporting won inaugural match of Sir Syed Ahmed Memorial Hockey League Prayagraj: The inaugural match of Sir Syed

Ahmed Khan Memorial 7A Side Allahabad Hockey League took place on Wednesday at the hockey ground of Majeedia Islamia Inter College, where National Sporting defeated BR Academy 6-1. Shahid Kamal Khan Deputy Secretary Allahabad Hockey said that the hockey competition is being organized by AMU Old Boys Welfare Association, Abrar Ahmed, Dr. Intekhab Alam, Dr. MA Hashmi, Dr. Ziaul Khan, Shah Saud, Md. Ikram, Md. Salim, Tariq Khan, Salim Ahmed, Arshad Alvi, Aqeel Ahmed, Md. Arif, Meraj Aziz, Md. Javed, Dilnawaz Ahmed, Imran Ansari, Azam Ali, many junior and senior hockey players were present.

high officials of the entire India, the Chief Ministers and the Prime Minister of India, that the strictest possible action should be taken against those who make statements against our Prophet and his other followers. By taking legal action, instructions should be given to invoke NSA against the accused. Whenever the people of the Muslim community are going to the police station to lodge a First Information Report, legal action should also be taken without any bias by registering an FIR against them. The video which is viral should be deleted immediately and such guidelines should be issued so that objectionable comments are not made by any person against the great man of any religion in future.

## Whitewashing of Rs 30k cr budget of Mahakumbh: Vinay Kushwaha

Only 95 days are left for main bathing festival, digging still going on

Prayagraj: SP State Secretary and MP representative Vinay Kushwaha, while questioning the functioning of works related to Mahakumbh, said that the government has given a huge budget of Rs 30,000 crore for Mahakumbh 2025, in which no permanent construction work is being done except the Alopibagh flyover. Due to which the people of Prayagraj should continue to get its benefits even after the Kumbh Mela. Most of the money is being spent on temporary construction work only.

He said that there are 95 days left for the Mahakumbh Snan festival, the first bath is on 13 January on Paus Purnima, but a year ago houses were demolished in the name of road widening and till today digging of roads is going on, in the middle of the road in front of George Town police station. Pipelines are being dug and laid and similarly the condition of other roads is the same. Even the electric poles have not been removed at many places, so when will the soil settle down, when will the



road be built, the road will be hastily painted overnight which will sink in the next rain. This is the same loose working system. Due to this, not a single road has been prepared till date due to which the city residents are struggling with traffic jams. The representative said that the Chief Minister and the Principal Secretary had held review meetings of the Kumbh works several times a year ago, the result of which was zero. The officers and contractors kept doing their own work because they knew that the date of the Snan festival was fixed and when less time was left, the work would be completed. There will be emphasis on quality, no one will pay attention to the fair and the budget will be wasted. He said that for the first time, the tender for purchase of sleepers in the year spent in the construction of Pontoon bridge was cancelled several times, due to which till now the entire sleeper has not been supplied for the year. The supply could not be made which is a serious matter to think about.

## Advocate Nazia Nafees holds informative and awareness prog for girls

Prayagraj: Under the joint aegis of Al Kausar Society and Prayagraj Police, a special workshop on the rights and protection of children was organized at Mary Wanamaker Girls Inter College Prayagraj under the Mission Shakti programme. Advocate Nazia Nafees, President of Al Kausar Society, conducted the program. She informed the girls about various welfare schemes run by the government and also made them aware of their legal rights. Special Juvenile Police Unit in-charge Teerthraj Yadav made the girls aware about the Juvenile Justice Act and child marriage. Shri Ghanshyam Mani Tripathi, in-charge of Anti Human

Trafficking Unit, informed all the girls and teachers present in the school about various toll-free numbers of the government. Women Help Cell in-

and also told them the ways to stay safe from them. School Principal Mrs. Shubha Washington had a special contribution in the

of connecting the girls. The girls participated in this program with great interest. The girls asked many questions to the guests present at the program, which were answered by the legal experts and police officers present there. Due to which the girls present there appeared very happy, satisfied and full of new energy. The girls requested Nazia Nafees, president of the organization, to keep organizing such informative and awareness programs in the school from time to time. Mohammad Salman, Head Constable Ali Basar, Constable Ankit Yadav, M.U.A. Akanksha and the school principal and teachers had special contribution.



## Camp and parent counselling organized in Karchana BRC for making disability certificates

Prayagraj: Today, under the Samagra Shiksha (Integrated Education) run by the Uttar Pradesh government, a camp was organized in Karchana to make disability certificates for disabled children in the age group of 6 to 14 years. Medical camp and parent counselling were organized. The camp was inaugurated by Block Education Officer, Karchana, Mr. Arun Kumar Awasthi. 80 children from the development block participated in the camp, in which Dr. Subhash Chandra (Eye Surgeon) from the district (While examining the disabled children by Dr. Rakesh Paswan (Psychologist), Dr. Naveen Verma (Nose Ear Throat Specialist) and Dr. Sankalp Shukla



(Audiologist), disability certificates were prepared for 53 children out of the 80 disabled children present. Biscuits and chips were distributed to all the disabled children by Block Education Officer Karchana Mr. Arun Kumar Awasthi. The entire camp was organized mainly by Special Educators Alok Rai, Virendra Pal and Neelam. The entire staff of the Office Assistant of BRC Karchana provided support in the successful conduct of the camp. In the end, Block Education Officer Karchana Mr. Arun Kumar Awasthi thanked all the doctors who had come from the district and all the parents from the development block.

## Advocates submitted memo addressed to Prez in case of making indecent statement against Prophet

Prayagraj: On Wednesday, a number of lawyers submitted a memorandum addressed to His Excellency the President to the District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, regarding action to be taken against the Mahant in the matter of making an indecent statement in honor of the Prophet Hazrat Sahib. Through the memorandum, the lawyers demanded that on 27 September 24, Mahant Yati Narsingh Nand of Dasna Devi Temple has given the Gustakhana statement in the honor of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad Mustafa Salla Allahu Alaihi Wasallam. Many cases have already been registered against him...which is viral on social media. Due to which the faith and sentiments of all the citizens of India, irrespective of their religion, have been severely hurt and there is immense anger especially in the Muslim community. Due to which there is a wave of sorrow and anger among the

Muslims of India as well as the Muslims of the whole world and at various places, the Muslims of India are giving first information report or memorandum against the perpetrators of this heinous act and demanding their arrest, but The police and other senior officers of the police station are not registering their FIR and some people are, on the contrary, giving direct statements against Muslims, which is against the unity and integrity of India and in opposition to Hindu-Muslim unity and a conspiracy is being hatched to divide the citizens of India and disintegrate India.

Therefore, we demand that while intervening in the above matter, please issue the following guidelines to the



people of the Muslim community are going to the police station to lodge a First Information Report, legal action should also be taken without any bias by registering an FIR against them. The video which is viral should be deleted immediately and such guidelines should be issued so that objectionable comments are not made by any person against the great man of any religion in future.



## Distribution of eatables to children by Lions Club All City & Ashok Club

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the last day of Seva Week, under the leadership of Lions Club Allahabad City President MJF Lion Anup Singh and with the joint cooperation of Lions Club Ashok, distribution of sweets, fruits, snacks and steel tiffin boxes to about 150 small children of the prestigious school Saraswati Shishu Mandir Kidwai Nagar Allapur Prayagraj was jointly provided by



the above mentioned clubs, after receiving which the children looked very happy. Beautiful and useful service work was done under the Image Building Program of the District Programme. Public Relations Officer Laloo Mittal said that with this noble service work, the service week ended satisfactorily. In the above service work, senior members of Lions Club Allahabad City, Lt. Rajendra Gupta, Club Secretary MJF, Lt. Achal Aggarwal, Club Treasurer Lt. Ram Ji Kesari, Lions Club Ashok. K L Dhirendra Mishra, L Mala Mishra, L Mukul Srivastava, L Vishal Jaiswal, L Sunil Chhibber participated and distributed the materials to the children.

## 5-day Kalki Self Defence Training Prog held at GHS

Prayagraj: A 5-day KALKI SELF DEFENCE Training Program was successfully conducted at GHS from 4th October to 9th October 2024. The master class

expert & psychologist and their team of professionals.

The training covered a holistic self-defence module, where students were taught a range of reality-



was led by Grand Master Gaurav Singh Chauhan, one of the youngest Grand Masters of Martial Arts and Founder of Kalki Art of Self Defence, along with Sanyogita Singh Chauhan, the general Secretary of the organization, internationally certified mental health

based self-defence techniques. These included strikes, punches, kicks, grips, chokes, knife art, weapon handling and cyber safety. The program also included psychometric tests, special meditation techniques, mental health awareness and essential

## Minister Nandi bonhomie with Veep, invites him to Maha Kumbh

Prayagraj: Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, received blessings and guidance from the country's Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar by meeting him cordially at the newly constructed Vice President Bhawan in the capital Delhi. Along with inviting him to attend Mahakumbh, one of the biggest events of the world in 2025, he also informed about the preparations for the grand and divine Mahakumbh. The Vice President said that the way cultural heritage is growing under the leadership of Modi and Yogi, it will pave the way for making India a world leader in the times to

come. Abhishek Aggarwal, producer of successful films like Kashmir Files and Karthikeya-2, was also

present during the meeting with Minister Nandi. In a release issued after meeting the Vice President, Minister Nandi said that the role, services and achieve-



ments of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar as a jurist, a constitutional expert, Governor of West Bengal

is very rare. Whenever I get the privilege of meeting him, the Vice President's connection with the ground and practical thinking always inspires.

