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Infighting, Jat tilt put paid to Congress hopes in Haryana



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

NEW DELHI: The Haryana result reflects that Congress's singular focus on employment, Agnipath, development and law and order failed to take into account the persistence of Jat vs non-Jat politics in the state. While the party believed people's issues, with the added impetus of populist announcements, would sway voters beyond caste appeal, the poll result has belied its expectation.

After exit polls made Congress hopeful of a sweep in Haryana, result day was marked by a dramatic turn of events as the early trends soon got reversed. What appeared to be a close fight when counting started soon turned into a BJP show. It was nothing short of a shock defeat for Congress with its leaders alleging a conspiracy and saying that "democracy had lost and the establishment had won" in Haryana. The Lok Sabha results in May, where Congress managed to win five of the 10 seats in the state, had shored

CHANDIGARH: After Congress staged a strong comeback, winning five of 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, former CM Bhupinder 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

up its organisation but it also raised the possibility

and to lead the poll campaign, Hooda managed to get tickets for 72 of his loyalists but Congress fell short of the 46 seats needed to form govt. In 2019, Hooda's supporters and aides had said that had he been given full control of ticket distribution he could have ensured Congress's return in Haryana. In that election, Congress fell just 15 seats short of forming govt; this time, it was nine seats from a comeback.

ty of greater infighting as Bhupinder Singh

Hooda emerged from the success as the Congress's sole face. The insecurities among other leaders pushed them into a sulk or led them to focus on their kin.

Hooda's failure to reach out to in-house rivals and accommodate them in the campaign and strategy created a gulf which, in the ultimate analysis, impacted the average Haryana voter. Kumari Selja's reported sulk was the talk of the campaign, as was the claim to the CM's post by multiple leaders. By all accounts, Hooda cornered the lion's share of candidates, pushing out the claims of other members.

But where the party also missed a trick is in how it designed its campaign. The overt focus on wrestlers' protest was also seen to impress the Jat tilt of Congress, and the decision to field Olympian Vinesh Phogat may have been ill timed. Additionally, the absence of big Yadav or Punjabi faces.

Faith and politics: NC's double-engine spiritual drive unified Muslim votes

SRINAGAR: Some call it religious appeal. Some call it "Peer-Mureedi". Whatever it may be, the presence of two spiritual guides of different Muslim sects in National Conference's campaign consolidated the mood for the Omar Abdullah outfit and put it beyond the fight that PDP, newbies and independents could put up. Lok Sabha MPs Mian Altaf Ahmad of Anantnag-Rajouri and Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdi of Srinagar are respected clerics, who were inseparable from Omar's travels across J&K in the cut-throat campaign that lasted over a month. The Mian family represents the revered spiritual seat of Gujjar-Bakarwal communities across J&K. While the community has a presence in parts of Kashmir, they are in good numbers in Jammu region as well. Interestingly, Mian Altaf's son Mehar Ali debuted from his erstwhile assembly seat of Kangan, which impeded the MP's movement



CBI rules out gangrape, says Sanjay Roy sole accused in its chargesheet

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed its first chargesheet in the RG Kar Hospital case, accusing Sanjay Roy of the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor.

The chargesheet, presented in a Sialdah court in West Bengal, identifies Sanjay Roy as in the party's campaigning. He addressed many rallies in Poonch and other regions of Jammu by video call, while apologising for being hobbled by his son's contest.

Two Cleric MPs Shaped Mood In Omar Outfit's

the sole accused, ruling out the possibility of gang rape. The CBI has interrogated nearly 100 witnesses and conducted 12 polygraph tests in its investigation. Sanjay Roy, who was arrested by the Kolkata Police on August 10, a day after the incident, maintains that he is being framed.

Favour Aga Ruhullah is a young and respected cleric of Shia sect which has a good presence in Srinagar-Budgam pockets,

both of which have been swept by NC. In fact, Budgam that Omar chose

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

NEW 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."

'Alarming level': Taliban 'schools' Pakistan on dealing with discontent



NEW DELHI: The Taliban-led ministry of foreign affairs in Afghanistan has voiced its 'concern' regarding the "alarming" situation unfolding in Pakistan and warned that the growing tensions between government supporters and opposition forces threaten regional stability. The ministry said it was actively 'monitoring' developments in Pakistan, adding that the best way to meet the people's legitimate demands is through "negotiation and understanding".

In a statement, the foreign ministry said: "In the neighboring country of Pakistan, the tension between the supporters of the government and the political opponents has reached an alarming level, which may continue to have a negative impact on the entire region. The best way to meet the legitimate demands of the people is through negotiation and understanding. Recent events have proven that the refusal to negotiate complicates the issue." Afghanistan foreign ministry spokesperson Abdul Qahar Balkhi took to his X account and wrote: "In the neighbouring country of Pakistan, the tension between the supporters of the government and the political opponents has reached an alarming level, which may continue to have a negative impact on the entire region."

He also said that they hoped that the Pakistani government and influential institutions will deal reasonably and pragmatically with the growing discontent. The Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaaf (PTI), the party of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, has been organising protests against the government, in Islamabad and Lahore. The PTI called for nationwide protests.

Deputy CM to near-oblivion for Dushyant, 4 other 'Lal' dynasts make it to house

NEW DELHI: A king maker in 2019, Dushyant Chautala's JJP came a cropper. Chautala himself finished fifth in Uchana Kalan with less than 5% votes and was among 65 party candidates who lost their deposit. In the previous BJP-led govt in Haryana, Dushyant Chautala was deputy CM, a post he retained until six months ago when his party, Jannayak Janata Party or JJP, severed ties with the BJP. A majority of



his MLAs left him soon thereafter, but the state polls were his big hope for a comeback. As the results rolled out on Tuesday, it became clear that this grandson of ex-CM Om Prakash Chautala and great-grandson of ex-deputy PM Devi Lal

had lost even his deposit from the Uchana Kalan seat. Worse, the JJP has not won a single seat, and its vote share has dropped from 15% to less than 1%. Families of former CMs — Devi Lal, Bansilal, and Bhajan Lal — have

managed to secure berths in the assembly. One member from each of the Bansilal and Bhajan Lal families and two members from Devi Lal's family have made it to the legislature. Former CM Bhajan Lal's son Chander Mohan (Panchkula), former deputy PM Devi Lal's grandson Aditya Devi Lal

(Dabwali), great-grandson Arjun Chautala (Rania) and former CM Bansilal's grand-daughter Shruti

J&K headed for winter of discontent? It will depend on Lt Guv's playbook

NEW DELHI: The J&K LG will, prima facie, have the same powers as the Delhi LG, and also control prisons, which come under the state govt in Delhi. Observers are not ruling out recurrent strain in working ties between the LG and the elected govt — a common occurrence in Delhi — over several issues.

Perhaps the first indication that the Centre was ready for assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir came when it amended the Transaction of Business of the Govt of Union Territory of J&K on July 12, 2024, to make it mandatory for all decisions relating to postings and transfers of secretary-level officers,



appointment of law officers, grant or refusal of prosecution sanction and prison-related matters, to be put up to the lieutenant governor (LG) for approval, through the chief secretary. The amendments — which the Centre had said it was authorised to notify as per provisions of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 — enhance LG's powers by mak-

ing his approval necessary for postings and transfers of secretaries of all J&K administrative departments and cadre-post officers. While this is a significant power as the LG can decide the heads of various J&K departments, a source said the transfers and postings of the subordinate staff, which total nearly five lakh, will continue to be in the hands of the J&K

govt. The J&K LG will, prima facie, have the same powers as the Delhi LG, in that he shall have the final word on matters relating to J&K police, including its various wings like CID, and SIA as well as the J&K anti-corruption bureau (ACB).

Over and above these powers, all files on matters relating to prisons, directorate of prosecution

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 Republicans and the difficulties.

Big win for INDIA bloc fails to hide failure of Congress in Jammu



SRINAGAR: The resounding mandate for the INDIA bloc in J&K failed to hide the tame failure of Congress to live up to its pre-poll expectation of taking on BJP in its Hindu stronghold of Jammu. Congress won a lone seat in Jammu region, and that too via a minority candidate in the reserved Rajouri constituency. This is the worst performance of Congress in the region.

Though Congress won five seats in Kashmir, it was expected to boost the alliance in Jammu, with better ground presence and appeal. Given the polarised nature of J&K after 2014, NC has taken a back seat while expecting Congress to fill the vacuum with Hindu voters and the middle class. The Lok Sabha trends showed an improvement in Congress's standing as its Lok Sabha.

Navratri Cup Football Competition

Prayagraj: Navratri Cup Football Competition by Northern Football Academy is going to start from 9th October at the football ground of Vishnu Bhagwan Public School, Jhalwa in which a total of eight teams are going to participate. This competition will be played on knock out basis, in which the first match will be played from 3:30 pm. This information was given by organizing secretary football coach Indranil Ghosh.

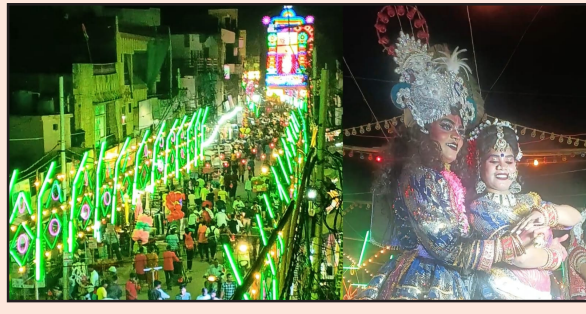
Warrant against SHO Rajesh Maurya, a witness in Atiq murder case

LAW CORRESPONDENT

During the testimony today in the murder case of former MP Atiq Ahmed and former MLA Khalid Azim alias Ashraf, witness PW 1, then SHO Dhumanganj Rajesh Kumar Maurya was not present. Due to which ADJ Fast Track Court BK Mishra issued a bailable warrant against the witness SHO and fixed October 22 for the hearing. DGC Gulab Chandra Agrahari said that the testimony of the then SHO of Dhumanganj is going on in the said murder case. The cross-examination was to take place today but due to the non-appearance of the said SHO, the cross-examination could not take place. On which the court issued a BW warrant against him and fixed the next date for hearing. The accused in the case, Lovesh Tiwari, Arun Maurya and Sunny Singh are lodged in Chitrakoot jail. The accused were produced through video conferencing.

