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

## PM attacks opposition with 'mujra' dig, Congress calls for 'decorum'

**PATNA:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked Congress and RJD on Saturday over corruption and a "Muslim appeasement policy", saying, "If INDI Alliance wants to perform mujra for vote bank, it hardly bothers me (sic). I will continue fighting for the quota of OBCs, SCs and STs." Modi also said the countdown had begun for RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his son, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, to go to jail after Lok Sabha elections.

The PM mentioned the Calcutta HC order to cancel all OBC certificates issued by the West Bengal govt since 2010 by which 75 Muslim communities were given reservation under OBC category.

Addressing three back-to-back rallies in Patliputra, Karakat and Buxar Lok Sabha constituencies, which go to polls on June 1, the PM accused INDI alliance of being



"communal, casteist and dynastic" and said they could go to any extent to tweak the Constitution and give reservation meant for OBCs/SCs/STs and EBCs to Muslims as part of their appeasement policy.

In an oblique reference to Tejashwi and land-for-jobs scam, Modi said, "Jinhone Bihar mein garibon ko loot kar naukri ke badle jameen likhwayi hai wo kaan khol kar sun lo, unka jail jane ka countdown shuru ho gaya hai. They will not be spared... this is the NDA govt and Modi's

**After June 4, Congress to blame Kharge for loss: Amit Shah**

**SHIMLA:** Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday he was confident NDA would achieve its "400 paar" target, and that Congress would blame EVMs for its defeat in Lok Sabha elections and pin the responsibility on its national president, Mallikarjun Kharge, leading to his resignation. Addressing public meetings in Hamirpur and Kangra Lok Sabha seats in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, Shah claimed BJP has secured 310 seats in the first five phases.

"But the goal of crossing 400 seats... this responsibility lies with the people voting in the seventh phase, particularly with Himachal Pradesh," he said, adding that Congress would get less than 40 seats.

## First batch of Indian players, including Rohit, depart for US ahead of World Cup

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian cricket team's journey to the United States for the ICC T20 World Cup, commencing on June 1, has begun with the departure of the first group of players from Mumbai airport.

The contingent included captain Rohit Sharma, pace sensation Jasprit Bumrah, and the top-ranked T20I batsman Suryakumar Yadav.

Accompanying the players were head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour. Young batting talent Shubman Gill, all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Shivam Dube, along with pacers Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh, and Khaleel Ahmed, were also spotted at the Mumbai airport.

The spin department was represented by Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel, who were part of the traveling squad.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal, who on Friday ended their Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign with Rajasthan Royals after



**'Reality exposed': Opposition leaders attack PM Modi**

**NEW DELHI:** Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the opposition leaders on Saturday strongly criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his use of the term "mujra" to target the opposition alliance INDIA bloc, the leaders argued that such comments from a person

loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), Kolkata Knight Riders' batter Rinku Singh, who is playing the IPL final against SRH on Sunday at Chennai and star batter Virat Kohli, whose team Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) lost to RR in the eliminator on

holding such position in the country undermines the dignity of the post. These remarks came in response to PM earlier statement at rallies in Bihar, where he launched a scathing attack on the opposition alliance INDIA bloc and accused it of doing "slavery" and "mujra" for the Muslim.

Friday, have not joined the team yet. India's T20 World Cup campaign begins on June 5 against Ireland at the newly constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York. India versus Pakistan clash will take place on June 9.

**Rahul Gandhi mocks dip in 'dignity of speeches'**

**GORAKHPUR:** Congress star campaigner Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, criticising PM Narendra Modi's "mujra" remark targeting the INDIA bloc, said on Saturday the PM should "maintain decorum", while her brother, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, posted on X saying, "Pradhan Mantri ki bhasha ki garima aur Bhajpa ki seaten - dono hi lagatar girti chali ja rahi hai (The dignity of the PM's speeches and BJP's seats continue to fall)." "Did you listen to Modiji's speech in Bihar? He used words for opposition leaders, which have not been used by any PM in the history of this country," Priyanka said at a public meeting to garner votes for INDIA bloc candidates in Gorakhpur and Bansgaon seats.

## Loving the stars to OpenAI star: Journey of Pune boy who realised Altman's vision

**Prafulla** with his sister Deepal, and parents Alka and Sushil Dhariwal. It's early morning in the US, and Alka Dhariwal's voice recounts every milestone in her son's journey with pride. The San Francisco-based Prafulla Dhariwal, who went from being a standout student and school head boy in Pune to a key contributor in the development of the OpenAI's latest GPT-4o, shot into the limelight after OpenAI CEO Sam Altman tweeted his praise: "GPT-4o would not have happened without the vision, talent, conviction, and determination of @prafdh over a long period. That (along with the work of many others) led to what I hope will turn out to be a revolution in how we use computers." His teachers and friends recall a young boy who, despite his exceptional intelligence, and numerous quiz and international Olympiad victories, was always approachable, pleasant, disciplined, and willing to share his knowledge. Friends said Prafulla was never a "boring" studious guy who only talked about syllabus and marks - he loved to play cricket and watch the night sky, pointing out the constellations. This blend is the foundation for his achievements in AI, they said. Prafulla's mother says they gave him textbooks from various educational boards, allowing him to understand concepts in different ways. He loved studying, as well as sports. "Prafulla was a night owl. He enjoyed cricket and chess. We must understand the value of sports in building concentration, sportsmanship, social skills, and teamwork. I used to discuss our methods with his friends and their parents to foster a supportive community. It's crucial to teach children from the start that selfishness is wrong, and that considering others is essential," she says.

## Congress calls Modi's 'God sent' remark as 'increasingly delusional,' claims INDIA bloc to cross 350 seats

**NEW DELHI:** As the sixth phase of Lok Sabha concluded on Saturday, Congress claimed the BJP's fate is "all but sealed" and said that the INDIA bloc has already crossed the halfway mark of 272 seats and is on course for a tally of over 350 seats in total. Taking on the social media, X, Congress general



secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh repeated the opposition's slogan 'south mein saaf, north but sealed. It has become clear that the BJP will be

Saaf, aur North, West, and East mein Half," Ramesh said in a post.

"The INDIA alliance has grown from strength to strength since Phase 1. After polling in Maharashtra, UP, Bihar and now Delhi, we are seeing the incredible chemistry that has been built between coalition partners.

## Phase 6 records 59% voter turnout, Bengal leads with 78%

**NEW DELHI:** As Phase 6 of Lok Sabha elections concluded on Saturday, the overall voter turnout was recorded at 59.46 per cent. In Phase 6, 58 seats went to polling across eight states and UTs. This is the lowest turnout till now among all six phases of Lok Sabha.

The highest turnout of 78.14 per cent was recorded in West Bengal. As per the data available on the Election Commission



voter turnout app, Bihar recorded 54.17 per cent voting and Uttar Pradesh recorded 54.03 per cent turnout. New Delhi, where all seven seats were voted in sing phase, also recorded low polling of only 55.58 per cent. Haryana saw 58.92 per cent polling and Odisha recorded 60.04 per cent turnout.

Jharkhand, where four seats were at stake, saw the voter turnout of 63.27 per cent. Polling in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri, which was adjourned in Phase 3.

## 9 children among 27 dead in Rajkot gaming zone blaze

**RAJKOT:** At least 27 people, including nine children, died in a massive fire late Saturday afternoon at TRP Game Zone, a two-storey recreational facility packed with a crowd of around 300 due to summer vacation and the weekend amidst sweltering weather in Gujarat's Rajkot city, officials said.

DCP Parthrajsinh Gohil confirmed the deaths as rescue operations continued to find more victims. The fire, which started around 6 pm, caused chaos as some managed to escape while others were trapped by collapsing temporary structures. "The fire has been doused but due to



darkness, it's difficult to find bodies. The rescue operation will continue Sunday," police commissioner Raju Bhargava said. Police noted the bodies were badly charred, complicating identification, and said DNA tests would be necessary. A large tin shed collapsed due to the fire, prompting the use of an earth-mover to clear the debris. It is feared that some victims are buried beneath. "A temporary struc-

ture at the recreation facility collapsed near the entrance, making it difficult for people to rush outside the dome. This also created hurdles in firefighting. The structure was flammable and the fire spread faster due to wind," Rajkot chief fire officer Ilesh Kher said. The facility had been running for the past 18 months without the mandatory municipal licence and fire NOC, according to Rajkot Municipal

## 'Bar bribery' audio triggers political storm in Kerala, police to probe

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** A Kerala Police special team will probe allegations of bar bribery centred on a WhatsApp audio leak about hotel owners allegedly being asked to "pool money for a favourable liquor policy". The leak purportedly links Animon alias Jayakrishnan.

the Idukki district prez of the Federation of Kerala Hotels Association. The allegation surfaced amidst reports that the Left govt was favourably considering the bar owners' main demands to lift the dry day on the first of every month and to open pubs in IT parks. However, with the controversy triggering a political storm, it is now learnt that govt might reconsider the move. The probe followed a complaint by excise minister.

## Uttarakhand to enlist live-ins online, notify parents

**DEHRADUN:** The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is expected to be implemented in Uttarakhand by the end of this year, with an online registration facility for live-in couples and marriages in the process of being introduced. Notably, this is the first time that the govt has disclosed that the registration of live-ins would be possible online. The issue of couples having to register, and face scrutiny by the govt under UCC provisions for live-ins, had been a significant talking points among the youth ahead of the Lok Sabha polls this year. A nine-member panel led by former chief secretary Shatrughan Singh has been working on drafting the necessary rules, which are anticipated to be completed by end of June. Officials said they're planning to implement the Act's provisions by late 2024.

Singh told, "We want to make it easier for people to complete formalities via the online mode. However, this process is complex as govt staff need formal training. We plan to frame rules and conduct training sessions simultaneously to meet the deadline." He added that training for govt employees, especially those in the sub-registrar office, would be conducted both in online and offline mode, including at the village-level. Singh highlighted that the online facility would benefit both couples and govt staff by reducing the need for multiple visits to the registrar's office. He added that despite the additional time required, the plan would be "comprehensive and foolproof." "We are not against live-in relationships or imposing any restrictions.

# Voters became campaigners of BJP

Prayagraj: In the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections, voting took place on 14 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh including Allahabad. The most important thing seen during the voting was that common shopkeepers and voters were campaigning for BJP on their own. Those campaigning for BJP were neither BJP workers nor any party leader contacted them. People were seen campaigning for BJP only after being impressed by Modi ji's personality and Yogi ji's efficient

administration. These people not only voted for BJP but also inspired others to vote. During the voting, the enthusiasm of the voters remained at its peak at many polling stations. There were queues at many polling stations since early morning. Voting continued till late evening. Allahabad seat saw the main electoral contest between Congress Party candidate Ujjwal Raman Singh and Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Neeraj Tripathi. At some places the Congress candi-

date was seen gaining the lead and at some places the BJP had the upper hand. Who will win the election? This will be known on the day of counting, but the election contest in Jamunapar region was very tough. In this, Neeraj Tripathi is said to have the upper hand.