Every time conversation and discussion in a very affectionate family atmosphere is a different experience. The Vice President's wife was also present during the meeting. Abhishek Aggarwal, producer of successful films like Kashmir Files and Karthikeya-2, was also present during the meeting with Minister Nandi. He has received the Best Telugu Film Award at the National Film Awards ceremony by the President for his film Karthikeya-2.

and Chairman of the Raja Sabha, the country's upper house, are excellent. Despite holding such a top constitutional responsibility, such ease and humility

present during the meeting with Minister Nandi. In a release issued after meeting the Vice President, Minister Nandi said that the role, services and achieve-

## 137 CETF Bn (TA) 39 GR celebrates TA platinum jubilee

At Saraswati Ghat, Prayagraj & IIT-BHU campus

Prayagraj: To culminate the weeklong celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee Year-2024, 137 CETF Bn (TA) 39 GR organized an awareness campaign on 09 Oct 2024 being the 75th Territorial Army Day at Saraswati Ghat, Prayagraj. The gathering was participated by Ganga Prahari, Nagar Nigam and WII. The NCC students and the participants were presented with one Herbal Plant each to encourage health through native plantation. The students were made aware of the task the unit is carrying out in the rejuvenation of River Ganga and the overall task and duties the Territorial Army is devoted to perform.

Another awareness event was organised at IIT-BHU. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Shyam Bihari Dwivedi, Dean (Academic Affairs), Prof. Sasankasekhar

Mandal, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and other esteemed professors, faculty members and enthusiastic students of IIT (BHU). Major Kanwardeep Singh Nagi of 137 CETF BN (TA) 39 GR



delivered an insightful lecture on the Territorial Army's rich history and its contributions to national security and environmental conservation. The program highlighted the battalion's unique role in ecological protection and social outreach. The celebration also featured a plantation drive, reinforcing the battalion's

commitment to sustainability and environmental protection. The event concluded with a vibrant balloon-releasing ceremony, symbolizing 75 years of dedicated service to the nation and renewing

the pledge to contribute towards a greener future. The event served to strengthen ties between the academic and defense communities, inspiring greater collaboration in nation-building and ecological initiatives, informed Samir Gangakhedkar, Group Captain, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

## Friends United & YFA in semi-finals Navratri Cup U-15 Football Tournament

Prayagraj: On the first day of Navratri Cup football competition organized by Northern Football Academy, Friends United FC and Youth Football Academy won their respective matches and made it to the semi-finals. Ac-



According to football coach Indranil Ghosh, in the first quarterfinal match, Friends United FC defeated Unstoppable FC 1-0. Utkarsh Gupta scored the winning goal.

In the second quarterfinal match, Youth Football Academy defeated Thunder Hawks 3-0. Devang, Sumit and Surya Prakash scored goals. Today's Chief Guest, Ujjwal Sharma, Secretary of Subedarganj and Rajrooppur Durga Puja Barwari, introduced the players of both the teams and wished all the players a bright future.

## UP in National Cricket Champion

Prayagraj: UP/UK team has won the CISCE National U-19 girls cricket tournament held at Bhopal. They overcame A.P. in quarter final, UAE in the semi final to defeat Punjab in the final by a margin of 16 runs. 5 students of



SMC Prayagraj were the part of the winning team. Two girls of SMC, Anamika Chakraborty & Vani Shukla will compete in the SGFI. The principal Sr. Lissy has congratulated the girls and wished them all the luck for the future.

## Mother Kalyani appeared in form of Mother Kalratri in Abhaya posture while riding on horse

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Navratri Mahotsav fair in the abode of Mahashakti Peeth Maa Kalyani Devi, on the seventh day of Navratri, Maa Kalyani took the form of Abhaya Mudra and gave darshan to the devotees in the form of Mata Kalratri. On this occasion, in the morning, Mata Kalyani appeared in the form of Mata Kalratri. Mangala Aarti and Abhishek were performed. On this occasion, the devotees worshipped the Mother Goddess and circumambulated the Shatchandi Mahayagya and got their children tonsured. The chief priest of the temple, Pandit Sushil Pathak told that all the demons, ghosts, etc. are destroyed in the form of Mother Kalratri. Ghosts,



vampires and negative energies are destroyed.

Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani told that at 6:00 pm, the door of the temple was opened to see the make-up of Maa Kalratri form and Maa was seen riding on a horse, wearing a Mund rosary around her neck, in Chaturbhuj Abhaya Mudra, with a sword and a thunderbolt in her hands. The mother was adorned with jewel-studded jewellery and the havan was performed with lotus flowers. The evening aarti of the mother was performed at 7:00 pm and Shayan Aarti was performed at 12:00 pm. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that on October 8, on the Ashtami of Navratri, will give darshan of Mahagauri on the day.

## On Commr's order, Pushp Ganga Apartment re-inspected by PDA

Prayagraj: Pushp Ganga Apartment was re-inspected by the team of Prayagraj Development Authority as per the orders of Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant. In which the residents accused builder Amit Goyal of not providing the promised facilities in the apartment and inspected the irregularities. According to the details received, Pushp Ganga Apartment, Residents of Sherwani Legacy have impressed upon the builder Amit Goyal on the promised facilities in the apartments like open mini theatre, waste disposal plant, CCTV, intercom, flooring of parking, marking of parking, solar panels on 25 pc area as per standard, washroom in community

hall. And more than 150 complaints were lodged on the Chief Minister's portal alleging that doors etc. were not provided. Taking cognizance of them, the Divisional Commissioner ordered re-inspection of the apartment, warned the builder to complete the incomplete work within 15 days and architect Anil Kumar Gupta was ordered to give an explanation.

In compliance with which, PDA has to submit the compliance report by 10th October. In this sequence, an inspection was conducted by the Under Engineer Faujdar of PDA on 9th October, in which the above irregularities and shortcomings were again found to be true. It is known that on 22nd September also,

the apartment was inspected by PDA. An inspection was conducted in which all the above mentioned complaints were found to be correct. Despite the Prayagraj Development Authority ordering builder Amit Goyal and architect Anil Kumar Gupta to be present in person, Amit Goyal did not present himself and Bajrang Dutt Tripathi as representative, Mohammad Faisal and Saif Ahmed Engineer were sent.

Residents also allege that the builder has obstructed the registration process by not getting the mutation done. The building has a very poor drainage system due to which the parking and basement gets flooded. The condition

of the building is deteriorating. The junction joint is waterproof. Due to which water keeps flowing to the lower floors. The builder's representatives failed to give satisfactory answers to all the above mentioned complaints. The residents have welcomed this review and hope that all the above mentioned works will be completed as soon as possible. Do not let this happen. On leaving, the residents are preparing to protest against the builder and lodge a collective complaint in RERA. On this occasion, Shani Sharma, Advocate Abhishek Mishra, Upendra Sharma, Jaiprakash Dubey, Matloob Ali, Dev Tiwari and all other residents were present on behalf of the residents.

## Sakshi received PhD/ Doctorate degree

Prayagraj: Sakshi Jaiswal completed her research work and received the PhD/Doctoral degree from the Defense Studies Department of Allahabad University. Sakshi told



that she has achieved this degree under the guidance of Prof. Bharati Das. She started this research work in 2019, which will be completed in 2024. The professor of Allahabad University has also congratulated Sakshi Jaiswal on the completion of her PhD and Doctorate.

## Durga Puja rituals on behalf of Jagat Janani Maa Youth Committee held

Prayagraj: On the auspicious occasion of Shardiya Navratri, Dr. Atul Sharma, along with his wife, family and people of the locality, performed Durga Puja rituals at his residence. In which Ashwani Patel Shriyanshu



Patel Monu Sharma Manilal Yadav Neeraj Sharma Bhaiyyan Yadav Ujjwal Sharma Pankaj Sharma Chhotu Vishwakarma Anees Jitu Verma Ajit Patel Pradum Singh Manish Yadav Kailashnath Vishwakarma Indrajit Sunil Manjeet Avinash Abhishek Patel Sandeep Sahu Shivam KD Dinesh Golu Verma Chaudhary Sameer etc. installed the sacred Kalash. Worshipped Goddess Durga with pure heart, devotion and traditional rituals. Dr. Atul Sharma prayed to Goddess Durga for peace, prosperity and happiness in the lives of all people. In this festival, reverence and devotion towards the nine divine forms of Maa Durga was displayed.

## Anup Guru's birthday celebrated in a unique style

Prayagraj: The 64th birthday of Anup Guru, chief instructor of the Yoga Institute located at Azad Park, was celebrated in a unique way. In the program organized in the morning, Kishore Varshney, President of Morning Walkers Association, wore Angavastra and honored him with a gift. Deepak Aggarwal greeted him by garlanding him. Overwhelmed by the welcome, the yoga instructor, citing his 25 years of service, said that



through exercise, yoga, pranayam, proper eating habits and a balanced life, it is possible to increase people's lifespan by 10-20 years. Said that pranayama proved to be extremely effective during Corona. Later, food was distributed to 64 monks on the banks of Sangam. Vice President Arvind Singh welcomed everyone while Secretary RK Chauhan proposed the vote of thanks. The main attraction was the singing performance by Ranjana Keswani. At the end people enjoyed refreshments. Senior Advocate Yashath, Dr. Prakash Khaitan, Ravindra Srivastava, Jitendra Jaiswal, Santosh Ojha, Rajendra Kesarwani, Surendra Srivastava, Alok Gupta, Sanjay Kesarwani, Sushma Jaiswal, Ashok Gupta, KC Swarnkar, Sunil Aggarwal, P.C. Pataria, Sunita Gupta etc. were present.

## Waiting for candidate, BJP workers ready for Phulpur by-elections

Prayagraj: Complete preparation by BJP party workers and organization for the preparation of Phulpur sub assembly elections. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the organization is going to hold sub-assembly elections in all the 10 assemblies of Uttar Pradesh, for which the brainstorming of candidates is going on. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that many people have staked claim for the Phulpur sub-assembly election in Prayagraj Ganga Par district, including Goldie Patel, wife of MP Praveen Patel, Nagar Panchayat President Phulpur Amarnath Yadav, former MP Nagendra Singh Patel (Apna Dal), MLA Deepak Patel, Dr. Vikram Singh Patel, Phulpur Block Chief Deependra Patel, Gangapur District President Kavita Patel, Ganga Par District Treasurer Ashish Kesarwani, Regional President Backward Class Morcha Ashwani Kumar Patel, Arun Singh Patel, Ram Prakash Patel, Anirudh Patel, etc. The nomination is going on in full swing and it is expected that very soon the party will announce the name of the candidate and on the strength of Bharatiya Janata Party workers, the lotus will blossom in Phulpur.



