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

## Will continue to work to win hearts, PM Modi tells J&K

“During each of my visits here after 2014, I have maintained that I am working hard to win your hearts. I have made steady progress”



**SRINAGAR**  
On his first visit to Kashmir since the 2019 nullification of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday justified his momentous decision saying it transformed lives and speeded up development, while seeking to strike an emotive chord with the people, saying “Main dil jeetne aaya hoon (I have come to win hearts).” Addressing a meeting at Srinagar’s Bakshi stadium after launching projects worth more than 6,000 crore, the PM said, “During each of my visits here after 2014, I have maintained that I am working hard to win your hearts. And day by day I am seeing that I have made steady

progress towards my objective. I will keep trying to win the hearts of Kashmiris till I have won each.” The outreach amid interaction with entrepreneurs came along with a vigorous defence of the decision to do away with the special status for J&K, which has been criticised by parties from the valley. Asserting that Article 370 favoured a select group of politicians and their families, he said, “Kashmir has suffered the consequences of dynastic politics since Independence. The truth is now evident, and people cannot be deceived any longer. A new promising era lies ahead for Kashmir, marked by equal opportunities, dignity, and

rights for all. Unlike the past, the locals now reap the benefits of various laws and pro-poor schemes initiated by the Centre concurrently.” **Neutralisation of Article 370 has given azadi to Kashmiris: PM** Asserting that Article 370 favoured a select group of politicians and their families, Modi said, “Kashmir has suffered the consequences of dynastic politics since Independence. A new promising era lies ahead for Kashmir, marked by equal opportunities, dignity, and rights for all. Unlike the past, the locals now reap the benefits of various laws and pro-poor schemes initiated by the Centre concurrently.” Criticising dynastic poli-

tics that “plagued the region” - an oblique reference to PDP and National Conference, the two main parties rooted in J&K - he called neutralisation of Article 370 a “pro-poor, pro-development and pro-women” initiative that has given “azadi (freedom)” to the people of the Valley. “Congress misguidedly misled the nation about Article 370, but who did it benefit,” he asked. He said J&K is “breathing freely” post-Article 370 and pledged accelerated progress over the next five years. “Modi will not leave any stone unturned to repay this debt of affection. This is Modi’s sanz (Kashmiri word for guarantee),” he told the huge gathering at the stadium. Extending his early greetings for Ramzan, he said the Centre is committed to usher in transformative changes on the developmental front in the Union Territory over the next five years and that nobody can derail “J&K’s train of success, peace and prosperity”..

## Former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav arrived in the special program of Kriyayoga Ashram

**Prayagraj:** Samajwadi Party National President Akhilesh Yadav ji participated in the two-day program being held at Kriya Yoga Ashram on Thursday at Kriya Yoga Ashram and Research Institute in Jhansi. In the presence of the founder of the ashram, International Kriya Yoga scientist Swami Shri Yogi Satyam ji, the National President of SP, Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji presented flowers by offering flowers on the auspicious occasion of Mahasamadhi of Shri Paramhans Yogananda, the author of the famous text, ‘Yogi Kathamrit’. I lit, and met the seekers who came from the country and abroad present in the ashram. Like every year, this year also the program was being concluded on the occasion of Mahasamadhi of Paramhans Shri



Yoganand ji in Kriya Ashram and Research Institute, meanwhile SP National President Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji expressed his desire to come to the ashram from Kriya

Yoga scientist Swami Shri Yogi Satyam ji. During the same program, the Kriya Yoga founder told that on this day, on 7 March 1952, a celebration organized at Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, where Paramhans Yogananda ji gave his message to the ambassadors of 50 countries and entered Mahasamadhi by giving his message to India. Did it After Mahasamadhi, there was no disorder of any kind in his body for 20 days. Not seeing any kind of disorder in the body of Paramhans Yogananda is a very extraordinary and incomplete experience for us. ... There were neither signs of any change in the color of the skin nor did the body fibers seem to be drying up. The US doctor expressed the above views in his report.