Prayagraj mesmerized by glittering lights and attractive tableaux

Prayagraj: Dussehra festival was full of both emotion and grandeur. On Monday, Allahpur Baghambari Gaddi and Labor Chauraha Dussehra festival fair were celebrated with great pomp and show. Although different committees took responsibility from Allahpur Police Chowki to Aloi Temple, the entire area was decorated



and enriched with glittering lights, teams and attractive tableaux. The entire area of five kilometers was lit up with electric lights. The market was also bustling till after midnight. After Aarti and worship at Karan Sonkar's residence on Baghambari Gaddi Road, the team of Kanha and Balda came out in full splendor. The procession of both the brothers was taken out riding on a silver howdah placed on an elephant. The chowki of Jai Hanuman Roshni Committee and Jai Maa Sharda Chowki Committee was different from all others. The team that came out under the supervision of Committee President Karan Sonkar and General Secretary Golu Sonkar.

Religion won in Kurukshetra, hypocrisy of Cong defeated: Mayor

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party got a huge majority in the Haryana Assembly elections. On the victory, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the people of Haryana and the BJP workers of Haryana and said that religion has won in the form of Bharatiya Janata Party in Haryana, the land of Kurukshetra, and the corruption and hypocrisy of lies of Congress has lost. And said that getting the blessings of the people of Haryana for the third time means the confidence of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the victory of the development work done by it.

BJP workers celebrated Haryana victory by feeding each other Jalebi

Prayagraj: After hoisting the victory flag in the Haryana Assembly elections, excited BJP workers celebrated by dancing to the beats of drums and bursting fireworks at the party office in Civil Lines. During this, Deputy CM Brijesh Pathak was also present. Addressing the workers, Deputy CM said that the victory in Haryana is the result of the hard work of the workers. Workers should also work hard in the assembly by-elections to be held in UP. District spokesperson Rajesh



Kesarwani said that the workers congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his victory by feeding him Jalebi with his photograph and Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak. Apart from this, the workers celebrated by feeding Jalebi to each other and burst crackers. On this occasion, State Vice President Tryambak Tripathi, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, District President Gangapur Kavita Patel, Kiran Trivedi, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, Murari Lal Aggarwal, Varun Kesarwani, former MLA Deepak Patel, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Vivek Mishra, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Aggarwal, Pramod Modi, Manoj Kushwaha, Councilor Ashish Dwivedi. A large number of workers like Natwar Lal, Nawab Khan, Bilal Ahmed, Prashant Shukla, Shiva Tripathi, Anand Dubey, Sanjay Singh, Pappu Pandey, Aastik Shukla, Manjesh Srivastava, etc. were present.

Ayub made his name famous with Cine Dreams International Film Festival and Film Production

Prayagraj: Ayub Khan, a resident of Gram Sabha Isipur Malwa located in Tehsil Phulpur, has been living in Mumbai for the last four decades. Ayub had gone to Mumbai to become an actor but when he reached there, he saw everything there, he prepared himself as an actor, also did an acting course, but when he saw all the things there, he felt that maybe he is suitable for Bollywood.

He was worried about this thought that during that time he met film director Gulzar Sahab, who advised him that Ayub, you should come into film direction and Ayub listened to him and joined Gulzar Sahab and worked with him as an assistant director for many years. He also acted as an

actor in Mirza Ghalib's serial in which there were many people like Nariuddin Shah, Rajendra Gupta, Amjad Khan and then one day a scene got stuck in such a way that two actors were not able to perform that character because its narration was in Urdu. And Ayub was lucky that during his studies, when he was studying from CAV Inter College, at the same time he also studied Urdu. This Urdu came in handy for Ayub and then the film director Gulzar Saheb asked Ayub to play that character. It was done and Ayub did that role. At that time, Ayub worked with Mirza Ghalib in his TV serial for many years, then worked as a chief assistant with film director Vinod Sharma in a

film, Criminal, in which the famous heroine Ranjit, who had been the heroine of Laila Majnu, had a double

Andha Intekaam and the other was Zameer, which was a very famous film. TV serial Kissa Shanti Ka



role and many others. All the people were done. After that, Chief Assistant Director Ayub did two films with film director Swaroop Kumar, one of which was

which featured Raja Bundela, Girja Shankar, Rajeshpuri, Ashrani Bhawe etc.

Ayub Khan made many films like "Jahan Tum Le

Chalo" in which Jimmy Shergill got a break as a hero, Gulzar Sahab's songs were Vishal Bhardwaj's music which made singers like Lata ji, Ayub Khan even bigger than his elder brother Suresh Wadkar. Bade Singar sang a song in which Govinda's nephew, Neha Sangwan, gave a break to many such people. The script of the film was written by Ayub and he sent all the artists to Allahabad for the promotion of the film Jahan Tum.

We also sent actor and director Tej Deepak to Allahabad. Manisha Koirala, Sanjay Kapoor, Helen etc. worked in it. There were big singers in the country too. We created our own company, For You Enterprises, under which we

released many films and included Jimmy Shergill, Arbaaz Khan etc. It was a big film that Ayub released, released a film named Madder Madhuri. During the release of the film Madder Madhuri, I came to Allahabad and here we held a press conference in the Press Club. A lot of work has been done in this way, I am doing it. Then in the last week of August, we organized an International Film Festival named Cine Dreams International Film Festival in Mumbai on 27th, 28th and 29th August. Films from many countries of the world came to this film festival. About 13 or 14 films from every language of India. We showed all these films in Juhi PVR Cinema and people saw them.

BJP workers welcomed Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak

Prayagraj: Brajesh Pathak of the state said that the public trusts the BJP in Haryana, denying the lies of the opposition's lies in Haryana. Thanked the people of Haryana for this. Former MLA Mrs. Neelam Karwariya, who reached Prayagraj for the thirteenth rites, said these things while talking to the media at the Circuit House. Deputy CM said that the public rejected the theatrics of Congress and expressed confidence in PM Modi and gave its blessings to BJP. It is the nature of the opposition to

make all kinds of allegations after losing the elections. In the by-elections to be held on 10 seats in UP, BJP will win all the seats. Answering the question asked by the media regarding Mahakumbh 2025, the Deputy CM said that a large number of people from national and international level will come to Mahakumbh. The government is committed to providing excellent health facilities to the devotees. One hospital will be built in every sector of the Mahakumbh area, which will be known as Ayushman Arogya Mandir. Apart from 125 ordinary ambulances, a large number of ambulances equipped with modern health equipment will also be operated. A temporary hospital with 25 beds each will be opened in Arai and Jhansi. Before this, the Deputy CM, who reached Bamrauli Airport, also planted saplings in the airport premises. Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Neeraj Pandey, District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani, media in-charge Vivek Mishra, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, Aastik Shukla etc. workers welcomed Deputy CM Brijesh Pathak.



Dy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak paid tribute to former BJP MLA Neelam Karwaria

Prayagraj: The 13th rites of former MLA Neelam Karwariya ji were performed at Brahma Bhoj Choudhary Garden Atar Suiya. Thousands of workers and supporters including Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Brajesh Pathak paid tribute to former BJP MLA Neelam Karwariya and former MP Kapil Muni Karwariya. Former MLA Uday Bhan Karwariya met former Legislative Council member Surajbhan Karwariya and his family. District spokesperson



Rajesh Kesarwani told that in the 13th rites program, former state president Rama Pati Tripathi, former cabinet minister MLA Siddharth Nath Singh, former MP Keshari Devi Patel were present. Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, former MLA Deepak Patel, Yamuna Par District President Vinod Prajapati, former District President Vibhav Nath Bharti, Chairman Amarnath Yadav, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Pramod Modi, Vivek Aggarwal, Raju Pathak, Rajan Shukla, and thousands of workers and public representatives of BJP metropolis across Yamuna and across Ganga paid tribute.

Minister Narendra Kashyap conducted a comprehensive review of the Backward Class Welfare and Disability Empowerment Department

LUCKNOW: State Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Class Welfare and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Narendra Kashyap, while presiding over the departmental review meeting on Tuesday, conducted a thorough review of the ongoing schemes for the empowerment of backward class students and persons with disabilities. The Minister directed the officials that the benefits of all the schemes should be made available to the eligible people in a time bound manner and transparency should be ensured in the processes. During the meeting, Minister Kashyap reviewed the beginning of the second phase of computer training programme.

Under this scheme, youth from backward classes will be given 'O' level and 'Triple C' computer training, so that they can acquire the necessary technical skills in the digital age. The Minister said that through this training, the youth of backward classes will not only become employable, but they will also be able to become self-reliant by creating new self-employment opportunities. He directed the officials to ensure the quality of the training program



and conduct it through institutions with high standards. The Minister also reviewed the progress of scholarship and marriage grant scheme in the meeting. He told the officials that the applications for these schemes should be disposed of on priority basis, so that the eligible beneficiaries can get the benefits of the schemes quickly. He said that the scholarship will increase educational opportunities for children from economically weaker families and the marriage grant scheme will boost social empowerment. Discussing the ongoing schemes in the field of empowerment of persons with disabilities, the Minister also mentioned about schemes like pension for persons with disabilities, artificial limbs and assistive devices. Emphasis was laid on equipment distribution, skill development training, and organizing special job fairs for disabled people. He also directed that the schools run for the disabled should be regularly inspected and the quality of the facilities provided there should be further improved, so that the disabled can also live a respectable life in the society and become economically empowered.

PBPartners unveils the 3rd edition of Samvardhan 3.0

Empowering growth and leadership development for employees

New Delhi: PB Partners is proud to announce the completion of its most anticipated program Samvardhan 3.0, their flagship role elevation program designed to empower and promote internal talent. Held in Delhi, this engaging event is designed to encourage a culture of imminent growth and leadership development, ensuring

high-potential employees are equipped with the tools, training, and mentorship needed to advance in their careers.