Along with this, voting also started for the by-election on Gansadi assembly seat of Balrampur. All the voters who are standing in the queue at the polling booth till 6 pm will be entitled

to exercise their franchise. Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Phulpur, Prayagraj, Ambedkar Nagar, Shrivasti, Dumariyaganj, Basti, Santakbir Nagar, Lalganj (U), Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Machhishahr (U) and Bhadohi are the 14 seats on which voting is taking place today. Of these, Pratapgarh Lok Sabha seat has the maximum number of 26 candidates, and there are maximum 15 candidates and one NOTA button on the ballot unit of an electronic voting machine, hence there are two

sets of EVMs at every polling booth of every polling station of this seat. Two ballot units will be installed. Talking about the last Lok Sabha elections of 2019, out of these 14 seats, the highest turnout of 61.08 percent was in Ambedkar Nagar seat and the lowest was in Phulpur seat of 48.70 percent. A total of 28,171 polling booths have been set up in the elections.

Due to low voting percentage in Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency, many candidates are breathing

down their necks. However, due to low voting percentage, BJP is likely to suffer more losses. The all-round effect of Modi magic was visible in the elections. BJP appeared to be getting direct benefits of 5 kg ration and Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana in this election. All parties have put in all their strength to win the elections. BJP appeared stronger in ghost management. Voting was completed peacefully in Prayagraj and Phulpur areas due to the enthusiasm of the workers and voters.

## Bride reaches polling booth prior to Vidai ritual in Bhadohi

Bhadohi: Malti Devi (24), a resident of Rajapur village in Bhadohi district who married on Friday night, went to the voting station in her bridal gown to vote before returning to her in-laws' home, according to District Information Officer Pankaj Kumar on Saturday.

## Anti corruption team arrested junior engineer red handed while taking bribe

Chitrakoot: The anti-corruption team in the district on Saturday arrested the junior engineer of the electricity department red handed while taking a bribe of Rs 20,000. Dharamdas Patel, the junior engineer posted in the electricity power house of Saraiya Chowki area, asked Sandeep Kumar, a resident of Bahilpurwa, a bribe of Rs 20,000. The demand was made in the name of electricity connection. On this, he complained about it to the anti-corruption team and sought help. Under a scheme, the Jhansi unit of the anti-corruption team, in collaboration with the anti-corruption team, Banda unit, caught the junior engineer red-handed taking a bribe of Rs 20,000 from the victim farmer. The anti-corruption team has filed a case against the accused JE in Karvi Kotwali.

## MLA Irfan's mother and wife termed Nazir Fatima's allegations as baseless

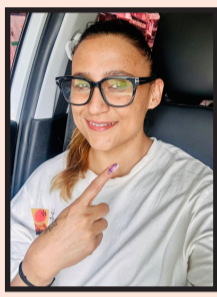
Kanpur: The mother and wife of SP MLA Irfan Solanki, lodged in Maharajganj jail, held a press conference on Saturday. Both of them termed Nazir Fatima's allegations as baseless and said that she is misleading the police and the court. "That is why she gives statements every day that the MLA and his people threaten her. If the MLA and his brother Rizwan are in jail then how can they threaten her?" they quipped during the presser. Nazir Fatima has a plot near SP MLA Irfan Solanki's residence in Jajmau, in which she lives in a hut. Last year, Nazir had accused MLA Irfan and his brother Rizwan that her hut was set on fire at the behest of both of them, because these people want to take possession of the plot. The case registered in the police station regarding this matter is going on in the MP-MLA court and the decision is likely to come soon. The MLA and his brother Rizwan are in jail.

Here, the MLA and his brother, who appeared several times, told the media that there will be justice, and we will be acquitted. On these statements, victim Nazir Fatima alleges that it is clear from the manner in which the accused talk to the media that they are threatening her. Apart from this, their aides also threaten her for not pursuing the same case. The victim has spoken about threats to the police as well as the court. On this, on Saturday, MLA Irfan's wife Naseem Solanki, mother Khurshida Bano and her advocate Shivakant Dixit held a press conference and called the allegations of Nazir Fatima and her daughter Kaneez Zaira baseless. The MLA's mother asked whether it is wrong to say that justice will be done. Is Nazir Fatima alleging fabricated threats to mislead the police and the court, thereby postponing the decision of the case. MLA's lawyer Shivakant Dixit said that the cross-examination in the case has been completed and the court has been continuously postponing the decision for two months.

## Queue of voters continued till evening

Prayagraj: Voting for the sixth phase, which started at 7 am, continued peacefully throughout the day. There were also reports of sporadic disputes, machines malfunctioning and boycott of voting at some centres.

Former MP Kunwar Revathiraman Singh (father of Congress candidate Ujjwalaman Singh) was trying to enter the polling center located on Sixty Feet Road of Kareli in Prayagraj without a pass. The police refused, but when things did not work out, the police took the MP to Kareli police station in their own car. In the voting held today, votes were cast for a total of 14 seats in UP. Queues of voters were seen till evening in Shankargarh area of Yamunapar. Voting remained peaceful till afternoon except for sporadic problems in the district. Voting remained very slow in Phulpur and Allahabad seats till 9 am. However, by 2 o'clock the candidates for both the seats were visible. High officials of police and administration remained on tour continuously. DCP (Yamunanagar) Shradha Pandey visited the polling stations of Kheri, Meja, Shankargarh police station area and took stock of the security arrangements and directed the subordinate officers to remain alert all the time. Similarly, ACP Santlal Saroj also remained mobile with his team throughout the day and kept checking the critical centres. Gopaldas Gupta, Ram Khelavan Gupta, Rohit Kesarwani, Anoop Kesarwani, Arvind Kesarwani (Trade Board President), Dheeraj Gupta, Neeraj Kesarwani, Sudha Gupta, . Sujit Kesarwani, Tomato Guru, Jhallu Kesarwani, Chaturbhuj Das Gupta, Masuriadeen Verma, Binnu Kesarwani, Guddu Kesarwani, Sunita Devi, Mahesh Kesarwani (Bambaia) etc. were present.



## Ex-VC Prof. Girish Chandra Tripathi, MLA Harsh, Dr. Dwivedi and Sanjay Purusharthi voted



Prayagraj: Voting was done on 14 Lok Sabha seats in the sixth phase on 25 May. This also includes Phulpur and Allahabad parliamentary seats of Prayagraj district. The Lok Sabha seats of Uttar

Pradesh for which voting is being held on Saturday for the sixth phase of elections include Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Phulpur, Allahabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Shrivasti, Dumariyaganj, Basti, Sant Kabir

Nagar, Lalganj (Reserved), Azamgarh, Jaunpur. On the auspicious occasion of the festival of democracy, prominent personalities of Prayagraj included Prof. Girish Chandra Tripathi, former vice chancellor

of Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Council. Northern MLA Engineer Harshvardhan Bajpai, Astrologer Dr. Ashwini Dwivedi and Sanjay Purusharthi exercised their franchise.

## Gujarati community performed yagya and rituals in Kashi for victory of PM Modi

Varanasi: On Saturday, the Gujarati community performed a yagya and ritual to wish for the victory of the BJP candidate Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the Varanasi parliamentary seat in the Lok Sabha elections. More than four hundred parliamentary

supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi gathered in the courtyard of the Gurjar Chhatra Sahayak Samiti located at Bulanalala Karanghanta. The ritual took place to win the seat and form the BJP coalition government at the Center for the third consecutive time. Along

with this, the 11-day ritual of reciting the Vijay Mantra described in the Vedas was also completed. The completion of the ritual was performed by Jajman Yajneesh Rawal, 51 Batuk, men/women of Gujarati community in the presence of Dr. Vishal Kumar Pandey. Anil Shastri

(Guru Ji), Alok Parikh, Sandeep Pandya, Vivek Parikh, Kamlesh Patel, Sunita Gujarati, Rashmi Sonawala, Vibha Gujarati, Hira Ben, Ashwani Parikh, Manju Vyas, Pooja, Yash Nagar etc from Gujarati community were instrumental in completing the 11-day event.

## Labourer from Jalaun crushed by tractor, dies in Kanpur

Kanpur: In the Sadh police station area, a tractor laden with bricks crushed Vishal, a labourer from Jalaun, who died on the spot. When the police reached the information and took possession of the body and sent it for post-mortem, the driver fled leaving the tractor behind. 24-year-old Vishal Ahirwar, a resident of Jalaun district village, Parousa police station Kaudara, used to work as a labourer in Gopal Bhatta Nauranga of Ghatampur police station area. He had left for his village late at night and had just reached Tiwaripur village of Sadh police station area on foot when a brick-laden tractor coming from Sarsaul went out of control and crushed the labourer. In this accident, the young man lost his life. Seeing the accident, the driver left the tractor and ran away. The local people informed the police about the incident and the police reached the spot and

tried to identify the body, but all their efforts yielded no results.

On this, the police took possession of the body and sent it for post-mortem and started identifying the body. The tractor was brought to the police station and parked there. Sadh police station in-charge Sudhir Kumar said on Saturday that the deceased has been identified today and his fellow labourers have identified him. After identification, the family members were informed about the incident. He told that the colleagues of the deceased revealed that Vishal had left late at night saying that he was going to his village. When his friends said that he would not get the transportation at night, he said that he would walk till the highway and from there he would get the transportation throughout the night, but before reaching the highway, he died in a road accident.

## Bulawa Toli made special efforts to increase voting percentage

Prayagraj: To motivate the people of Prayagraj to vote in the great festival of democracy, the city's prestigious school D.P. Girls Inter College was made a "model booth" and to celebrate this festival, the entire school was decorated with colorful balloons. By making rangoli, posters and selfie points, voters were made aware of 100% voting. Principal of the school, Dr. Ranjana Pandey, as per the instructions given by the Chief Development Officer/District Chief Commissioner, Prayagraj Election 2025. And under the direction of guide in-charge teachers Saman Zahra and Anushree, "Bulawa Toli"



of guide students was formed. The girl students of the school, in their full uniform, went from door to door in the surrounding area with their Roli and inspired everyone to go to the polling place and vote. In Bulawa Roli, the elderly, sick, disabled and those unable to reach the polling place were helped in bringing the voters to the polling booth and got them voting. With full zeal and enthusiasm, this slogan was raised for 100 percent voting - "Today we all have decided to bring every person to the booth. 100 percent voting has to be done, democracy has to be saved."

## Nia Sharma spills beans on handmade 'Suhagan Chudail' outfit

Varanasi: COLORS' upcoming fantasy-thriller romance 'Suhagan Chudail' warns everyone to protect their loved ones from a dangerous enchantress who prowls the night. In this gripping saga, Nishigandha, a chudail (played by Nia Sharma) uses the power of Solah Shringaar to lure men into marriage and sacrifice them for immortality until she is challenged by Deeya (Debhanchandra Singha Roy), who shields the chudail's final target Moksh (Zayn Ibad Khan) with her love. The tale of eternal love versus a dark force is making waves ahead of its premiere thanks to its exciting promos, and the leading lady Nia Sharma's sizzling avatar. The stunning actress is turning heads having pulled out all the stops with her head-to-toe couture. Poised to be known as the signature look of the chudail, the exquisite red creation she dons boasts of elaborate stonework and delicate embroidery.

