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

## Loco pilot says he heard explosion sound before Dibrugarh Express derailed near UP's Gonda

**NEW DELHI:** Dibrugarh Express (15904) on its way from Chandigarh to Assam derailed on Thursday near Jhilahi Railway Station near Uttar Pradesh's Gonda. In the derailment, two people were killed and several injured. Immediately after the mishap, rescue teams rushed to the spot. As of now, 1 have been killed and several injured from the several coaches of Dibrugarh Express train that derailed. Meanwhile, the loco pilot has confirmed that a loud noise was heard prior to the incident. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath also directed the officials to reach the site and expedite the relief measures immediately. The UP CM ordered the district administration to properly treat the injured. The development comes after several cases of train derailment have been reported across several parts of the country. Last month on July 16,



### 'No Hindi, no English': Woman's viral post amid Kannada quota row

Amid massive uproar over Karnataka's quota bill which has now been put on hold, a woman's post of her harrowing experience in Bengaluru has gone viral. The woman claimed that she decided to quit her job as she felt home-sick after being "engulfed by negativity". Apart from her daily tussle with auto drivers, she recounted one particular incident when she called BESCO office to complain about a power cut. She was asked to speak in Kannada, no Hindi and English, the woman claimed. "I was working in Bangalore for 1.5 years. Married in Punjab, I wore chooda for the entire 1 year as it is a part of my tradition. It was clearly evident I was from North India," Shaani Nani posted.

the engine and a coach got detached in Assam's Dibrugarh dis-

tract. The train of 23 coaches had serious derailment of 8 coaches leading to death of one. Contrary to previous reports, the latest update is that other passenger who was suspected death was revived. Apart, there have 30 minor injuries and 5 serious injuries Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said no casualties from his state have so far been reported in the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailment in Uttar Pradesh. Four people were killed and 20 injured when eight coaches of the Assam-bound 15904 Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailed near around 2:35 pm, officials said. Sarma said teams are on standby for support, and he is closely monitoring the situation "The Gonda train accident is very serious. Two people have lost their lives and 29 are injured. The injured are getting treated in the district hospital..."

## 'Like Hitler's Germany': Massive backlash over UP Police Kanwar Yatra order

**NEW DELHI:** Uttar Pradesh Police on Thursday faced criticism across the spectrum over its order directing Muzaffarnagar eateries to "voluntarily display" their owners' names to "facilitate" Kanwar Yatris. The orders have been issued to the eateries functional on the routes of Kanwar Yatra. Police said the intention behind the order was not to create any "religious discrimination" but only to help the devotees. "About 240 km of Kanwar Yatra route falls in the district. All the eateries, including hotels, dhabas and carts, on the route, have been asked to display the names of their proprietors or those working on these shops," Muzaffarnagar police chief Abhishhek Singh told news agency PTI. "This has been done to ensure that there should be no confusion among kanwariyas and no law and order situation arises. All are following this voluntarily,"



### Bangladeshi state TV headquarters set on fire, 'many' trapped inside

**Dhaka** Amid the out-of-bound protest in Bangladesh over the Sheikh Hasina government's quota decision in government jobs, protestors on Thursday set the state TV headquarters on fire, reported news agency AFP. Many are feared trapped in the BTV building. An official at the station, speaking

he said. However, despite the clarification on the issue, a massive backlash has erupted over the order of UP Police.

**Akhilesh Yadav seeks court intervention** Ex-UP chief minister and Kannauj MP Akhilesh Yadav questioned the

to the news agency, said that hundreds of protesters had stormed the premises, setting alight at least 60 vehicles and an office building. "They first torched a police post at Rampura after police opened fire at them," he said, referring to a neighbourhood in the capital Dhaka.

intention of the government and urged the court to take suo motu cognisance of the matter. The Samajwadi Party chief said, "... And what if the name of the owner is Guddu, Munna, Chhotu or Fatte? What can you find out

### MVA takes dig at Shiv Sena, NCP for missing NITI Aayog bus

**MUMBAI:** The Mahavikas aghadi (MVA) took a dig at Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP on being excluded from the reconstituted Niti Aayog. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar said that MPs belonging to Shinde faction and Ajit Pawar faction in Maharashtra have been left out from invited members of Niti Aayog. Rohit said it is unfortunate that Maharashtra is being neglected even though it is the highest revenue generating state of the country. Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said Eknath Shinde with 7 MPs got a Minister of State (MoS) berth at the centre and no special invite to NITI Aayog. "When Niti is only to stay in power by hook or by crook one should be happy with crumbs thrown their way," Chaturvedi said in a post on X.

## Salary hikes at IT cos drop to single digits

**BENGALURU:** After two years of double-digit raises at Indian IT companies, salary hikes are falling to single-digit percentages. Three of top five Indian IT companies have seen a decline in their annual salary increments as clients exercise caution and reduce discretionary spends. The challenging economic landscape has compelled IT firms to adopt a more discerning stance when it comes to rewarding employees. For many IT professionals, excluding a select club of top performers, salary increases have moderated in the range of 5% to 9% in financial year 2023-24. Infosys, known for having the highest average annual increments among competitors, saw average hikes drop to 9% in FY24, compared to 14.6% in FY22. The average hike for FY23 was 9.9%. Salary hikes at IT cos drop to single digits. Similarly, TCS implemented an average hike of 7-9% in FY24, down from 10.5% in FY22. In a recent interaction with TOI, TCS HR head Milind Lakkad said, "We are one of the few companies to give a hike in April this year. We will continue to do that." Wipro employees saw a 9.4% increase in the median remuneration compared to the previous year. Tech Mahindra and HCLTech have maintained average hikes between 5% and 7%. HCL's annual reports showed that the company rolled out an average hike of 6.8% in FY22, which dropped to 5% last year. Tech Mahindra's average increment was 5.6% in FY24, compared to 6% in the previous year and 5.2% during the pandemic-hit year when other firms provided double-digit hikes. Pranshu Upadhyay, regional director and head of India technology practice at recruitment consultancy Michael Page, attributed this trend to two factors: reducing margins as workforce and overall business costs continue to rise, and the availability of talent at the entry level in India where most of the workforce in these organisations possesses generic tech skills.

## 'Why was Trump allowed to stand and pose, fist pumping for 10 seconds?'

**MSNBC** host Joy Reid criticized Donald Trump following a recent assassination attempt, suggesting that he bears some responsibility for the incident. During live coverage of the Republican National Convention (RNC) on Wednesday, Reid, co-hosting with Rachel Maddow, drew a comparison between Biden's recovery from coronavirus and Trump's survival of



the assassination attempt, calling both "signs of strength." Reid referred to both Trump and Biden as "elderly" and remarked, "Donald Trump is an elderly man who, for whatever reason, was given nine seconds to take an iconic photo during an active shooter situation. Weird situation, we'll figure that out one day." She pointed out how the media portrays Trump's survival and

quick return to the campaign at the RNC as a "sign of strength". Reid also mentioned that Biden's COVID-19 infection is an opportunity for him to demonstrate responsibility. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre noted that Biden was experiencing mild symptoms despite being "vaccinated and boosted."

## Assam govt to repeal Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act

**NEW DELHI:** Assam government on Thursday decided to repeal the colonial-era Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act and Rules 1935. Sharing the government's decision on X, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma called it a "significant step to ensure justice" as it would put "additional safeguard against child marriage". "We have taken a significant step to ensure justice for our



daughters and sisters by putting additional safeguards against child marriage. In the meeting of the Assam Cabinet today we have decided to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration

Act and Rules 1935 vide the Assam Repealing Bill 2024," the Assam CM wrote in a post on X. The Assam CM said that suitable legislation will be brought for the registration of Muslim marriages in the state by the next assembly session. The repeal of the law will bring in several changes, including banning child marriages, making registration compulsory and eliminating qazis -- the marriage.

## Did you know? Usha Vance's granduncle was an RSS worker, went to jail during Emergency

**NEW DELHI** "Usha is the granddaughter of Rama Sastry, my husband Subramanya Sastry's eldest brother. I am happy she has inherited the sharp intellect and acumen that runs in our family. Both my husband and his elder brother (Usha's grandfather) served as university professors. Our family also holds deep societal concerns. My husband, in fact, spent two years in jail during the Emergency as he was an RSS worker." Did you know? Usha Vance's granduncle was an RSS worker, went to jail during Emergency. JD Vance's elevation as Vice-President candidate has brought the spotlight on Usha



Chilukuri Vance and her extended family. While Usha grew up in California, her ancestral roots are in Andhra Pradesh. Incidentally, her grandaunt is a bonafide icon in her own right. A household name in Andhra Pradesh, her grandaunt is a physics professor who still teaches at the age of 96. She told TOI: "Usha is the granddaughter of Rama Sastry, my husband Subramanya Sastry's

eldest brother. I am happy she has inherited the sharp intellect and acumen that runs in our family. Both my husband and his elder brother (Usha's grandfather) served as university professors. Our family also holds deep societal concerns. My husband, in fact, spent two years in jail during the Emergency as he was an RSS worker." Long before Usha Chilukuri Vance, wife of Ohio Senator and Republican vice-

## SP demands CID probe into Vishalgad violence

**MUMBAI:** Congress's leader of opposition (LoP) Vijay Wadetiwar on Thursday alleged that Vishalgad violence is sponsored by the government. Wadetiwar said the govt should tell who is the mastermind of the incident. He urged that the incident should be investigated at a high level and strict action should be taken against the culprits. Wadetiwar demanded that the Kolhapur Collector should be transferred and the Superintendent of Police (SP) should be suspended immediately. Samajwadi party MLA Rais Shaikh sought a CID probe into the Vishalgad violence. Shaikh wrote to DCMs Ajit Pawar and Fadnavis, demanding a CID probe.

## Kohli surpasses Shah Rukh, to become the most valued...

**NEW DELHI:** Indian cricket icon Virat Kohli has surpassed Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Ranveer Singh to become India's most valued celebrity. According to Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023, Kohli's brand value has surged by 29%, reaching an impressive \$227.9 million. This significant increase propels Kohli to the top spot on the list of India's most valuable celebrities. The report sheds light on intriguing patterns within the realm of celebrity endorsements, showcasing a notable uptick in the engagement of celebrities with brands. In a year-over-year comparison, the top 20 celebrities experienced a 14.2% increase in the number of brand endorsements they secured, a trend attrib-

uted to the expanding emphasis on television and digital platforms for advertising purposes. Virat Kohli continues to dominate the endorsement landscape, commanding a brand value of \$227.9 million, thereby securing the highest position. Ranveer Singh, with a brand value of \$203.1 million, occupies the second rank, indicating a slight shift from his previous standing. Shah Rukh Khan has made significant strides, ascending to the third position with a brand value of \$120.7 million, which marks a substantial climb and highlights his enduring appeal and marketability. Akshay Kumar remains in the fourth spot, with a brand value assessment of \$111.7 million, reflecting a steady hold within the industry.

## Orders of UP Police akin to Hitlershahi: AIMIM

Prayagraj: Regarding the Kanwar Yatra, the Muzaffarnagar police of the Yogi government has issued an objectionable order against Muslims in which it has issued a verbal order to all Muslim shopkeepers to write their names in front of their shops, which is absolutely condemnable. In his response, Afsar Mehmood, Metropolitan President of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen AIMIM, has called it Hitlershahi and has asked to immediately withdraw such order. The Honorable High Court has also been demanded to take suo motu cognizance in this, even the government is behind the administration. He has demanded a high-level inquiry into the intention and appropriate coercive action. He has said that such orders are social crimes which want to spoil the peaceful environment and harmony.

## Three tazias taken out on 11th Moharram

Prayagraj: In Naikot village under the police station as per Kadimi tradition on the night of tenth day three tazias of Budhdhan Khan Yasin Manizar Afzal Khan are taken out. Which is taken while patrolling in Karbala on



the eleventh Moharram. All three tazias are taken out from different houses and then taken out in the village and kept at a square. A fair is held there throughout the day and there is a competition for Dhol and Nauha. On this occasion, Nauhe of Naikot's famous poet Mustaq Yawar and Man Kabat read by Aftab and Afzal were the highlight of the procession. Police station in-charge Deendayal Singh, sub-inspector Monis Alam and several sub-inspectors and police forces were deployed to make arrangements for the three Tajiks. Elite people of many villages like Bablu Pradhan, Ashfaq Pradhan, Masood Khan BDC etc. were present on the spot.