The event proudly celebrated 17 winners (with a total of 45 guests, including family members) who excelled in their roles. The previous editions, Samvardhan 2.0 and the first program had 20 winners

each, showcasing the growing strength of internal talent. This year's edition received recognition from esteemed leaders such as Mr. Sarbvir Singh, Joint Group CEO, PB Fintech, Mr. Dhruv Sarin, Co-Founder, PBPartners, and Shambhavi Solanki, Head - Human Resources at Policybazaar, along with Mr. Rajan Gulati, Head HR - PBPartners.

Mr. Dhruv Sarin, Co-founder of PBPartners, emphasized the event's significance: "Samvardhan provides our employees with opportunities to take on greater responsibilities, develop leadership skills, and grow within the organization. By investing in our people, we ensure both personal and organizational success. Since its inception,

Samvardhan has focused on grooming talent by providing customized learning programs focused on technical and leadership skills, a structured progression that offers a path for role elevation."

The key highlights of the event included the Winner's Felicitation Ceremony, where winners and their families were invited to

the head office for a two-day celebration. This event not only recognizes the hard work of the winners but also acknowledges the support of their loved ones. The event was a successful showcase of the incredible talent, celebrating the immense hardwork and dedication of their employees both personally and professionally.

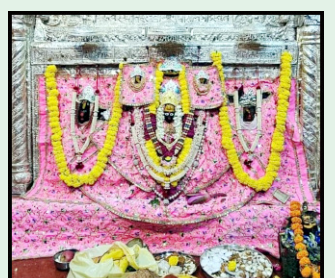
Lawyers filed a case against Mahant Yati Narsingh Nand In the case of making indecent statement against the Prophet

Prayagraj: On Tuesday, lawyers have filed an application to the Commissioner of Police regarding registering a case against Mahant for making an indecent statement in honor of Prophet Hazrat Sahib on 27 September 24. In the matter of Mahant Yati Narsingh Nand of Dasna Devi Temple making an indecent statement in honor of Prophet Hazrat Sahib, today many lawyers under the leadership of Advocate Khashan Siddiqui filed an application to the Commissioner of Police and said that due to the statement of Mahant, all the citizens of the entire country should be it a follower of any religion, everyone's faith has been hurt and there is immense anger especially in the Muslim community. Due to which there is a wave of grief and anger among the Muslims of the whole world as well as among the Muslims of India and at various places, the Muslims of India are filing First Information Report against the perpetrator of this heinous act as well as taking action under UAPA and NSA. So that in future no person should make indecent comments and behavior against any religion or community.



Maa Kalyani appeared in form of Mata Katyayani with lotus and sword in her hands

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Navratri Mahotsav fair in the abode of Mahashakti Peeth Maa Kalyani Devi, on the sixth day of Navratri, Maa Kalyani took the form of a quadrilateral and gave darshan to the devotees in the form of Mata Katyayani. On this occasion, in the morning, Mangala Aarti of Mata Kalyani in the form of Katyayani Mata was performed. Abhishek was done. On this occasion, the devotees worshiped the mother and circumambulated the Shatchandi Mahayagya and got their children tonsured. The chief priest of the temple, Pandit Sushil Pathak told that by worshipping the mother of the world, Mother Katyayani, a person gets work, salvation, Religion and Meaning: One gets the fruits of these four fruits. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that at 6:00 pm, the doors of the temple were opened to see the make-up of Maa Katyayani. The Maa is in a four-armed form, riding on a lion and holding a lotus in her hands. And the mother carrying the sword was decorated with jewel-studded jewelry and the bell was done with lotus flowers and havan was performed. 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 told that Navratri is on 7th October. Will appear in the form of Mahagauri on the seventh day.



College of Forestry Celebrates 70th Wildlife Week at SHUATS Campus

Prayagraj: In support of Hon'ble Prime Minister's Vision to protect Environment, College of Forestry of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, has been celebrating the 70th edition of Wildlife Week from 2nd to 8th October, 2024 with the theme "Wildlife Conservation Through Co-Existence." Wildlife week celebrations at College of Forestry focused to promote awareness on the importance of all forms of wildlife and the need for collaborative efforts in preserving the nation's rich biodiversity. In his Presidential Address, Prof. Dr. Antony Joseph Raj (Dean of College of Forestry & Director) informed that India is one of the 17 mega-diversity countries and host to four of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. Prof. Dr. Antony

proudly mentioned that due to India's commitment for the wildlife protection, our country has established the network of 1014 Protected Areas including 106 National Parks, 573 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 115 Conservation Reserves and 220 Community Reserves. He highlighted the importance of tiger conservation efforts in our country through Project Tiger which has scripted a remarkable success story in the growth of tigers from 1,411 in 2006 to 3,682 in the year 2023 with 55 Tiger Reserves and India is now home to more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population. Prof. Dr. Antony urged the students and young people to turn into role models in raising awareness and instilling a sense of responsibility for the conservation of India's remarkable wildlife. Chief Guest of the oc-

casional Dr. Sanjay Singh, (Head of ICFRE-Eco Rehabilitation Centre, Prayagraj), emphasized that conservation of wildlife is the core



cultural identity of Indians. Dr. Sanjay Singh informed that India is the only country in the world where Asiatic Lion and Tiger both exist together and stressed that In-situ and ex-situ conservation is very important for wildlife conservation. Dr. Sanjay Singh added that human wild life conflict is increasing day by day due

to the encroachment of wildlife habitats. He shared his experiences as an expert in the Government high-level committees for the

wildlife conservation. Dr. Sanjay Singh called all the students to go with broad visions towards wildlife conservation and management. Dr. Anubha Srivastava (Scientist D of ICFRE-Eco Rehabilitation Centre) was present as the "Guest of Honour" in the wildlife week celebration function. In welcome ad-

dress, Dr. Afaq M. Wani, Head of Forest Biology, Tree Improvement and Wildlife Sciences revealed that the idea of wildlife week was conceived by the Indian Board of Wildlife in the year 1952. Dr. Afaq informed that Initially First Wildlife Day was observed on 2nd October in 1955 but later name was changed to Wildlife Week. Dr. Afaq added that first Wildlife Week was observed from 2nd to 8th October in the year 1957. He also emphasized the significance of awareness celebrations to raise students' knowledge of wildlife conservation. Dr. Abhishek James, Associate Dean of College of Forestry, presented the formal vote of thanks. Dr. James thanked Dr. Sanjay Singh (Chief Guest), Dr. Anubha Srivastava (Guest of Honour), Prof. Dr. Antony Joseph Raj (Dean of College of For-

estry), Dr. Afaq M. Wani (Head), all faculty members and students for making the wildlife week celebrations in College of Forestry a grand success. The important events and competitions for the students were Quiz Competition, Drawing Competition, Wildlife Photography Competition and Scientific Name (wild animals and birds) Writing Competition. Certificates and prizes were distributed to the deserving winners of the student competitions. The students Ms. Rakhi Kumari & Ms. M.M. Rajalaxmi secured Gold medal in Drawing Competition & Mr. Nihit Hansal Nag & Mr. Rajdeep Sarkar received Gold medal in Quiz Competition. Ms. Anandita & Ms. Puja R. Nambiar secured Gold Medal in Scientific Name Writing Competition. Mr. Rajdeep Sarkar got Gold medal in Wildlife Photography Competition.

UP Science and Technology Council approves SHUATS project to tackle malnutrition

Prayagraj: A research project to use Moringa leaves for value addition and product development to enhance the socio-economic status of farmers and sustainable cultivation of Moringa has been approved. A new research project to tackle problems like malnutrition in Shankargarh and Jasra blocks of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, to enhance the socio-economic status of farmers and to make them aware of its nutritional elements through sustainable cultivation of Moringa has been approved by Lucknow Uttar Pradesh Science and Technology Council to Professor Devi Singh of Horticulture at SHUATS, Allahabad. This project is funded by Uttar Pradesh Council of Science and Technology (U.P.

CST) and its main objective is to completely eliminate malnutrition in humans and to make them aware of its various medicinal properties. Shankargarh and Jasra blocks of Prayagraj have been selected for this. (The principal investigator of the research project, Prof. Dr. Devi Singh, gave complete information about the scientific cultivation of Moringa (drumstick) to the farmers here. And also provided the farmers with a nursery of Moringa and also gave complete information about how to bring its fruits, flowers and leaves. (Moringa leaf powder). This research aims to increase the medicinal properties of Moringa and its use to fulfill the nutritional needs of humans.

HQ CAC celebrates 92nd anniv of Indian Air Force

Prayagraj: 92nd Anniversary of Indian Air Force was celebrated at Headquarters Central Air Command, Bamrauli on 08 October 2024 with full fervor and josh. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command laid a wreath at CAC War Memorial and paid tribute to the bravehearts who laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

On the occasion, messages received from Hon'ble President of India, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Raksha Mantri, Raksha Rajya Mantri and Chief of the Air Staff were read out.

Later, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command administered the oath of allegiance to all

Air Force personnel as well as civilians. In his message, the AOC-in-C conveyed warm greetings and good wishes to all retired person-



nel, Air Warriors, Agniveers, NCs(E), DSC personnel, Civilians and their families. He stressed on imbining proactive aerospace safety approach & mindset, prevention of in-

cidents/accidents and ensuring optimal utilisation of resources. The AOC-in-C also emphasised on operational excellence, physical

& mental fitness of personnel to ensure a formidable fighting force, informed Samir Gangakhedkar, Group Captain, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

Haryana is just a trailer, more in the offing: Nandi

Prayagraj: Nand Gopal Gupta, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, met Karmayogi Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath today at 5 Kalidas Marg, Lucknow! Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Haryana is expected to form a government with a strong majority for the third time in a row and Jammu and Kashmir Congratulated for the excellent performance! Minister Nandi said that the public has completely rejected the politics of division, hollow promises and election shenanigans! Haryana is just a tableau! Janata Janardan will repeat this mandate in the upcoming assembly elections of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and by-elections of Uttar Pradesh! The double engine government in Uttar Pradesh is writing a new story of cultural, economic and industrial progress. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a model of "good environment-safe investment"! Minister Nandi discussed in detail on various matters of public importance and received valuable guidance on important departmental subjects.