Talking about the outfit, Nia Sharma says, "Deciding what my character Nishigandha should look like in 'Suhagan Chudail' was a really exciting creative process for me as an actor and someone who



loves fashion. From the very beginning when I first read the script, I knew this role needed a truly special and unique look. There's just something so special about wearing an outfit that a designer has made completely by hand from start to finish. I must say, my amazing stylist Annuradha Khuranna perfectly understood the vision I had in mind and used her talents to handcraft this stunning red ensemble for Nishigandha. We tried out many different colors, styles, and textures before deciding on this beautifully hand-embroidered masterpiece. The phenomenal response to my look from fans has made all the effort worth it." In an exciting detail straight from Nia herself, the show's stylist Annuradha Khuranna has custom-created the star's striking red ensemble entirely by hand - from the ornate blouse and lehenga down to the statement jewellery pieces. No off-the-rack outfits for this on-screen enchantress! The signature outfit is the result of numerous fittings and experiments to land the perfect blend of seductive and sinister. Nia worked with Khuranna, trying on various looks before finally settling on the now-iconic red aesthetic.

## Madrasa Board exam results to be declared by May end

Lucknow: Registrar of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Board, Dr. Priyanka Awasthi said that it has taken some time for the Madrasa Board exam results to come. Qualified teachers have been appointed to ensure that there are no irregularities in the examination results. We will declare the results of the Madrasa Board by the end of this month. Due to the delay in the results of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Board, the last date for admission in other universities including Lucknow University is over and the Madrasa students are facing a crisis.

Madrasa students have not yet filled the form for any university due to Madrasa Board's exam results not coming. Maulana Jameel Nimazi, President of Lucknow unit of Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Teachers Association, said that the exam results of all the boards have come. There is an atmosphere

of despair among the students just because of the Madrasa Board results not being declared. The state government claims that it wants to provide modern education to the madrasa students. Still, the Madrasa Board results are not being released on time. Maulana Nimaji said that at present no one is thinking about the Madrasa students. Neither any minister nor any social worker, after the delay in the examination results, the only support left for the students will be the colleges which take admission on the basis of merit. It should be noted that the examination was conducted in the month of February under the Madrasa Board of Uttar Pradesh. And in this, 1 lakh 18 thousand students had given the examination. After this, the Madrasa Board examination results were to be declared by the month of April, for which more than a month has passed.

# Fates of 55 candidates of Allahabad, Phulpur, Pratapgarh sealed

Prayagraj: Voting for electing representatives from Prayagraj region's Phulpur, Allahabad and Pratapgarh parliamentary seats took place on Saturday amidst sporadic incidents of voting boycott, threats of boycott and allegations of bias by officials.

The three seats recorded an average polling percentage of 50.76% against a polling percentage of 52.36% recorded in 2019—a dip of 1.84%. Around 57.25 lakh voters were eligible to exercise their franchise in these three seats in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha polls-2024.

Voting in Prayagraj and Pratapgarh districts took place at 5,783 polling booths under 3,024 polling

stations. Polling took place in 1,913 booths under 936 polling stations in Allahabad and 2,068 booths under 858 polling stations of Phulpur besides 1,902 polling booths under 1,230 polling stations in Pratapgarh between 7 am and 6 pm, said officials.

While 14 and 15 candidates are in the fray from Allahabad and Phulpur respectively, Pratapgarh has the highest 26 candidates. The Allahabad seat witnessed a decent start with voters in large numbers rushing to polling booths early in the morning before the scorching heat made its presence felt.

By 9am, 9.37% of the total registered 18,25,730 voters (9,88,343 men,



8,37,149 women and 215 third gender people) has cast their vote and the polling percentage reached 23.88% by 11am. However then with the temperature rising, polling dipped and by 1pm it reached 34.06% before reaching 41.04% by 3m and touching 49.30% mark by 5pm. By the time

the polling concluded, the polling percentage reached 51.75%. In 2019, Allahabad seat had recorded a polling percentage of 51.83% amounting to a fall of 0.08% this time.

In Phulpur, the polling started off slowly with merely 7.45% of the total 20,67,042 registered voters

(11,22,020 men, 9,44,827 women and 196 third gender) casting their votes till 9 am. However, it reached 22.85% by 11 am and touched 33.05% by 1pm.

As expected, polling slowed down in the afternoon and could reach 39.46% by 3pm and touching 46.80% mark by 5pm. Polling percentage reached 48.94% by the time polling ended as compared to 48.70% amounting to a rise of 0.24% this time.

On Pratapgarh seat, morning hours witnessed best polling among the three parliamentary seats of Prayagraj region with 12.89% of the 18,33,312 voters (9,70,013 men, 8,62,394 women and five transgender voters) having

voted by 9am and the figure reaching 26.35% by 11 am before touching 36.01% by 1pm. Here too, voting slowed down in the afternoon with polling percentage reaching 41.87% by 3pm and touching 49.65% by 5pm. By the time polling ended, polling percentage reached 51.60% against 53.56% registered in 2019 amounting to a fall of 1.96% this time.

After polling, the task of depositing the EVMs from Allahabad and Phulpur seats at the strong room set up at Navin Sabzi Mandi in Mundera continued till late night. Likewise, in Pratapgarh, the EVMs were stored at the strong room set up at Mahuli Mandi till late night amidst tight security.

## Fake WhatsApp message: UP minister Nandi lodges FIR

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi on Friday night lodged an FIR at Kotwali police station against a WhatsApp group admin and a member of it for allegedly spreading a fake message in his name to mislead voters. Confirming it, station house officer, Kotwali police station, Rohit Tiwari said a probe into the incident was under way and those involved in it will be traced soon. In his complaint to the police, Nandi said he came to know about a message being circulated in a WhatsApp group named Shankargarh, Naribari News.

"The message mentioned about political neglect of my wife and former mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi and urged people to reply through their votes," Nandi said in the complaint. "Such a message only a day before polls indicates that this was spread under a conspiracy for taking political benefits and an attempt to malign my image," the minister alleged. He demanded arrest and strict action against the said WhatsApp group admin Pramod Babu and the person who posted the message.

## Blind man exercised right to vote



Prayagraj: Shahrugh Khan has no sight in his eyes but still casts his vote Shahrugh Khan, a resident of Kidganj, who cannot see with both eyes, cast his vote today with his family at Dr. Katju Inter College, Kidganj.

## Exercised franchise for nation building

Prayagraj: Senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, Anurag Sant, along with his mother, senior social worker Poonam Sant, father Sant Lal and sister Deepika Sant, voted on the great festival of democracy. Anurag said that he along with his family has exercised his franchise for nation building. He made significant contribution in the national interest along with his family via voting and persuaded others to cast vote.



"I voted for my rights, for my country, for the future of the coming generations. You too should vote to erase the stigma of unemployment on the youth so that there can be change in the country. Do vote for India Alliance," said Congress leader Abhinav Varshney.

## Disabled Naseema Begum encouraged others to vote

Prayagraj: Disabled Naseema Begum said that your one vote can change your destiny and the picture of the country. Disabled Naseema Begum of Prayagraj cast her vote along with her entire family at Aggarwal Inter College Zero Road and appealed to the people to vote as much as possible. So that people come out of their homes and vote. Naseema Begum's son Altamas, who turned 18 this year and is a fast voter, also voted along with his mother. Congress leader Irshad Ullah,



## Ex-MP Revati Raman detained & booked, supporters cry foul



### Cong flays detention of Reoti Raman

Prayagraj: Former MP Revati Raman Singh was arrested by the police officer who came to intervene on the complaint of most of the Muslim women voters being harassed by BLOs and other personnel and kept in queue for hours during voting at Lekhpal Training Center polling in Kareli area of the city of Allahabad parliamentary constituency. Congressmen have condemned the arrest at the behest of. Former UP Congress spokesperson Kishore Varshney, Fuzail Hashmi, Harikesh Tripathi, Arshad Ali, Parvez Siddiqui, Ghazali Khan present at the spot accused the police action of being undemocratic and stopping the voters from voting.

Prayagraj: There was a commotion in Kareli on Saturday when the alliance candidate's father, former MP Revati Raman Singh, arrived outside the polling station. A case was filed against him on allegations of disturbing government work, violating the code of conduct, and influencing elections. Later, he and his driver were detained. After taking the proper procedures, he was freed. The driver and fifty unnamed supporters have also been charged in the case. On the other side, the former MP charged the police with harassment.

The former MP and father of Ujjwal Raman Singh, the alliance candidate for the Prayagraj Lok Sabha constituency, unexpectedly arrived to the Revenue Training Polling Center on 60 Feet Road in Kareli about 4 p.m. on Saturday.

As soon as he came, a mob of fans gathered. He also had a confrontation with ACP Kareli Pushkar Verma, who arrived at the scene after receiving the information. Following this, he was taken to the police station, where a case was filed. When candidate Ujjwal Raman arrived, he was freed after completing the requisite procedures. On the other side, KK Srivastava, who oversees election activities at the SP

## Conspiracy to achieve victory by killing democracy foiled: Shekhar Bahuguna

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the grand festival of Lok Sabha, people were standing in long queues since morning at various booths of South Assembly constituency of Prayagraj, but the voters allege that a conspiracy is being hatched to deprive them of voting by giving some reason or the other. When the voters expressed their displeasure, they were allegedly threatened with dire consequences with the prospects of languishing in jail. Senior Congress leader Shekhar Bahuguna and ex-party spokesperson Javed Urfi hurried to the scene and posed over the detention of former MP. However, police official

failed to offer a satisfactory response to their queries. Left with no other option, they issued a release and claimed that detention of former MP, father of the India Alliance candidate Reoti Raman Singh was illegal. He faced such coercion at the polling booth by the local administration. When they protested, Reoti Raman was detained at the police station. "This amounts to murder of democracy which the public will reject. Such a conspiracy was hatched in most of the polling stations of minority-dominated areas," they alleged and warned of massive protest if ruling party tries to win election through intimidation and cheating.

state office in Lucknow, Chandrashekhar, and two gunners. When asked for the car pass, the driver provided the vehicle pass issued by District Election, Prayagraj on 07/05/2024, which stated that permission was granted till 05:00 pm on 23.05.2024. Despite directions, the pass was not even put on the vehicle's windshield," a senior cop alleged.

The vehicle had an SP flag on the front right side, and three additional flags were recovered inside. It is said that the supporters began shouting 'Murdabad' slogans at the police and spoke indecently about boycotting the polls and not letting any voter to vote.

Even after much coaxing, they refused to calm down and began attempting to disrupt government operations by assaulting the police party with their followers.

Meanwhile, Revati Raman Singh said that a complaint was made concerning voter intimidation. He said that voters were not able to vote. "After receiving this complaint, I went to Kareli. The cop misbehaved there. Following this, I was instructed to go to the police station, where I sat. In the event of further harassment, I shall submit a complaint with the police," said former MP Revati Raman Singh.