## Dy CM Keshav Maurya arriving today

Prayagraj: District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani informed that the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Hon. Keshav Prasad Maurya is reaching the Police Line Helipad of Prayagraj today at 12:45 pm on Friday (July 19), after which he will participate in the meeting of the



Regional Executive Committee of the Bharatiya Janata Party organized at Hotel Triveni Sangam Andawa Jhusi. At 3:00 pm he will hold a meeting with the officials at

the Circuit House. Apart from this, on July 20, at 10:30 am, he will plant trees under the Plant Trees, Save Trees Jan Abhiyan 2024 at the Chandrashekhar Azad Park, Circuit House and then leave for Kaushambi at 1:30 pm.

## Amazon introduces new features in its Local Shops prog

Prayagraj: Amazon India has launched two new features to streamline the onboarding process for sellers in the Local Shops program and enhance the shopping experience for customers with a storefront-led view on the Amazon Mobile app. These two new features arrive just in time, to help local shops sellers gear up and prepare for Amazon's 8th Prime Day sales event in India, which is scheduled for July 20 and July 21. Tens of thousands of local shops sellers are gearing up to offer incredible deals, curated selection and new launches for the upcoming Prime Day. Abhishek Jain, Head, Local Shops on Amazon at Amazon India said, "We are excited to see the rapid scale up of the Local Shops on Amazon program across the country. The program has onboarded over 48,000 local offline stores from Uttar Pradesh enabling them to reach customers across the country. We are preparing our sellers for Prime Day and excited to introduce our 1-click launch feature for Local Shops sellers in Uttar Pradesh and across India. This feature eliminates multiple steps in the way, making it incredibly convenient for them to join Local Shops program. We combined this with the enhanced Seller Storefront making it easier for customers to discover the right product from a particular shop and share the store with their friends & family to bring more traffic to the seller. Both these innovative features mark a significant step in our mission to digitize and empower small and medium-sized enterprises across India, providing them with the tools and opportunities to grow and scale their businesses through e-commerce and our online marketplace."

Maawiya Khan, the owner of 'Return Gift Wala' says, "We have been a seller on Amazon.in for the past eight years now. As a 20 year old family business, we have kept up with the growing demand for e-commerce and successfully taken our brand to Amazon's online marketplace. Amazon helps us in the indirect marketing, leading to more visibility, value and awareness of our brand and products, which has helped us drive our business growth." The 1-Click 'Local Shops on Amazon' seller onboarding experience on Amazon Seller Mobile app addresses a key gap that sellers faced previously i.e., until this launch, sellers had to visit Seller Central on their desktops to enroll into the program.

# BJP people held meet regarding Phulpur Assembly by-election

Prayagraj: A meeting of Phulpur Assembly workers and officials with senior party leaders and minister in-charge was held at the BJP office located at Civil Lines regarding the Phulpur by-election. Regarding the by-election, Cabinet Minister Rakesh Sachan, in-charge of Phulpur, said that there is a need to pay special attention to the strength of the booth, Panna Pramukhs should be appointed, booth presidents and booth in-charges should work actively, Shakti Kendra coordinators and in-charges should have their own Fulfill the responsibility with full responsibility, the voter is supreme. The interests of the voter

should be taken full care of. Go among the public and break the web of false propaganda of the opposition. The elections have to be won in any case, everyone should unite and participate in the elections with new energy. Regional President of Kashi region, Dilip Patel said that many congratulations to all the workers for registering victory in the Lok Sabha elections of Phulpur. No laxity should be taken at the booth level in order to strengthen the organization in the booths where there are some deficiencies. So make their list and enter the by-elections with a special strategy. We have to work for the organization with full dedica-



tion and enthusiasm. State Vice President Trimbak Tripathi said that in the by-elections, go among the public by exposing the lies of the opposition and

convey the correct information about the public welfare policies and schemes of the Central and State Government to the people. Gangapur District

President Kavita Patel said that we will register victory in Phulpur Assembly but for that we will have to start taking up our responsibilities from now on.

On this occasion, Regional General Secretary Shri Sushil Tripathi, Regional Vice President Shri Mati Nirmala Paswan, Amarnath Yadav, District Incharge North Maurya, MP Phulpur Praveen Patel, MLA Phaphamau Guru Prasad Maurya, MLC Surendra Chaudhary, former MLA Prabha Shankar Pandey, Deepak Patel, District General Secretary Manoj Nishad, District Vice President Ram Palat Patel,

Anirudh Patel, Vishnu Dev Prasad, former District President Kanhaiya Lal Pandey, Ashwin Kumar Dwivedi, Morcha District President Laxmi Kant Upadhyay, Ashish Bharatiya, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vijay Patel, Mrs. Rupam Tripathi, District Minister Amar Jeet Kushwaha, Kamlesh Pal, Tulsi Ram Saroj, Santosh Shukla, Mahesh Pandey District Media Incharge Brijesh Kumar Tripathi, Umesh Tiwari, Nimish Khatri, Pawan Gupta, Sangeeta Patel, Yogesh Mishra, Poonam Patel, Anil Saroj, Atma Dhar Duve, Dilip Nishad, Alok Gupta and other party workers and officials were present.

## Exposure to India's infra sector helps LIC, SBI outshine peers

Prayagraj: Shares of state-owned behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) have outperformed rivals like HDFC Life and ICICI Prudential Life as it placed bets on India's growth sectors, including infrastructure, while the private sector concentrated bet on tech, consumer and consumer-related BFSI companies.

LIC's stock has gained nearly 79 per cent from Rs 620 on June 18, 2023, to Rs 1,109.15 at the closing on Tuesday, according to stock exchange data. In contrast, HDFC Life gave a negative return, if Tuesday's closing price of Rs 646.55 on the BSE is compared to Rs 666.55 a year back. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co delivered a return of 12 per cent, considering its stock price rise from Rs 582 on June 18, 2023, to Rs 654.10 on June 16, 2024. Over the past one year, SBI Life Insurance shares have risen from Rs

1,314 to Rs 1,621.20, delivering a return of 23 per cent.

Capital market analysts said insurance companies make money in two ways - charging premiums for policies and then investing the premiums into assets. It is the latter that generates the bigger delta in profits, thus impacting value creation and managing risks. Global majors, including Warren Buffet-owned Berkshire Hathaway, have been successful due to their ability to make superior investments.

Most Indian insurance companies are yet to capitalise on the emergence of the country's infrastructure sector, analysts said. Indian insurance companies have concentrated investments in the BFSI, IT, and consumer sectors - all of which have been underperformers in the recent past. Only 8-10 per cent of their investments are in the infrastructure sector. This is far less when compared to global

standards. Large global insurance companies -- such as Allianz, Nippon Life Insurance, and MetLife, and other insurers like Berkshire Hathaway -- have much larger exposure ranging from 15 to 30 per cent to the infrastructure sector, analysts noted.

Over the past few years, global insurers have been increasingly considering infrastructure investments as 'core' investments as the stable and long-term cash flows of infrastructure assets naturally align with the liabilities of insurers. Additionally, infrastructure assets have defensive characteristics of high barriers to entry, strong pricing power, structural growth, and predictive cash flows, and listed infrastructure can provide investors with inflation-protected income and solid capital growth.

For India, a strong government focus on the sector with large spending, supporting initiatives and

encouraging policies, and improving governance, the infrastructure industry has come off-age. This has helped the infra sector to outperform all other sectors, according to analysts. They said the high focus on retail loans, and the strategic reluctance to look at infrastructure for growth opportunities is proving detrimental for the shareholders of such companies.

SBI, with its higher exposure to the infrastructure sector, has seen its stock gain 48 per cent in the year (from Rs 592 to Rs 880.95 on Tuesday), while those of its private counterparts HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have gained only in the range of (-)3 per cent to 24 per cent.

Kotak and HDFC Banks with negligible exposure to the infrastructure sector are the worst performing, with their shares giving a negative return, stock exchange data showed.

## Congmen pay condolences on demise of sr advocate

Prayagraj: The District and City Congress Committee members paid deep condolences on the sad and untimely demise of Senior Advocate, District Court, Saleem Uddin. In this regard a condolence meeting of partymen held with DCC Gangapur president Suresh Yadav on chair at party office at Zero Road.

They said the death of Saleem Uddin, brother in law ( sala ) of City Congress Committee Sr. Vice President Parvej Siddiqui, was a leading criminal lawyer known as social activist for free service to poorer. 74 yrs Saleem Uddin died in early morning Thursday due to massive heart attack. He was laid to rest in Arrail karbala graveyard in presence of hundreds of his well wishers. The District court was closed due to his honour with full court reference. City president Pradeep Anshuman, Kishore Varshney, Fuzail Hashimi, Harikesh Tripathi, Arshad Ali, Nayan Kushwaha, Khushnaveda Farukhi, Rakesh Srivastav, Sartaj Mohammed, Manoj Pasi, Mehfu Ahmed, Rakesh Patel, Mohd.Zaved, Vijay Yadav, Mohd. Zahid.



## BJP Minority Morcha burnt effigy of Pak

Prayagraj: District Prayagraj Minority Morcha demonstrated at Subhas Chowk Civil Lines and burnt the effigy

of Pakistan in protest against the terrorist attack in Doda district and other attacks in Jammu region recently. Expressing solidarity with the martyrs and their families and raising slogans in support of the army and security forces, the district and other activists led by Minority Morcha Metropolitan President Nawab Khan strongly condemned terrorism and demanded action to control it. Protests were held by raising slogans like "Long live the martyred soldiers", "Long live our army", "Stop terrorism". BJP leaders recorded the intense resentment and anger of the people over the increase in terrorist activities



in Jammu region and the loss of precious lives and demanded strict action. The program was presided over by Metropolitan President Population Morcha Nawab Khan along with General Secretary Syed Usman Hussain, General Secretary Manu Chawla, State Tax Committee member Jahazuddin, Vice President Bilal Ahmed, Mohammad Sharif, Paramjit Bagga, Rehana Khatoun, Samsul Qamar, Kashi Area Vice President Mohammad Imran, Patvinder. Singh Shah Nawaz Alam, Bablu Sartaj, Manit Singh, Kamal Singh, Tanveer Haider, Samsul Hussain Adnan Ahmed Mohammad Mujeeb Mohammad Aaqib Mohammad Nazim Mohammad Ali and all the Minority Morcha officials were present.

## Meta Launches Meta Verified Subscription for Businesses in India

Varanasi: Meta has now introduced Meta Verified subscription plans for businesses on Facebook and Instagram in India. The company introduced Meta Verified for businesses last year beginning with a small test to learn how Meta can offer the most valuable subscription toolkit to help businesses achieve their goals on its apps. Earlier this year, Meta also announced the expansion of the initial test from one subscription plan to four, and last month the company followed it up with the launch of Meta Verified for businesses on WhatsApp, announced during its Conversations Conference.

The expanded Meta Verified business offering on Facebook and Instagram includes the verified badge along with enhanced account support, impersonation protection, and addi-

tional features to support discovery and connection. Together these features give businesses an opportunity to grow and support a wider variety of business needs and activities on Meta apps. Meta's enhanced offerings are based on feedback from businesses as well as market research since the company started the test last year. Business owners have told Meta that they value the ability to get verified because it helps provide credibility and gives customers more confidence to engage with them. In fact, the verified badge continues to be one of the top reported reasons for subscribing to Meta Verified.

With Meta Verified, businesses can unlock new ways to build credibility on Meta apps and grow their brand. Meta Verified now offers four subscription

plans to give businesses increased options for selecting a plan that's best suited to their needs. The subscription plans in India are available for purchase only via iOS or Android at this time for businesses on Facebook, Instagram, or WhatsApp. Businesses have an option to either purchase Meta Verified for Facebook or Instagram or WhatsApp or do a bundled purchase for Facebook and Instagram.

All plans offer a foundational toolkit of the verified badge, account support and impersonation protection, and then each plan builds on it by offering additional features to support businesses keeping in mind where they are in their journey on Meta apps. The value of benefits across the four plans could vary depending on the businesses' specific goals and activity

on Meta apps.