Principal of BJSC Girls wing surrounded by controversies

Prayagraj: The new principal of Bishop Johnson School and College Girls Wing is also surrounded by controversies. According to school sources, the teachers' salary is pending and the school is falling short of funds to meet the essential expenses. In such a situation, Principal Sherly Massey seems to be surrounded by controversies by appointing new staffs. In previous months she appointed four staffs in the

school with heavy monthly salary.

It is being told that the STF had also advised the school principal to avoid appointing new staff during the investigation period. The school principal is making new appointments arbitrarily without verification. While the former principal Parul Solomon is accused in the paper leak case and has been sent to jail by the STF, the current principal needs to learn a lesson.

Dr. Joshi meets minister for installation Kamla Bahuguna statue

Prayagraj: Renowned woman leader late Kamla Bahuguna, wife former Chief Minister, late Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna, met the Honorable Minister of Tour-



ism and Culture, Uttar Pradesh Shri Jaiveer Singh for paying a courtesy call on getting approval to install his statue in Prayagraj in the birth centenary year and thanked him. Former MP from Allahabad and former Cabinet Minister Professor Rita Bahuguna Joshi today came to thank the Honorable Minister of Tourism and Culture, Uttar Pradesh Shri Jaiveer Singh ji for granting approval to install the statue of her mother Kamala Bahuguna ji in Prayagraj. It is noteworthy that in the month of November, the statue of late Kamla Bahuguna ji will be installed in Prayagraj. This information was given by former MP's media in-charge Manu Kakkar.

Alok Tripathi nominated as General Secretary

Prayagraj: State President of Rashtriya Brahmin Samaj Surendra Agnihotri nominated Alok Tripathi, a teacher resident of Balipur Ward of Nagar Panchayat Hiranjan, to the post of District General Secretary in the District Executive of the district. While giving the responsibility, he said that we hope that you will always be ready to implement the expansion and proposed objectives of the organization by discharging your responsibilities with honesty.



We will remain continuously progressive for the organization, upliftment, social cooperation and participation of Brahmin society. State President Surendra Agnihotri said that the organization has been continuously working for the upliftment of Brahmin society in the entire state for the last 25 years and is playing its important role. Nagar Panchayat President Representative Kunda Shivkumar Tiwari and other dignitaries present welcomed Alok Tripathi by garlanding him on becoming the District General Secretary.

Kumbh Mela: Indian Bank approved sponsorship of Rs 1.20 Cr

Prayagraj: Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath organized a review meeting at Prayagraj

Fair Officer Shri Vijay Kiran Anand and District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar besides top officials of the district and state



Fair Authority on 06.10.2024 for the successful organization of Mahakumbh 2025. In this meeting, Indian Bank has approved sponsorship of Rs 1.20 Cr (Rs one crore twenty lakh) for building 600 changing rooms for women pilgrims. With this sponsorship of Indian Bank, women pilgrims will get facilities in Mahakumbh 2025. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya,

administration were present. On this occasion, an M.O. was signed with Indian Bank and Fair Authority. A. was also shared which was handed over to the administration on the instructions of the Honorable Chief Minister in the presence of Chief General Manager Mr. Sudhir Kumar Gupta, Area General Manager Mr. Naveen Kumar Srivastava and Area Manager Mr. Pramendra Narayan Upadhyay.

Cong related with victory in J&K

Prayagraj: Assembly election results were declared... Congress performed brilliantly in Jammu and Kashmir. Expressing happiness over this, Metropolitan Congress Committee President Shri Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman ji said that truth has won over untruth in Jammu and Kashmir, it is love. The shop has won, it is the victory of the struggles of the people's leader, Honorable Rahul Gandhi and expressed concern over the slow pace of publishing the Haryana election results by the Election Commission EC... Prominent among the other people who expressed happiness was Lallan Patel. Metropolitan Organization Secretary Vinay Pandey, Diwakar Bharatiya, Istiaq Ahmed, Dilip Patel, Nafees Qureshi, Saurabh Chaudhary, Vikram Patel, Santoshanand Maharaj, Sushil Dwivedi, Vishal Sonkar, Shyam Ji Shukla.

BJP Mahila Morcha held meet to give edge to membership campaign

Celebrated the historic victory of Haryana

Prayagraj: Haryana's victory has breathed new life into the Bharatiya Janata Party. On the other hand, the membership campaign of Bharatiya Janata Party is gaining more momentum. According to District Media In-charge Chandra Ahluwalia, to give edge to the membership campaign, Regional President of BJP Mahila Morcha Namrata Chaurasia held a meeting in the BJP office today with all the officials, divisional presidents, presi-

dent of Gangapar and Jamunapar and to further accelerate the membership



help other members to complete the recognition of 100 pc members. He directed to connect new members with

BJP by visiting schools, colleges, railway stations, self-help groups, bhajan

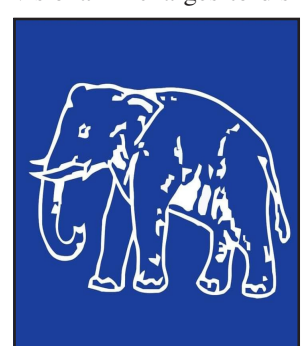
groups etc. Expressing happiness over Haryana's victory, he said that Bharatiya Janata Party is a party run-

ning on the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas, the people of Haryana have proved this. Prominent in the meeting were Metropolitan President Shikha Rastogi, Chandra Ahluwalia, Savita Mishra, Rupam Tripathi, Vandana Singh, Geeta Vishwakarma, Rita Pasi, Vandana Sharma, Shikha Khanna, Smriti Srivastava, Shalini Srivastava, Swarika Bhardwaj, Kavita Tripathi, Deepmala, Neelam Tripathi, Rita Verma, Lakshmi Bahuguna, Aanchal Ojha, Kajal Patel, Usha Gupta etc. were present.

DAAN Prayagraj will take sacrifice of BSP founder Kanshi Ram to every home

Prayagraj: To regain the lost support base of BSP in Uttar Pradesh, before launching a campaign to connect Dalits and backward classes, BSP founder Kanshi Ram has been called to Lucknow to show his solidarity on the 18th Nirvana Day. On one hand, on the occasion of his death anniversary, Behenji has directed to reach Lucknow in large numbers from all the districts of the state on 9th October, while on the other hand, Dr. Ambedkar Welfare Network (DAAN) has resolved to tell the story of his sacrifice from house to house. Is. However, BSP

supremo Mayawati has in-



structed everyone from divisional in-charges to dis-

in UP as part of a campaign to connect Dalits and backward classes. After this, the Legislative Assembly by-elections to be held in 2027 have been kept in view. For this, the BSP supremo wants to come up with a new equation and get the same old support of the Dalits and backward classes, with the help of which she wants to come to power with an absolute majority in the 2027 assembly elections. For this, leaders of these classes are being promoted in the party. The responsibilities of hardworking and honest people are being decided afresh. There will be some

more new changes in BSP in the coming days.

Ved Murthy Bhatt passes away

Prayagraj: Ved Murthy Bhatt, father of Shri Rajesh Bhatt, Finance Officer, Treasurer's Office, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Diocese of Lucknow, Church of North India, retired Uttar Pradesh Police Department, passed away today due to prolonged illness. His last breath will be taken from Karanpur Prayag station at 10 am: 00 will depart from Rasula Ghat. This information was given by Worker Union President Sunil Kumar Verma.

Editorial

How LG nominating 5 MLAs could shift balance of power

The votes are in and officials have begun counting ballots cast in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections — the first in the region since Article 370 was abrogated. All eyes are on the Union Territory with its 90 seats up for grabs where parties have to attain the magical number of 46 to emerge victorious in the polls. However, as votes are being counted in this neck-to-neck race, the focus has turned to the issue of nominated Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), with the Congress, the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) opposing it during government formation.

Matter of the 5 MLAs

When the region was reorganised under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the legislation held a section according to which the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir "may nominate two members to the Legislative Assembly to give representation to women." This provision would be exercised by the LG if they felt that the Assembly lacked adequate representation of the women. However, in 2023, this was amended. An addition was made allowing for the nomination of three more members to the Assembly. Two members from the Kashmiri migrant community, one of whom is to be a woman, and one member from the "displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir". The nominations are at the discretion of the LG, meaning he, Manoj Sinha, can select any five individuals. However, some note that the LG's nomination would be based on the advice of the Union Home Ministry. The law, however, isn't clear if these members would have voting rights and could participate in government formation. But as the Jammu-Kashmir Assembly is modelled on the Puducherry Assembly, it seems that these nominated MLAs would then be given voting rights. Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha's power to nominate five MLAs to the JK Assembly has become a bone of contention between the BJP and the opposition. File image/PTI

Why this matters

The nomination of five MLAs by the LG is significant for a number of reasons. Firstly, it changes the dynamics of the Assembly.

How?

Currently, the J-K Assembly is of 90 seats where the halfway mark is set at 45. However, if these MLAs are selected and given voting rights, the number of MLAs in the House increases to 95 and the halfway mark moves to 48. What this means is that the NC-Congress will need 48 MLAs, rather than the previous 45, to form the government. On the other hand, with five MLAs supporting the BJP, the saffron party would require only 43 MLAs to reach the majority mark. Secondly, the addition of five MLAs could change the dynamics of the House if it comes to a hung Assembly, which many exit polls are predicting could be the result of today's counting. Poll pundits note that these five MLAs could swing the results in the favour of the BJP. Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) president Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah show their fingers marked with indelible ink after casting vote during the second phase of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections. Senior Abdullah has said that he would approach the Supreme Court against the LG. This move has not gone down well with the opposition, namely the Congress and the National Conference. The Congress in the Union Territory likened it to electoral fraud, with Ravinder Sharma, spokesman of the party saying, "The right to form a new government lies with the elected MLAs of whichever party or coalition gains a majority in the elections. Any nominations contemplated before the government formation in J&K UT would be a fraud on democracy and the people's mandate."