## Editorial

### Why Iran, Israel avoided crossing red lines

Ritu Walia

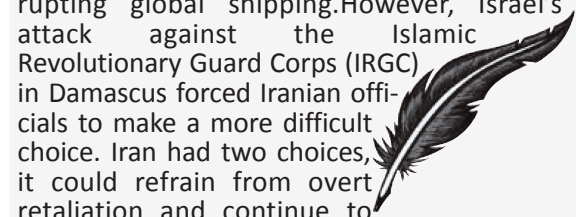
The Israeli reaction took place within the week. On April 19, they struck a military airbase near the city of Isfahan, and Iranian officials also claimed to have shot down small drones near the northern city of Tabriz, but this was downplayed. Isfahan Province, in the centre of Iran, is home to significant Iranian military infrastructure, including a large air base, a major missile production complex, and nuclear facilities. As per reports in the Jerusalem Post, the Israelis were targeting an air defence radar site near Isfahan that's part of the protection of the Natanz nuclear facility. The choreography of missile strikes once again ensured that there were no casualties and, moreover, no targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities. Iranian media and officials described a small number of explosions, which they said resulted from air defences hitting three drones over Isfahan. They referred to the incident as an attack by "infiltrators" rather than by Israel, obviating the need for retaliation. The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, downplaying the attack, said, "They're ... more like toys that our children play with, not drones." He also added, "As long as there is no new adventurism by Israel against our interests, we are not going to have any new reactions." With Israel remaining deadlocked in Gaza, where around 130 Israeli hostages remain but have inflicted more than 34,000 civilian casualties, including women and children, the Iranian strikes must have seemed like a welcome relief as the narrative shifted from the humanitarian crisis Israel is causing in Gaza. Further, in a timing that cannot be a mere coincidence, the US House of Representatives quickly passed an aid package of \$26.38 billion for Israel. With no hostage deal or ceasefire mechanisms apparent, the risk of miscalculation remains high. The region remains in a uniquely dangerous position, in which Prime Minister Netanyahu may feel that he has little choice but to escalate with Iran in order to maintain public support. But responses to the strike within Israel have exposed the country's political fissures. Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir described the strike on Iran as a "feeble" or "lame". In response, Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called for him to be sacked and said his remarks had ridiculed and embarrassed Israel.

#### Things were going Iran's way

Since the 1979 revolution, Iran has taken an anti-Israeli posture and, as part of its deterrence strategy, has cultivated and financed support for the 'axis of resistance' network in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine, surrounding Israel's borders.

The Hamas attack on October 7 suited Iran's agenda. Israel had suffered an unprecedented and humiliating setback; its much-lauded intelligence and defences had failed. Its subsequent actions in Gaza had received widespread condemnation and aligned the Middle Eastern countries against Israel. Israel's war was steadily harming its image, simultaneously exposing the hypocrisy of its Western backers. Israel was getting increasingly isolated internationally due to its disastrous war in Gaza.

The Palestinian cause in the region and around the world had been resurrected. Sympathy for Palestinian, particularly in the West, was more voluble. Iran did not need to intervene; its proxies acted on its behalf. Hezbollah had been routinely shelling Northern Israel, and the Houthis in Yemen have launched numerous unsuccessful missile and drone strikes against Israel, disrupting global shipping. However, Israel's attack against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Damascus forced Iranian officials to make a more difficult choice. Iran had two choices, it could refrain from overt retaliation and continue to benefit from the present situation.



### Maryam Kartarpur Sahib overture points at new Pak thinking

The election results also showed that Imran, despite all that the army and the People's Democratic Movement government had thrown at him, retained a substantial measure of support in Punjab. At the same time the Pakistan Peoples Party did well in Sindh. Very difficult PML(N)-PPP negotiations, clearly overseen by the army, from behind the scenes, followed. The arrangement that emerged saw Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister forming the government with outside PPP support, Asif Zardari becoming president of Pakistan, and Maryam becoming the first woman CM of the Punjab. In this the person who has temporarily lost out is Hamza Sharif

but the final word has not been said on how the reconciliation of political interests between Maryam and Humza will eventually occur.

Now, to return to Maryam's visit to Kartarpur Sahib, she made an impressive speech to the sangat. She struck the right notes. She spoke in chaste Punjabi and projected herself as the daughter of Punjab who was the first woman to become CM in either Pakistani or Indian Punjab. She stressed her family's background in the village of Jati Umra in the Amritsar district from where her grandfather had migrated to Pakistan in 1947. Three other points that she made deserve special mention. One, that Pakistan was a

place where the minorities had the freedom to practice their faith and only recently the country had marked Eid, Easter, Holi and now she had come to be with the Sikh pilgrims at Baisakhi. Maryam's reference to this aspect is part of Pakistan's current endeavour to project itself as a moderate and liberal Muslim country. This is, of course, at variance with the prevalence and growth of extremist Islamist forces which want the country's governance to be strictly in accordance with the Sharia. The second point — and one of great significance — was Maryam's mention of the commonalities between Muslims and Sikhs. She took care to use the formulation

"you" and "us"; thus, carefully avoiding mentioning either Islam or Sikhism or Muslims and Sikhs. Obviously, she did not want to ruffle the feathers of the Pakistani ulema. She said that both "you" and "us" believe in one power which is the supreme power of the universe. She added that both "you" and "us" believe in honest living and earning through righteous means and giving to charity. Finally, Maryam referred to her father Nawaz Sharif's conviction that neighbours should open their hearts to each other and live in peace and also cooperate and trade with each other. It is true that Nawaz has always wanted to trade with India.

# Analysing Raisi's Islamabad visit and its impact on India



What adds an intriguing dimension to Raisi's visit is his distinction as the first foreign leader to initiate diplomatic relations with Pakistan, particularly against the backdrop of the recent contentious general elections held in the country on February 8. This context imbues Raisi's visit with heightened significance, revealing the intricate nuances and delicate balancing acts inherent in regional diplomacy. President Raisi's diplomatic journey warrants careful consideration, occurring amidst the backdrop of his designation as a target of sanctions under Executive Order 13876 by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control. This layer of complexity adds a nuanced dimension to his diplomatic engagements, underscoring the delicate balancing act required in navigating international relations. Moreover, Raisi's trip is shadowed by grave allegations of human rights abuses, with numerous international bodies and United Nations special rapporteurs highlighting these concerns. Such allegations have previously led to the cancellation of his planned trip to Geneva in 2023, indicating the significant scrutiny surrounding his diplomatic activities and the challenges they entail.

#### Recent developments in Iran-Pakistan diplomacy

The Iranian president's visit to Pakistan arises against a background of recent hostility

amid talks covering religious, cultural, investment, and diplomatic spheres. Iran reportedly launched missile strikes on two strongholds of the anti-Iranian rebel organisation Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) on January 16 in the province of Baluchistan, Pakistan. A major actor in the ongoing tensions between Iran and Pakistan is Jaish al-Adl, which was founded in 2012 by Abdul Rahim Mollazehi as a breakaway faction of Jundullah. As an "unprovoked violation" of its airspace, Pakistan denounced the bombing. The assault posed a threat to Pakistan's formidable army chief, Gen Asim Munir, whose reputation for toughness and resolve has been a point of contention in his relations with other nations as well as at home. This made political analysts wonder if Iran respected Pakistan's sovereignty. Retaliating quickly, Pakistan launched a surprise

attack two days later using fighter jets and missiles directed at the purported hideouts of anti-Pakistan ethno-nationalist insurgents in the Sistan-Baluchistan region who were allegedly operating from Iranian soil. In light of worries about regional security, these incidents do highlight the complex and unstable dynamics that define Iran and Pakistan's relationship, especially as root causes of terrorism, smuggling, and border infiltration are not addressed. Pakistan serves as Iran's primary regional ally against adversaries such as Saudi Arabia and other Western powers. Iran's keen interest in joining China's economic corridor initiative aligns with Pakistan's close ties to Beijing. Notably, over 70 per cent of the electricity in Pakistan's Gwadar port city is sourced from Iran. The proposed gas pipelines, including the "peace pipeline" intended to

supply Iranian gas to India via Pakistan, have faced setbacks, notably India's withdrawal in 2009 due to US sanctions on Iran. However, Iran and Pakistan remain committed, signing a separate gas supply agreement. Notably, in June of that year, both nations entered into a multibillion-dollar agreement to develop a gas pipeline. However, while Tehran successfully completed construction of a 900-kilometre pipeline on its side by 2011, Islamabad still grapples with the task of installing 80 kilometres of pipeline on its territory. This discrepancy has sparked tensions, with Tehran issuing warnings of potential legal action and threats of an \$18 billion fine due to missed deadlines. Despite Islamabad's recent pledge to finalise the project by September of this year, doubts linger over its feasibility. The primary obstacle remains Pakistan's apprehension of invoking U.S. sanctions, a concern that has consistently hindered progress, echoing previous justifications for delays. Conversely, assuming a hostile stance towards Iran upsets the delicate equilibrium of Pakistan's already complicated neighbourly ties. Tensions with India continue despite a current cease-fire along the border. The Taliban's support for the TTP's anti-Pakistan insurgency has caused relations between the two parties to

deteriorate dramatically on Pakistan's western border. The recent deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has further caused tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. During Raisi's visit, the Pentagon warned of sanctions for those engaging in business with Iran. Three Chinese firms aiding Pakistan's missile programme were recently sanctioned for WMD proliferation. Iran immediately shot back, stating that Israeli aggression on Iranian soil will result in a drastic shift in the balance of power. Raisi warned Israel on Tuesday: "Things will be different if the Zionist regime commits an error once again. If Tel Aviv attacks Iran once more, 'Israel will be completely different' and 'there will be nothing left of the Zionist regime.' According to Iranian Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, Tehran is optimistic that India will start purchasing crude from them again, as it did prior to May 2019, when the purchases stopped due to US sanctions against the West Asian nation. In order to advance the Chabahar Port project and strengthen bilateral relations, President Ebrahim Raisi might visit India later this year. Bypassing Pakistan completely, India will have access to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port, a symbol of strategic and economic cooperation between Iran and India.