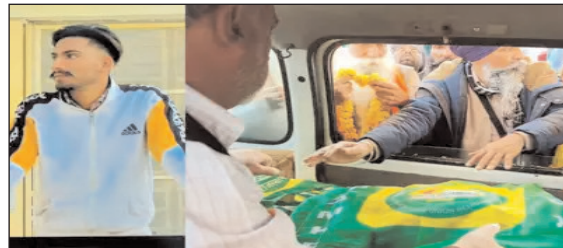
## 18-year-old cricket star sponsoring others to chase dreams, with her prize money & match fees



**BHOPAL:** Whenever she strapped on her pads, cricketer Soumya Tiwari would quietly look around and tell herself that the day she made any money from cricket, she'd start helping those who couldn't afford a bat, let alone training. She was 11 then. Now 18, and a rising star, Soumya has kept her promise. The batting all-rounder is using her prize money from World T20 victory and her match fees to sponsor budding cricketers from underprivileged backgrounds. BCCI recently awarded Soumya Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy for the country's best junior female cricketer. “While reaching the stage where I stand today, I realised that there are many talented players who had to drop out. They couldn't play any longer because their families couldn't support them. Long ago, I promised myself that whenever I started earning, I would help such players,” Soumya told Thursday. “When I told my coach, Chenani, he was very happy and said he would help me find such players. Some cricketers approached me and I have arranged kits and other support for them,” said Soumya, who studies in Class XII. Chenani said she is already sponsoring an orphan girl now training with him. “What she is doing is very inspiring. She has announced that she can sponsor five players.

## Punjab and Haryana high court forms panel to probe protesting farmer's death

**CHANDIGARH:** Punjab and Haryana high court constituted on Thursday a committee, headed by a retired high court judge, to investigate the death of farmer Shubhkar Singh, who was killed on Feb 21 in a clash between protesting farmers and Haryana police at Haryana-Punjab border. The committee, headed by Jaishree Thakur, a former judge of the HC, will be assisted by two



ADGPs - Amitabh Dhillon of Haryana police and Pramod Ban of Punjab police. The HC observed that “an attempt has been made by Punjab to wash its hands of investigating” the matter related to Shubhkar's death as the state had sent the matter for registration of a Zero FIR by recording that it occurred within the jurisdiction of Garhi (Haryana) police station. “The lodging of the FIR at 22.45 hours (10.45

pm) a day before the hearing of the case would go on to show that the state of Punjab was dilly-dally on the same and only lodged the same once it was aware that the matter was coming up the next day,” HC observed. The HC was also of the view that the investigation cannot be entrusted solely either to Punjab or to Haryana for reasons obvious as both states have several things.

## CBI busts Russia jobs racket, search on in Delhi, Mumbai

**NEW DELHI:** CBI has busted major international human trafficking networks involved in sending Indian youths to the Russia-Ukraine war zone by luring them with lucrative job offers. The agency is probing recruitment agencies, including a prominent one in Delhi, besides those in Dubai, Mumbai and Chandigarh, and has carried out raids across multiple locations. The action comes in the aftermath of the death of two Indians on Russia's border with Ukraine, who were promised decent jobs in Russia only to end up fighting for the Red Army. A CBI officer told that the trafficked Indian nationals were trained in combat



roles and deployed at “front bases” in the Russia-Ukraine war zone against their wishes. Some of them also got grievously injured. Thirty-five such men have been identified till now, sources said. Ukraine-Russia war: “The probe found that the networks lured Indian nationals on the pretext of highly-paid jobs through social media channels. Those in CBI's net are Suyash Mukut, director of 24x7 RAS Overseas Foundation located at KG Marg in Delhi; Rakesh Pandey, director of OSD Bros Travels & Visa Services Pvt Ltd in Mumbai; Manjeet Singh, director of Adventure Visa Services Pvt Ltd, Chandigarh; and Faisal Abdul Mutalib

Khan alias Baba, director of Baba Vlogs Overseas Recruitment Solutions Pvt Ltd, Dubai. They have been listed as accused in the agency's FIR. CBI was in the process of initiating arrest procedures late on Thursday. Based on inputs from various sources, CBI had filed an FIR on March 6 naming private visa consultancy firms and agents found engaged in trafficking and launched an operation closely monitored by agency chief Praveen Sood. CBI teams then conducted simultaneous searches at 13 locations in Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai.