Workplace mental health: Time for sane Thinking

What defines the real wealth of a nation? Is it the towering skyscrapers that shape its skyline, the bustling industries that fuel its economy, or the global influence it commands? Perhaps it's something much deeper—the well-being of its people, their minds, and their hearts. In a rapidly transforming India, where the pace of professional life is accelerating, workplace mental health has emerged as a crucial but often overlooked concern. As organisations strive for efficiency and output, the mental well-being of employees is under increasing strain. According to a survey by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the global economy loses an estimated \$1 trillion per year due to depression and anxiety alone. A study by Deloitte (2022) reveals that nearly 80 per cent of the Indian workforce faces some degree of mental health issues, yet a mere 20 per cent seek professional help. This alarming gap is exacerbated by the stigma associated with mental illness, inadequate awareness, and limited access to mental health services in workplace settings. A recent tragedy in Noida has brought the issue of workplace mental health into sharp focus. A bank employee took her own life after enduring harassment from her colleagues. The deceased left behind a five-page suicide note in which she revealed how her co-workers subjected her to derogatory slurs such as "bandariya" and "dimag se pagal". In the note, she named six of her colleagues, including two managers, who allegedly contributed to



her emotional breakdown. Another incident from Pune: a 26-year-old chartered accountant from Kerala took her own life after enduring four months of immense work pressure. Her mother's powerful letter to EY India sheds light on the "callous attitude" towards employee well-being that, unfortunately, seems to be a growing concern in many workplaces today. These heart-breaking incidents highlight the toxic environments that many Indian employees silently endure, emphasising the urgent need to address mental health issues in the workplace. For many Indian professionals, the culture of overwork, coupled with societal expectations, creates immense pressure to perform. Long working hours, tight deadlines, job insecurity, and an absence of work-life balance contribute to heightened stress, anxiety, and burnout. In a society where mental health is still a taboo topic, employees often refrain from discussing their struggles, fearing judgement or negative career consequences. No job

is worth a life, and it is time for a systemic change to ensure that every employee feels safe, valued, and heard. **Government Policies and Corporate Initiatives** India has made strides in addressing mental health in the workplace, but much progress is still required. The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, provides a legal framework ensuring individuals' rights to mental health care, including mandated insurance coverage for mental health treatments. However, its corporate implementation remains limited. The National Mental Health Policy (2014) advocates for workplace mental health awareness and encourages supportive environments, though widespread adoption is yet to be seen. Nonetheless, companies like TCS and Wipro are pioneering employee wellness programs, offering counselling and stress management initiatives. The pandemic also spurred firms like Accenture, Google, and Microsoft to introduce teletherapy and burnout prevention strategies. However, the govern-

ment's 2024–25 Union Budget underscores a significant funding gap in addressing India's mental health challenges. Although the allocation for the National Tele Mental Health Programme has been increased to ₹90 crore from the previous year's ₹65 crore, this modest rise falls far short of the resources needed to meet the country's escalating mental health demands. A more comprehensive investment in workplace mental health remains critical for sustainable progress.

Role of Leadership

Corporate leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping workplace mental health. The tragic case of the Noida bank employee's suicide underscores the importance of leadership accountability in preventing workplace harassment. Had there been a proactive, supportive management culture that discouraged workplace bullying and provided a safe space for employees to raise their concerns, the outcome might have been different. Leaders must take responsi-

bility for creating a healthy, inclusive work culture that discourages toxic behaviour. Creating a mental health-positive workplace culture requires a top-down approach where leaders not only encourage open dialogue but also normalise seeking help for mental health issues. Human Resources departments need to adopt a proactive role in identifying mental health risks and offering solutions, wellness check-ins, and mental health days.

A Holistic Approach

While government policies and corporate initiatives are crucial, sustainable change requires a multi-faceted approach. Increased Awareness and Training: Regular mental health awareness campaigns within organisations can help destigmatise mental health issues. Training managers and employees to recognise early signs of distress and offer support will create a safer environment for discussing mental health concerns. Mental Health Infrastructure: Companies need to invest in mental health infrastructure, including easily accessible counselling services, confidential helplines, and designated wellness officers. Telehealth platforms, which have seen increased use since the pandemic, can play a critical role in connecting employees with mental health professionals. Work-Life Balance: Flexible working hours, hybrid models, and vacation policies that prioritise rest over constant productivity can significantly reduce burnout. Encouraging employees to disconnect after working hours.

How Iran's pan-Islamic obsession pits it against Israel

Is a war between Israel and Iran on the cards? Outbreak of full-scale hostilities between Israel and Iran was often feared during the last two decades. However, it was not until earlier this year that the Islamic Republic actually chose to hit Israel directly. Under Operation "True Promise", Iran fired a barrage of around 300 ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and suicide drones upon Israeli targets the night of April 13-14, 2024, almost a fortnight after Israeli airstrikes on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria (April 1) had killed 16 persons, half of whom were officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). Uzi Rubin, an expert of missile defence systems and a senior researcher at the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, disabuses the notion that the attack was a mere face saver aimed at inflicting minimal damages. Rubin argues that it was a strike of unprecedented magnitude, which

was even more powerful than the Russian opening strike against Ukraine in February 2022. Israel's ability to intercept and deflect these attacks was a testimony to the success of its missile defence system. Recently, Tehran saw a merit in repeating those attacks as Operation "True Promise-2," after Israel booby-trapped Hezbollah's pager devices and launched devastating airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in his secret bunker. Whether Israel retaliates or decides to tactically overlook the volley, as it did last April, is a matter of speculation. If indeed Israel seeks reprisal, it has plenty of high-value targets on the ground in Iran to choose from. They include military and intelligence sites, military command sites, oil terminals and refineries, and even nuclear reactors. Iran's poorly developed air defence system is unlikely to provide cover from Israel's vastly superior air strike capability.

Zakir Naik's Pakistan Visit Will Further Stoke Fire of Islamic Extremism

Controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik is currently on a visit to Pakistan, where he is scheduled to deliver a series of public lectures across major cities, including Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, from October 5 to October 20. His arrival at the invitation of the Pakistani government has ignited considerable concern regarding the potential ramifications of Naik's ideology on a nation already wrestling with escalating fundamentalism and sectarian violence. Born in 1965, Naik is infamous for his provocative and often divisive sermons that have gained a global audience. His lectures advocate a stringent interpretation of Islam and frequently challenge the beliefs of other religions, asserting a narrative of Islamic superiority. In 2016, he fled from India amidst allegations of inciting terrorism and hatred, subsequently finding refuge in Malaysia. Since then, he has continued to attract significant attention, both from supporters who view him as a visionary promoting interfaith dialogue, and critics who contend that his rhetoric often strays into incitement, fostering fundamentalist interpretations that may lead to radicalisation. One of the most concerning aspects of Naik's influence is its documented ties to extremist groups. In the past, multiple Bangladeshi militants have openly acknowledged being inspired by his teachings. Particularly alarming is the fact that Bangladeshi youth who carried out the 2016 Dhaka café attack at the behest of ISIS ideology had cited Naik's lectures as a crucial motivating factor behind their actions. These admissions reveal a disturbing truth: Naik's sermons are not merely educational but can act

as a conduit for violent extremism. In light of this context, his forthcoming lectures in Pakistan are especially troubling. The country has long struggled with fundamentalist ideologies, resulting in the emergence of extremist factions that target minorities and incite sectarian violence. Naik's presence is poised to intensify these tensions, further polarising an already divided Pakistani society. For decades, Pakistan's landscape has been deeply scarred by religious extremism.

The emergence of fundamentalist groups has not only jeopardised the secular fabric of society but has also incited violence against religious minorities. Communities such as Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and Shias have endured systemic discrimination, violence, and persecution, frequently rationalised by extremist interpretations of Islam. As the nation continues to grapple with its multifaceted identity, the influx of radical ideologies presents a significant threat to its minorities.

The Pakistani government has made no efforts to counter extremist narratives and hence the societal currents of fundamentalism remain robust. The minorities in Pakistan—particularly Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and Shia Muslims—are surviving in a precarious situation. Ahmadis, for instance, are legally designated as non-Muslims and have to endure persecution, violence, and even murder. The blasphemy laws, frequently exploited to target these communities, have resulted in mob violence and wrongful imprisonments. Christians and Shia Muslims also face targeted assaults from extremist factions.

Who - And What - Will Fill The Vacuum In Iran's Resistance Axis?

The killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in Israeli airstrikes on the Dahieh suburb of Beirut, a predominantly Shia stronghold, was a tectonic event both for the group and the region. Nasrallah had been the leader of Hezbollah for over three decades. The outfit itself was designated as a terror group by the US and others in 1997, two years before even Al Qaeda was labelled as such. In response to his death, Iran has launched a ballistic missile attack against Israel, upping the ante. The crisis today for Hezbollah, founded in 1982 from the ashes of the Lebanese Civil War, is more

existential in nature than ever before. Along with Nasrallah, a majority of the group's military and political hierarchy has also been eliminated. While Israel's offensives against Hezbollah's leadership are not new, the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war, where Israel failed to deliver a thumping defeat, was a focal moment in its strategic thinking. The 2008 assassination in Syria of the group's second in command and founder of the Lebanese Islamic Jihad Organisation, Imad Mughniyeh, was a turning point, one that ultimately culminated in Israeli operations inside Lebanon over the past two months, such as tar-

getting communication lines used via old pagers and walkie-talkies. Moving forward, reconstructing Hezbollah in a post-Nasrallah era will not be easy. Israel, with these strikes, followed by a real threat of a region-wide escalation, may have found ample time for itself to hope for a political alternative emerging from within Lebanon, a country where Hezbollah was a state within a state and challenged the normal functioning of politics. Lebanon has had no president since 2022. Along with Nasrallah, the killing of senior Hezbollah commanders, such as the southern front chief Ali

Karaki and Iranian commandeer Abbas Nilforoushan, amongst others, also significantly disrupts the chain of command.