### Defence spending shoots up as conflicts rise globally

Total global military expenditure reached an all-time high of \$2443 billion in 2023, an increase of 6.8 per cent in real terms from 2022. This was the steepest year-on-year increase since 2009. The 10 largest spenders in 2023 were led by the United States, China, and Russia, all of whom increased their military spending. It was the ninth consecutive year of a rise in military spending. Also, it was the first time since 2009 that military expenditure went up in all five of the geographical regions. Particularly large increases were seen in Europe, Asia, Oceania, and West Asia. Clearly, there is a deterioration in peace and security. As the states prioritise military expenditure and strength, there is a risk of a spiral effect in the

neighbourhood. Russia's military spending increased by 24 per cent to an estimated \$109 billion in 2023, marking a 57 per cent rise since 2014, the year that Russia annexed Crimea. The Russian 2023 military expenditure was 16 per cent of total government spending and 5.9 per cent of GDP. Russia's military and war-related spending is set to rise sharply in 2024 under new federal budget plans for 2024-26 signed into law by President Vladimir Putin in November 2023. The plans suggest that the Russian government is committed to pursuing the war to a successful conclusion. Some have questioned the economic assumptions, though. Russia's rising debt burden has also meant reduced allocations to some key social

spending, including housing, education, and healthcare. Ukraine was the 8th largest military spender in 2023. Yearly spending surged 51 per cent to reach \$64.8 billion. It represented 58 per cent of total government annual spending. Interestingly, this spending was 59 per cent of Russia's defence expenditure. Ukraine also received at least \$35 billion in military aid during the year, including \$25.4 billion from the USA. When combining the two, it became

91 per cent of Russian spending. The US remains NATO's major spender, but European members have increased their share. In 2023, the 31 NATO members accounted for \$1,341 billion, equal to 55 per cent of the global military expenditure.

### Pro-India hare and hunting with anti-India hounds

India has not just become the "only bright spot" economically, as the IMF wants us to believe, but also diplomatically and geostrategically, the country has started behaving like a global power. Image: REUTERS In 2021, The New York Times posted an online advertisement for the job of a South Asia business correspondent based in New Delhi. One of the requirements sought for the position even startled the staunchest of NYT supporters. For, the American newspaper, quite categorically, sought the candidate to be critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his "muscular nationalism". Explaining its stand, the newspaper wrote, "India's future now stands at a crossroads. Mr (Narendra) Modi is advocating a self-sufficient, muscular nationalism centred on the country's Hindu majority. That vision puts him at odds with the interfaith, multicultural goals of modern India's founders." Interestingly, the NYT has never put such preconditions for postings in Hong Kong or in mainland China. It has never asked the applicants to prove their pro-democratic credentials for a position in Hong Kong, or to publicly criticise Emperor Xi Jinping for a job in Beijing. If one thought the problem was NYT-centric, then hang on. Others in the West, too, aren't behind in targeting Prime Minister Modi and India. The Time magazine, for instance, just when Prime Minister Modi landed in Washington, DC, for his first official state visit in June 2023, questioned the very idea of India being an American ally. "India is not a US ally, and has not wanted to become one," a Time article thundered on 21 June. Interestingly, an even more scathing article appeared in the magazine a day earlier—on 20 June: "India's Worsening Democracy Makes It an Unreliable Ally." The Economist isn't behind either. It has often reproached Prime Minister Modi for stoking "divisions in the world's biggest democracy". It has singled out the Modi government

for its "flagrantly biased approach to citizenship" and delivering "collective punishment" for the people of the Kashmir Valley. It goes on to say that the "electoral nectar for the BJP" has become "political poison for India". It would, however, be wrong to assume that Western prejudice is only Modi-centric. Although it is today largely influenced and inspired by anti-Modism, prejudice is deeply entrenched against India and its rising global influence. This explains why the West has very rarely celebrated India's dance with democracy in the past seven decades. This despite the fact that India since Independence has been a case of democratic miracle—the only genuine democracy in the region between Israel and South Korea. Moreover, no other country, despite socio-political advancements and economic prosperity, comes even closer to India's democratic successes. What the country could achieve in 75 years, it took Britain and the United States centuries to reach there. Interestingly, in the given timeframe, the US found itself amid the Civil War which almost tore the country into two halves, but for Abraham Lincoln's sagacious leadership. It took the US another 50 years to make voting gender neutral and 100 years to give the Blacks the basic voting rights—something that India bestowed upon its citizens in one go in 1947 despite unprecedented poverty and astounding illiteracy. Yet, in the 1950s and '60s, the West was busy writing democratic India's obituaries: Its balkanisation was a foregone conclusion, and the only thing keeping the country together was Nehru! "What after Nehru?", was the most obvious question being asked during those times. After Nehru, during Indira Gandhi's time, the democrats of America and Britain found great comfort in Mao's company and had even dispatched an aircraft carrier, Enterprise, to bully India at the height of the Bangladesh war!



## Hotel Association of India organises Sustainability Conclave, Life@100

**GURUGRM :** The Hotel Association of India (HAI) organised a Sustainability Conclave: Life @ 100 reaffirming the commitment of its Members to sustainable practices in their operations and policies. The Conclave was organised in partnership with M/s Jaquar Group at their LEED platinum certified office located in Manesar. Mr. Suman Billa Additional Secretary (Tourism) Government of India in his key note address at the Event emphasized the need for growing responsibly, setting collective goals and the need of a proactive role of the industry in the policy framework. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. K.B. Kachru, President HAI Chairman – South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, while re-iterating HAI's commitment to responsible tourism emphasised collaboration among stakeholders, industry and government as the key to success. Investment in training and resources that empower hotels to progress on their respective journeys of sustainability is the other factor what will drive India to its goals of Netzero he said. The highlight of the Event was the HAI pledge for Life administered by the Association's Vice President, Mr. Rohit Khosla Executive Vice President (Operations) IHCL in which Members committed to make all efforts to make their hotels net zero



by 2050 well ahead of the government target of making India net zero by 2070. While congratulating the Association, Ms. Mugdha Sinha, DG (Tourism) Gol in a special video message made perceptive comments about the responsibilities of circular economy, and how small steps from every person can make all the difference. She spoke about green tourism, green energy, capacity building and the need for comprehensive planning of infrastructure aligned with nature. She highlighted the importance of strong collaboration and synergy between the industry and the government. The ministry of environment forests and climate change (MoEFCC) was represented by its Additional Secretary, Dr. Amandeep Garg who made a comprehensive and informative presentation on government's initiative of LiFE (Lifestyle for environment) succinctly bringing out the many dimensions of the concept and also identifying how to implement it in the tourism sector.

## JCB India launches its most fuel-efficient Tracked Excavator

**FARIDABAD :** India's leading Manufacturer of Earthmoving and Construction Equipment, JCB India, today launched its JCB NXT 215 LC Fuel Master Tracked Excavator at its state-of-the-art factory in Pune. In addition to its introduction to the domestic market, the machine will also be exported to countries around the world. The JCBNXT 215 LC Fuel Master has been extensively engineered to reduce fuel consumption by 14% compared to the previous model. It has been tested for demanding working cycles for Indian operations and significantly benefits customers through reduced operating costs. Speaking at the event, JCB India CEO and Managing Director, Mr. Deepak Shetty said, "Innovation has been the cornerstone of our operations in India for over four



decades. This new machine has been engineered to enhance the profitability of our customers through a significant reduction in fuel consumption of 14%. It will lead to a better return on their investments in today's competitive working environment" This has been possible through optimised Hydraulics using JCB's Intelliflow Hydraulics technology. The machine now gives real-time fuel consumption data through the onboard interface screen as

well as over LiveLink which is JCB's innovative remote monitoring solution. Improvement in fuel efficiency can lead to an estimated savings of Rs. 2.90 Lacs per year, a direct saving for JCB's customers. In addition to this, new feature of auto engine long idle stop avoids wastage of fuel wastage in case engine is idling for long. Importance and have significantly enhanced the pace of work as India becomes a strong global economy.

## CAPSULES

### Hyundai Motor India Limited's initial public offering to open on October 15, 2024



**HARYANA :** Hyundai Motor India Limited (the "Company"), a part of the Hyundai Motor Group, which is the third largest auto OEM in the world based on passenger vehicle sales in CY2023, according to the CRISIL Report, proposes to open its initial public offering of Equity Shares ("Offer") on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

The Anchor Investor Bidding Date is one Working Day prior to Bid/Offer Opening Date, being Monday, October 14, 2024. The Bid/ Offer Closing Date is Thursday, October 17, 2024. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed from ? 1,865 per Equity Share to ? 1,960 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 7 Equity Shares and multiples of 7 Equity Shares thereafter.

The Company's initial public offering comprises an offer for sale of up to 142,194,700 Equity Shares by Hyundai Motor Company (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder").