## Due to activeness of DCP, Yamunanagar, voting takes place peacefully

Prayagraj: Due to the vigilance and hard work of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Shradha Narendra Pandey, posted in Prayagraj Yamunanagar, voting took place peacefully in the Yamuna region. Due to the proper arrangement of police administration, no untoward incident of any kind took place. Police forces and paramilitary forces were deployed at all the polling stations since morning. Police officers conducted vigorous patrolling in the entire Yamuna crossing area and conducted the voting peacefully. The activeness of the police force un-



der the leadership of alert and hard-working IPS officer Shradha Narendra Pandey was praiseworthy. Deputy Commissioner of Police Yamunanagar, while on tour, made efforts to conduct the voting in Commissionerate Prayagraj in a fair and peaceful manner in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha General Elections-2024. Various polling stations of Yamunanagar were inspected. During this, necessary instructions were given to the police officers and employees on duty. Also, by talking to the voters, they were motivated to vote freely and fearlessly.

## This time breaching 400-seats mark, once again Modi Govt: Nandi

Prayagraj: Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government and Prayagraj City South MLA Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi voted in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections along with former Mayor of Prayagraj Abhilasha Gupta Nandi at his polling center

day Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to have five international airports and 16 domestic airports. Uttar Pradesh alone has 33.7 percent of India's total expressways. Many expressways are currently under construction. After which 50 percent of the expressways



Thakurdeen Girls Junior High School. After the voting, Minister Nandi, while talking to the journalists, raised the slogan of once again Modi government, this time crossing 400-seats mark. Minister Nandi said that the way the Bharatiya Janata Party has worked under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. That is impossible for other parties. There is a world of difference between the India of 2014 and the India of 2024. Two lane roads have been converted into 4 lanes. The 4 lane road has been converted into 6 lanes. Talking about railways, where earlier there was a railway line, another railway line has been laid there. Earlier, two airports were operating in Uttar Pradesh; to-

of the country will be in Uttar Pradesh. Every person who wants all-round development and progress of the country is with the Bharatiya Janata Party. People have accepted the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modiji. Whereas Uttar Pradesh has become the best state under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, now it is moving towards becoming the best state. The two boys and princes of UP that are being talked about are not living on their own earnings, but on the earnings of their father. The public rejected the slogan that UP likes their togetherness. This time again the public will reject them in the same way.

## Opposition claims to dig out mountain, which turn out to be mole: Keshav Maurya

Prayagraj: Deputy Chief Minister of the state, Keshav Prasad Maurya along with his family cast their vote in Prayagraj. The sixth phase of voting was completed on May 25 in both the Lok Sabha and Allahabad parliamentary seats of Prayagraj, Phulpur and Allahabad parliamentary seats respectively. Deputy Chief Minister of the state, Keshav Prasad Maurya cast his vote at Jwala Devi Inter College along with his wife Rajkumari, eldest son Yogesh Maurya, daughter-in-law Arya Maurya and younger son Ashish Maurya. Answering the questions of journalists after voting, the Deputy Chief Minister said that after the results are declared on June 4, the position of the opposition will be exactly like the idiom that a dug mountain has turned out to be a mole. He thanked all the voters of Prayagraj wholeheartedly and said that the voters and workers are always like God to whom I always bow and with their blessings 400 seats milestone will be attained. The government is going to be formed under the leadership of Modiji. He described the opposition as issue-less, leaderless and policy-less, due to which the voters did not take the opposition seriously.

Ignoring their lies, he ended his speech by saying that the public knows everything. At the time of voting, prominent workers Phulpur MP, media in-charge Councilor Pawan



Srivastava, Councilor Manoj Kushwaha, Councilor Anand Sonkar, Ravi Kesarwani Vijay Srivastava and many others were present.

## Editorial

### Why Celebrities Are Seeking Legal Protection For Their Personality Rights

The Delhi High Court recently issued an order safeguarding the personality and publicity rights of film actor Jackie Shroff, restraining several social media accounts, AI Chatbots, and e-commerce websites from exploiting the actor's name, voice, or image for commercial purposes without his consent. Shroff petitioned the court against the unauthorised use of his name and persona, seeking protection against various individuals and entities utilising and misusing his identity without permission. The proliferation of AI-generated deepfake videos has exacerbated concerns for celebrities. Jackie Shroff's isn't the first instance of a film star resorting to legal action to protect their personality rights. Over the past two years, the Delhi High Court has issued interim orders to prevent the unauthorised use of Amitabh Bachchan and Anil Kapoor's name, image, and voice. The question arises: why are some celebrities turning to courts for the protection of their personality rights, while others refrain? "Where there is demonstrable misuse, people are approaching. Personality right is a facet of publicity right," says advocate Ameet Naik, who has represented Bachchan, Kapoor and now Shroff in their respective personality rights suits. In India, laws regarding personality rights are still evolving, with courts deriving principles from Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression), Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty), and intellectual property rights laws. "A few celebrities may choose not to pursue legal action due to various reasons such as the perceived insignificance of unauthorised use, the costs involved in litigation, or a desire to avoid negative publicity," says Shoeb Masodi, Partner, M&P IP PROTECTORS. Personality rights, as the name implies, pertain to the rights associated with the personality of a well-known individual, primarily applicable to celebrities whose names, images or voices are prone to misuse for profit. The concept dictates that only the owner or creator of these attributes has the right to derive monetary benefits from them. Personality rights have gained importance alongside the right to privacy given the kind of fame celebrities enjoy today. In 1995, the Supreme Court recognised a person's right to control the commercial use of one's identity in the R Rajagopal vs. State of Tamil Nadu case, commonly known as the Auto Shankar case. In 2015, the Madras High Court intervened to protect actor Rajinikanth's personality rights, halting the release of the movie Main Hoon Rajinikanth. The filmmakers had utilised the actor's name and style without his express permission, with the title itself serving as a clear indication of its connection to Rajinikanth. In yet another case involving actor Amitabh Bachchan, the Delhi High Court in November 2022 restrained the use of the actor's name, image, voice, or any of his characteristics without his consent. It is crucial to note that in intellectual property right cases, it's often impractical to name all infringing parties, leading affected parties to seek blanket injunctions or ban orders, known as 'John Doe' orders. Originating from the UK, John Doe orders are passed by a court against unknown defendants and the world at large. In September 2023, the Delhi High Court ruled in favour of actor Anil Kapoor in a case filed by him to protect his image and personality from misuse by third parties. Kapoor had petitioned the court, stating that several parties were using aspects of his personality, including popular terms from his dialogues.

## Will Bansuri be able to strike the tune of victory in the New Delhi seat?

Voting for the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections is to be held on 25th May. This phase is special because in this phase voting will be held for all the seven Lok Sabha seats of the country's capital Delhi. Being the country's capital and a union territory, the central government rules the country from Delhi, so Delhi is very special. Delhi elections are also special because here BJP has been ruling in the Lok Sabha for the last 10 years, while in the assembly BJP has been facing defeat. It is clear that the BJP leaders trying to return to power for the third time, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his special Home Minister Amit Shah, want to win all the seven seats of Delhi at any cost and on the other hand Congress and Aam Aadmi Party are in the fray by forming an alliance. Surveys are showing that the Congress-AAP alliance is affecting some seats, but BJP's strategy is also not weaker than anyone and it would like to maintain its record of winning on these seats like the previous elections, i.e. it wants to win all the seven seats. The most important seat in Delhi is the New Delhi parliamentary seat. Actually, not only former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but LK Advani has also won from this seat. Apart from this, the first



woman Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Sucheta Kriplani, BJP leader and former Union Minister Jagmohan has been an MP from here for three times. Film hero Rajesh Khanna and Congress leader Ajay Maken have also represented from this seat. In terms of voters, this is the smallest seat, because there are only 14.81 lakh voters here. But the voters of this Lok Sabha constituency are very special, in which the first citizen of the country i.e. the President of the country Draupadi Murmu, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, former Vice President Dr. Hamid Ansari, Manohar Joshi and dozens of Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and BJP leaders are voters from here. Apart from this, on one hand, posh areas like New Delhi Area, Delhi Cat, Kasturba Nagar and RK Puram come under this seat, on the other hand, Greater Kailash, Moti Nagar,

Rajendra Nagar, Patel Nagar and Malviya Nagar come under this seat and the number of traders is high in all these areas. At the same time, villages like Chirag Delhi, Narayana, Todapur, Pilanji Shahpur Jat and Jamrudpur also come under this seat, where the number of Jats and Gujjars is high. In this way, to win this seat, people of every class will have to be appeased and while people from big posh areas will vote, people living in old villages will also vote for this seat. Anyway, in the total 16 Lok Sabha elections of the country's democracy so far, while Congress has won this seat only 7 times, BJP has broken this record and captured this seat 9 times. Now BJP has fielded Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of former Union Minister Sushma Swaraj, on this seat, while on the other hand, Aam Aadmi Party leader Somnath Bharti is contesting

from this seat on behalf of the Congress-AAP alliance. This is the first election for Bansuri Swaraj, who is contesting on a BJP ticket, while Somnath Bharti is an old leader and reached Delhi Secretariat in 2013 for the first time in the assembly elections from Malviya Nagar. He has also been the Minister of Law, Tourism, Administrative Reforms, Art and Culture in Delhi. But one thing that is common between Bansuri Swaraj and Somnath Bharti is that both are lawyers. But Somnath Bharti is senior to Bansuri Swaraj in both advocacy and politics. Although he has not inherited politics in his blood, i.e. on the lines of nepotism, Bansuri Swaraj has inherited politics. Anyway, this issue of nepotism is different. Here we are talking about the challenges of both the leaders on the New Delhi parliamentary seat and what is in the benefits of both the leaders. The different thing about this seat this time is that in the last two Lok Sabha elections, there was a triangular contest on this seat. That is, in the last two Lok Sabha elections, candidates of BJP, Congress and Aam Aadmi Party were in the fray and both times this seat went to BJP's account. But this time the contest is between only two candidates and thus BJP's cadre vote will go to it, but the vot-

ers of Congress and Aam Aadmi Party, especially Congress, have only two options, either they should vote together for Aam Aadmi Party candidate Somnath Bharti, or vote in favor of BJP's candidate. However, every voter has the right to vote and to keep its secrecy and there is no doubt that the voters who have voted for one party last time, should now vote for the other party. It is their own wish. But this time a close contest is being predicted on this seat. Like other Lok Sabha seats of the country, BJP is seen doing politics of allegations and counter-allegations instead of issues on this seat, while in the joint campaign of Congress-AAP, there is some discussion on issues apart from allegations and counter-allegations. But if there is something common on both sides, then it is the flurry of promises, which every party is making to voters everywhere these days. If we talk about the problems of this Lok Sabha seat, then people seem to be divided into four groups on this issue. One type of voters are those who are quite satisfied with the work of Aam Aadmi Party of Delhi and are seen praising water, electricity, health, schools and many other works. The other are those who are demanding cleanliness, roads and other facilities.