The Iranian retaliation against Israel in the form of ballistic missiles was explicitly highlighted as a response to these assassinations. The next leader of the group is widely expected to be Hashem Safieddine, a senior member and cousin of Nasrallah. Safieddine, by some accounts, is more radical and less politically astute than his predecessor. Sporting a black turban, he believes that he is a direct descendant of Prophet Mohammed.

In Prayagraj, CM Adityanath bans meat and alcohol during Mahakumbh

Delhi: Meat and alcohol sales will be banned in Prayagraj during Mahakumbh 2025. Present were representatives from all 13 akhadas when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared. He said the Mahakumbh is organized by the Sanatan Dharma flag bearers, with state government help. The Chief Minister said the Mahakumbh would showcase Sanatan culture to pilgrims from around the world and that the administration respects it. Chief Minister Adityanath told the saint community at Mahakumbh that any saint and devotee who bathed in



the holy Triveni Sangam would see the Ganga and Yamuna rivers flowing freely. He said attempts are being done to clean these precious waterways, but the saint community must cooperate. The Chief Minister said that Prayagraj would soon reserve land for the 'samadhi' of Mahakumbh saints at

death. He advised saints to join the clean Mahakumbh initiative and avoid plastic.

In response to the saint community's call for a ban on cow slaughter, the Chief Minister said Uttar Pradesh has life sentences for cow slaughter. Over 1.4 million cattle live in 7,000 state-run cow shelters.

Nirmala Sitharaman's daughter might enter politics



Delhi: Surprisingly enough, Nirmala Sitharaman's daughter, the Union Finance Minister, might enter politics and involve her entire family. Parakala Prabhakar, a founding member of the Praja Rajyam Party, is married to Sitharaman, who is seen as a harsh critic of the NDA government's economic policies. His wife is a

significant member of the party. Although many are surprised by their daughter's decision to enter politics, it is unclear if she will side with her father or not. Parkala Vangmayi, the daughter of Sitharaman, is said to have married Pratik Doshi, the OSD for research and strategy in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

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. 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 Narsingh'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 Ghazabad-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 govt'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." He also accused the BJP of removing the news on

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 Saturday, the RSS chief addressing Swayamsevaks (volunteers) had affirmed that India is a "Hindu nation". "We have resided here since time immemorial, even though the appellation Hindu emerged later".

'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.

India's Nissan Magnite facelift costs Rs 5.99 lakh



Delhi: Nissan India introduced the Magnite facelift at Rs 5.99 lakh (ex-showroom). The redesigned small SUV starts at the same price as the old model. The top-spec model costs Rs 11.50 lakh (ex-showroom). Powertrain options for the Nissan Magnite facelift remain unchanged. The 1.0-litre B4D naturally-aspirated petrol engine produces 72PS and 96Nm, while the HRAO turbo-petrol engine produces 99PS and 160Nm. The naturally-aspirated petrol unit has 5-speed MT and 5-speed AMT, whereas the turbo-petrol motor has CVT. The Nissan Magnite facelift looks similar to the exterior. A hexagonal blacked-out grille, M-shaped LED tail lights, and reworked 16-inch wheels are new. New Sunrise Copper color. In international markets, there are 13 colors, eight monotone and five dual-tone. The cabin now boasts three-tone paint, new

upholstery, and soft-touch materials. A touchscreen infotainment system, wireless charger, and new programmable TFT instrument cluster are included. A revolutionary air purifier can reduce 400 AQI to 30 in 20 minutes. A 36-degree camera and frameless auto-dim IRVM are included. Nissan currently features six standard airbags. The Magnite facelift boasts 55 safety features, 40 of which are standard. The new i-key can remotely start the vehicle within 60 meters. After its 2020 introduction, Nissan had sold 150,000 Magnites. The new model will be made in India and exported to over 65 countries with RHD and LHD.

It will be similar worldwide, with some modifications depending on country legislation.

Auto retail sales skid 9% in Sept on sluggish demand

NEW DELHI: Auto retail sales declined over 9% year-on-year in Sept amid a massive build-up of passenger vehicle inventory due to sluggish demand, dealer's body FADA said on Monday. The overall registrations declined to 17.2 lakh units last month from 19 lakh units in Sept 2023, as most of the categories, including passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, witnessed a year-on-year (YoY) drop.

AIRIA Mall to host one of the biggest comedy festivals of the year

Gurugram: Gurugram's premier retail and entertainment destination, AIRIA Mall, is all set to host 'No Way! Comedy Festival' one of the biggest comedy festivals of the year. Running from 11th to 13th October, this three-day festival will feature over 65 comedians, transforming AIRIA Mall into a laughter zone from 04:00 PM to 10:00 pm each day, promising a non-stop laughter marathon for all attendees. Comedy enthusiasts can look forward to performances by some of India's most celebrated stand-up artists. In addition to those, a



host of rising and established comedians will take to the stage. Attendees can expect a wide range of comedic styles such as observational humor, anecdotal storytelling, satirical comedy, improv performances, and quick-witted

one-liners from these performers. The first day of the festival will headline Aakash Gupta, Rahul Subramanian and Gurav Kapoor, fol-

lowed by Harsh Gujral, Ravi Gupta and Biswa Rahul Dua on the second day. The final day of the festival will feature Anubhav Singh Bassi, Abhishek Upmanyu and Gaurav Gupta. Along with these bigger stars, the festival will also feature other popular artists such as Aakash Mehta, Aditya Kulu, Sharon Verma, Neeli Palta amongst others.

SOLARWORLD ENERGY SOLUTIONS LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI

GURUGRAM: Solarworld Energy Solutions Limited, one of the leading solar energy solutions provider, specialising in engineering, procurement and construction ("EPC") services for solar power projects in terms of revenue from EPC business for Fiscal 2024 according to CRISIL, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP")

with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company plans to raise funds through offer of equity shares (face value 5 each) through initial public offerings aggregating up to 6000 million [600 Crore]. The offer comprises of fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to 5500 million [550 crore] (The "Fresh

Issue") and offer for sale by Selling Shareholders aggregating up to 500 million [50 Crore]. (The "Offer for Sale") The Equity Shares that will be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"). (The "Listing Details")

SBI General Insurance launches 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up' Policy to meet challenge of rising Medical Costs

Ludhiana/Amritsar: SBI General Insurance, one of India's leading General Insurance companies announces the launch of 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up', a health insurance top-up plan designed as an economical and affordable option supplementing over and above the basic health insurance policy. The product offers versatility for individuals seeking insurance to enhance their existing policy - by seamlessly complementing any existing health insurance policy from any provider, whether corporate or personal. It enables customers to customize their coverage to suit their specific needs, ensuring a convenient and hassle-free experience. With lifestyle diseases on the rise and medical inflation escalating at approximately 14% in the country, having sufficient coverage is imperative to effectively manage unexpected medical emergencies, which are not usually covered through standard health insurance plans.

The 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up' policy provides individuals with the assurance they need to confidently face any unforeseen medical situation. The plan contains a wide range of coverages, offering two plans with sum insured ranging from 5 lacs to 4 Crores. Under the policy, the claim becomes payable when your primary health insurance coverage is exhausted or when expenses exceed the deductible amount. It caters to the needs of Group Health or Retail Health customers requiring additional coverage, as well as the urban and semi-urban populace with inadequate or no insurance. Additionally, it fulfills the requirements of High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) or families seeking extensive insurance coverage.

The SBIG Health Super Top-Up offers remarkable benefits, including:

- Flexible Annual Aggregated Deductible and Long-Term Aggregated Deductible options

Nine of top 10 firms' M-cap declined by about Rs 5 lakh crore; RIL, HDFC Bank hardest hit

Delhi: Last week, nine of the top-10 most valued corporations lost Rs 4,74,906.18 crore in market valuation, with Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank suffering the worst impact, following negative equity trends. Due to Middle East tensions and foreign fund withdrawals, markets fell last week. In a holiday-shortened week, the BSE benchmark fell 3,883.4 points, or 4.53%. Reliance Industries' valuation fell Rs 1,88,479.36 crore to Rs 18,76,718.24 crore. The market value of HDFC Bank fell Rs 72,919.58 crore to Rs 12,64,267.35.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) lost Rs 33,490.86 crore to Rs



6,14,125.65 crore and Hindustan Unilever lost Rs 27,525.46 crore to Rs 6,69,363.31 crore. ITC lost Rs 24,139.66 crore to Rs 6,29,695.06 crore and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) lost Rs 21,690.43 crore to Rs 15,37,361.57 crore. State Bank of India's valuation fell

Rs 5,399.39 crore to Rs 7,10,934.59. Infosys' mcap rose Rs 4,629.64 crore to Rs 7,96,527.08 crore. Reliance Industries was the most valuable, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and LIC.

Google to revitalize Indian languages

Delhi: Google is recovering some extinct Indian languages and generating digital records and online footprints as it expands into India with generative AI platform Gemini and other digital goods. The goal is to make local dialect and language voice and text searches easy. As the effort nears completion, hinterland and regional residents can use voice search in their own languages to access accurate and useful information from Google's Gemini AI platform or live translations to better target local communities on YouTube.

Debate organized on Wild Life

Chandigarh: Wild Life Week concluded at Maharishi Dayanand Public School, Daria. Today, a debate on wildlife was organized with the collaboration of the Environment Department, Chandigarh Administration. In this competition, the students said that wild animals should be protected by planting more trees. Forests are our wealth. If we all want prosperity and happiness in our lives, then the environment has to be made clean. Only by making it clean can we live a healthy life. Trees and plants are invaluable treasures. We all have to cooperate in cre-

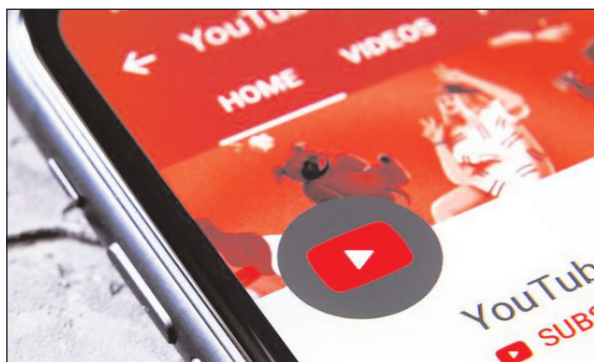


ating a clean environment by planting them in maximum numbers. Factory waste should be dumped in rivers and drains only because it proves fatal for wild animals. He said that our ancestors loved trees, plants, animals, birds and other creatures. We should not pollute the rivers. We should not affect the lives of wild animals. We have to develop the forest

wealth only then the life of wild animals will be safe. For their excellent performance in the competition, Raj, Lovepreet, Rupanshu and Hemant were awarded first, second, third and consolation prizes respectively. Vice Principal Anju Modgil said that the main objective of this competition was to promote the conservation of wildlife.