## Ahead of polls, govt. extends LPG sop, announces 10,000 crore package for NE

**NEW DELHI:** In a pre-election push targeted at northeastern states and women, Union cabinet on Thursday cleared a Rs 10,000 crore industrialisation scheme for the hilly region and Rs 12,000 crore for the next fiscal to extend the subsidy of Rs 300 a cylinder under the Ujjwala scheme. In addition, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs decided to increase the minimum support



price for jute by Rs 285 a quintal to Rs 5,335, in a bid to ensure a return of 65% of all-India weighted average cost of production for farmers. The decision will greatly benefit farm-

ers in eastern states, especially Bengal, textiles minister Piyush Goyal told reporters. The move come days before the model code of conduct for general elections kicks in. Election Commission is widely expected to announce the poll dates in the middle of next week, leaving a narrow window for the Modi govt to hold one or two more cabinet meetings before the bugle is sounded.

## Calling abrogation of Article 370 a black day no offence: Supreme Court

**NEW DELHI:** In a landmark judgment, Supreme Court on Thursday made ‘right to dissent lawfully’ a part of right to life and said terming abrogation of Jammu & Kashmir's special status under Article 370 a “black day”, coupled with wishing happy independence day to Pakistan, would not constitute an offence of promoting enmity between groups or communities on religious lines under Section 153A of IPC. “Every citizen of India has a right to be critical of the action of abrogation of Article 370 and the change of status. of Jammu and Kashmir. Describing the day the abrogation happened as a ‘black day’ is an expression of protest and anguish. If every criticism or protest of the actions of the state



is to be held as an offence under Section 153A, democracy, which is an essential feature of the Constitution, will not survive,” said a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan, which quashed the FIR against Javed Ahmad Hajam, a resident of Baramulla in Kashmir who was booked for criticising abrogation of Article 370. “The right to dissent in a lawful manner must be treated as a part of the right to lead a dignified and meaningful life guaranteed by Article 21,” the bench said.

## Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles brings its Mega Service Camp to Delhi NCR



**GURUGRAM :** Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is set to extend its highly successful Mega Service Camp to Noida, Delhi. Following multiple successful service camps across states, the three-day event will take place in Noida from March 8th to March 10th, exclusively catering to Jawa motorcycle owners of the 2019 and 2020 models in the region. The service camp will be held at Shree Ji Motors-A-34, Ground Floor (South Hall), Sector 63, Noida-201309. As part of the camp, owners of 2019-2020 Jawa motorcycles are entitled to a comprehensive vehicle health check-up and a free replacement of select parts. Leading original equipment suppliers, including Motul, Amaron, and Ceat Tyres, will be actively participating to assist customers. In a continued commitment to long-term customer satisfaction, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is offering complimentary extended warranties based on the motorcycles' health evaluation. Additionally, a designated zone will be set up for owners interested in upgrading their motorcycles to assess the exchange value. Building on the success of previous service camps, which served over 1000 Jawa motorcycles, the brand will be announcing Mega Service Camps across multiple cities in the coming months. This initiative underscores the brand's commitment to prioritizing customer satisfaction and delivering an unparalleled ownership experience. Owners of Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles are encouraged to reserve their slots at the nearest brand dealership. Don't miss the opportunity to ensure your motorcycle receives top-notch care and experience the commitment to customer satisfaction firsthand.

## ED files another plea on CM Kejriwal defying its calls

**NEW DELHI: Enforcement Directorate** on Wednesday filed another application before a court seeking action against chief minister Arvind Kejriwal under IPC's Section 174 for avoiding five summonses issued to him in a money laundering probe related to the alleged Delhi liquor scam. Additional chief metropolitan magistrate Divya Malhotra has listed the matter for hearing on Thursday. Malhotra is also adjudicating ED's previous application filed against Kejriwal where the agency had sought action against him for disobeying three of its



summonses. The court has asked Delhi CM to appear in the court on March 16. During the last hearing against Kejriwal on February 7, Malhotra had said that "in view of the discussion, the complaint filed by the complainant (ED) accompanied by the supporting documents discloses all the necessary ingredients constituting the offence punishable under Section 174 of IPC". The judge had noted that provisions of PMLA enable prosecution under Section 174 of IPC for disobedience of any direction issued by ED. The persons summoned by the agency are bound to comply with its order, the judge had said. Under Section 174 of IPC, the court can summon someone.