### Snatching Mamata's OBC Pie for Muslims, Starving Vote-Bank Politics

By cancelling all Other Backward Classes (OBC) certificates issued by the West Bengal government after 2010, the Calcutta High Court has struck at the darkest instincts of appeasement of not just the Mamata Banerjee government but of Indian polity in general. Remember, the Left was still in power in 2010 in Bengal, when the legislation was created. Nakedly soliciting Muslim votes by misusing the OBC quota is not unique to West Bengal. Karnataka and many other states have been brazenly doing it. Taking advantage of the ambiguity in the Constitution in defining 'Backward Classes' and bending the guarantee under Article 15.1 that the State

shall not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, caste, or gender, Muslims were brought under the OBC quota by the PV Narasimha Rao government. The Sachar Committee report was used as groundwork for the abomination. The Rao government was in overcompensation mode since the fall of the Babri masjid, bringing in a slew of constitutional blunders like the Places of Worship Act, the suicidal new Waqf Act, and the OBC lollipop for Muslims. All this not only robbed the share of the genuinely backward, but also brazenly incentivised conversions to Islam and demographic change, placing Bharat's destiny on a doomed path. Why should Muslims, the 200-million strong sec-

### Punjab to Andhra to Telangana—state govts' spending on freebies harming India's growth story

The heat of the 2024 Lok Sabha election is at its peak. Every vote is important, and, therefore, political parties are trying to woo every section of society. Earlier, political parties used to make announcements about their proposed policies in their election manifestos. But for the last one and a half to two decades, they have started making announcements for free schemes to woo voters. It's beyond doubt that providing free electricity, water, or travel to everyone could ruin government budgets and increase debt too. Today, there is an ongoing competition between political parties about freebies, and in an effort to woo voters and gain power by hook or by crook, many Indian states are already getting burdened with debt. As a result, on the one hand, they are failing to fulfil their promises completely, and on the other, the development work and essential government activities in those states are getting affected. During the 2022 assembly election in Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) made many promises, including free electricity. After the formation of the AAP government, some of these were implemented, but today, the situation is such that the debt burden on the government is continuously increasing and the state

is trying to take more loans. The central government is also being accused of not giving money to the state, whereas the reality is that the state government is irresponsibly spending on freebies to garner votes. The situation is the same in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand. Meanwhile, the central government is not in favour of states taking more loans because it is against the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act 2003. The states in debt due to expenditure on freebie schemes are unable to spend on the necessary responsibilities. Industries in Punjab are incurring high electricity bills because the AAP government is giving free electricity to nearly 60 lakh people. Infrastructure development in the state is getting badly affected too. Punjab, once the state with the highest per capita income in the country, has slipped to the 19th position. Other debt-ridden states are suffering a similar fate. In its 2024 election manifesto, Congress has announced Rs 1 lakh as an unconditional cash transfer to the poor every year as part of its Mahalaxmi Scheme. If the party comes to power, the implementation of such a scheme can be frightening. It's

notable that as of 31 March 2023, the total debt on the governments (central and state) in India (including the guarantees given by them) was Rs 231.7 lakh crores, which was 85.1 per cent of GDP at current prices. Out of this, the total debt of the central government is equal to 57.1 per cent of the GDP and the rest is of the state governments (nearly 28 per cent of GDP). According to the FRBM Act, the target debt-GSDP (gross state domestic product) ratio, in any state, should not exceed 20 per cent. But as per the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in many of the states of the country, this ratio is much more than the targeted one. It reached 48.98 per cent in Punjab, 42.37 per cent in Rajasthan, 37.39 per cent in West Bengal, 36.73 per cent in Bihar, 35.30 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 31.53 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 27.80 per cent in Telangana, 27.27 per cent in Tamil Nadu, and 26.47 per cent in Chhattisgarh in 2020-21. If the debt on state government enterprises and the guarantees given by the state governments are also added, then by 2020-21, the debt to GSDP ratio in Rajasthan would be 54.94 per cent and in Punjab, it would be 58.21 per cent. In Andhra Pradesh also it has been estimated.

## A changing Kashmir votes and vents about education, aspiration, and 3 de-hyphenations

The metaphor Writings On TheWall came from 30 years of travel, especially in poll-bound India. This installment comes from Kashmir. It's my first time witnessing an election in such a sensitive, important, and fascinating location. What is Writings On The Wall? It involves literally gazing at the walls to see what's changing, what's not, and what people want and don't want. The walls reveal what people are buying (branded underwear, Nitish's Bihar, 2010) or if they're too broke to buy anything (Lalu's Bihar, 2005). That shows an

economy's state and change. For improvement in Kashmir. Read all the previous reports in this series here. Three things stand out in the Kashmir Valley, where Srinagar and Baramulla have already voted and Anantnag-Rajouri votes on Saturday. Say three de-hyphenations stand out, but only one can be read from the walls. The other two require entry. Three de-hyphenations: First, a large portion of Kashmiri youth have distanced themselves from radicalism, separatism, resentment, and grievance. Don't think it's over. It waits until young people

trust you enough to talk. Education, competitiveness, jobs, and careers are priorities. Pakistan's de-hyphenation is noteworthy. Political instability, Imran Khan's detention despite his popularity, and economic collapse are hot topics. It also stems from Pakistan's tragic decline and India's ascent. Third, security agencies' tactical and ground-level achievements in de-hyphenating weapons and people. Everyone knows there are lots of weapons in the Valley and many trained and motivated users. For now, that cord is cut, or de-hyphenated. The like-

ly users can't get the weapons and vice versa. Coaching academy hoardings and posters are common in most of India, except in the north, especially Punjab, where immigration/visas/IELTS dominate. I don't think they're as prominent anywhere as in Kashmir. Allen Career Institute, Chanakya IAS Academy, Elite IAS, Emerge Institute of Coaching, The Commercians, Vedantu, Nucleus Institute Of Excellence—hundreds of brands line walls, trees, unipoles, and anywhere else you can hang something.

## Reorganization of the state executive of the Indian Association of Press and Mediamen

**Chandigarh:** The state team meeting of the Indian Association of Press and Mediamen was held on Friday. This meeting was held in the office of a media house in Sector 29D. In this meeting chaired by state president Dr Vinod Sharma, the first discussion was about the executive and taking over of responsibilities. After the discussion, the state team was reconstituted unanimously. The state team comprised of President: Dr. Vinod Sharma, Senior Vice President: Shiv Kumar Verma, Vice President: Pradeep Sharma and Pradeep Shukla, General Secretary: Amit Kumar Verma, Joint Secretary: Prosan Burman, Finance Secretary: SP Chopra, Joint Finance Secretary: Ramesh Sachdeva, Legal Secretary: Karan Shukla, Executive Members: Rakesh Kumar, Shiv Maurya, Sunny Kumar and Rimpi were declared



by the Sarv Samiti. In this series, Advisor: Prem Vij and Patron: Shrikant Acharya and Sushil Kumar were appointed. After the formation of the team, State President Dr. Vinod Sharma congratulated everyone and said that today's meeting was very positive, I am confident that our team will continue to struggle for the interests of the media. Later he said that in future, small units of the association will be formed in other cities as well, so that the problems of the media personnel there can be solved. The entire team of the state also

decided to submit a memorandum of their demands to PIB and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting after the Lok Sabha elections. Patron Sushil Kumar, who was present in the meeting, said that the way the state team has been formed with new energy, it seems as if the problems of media persons will now slowly come to an end. He also stressed that along with the state team, the national team will also have to move forward with our problems, only then will our problems be solved.

## UPI connection boosts RuPay credit cards

**Delhi:** UPI (Unified Payments Interface) integration has boosted RuPay credit cards, with 75% of 'Credit Cards (CC) on UPI' transactions happening at small businesses, according to a Thursday report. Kiwi found that 'Credit Cards on UPI' was most popular among young folks under 40. CC on UPI is the main payment method, with consumers spending over Rs 22,000 monthly. UPI CCs average 21 transactions each month, four times more than real credit cards. "RuPay Credit Cards' market share rose from 3% in FY23 to 10% in FY24. "UPI's success is



largely responsible," stated Kiwi Co-founder Mohit Bedi. Virtual credit cards are growing rapidly. He stated that about 20% of credit cards issued in the country are virtual. The survey found that UPI CC transactions average

Rs 1,125, compared to Rs 4,000 for standard credit cards. The survey also found that super-market and Kirana stores used CC on UPI the most (33%), followed by clothes and electronics (15%) and food and dining (7%).

## The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine on Hero FinCorp for violating regulatory standards

**Delhi:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fined Hero FinCorp Limited Rs 3,10,000 for violating the fair practices policy for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). An RBI assessment has uncovered that Hero



FinCorp failed to communicate the terms and conditions of loans

in written form to borrowers in a language that they understand. RBI conducted a statutory inspection of the company, specifically focusing on its financial situation as of March 31, 2023.

## Gaming company Nazara earns Rs 17 crore in Q4, revenue falls 8%

**Delhi:** Gaming and sports media platform Nazara Technologies reported net profit from its sustained operations at Rs 17.1 crore in the January-March quarter of FY24, up 43.6% from Rs 11.9 crore the year before. Operating revenue down 8% to Rs 266.2 crore from Rs 289.3 crore in FY23. The company reported a 21.8% increase in net profit to Rs 74.8 crore from Rs 61.4 crore in FY23. FY24 revenue rose 4.3% to Rs 1,138.3 crore from Rs 1,091 crore.

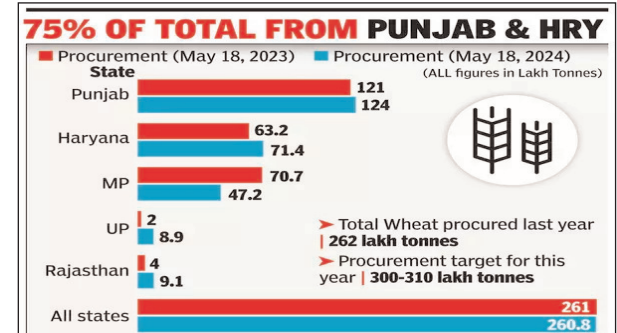


laying the groundwork for rapid scaling. Nitish Mittersain, Nazara Technologies' founder, CEO, and joint MD, reported 4.3% revenue and 16.5% EBITDA increase. The company's running cash flow

rose to Rs 131.4 crore, indicating great performance. He said, "We raised Rs 950 crore at Nazara and subsidiaries, our largest fundraise to date, resulting in a net cash balance of Rs 1,450 crores. Nazara works in gaming, esports, and advertising. Mittersain said he expects revenue and EBITDA growth to accelerate in FY25. The company has acquired 100% of Nextwave Multimedia Private Limited, producers of the popular "World Cricket Championship" mobile cricket games.