After a problem, YouTube restored all channels and fixed the past few videos

Delhi: Google-owned YouTube reinstated all channels and most videos erased owing to a problem in a recent update. YouTube worked to fix an issue that wrongly labeled certain channels as spam and removed them. "Happy to report that all channels and most videos incorrectly removed have been reinstated and subscriptions are restored (we're still working on the last few, bear with us)," YouTube posted on X. "We know this caused some disruption, and we so appreciate your patience while we sort this out," the business said. Google-owned firm said staff were "still working on reinstating the incorrectly removed channels and access to subscriptions". We're sorry about the difficulties! Despite delays, playlists and other



content will return. Thanks for your patience while we work on this," the company posted on X. The YouTube channels were wrongly banned for "Spam and Deceptive Practices." All YouTube subscriptions (TV, Premium, Music) were accessible. The business also noted that some YouTubers may lack playlists. The business said those will be restored soon. The original notification and support page revisions addressed "Content Creators"

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 8.9 lakh crore

NEW DELHI: Market investors became poorer by Rs 8.90 lakh crore as Sensex extended its losing streak for the sixth straight session and settled sharply lower on Monday dragged down by heavy selling in bellwether stocks amid mixed global trends and outflow of foreign funds. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped Rs 8,90,153.84 crore to Rs 4,51,99,444.70 crore (\$ 5.38 trillion).

SBI General Insurance launches 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up' Policy to meet challenge of rising Medical Costs

Shima/Mandi: SBI General Insurance, one of India's leading General Insurance companies announces the launch of 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up', a health insurance top-up plan designed as an economical and affordable option supplementing over and above the basic health insurance policy. The product offers versatility for individuals seeking insurance to enhance their existing policy - by seamlessly complementing any existing health insurance policy from any provider, whether corporate or personal. It enables customers to customize their coverage to suit their specific needs, ensuring a convenient and hassle-free experience. With lifestyle diseases on the rise and medical inflation escalating at approximately 14%

in the country, having sufficient coverage is imperative to effectively manage unexpected medical emergencies, which are not usually covered through standard health insurance plans. The 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up' policy provides individuals with the assurance they need to confidently face any unforeseen medical situation. The plan contains a wide range of coverages, offering two plans with sum insured ranging from 5 lacs to 4 Crores. Under the policy, the claim becomes payable when your primary health insurance coverage is exhausted or when expenses exceed the deductible amount. It caters to the needs of Group Health or Retail Health customers requiring addi-

tional coverage, as well as the urban and semi-urban populace with inadequate or no insurance. Additionally, it fulfills the requirements of High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) or families seeking extensive insurance coverage

The SBIG Health Super Top-Up offers remarkable benefits, including:

- Flexible Annual Aggregated Deductible and Long-Term Aggregated Deductible options
- Sum Insured range of 5 Lakhs to 4 Crores and Deductible options from 2 Lakhs to 2 Crores
- Cumulative Bonus (CB) No reduction in CB, in case of a claim
- Unlimited Restore for related and/or unrelated illness/injury

ICICI Bank partners with PhonePe to offer instant credit on UPI

GURUGRAM/FARIDABAD: ICICI Bank today announced that it has partnered with PhonePe to offer instant credit on UPI to its pre-approved customers on the app of the digital payments company.



The partnership enables millions of pre-approved customers of ICICI Bank to activate short term credit line instantly on the PhonePe app, and use it for UPI transactions in a seamless and secure manner. The Bank offers credit line on UPI for up to 2 lakh with a repayment period of 45 days. The facility is announced during the festive season to empower customers to purchase high ticket items like electronics, travel and hotel bookings, bill payments, and much more. Mr. Niraj Tralshawala, Product Head- Payment Solutions, ICICI Bank said, "We at ICICI Bank are delighted to partner with PhonePe to provide seamless and easy access of credit to millions of customers. At the anvil of the festive season, the pre-approved customers of ICICI Bank can activate the credit line instantly to make payments for their festive shopping needs on PhonePe.

Aimed at providing seamless digital credit, this offering is likely to play an important role in the personal banking experience of our customers." Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Deep Agrawal, Head of Payments at PhonePe said, "We are excited to partner with ICICI Bank to extend the credit line on UPI offering to pre-approved ICICI Bank customers on our platform."

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

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

Delhi: The Union Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said wholesalers, retailers, huge chain shops, millers, and importers will be subject to stock limits. The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits, and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order went into effect. Stock limits for each pulse are 200

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

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

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

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

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

the pilot program so existing apps offering fantasy sports and rummy games in India can remain on Play Store," the spokesman said. A senior Google executive said on condition of anonymity that the company intends to create a framework, but conversations are ongoing and there is no "specific timeline" for when these apps can be used again.

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

RBI changes priority sector lending rules

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Google to face South Korean regulator over YouTube bundling allegations

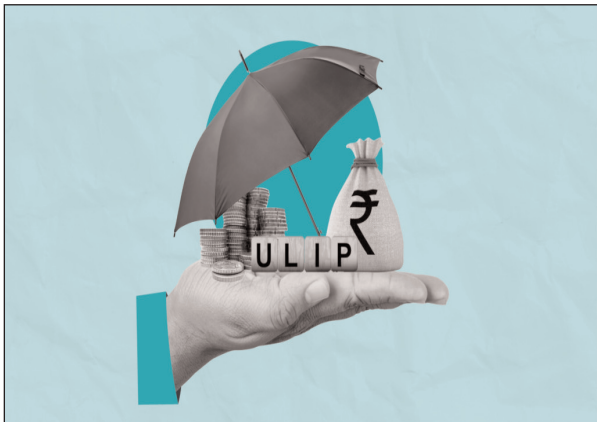
Delhi: To grow and provide drone manufacturing services to the agriculture, mapping, and allied industries, Optimus Unmanned Systems, a subsidiary of Optimus Infra, a contract maker of electronics, would invest Rs 140 crore. According to chairman Ashok Gupta, the company is localizing parts and components in order to reach 75% indigenization by the end



of the fiscal year. If interest rates were high right now, would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit? "We are set to leverage our expertise in drone technology to offer a cost-effective and efficient solution for agricultural and defence needs," Gupta stated.

Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai

Delhi: The insurance regulator prohibits promoting Ulips and index-linked plans as investment products. The Irdai mandated tight standards for fund performance ads in a circular. They should show compounded yearly returns for the past five years with a caveat that past success does not guarantee future results. If applicable, benchmark index performance must be stated with fund performance. The circular advised advertisers not to overestimate benefits, selectively offer benefits without constraints, or make derogatory comparisons to competitors or the industry. The laws compel insurers to form an advertisement committee and appoint compliance officers to ensure compli-



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

Oyo plans to raise \$125 million at a \$2.5 billion valuation

Delhi: Oyo, a key player in the hospitality industry, is reportedly receiving \$100-125 million in new capital, with a \$2.5 billion market valuation. The international chain of low-cost hotels is finalizing a "fresh fundraising of about \$100 million to \$125 million that slashes its valuation.

Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

Delhi: LIC plans to sell some of its premium commercial buildings and land nationwide to raise \$6-7 billion (50,043-58,384 crore). LIC, India's third-largest landlord, has instructed an internal team to develop a selling plan for its real estate assets nationwide, according to two sources. The process may begin in Mumbai. The article listed LIC's premium assets as the Jeevan Bharti building in Delhi's Connaught Place, the LIC building in Kolkata's Chittaranjan Avenue, and Mumbai's Asiatic Society and Akbarally's buildings. Two sources informed that LIC's real estate assets were valued at a cautious 50,000-



60,000 crore during their latest valuation. "LIC-owned buildings may be revalued for the formal asset sale procedure. LIC buildings may have a market value of at least five times the conservative estimate of 2.5-3 lakh crore, as many have never been sold.

The first insider informed that LIC may incorporate a separate business to keep and monetize real estate assets due to the difficulty of valuing them. He added LIC

owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in Mussoorie, Uttarakhnad, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

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

Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

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

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

LG slams 'dire state' of south Delhi localities, AAP hits back

Delhi: A fresh war of words erupted Monday between lieutenant governor V K Saxena and the elected dispensation in Delhi, with the former accusing AAP of neglecting the city's infrastructure and the latter saying his primary responsibility was to maintain law and order.

A day after Saxena inspected some areas in south Delhi, he expressed dismay over the "dire state" of civic amenities and the "lack of proper infrastructure and basic facilities". "During a visit to Rangpuri, Aya Nagar and Jaunapur at the repeated requests of local residents, the appalling example of Delhi govt's inaction



and mismanagement once again came to the fore," a statement issued by Raj Niwas said. "A mesh of dangerously hanging power cables, women with plastic pipes in their hands for getting drinking water, open manholes, and sewage overflowing on the streets narrated the miserable living condition in the area, which is unforgivable," it added. "There are encroachments and heaps of garbage in the

narrow lanes, potholes are filled with sewer water, and mesh of plastic pipes is haphazardly scattered on the streets. Facilities like drinking water and roads don't exist in this part of the capital," said Raj Niwas. The LG office said waterlogging in a densely populated area like Rangpuri had forced people to live amid stench and diseases. DJB is yet to lay permanent water lines and the roads are in a bad shape, it added.