## Eraaya Lifespaces Ltd.'s Indian Flagship Subsidiary Ebix Cash secures major Contract with Punjab National Bank for Network Integrating Services

**Chandigarh:** Eraaya Lifespaces Limited (BSE: 531035) has announced that Indian flagship subsidiary of its recently acquired business, Ebix Cash Limited, has secured a significant contract for Network Integrating Services with Punjab National Bank (PNB), one of India's top three public sector banks. The contract, valued at approximately INR 138.75 crores, awarded for another 3 years, not only showcases the company's capabilities but also highlights its dominance and the vast opportunities available to the company in this vital sector of the economy, driving inclusive

growth and enhancing access to banking services across the nation. Since 2021, Ebix has been responsible for managing Punjab National Bank's enterprise-wide network across India. The company is proud to confirm that this contract has been renewed for an additional three years, starting on October 1, 2024. The services covered under this contract will encompass PNB's extensive network, including 10,800 branches, 5,000 ATMs, and 4,000 branches of PNB-sponsored Regional Rural Banks. Additionally, Ebix Cash will manage the state-of-the-art

Data Centre located in Delhi, the Advanced Network Operations Centre, and the Disaster Recovery Centre in Mumbai, along with 13 zonal offices and 131 circle offices. To support this vast network, over 1100 personnel comprising of 600+ dedicated Ebix employees, supported by a widespread network of field force, reaches over 20,000 locations, to address any at-site technical issues, conducting preventive maintenance, and coordinating effectively. "Ebix stands at the threshold of an extraordinary journey, defined by resilience and an unwavering commitment to

excellence. Today marks a pivotal moment as we reflect on our achievements while embracing the promising resurgence that lies ahead following our acquisition of Ebix Inc. Our dedicated team is diligently streamlining operations and leveraging our core strengths," remarked Mr. Vikas Garg, the visionary entrepreneur steering Eraaya and Ebix business toward unprecedented heights. "This journey transcends mere figures; it centres on our people. We are actively listening to our patrons, refining our strategies, and rejuvenating our brand.

## Mr. Abheek Barua - Chief Economist, HDFC Bank commented on RBI Credit Policy

**HISAR/ AMBALA:** The RBI changed its stance to neutral while keeping its policy rate changed at 6.5%. Today's policy announcement emphasised the centrality of domestic conditions in monetary policy decision making. Post the rate cuts by several G7 central banks in recent days, some sections of the market had anticipated that it could trigger a response and influence domestic rate decisions as well. However, the policy announcement today only made a peripheral mention of the differential global monetary policy actions, focussing more on domestic devel-



opments. The RBI acknowledged the durable disinflationary trend underway although highlighting lingering domestic and global risks – signalling future rate action would be data dependent.

Given this, if conditions evolve favourably over the coming months, a December rate cut is not off the table. The central bank also signalled

## TVS Radeon Now comes in All-New Black Edition

**GURUGRAM:** TVS Motor Company (TVSM), a leading global automaker that operates in the two and three-wheeler segments, today announced the launch of its new all-black Edition in TVS Radeon. This latest addition expands the TVS Radeon lineup to three distinct variants, catering to diverse customer preferences. The new TVS Radeon all-black edition is powered by the proven 110cc ETEFi engine, known for its high performance and exceptional mileage. It comes equipped with an electric self-start system, a long-cushioned seat for enhanced comfort, and a USB charger provision, making it ideal for daily commuting needs. In line with TVS Motor's commitment in meeting diverse customer preferences, the new TVS Radeon Black Edition is attractively priced at Rs.



70,190 (ex-showroom Haryana). The appeal of black has long resonated with riders, symbolizing power and timeless charm. In addition to its striking black finish, the TVS Radeon continues to offer a range of attractive colours across its variants, including Metal Black, Starlight Blue, Royal Purple, and dual-tone options in the Digi Edition. TVS Radeon has earned a strong reputation for durability and performance, and it recently topped the JD Power IQS 2024 appeal study, further establishing its status as a leading choice in the commuter segment.

**Key Features of the TVS Radeon**

- **Powerful 110cc ETEFi Engine:** The TVS Radeon is equipped with a robust and efficient 110cc ETEFi engine, delivering high mileage without compromising on performance.
- **Electric Self-Start:** Convenient and reliable, the electric self-start ensures hassle-free ignition, enhancing the overall riding experience.
- **Comfort and Convenience:** The motorcycle features a long, cushioned seat and a USB charger provision, catering to the needs of everyday commuters and long-distance riders alike.
- **Advanced Technology:** The TVS Radeon includes a chrome bezel headlamp with Daytime Running Lamp (DRL), a Reverse LCD Cluster with Real-Time Mileage Indicator, and an all-gear electric start system, offering riders a blend of advanced technology.

## Scanpoint Geomatics Ltd shortlisted for prestigious Defense sector project

**Chandigarh:** Scanpoint Geomatics Ltd. engaged in the design and development of Indigenous Geospatial software known as IGIS (Integrated GIS and Image Processing Software) in joint development partnership with SAC-ISRO has been shortlisted for a project from Indian Armed Forces under the Make In India and Indian Design Development and Manufacturing initiatives. This project aims to promote indigenous design, development, and manufacturing capabilities for the armed forces. Meanwhile, for Q1FY25 the company reported a net profit increase of 104%, while revenue from operations increased by 417%. The company plans to foray into the business of Commodities, solar projects and EPC contracting, to leverage its core capabilities into satellite image processing and other GIS IT enabling task.

## Farmer leader Thakur Guni Prakash congratulated Nayab Saini on becoming Chief Minister for the second time



**Kaithal:** BKU Mann Group Haryana State President and member of MSP Committee constituted by the Central Government, Thakur Guni Prakash Faral said that Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini is a farmer's son and understands the pain of farmers and will never let the interests of farmers be harmed. He said that Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, on assuming the post of Chief Minister for the first time, took a commendable step in the interest of farmers and gave compensation of Rs 108 crore for the damaged cotton crop with the first pen and now on becoming the Chief Minister of Haryana for the second time, he will take many commendable steps in the interest of farmers and work in the interest of farmers. The BKU State President was talking after congratulating Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini on the formation of BJP government for the third time in Haryana under the leadership of Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini. BKU State General Secretary Praveen Mathana was specially present with him. BKU State President Thakur Guni Prakash said that

soon a delegation of BKU will meet Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini at Chandigarh residence and will put forth the problems and demands of the farmers before the Chief Minister and demand will be made for the purchase of crops and market arrangements of the farmers, so that the farmers can get relief from the difficulties in selling their crops. He has full faith that the farmer-friendly Chief Minister will solve all the problems of the farmers and will implement many schemes for the upliftment and welfare of the farmers, which will benefit the farmers completely.

He demanded from the government that along with giving open market to the farmers, MSP has never been in the interest of the farmers, farmers

should get a profitable price for their crops on the basis of market cost. The Essential Commodities Act was implemented by the previous government in 1955, which should be repealed in the interest of the farmers and farmers should get economic freedom.

**Chief Minister Saini will soon be accorded a grand welcome in Mathana village**  
Farmer leader Thakur Guni Prakash Faral said that a state level conference will soon be organized in Mathana village of Kurukshetra for the interests of farmers.

It will be presided over by BKU national president and former MP Sardar Bhupendra Singh Maan and the chief guest will be Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini.



## 2021 post-poll violence: 'Showing as if there is hostile environment in whole Bengal,' SC tells CBI

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



ing by. Additional solicitor general SV Raju, representing the CBI, said the application was badly drafted and withdrew it. Several incidents of violence were reported at various places after the announcement of the assembly poll results on May 2, 2021. After the incident, the Union home ministry sought a detailed report from the Bengal government on the "post-election violence targeting opposition political workers in the state" that left 11 people dead by the

evening of the result day. BJP reported six deaths in the alleged backlash, including of a party worker in Kolkata who was lynched soon after he posted videos on Facebook narrating how goons killed his pet dogs, and of an elderly woman in North 24-Parganas trying to save her son from a mob. Trinamool said it lost four workers in the wave of alleged political vendetta even as CM and party chief Mamata Banerjee appealed for peace. The ISF, which partnered

Core sector growth drops to 6.3% in September

### Core sector growth drops to 6.3% in September

In the eight key industries grew 6.3% year-on-year, down from 6.7% in mostly due to weaker steel, refinery products, and crude oil output, the commerce ministry. Core sector growth was 5.2% in May 2023. As a sequential measure, core sector output grew 3.7% in May. May output usually rises from April. In the preceding 12 years, the month-on-month growth averaged 6.8%, but this year it was lower. "A combination of factors, including the heat-wave over parts of the country and the phased parliamentary elections, could have curtailed

### Jharkhand moves contempt plea against Centre in SC for delay in appointing CJ

**NEW DELHI:** In a first, Jharkhand government has moved Supreme Court seeking contempt of court action against the Centre for its "deliberate and wilful" delay in implementing the SC collegium's July 11 resolution recommending appointment of Justice M S Ramachandra Rao as chief justice of the state, reported. In its petition, the Hemant Soren govt

## Supreme Court's YouTube channel hacked, streams videos promoting cryptocurrency

**NEW DELHI:** The official YouTube channel of the Supreme Court of India was hacked on Friday. The channel, which is typically used to live stream hearings of Constitution Bench cases and matters of public interest, is now showing videos promoting XRP, a cryptocurrency developed by the US-based company Ripple Labs. The incident came to light when a blank video titled "Brad Garlinghouse: Ripple Responds To The SEC's \$2 Billion Fine! XRP PRICE PREDICTION" went live on the channel. Brad Garlinghouse is the CEO of Ripple Labs, a company that has been in legal disputes with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The hackers also seem to have made earlier videos of Supreme Court hearings private. This comes as the SC was scheduled to hear several crucial cases including a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that seeks a fixed time limit for the



Centre to notify the appointment of judges recommended by the SC Collegium. Another important case on the docket is SpiceJet's plea against a Delhi high court verdict grounding three of its aircraft engines due to payment defaults. Additionally, the Court was set

to hear a plea from the Muslim side contesting an Allahabad high court order, which rejected their challenge on the maintainability of cases filed by Hindu parties related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute. Recently, Supreme Court also live streamed hearing in the

sensitive RG Kar hospital and college rape and murder case. SC started live streaming proceedings of all constitution bench hearings following a path-breaking verdict on the matter in 2018 in a unanimous decision taken by a full court meeting headed by then CJ UU Lalit.