## Fully procured wheat by centre exceeds last year's mark

**Delhi:** This Rabi selling season, the Food Ministry announced that the Central government had purchased 262.48 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in various states, beating previous year's 262.02 lakh. The Rabi marketing season 2024-25 MSP outflow was Rs. 59,715 crores, benefiting 22.31 lakh farmers. Five states dominated procurement. Punjab procured 124.26 lakh metric tons (LMT), followed by Haryana with 71.49 LMT and Madhya Pradesh with 47.78 LMT. Rajasthan and



Uttar Pradesh followed with 9.66 and 9.07 LMT. According to the Ministry, 728.42 LMT paddy equivalent to 489.15 LMT of rice has been acquired directly from 98.26 lakh farmers during the Kharif marketing scheme 2023-24, with a total

MSP outflow of Rs. 1,60,472 crores. The Food Ministry said the Central Pool's wheat and rice stock had topped 600 LMT, allowing the country to meet its food grain needs under PMGKAY, other welfare initiatives, and market interventions.

## Musk accuses WhatsApp of misusing user data every night



**Delhi:** Today, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk accused Meta-owned WhatsApp of exporting user data every night. An X user said WhatsApp exports user data every night for "analysed and used for targeted advertising, making users the product, not the customer". Musk said "WhatsApp exports your user data every night". "Some people still think it is secure," stated the tech billionaire. Elon Musk's claim was not

addressed by Meta or WhatsApp. John Carmack, a computer programmer and video game developer, asked Elon Musk if communications are ever scanned or forwarded. "I assume usage patterns and routing metadata is collected, and if you invoke a bot in a conversation you are obviously opening it up, but I am still under the impression that the message contents are secure by default," John wrote on X. X has

also attacked Mark Zuckerberg's Meta Platform. The billionaire said Meta is greedy at grabbing credit for advertisers who execute campaigns on its platform earlier this month. Well-known rivalry between Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg They were supposed to engage in a "cage fight" called the fight of the century. The tech leaders never clashed.

## Google makes a minority investment of \$350 million in Flipkart

**Delhi:** According to reports, Google contributed roughly \$350 million to Flipkart's almost \$1 billion fundraising round, which was spearheaded by parent company Walmart. Flipkart declined to comment on the funding's details, but sources informed that the internet giant has contributed roughly \$350 million for a minority interest in the company. The investment round has concluded with Google joining, increasing Flipkart's worth to much beyond \$35 billion, according to sources. Walmart contributed approximately \$600 million to Flipkart during the investment round that concluded in December of last year. In 2021, Flipkart completed its largest funding round, raising \$3.6 billion at a valuation of \$37.6 billion from

### Boost For Quick Commerce Foray

Google has been ramping up its India investments and may look at extending its partnership with Flipkart to other areas as well, according to market advisors. With Google on board, the \$1bn investment round has been closed, taking Flipkart's valuation to over \$35bn. The funding comes in handy for

Flipkart as it looks to enter the quick commerce space

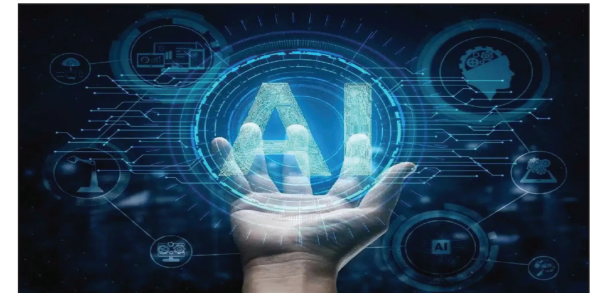
Flipkart has been in a partnership with Google Cloud since 2022

The co, which competes with players like Amazon and SoftBank-backed Meesho to cater to customers who are increasingly going digital, has been leveraging Google's cloud stack to widen tech capabilities and reach more users

investors in a deal co-led by Walmart. It is believed that the company's valuation was modified to \$33 billion following the 2022 separation of fintech PhonePe from the group. Flipkart stated that regulatory permissions are a prerequisite for the investment. "Google's proposed investment and its cloud collaboration will help Flipkart expand its business and advance the modernisation of its digital infrastructure to serve customers across the country,"

the company said in a statement. Google Cloud and Flipkart have been partnered since 2022. Flipkart has been using Google's cloud stack to expand its IT capabilities and reach more consumers. Flipkart competes with players like Amazon and Meesho, which is sponsored by SoftBank, to cater to clients who are increasingly turning digital. In a \$1.4 billion investment round in 2017, Flipkart received backing from Tencent, Microsoft, and other competitors of Google.

## DD Kisan launches 50-language AI anchors Krish and Bhoomi



**Delhi:** Doordarshan Kisan will be the first government TV channel to introduce AI anchors, ushering in the 'Artificial Intelligence' age in agriculture. Krish and Bhoomi, the AI anchors, are advanced computer algorithms that behave and perform like humans. Once unthinkable, they can deliver news 24/7, 365 days a year without tiring or taking breaks. Farmers in all states will see AI anchors, from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to Arunachal. These anchors will provide national and global agriculture research, farm market trends,

weather updates, and government scheme updates. The anchors' fluency in 50 domestic and international languages is remarkable. Only DD Kisan broadcasts nationwide. It serves farmers exclusively and was founded by the Indian government. DD Kisan Channel has met these standards for nine years. The DD Kisan channel promotes innovative farmers. To support the country's agricultural and rural populations, it promotes comprehensive education. The DD Kisan channel focuses on sustainable farming, animal husbandry, and plantation.

## Indian medical students benefit from Philippines standards changes

**Delhi:** Philippine lawmakers have allowed international medical graduates to obtain licenses and practice locally, benefiting Indian students. Since the National Medical Council requires returning students to take the Indian screening test with a valid practicing license, the move advantages Indian doctors-to-be. The move follows several other nations' efforts to attract Indian medical students overseas. Russia, Belarus, and Georgia have adopted similar policies after NMC's 2021 amendment, which required medical graduates from other countries to have a valid practicing license before taking the Indian screening test. NMC de-recognized the Philippine Bachelor of Science in 2023. It only accepted candidates from their four-year MD program, similar to India's MBBS. It fell short of NMC's 54-month minimum, therefore candidates had to complete a year of internship before taking the screening test to become doctors. In India Foreign



education agent Kadwin Pillai stated all worries are gone. The Philippine UG medical course duration now meets NMC standards. Welcoming foreign medical students to practice medicine locally or abroad will help our students and boost the Philippines' status as a major Asian-Pacific medical education destination "said. About 2,000 Indian UG medical students study in the Philippines each year. A record 24 lakh students took the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test this year. Foreign education agents expect 5 lakh Indians to study medicine abroad when local admissions close. Students spend Rs 40 lakh on schooling on average.

## The 15-year-old Indian weightlifter shattering the world mark for gold

**Delhi:** At the IWF World juvenile Championships, 15-year-old Indian weightlifter Preetismita Bhoi won a gold medal after shattering the world record for juvenile clean and jerk in the women's 40 kg division. She lifted an amazing 76kg, breaking the previous record of 75kg. On the first day of the competition, Bhoi's overall effort weighed 133 kg, barely 2 kg less than the young world mark thanks to her 57 kg snatch lift. Jyoshna Sabar of India won the silver medal with a total lift of 125 kg (56 kg + 69 kg), and Fatma Kolcak of Turkey took home the bronze medal with a total lift of 120 kg (55 kg + 65 kg). The result was a 1-2 finish. Two more weightlifters from India made it to the podium, making it an excellent day for them. Payal finished second in the women's 45kg category, losing to Colombian Lawren Estrada, who won her second world title with a total lift of 151kg (67kg+84kg). Payal took home a silver medal in the 45kg



## How Does Widespread NCERT Textbook Adoption Benefit Indian Students?

**Delhi:** NCERT textbooks dominate Indian education. These texts have underpinned Indian education for decades. The extensive use of NCERT textbooks has benefited pupils across. In this post, we will discuss the benefits of NCERT textbooks, their broad use, and how NCERT Solutions for Class 6 and other courses improve learning.

One reason NCERT textbooks are so popular is their dedication to quality education for all pupils. These textbooks are accessible and inclusive for various pupils. Experts curate the information to ensure accuracy and relevancy, meeting current educational requirements. NCERT textbooks guarantee national curricular uniformity.

event. With a total lift of 193 kg (86 kg + 107 kg), Babulal Hembrom won the bronze in the men's

49 kg event, making him the fourth lifter from India to place on the podium.

## CAPSULES

### No personal coaches, media embargo under NRAI's Olympic shooting guidelines.

**Delhi:** To prepare its players for the quadrennial spectacle, the National Rifle Association of India has imposed severe conditions on Paris Olympic shooters, including a "media blackout" and no personal coaches at the national camp. In its "national team protocol", the federation informs shooters that parents cannot "stay" or "visit" their wards at camps and that Pierre Beauchamp, the High Performance Director (HPD), must make an exception. According to the NRAI's "NRAI Olympic Team Undertaking and SOP for Paris 2024 Olympic Games - Pistol/Rifle Teams" letter to Olympic-bound shooters, the goal is to "ensure the clarity of the training and readiness plan for Olympic Games Paris 2024 by the shooters and the National Team Coaches and Sport Science support." "It is essential to have effective organization, discipline, planned and dedicated training programmes for the best performance of shooters participating as National Team India at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games," the note states. The letter states that only NRAI-approved personal coaches and sport science consultants with signed SOPs can assist the "National Training team for the concerned shooter(s) in assisting and/or discussing with the National Training Team under the leadership of the HPD and the chief coach (rifle and pistol)." Personal coaches without NRAI approval are prohibited. "The NRAI National Team program of the Olympic Games does not allow personal trainers, physiotherapists, nutritionists, or psychologists." Under "Media Blackout", the NRAI says shooters must avoid the media.

## Sindhu beat Ongbamrunghan to reach the Malaysia

**Delhi:** Indian shuttler PV Sindhu defeated Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan in the Malaysia Masters women's singles semi-final at Axiata Arena to advance to the final. Sindhu defeated the higher-ranked Thai shuttler 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 in the 88-minute match. Her first tournament final since March last year. Sindhu has reached four BWF World Tour Super 500 finals. In his first semi-final of the year, the two-time Olympic medalist lost the first game before showing her real courage. After a fierce battle, she took the lead from world no. 10 in the second game and led by two points at half-time. Keep calm and extend your lead to win 21-16. In



**Axiata Arena to advance to the final. Sindhu defeated the higher-ranked Thai shuttler 13-21, 21-16, 21-12 in the 88-minute match. Her first tournament final since March last year. Sindhu has reached four BWF World Tour Super 500 finals**

the final game, she went all out and left her opponent no chance to recover. Sindhu led 11-5 before exchanging sides and closing with eight match points. She easily won

21-12 to win the match. Sindhu will face Wang Zhi Yi of China in the final. The incumbent Asian champion defeated Zhang Yiman in straight games to reach the

### The US is the top study abroad location for Indian students

**Delhi:** The US is the top destination for Indian students seeking higher education abroad. Most Indian students prefer US education due to its universities, cultural diversity, and academic opportunities. Indian student enrollment in U.S. universities rose 35% in 2022-23. USA is known for academic brilliance and offers international students learning and job possibilities with close to 200 universities in the top 1500 QS world university rankings. Indian students are the largest international cohort studying in the U.S. because M.S. final.