Lawyers upset by SC canteen Navratri call

"The unsigned letter stressed that the court canteen has traditionally served a variety of diets"

Delhi: Attorneys protested the Supreme Court canteen's first-ever ban on non-vegetarian food during Navaratri. The lawyers wrote to SCBA president Kapil Sibal and SCAORA president Vipin Nair saying such a judgment was inconsistent with the bar's "pluralistic" traditions. The

unsigned letter stressed that the court canteen has traditionally served a variety of diets and that suspending non-vegetarian meals to satisfy a few religious groups was wrong. It further warned that granting such petitions could lead to more restrictions. An SCBA spokesman said the canteen contractor had not been told to stop supplying non-vegetarian meals. After lawyer inquiries, the contractor made this decision unilaterally.

183cr revamp of New Rohtak Rd to ease congestion, waterlogging

Delhi:

Delhi govt has sanctioned Rs 183 crore to overhaul the New Rohtak Road, catering to commuters around the Delhi-Haryana border, aiming to eliminate waterlogging and traffic congestion.

The project will benefit lakhs of commuters and residents. The project was announced on Monday by chief minister Atishi.

The project includes the repair and strengthening of the road between Nangloi metro station and the Tikri border and 9 km of new drains on both sides of the road. The project was approved during a recent expenditure finance committee meeting recently. Atishi said: "The New Rohtak Road, which runs from Nangloi metro station through Mundka to the Tikri border, is perhaps the most dilapidated road in Delhi today. This is due to rapid popula-



"The project will be done in two parts. One portion will go from Nangloi metro to Hirankudna Drain, and the other part will come from Tikri Border to the Hirankudna Drain." "This is a long-term solution which will prevent waterlogging and road damage"

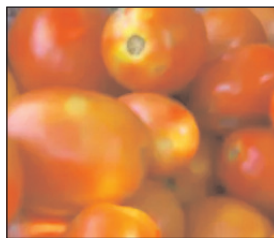
tion growth, reducing the capacity of the drains along the road." She said that this year's monsoon saw almost double the usual rainfall, leading to further strain on infrastructure. To tackle this, a new drain would be constructed by PWD along New Rohtak Road.

The project will be done in two parts. One portion will go from Nangloi metro to Hirankudna Drain, and

the other part will come from Tikri Border to the Hirankudna Drain. "This is a long-term solution which will prevent waterlogging and road damage. Delhi govt has sanctioned Rs. 183 crore for it, and work will start within four weeks, along with repairs on the New Rohtak Road," she said. Residents of Nangloi, Mundka, Ghevra and Tikri will benefit from the construction of new drain.

Centre to start selling tomatoes at Rs 65/kg in Delhi as prices surge

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday started selling tomatoes at Rs 65 a kg across 50 locations in the national capital as the average price of the key kitchen item in Delhi-NCR crossed Rs 90 a kg ahead of the festive season. Sources said the Centre may extend this intervention to other cities soon. Tomato prices in Delhi and its adjoining cities have doubled in past one month due to prolonged monsoon rains and high humidity in major producing states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and



Maharashtra, which have also raised quality concerns in recent weeks. Flagging off vans of the National Consumers Federation (NCCF), Union consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said, "We are trying to moderate the prices of tomatoes through retail market intervention. With this, in the next three-four

days prices of tomatoes will come down." The consumer affairs department said retail prices of tomatoes have seen an "unwarranted increase" in recent weeks despite continuous arrival in good quantities in mandis. It added, "The possible role of market intermediaries in the current price rise in this high-demand festive season cannot be ruled out." The NCCF has initiated the market intervention by directly procuring tomatoes from mandis and selling them at a subsidised rate.

Buddha Dariya rejuvenation project reviewed in New Delhi



"Committee would assess the situation and propose steps to check pollution in the drain"

Delhi: A meeting to review the progress of the Buddha Dariya rejuvenation project was held under the chairmanship of secretary, department of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation in New Delhi on Monday. Senior officials of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), local bodies department, Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), Municipal Corporation Ludhiana, drainage department etc attended the meeting. It was decided to form a joint committee of central and state departments, including CPCB, PPCB, MC Ludhiana, drainage

department, among others to ensure better functioning of common effluent treatment plants (CETPs) etc and to find solutions to problems related to pollution in the Buddha Dariya. MC commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal said that most of the components of Buddha Dariya Rejuvenation project are complete. He added that the committee would assess the situation and propose steps to check pollution in the drain. The CETPs have become a flashpoint for environmental activists and the dyeing industry. Recently, a CETP was blocked using a concrete mix.

Excise department launches portal testing

Delhi: Delhi's excise department is testing an e-Abkari platform to regulate liquor sales. The platform, developed by the National Informatics Centre, would trace every bottle and case of all liquor brands from distillery to warehouse, retail, and bar. It should increase tax income in several categories. Liquor businesses, hotels, clubs, and restaurants can track their liquor supply, place orders, produce transit cards, and apply for or renew excise licenses. The Excise Supply Chain Information Management System (ESCIMS), developed in 2012-13 and managed by Tata Consultancy Services until early this year, handled the liquor trade, but the government chose a new portal from National Informatics Centre (NIC) after studying at least 10 other states' technology.



Government to prolong EV policy beyond March 25: Rai

Delhi: The government plans to extend the electric vehicle (EV) policy through March 2025, ending Delhiites' protracted wait for the subsidies and other benefits associated with buying an EV. This will probably be the final extension before EV policy 2.0 is implemented. A proposal for the extension will be drafted by department officials under the direction of the transport minister and presented to the cabinet for approval. "Work on the EV policy 2.0 has begun." The current policy will be extended one last time until then. Additionally, this would guarantee that buyers who have been waiting months for subsidies—like road tax exemptions—will get them," an official stated. Since the policy's expiration on December 31, 2023, the buyers of electric vehicles have been without benefits for more than six months as a result of the non-renewal. According to the official, in order for the benefits to continue, it had to be extended in January of this year.

Maliwal, 2 others cleared in 2011 prohibitory order case

New Delhi: A Delhi court recently acquitted Rajya Sabha member Swati Maliwal and two men in an FIR registered against them over their protest raising anti-govt and pro-Lok Pal Bill slogans in 2011, allegedly in violation of Delhi Police's prohibitory order. The court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate acquitted Maliwal, Arvind Gaur, and Neeraj Kumar Pandey of the offences under sections 188 (disobeying an order from a public servant) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC, 1860, stating that the prosecution has "miserably failed" to prove its case against all three accused. "The burden of proving its case always lies upon the prosecution, and the guilt of the accused has to be proved beyond reasonable doubt in every case. For the reasons assigned herein above, the prosecution has miserably failed to prove its case whereby all the accused, namely Arvind Gaur, Neeraj Kumar Pandey, and Swati Maliwal, stand acquitted of the offence under sections 188/34 IPC," said the court.

According to the prosecution, the protest by the accused persons caused a traffic jam at Connaught Place inner circle, and they did not leave the spot despite warnings. A total of 13 witnesses were examined by the prosecution, of which 12 were police witnesses and one was a public witness. The court, taking on record the testimonies and the evidence produced, said that in order to prove its case, first and foremost, the prosecution was required to show that the order was promulgated in the manner prescribed by law and that the accused persons had knowledge of the prohibitory order, despite which they disobeyed the same. This is lacking in the present case, the court said.

The court stated that the quintessential link connecting the accused with the crime is missing in the case, and the prosecution has failed to establish the presence of the accused.

Using caste to assign inmates labor is discriminatory. SC

Delhi: The Supreme Court ordered an end to caste-based barracks segregation and forced labor and gave states and Union Territories three months to change their jail manuals. Under the current arrangement, marginalized caste convicts clean and sweep, while upper caste prisoners cook. Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, Justices J B Pardiwala, and Manoj

Misra voiced concern that caste prejudice has remained after the Constitution outlawed it on Jan. 26, 1950. It issued many orders to end caste-based discrimination in jails and filed a suo motu case to monitor compliance. The notion that isolating offenders by caste would maintain prison discipline was rejected because it would foster caste disparities or

enmity that should be prevented. "The Indian Constitution forbids such a mindset. There is no need to permanently separate two groups if they are rivals. Discipline cannot be achieved by violating inmates' rights and correctional needs. SC ruled prison authorities should be free to address perceived discipline threats without violating rights.

Criminal negligence claims another life, 5-yr-old dies

New Delhi: A five-year-old boy died after falling in a drain in northwest Delhi's Alipur on Monday. The boy lived with his fami-

ly in Sungarpur village. Around 11.30am on Monday, the boy and his parents went to Jindpur to sell some scrap. When the elders were engaged in a conversation with the shopkeeper, the son wandered away and it was only after selling the scrap that the parents realised their son, Rahul, was missing. After an extension search in the area failed to find him, the parents began scouring the drain there. To their horror, they saw Rahul's body submerged in the murky water. A group of concerned locals sprang into action, pulling out the child from the perilous situation.

SBI General Insurance launches 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up' Policy to meet challenge of rising Medical Costs

GURUGRAM / HISAR : SBI General Insurance, one of India's leading General Insurance companies announces the launch of 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up', a health insurance top-up plan designed as an economical and affordable option supplementing over and above the basic health insurance policy. The product offers versatility for individuals seeking insurance to enhance their existing policy - by seamlessly complementing any existing health insurance policy from any provider, whether corporate or personal. It enables customers to customize



their coverage to suit their specific needs, ensuring a convenient and hassle-free experience.

With lifestyle diseases on the rise and medical inflation escalating at approximately 14% in the country, having sufficient coverage is imperative to effectively manage unexpected medical emergencies, which are not usually covered through stan-

dard health insurance plans. Speaking about the policy, Mr. Subramanya Brahmajosyula, Chief Product & Marketing Officer, SBI General Insurance said, "With the escalating costs of medical treatments and the growing prevalence of lifestyle-related illnesses, having comprehensive health coverage is no longer a luxury but a necessity. At SBI

General, we have always been at the forefront of providing customers with simplified and affordable risk solutions that address the evolving needs of the customers. The 'SBIG Health Super Top-Up' Insurance Policy, is for the benefit of insuring customers who want to top up their existing insurance plan at a reasonable premium rate. This policy is tailored to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families, offering peace of mind and financial security during unexpected medical emergencies. This super top-up policy features.