Enhanced support is a key part of all offerings. Meta support starts with access to chat or email with agents and builds to requesting a call back from the agent to dedicated case monitoring. Similarly, a business can add more links in their Reels as they go up in plans, or access more features to enhance their profile as their presence on Meta apps grows.

Meta Verified plans for businesses start at as little as INR 639 for a single app per month and go up to INR 21,000, which is an introductory discounted rate for two apps per month.

Businesses interested in signing up can check their eligibility and begin the onboarding process from their professional dashboard in app, or by visiting Meta's marketing landing page.

## Instructions of officials to CM not being followed

Prayagraj: Purvanchal Dalit Adhikar Manch (Padam) has been protesting continuously for the last ten years regarding granting lease of housing and agricultural work to the landless agricultural laborers of Tehsil Bara, Karchhana, Meja and Koraon located in Yamunanagar. Memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government by the District Magistrate Prayagraj. And the common landless agricultural laborers have been sending about five thousand application forms to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government since last April through registered post in their own names. For granting residential and agricultural lease to landless agricultural laborers, the Commissioner and Secretary, Revenue Council, Uttar Pradesh Section-5, Lucknow have written to the Special Secretary, Honorable Chief Minister's Office, Lucknow No. J-30/G-5, Hon. With reference to the Chief Minister 2022, dated 13 April 2023, he wrote a letter regarding allotment of land to landless agricultural laborers under the land reform and for information, please send a copy to the applicant with reference to the letter dated 02-03-2023,

by which under the land reform has requested for allotment of land to landless agricultural laborers.

It is to be informed that lease of agricultural work is governed by Sections 125, 126 and 127 of the Revenue Code 2006 and Rules 119, 120, 121, 122 of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code Rules-2016 and Sections 61, 62, 63 of the Revenue Code-2006. Under Section 64, Residential Lease Rules, 2016, there is a provision for granting residential lease under Rules 61, 62, 63 and 64. In this sequence, the work of allocation is done by the state government. According to Section 125, 126, 127 of Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code 2006 and Rules 119, 120, 121 and 122 of Revenue Code 2016, lease for agricultural work and Section 63, 64 and 67 (a) of Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code 2006 (a) Residential lease is granted. In view of this, there is no justification in making any policy regarding allotment of land to landless agricultural laborers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under land reforms. In view of the above, the case deserves to be deposited.

## Unlimited 5G data on Airtel

Prayagraj: For customers who are missing out unlimited 5G benefits, Airtel has launched new booster packs, allowing users with 1GB/day and 1.5GB/day plans to upgrade to unlimited 5G. These affordable upgrades can be activated on existing data packs to enable customers to enjoy unlimited 5G data benefits. The upgrade plans also offer additional 3GB, 6GB, and 9GB data on top of the Unlimited 5G data benefit to customers at INR 51, INR 101, and INR 151 for the rest of their current plan validity.

## Modi's 'New Kashmir' perfect wedding destination: Nandi

Prayagraj: Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Minister of Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI and Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh, Government recalled the wedding of his son and said, "It is with great pleasure that I share with you all that the auspicious wedding ceremony of my son Abhishek Gupta was successfully completed on 9-10 and 11 July in Srinagar, Kashmir! The Kashmir which was once suffering the brunt of terror! The saffron beds of heaven on earth were under the shadow of terror; today the same Kashmir is

drenched in prosperity and beauty! The natural beauty of Kashmir added to our three-day very important family event! The diversity of the mountains, the excursion to the jetty pavilion in the middle of Dal Lake, the color of the flowers of the valley increased this joy manifold! The credit for these changed conditions of Kashmir goes to the country's successful Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, hardworking Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji and Honorable Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha ji. It is only because of the bold and historic decisions



taken by the abolition of Article 370 and eradication of terrorism that the glory of Kashmir has returned again. Kashmir's tourism and trade have resumed! Earlier such an event could not have been imagined!

But in this changed environment, the grand memories of marriage have become permanent in the minds of all of us forever! The choice of venue for this wedding also reflects the inspiration given by the Honorable Prime Minister for a destination wedding within the country. This ensured participation of local vendors and artisans! Guests also did a lot of shopping at the local markets! Such events make the economic prosperity of the country inclusive! This is the new Kashmir of new India! Where instead of the sound of bullets, the auspicious sound of conch shells and mantras echoes! Instead of stone pelting, there are garlands and flower showers! Instead of bomb blasts, DJ tunes of Ram Ram Jai Raja Ram are played. Instead of fear and terror, there is joy and happiness! Instead of poverty and misery, there is economic prosperity and progress! All you well-wishers, supporters and fans are requested to give your valuable blessings and congratulations to son Abhishek and daughter-in-law Krishnaika on the beginning of this new journey of life!

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party NGO Cell Co-ordinator Kashi Province Rajinikanth informed that Vidyarthi Nagar Asha Khabar Lane Chakdodi Naini filled with dirty water for the last several days. Pollution due to sewer line connection of Kasai locality Red colored water spread in the entire locality Residents of the locality got angry Problem To get relief from waterlogging, Umesh Chand Kesarwani met the Mayor of Prayagraj and was informed about the problem. He immediately instructed the zonal officer to immediately send em-

## Chakdodi Naini presents a picture utter civic neglect: Rajinikanth

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ployees to relieve the residents of the locality from waterlogging. The damaged main line of the locality should be replaced. The adjacent sewer line should be connected to the main line so that the entire dirty water does not get collected at one place. After drainage, lime must be sprinkled. Rajinikanth expressed gratitude to Umesh Chand

Kesarwani Mayor for his activism on behalf of the citizens. Water logging to the General Manager Prayagraj. Rajinikanth made aware of the problem and directed his subordinate employees to immediately install machines to get rid of polluted water. Rajinikanth also made higher officials aware of the problem. Employees who are lax in their work should not be negligent in the future, otherwise action will be taken against you by the government. Do not defame the officers and employees of one department over another. Serve society as a duty, not a duty.



## Woman who alleged rape had her application denied Did not appear after filing it

Prayagraj: The woman who accused four shopkeepers of Indira Bhawan of raping them one by one went missing from the court. After filing the application in the court to register the case, no one appeared on several dates. On which Judicial Magistrate number five, after perusing the file, said that no one was appearing since many dates. In the absence of the applicant, application under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure appears to be without force and the said application is rejected.

Let us tell you that a 40-year-old woman from the city had filed an application under Section 156 (3) to register a case in the said court against four shopkeepers of Indira Bhawan, Pyare Usmani, Sheikh Dabar Vakil, Aamir Ansari and Salim. She had gone to Indira Bhawan to get her mobile phone repaired, then while talking on the phone at home, she told that she had to go to Jhusi Anwar Market. which Pyare Usmani was listening to while sitting at the shop. He said that he also has to go to Jhusi and will leave. When the applicant agreed to go with her, the shop owner Sheikh Dabar Vakil also agreed to go there. Due to his

good behaviour, she left with him at around 2 o'clock. Then both of them gave her a cold drink. After drinking it, she became intoxicated. As soon as she reached Alop Bagh, two people who were his acquaintance came and sat down and started talking obscenely. When she refused, she was asked to remain calm. Through mutual discussion it was revealed that one person was Aamir Ansari and the other person was Salim.

Then they held her tightly and told her to do whatever they said otherwise they would kill and throw her in the river. After that, they turned the vehicle towards river Ganga and took her to a deserted place and forcibly raped one by one and also made a video. Because she was unconscious, they left her there and ran away. After regaining consciousness after 1 hour, she went towards the road when a person dropped her on GT Road near the bridge. When she went to the police station after the incident, FIR was not written. The applicant made the allegations after filing an application in the court but remained absent from the court to present her views. On which the court rejected her application considering it as forceless.

## ABVP Aild Univ unit submits memo on IPS entrance exam results discrepancy & CUET registration extension

### Warns varsity admin; gives 48-hour ultimatum for action

Prayagraj: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Allahabad University unit submitted a memorandum to Director of Admissions Prof. J.K. Pati, demanding rectification of discrepancies in the IPS entrance exam results and an extension of the CUET registration deadline. The ABVP has given the Allahabad University administration 48 hours to take appropriate action, warning of a fierce agitation if their demands are not met.

The ABVP, the world's largest student organization dedicated to student welfare and upliftment, has highlighted an issue in the IPS entrance exam results.

According to students, the results released by Allahabad University did not account for year gaps, despite the initial IPS brochure specifying a deduction of marks for year gaps. The brochure was allegedly altered late at night on July 15th, removing this provision without prior notice. The ABVP contends that these changes were made under external pressure and demands that the IPS entrance exam results be reissued according to the original rules.

ABVP Allahabad University Unit President Alok Tripathi stated, "The arbitrary change in entrance exam rules post-result re-

lease by the Allahabad University administration exemplifies administrative anarchy. The ABVP will not ac-

cept such actions. We demand immediate corrective measures and the

reissuance of the IPS exam results as per the pre-determined rules."

Additionally, the ABVP



is calling for an extension of the CUET registration deadline, currently set for

July 20th. ABVP Vice President Akhilesh Kushwaha noted that the National Testing Agency (NTA) has yet to release the entrance exam results, and many students only recently completed their CUET exams. An extension of at least two weeks is necessary to ensure all students have the opportunity to register. Present at the submission of the memorandum were Amar Singh, Utkarsh Upadhyay, Manikant Tiwari, Varun Tiwari, Siddharth, and other ABVP members, informed Abhinav Mishra, Member, National Media Team and State Media Convener, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

## Procession to be taken out from Colonelganj to mark Shohada-e-Karbala

Prayagraj: A funeral procession will be taken out from Imambara Zulfqar Haider located at Colonelganj Slaughterhouse on the occasion of Hazrat Imam Hussain and other martyrs of Karbala at 8 pm on Friday, 19th July. Zainul Mirza and Farzan Mirza Sozakhwani will be delivered by Zaki Ahsan Peshkhani. Maulana Syed Razi Haider Rizvi Saheb will inaugurate the Qibla Majlis. Anjuman Abbasia Ranimandi will present a tribute to Naho and mourning. Shabihe coffin and alam will also be offered. In the same sequence, Shahanshah Sonvi's Sozakhwani and Dr. Qamar Abdi will be held under the management of Shafiqat Abbas Pasha at Azakhana Javed Afsar Abdi in Barntala under Shahganj police station. Maulana Syed Johar Abbas



Saheb will inaugurate the Qibla Majlis. After the Majlis, the coffin of Janabe Sakina and Ghazi Abbas will be taken out for the Alam Ziyarat. Naukhawan of Anjuman Guncha e Qasimya Bakshi Bazaar will read sad Nauha. In Azakhana Fatehe Zahra, Purdard Nauhebarnatala was read on the legacy of the martyred families of Karbala. In Azakhana Fatehe Zahra, a Majlis was organized by Syed Mufid Abbas in the memory of seventy-two martyrs of Karbala in which Maulana Jafar Hussain Qaumi Saheb Qibla narrated the painful incident of Battle of Karbala. Did. The Naukhawans of Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimya Bakshi Bazaar recited Purdard Nauha. A large number of devotees participated in the Majlis.

## BJP Mandal President Anil Bhatt gets ex-gratia for losses due to fire

Prayagraj: Former Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur provided assistance of Rs. 100,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to BJP Mandal President Anil Bhatt, who suffered loss due to fire, from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Check handed over: District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that on the festival of Diwali last year 2023, there was a fire at the house of BJP Mandal President Anil Bhatt, there was a loss of lakhs of rupees. In this regard, a check of ₹ 100,000 was handed over to Chief Minister Rahat by the government. He was given and Anil Bhatt expressed his gratitude towards Yogi government. On this occasion Rajesh Kesarwani Ganesh Verma Ajay Anand Anil Goswami Harish Paswan Dilip Kumar Sandeep Yadav Aman Sharma etc.

## Reconstitution of Durga Puja Committee, Gautam Banerjee re-appointed Chairman

Prayagraj: Like last year, the newly formed committee was given the responsibility of organizing the puja with fewer budgets. Many decisions were taken in the meeting chaired by Gautam Banerjee regarding this. It was decided to celebrate the upcoming Durga Puja of Mahamaya Barwari Pritam Nagar in a grand manner. The meeting was presided over by Rajesh Gupta, President of Pritam Nagar Trade Board. Also, before the puja this year, engineer Manish

Ghosh took the responsibility of renovating Durga Bedi. This year the committee is organizing a lucky

Ramesh Gupta, Anil Naib, Manish Seth and others were made. Like every year, journalist Vinay



draw. Advocate Ajay Pratap Singh was made in-charge. Senior vice president of the committee, Akhilesh Tiwari and treasurer Mukesh Rai,

Raghuvanshi was unanimously selected for the responsibility of media in-charge of the committee and digital operation of the event.