## Fire those responsible: Anna Sebastian Perayil's parents to EY officials after daughter's tragic death

**KOCHI:** The officials of Ernst and Young (EY) visited the home of late Anna Sebastian Perayil in Kangarapady, Kochi. In the meeting held on Wednesday, Sebastian's parents made an appeal to the company to terminate the employees who were

responsible for their daughter's untimely demise. Sibi Joseph, Sebastian's father, said, "Four EY officials had come here, and we reiterated our concerns to them." According to Joseph, the letter penned by his wife was sent as a personal email to the

head of EY India immediately after their daughter's passing. He said neither he nor any other family member had disclosed the letter's content to the public. "The letter was leaked from EY's Pune office, which means there are many people similarly

suffering in the company who want the letter to be out in public," Joseph remarked. Joseph clarified that the letter's purpose was to raise awareness among the company's top executives to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

### Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Violence Helpline for Women

**Delhi:** Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Former Union Minister for Women and Child Development, inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline number 7827170170 today to improve women's safety and security nationwide and advance the Union Government's goals. The helpline supports women afflicted by vio-

lence 24/7 online by referring them to police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological treatments, etc. Smt. Irani praised the NCW and the new helpline at a virtual launch. In times of need, this digital helpline assures women that their government and Commission would support them.

## The preparation process, called 'dittam', dictates the specific ingredients

**NEW DELHI:** The 'laddu prasadam' offered at the sacred shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, renowned for its unique taste, is cherished by devotees across India and beyond. These iconic laddus are meticulously prepared in the temple's kitchen, known as the 'Potu.'

**Distribution** Making of Tirupati laddus The preparation process, called 'dittam', dictates the specific ingredients and their quantities. The recipe has only been altered six times in its history. According to a 2016 TTD report, the laddus have a divine fragrance. Initially, the boondi made from besan and jaggery syrup was created to increase the prasadam's shelf life. Later, almonds, cashews, and raisins were added to enhance both flavor and nutritional value.



### '3 Lakh laddus, Rs 500 crore sales'

Each day, TTD prepares and distributes around 3 lakh laddus at Tirumala, earning approximately Rs 500 crore annually from laddu sales. Each day, TTD prepares and distributes around 3 lakh laddus at Tirumala. **History** The offering of Tirupati laddus dates back over 300 years, starting in 1715. In 2014, the Tirupati laddu received GI status, preventing anyone else from selling laddus under that name. **Quality control** A state-of-the-art food testing laboratory ensures the quality of each batch of laddus,

which must contain precise amounts of cashew, sugar, and cardamom, and weigh exactly 175 grams. TTD was paying Rs 320 per kg for ghee from the blacklisted contractor, but now procures it at Rs 475 per kg from Karnataka. Presence of foreign fats In July, lab tests revealed the presence of foreign fats in the ghee supplied by AR Dairy Foods, leading TTD to blacklist the contractor and switch to Karnataka Milk Federation. Earlier, TTD was paying Rs 320 per kg for ghee from the blacklisted contractor, but now procures it at Rs 475 per kg from Karnataka.

## SUV being driven on the wrong side on Golf Course Road in DLF 2 early on Sunday morning

**GURGAON:** A 23-year-old man died after his bike had a head-on collision with an SUV being driven on the wrong side on Golf Course Road in DLF 2 early on Sunday morning. The SUV driver was detained and later released on bail. Police said biker Akshat Garg was from Pochanpur in Dwarka. The SUV driver, Kuldeep Kumar Thakur (25), is a resident of Ghitorni and the co-founder of a PR company. According to police, Garg and his friend Pradyuman Kumar (22) left Dwarka early on Sunday morning for a ride on separate bikes. The duo first went to DLF Downtown, following which they planned to meet a group of riders at Ambience Mall. Kumar said Garg had taken all precautions and was wearing a helmet and other safety gear. Kumar was following him on another motorcycle on Golf Course Road when the accident happened near Belvedere Towers around 5.25am. A Mahindra XUV 300 car, driven by Thakur, suddenly appeared and Garg's bike collided head-on with it, Kumar said. Thakur was driving the car in the wrong direction on the one-way lane, he added. "I was around 100ft behind Garg and witnessed the accident. I rushed to him. While some passersby caught hold of the SUV driver, others called up the police and an ambulance. I was with Akshat trying to remove his helmet and waiting for the ambulance. But by the time it arrived, he had stopped breathing," Kumar said. Kumar alleged that Thakur was driving on the wrong side of the road at a high speed, leading to the death of his friend. "The SUV also had a sticker of a BJP candidate. Police didn't accept footage of the accident recorded by my GoPro camera, which I had installed on my helmet as evidence.

## 'Stripped, tied my legs, threw me into room': Army captain's fiancée shares 'torture' story

**BHUBANESWAR:** An Army officer's fiancée who was allegedly tortured by cops at Bhubaneswar's Bharatpur police station on Sept 15, recounted her horrifying ordeal after being released from jail. The 32-year-old restaurateur-cum-lawyer broke down and alleged that the inspector-in-charge (IIC) Dinakrushna Mishra and four other personnel, who were suspend-



ed on Wednesday, stripped her and kicked her. "The IIC's barbarism crossed all limits. He made inappropriate gestures at me," said the victim, who was arrested by police on charges of attacking a

lady police officer. The five policemen have denied all charges and are now facing a probe by the crime branch. The victim said police framed her in the false case and arrested her to save their own skin.

The Orissa high court granted her bail on Wednesday. According to the woman, she and her fiancé were returning home after shutting her restaurant late at night on Sept 15 when they were waylaid and assaulted by hooligans. Woman seeks arrest of IIC, other cops They immediately went to Bharatpur police station to file a complaint, but instead of receiving help, they were treated like criminals.

## When 'future stars' Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli scored 'identical' hundreds against Australia in 2008

**NEW DELHI:** Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, two of India's greatest modern-day cricketers, began their international careers around the same time, and both had humble beginnings before rising to global stardom. Their early career journey together is marked by a mixture of learning, growth, and moments of brilliance. Rohit made his ODI debut in June 2007, just

before the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa. He gained attention during that T20 World Cup when he played a crucial knock of 50\* against South Africa in a group match and was part of India's title-winning squad. However, despite early promise, Rohit struggled with consistency in his initial years, often batting in the middle order. Virat made his debut a year later in

2008 after leading India to a U-19 World Cup victory earlier that year. He initially came into the team as a replacement for senior players and showed glimpses of his talent but, like Rohit, took time to establish himself. Kohli's first few years saw him used mostly in the middle order, and his performances were up and down as he adapted to international cricket. The Australian cricket

team toured India in 2008 for the Border Gavaskar Trophy. India won the series 2-0, their biggest margin of victory over Australia in a Test series at the time. The series marked the retirement of Anil Kumble, one of India's greatest bowlers and captain during the first three Tests. It also witnessed the farewell of Sourav Ganguly.



## Students celebrated Green Consumer Day by participating in cycle rally: Message of clean environment given by planting trees

**Chandigarh:** Maharishi Dayanand Public School, Daria, in collaboration with the Environment Department, Chandigarh Administration, organized a cycle rally and planted trees on the occasion of Green Consumer Day. Most of the students of Eco Club of the school participated in the cycle rally. On this occasion, as the chief guest environment lover Pradeep Triveni, Maharishi Dayanand Public School Principal Dr. Vinod Sharma, school staff and students were present. A cycle club was also formed in the school. Pradeep Triveni planted trees with the students



on Consumer Day and told them that trees have a special significance in our lives. Along with Triveni, students took a pledge to celebrate their birthday by planting trees. Throwing light on the importance of Consumer Day, Triveni said that we should reuse the used things so that we can

save the rapidly changing climate. He said that while cooking vegetables at home, the leftover peels should not be mixed with plastic in the garbage but should be kept separately so that it can be transferred to the compost. He said that notebooks should not be thrown away but the leftover pages should be

reused and pages should be taken out from different notebooks and a notebook should be made so that trees can be saved from being cut. We will move forward only with small efforts. He also praised the cycle club established in the school. During the cycle rally, Dr. Vinod Sharma said that cycling keeps a person healthy. Today people use vehicles to complete small tasks. This is increasing pollution. The environment has become unbalanced due to the smoke coming out of these vehicles. People are suffering from many diseases. He told the students that they should also use

cycles a lot in their daily lives. Use only the cycle track while riding a bicycle. The students said that they will use bicycles in future and will also inspire other people to ride a bicycle by making them aware of its benefits. The students told the people that they should also include cycling in their daily routine. They appealed to cooperate in making the environment clean by planting as many trees as possible. Anju Modgil, the Vice Principal of the school said that only trees can give us a clean environment. They are our true well-wishers. All creatures can be happy only if trees and plants are safe.

## Association of Physicians of India (API) and Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Launch "National BP Screening Day" on the 18th of Every Month as Part of the "Take Charge @ 18" campaign

**GURGAON:** Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Limited (Glenmark), a researched, global pharmaceutical company, and a leader in cardiovascular disease management, today launched the "Take Charge @18" movement at the Gateway of India. This Hypertension Awareness initiative emphasizes the critical importance of early blood pressure monitoring beginning at age 18. The Association of Physicians of India (API) has designated the 18th of every month as "Take charge at 18 - BP Screening Day" encouraging all adults to prioritize regular blood pressure checks to protect heart health. This collaboration represents a significant effort by Glenmark and API to enhance hypertension awareness and diagnosis. The movement was inaugurated with a



dynamic two-hour 3D video projection at the Gateway of India, effectively illustrating the critical importance of early blood pressure monitoring. This innovative display served as a powerful visual call to action, reinforcing the campaign's commitment to raising awareness and educating people about hypertension. This impactful event was live-streamed, reaching over 1,00,000 healthcare professionals across various platforms. Glenmark aims to educate 10 crore Indians about hypertension through this initia-

tive. This Campaign addresses a crucial gap in awareness regarding the appropriate age to begin blood pressure monitoring. Many young adults are currently at risk of developing hypertension[1] and its life-threatening complications, including heart attacks, which have surged among Indian youth. Glenmark's comprehensive approach includes connecting approximately 1,00,000 healthcare professionals to emphasize the importance of early blood pressure screening among youth.