## Man crashes on to car from train, dies

**BENGALURU:** A white hatchback moving towards Mehri Circle on Ballari Road direction was about to emerge from the road underbridge near Windsor Manor around 1.30pm on Tuesday when the driver's vision went blank as the car's windshield was shattered. The driver applied the brakes immediately and it took a

while for him to realise that a man had fallen on his car's front windshield from the railway tracks above. The passenger, Gourishwaran, was a resident of Vellore in Tamil Nadu. He rolled on to the road from the car's bonnet. As passersby began trying to resuscitate him by pouring water into his mouth, High Grounds police reached the spot. They shifted the man on to the pavement even as an ambulance arrived. However, the man had already died of severe head injuries. High Grounds police, who alerted the railway police, searched the man's pockets and found a mobile phone that was switched off.

## CAPSULES

### Realme redefines the mid-premium segment with the realme 12 Series 5G starting from INR 16999

**Hisar:** realme, India's Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider, announced the launch of the realme 12 Series 5G today. The realme 12 Series 5G introduces two standout smartphones: the realme 12+ 5G and the realme 12 5G, and marks a significant milestone in realme's journey, aligning with its revamped strategy 'Make it real' and a refreshed brand identity that resonates with young users. Offering the PLUS experience and raising the standard of mid-range smartphones, the realme 12+ 5G is a standout smartphone, boasting segment's first 50 MP SONY LYT-600 main camera with Optical Image Stabilization (OIS), a 2X In-sensor zoom, and a Cinematic 2X Portrait Mode for capturing clear, DSLR-like portraits. It also comes equipped with a 112° ultra-wide camera, a 16MP HD selfie camera. It features a 120Hz Ultra-Smooth AMOLED Display, and 67W SUPER VOOC charging and a massive 5000mAh battery for long-lasting use. It also houses notable features like storage and dynamic RAM of up to 256 GB, and IP54 dust and water resistance. Running on the user-friendly realme UI 5.0 based on Android 14, the realme 12+ 5G is available in Pioneer Green and Navigator Beige, two storage variants: 8GB+128GB, priced at INR 20999 and 8GB+256GB, priced at INR 21999. For the 8GB+256GB variant.

buyers can avail Bank offers worth INR 1000 with no cost EMI up to 9 months on realme.com & Flipkart. Customers will get realme Buds T300 worth INR 3998 on the purchase of the smartphone from mainline channels.

## Students delighted with CCL match passes at Rayat & Bahara

**Chandigarh** In view of the enthusiasm of the youth for the Punjab De Sher (PDS) matches to be played under the aegis of Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) at the PCA Stadium, Mohali, organisers continued their promotional events on Thursday. The organisers visited various educational institutions mainly Rayat & Bahara University and Punjab University and had a meet and greet with students. The various games were played with fans and the winners were honoured with exciting gifts and free VIP passes. Punjab De Sher will



lock horns against Bengal Tigers on March 8 followed by yet another clash

against Riteish Deshmukh - Led Mumbai Heroes on March 9. Celebs like Sohail Khan, Sunil Shetty, Jenelia Deshmukh would also be featured in this match. The series of promotional activities before the matches will continue wherein fans can hunt for their free VIP passes and gift hampers. Fans can get information about these activities and complimentary match passes through the team's official website and social media platforms.

## By formulating over 40 policies in 10 years, PM Modi has presented an exemplary model of a policy-driven state, shaping the country's economy: Amit Shah

**Chandigarh:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addressed the annual investment summit - NXT10 of the India Global Forum in Mumbai on Wednesday. On this occasion, Shah made it clear that 'Modi ji, by formulating more than 40 policies in 10 years, has presented an exemplary model of a policy-driven state, shaping the country's econo-



my.' The world knows that under the leadership of visionary Modi and the guidance of Amit Shah, who practices the politics of 'Antyodaya' (upliftment of the last person), the central government has transformed from 'inactive' to 'dynamic,' India's progress has shifted from 'regressive' to 'progressive,'

and the economy has changed from 'fragile' to 'top.' India has now reached the Top Five Economy from the Fragile Five. The new India has emerged as a 'Bright Spot' from a 'Dark Spot' on the global map. The government of 10 years has taken more than 50 transformative decisions, including demonetization, GST, Jan Dhan, Triple Talaq, New Education Policy, CAA.