## Kumbh 2025: Meeting concludes with rep of Akhara Parishad/revered saints and Mahatmas

Prayagraj: In the presence of Additional Director General of Police Bhanu Bhaskar and Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, suggestions were received regarding organizing Mahakumbh-2025 in a divine, grand, safe, clean form along with representatives of Akhara Parishad/revered saints-mahatmas in Gandhi Auditorium on Thursday. A meeting was organized to do this. In the meeting, the representatives of Akhara Parishad/revered saints and mahatmas gave their suggestions and guidance regarding organizing Mahakumbh-2025 in a hassle-free, safe, clean, divine and grand manner. ADG Bhanu Bhaskar, Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba, IG Prem Kumar Gautam, Kumbh Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand, Additional Police Commissioner N Kolanchi, Senior Superintendent of Police Kumbh

Mela, representatives of Akhara Parishad/revered saints who came to the meeting - The Mahatmas were first welcomed and felicitated by garlanding them. In the meeting, Kumbh Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand explained in detail about the preparations being made in view of Maha Kumbh-2025 through a power presentation. Kumbh Mela Adhikari made action plan for organizing Maha Kumbh-2025 clean and plastic-free, maintaining uninterrupted purity of Ganga and its continuous monitoring and monitoring, smooth traffic, safe and secure bathing of pilgrims, sages and mahatmas coming to the fair area. Arrangements being made for the visit, parking arrangements in Naini, Jhusi, Phaphamau and the city, toilets, drinking water, arrangement of cameras for security, pontoon bridge, river channelization to increase the area of bathing ghats, temporary roads to

be built in the fair area. Arrangement of 7 thousand buses of Transport Corporation as well as 550 shuttle buses for smooth movement of passengers, arrangements related to display of information through digital display screens in the fair area, crowd management and security through drone cameras. Continuous monitoring of the temple, work on beautification of temples, tent city for upgrading tourist facilities, night shelter with a capacity of 2500 for the devotees coming to the fair area, drainage system in the fair area and other arrangements are being done. Detailed information was given to the representatives of the Akhara Parishad. He also gave detailed information about the preparations being made at the parking lots regarding electricity, water, lighting, cameras and other arrangements and said that there should not be any inconvenience to the revered saints and

devotees coming to the fair area. For this to happen, preparations are being made on a large scale.

In the meeting, representatives of the Akhara Parishad/revered saints and Mahatmas assured full cooperation in organizing



the Mahakumbh-2025 in a smooth, safe, secure, clean, divine and grand manner. In the dialogue program, the representatives of the Akhara Parishad/revered saints and mahatmas gave information about the increase in the land of the Akharas, beautification and strengthening of major religious places as well as information about the people

in view of the arrival of large number of saints and mahatmas in view of the Mahakumbh. Signage should be installed for the event, additional security arrangements and precautions should be taken in view of the Hathras inci-

dent, facilities provided in the last Kumbh should be increased, necessary arrangements should be made for organizing a plastic-free Swachh Maha Kumbh, cleanliness and ongoing construction works should be completed in a timely manner. Important suggestions were given regarding completion etc. Kumbh Mela Adhikari said that it

will be our endeavor to live up to all your expectations. He said that allotment of land and facilities will be made available to the institutions in the fair area on time as per the rules. There will be no problem of any kind in this. All executing agencies will ensure that all work is done with quality in a timely manner. He said that all the works will be completed on time by listing the suggestions/guidance given by you all. In the meeting, Additional Director General of Police Bhanu Bhaskar said that it is the effort of all of us to organize a smooth, safe, grand and divine Maha Kumbh as well as to provide the best facilities to the revered saints and devotees coming to the fair. He said that the concept of Digital Kumbh will be realized along with crowd management and traffic management using new technological features of Artificial Intelligence, Security and Safety.

On this occasion, Divi-

sional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant said that our entire team will work as per the guidance given by all of you and our continuous communication with you will continue. He said that cooperation from all of you is expected to make Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 plastic free. This will be possible only with the cooperation of all of you. We will try that whatever saint or devotee comes here, our officers/employees will behave very civilly and well with them, so that they can have a good experience here and they all go back from here with a good message. He said that whatever construction work is going on will definitely be completed by the month of October. Said that currently the work is going on in two shifts, if required, the work will be completed in three shifts also and will be completed on time with quality. Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba said that the guidance and suggestions given by all of

you will help. By complying, the world's largest event will be conducted safely and securely. He said that the fair will be organized smoothly by using modern technology in traffic management, security and crowd management.

At the end of the meeting, the senior officials assured the Akhara Parishad representatives/revered saints and Mahatmas that by following the suggestions and guidance given by all of you, Mahakumbh-2025 will be conducted smoothly, safely and securely. It will be organized in a clean, divine and grand manner. On this occasion, apart from the revered saints and mahatmas, Municipal Commissioner Chandra Mohan Garg, Chief Development Officer Gaurav Kumar, Additional Fair Officer Dayanand Prasad, Additional Fair Officer Vivek Chaturvedi and senior officials of other concerned departments were present.

## Editorial

### Budget 2024 must further India's clean energy goals

This year hit many records with unprecedented weather conditions, from extreme winters to heatwaves and torrential rains. Rising heat-related illnesses and deaths in India and across Asia, Europe and North America this summer have laid bare the inescapable impacts of climate change. The heatwave in India, with maximum temperatures crossing 50°C, sent power demand soaring, with peak demand touching 250 gigawatts in May 2024, an increase of 3 per cent from the peak demand across all months in financial year 2023-24 (243 GW), putting pressure on the electricity system. With government efforts to ramp up electricity generation by increasing domestic coal supply and availability of imported coal and gas, peak demand increased by 4 per cent during the same period. Such climate change-induced extreme weather events not only have an impact on electricity demand but also other macroeconomic factors like inflation and high interest rates, crippling the economic growth of a country. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das reiterated concerns about the risks posed by global warming and how frequent climate shocks drive up food prices. Addressing climate change is, therefore, a top priority for the government. India has pledged to install 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen a year, reach 30 per cent electric vehicle (EV) sales and cut CO2 emissions by one billion tonnes through greater energy efficiency, all by 2030. Later this month, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents her sixth full Budget in the Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government can take decisive action to honour its pledges. Last month's announcement of Rs 7,453 crore (\$892 million) in Viability Gap Funding for two large-scale offshore wind projects—India's first—totalling 1GW was a significant, albeit overdue, step toward the 2030 target. The government should extend such funding to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) so they can partner with multinational investors to develop a supply chain of locally manufactured components and skills. While renewable energy has demonstrated positive growth, it has fallen short of the 2030 target. Successful deployment and integration of renewable energy depends on a secured supply chain, smart grid infrastructure expansion, flexible generation sources and development of innovative market mechanisms. As such, the renewable energy ecosystem requires budgetary support, tax breaks, relief in import duties and tariff barriers or tax credits to expedite development and attract necessary investment. Despite increased investment and deployment of clean energy, India lags behind other nations in research and development (R&D) spending. India ranks fourth in the world in renewable energy capacity. Yet, its R&D expenditure is well below the annual average spent by member states of the International Energy Agency (IEA), which is about Rs 986 crore (\$118 million), based on the most complete data available from 2022. Last year, India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy said it had allocated Rs 228 crore (\$27.3 million) for R&D over five years from FY 2021 to 2026, which adds up to about Rs 46 crore (\$5.5 million) a year. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis calculated that the total government spending on renewable energy R&D in FY 2021-22 was about Rs 124 crore (\$15 million) across all sectors, including the national wind, solar and bioenergy institutes and other programmes. Last year, the government more than doubled that figure with its National Green Hydrogen Initiative (which has an R&D budget of Rs 400 crore or \$48 million). While laudable.



## Political battle will be waged on Dalit votes in UP

After the battle of 2024 elections is over, the NDA government led by Prime Minister Modi has been formed at the center. The new government has started cursing the opposition in its old style, besieging it and K.P. Malik has started working in his old way. Now the next political battle will be waged in November-December with the assembly elections of four states, but the discussion of the assembly elections to be held in Uttar Pradesh in 2027 has already started in the political corridors. For this, all the parties have already started preparing their swords and arrows, the result of which is being discussed to be assessed from the by-elections to be held on 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh after a few months. It is not yet decided when the by-elections are to be held on these 10 assembly seats, but all the major and small parties of the state including BJP, Congress have started making their own election strategies and have started efforts to win the by-elections and are trying to win as many seats as possible in these elections. But this time in this by-election, the focus of all the parties is on the Dalit vote bank. Although even before this, everyone had an eye on the Dalit vote bank, but before the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections came, it was believed that the Dalit vote bank belonged to Mayawati and no one else can make a dent in this



vote bank except her. But after the results came out and the victory of Azad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) chief Chandrashekhar Azad in the very first attempt, it is being said about the Dalit voters that they are slipping out of Mayawati's hands. Due to this, now all the parties are mainly eyeing the Dalit votes. Actually, Mayawati, who never contested by-elections from Uttar Pradesh, is contesting by-elections this time, because she is also worried that her Dalit and Mahadalit vote bank may be snatched away by Congress and SP. On the other hand, Azad Samaj Party will also become a challenge for her now, because the attention of Dalits is suddenly being drawn towards Chandrashekhar Azad and so is that of the backward classes. BSP has not been able to win even a single Lok Sabha seat in this Lok Sabha election. Worried about this, Mayawati is now engaged in putting BSP workers to work again

and is also working on a strategy to strengthen her party cadre by going from village to village, which clearly shows that BSP, which never claimed to contest by-elections, is now forced to contest by-elections this time so that Dalits who are moving away from it do not break their ties with it forever. She is not doing this only in UP, but is doing this in many other states including Haryana, so that she keeps getting the support of Dalit vote bank and keeps winning some seats to save her reputation in future. However, while Mayawati is there, it is a far-fetched idea to separate 100% Dalits from her, rather no other party can bring the Dalit voters who go to BSP's account to their side at the present time, no matter which party it is, and some political experts believe that 50% of the total Dalit voters of UP still like Mayawati.

Anyway, this time along with Congress, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is also

pushing his backward, Dalit and minority i.e. PDA formula and a new political player Chandrashekhar Azad is also making a mark in Dalit politics. Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party is also preparing to contest all 10 seats of the by-election. That is, now the next biggest political battle will be seen in the 2027 assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh for the votes of Dalits and a multi-cornered struggle to take Dalits with them. But one thing is that whoever the Dalits go with, he will sit on the throne of Lucknow in 2027.

They will try their best to bring them to their side. This time also a good number of Dalits have voted for the All India Alliance i.e. Congress and Samajwadi Party.

Congress wants to bring its old Dalit vote bank with it somehow, for which it is keeping an eye on Dalit voters and wants that the way Dalits remained with it for about four decades after independence, they

should return to its side again. On the other hand, the ruling party BJP has also been seen surrounding the Dalits for a long time and a large number of Dalit voters had also joined the BJP. But this time, due to the issue of ending reservation and changing the Constitution, a large number of Dalits have parted ways with the BJP. However, to woo Dalit voters, BJP had also organized a large number of Dalit conferences before this Lok Sabha election. But its game was spoiled by its big-mouthed leaders and all the hard work went to waste. In the midst of all these political players, every party is trying to save its branch in the by-elections to be held on 10 seats in Uttar Pradesh this time, so that the path to victory in the future can be opened or chances of more victory can be seen. In fact, if BJP loses the by-elections on these 10 seats, it will mean that its defeat in the 2027 assembly elections is also certain and BJP does not want this under any circumstances.

Due to this, from BJP cadre to Sangh and Yogi government, everyone is trying to win these 10 seats in this by-election under any circumstances. Congress is trying to establish its foothold in UP again. And it wants that now after winning six Lok Sabha seats, it can perform well in the assembly elections and win many seats, and this.