## The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team wins 2-2 (4-2 SO) versus Belgium

**Delhi:** As part of their ongoing European tour, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team defeated Belgium with a resounding 4-2 shootout victory after regulation ended in a stalemate. India's best goal scorer, Kanika Siwach, led the team with an outstanding brace. In the first quarter, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team quickly found their rhythm and made an impression. Kanika Siwach

rang the boards to give India the lead following an early penalty corner. In the same quarter, Kanika soon after scored her second goal of the game to make it 2-0. India kept up their momentum and held off Belgium during a goalless second quarter to limit their team and take a dominating lead into halftime. In the third quarter, Belgium had opportunities, including a pivotal penalty corner, but the Indian defense

was able to contain Belgium and keep the lead. Minutes before the half, Belgium finally broke free in the last quarter, scoring twice in rapid succession to square the score at 2-2. India prevailed in the subsequent shootout to win the match 2-2 (4-2 SO). The next game for the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team is scheduled for May 26 in Breda, against Germany.

## Para-Athletics Worlds: India wins most medals ever



**Delhi:** India continued their medal run at the 2024 Para-Athletics World Championship in Kobe, Japan, with Simran Sharma winning gold in the Women's 200 meters T12. Preethi Pal won her second Championship medal, a bronze in the Women's 100m T35. Preethi previously won 200-meter bronze in the same category. India's Navdeep earned a bronze medal in the Men's Javelin Throw F41 with a sea-

son-best 42.82 meters. India won 17 medals, including six gold, five silver, and six bronze, surpassing the 2023 total. Indian para-athletes' performance in Kobe is a credit to their hard work, resilience, and strong support system from coaches, support staff, and the Athletics Federation of India. Their achievement inspires prospective athletes and boosts India's para-athletics profile. Deepthi Jeevanji established a world record of 55.06

seconds in the Women's 400m T20, winning the gold medal with amazing hard effort and motivation. Breaking the world record and earning gold at the World Championships is a dream. I appreciate my coaches, family, and Indian contingent. After breaking the world record, Deepthi Jeevanji commented, "This is just the beginning, and I am excited for the future, especially with the Paris Paralympics."

## Indian women's compound team wins third straight Archery World

**Delhi:** Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, and Aditi Swami won their third straight Archery World Cup gold medal at stage two. The three defeated Turkey's Hazal Burun, Ayse Bera Suzer, and Begum Yuva 232-226 to prove their dominance. The world-number one Indian team showed skill and consistency from the start. They kept a six-point lead throughout the final, preventing Turkey from closing in. This win continues their winning trend, having won gold at World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai and Stage 4 in Paris last year. India won silver in compound mixed team in addition to women's team. Olivia Dean and Sawyer Sullivan of the US faced Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Priyansh Jain in the



final. After an early lead, the Indian duo succumbed by two points, 155-153. Jyothi and Priyansh opened the match with a near-perfect 39 out of 40, giving India a two-point advantage. They lost consistency in later rounds. By halfway, the USA pair tied the score and beat the Indians with a perfect third end to win the gold medal. Prathamesh Fuge just missed a bronze medal in the individ-

ual events after losing to world number one Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands in a shoot-off. Fuge defeated Austrian world number six Nico Wiener in the quarterfinals. He lost in the shoot-off after overcoming a two-point deficit to force a tiebreaker, losing his first World Cup medal. In the compound men's individual semifinal, Fuge lost to world number seven James Lutz of the US 143-148.

## HC overturns JNV's admittance denial

**Delhi:** The Delhi High Court has ordered the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) to admit students from districts other than their own. Justice C Hari Shankar overturned the order to not admit a pupil to JNV, Mungeshpur, and said the child can be admitted in Class 6 of the 2024-25 academic year and remain there. A youngster who attended Navyug School at Peshwa Road in the national capital until Class 5 petitioned the high court for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6. The school denied admission to the girl because she was educated in New Delhi, not Mungeshpur, North West. A youngster who attended Navyug School at Peshwa Road in the national capital until Class 5 petitioned the high court for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6. The school denied admission to the girl because she was educated in New Delhi, not Mungeshpur, North West. While the matter is pending with a division bench, the student in the previous petition was allowed to continue studying at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, as an interim measure. The high court overturned the petitioner's exclusion from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur. "The petitioner is entitled to Class 6 admission to the JNV (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur) in 2024-25 and continues education there.



## Government should start new rules to combat fraudulent e-commerce reviews



**Delhi:** Consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said the Union government will use an Indian Standards code to combat fake customer reviews and inflated ratings on e-commerce platforms, a global issue, as online shoppers complain more on the national consumer helpline. Online shoppers are heavily influenced by customer reviews and ratings. E-commerce sellers manipulate ratings and add paid reviews to encourage sales. "The presence of fake reviews online jeopardizes the trust-

worthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to make wrong purchase decisions," said Khare, who led a stakeholders' meeting with Amazon and Flipkart executives. Mordor Intelligence estimates that India's e-commerce market would expand from \$112.93 billion in 2024 to \$299.01 billion in 2029, a 21.5% CAGR. The new standard (IS 19000:2022) assigns reviewers and administrators particular duties. New regulations compel organizations to identify

review authors in certain ways. E-commerce grievances on the national consumer helpline increased from 95,270 in 2018 (22% of all grievances) to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43% of total grievances). E-commerce platforms in India must create a documented code of practice and share it with management and workers. Khare said they must show how they will follow this constitution and the guiding principles. Amazon and other platforms have acknowledged the issue globally.

## Sebi proposes tighter SME listing requirements over misuse worries

**Delhi:** Sebi and stock exchanges aim to tighten standards for SMEs seeking public listings, according to Reuters. Concerns over exploitation of a 2012 platform to help small firms access financing markets prompted this change. According to sources in the report, the planned modifications might boost the minimum amount of public offerings to Rs 30 crore to Rs 50 crore (\$3.59 million to \$5.99 million).

In response to stakeholder engagements, these new regulations are due later this year. There's no minimum issue size, but corporations listing on this



market must have Rs 25 crore in post-issue capital. One source told Reuters that a minimum offer size will ensure that genuine enterprises can access financial markets, protecting investor interests. During the fiscal year ending March 2024, more SMEs went public due to India's

strong equities markets. On PRIME Database, 205 companies raised Rs 60 billion through public offerings, up from 125 firms raising Rs 2200 crore the year before. Companies with yearly turnovers between Rs 5 crore and Rs 250 crore are Indian SMEs.

## Air India, Vistara try to resolve staff issues before merger

**Delhi:** As the Vistara merger process begins, Air India hopes to resolve employee fitment difficulties. The Vistara-Air India integration committee has identified certain occupations that will be duplicated following the merger. Vistara has 6,500

employees and Air India 17,000. At a recent town hall meeting, employees were notified that the merger may eliminate some positions. The Tata Group will upskill some employees and place others in other group entities to avoid job losses. Prior to the

merger, Air India employed consultants to design the new structure. Some Air India staff would be kept, while others may join Air India Express. Some employees worry about their career advancement and seniority in the new framework.

## CAPSULES

### Joe Biden dramatically raises US tariffs on Chinese EVs and chips

**Delhi:** US President Joe Biden lambasted Beijing for "cheating" as he raised tariffs on Chinese products such as electric vehicles and semiconductors.

Beijing strongly opposed the sanctions as Biden sought to appear tough on trade ahead of a rematch with Republican Donald Trump in November's US presidential election. "We're not going to let China flood our market, making it impossible for American automakers to compete fairly," Biden declared in the White House Rose Garden. He said, "We're never going to allow China to unfairly control the market for these cars," before ordering duties. Trump's tariffs have been frequently criticized by Biden. He's been using similar tactics to win over blue-collar voters in swing Rust Belt states. The White House stated EV tariffs will treble to 100% this year and semiconductor duties will rise from 25% to 50% by next year. The sanctions targeted \$18 billion in Chinese imports, including batteries, vital minerals, and medical supplies. Biden said China has substantially supported critical sectors, forcing corporations to produce more than the world can consume and flooding the market with unfairly priced commodities. The president's announcement followed a review of tariffs imposed by then-president Trump on \$300 billion in Chinese imports. The Biden administration maintained tariffs.



## Order mandating SpiceJet to pay Sun Group's Kalanithi Maran 270 crore overturned by Court

**Delhi:** Judge ordered Spicejet to refund over 1270 crore to Sun Group promoter Kalanithi Maran, but a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court overturned it. SpiceJet and CMD Ajay Singh appealed the single-judge's ruling to a Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja. Appeals are allowed. The July 31, 2023 order is vacated "By the Court. The Division Bench denied SpiceJet's request to postpone the single-judge ruling upholding an arbitral tribunal award ordering the airline to reimburse over 270 cases. The issue between Maran and SpiceJet began in



January 2015 when Ajay Singh bought SpiceJet from him. Maran reportedly gave Singh his 58.46% airline ownership. According to the contract,

Maran would receive redeemable warrants for his airline promotion investments. Maran was entitled to 18 crore warrants and 26% SpiceJet shares. No con-

vertible warrants or preference shares were issued to Maran, and he received no money. Maran sought roughly 1,323 crore in damages. Arbitration was ordered by the Delhi High Court. The arbitral tribunal ordered SpiceJet to return Maran 1270 crore in July 2018. The tribunal also ordered the airline to pay 12% interest on warrant payments and 18% on Maran awards if they are late. The tribunal also found no breach of Maran, SpiceJet, and Ajay Singh's share sale and purchase agreement. Thus, Maran's shareholding return and damages claims were denied.

## Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns



**Delhi:** Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like Makemytrip, Policybazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the government believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and

businesses without platform fees."It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April "Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said.

## Microsoft, I4C remove 1,000 cybercriminal Skype accounts



**Delhi:** The Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C) and Microsoft have blocked over 1,000 Skype accounts linked to intimidation, blackmail, extortion, and 'digital arrests' of citizens by cyber criminals posing as police, CBI, narcotics, RBI, or ED personnel. A MHA statement stated I4C helps prevent SIM cards, mobile devices, and mule accounts used by criminals. Many complaints are being reported on the National Cyber Crime

Reporting Portal (NCRP) about how these fraudsters call potential victims and claim they have sent or are the intended recipient of a parcel containing illegal goods, drugs, fake passports, or other contraband. They may also claim that a loved one is in their custody for a crime or accident. Money is demanded to compromise the "case". Some victims face 'digital arrest' until their demands are granted. Many victims have

lost a lot of money to such thieves. The home ministry stated cross-border crime syndicates run this online economic crime. MHA said it is collaborating with other ministries, agencies, RBI, and other organizations to combat these frauds. I4C assists police in all states and Union Territories in identifying and investigating cases. Citizens should be aware of these frauds and disseminate knowledge. image

## Airtel partners with Google Cloud to provide Indian businesses cloud and gen-AI solutions

**Delhi:** Bharti Airtel and Google Cloud are partnering to offer Indian businesses cloud and generative-AI solutions. The telecom company will use Google Cloud products to accelerate cloud adoption and modernization through the agreement. Airtel will offer cloud-managed services to its corporate customers, including over 2,000 large organizations and a million developing businesses. This partnership targets India's big and rising public cloud services industry, which IDC predicts will be worth \$17.8 billion by 2027.

Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, "Cloud and AI solutions will drive India's digital transformation. We're excited to collaborate with Google



Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud's generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers.

According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, "Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud and AI adoption in India. We want to develop disruptive solutions to improve Airtel's customer experience through our relationship." Airtel will train artificial-intelligence and machine-learning solutions on its enormous dataset using the two businesses' strengths—connectivity and AI technology.

## IFC provides \$500 million to HDFC Bank so that it can offer microloans to female clients



**Delhi:** HDFC Bank said that it has received \$500 million from the IFC to support low-income women borrowers on lending. According to an official release, the largest private sector lender in the nation would provide financing for income production, promoting financial inclusion and socio-economic growth. The microloans will be extended to women registered in the lender's

Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) as well as self-help and joint liability groups. Arup

Rakshit, group head of Treasury at HDFC firm, stated that the firm has opted for a longer-term loan facility that will support the bank's endeavors to empower women. According to the statement, banks' wide distribution and cheaper funding costs can be used to provide microloans to women, despite the fact that non-banks now service two thirds of the microfinance market. "Having access to financial services is essential for enhancing the economy and empowering women.

## Canada is reducing the number of start-up visas it will accept, this year

**Delhi:** Although Canada attempted to improve the attractiveness of its start-up visa program in July of last year, an announcement tonight will terminate the aspirations of prospective immigrant entrepreneurs. In reality, a number of them who received early investment or assistance from business incubators can wind up in a limbo. Beginning on April 30, Canada will only accept petitions for permanent residency linked to ten or fewer startups per approved organization for processing each year. The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) released a statement stating that this action was taken to expedite application processing and minimize backlogs. To put it simply, there are currently about 82 of these approved organizations, which include company incubators, angel investors, and venture capital funds (VCFs). It

follows that, if the number of these organizations stays the same, no more than 820 applications will be approved. Furthermore, as per the release, entrepreneurs whose start-up is backed by Canadian funding or a business incubator that is affiliated with Canada's Tech Network will be eligible for priority processing. In order to be eligible for permanent residence, entrepreneurs must demonstrate that they have sufficient means to support themselves and their family upon arrival in Canada. The Startup Visa (SUV) program does not require applicants to invest any of their funds or have a minimum net worth.

It's essential to have support from one or more of the approved partners, such as venture capital funds (VCF), angel investor groups (who must invest a minimum of CAD 200,00 and 75,000, respectively), or be accepted into a

program offered by a business incubator. Under this policy, the goals for immigration levels were established at 5,000 for the current year and 6,000 for 2025 and 2026. The creator of a tech company and immigration attorney Josh Schachnow notes, "But now they're being reduced to basically nothing (with less than 100 designated entities, it means less than 1,000 applications through SUV for the entire year)." This is seen as a poor decision by many in the immigration and entrepreneur finance fields. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada is the country that attracts startup founders the most in 2023. Through this category, around 900 entrepreneurs have gained permanent citizenship since the program's inception in 2013, which has resulted in the founding of over 300 start-ups.

## Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund

**Wealth managers** recommend conservative investors to opt for hybrid schemes before the financial year closes to save on taxes in mutual fund investments. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-24 shifts focus to hybrid funds with 35%-65% equity allocation for tax efficiency.

**Tax planning guide:** Opt for Hybrid funds to help cut tax outgo - 10 mutual fund schemes to consider

**Tax benefits of hybrid funds:** As the financial year comes to an end, it's important to keep a tab on your tax outgo for



FY 2023-24. Wealth managers advise conservative investors to consider hybrid schemes before the financial year ends to save on taxes in mutual fund investments, states a report. The government's removal of indexation benefits for pure debt schemes in Budget 2023-

24 makes hybrid funds with 35% to 65% equity allocation a viable option. Indexation, which adjusts inflation with the asset's cost, lowers tax liability. Certain schemes like balanced hybrid, multi-asset, and dynamic asset allocation still offer indexation benefits.

## Bank of Japan ends negative rates, closing era of radical policy

**TOKYO:** The Bank of Japan ended eight years of negative interest rates and other remnants of its unorthodox policy on Tuesday, making a historic shift away from a focus of redefining growth with decades of massive monetary stimulus. While the move will be Japan's first

interest rate hike in 17 years, it still keeps rates stuck around zero as a fragile economic recovery forces the central bank to go slow in any further rise in borrowing costs, analysts say. The shift makes Japan the last central bank to exit negative rates and ends an era in which

policymakers around the world sought to prop up growth through cheap money and unconventional monetary tools. In a widely expected decision, the BOJ ditched a policy put in place since 2016 that applied a 0.1% charge on some excess reserves financial institutions.

## CAPSULES

### HDFC Bank's home loan business head to lead Poonawalla Fincorp

**MUMBAI:** HDFC Bank's mortgage business head Arvind Kapil has filed papers to take charge as MD & CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp. Kapil is a 25-year veteran of HDFC Bank and was placed in charge of the legacy housing finance business of HDFC after its merger with the bank last year.

"Given the sheer size of the mortgage portfolio (Rs 7.5 lakh crore) and the material importance of distribution, we believe there is key managerial personnel risk (for HDFC Bank)," said Suresh Ganapathy of Macquarie. He noted that this is the second major exit in mortgages with the head of HDFC sales Santosh Nair quitting to join Bandhan Bank last month. Poonawalla Fincorp, in a statement to stock exchanges, said that Kapil will join the company on June 24, subject to approvals. Shares of Poonawalla Fincorp rose 1.5% after the announcement. Before taking charge of the Rs 7.5-lakh-crore mortgage business at HDFC Bank, Kapil led the retail lending business at the bank, which included unsecured loan20s, auto loans, two-wheeler loans, retail working capital loans, gold loans, loans against shares, home loans, microfinance, and business loans.

"Given his leadership, execution skills and business acumen, (Current MD & CEO) Abhay Bhutada has been elevated to group level and will be taking up a strategic and larger role at the Cyrus Poonawalla Group for managing its strategy, investment and finance," said Adar Poonawalla, chairman, Poonawalla Fincorp.

## LIC shares slip after 17% salary hike

**MUMBAI:** Shares of LIC were down by over 2% on after the corporation announced a 17% wage revision. The salary increase was announced by govt on Friday before the election code of conduct kicked in a day later.

The corporation's shares are now down 23% from the 52-week high of Rs 1,175 on Feb 9. On Friday, the country's largest insurance company said that govt approved a wage revision for LIC employees, effective August 1, 2022.



The corporation explained the hike, stating that a revision occurs once every five years. The statement said that due to the hike, there will be a 17% upward revision in the overall wage bill.

The increase aligns with the wage negotiation deal signed between the Indian Banks' Association and bank employees. LIC's wage revision incorporates an enhancement in NPS contribution from

10% to 14% for nearly 24,000 employees who joined after April 1, 2010. TNN We also published the following articles recently Noida revises fee for three parking clusters

Noida Authority approved three contractors for surface parking in city clusters with revised fees. New tender initiated after scrapping previous contract. Residents get relief with revised parking fees. Multilevel facilities accommodate 12,000 vehicles.

## China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

**China** Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history.

The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through 2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of



Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting issues are,

just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collabo-

rate with authorities over debt restructuring could mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis.

## Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company

**Millionaire grandchildren of Infosys founders!** Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy gifted his four-month-old grandson shares worth over Rs 240 crore, making him one of India's youngest millionaires. The transfer of 15,00,000 Infosys

shares reduced Murthy's stake from 0.40% to 0.36%. But did you know that other grandchildren of Infosys co-founders also hold stakes in the company. Millionaire grandchildren! Not just Narayana Murthy's grandson, these Infosys co-founders' grandkids also hold stake in company

Millionaire grandchildren of Infosys founders! NR Narayana Murthy, aged 77, made headlines by gifting 15 lakh shares of Infosys, constituting a 0.04% stake in the company, to his four-month-old grandson. Ekagrah is the third grandchild of Narayana Murthy and his wife, author-philanthropist Sudha Murty. Ekagrah was born to Rohan Murty and Aparna Krishnan in November last year. The 0.04% stake is val-

ued at over Rs 240 crore, making Ekagrah Rohan Murty one of the youngest millionaires in India. He is the youngest in the Infosys promoter group. Following this transaction, which was revealed in an exchange filing, Narayana Murthy's stake in Infosys has come down to 0.36%. The stock exchange filing specified the transfer of shares "from Narayana Murthy-promoter to master Ekagrah Rohan Murty-promoter group." Narayana Murthy's daughter Akshata Murty, also the First Lady of the UK, has two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka. Within the Murthy family, Akshata holds a 1.05% stake in Infosys, while her brother Rohan has a 1.64% stake, and their mother, Sudha Murty.

## Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false

**Adani Group companies have denied** receiving any notice from the US Department of justice regarding bribery allegations. US prosecutors investigate potential bribery involving Adani entity and founder Gautam Adani, including Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd. Adani Enterprises and Ports refute allegations, stressing commitment to high governance standards and anti-corruption laws.

Adani calls report on bribery probe by US prosecutors false Adani Group companies haven't received any notice from the US Department of justice regarding a probe into whether the Indian conglomerate may have engaged in bribery, according to exchange filings. Bloomberg News reported last week, citing people with direct knowledge of the matter, that US prosecutors have widened their prob-

le of the Adani Group to focus on whether an Adani entity may have engaged in bribery as well as the conduct of the conglomerate's billionaire founder Gautam Adani. The probe, which is also looking at Indian renewable energy company Azure Power Global Ltd., is being handled by the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Justice Department's fraud unit in Washington.

## Star Health eyes NRI business through GIFT

**CHENNAI:** Star Health and Allied Insurance Company will offer dollar-denominated insurance from GIFT City for NRIs. The company is launching international insurance product suite from the facility in FY25.

Star Health is the first health insurance company to be granted registration to establish an International Financial Services Centre international office in GIFT City. It plans to commence operations with a branch by the end of this month, facilitating access to health insurance solutions in US dollars for the global Indian community, the company said in a statement on Monday. Noting that the facility will enable the company to significantly expand its global reach and business, it said, the company will offer NRI-focused insurance.

## China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

**China** Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through

2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged fraud dwarfs that of Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting

issues are, just as the new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collaborate with authorities over debt restructuring could The allegations mark the latest blow for Hui, once among Asia's richest tycoons, who oversaw a

sprawling empire that spanned real estate to electric vehicles. Evergrande was one of China's biggest developers, taking on massive debt to expand across the country as condo sales boomed. The group received a liquidation order from a Hong Kong court in January, marking the largest collapse in China's three-year real estate crisis.