## Chandrababu Naidu to visit Delhi, TDP-BJP seat-sharing deal likely to be sealed today

**NEW DELHI:** Telugu Desam Party president N Chandrababu Naidu is expected to meet senior BJP leaders in New Delhi to discuss the seat-sharing deal for the upcoming Lok Sabha and assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh, sources said. Naidu's visit to the national capital comes as the ruling party aims to strengthen its alliance with the BJP in order to secure a bigger victory in the elections. The development comes amid growing indications that the BJP and the Biju Janata Dal, which is in power in Odisha, are on the verge of finalising their alliance as the senior leaders of the two parties held separate meetings on Wednesday and dropped hints of such a possibility. Despite previous meetings between Naidu and



top BJP leaders, the exact details of the alliance have not been decided yet. Sources said both the parties have had differences over the number of seats the BJP will fight in a state where it does not have much presence. The Jana Sena Party, led by actor Pawan Kalyan, has already joined forces with the TDP and has been urging the BJP to do the same. With 25 Lok Sabha and 175 assembly seats at stake in

## C.M. BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary met with political advisor Bharat Bhushan

**Kaithal:** BJP Business Cell Haryana's co-convenor Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal met Chief Minister Manohar Lal's political advisor Bharat Bhushan Bharti at his Chandigarh office regarding the interests and problems of the traders, commission agents and shopkeepers of the state. And discussed in detail and honored Bharat Bhushan Bharti by giving him a flower bunch. On which Bharat Bhushan Bharti assured BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal that the problems of commission agents, traders and shopkeepers will be resolved by placing them before Chief Minister Manohar Lal. After this, while talking in a meeting here today, State Co-ordinator of BJP Business Cell, Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal said that the Manohar Government of the



state is continuously taking many commendable steps in the interests of traders, commission agents and shopkeepers and there is no impact on the interests of traders and commission agents. Will not let it come. The interests of traders and commission agents are completely protected only under the BJP government. He said that he is continuously meeting traders and commission agents in various districts across the state and during this time he is making them aware of the broker and trader friendly

policies of the Modi Manohar government. Due to which traders and commission agents are joining the party day by day by expressing faith in the policies of BJP. Along with this, BJP leader Saurabh Chaudhary Goyal also held a formal meeting with Haryana Cow Service Commission Chairman Shrawan Kumar Garg at the Chandigarh office and discussed about the service of mother cows and cow shelters. Saurabh Garg Choudhary, while expressing his gratitude to Haryana's cow devotee Chief Minister

for increasing the budget passed recently for cow welfare, cow promotion and protection of mother cows in the state, said that Chief Minister Manohar Lal himself is a cow devotee and The state government is a true cow devotee government. Through Govardhan Yojana, youth will get employment opportunities by serving cows, that is, Govardhan Yojana will prove to be a milestone for the youth. This scheme will inculcate the spirit of cow devotion among the youth. Along with this, the youth.

## IndianOil to power Asia Road Racing C'ship

**New Delhi:** IndianOil is set to storm the Asia Road Racing Championship, becoming the first Indian company to fuel an overseas motor racing event, even as chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said the company is launching fuel for Formula 1 cars to compete with global majors dominating the Grand Prix circuit. IndianOil will supply the superior grade gasoline under the STORM brand name for all the six rounds of the race till 2026 under an agreement signed with championship promoters on Wednesday. The championship began in 1996 and is endorsed by Federation Internationale de Motorcyclisme (or international motorcycling federation) in 1997. It is recognised as the Asian continental championship for FIM. Racing Championship IndianOil is set to fuel the Asia Road Racing Championship and launch fuel for Formula 1 cars. Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya announced their plan.

## Duty to flag people's woes, says LG; dirty politics, claims AAP



**New Delhi:** The tussle between Raj Niwas and elected govt escalated yet again Wednesday after lieutenant governor V K Saxena tagged chief minister Arvind Kejriwal while posting pictures of the dilapidated condition of Qalandar Colony in northeast Delhi on social media. AAP govt responded by asking LG not to play "dirty politics" with the problems of people. "Yesterday evening, I went to Qalandar Colony in Shahdara, northeast Delhi, and saw the condition worse than hell. It is not possible to express in words the plight of the people living amidst potholes, clogged drains, heaps of garbage and bad smell in the name of roads," Saxena posted on social media platform X, formerly Twitter. Stating that as LG, it was his constitutional responsibility to highlight people's issues and to bring CM's attention to the problems they faced,

Saxena said, "Locals complained that 35,000-40,000 people live a brutal life in 4,000 houses. It was the responsibility of DUSIB, of which CM is the chairman, to provide basic public facilities and cleanliness was under MCD." LG's latest post on X came amid continuing tensions between him and CM since Tuesday, when he had complained on the social media platform about the living conditions at Sangam Vihar and posted pictures of the area. In response, CM had said that despite holding a constitutional post, LG was "playing the role of opposition", which was ideally meant for BJP MPs and MLAs.