### India's Olympics outfits are tacky. Tarun Tahiliani was too busy dressing Bollywood

Team India's outfits for the Paris Olympics 2024 opening ceremony on 26 July were unveiled last week. And, the fashion gods are weeping. I am disappointed with Tarun Tahiliani, couturier to the stars. There's not a single detail I can appreciate in the designs. We're headed to the Olympics, not a school Independence Day programme. And I'm not the only one who thinks this way. On social media, people are calling out the outfits for their tackiness. India's sports women will wear saris, while the male athletes have a kurta bundi set—both displaying the Tricolour. But there's a way to wear patriotism with style, and this is not it. And, as if the designs were not enough to digest, I have a hard time believing that they were crafted by Tahiliani. Tarun Tahiliani is the fashion magician who dressed up Indian stars and even Kim Kardashian, for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding festivities. Is this the best

he could do for the Indian athletes? It seems like the designer poured all his time and effort into dressing celebrities and then hastily threw together the athletes' outfits as an afterthought. Honestly, this is worse than the bare minimum effort some men put into relationships. The men's kurta set is made from lightweight moss cotton, while the women's sari is viscose crepe paired with a high-neck blouse. "They are going to be wearing it for three hours. At 40 degrees Celsius, how to make them look good? So, we focused on cottons," Tahiliani told The Hindu. His lack of effort is evident in his statement—weather forecasts put the temperature in Paris at a high of 25 degrees Celsius and a low of 15 degrees Celsius on the day of the ceremony. Regardless, I'm all in for creating attire that's breezy, lightweight, and weather-appropriate. But it doesn't mean making our athletes look like they've escaped from a circus.

### China's 3rd plenary meet is more propaganda, less reform. Xi must address key challenges first

The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party is finally underway in Beijing. The session, taking place from 15-18 July, has 205 full members and 171 alternate members in attendance. It aims to address China's economic problems and boost the country's modernisation drive. Held once every five years, the plenum serves as a crucial platform for announcing key economic directives and reforms that attract global attention. And it assumes heightened importance against the backdrop of several challenges. These include a downturn in the real estate sector, ongoing efforts for post-Covid-19 recovery, and a notable slowdown in China's second-quarter GDP growth rate of 4.7 per cent. Additionally, amid US-China trade tensions and American restrictions on technology transfers, it shows that Beijing is strategically pivoting toward greater economic self-sufficiency. In this session, President Xi Jinping, also the General Secretary of the Central Committee, delivered a work report on behalf of the Political Bureau, outlining priorities for 'comprehensively deepening reform and advancing Chinese modernisation.' Central to these policy directives are initiatives to bolster advanced manufacturing, overhaul the tax system to mitigate debt risks, navigate a substantial property market crisis, stimulate domestic consumption, and breathe new life into the private sector. State-owned media is actively supporting Xi's leadership, portraying him as guiding China through profound social and economic transformations via comprehensive reforms. The People's Daily emphasised that "the path of Chinese-style modernisation has

evolved from reform to the comprehensive deepening of reform, marking a critical juncture." In strikingly similar language, Xinhua remarked: "Standing at a new historical starting point, we [China] are embarking on another great transformation." Expressions like "the ship carries a thousand pounds, with one person at the helm" underscore the Chinese president's authority while overly emphasising his role.

The tangible impact of these policies often seems limited, resembling symbolic gestures. Such an approach avoids accountability, relying heavily on Xi's cult of personality and the support of his loyalists. Much of the media asserts that "Socialism with Chinese characteristics" originated during the reform and opening-up era, and that Xi's continuous reforms in this direction show he is committed to its success. The overwhelmingly positive tone of the plenum and Xi's leadership portray a narrative that, despite challenges, comrades should trust in his vision and leadership.

It suggests that, drawing from the president's past successes in reform and opening up, he is positioned to guide the country toward even greater prosperity. Efforts are also being made to highlight how policy guidelines are capturing the attention of foreign media and investors, and to counter assertions that global leaders and businesses now perceive Beijing unfavourably. A commentary highlighted recent visits to China by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai, and Solomon Islands Prime Minister

### NPS-Lite can streamline welfare funds & pension schemes for the poor—with 2 key reforms

Informal sector workers have limited benefits in the absence of any provident fund or gratuity. What solutions then can the Indian government come up with to help them build wealth for old age? When there is no food on the table, one cannot discuss savings. However, the informal sector is quite heterogeneous, and to the extent that there is some saving capacity among workers, could they be brought into the fold of pension schemes? Encouraging voluntary contributory pensions is an important strategy to achieve greater

pension coverage in the informal sector. There are two possible reforms the government should consider. First, create an enabling framework for Union and state governments to plug into the National Pension System-Lite (NPS-Lite). Second, widen the variety of drawdown policies for those exiting the workforce at the age of 60. Government employee pensions are provided through the NPS. Under this framework, a central record-keeping agency (CRA) documents the pension contributions, licensed fund managers

handle the money, NPS Trust holds responsibility for the assets and funds, and the regulator — the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) — maintains the sanctity of the system. This infrastructure is readily available for use in any other scheme as well. It was used to set up the NPS-Lite in 2009. Through NPS-Lite, informal sector workers can use the same set of institutions as government employees to manage their pension savings. If a government—Union or state—wants to start another pension

scheme, it should consider plugging into the NPS ecosystem. In fact, this was the initial goal of the NPS. For example, if a state government wants to start a pension scheme for its constituents, it should be able to open NPS-Lite accounts for them.

The objective of the sponsor (in this case, the government) should be to identify those eligible and steer their contributions to the NPS-Lite. The government could easily provide co-contributions to incentivise those taking up the scheme.

## Government wants MTNL to become BSNL

**Delhi:** After failing to find a solution, the government is considering handing over MTNL's operations to its larger sibling BSNL instead of merging the two state-run enterprises, which have received numerous bailouts, including two years ago. Highly placed sources said the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) will review the new plan before Cabinet approval. The proposal to transfer Delhi and Mumbai-based MTNL to BSNL will help the latter revive and deliver pan-India services. Not integrating the firms eliminates the requirement to delist MTNL from the bourses. In a



merger, MTNL would be delisted and required to buy back shares. One insider stated this may be avoided by simply turning over operations. However, MTNL's dismal performance has not hurt its shares. MTNL's share price on the BSE rose 139% in a year,

closing at Rs 46.3 from Rs 19.4 on July 12, 2014, despite huge losses and subscriber reduction. Over the past decade, the telecom industry has grown rapidly, yet MTNL has lost market share and business (like BSNL). MTNL's wireline business (including internet)

dropped to 6% in April from 12.5% in April 2014. However, its mobile business share has dropped to about 0.2% from 0.4% a decade ago. Since MTNL will only own land and buildings, handing over daily operations to BSNL may affect its share price. The source said

the DoT wants to speed up the integration of the two companies, which have been languishing with no sign of a turnaround. MTNL lost Rs 3,303 crore in the year ended March 31, 2024, up from Rs 2,911 crore. Revenue from activities fell 15% to Rs 728 crore in 2023-24 from Rs 862 crore in FY23. At the end of FY24, MTNL owed Rs 25,795 crore, up from Rs 23,500 crore. The company's debt excludes short-term borrowings and non-convertible debentures of Rs 3,569 crore, which the government pays interest and principal.

## Haryana Sikh body prohibits wedding fires, DJs



**Delhi:** A Haryana Sikh social reform forum has banned firearms, DJs, and lehengas for weddings to reduce extravagant spending. The campaign begins in five Sikh-majority Haryana districts and subsequently spreads across the state. Jagdev Singh Jhinda's social group, Samaj Sudhar Lahar, would launch this campaign in Karnal, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Panipat, and Jind districts. Youth and women committees in several districts have banned weapons during wedding celebrations. "Many people oppose such spending and seek to raise awareness. We want to outlaw air-

guns, DJs, and orchestras in weddings. Many guests have fought while dancing at Sikh and other weddings. Gunshots in the air have killed and injured many state residents. He said to eliminate these ills. Jhinda declared that Sikh brides should not wear lehenga, so they founded a women's association to promote salwar kameez.

The Sikh leader said they don't have punishments for violating these rules because they want people to follow them. We are creating 21-member youth and women committees in each hamlet in five districts to spread

awareness of the prohibition. He added more individuals are needed to make it successful. Jhinda added that people who disobey the reform body will face fines and social punishment later. Karnail Singh, another Sikh leader, said they created Samaj Sudhar Lahar on Sunday at the gurdwara in hamlet Malikpur, Jind. Office bearers will be nominated at the next meeting in Nissing, Karnal, to intensify reform body efforts. Jhinda said that these limits are working in his native hamlet Rastak Jhinda in district Karnal and hopes to duplicate them across the state.

## Manipur distributes 300 crore to 4 lakh as part of social programs

**Delhi:** Under 46 state and federal programs, the Manipur government provided direct benefit transfers (DBT) of Rs 300 crore to four lakh people. The drive's main target group was internally displaced individuals who were impacted by the ethnic violence that broke out in May 2023. For the benefit of the displaced families from the Kuki and Meitei tribes as well as those living in relief camps, Rs 32 crore was provided. As the first installment of the recently announced special aid of Rs 1 lakh per family for dis-



placed families in relief camps, Rs 25,000 per family, or Rs 15 crore, was made available. This will help about 6,000 displaced families. In order to assist handloom weavers and other craftsmen, the government has introduced the Chief

Minister's Yarn Scheme, which offers yarn at fair prices with government subsidies. The government also introduced the Sportspersons Livelihood Guarantee Scheme, which is intended to help retired athletes.

## Centre refutes Stalin, announcing 3-lakh cr project clearance for TN



**Government sources also indicated the state has not implemented approved projects**

**Delhi:** While dismissing Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin's claims of the Centre not sanctioning significant projects for the state in the past decade, sources highlighted railway, highway, and social infrastructure projects worth at least Rs 3 lakh crore. Government sources also indicated the state has not implemented approved projects. Tamil Nadu received Rs 5,167 crore from the Jal Jeevan mission between FY20 and

FY24. Under PM Vishwakarma, the state has not helped check and register 8.4 lakh program hopefuls, sources said, adding that states should use central schemes. They said a record number of central projects were sanctioned and implemented in Tamil Nadu in the past decade and that states are not discriminated against. Stalin's claim is false. Indeed, the NDA government has boosted money for trains, roadways, airports, social and rural schemes in the state during the previous decade "added an official. Officials said the state received Rs 6,331 crore in the Budget for railway development this year, up from Rs 879 crore between 2009 and 2014.

## Haryana BSP-INDLD alliance; Abhay Chautala will be CM face

**Delhi:** The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) will join forces for the October assembly elections in Haryana. Abhay Chautala, general secretary of INLD, would represent the party. BSP will compete for 37 seats in the 90-seat state assembly, while INLD will vie for 53. Chautala's designation as the alliance's chief minister was revealed by Akash Anand, the nephew of BSP chief Mayawati.

Despite their understanding of seat sharing, Chautala stated that INLD would not be reluctant to share additional seats with its alliance partner in light of the candidates' chances of winning.

Chautala said that after consultations, the parties would decide how to divide the seats among themselves.



## MVA Secures Two Seats, Mahayuti Wins All Nine Seats It Contested



**Delhi:** The Mahayuti alliance, which is in power in Maharashtra and is composed of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, won every one of the nine seats it ran for in the biennial elections, giving it an 11-seat state legislative council. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured five seats in the results of the earlier-day polls, while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar and the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde secured two seats apiece. The results were released in the evening. Milind Narvekar, a close aide to Uddhav Thackeray, the chairman of the Shiv Sena (UBT), and Congress candidate Pradnya Satav emerged victorious from the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The NCP (SP) led by Sharad Pawar backed Jayant Patil, the candidate for the Peasants and Workers' Party (PWP), lost the polls.

## Refund for Selling Old Car

**Delhi:** You may want to scrap your old car. Because doing so will get you new car discounts. To encourage Delhiites to trash their old cars, the transport department intends to rebate motor vehicle tax and registration by 10-20%, depending on vehicle category and fuel used. Motor tax is 20% lower when buying a new automobile or two-wheeler after scrapping a petrol, CNG, or LPG non-transport vehicle. The registration of a new diesel automobile or motorcycle will be 15% cheaper for those who scrap them. Diesel buses and transport vehicles receive a 10% discount, while petrol, CNG, and LPG ones receive 15%. To qualify for savings, one must acquire a new car in the same category as the scrapped one. A spokesperson added that motor vehicle tax reductions should not exceed 50% of scrap value.