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

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday pulled up the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking transfer of West Bengal post-poll violence cases on the ground that there is a "hostile environment" in the state courts. The top court rapped the central investigation agency's remark, saying not liking a particular state "does not allow them to cast aspersion on the entire state judiciary". "Mr Raju (additional solicitor general) what kind of grounds are taken in this? That all courts in West Bengal

have hostile environment? Blanket averment that courts are illegally granting bail. This is casting aspersions that the entire judiciary is under hostile environment," Justice Abhay Oka was quoted as saying by. Additional solicitor general SV Raju, representing the CBI, said the application was badly drafted and withdrew it. Several incidents of violence were reported at various places after the announcement of the assembly poll results on May 2, 2021. After the incident, the

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

## Sultan Jadoula was given a grand welcome in his village Dhand, Faral and Pabnawa



**Pundri:** As part of the election public relations campaign, Congress candidate from Pundri Assembly Constituency, Sultan Singh Jadaula was given a grand welcome in villages Dhand, Faral and Pabnawa including many other villages and was honoured with flower garlands, turban and memento by people from 36 communities who gave their open support and announced to make him win with record breaking votes. Sultan Jadaula participated in the refreshment celebrations organized at hundreds of places in the aforesaid villages and appealed to the people of 36 communities to vote in his favour. While addressing the villagers, Congress candidate Sultan Singh Jadaula said while reiterating the resolution of the Congress that party's State in-charge Deepak Babaria, Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Choudhary Bhupinder Singh Hooda,

Congress President Choudhary When the Congress government comes under the leadership of Udaybhan and MP Deepender Singh Hooda, the elderly will get the highest old age pension of Rs. 6000 in the country, old pension scheme for employees, free plots of 100 yards each and 2 room houses worth Rs. 3.5 lakhs to poor families, MSP guarantee for farmers, 300 units of free electricity to every family, players will be linked with the Bring Medal, Get a Post policy, every housewife will get a domestic gas cylinder for Rs. 500, timely appointment of youth on 2 lakh vacant government posts, every village, city and Pundri assembly constituency of state will be linked with the development of the previous Hooda government. Sultan Jadoula said that he has never done caste politics and will never do it in his life. Taking every section along,

## Rate of unemployment unchanged at 3.2% in year ending June 2024

**NEW DELHI:** The unemployment rate in the country for those in the 15 years and above category remained unchanged at 3.2% in 2023-24, while joblessness rate for women inched up to 3.2% from 2.9% in the previous year, official data showed on Monday. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report for July 2023 to June 2024 released by National Sample Survey Office also showed that the labour force participation rate (LFPR) for both females and males rose to a seven-year high during 2023-24. The LFPR is defined as percentage of persons working or seeking or available for work in the population. The PLFS annual report, which covers both rural and urban areas, showed LFPR for women rose to 41.7% in 2023-24, up from 37% in previous year. Rate of joblessness down from 5.3% in 2017-18 to 2.5% in 2023-25 in rural areas.



## '3 lakh laddus daily, Rs 500 crore revenue annually': Tirupati's sacred sweet takes a sour turn after ghee adulteration charges

**NEW DELHI:** The 'laddu prasadam' offered at the sacred shrine of Lord Venkateswara in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, renowned for its unique taste, is cherished by devotees across India and beyond. These iconic laddus are meticulously prepared in the temple's kitchen, known as the 'Potu.'

### Distribution

Making of Tirupati laddus

The preparation process, called 'dittam', dictates the specific ingredients and their quantities. The recipe has only been altered six times in its history. According to a 2016 TTD report, the laddus have a divine fragrance. Initially, the boondi made from besan and jaggery syrup was created to increase the prasadam's shelf life. Later, almonds, cashews, and raisins were added to enhance both flavor and nutritional value.

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### History

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### Quality control

A state-of-the-art food testing laboratory ensures the quality of each batch of laddus, which must contain precise amounts of cashew, sugar, and cardamom, and weigh exactly 175 grams. TTD was paying Rs 320 per kg for ghee from the blacklisted contractor, but now procures it at Rs 475 per kg from Karnataka.

### Presence of foreign fats

In July, lab tests revealed the presence of foreign fats in the ghee supplied by AR Dairy Foods, leading TTD to blacklist the contractor and switch to Karnataka Milk Federation.

Earlier, TTD was paying Rs 320 per kg for ghee from the blacklisted contractor, but now procures it at Rs 475 per kg from Karnataka.

In July, lab tests revealed the presence of foreign fats in the ghee supplied by AR Dairy

### The latest controversy

On Thursday, the Andhra Pradesh government under TDP released lab reports showing the presence of foreign fats, including lard (pig fat), tallow (beef fat), and fish oil in the ghee supplied during the YSRC regime.

The analysis, conducted on July 23 after complaints about the laddu's taste, also found fats from vegetable sources like coconut, linseed, rapeseed, and cottonseed. In June, the TDP government appointed senior IAS officer J. Syamala Rao as the new executive officer of TTD.

## Mamata's olive branch to doctors fails to end RG Kar impasse

**NEW DELHI:** Meeting between West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and protesting junior doctors failed to take place at the last moment as deadlock between the live telecast and video recording continued. The impasse, which almost seemed nearing its end on Saturday evening, now remains as protestors, not willing to relent on their

demands initially, had to leave CM Mamata's house. However, the protesters claimed that they had agreed to have a meeting without video recording but were told by a government official that "it was too late and no meeting was possible now". In the beginning of the meeting, Mamata Banerjee tried persuading the medics to attend the

talks, with an assurance that she would provide the video of the meeting, filmed by her government, once the Supreme Court gives nod for the same. The doctors did not budge on their demands for at least three hours -- resulting in the meeting to be called off. Mamata Banerjee on Saturday made a surprise visit.

## Seasoned diplomat and India's envoy to Turkiye Virander Paul dies

**New Delhi:** A 1991-batch IFS officer, Paul was struggling with health issues for over one-and-a-half years and he breathed his last at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi this evening, one of his colleagues said. "Deeply grieved at the passing away of Virander Paul, our Ambassador in Turkiye," Jaishankar said on X. "A great loss to the Indian Foreign Service. Have worked closely with him in his many postings. Always admired his commitment and service and value his many contributions," he said. Paul held a medical degree

from AIIMS. The external affairs minister also conveyed his "deepest condolences" to Paul's family. "Paul is survived by his wife Racheline and two daughters. "We are deeply saddened at the untimely demise of Ambassador Virander Paul, India's envoy to Turkiye. A dedicated officer, he will always be remembered for his exceptional human qualities and impactful professional contribution," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "Our heartfelt condolences to his family. Team @MEAIndia.

## American EduGlobal School Announces its Ambitious Expansion Plan: 100 New Campuses in 5 Years

**CHANDIGARH :** American EduGlobal School (AES) is proudly recognised as India's first truly USA based School. A school designed for future solidifying its commitment by announcing their plan of opening 100+ new campuses across India over the next five years. AES currently has two operational campuses in Ghaziabad and Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir. Next year, additional campuses will begin operational in Sirsa, Pune, Bangalore, and Hyderabad. Mr. PK Samal, Founder and Managing Director of American EduGlobal School, expressed his enthusiasm about the upcoming



expansion, we are excited to bring our innovative education model venture to PAN India. Our mission is to empower students with the skills and knowledge necessary for the 21st century. The planned campuses will span across five regions of India: Central, North, South, West, and East India, including major cities such as Delhi - NCR,

Lucknow, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai ensuring a wide reach to diverse communities, further he added. This expansion marks AES's commitment to providing innovative learning, world-class education to students across the nation, blending traditional classroom learning with advanced technology and hands-on experiences. With a keen

understanding of the gaps in the current educational infrastructure, AES is focusing on those areas that are in dire need of quality, innovative education models like STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

By expanding into areas where these advanced teaching approaches are currently lacking. AES strive for excellence in every area expressed in their six ethos: Academic, Sports, Immersion Programs, Life Skills, Technology and Digital Learning supported by Inquiry-based learning and data-driven instructional practices.



## Blue Cloud Softech Solutions Ltd. Unveils AI-Powered Products in India

**Vatika Times Chandigarh:** Hyderabad-headquartered Blue Cloud Softech (BCS) (BSE: 539607), has announced the launch of FOUR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)-ENABLED PRODUCTS—BLUHEALTH APPLICATION, BLURA, EDUGENIE AND BIOSTER in Indian market on Monday. The innovative products were unveiled by Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for IT, E&C, Industry & Commerce and Legislative Affairs, Govt of Telangana at an event in Hyderabad on 7th of October 2024. Telangana IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu was the chief guest and

Former Special Chief Secretary Ajay Mishra was another guest at the launch event in Novotel HICC, Hyderabad. Janaki Yarlagadda, Chairman of BCS, explained how each of their products embodies the innovative spirit that drives the company in creating solutions that make a real difference. On the occasion, the IT Minister said, "AI in healthcare is not just about technology; it's about transforming lives. By harnessing the power of artificial intelligence, we can enhance diagnostics, personalize treatment, and ensure better outcomes, ultimately making healthcare more

accessible and effective for every individual. Together, we are paving the way for a healthier future." The highlight of the event was the product demos that put the spotlight on their innovative features and potential to transform their respective industries through cutting-edge technologies. The launch marked a significant milestone in Blue Cloud Softech's commitment to harnessing artificial intelligence to address real-world challenges. It showcased its success in propelling the future with revolutionary digital solutions. Ms. Janaki Yarlagadda, Chairman of Blue Cloud Softech Solutions Ltd (BCS) said,

"AI is the catalyst for a new frontier across every sector, driving innovation and efficiency. As we integrate AI into our daily lives, we empower individuals and organizations to unlock remarkable potential. This technology not only enhances productivity but also enriches the human experience, allowing us to focus on creativity, empathy, and progress. The future is bright, and we must responsibly use AI as it leads the way for mankind." BluHealth is an AI-powered mobile application designed to transform proactive population health management. By offering non-invasive health

screenings and seamless telehealth integration, BluHealth will make healthcare more accessible and efficient. Utilizing advanced AI-enabled facial health vitals, the app tracks vital signs such as blood pressure, pulse rate, respiration rate, and hemoglobin levels through remote photography (rPPG). This technology allows users to monitor their health without any physical contact, ensuring safety and convenience. The application is fully compliant with HIPAA and GDPR regulations, guaranteeing the highest standards of data protection and privacy.