Kejriwal had also demanded strict action against the officials responsible for the area's upkeep, saying "services" and "vigilance" was under LG. Hitting back at the latest post, AAP govt said it was unfortunate that LG was "playing dirty politics" with the problems of the common people of Delhi. He raised certain issues about Sangam Vihar, Burari and Kiradi, CM, in good faith, directed the chief secretary to immediately solve the problems within a week. CM also urged LG to take strict action against delinquent officials because vigilance and disciplinary matters are under LG's jurisdiction.

## IGCC and IFCCI Celebrate women in leadership



**The Indo German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) and Indo French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI) celebrated women in leadership roles and recognized NGOs supporting women's causes. The event emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive society, investing in women's empowerment, and promoting diversity and inclusion for economic growth. In a joint celebration by the Indo German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) and Indo**

**French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI), Women in Leadership roles were honored, and the efforts of NGOs supporting women's causes were recognised. The reception took place at Leela Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,**

reflecting the spirit of International Women's Day. This year's theme, 'Inspire Inclusion,' and the overarching theme, 'Invest in women: Accelerate progress,' underscored the importance of creating an inclusive society and investing in women's empowerment. During the event, a White paper on gender inclusivity at the workplace, presented by S.S Rana & Co in collaboration with IFCCI, was unveiled, fostering discussions

on gender equality and celebrating women's achievements in leadership roles. Sonia Prashar, Deputy Director General, IGCC, expressed delight in partnering with the Indo French Chamber of Commerce to celebrate women's achievements, emphasising the event's role in discussing gender equality in the workplace. Payal S. Kanwar, Director General of IFCCI, emphasized the significance of promoting diversity.

## Exploring Indian design heritage in graphic design

**The book 'Inspirations for Graphic Design from India' by Jaya Jaitly and Dr. Dimple Bahl explores the intersection of graphic design and craft in India. It advocates for decolonisation in design education and proposes a seamless integration of Western concepts with traditional Indian practice. Ms Jaya Jaitly and Dr Dimple Bahl Inspirations for Graphic Design from India," a collaborative effort by**

**Jaya Jaitly and Dr Dimple Bahl, explores the intersection of graphic design and craft. The book advocates for a shift from the Western-centric approach in graphic design education in India to reconnect with the country's rich design heritage. Emphasising the need for decolonisation in design education, it proposes a seamless integration of Western concepts with traditional Indian practice. From**

**rekha to bindu, aakaar to trikon, this book explores how references from Indian design history can inspire design in today's world. The co-authors and their commitment to creating a meeting point of timeless craft and modern graphic design stems from a long and dedicated association with the fields. The co-authors bring a wealth of experience to the project. Jaitly, founder of**

**Dastkari Haat Samiti is deeply involved in heritage and livelihood issues, with a notable career in politics. Dr. Bahl, an academician and graphic designer, focuses on visual brand strategy and publication design, with an emphasis on traditional Indian folk media. Their collaboration has led to initiatives like Kala Manthan, a craft design experience bridging the gap between students.**

## 36-year old shoots himself in South Delhi

**NEW DELHI: A 36-year-old man allegedly shot himself to death in Jawahar Park area of South Delhi's Neb Sarai, police. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan, a distress call reporting the incident in Jawahar Park was received at the Neb Sarai Police Station at 11 pm on Tuesday. Both the Crime Team and Forensic units were immediately dispatched to the site.**

## Celebrating sushi in Delhi

**An exhibition titled I Love Sushi by the Japan Foundation, in association with the Embassy of Japan and India International Centre, is on display until March 10 at IIC's Art Gallery Celebrating sushi in Delhi**

**Did you know that Japan is not the birthplace of sushi? There are few things that have the ability to bridge cultural differences, remain versatile, and also be everyone's favourite. Sushi is one of them. While sushi with spicy mayonnaise**



**may be Delhi's own specialty, different parts of the country have modified this classic depending on the taste and local ingredients. It is also an**