The National Green Tribunal prohibited diesel and petrol vehicles over 10 and 15 years old from Delhi roads. Because many outdated cars remain on the road, the state government wants to scrap them. The official stated the buyer must get a concession certificate after dismantling the old car to get the discount. "This certificate will be valid for three years, during which one should purchase a new vehicle," stated. The initiative, which would be implemented once authorized by the government, encourages Delhi residents to replace their old automobiles with newer, more ecologically friendly ones to reduce pollution and improve air quality.

## Rain leaves Delhi vegetable buyers high and dry

**Delhi:** Tomato prices have risen in wholesale and retail markets in the capital in recent days due to monsoon rains. Tomatoes, a household essential, cost over Rs 100 per kg in numerous city neighborhoods. Vegetable traders blamed the rise on northern regions' heavy weather affecting truck

transit. The Union ministry of consumer affairs, food, and public distribution's price monitoring section reported an average wholesale price of Rs 3,600 per quintal (Rs 36 per kilo) for tomatoes. July's pricing was about 1.5 times normal. Azadpur Mandi dealers reported retail veggies were offered at 100-150%

of wholesale. Krishna Gulati of Hauz Khas said her normal vegetable supplier offered her tomatoes for Rs 100 per kilogram on Friday compared to Rs 40 earlier this month. "I questioned him how prices rose so much in Delhi with little rain. According to Gulati, wholesale prices had risen.

## Mahayuti defeats MVA as 7 Congress MLAs cross-vote in MLC polls

**Delhi:** Seven Congress MLAs voted for Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP in MLC polls for 11 seats, which had 12 candidates, confirming fears of cross-voting. Mahayuti Friday won all nine legislative council seats, while Maha Vikas Aghadi lost one of three seats. Five BJP candidates and two each of CM Eknath Shinde-led Sena and NCP won, with Congress and Sena (UBT) winning one seat each. MVA and NCP (SP)-backed Peasants and Workers Party's Jayant Patil lost. The result hurts MVA before the assembly elections and reveals that CM

Shinde and Ajit Pawar kept their legislators when there was anticipation they might vote for the other side. Significantly, Uddhav Thackeray's trusty assistant Milind Narvekar won the third round after being predicted to win in the first. After its poor Lok Sabha performance in Maharashtra and its recent loss in the Mumbai graduates and teachers seat elections, deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis led poll management for Mahayuti, which gained support. Seven Congress members voted for NCP or Sena.

## RSS branch to finance ministry: Help farmers, control inflation

**Delhi:** The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), an RSS offshoot, has urged the Union finance ministry to offer micro irrigation system subsidies for small farmers and ensure remunerative prices for growers due to inflation, especially in essentials and food items. It also offered industry tax incentives on an employment-output ratio to increase employment. The ruling National Democratic Alliance's Bharatiya Janata Party draws its ideology from the RSS. The ideas were presented last month during a pre-budget meeting with government officials, according to



sources. The SJM proposes a wealth tax on vacant land to discourage "unnecessary land holding on the pretext of future requirements." The ruling National Democratic Alliance's Bharatiya Janata Party draws its ideology from the RSS. The ideas were presented last month

during a pre-budget meeting with government officials, according to sources.

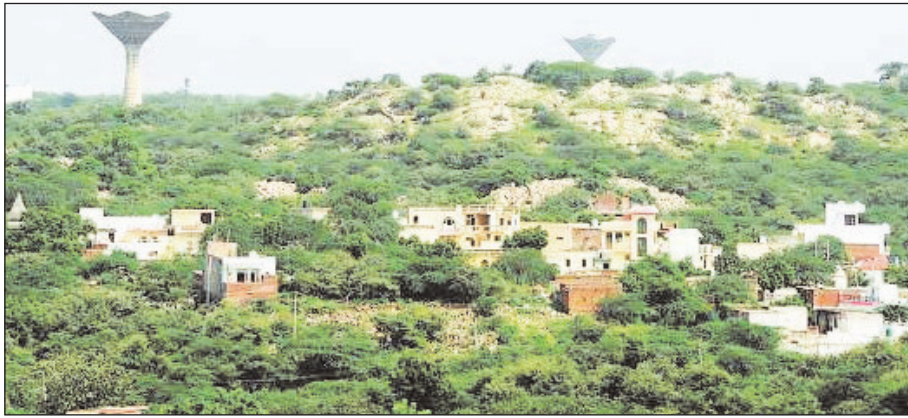
The SJM proposes a wealth tax on vacant land to discourage "unnecessary land holding on the pretext of future requirements." This was done to offer homes for all, stated a

source. "Affordable housing should include hostels for workers and students," says SJM. RSS offshoots have urged the government to curb inflation, a significant issue. In line with it, the SJM suggests that government spending on rural infrastructure like warehouses and cold chains

"may be increased substantially". Pointing out that increased farmer prices are thought to induce food inflation, SJM national co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan stated there is evidence that farmer pricing may lower inflation by preventing market profiteering.

## Illegal Farmhouses Threaten Aravalli Hills Ecosystem: Sohna, Gurgaon

**Delhi:** Illegal farmhouses are destroying trees in the Aravalli Hills, particularly near Sohna's Gair Mumkin Pahar. Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) makes the Aravalli Hills uncultivable and needs government authorization to chop trees. A rise in illegal farmhouses threatens the national treasure of Aravalli trees and the delicate ecological balance of the surrounding area. Illegal farmhouses have long colonized the Aravalli Hills, but the situation has grown. Stakeholders and environmentalists are concerned about landowners blatantly felling trees.



Unchecked deforestation is destroying Raisina Hills' beauty, a worrying trend. Villagers say that illegal farmhouse owners take down trees, add stones, and install iron gates. These activities involve clearing forested areas to build approach roads to their farmhouses. Gates restrict

locals' access and the government's action. Recent forest department and local government operations have destroyed several illegal farmhouses, but a worrying analysis found that more than 500 new farmhouses were built in 2022. Even the Forest Department doesn't grasp the latest farm-

house development boom. The causes of this unlawful activity surge are unclear, making regulatory work difficult. The lack of a unified plan to combat this problem makes illegal farmhouses thrive. A concerted effort by local communities, government institutions, and environmental groups

is essential. Waking up is important to solve this problem and address its causes. There is an urgent need to address the proliferation of illegal farmhouses in the Aravalli Hills, particularly in Gair Mumkin Pahar. These constructions' unrestrained development and environmental violations will threaten the Aravalli ecosystem. Local communities' rights and well-being will be violated. Governments, environmentalists, and local stakeholders must work together to solve this problem. They should enforce laws and adopt sustainable methods to protect the Aravalli Hills' natural heritage.

## India rice stocks three times target, alleviating supply concerns

**Delhi:** Two government sources in India, the world's second-largest rice producer, reported that rice stocks were nearly three times their target at the start of August. The surplus will boost market hopes of fresh Delhi lifting a recent export prohibition, along with the fresh season crop expected in October. Last month, the world's top rice exporter abruptly halted non-Basmati white rice exports, sending prices to multi-year highs. On August 1, state warehouses had 37.6 million metric tons of Indian rice, including unmilled husk varieties, sources told Reuters. Rice suits us "unidentified source said. Our supplies are sufficient as we near the end of the 2022-23 rice marketing year. Next crop is around the corner. "Sources reported



24.6 million metric tons of rice and 13 million metric tons of unmilled rice on Aug. 1.

Local government regulations require state-run warehouses to have 13.5 million metric tons of rice, including Strategic Reserves of 2 million for the quarter starting July 1. Rice is planted in June and July in India, and harvesting begins in October. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), India's primary grain importer, would increase state granary rice inventories with new season purchas-

es. FCI purchased 84.6 million metric tons of rice paddy from domestic farmers in 2022-23, yielding 57 million tons. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Indian farmers harvested a record 135.5 million metric tons of rice in 2022-23. According to the weather service, eastern Indian rice-growing states may receive excess rainfall in August. A good crop will require FCI to acquire lots of rice from farmers, strengthening government granary inventories.

## Publicize child begging helpline

**Delhi:** In a PIL against child begging, a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan was informed by the Delhi government that anyone can report an event on the hotline, and a mechanism has been built to counsel and transmit the situation. After hearing the authorities, the court closed the PIL and ordered Delhi to provide an affidavit of compliance after eight weeks. The writ petition was dismissed, and the court, including Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, ordered respondents to promote the child hotline number 1098. Standing coun-



sel Santosh Kumar Tripathi represented the Delhi government, which assured the court that a framework is in place to respond to child beggars.

He also said out-of-school youngsters are being identified and admitted to schools. Residents can now record sightings

and help relocate animals for safer routes. Road accidents must be prevented, says the chief minister.

Discover how scoliosis affects child development. Discover the value of early diagnosis and treatment. How to help scoliosis-afflicted kids live better.

## Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

USED TRUCK PRICES ON THE UPSWING			
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT (TONNE)	Jun-24	Jun-23	YOY Change
1.5 to 2	₹3,29,727	₹2,39,490	38%
2 to 3.5	₹5,82,400	₹4,76,462	22%
3.5 to 7.5	₹6,39,000	₹5,29,000	21%
7.5 to 16	₹8,10,000	₹7,55,833	7%
16 to 19	₹9,63,000	₹8,83,500	9%
25 to 28.5	₹13,60,000	₹12,88,000	6%
31 to 36	₹15,77,000	₹11,00,000	43%
37 to 43.5	₹16,00,000	₹13,50,750	18%

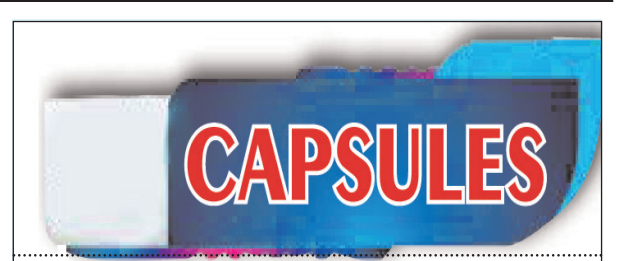
All vehicles are five years old Source: Shriram Mobility Bulletin July 2024

**Delhi:** Used truck prices rose double-digits year-over-year for light commercial vehicles. A 38% increase in used vehicle costs for 1.5- to 2-tonne vehicles. The 2 to 3.5 tonne category rose 22% and the 3.5 to 7.5 section 21%. The only other segment with bigger price hikes was 31 to 36 tonnes, but truck marketers said this was a distortion because few higher GVW trucks are repossessed. The smaller tonnage unorganized fleet for inter and intra city logistics has been switching from new to old rucks in the recent year. Price hikes and logistics market stress due to inconsistent freight rate increases are to blame. Ashutosh Pandey, CEO, Mahindra First Choice Wheels, said smaller unorganized

fleet owners must cut costs and utilize 40% cheaper trucks. Marketers say the move toward used trucks has been obvious for about two years. Shriram Finance spokesman: "Over the past two years, prices for all types of used commercial vehicles, BS IV or BS VI, have increased 25-30%." "The subdued sales during 2019-22 have resulted in a shortage of supply in the used truck market." The used truck industry is booming, and prices are projected to stay high as new vehicle prices rise. The current batch of new trucks (one or two years old) will be available pre-owned after a few years. "This could potentially drive sustained growth in the used vehicle segment," he said.

## Cruel to crush the snouts of dogs such as pugs

**Delhi:** PETA India announced that it would be conducting an appeal in advance of World Plastic Surgery Day to remind people that, although humans may have a choice in the form of their nose, pet dog breeds like pugs and other flat-faced dogs do not. According to PETA, those who are kind hearted should never purchase them since they are purposefully and cruelly bred to have a nose so compressed it makes it impossible for them to even breathe. According to PETA, a number of cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, will host the awareness campaign at the same time. Marine Lines in Mumbai will have a massive billboard up. Pugs and other breathing-impaired breeds (BIB)—such as shih tzus, boxers, Boston terriers, French and English bulldogs, Pekingese, and Cavalier King Charles spaniels—suffer from brachycephalic syndrome.