## 500k employment and 2.1k monthly help for women are among 5 BJP promises for Jharkhand elections

**Delhi:** Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and Vinesh Phogat are among the candidates, setting up a spectacular political clash in Haryana. On October 8, all major parties in the state face huge risks for counting day. At 5 pm, 61% of voters turned out. The Election Commission of India reported that Mewat had the highest turnout at 68.28% and Gurugram the lowest at 49.97%. Haryana voters began voting in 90 assembly seats on October 8, votes were counted. Early votes were Olympian Manu Bhaker and former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Khattar believes the BJP



would win 50 of 90 state assembly seats. Deepender Hooda, Congress leader, joked that the BJP promised 75 seats but only 40. They said they would get over 50 seats, so you can imagine," he said. The BJP, Congress, AAP, and the pre-poll coalition of INLD-BSP and JJP-ASP are the main contenders in Haryana. In all 90 assembly constituencies, 1,031 candidates are running and

20,632 polling booths are open. 2,03,54,350 Haryana voters will cast their ballots in the 15th Legislative Assembly Elections. Security has been heightened before the assembly election. October 2019 was the final Assembly elections. After the election, the Bharatiya Janata Party and Jannayak Janta Party formed the state administration, with Manohar Lal Khattar as Chief Minister.

## Nitish aims to strengthen ties with BJP

**Delhi:** Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar strengthened his relationship with BJP ally by utilizing the state executive committee meeting of his party. Nitish, the national president of JDU, spoke at the meeting and complimented PM Narendra Modi, Union minister Amit Shah, and BJP president JP Nadda for the financial support Bihar received in the Union Budget. He also stated that the Centre should keep giving the state more financial aid if it encounters difficulties in granting Bihar spe-



cial category status. About five hundred senior officials attended the meeting intended to revitalize the state and district-level leadership for the next Bihar assembly polls, which are scheduled for 2025.

Among them were all of the JDU ministers in Bihar, party MPs and lawmakers, as well as past ministers and leg-

islators. As Nitish turned to face the state executive members, "I know you people were very happy when we again became a part of the National Democratic Alliance," Nitish further mentioned that the Bihar government's yearly budget was only Rs 24,000 crore when he initially took office in November 2005, while referring to the development projects carried out during his lengthy time as chief minister. The state government's yearly budget is currently about Rs 3 lakh crore.

## 'Remarks against any religion will be punished': UP CM Yogi

**Delhi:** Amid the ongoing controversy over priest Yati Narsinghanand's remark against the Prophet, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said derogatory remarks against deities, great men, or saints of any religion or sect will not be tolerated, and those engaging in such behavior will face severe



consequences. Yati, a Ghazibad-based priest, had sparked a massive row after he made some objectionable remarks against Prophet Muhammad. "Every citizen should

have a sense of gratitude towards great men, but this cannot be forced and cannot be imposed on anyone," Adityanath said in a statement. "If any person tampers with faith, makes derogatory remarks against the faith of great men, deities, sect etc., then he will be brought under the purview of law and punished rigorously.

## Assam launches financial aid to end child marriage



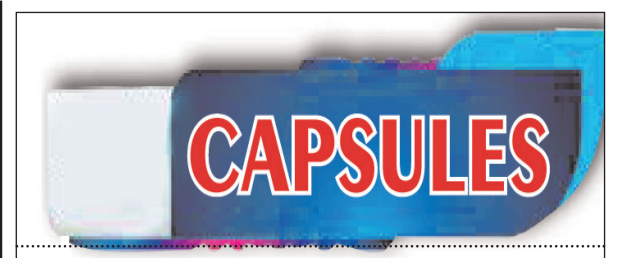
**Delhi:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the government's Nijut Moina economic support scheme for girl students has taken a huge step toward ending child marriage. The current government plan would cover 10 lakh girl students with Rs 1,500cr and give over 1.6 lakh girls Rs 240 crore in the first year. Chief Minister Sarma: "Nijut Moina is a major initiative launched today in Assam. This plan gives female graduates a monthly grant of over Rs 1,000 and post-graduation students Rs 2,500 to cover tuition costs. Thus, we want female students to avoid parental support for higher education." The Chief Minister said this effort will reduce child marriage in Assam. "We are anticipating that Nijut Moina will be able to eradicate the evil of

child marriage from the state," remarked. Chief Minister Sarma further stated that female students must remain unmarried until post-graduation to qualify for this initiative. "To end child marriage, graduate female students must remain unmarried until they finish their undergraduate studies. Unmarried post-graduates can use the Nijut Moina scheme. "They will reach their minimum marriage age, and we want the girls to marry and live happily," he stated. This financial support plan cannot benefit the daughters of MPs, MLAs, or Ministers, the Chief Minister added.

Studies show that Assam's child marriage ban has reduced maternal and newborn mortality. He said that #NijutMoina will end this social evil.

## India hands over first consignment of emergency relief materials to Nepal

**Delhi:** The Indian Embassy here handed over the first consignment of emergency relief materials, including sleeping bags, blankets and tarpaulin sheets, to authorities in flood-struck Nepal, according to an official statement. The 4.2 tonnes of aid supplies handed over on Monday were for families affected by the recent inundation in Nepal, the Indian Embassy said in a press release. Days of relentless downpours late last month triggered widespread floods and landslides, leaving more than 240 people dead across the Himalayan nation. Transported to Nepalgunj from India, the consignment was handed over by Second Secretary Narayan Singh on behalf of the Indian government to the Chief District Officer of Banke, Khagendra Prasad Rijal.



## Uttarakhand UCC panel finalizes draft, to submit it for Dhamai gov't's nod

**Delhi:** A committee on the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code on Monday put a final seal on the draft report, which now only awaits thumps up from the CM Pushkar Singh Dhamai-led state government. "In the final meeting of the five-member draft committee today, the committee has put its final seal on the draft report of the UCC. After printing the UCC draft report, the committee will submit this report to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhamai," said Shatrughan Singh, chairman of the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code Draft committee told news agency ANI. In March this year, President Droupadi Murmu approved the Uniform Civil Code Uttarakhand Bill, 2024, which allowed the Uttarakhand government to issue a notification to make the UCC a law in the Himalayan state. Uttarakhand could become the first state in the country to implement the UCC Act. The Uttarakhand UCC contains laws relating to marriage, divorce, succession, live-in relationships, and related matters. The Uniform Civil Code in the state will make it compulsory for live-in relationships to be registered under the law. In July, during BJP's extended state working committee meeting in Dehradun, CM Dhamai announced the goal to implement the Uniform Civil Code by November 9, coinciding with the State Foundation Day.

"The UCC is a very big thing for our state. The people of the state had elected us for the same reason. I congratulate all the people of Uttarakhand on the implementation of the UCC. After the implementation, several complexities would be made easier," CM Dhamai had said.

## 'Taps & beds missing': BJP accuses Tejashwi of 'stealing' from dy CM house

**Delhi:** Rashtriya Janata Dal on Monday refuted the Bharatiya Janata Party's claim that Bihar's former deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav had stolen furniture including taps, sofas, and beds from the government bungalow and said that these are false allegations. Earlier today, Bihar BJP Media in-charge Danish Iqbal launched a scathing attack on Tejashwi Yadav's 'upbringing and mentality,' accusing that Yadav and his men stole the furniture, including bed and sofas, wash basins and water taps, from the government bungalow at 5 Deshratna Road in Patna before vacating it. Responding to the BJP's allegations, RJD MP Sudhakar Singh said, "The government should release a list of the things that were given. The BJP is in government and they should release the list and after leaving the space they should see whether the items are there or not. Everything would be clear. BJP is making false allegations and all they want to do is managing media headlines."

## Owaisi hits out at RSS chief's call for 'Hindu unity'

**Delhi:** AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday reacted to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's call

for 'Hindus to unite for their security,' alleging that it is Prime Minister Modi and his ideological mentor who pose a real danger to Hindus, Muslims, and others in the country. However, shortly after his remark, Union minister Giriraj Singh came to the defence of the RSS chief and PM Modi, accusing the Hyderabad MP of harboring "anti-India sentiments in his DNA". Earlier on, the RSS chief addressing Swayamsevaks (volunteers) had affirmed that India is a "Hindu nation". "We have resided here since time .

## 'Toolkit used to open trunk, paper scanned'

**Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday provided a detailed information of how the NEET UG paper leak scam unfolded. It said that nearly 144 candidates had paid "huge amounts" to get access to the leaked question papers which were unlocked using "sophisticated tool kit." "The CBI has also identified 144 candidates present in these locations who were beneficiaries of this paper leak and necessary legal action is being initiated against them; 21 mobile phones used by the main accused in this case have also been recovered from vari-



"The probe agency has arrested 49 individuals, including the main conspirators and those involved in solving the exam"

ous water bodies with the help of the divers by the CBI," the agency said. In its third chargesheet filed on Monday, the CBI had named Pankaj Kumar as another accused who allegedly stole the question papers from Hazaribagh school in collusion

with its principal Ahsanul Haque and vice-principal Md Imtiyaz Alam. "Pankaj used a sophisticated tool kit to open and seal the trunk. This tool kit was seized by CBI from the residence of Pankaj Kumar," a CBI spokesperson said. "Only those candi-

dates who paid money in advance were allowed to enter these locations. The candidates were subsequently allowed to leave for their examination centres. after 12.15pm, but were prohibited from carrying the printed copies with them," the spokesperson added. The crime reportedly took place after trunks containing the exam papers arrived at the school from the bank vault shortly after 8am on May 5, the day of the examination, according to sources. The probe agency has arrested 49 individuals, including the main conspirators and those involved in solving the exam.