## Government bans pro-Khalistan SFJ for 5 years, citing anti-India actions

**Delhi:** The Centre has declared pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) a 'unlawful association' for another five years, citing its continued anti-India and subversive activities and support for violent extremism in Punjab and elsewhere to create a sovereign Khalistan. On July 10, 2019, UAPA banned SFJ as a 'unlawful association' for its aggressive 'Referendum 2020' campaign for a Khalistan state on social media and in countries with large Sikh diaspora. In notification, MHA warned that SFJ, without immediate curbs on its unlawful activities, may escalate its attempts to carve out a Khalistan nation from Indian territory by destabilizing the lawful government; continue advocating secession of Punjab from the Union of India and formation of Khalistan; propagate anti-national and separatist sentiments prejudicial to territorial integrity and security; and escalate secessionist movements.



## Delhi raised pollution certificate prices

**Delhi:** The Delhi administration has immediately changed two-, three-, and four-wheeler pollution-checking rates. Rates for petrol, CNG, and LPG two-wheelers and three-wheelers have been revised to ₹80. New pricing for fuel, CNG, and LPG four-wheelers are now ₹110. Diesel owners will pay 140 extra. The national capital's PUC rates were updated after 13 years. In response to increased pollution checking costs, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot told PTI that PUC charges were revised. Gahlot stated, "We revised the charges to meet the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association's long-standing demands and escalating pollution inspection costs. We are committed to safeguarding Delhi's air quality and ensuring all vehicles fulfill pollution limits." Two- and three-wheeler pollution-checking fees for petrol, CNG, or LPG have increased from 60 to 80. However, the price of four-wheelers has risen by 30 from 80 to 110. The maximum PUC certificate increment for diesel automobiles is 100 to 140. Vehicle requirements limit PUC certificate validity. Car and two-wheeler owners must renew their PUC certificate every six months after a year for a new vehicle.



## Government will sell wheat

**Delhi:** In order to sell FCI's wheat stock, the food ministry has set a minimum sale price of Rs 2,325/quintal for private bulk buyers like millers, below the market price of Rs 2,400/quintal. The minimum rice price for bulk buyers is Rs 2,800/quintal. Prices do not include FCI depot transportation. The ministry stated in an official notification that FCI will discuss



with the ministry to determine the quantity of grain inventories to be offloaded after considering PDS stock,

buffer norms, and 20 lakh tons. FCI has 289 lakh tonnes of wheat. Government may lift rice export prohibition and resume wheat sales. Minimum sale prices for FCI wheat and rice holdings.

A group of ministers will decide on export ban removal. Pre-registering farmers for urad procurement by government cooperatives.

## Central armed police chiefs promise a 10% quota for ex-Agnives

**Delhi:** Heads of various central armed police forces (CAPFs) reiterated their commitment to implement a 10% quota for ex-Engineers in all constable-level posts, saying the forces will benefit from trained and disciplined manpower.

Protection Force (RPF) stating that ex-Agnives will receive 10% CAPF quotas. The DGs in these videos mention the recruitment rules amendments for each CAPF that relaxed ex-Agniveers. These include exemption from the physical efficiency exam and age relaxation of five years for the first cohort of ex-Agniveers and three years for succeeding batches.

"All CRPF ex-Agniveer recruitment arrangements are complete. Due to their Army discipline, Agnives will be valuable.

**Delhi:** Congress sources claimed a two-member fact-finding committee sent by the party's central leadership to investigate its capital loss met with all candidates and top officials in recent days. Every candidate and Delhi official said AAP's elected officials and staffers didn't molest them. Anonymity claims AAP's support for Congress did not convert on any of the three seats. Top party official, requesting "The fact-finding committee will soon hand over the report to the central leadership for its consideration," he said. Congress and



AAP, the two parties of opposition's INDIA alliance, shared seats in the capital and contested the Lok Sabha election to avoid splitting anti-BJP support. AAP won four seats and Congress three after winning two straight assembly polls by a big mandate and the recent MCD polls. BJP won 54.3%, AAP 24.1%, and Congress 19.1%. AAP

national convenor and Delhi CM They worried that if their supporters voted for Congress today, they wouldn't vote for AAP in Delhi assembly elections in Jan-Feb next year "said a senior party official. Several days before the nomination process, we announced our candidacy. In places where its candidates ran, AAP has sent

activists from all constituencies. Senior AAP leaders refused to send personnel to our districts, another Congress man claimed. Senior Congress officials told the committee that many party workers were unhappy with the AAP collaboration. "Some party members also disliked the nomination of two outsiders. Meanwhile, AAP and Congress have stated that their cooperation is restricted to Lok Sabha elections and that they will compete in the Delhi assembly elections separately.

## Congress candidates blame Delhi Lok Sabha loss on AAP

## Adani Group investment in energy transition to exceed \$100 billion over decade

**Delhi:** "In the future, green electron availability will drive economic growth. Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, gave the keynote talk at CRISIL Ratings Annual Infrastructure Summit 2024. He believes the green electron industry has no limit. The Adani Group will invest more than \$100 billion in the energy transition arena over the next decade and grow its integrated renewable energy value chain, which already manufactures every significant component for green energy generation. Adani Group's green hydrogen integrated manufacturing ecosystem goal is on track.



The integrated manufacturing branch of ANIL has commissioned India's first 2 GW monocrystalline ingot and wafer plant for 182 mm and 210 mm wafer thickness-

es. The Group's 4 GW solar module manufacturing capacity will handle the production.

In the beginning, polysilica-to-module capacity will reach 10 GW. Adani Group wants to grow wind turbine generator capacity to 5 GW by 2027 from 1.5 GW. In its low-cost integrated green hydrogen project, ANIL is establishing hydrogen electrolyzer production facilities. End-to-end supply chain control will reduce the Group's import dependence and improve module pro-

duction and price control. At the Crisil Summit, Adani said, "We are confident that we will produce the world's least expensive green electron that will become the feedstock for several sectors that must meet the sustainability mandate." "To achieve this, we are building the world's largest single-site renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch, Gujarat. He stated that this location will generate 30 GW of power, bringing our renewable energy capability to 50 GW by 2030.

## Patanjali demanded a deposit of Rs. 50 lakh for violating an HC decision

**Delhi:** After Mangalam Organics Ltd. filed a complaint alleging trademark infringement, the High Court issued an interim order in August 2023 prohibiting Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. from selling its products that include camphor. On July 8, a single bench of Justice R I Chagla observed that Patanjali acknowledged violating the previous ruling awarding an injunction against the sale of the contested camphor products in an affidavit filed in June. In August 2023, the High Court issued an interim order restraining Patanjali Ayurved Ltd from selling its camphor prod-



ucts in response to charges made by Mangalam Organics Ltd. On July 8, a single bench of Justice R I Chagla observed that Patanjali acknowledged violating the previous ruling awarding an injunction against the sale of the contested camphor products in an affidavit filed in June. Suing Patanjali Ayurved, Mangalam

Organics claimed that their camphor products were being copied. Suing Patanjali Ayurved, Mangalam Organics claimed that their camphor products were being copied. Later, it filed an application, alleging that Patanjali's ongoing sale of the camphor products constituted a violation of the interim injunction.

## TCS employed 5,452 in Q1, reversing headcount decline

**Delhi:** Tata Consultancy Services (NS:TCS) employed 5,452 people in the first quarter of FY25, reversing three-quarters of the workforce reduction. The company's headcount fell for the first time in 19 years in FY24. The company has 6,06,998 workers. In Q1 FY25,

attrition dropped to 12.1%, the business claimed. After reporting a 9% year-on-year growth in net profit to Rs 12,040 crore in Q1 FY25, Chief Human Resources Officer Milind Lakkad said he was "delighted to announce the successful completion of our annual increment

process". "Our sustained focus on staff engagement and development led to industry-leading retention and good business performance, with the net headcount addition being very satisfying," Lakkad said. In Q1, TCS earned Rs 62,613 crore, up 5.4% from the previous year.

## The newly elected office bearers of BPMS took oath in a dignified program

**New Delhi:** The oath taking ceremony of Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh was organized at the Constitution Club in New Delhi. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp in the presence of Rajya Sabha member ND Gupta. During the dignified program, the newly elected office bearers of Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh for the year 2024-27 were also administered the oath of office and secrecy. The oath taking ceremony was held under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner JS Gupta, Election Commissioner KL Garg and Abhay Jain. JS Gupta administered the oath of office and secrecy to all the office bearers. Rajesh Chetan took

oath as the President of the organization, Dinesh Gupta-General Secretary, Pawan Moda-Treasurer, Hansraj Ralhan-Vice President, Vinay Singhal-Vice President, Manish Goyal-Organization Minister, Meenakshi Garg-Secretary, Sanjay Gupta-Joint Secretary, Deepak Gupta-Joint Secretary, Pramod Kumar Sharma-Publicity Minister, Sanjay Jain (Karol Bagh) and Sanjay Jain (Prashant Vihar) took oath as executive members. It is noteworthy that all these office bearers have been elected unanimously. Along with this, the conveners of various service committees were nominated as executive members. These included

Sanjay Aggarwal, Govind Ram Bansal, Sachin Mehta, Sunil Sharma, Sanjay Goyal, Mahendra Chawla, Amardeep Singhal, Sunil Bansal, Umesh Mittal, Mahadev Jindal, Pooja Bansal and Kanta Bajaj. On this occasion, Rajya Sabha MP ND Gupta praised the work of BPMS wholeheartedly and announced to provide all possible help from his MP fund. Internationally renowned doctor Dr. Ramesh Gupta from America was a special attraction of the program. After practicing in America for 40 years, he will now make India his workplace. He announced a contribution of Rs. 5 lakh to BPMS to fulfill its mission and gladly agreed to join the Board

of Trustees of the organization. The re-elected president of the organization and internationally renowned poet Rajesh Chetan said that the aim of the organization is to provide a friendly environment to the families who have come from the district and settled in metro cities, to promote the art and culture of the country and the state, and to inspire the youth for the unity and integrity of the country. He said that BPMS has left no stone unturned in fulfilling all its social responsibilities. He said that in the last one year, free cataract surgery was done for more than a thousand eye from this, under 'Mission Pink', every level of help was provided.

## Tata Motors, M&M discount as demand drops

**Delhi:** Is the auto market slump pushing pricing cuts? Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have dropped the price of several of its important SUVs to boost demand, while Maruti, Hyundai, and Honda all offer discounts. Two premium flagship SUVs from Tata Motors have been discounted by Rs 1.4 lakh. The Harrier costs Rs 14.9 lakh and the Safari Rs 15.5 lakh. Even the Nexon EV is discounted Rs 1.3 lakh. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility chief business officer Vivek Srivatsa called them "never



seen before benefits" to improve vehicle accessibility. He noted that the Punch electric deal includes a Rs 30,000 benefit. Mahindra & Mahindra released a discounted XUV700 special edition. The XUV700's fully-loaded AX7 range starts at Rs 19.5 lakh, down over Rs 2 lakh. "The price cut will enable more peo-

ple to experience the range," the business claimed. Save almost Rs 2 lakhs on this feature-packed SUV with petrol and diesel engines. Four-month limited offer! Find exclusive offers and discounts on Tata Motors' Harrier, Safari, and Punch.ev models until July 31, 2024.

## New rule in India will ensure digital titans pay news publishers fairly

**Delhi:** India may pass a regulation to ensure equitable deals between tech corporations and news publishers. According to Mint, Australia and other nations have required Google and Meta to compensate for exploiting news content on their platforms, which inspired this approach. Sources told the report that this legislation will be in addition to the Digital Competition Bill, which has held public discussions. In 2022, Jayant Sinha's parliamentary standing committee on finance proposed regulations to help news publishers negotiate fair and transparent deals with powerful digital companies. It was left out of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs'



Digital Competition Bill. The newspaper cited sources saying this Bill will set criteria for large technology companies to foster fair competition in digital markets. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposal to level the playing field between news aggregators and publishers, a source said. A separate statute is being considered. "The article said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is

reviewing Australia's news media bargaining code and impending rules in other countries. This has boosted digital news publisher revenue dramatically. "India, among other nations, is proposing a regulatory framework to secure fair contracts between news organizations and internet giants Digital advertising generated Rs 40,865 crore and grew 36.6% in 2023, according to the research.

## Budget 2024: Government may guarantee NPS to calm anxieties

**Delhi:** This is despite the 2004 recruit program offering substantial profits for 25-30-year investors. The Centre has ruled out a return to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), but it kept the door open to provide consolation when Congress reversed a Manmohan Singh government decision. OPS is a defined benefit program that pays half the final wage as a lifetime pension, subject to pay commission recommendations. However, NPS is a defined contribution program where government employees contribute 10% of their basic income and the Centre contributes 14%. The Somanathan committee has examined global experience and the Andhra Pradesh government's modification, as well as extensive calculations

KNOW YOUR RETURNS		
<b>Central govt scheme returns</b> (Returns in % since inception)		
9.73	9.56	9.52
SBI Pension Fund	LIC Pension Fund	UTI Retirement Services
<b>State govt scheme returns</b> (Returns in % since inception)		
9.53	9.49	9.45
LIC Pension Fund	UTI Retirement Services	SBI Pension Fund

Returns as on July 8, 2024. Source: NPS Trust

to assess the impact of an assured return. The Centre can guarantee 40-45%, but politically, it doesn't solve the concerns of 25-30-year employees. Thus, a 50% guarantee is gaining government support. In case of a deficiency, the government will compensate. Since the Centre has no retirement fund, several committee members believe an annual estimation will be needed, unlike the

government pension scheme, which is unfunded. As with corporations that offer retirement benefits, the Centre may create a fund this time. Officials say individuals who stay working for 25-30 years are seeing adequate earnings to match OPS pension payments, and complaints of low payouts are only from people who have left the system after 20 years or fewer.

## Apple alerts 98 countries, including India, about spyware



**Delhi:** The IT giant Apple has alerted consumers to a potential new mercenary malware attack similar to "Pegasus" in at least 98 countries, including India. "You are being targeted by a mercenary spyware attack that is trying to remotely compromise the iPhone associated with your Apple ID," according to the Apple alert. The iPhone manufacturer went on to say in the warning that this attack is "likely targeting you specifically because of who you are or what you do".

"Apple has great confidence in this warning, even though it's never feasible to identify such attacks with 100% certainty. Kindly consider it carefully," the business said. Similar alerts were sent to Indian users by the US-based technology corporation in October of last year. The internet giant may have used "mercenary spyware" like Pegasus from the NSO Group to target specific consumers in 92 countries, including those in India, by sending threat notifications in April of this year.

## Vi Introduces Postpaid Roaming Packs for Indians Travelling to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Jordan

**GURUGRAM / HISAR** : With more Indians travelling internationally and exploring new destinations in Central and West Asia, leading telecom operator Vi, has launched new Postpaid International

Roaming packs for three new travel destinations - Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Jordan. Vi users can now stay seamlessly connected in 120 countries starting at just Rs 649. Vi has added Kazakhstan, home of the first human space flight Cosmodrome, Uzbekistan, highlighted by the historic city of Samarkand, and Jordan, with attractions such as the Dead Sea and Petra, driven by the growing popularity of these destinations amongst Indian travelers.

Vi postpaid users have a wide variety of options to pick their roaming packs



starting from 24-hour pack, a 10-day pack, a 14-day pack, and a 30-day pack to stay seamlessly connected while traveling abroad. Vi also has an 'ALWAYS ON' feature which protects users from high International Roaming Charges for any usage after pack expiry.

Vi is committed to providing the best international roaming packs tailored to meet the needs of every traveler. Recently, Vi had introduced Postpaid

Roaming Packs for Azerbaijan and Select African Countries as well.

Ensuring both affordability and convenience, Vi Roaming packs provide tailored options with generous outgoing call minutes, sufficient data quota, and SMS, making it simple and cost-effective to stay connected throughout the journey while exploring the joy of discovering new horizons and diving into unique experiences.

## Inner Wheel Panchkula Center gave fans to Maharishi Dayanand Public School

### Distributed plants while giving the message of green earth

**Chandigarh:** Inner Wheel Panchkula Center presented two fans to Maharishi Dayanand Public School, MDAV Bhawan, Dariya, Chandigarh. The program was inaugurated under the chairmanship of Inner Wheel Panchkula Center President Benu Rao. She presented two fans to the school's Vice Principal Anju Modgil for the school. Giving the message of green earth, she also distributed plants in the school. She encouraged the children to plant trees. During the program, she made the students aware about good touch and bad touch. She said that when you do not like someone's touch or you become uncomfortable and scared, then that is bad touch.

There is no difference between male and



female in this, but boy-boy and girl-girl can also be involved. She said that if someone tempts you, then keep a distance from him. It is possible that he wants to exploit you under the pretext of that. If someone pats you on the back, it is a good touch. If someone touches from behind, that is, from top to bottom, it is wrong. Touching the wrong place is bad touch. She cautioned

the children that there are many types of people in society. Some are good and some are bad and it is very important to know them. School's Vice Principal Anju Modgil thanked the guests. On this occasion, Inner Wheel Club Panchkula Central's Vice President Priya, Secretary Suman Monga, Treasurer Shalini Dutta and Vandana were also present.



## CDSL IPF conducts Investment Awareness Program in Karnal educating college students to be Atmanirbhar Niveshak



**Karnal** : CDSL Investor Protection Fund (CDSL IPF) organized an investment awareness program for students in Gandhi College of Pharmacy, Karnal.

The program focused on promoting financial literacy and empowering investors to make informed decisions regarding their investments in capital markets, while also delving into the core principles of investing. To ensure the initiative covered a wide audience, the program was conducted in both Hindi and English. The speakers simplified investment concepts for the students, covering topics like basics of investments and the functioning of depositories. As investor education plays a key role in achieving financial inclusion in the capital markets, CDSL IPF aims to provide investors with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the complexities of the capital markets with confidence and be an #AtmanirbharNiveshak.

## Be A Trailblazer: Yezdi Roadster Now with Trail Pack – Follow Your Heart, Go Wherever, Whenever!

**GURUGRAM** : Delighting motorcycling enthusiasts across the country, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is thrilled to announce an exciting new offer on the Yezdi Roadster. Known for its unbeatable performance and iconic style, the Yezdi Roadster now comes with the Trail Pack, valued at Rs. 16,000 as a standard accessory for a limited time, enhancing its appeal and riding pleasure. In India, every season is riding season, making it the perfect moment for riders to gear up and hit the open road, ready to explore new routes and embrace their adventurous spirit. Valued at



Rs 16,000, the Trail Pack is now included at no extra cost with every purchase of the legendary Yezdi Roadster. This comprehensive pack is designed to boost the Roadster's performance and versatility, empowering riders to tackle

diverse terrains with confidence, knowing their journey is both comfortable and secure. Whether navigating city streets, cruising highways, or adventuring off-road, the Trail Pack equips the Yezdi Roadster for any road, any trip.

The Trail Pack includes:

- Saddle Bags+ Saddle Stay: Perfect for carrying essentials on long or short trips.
- Roadster Visor Kit: Provides additional wind protection for a more comfortable ride.
- Headlamp Grille: Shields the headlamp from debris, essential for off-road adventures.
- Pillion Backrest: Enhances passenger comfort on long journeys.
- Crash Guard: Adds an extra layer of protection for both rider and bike.
- Bike Cover: Keeps the motorcycle protected from the elements when not in use.

## Yogi govt set to turn UP Defence Corridor and Expressways lush green with 3 lakh trees

**Lucknow** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has initiated a large-scale plantation drive along the state's expressways. As part of this effort, more than 200,000 saplings will be planted along four major expressways. Additionally, 100,000 saplings will be planted in the UP Defence Industrial Corridor. The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) is spearheading this initiative. The Yogi government is also preparing for extensive

tree planting along the banks of the under-construction Ganga Expressway. This year, continuing the tradition of past years, more than 36 crore saplings will be planted under the 'Ped Lagao, Ped Bachao Abhiyan' (Plant Trees, Save Trees Campaign). This ambitious project reflects the state government's commitment to environmental conservation and enhancing the state's green cover. According to UPEIDA officials, a budget of over Rs 36 crore is

being provided to the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department for planting trees on 500 hectares on both sides between the carriage-way and service road of the Ganga Expressway, and for their maintenance over the next 10 years. Additionally, as part of the 'Ped Lagao, Ped Bachao Abhiyan 2024', more than 237,000 plants will be planted on four other expressways managed by UPEIDA. This includes 15,000 plants on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway.

## Make tree plantation a 'mass movement: CM

**Lucknow** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a virtual interaction with public representatives such as Gram Pradhans, Kshetra Panchayat Presidents, District Panchayat Presidents, Nagar Panchayat Presidents, Municipal Council Presidents, and

Mayors of Municipal Corporations, among others, with the aim of giving the form of a 'mass movement' to the tree plantation campaign to be organized on July 20 with the resolution of 'Ped Lagao-Ped Bachao'. During this virtual dialogue program, the public representatives presented their respective action plans to the Chief Minister. Excerpts from the speech of the Chief Minister on this occasion: - "Environmental protection has been our top priority, with over 168 crore saplings planted by the state government in the last seven years. It is gratifying to note that 75-80% of these saplings have been confirmed as safe in third-party audits. This year's extreme heat and

heatwaves will not be forgotten soon. The campaign on July 20 is crucial to prevent such occurrences in the future. Our mother earth cannot remain safe amidst concrete jungles; we must restore her original form. On July 20, the entire state will unite for a mega tree plantation campaign. Our goal this time is to plant 36.50 crore saplings, a significant target that requires the participation of everyone. Each individual's effort is crucial. It's essential to engage every person with the message of 'Ped Lagao-Ped Bachao'. Public awareness is the foremost requirement for the success of the 'Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan'. Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has inspired every citizen to plant 'Ek ped Maa ke naam'.

## The newly elected office bearers of BPMS took oath in a dignified program

**New Delhi:** The oath taking ceremony of Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh was organized at the Constitution Club in New Delhi. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp in the presence of Rajya Sabha member ND Gupta. During the dignified program, the newly elected office bearers of Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh for the year 2024-27 were also administered the oath of office and secrecy. The oath taking ceremony was held under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner JS Gupta, Election Commissioner KL Garg and Abhay Jain. JS Gupta administered the oath of office and secrecy to all the office bearers. Rajesh Chetan took oath as the President of the organization, Dinesh Gupta- General Secretary, Pawan Modia-



Treasurer, Hansraj Ralhan-Vice President, Vinay Singhal-Vice President, Manish Goyal- Organization Minister, Meenakshi Garg-Secretary, Sanjay Gupta-Joint Secretary, Deepak Gupta-Joint Secretary, Pramod Kumar Sharma- Publicity Minister, Sanjay Jain (Karol Bagh) and Sanjay Jain (Prashant Vihar) took oath as executive members.

It is noteworthy that all these office bearers have been elected unanimously. Along with this, the conveners of various committees were nominated as executive members. These

included Sanjay Aggarwal, Govind Ram Bansal, Sachin Mehta, Sunil Sharma, Sanjay Goyal, Mahendra Chawla, Amardeep Singhal, Sunil Bansal, Umesh Mittal, Mahadev Jindal, Pooja Bansal and Kanta Bajaj. On this occasion, Rajya Sabha MP ND Gupta praised the work of BPMS wholeheartedly and announced to provide all possible help from his MP fund.

Internationally renowned doctor Dr. Ramesh Gupta from America was a special attraction of the program. After practicing in America for 40 years, he will now make India his workplace.

## Uttar Pradesh gears up for historic plantation drive

**Lucknow**

In a monumental effort to bolster environmental conservation, the Uttar Pradesh government is gearing up to create history by planting over 36.50 crore saplings across the state on July 20. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the ambitious 'Ped Lagao, Ped Bachao Jan Abhiyan-2024' will kick off in Akbarnagar, Lucknow, marking a significant step towards a greener future. Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', a staggering 54.20 crore saplings have been meticulously nurtured in nurseries and other facilities. Ministers-in-charge across the state are actively mobilizing efforts to ensure the campaign's success, each overseeing strategic planting initiatives in their respective districts. In preparation for the massive plantation drive, nodal officers have been appointed in every district, tasked with overseeing logistics and ensuring smooth execution. These officers will commence their duties on Friday, conducting final inspections to ensure readiness for the monumental event. On July 20, offices, schools, and institutions statewide will halt regular activities for half a day to participate wholeheartedly in the tree planting endeavor. CM Yogi will plant saplings in the Akbarnagar area, which was cleared of unauthorized encroachments for the purpose of reviving Kukrail river.

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