**aspect that makes sushi the best-known example of Japanese cuisine among foodies. But did you know that Japan is not the birthplace of sushi?**

**Sharing similar interesting facts about sushi and how Japan adopted the dish in its original form and modified it to suit its natural environment, an exhibition titled I Love Sushi by the Japan Foundation, in association with the Embassy of Japan and India International Centre, is on display until March 10 at IIC's Art Gallery. A huge installation, mainly on nigiri-sushi and nori-maki zushi, with an arrangement of 930 sushi pieces, welcomes you to the exhibit.**

## Corporate honcho offloaded at Delhi's IGI airport for 'being rude' to Air India crew

**NEW DELHI:** In a possible first, the head of a prominent financial services company was offloaded from an international flight out of India for allegedly speaking rudely to the crew and arguing with them. It was only after receiving an assurance about her behaviour that the airline agreed to accommodate the passenger on the next available flight. The executive, also in the midst of a controversy, had boarded the business class of Air India's Delhi-London flight on Tuesday (March 5)



**when she is learnt to have started speaking to the crew rudely, sources said. When the behaviour persisted, the cabin crew informed the captain. "Some of the other passengers in business class also found her to be rude. Being a long,**

**nearly nine-hour flight, the captain decided not to take off with what could be a potential troublesome passenger and she was offloaded," a source said. The checked-in baggage of a person not on board an aircraft has to be offloaded and this takes**

**time. The flight's departure was delayed by about an hour because of this procedure.**

**An AI spokesperson said: "We are aware of an incident on flight AI-161 of March 5, 2024. A passenger travelling in business class was off boarded on the advice of the captain, following some argument with members of the crew before the scheduled push-back. AI accords top priority to the safety and security of all passengers and crew, and strictly adheres to rules governing the same."**

## 2 detained for pasting posters of PM illegally

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police has launched an investigation in connection with the posters that were put up in New Delhi carrying a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya. Cops have detained two people in the case. The posters had the caption "Modi ka asli pariwar" (real family of Modi) with "Bhartiya Yuva Congress" written at the bottom. A senior police officer said they got a complaint from an official from New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) that some posters were put up in unauthorised areas.



**been registered against unknown persons at Tughlaq Road Police Station and the posters have been removed. Inquiry revealed that posters had been stuck at different places in Lutyens' Delhi on Monday and Tuesday. Police said the posters did not carry the name of the publisher. Following the complaint, cops started scanning the CCTV footage of the area and finally were able to track down the two men who pasted those posters. "We detained them**

**from north Delhi and they are being questioned," the officer said. Meanwhile, an NDMC official said they were not aware of any such complaint. Senior Congress leader Alka Lamba said, "Whether we did it or anyone else, people have the right to protest in democracy. Where is the crime in this? Where is the threat in this? Because you have power, you are misusing it. If people absconded during your tenure, then questions would be raised."**

## A sangam of filth and apathy: This wasteland actually exists in Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** Because Sangam Vihar is in the news, it is being looked at with special scrutiny. Indeed, it would appear that the south Delhi locality isn't part of the capital. On Wednesday, TOI found the internal lanes there broken, garbage strewn nonchalantly on every available vacant land, a pervasive foul smell in the air and unusable roads. But is it really all that different from other unauthorised areas in the city?

**Wasteland in Delhi** In Aam Aadmi Party's election manifesto of 2020, basic amenities for unauthorised colonies was one of the 10 promises of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, just as other political parties too have canvassed votes on the promise of delivering civic development. But despite these claims, these residential areas lack good roads,



**clean drinking water, working sewage system, medical facilities and security. After the public exchanges between LG and CM about the colony, some Delhi Jal Board workers started removing the accumulated waste on the D Block lane from Wednesday morning. Santosh, a paan shop owner, grumbled, "For three months, because of sewer work, the lane has been dug up. I don't understand why the work is so slow. But even otherwise, every monsoon the drains are choked and the road get flooded with dirty, stinking water. The garbage vans do not come for**

**three-four weeks sometimes." The rampant unplanned constructions have left Sangam Vihar congested and the main road of Mangal Bazar is a nightmare for pedestrians. "After the LG's visit, the main road was cleaned up a bit," said Javed Khan, who has a shop in Mangal Bazar. "The internal roads are in poor condition. But Delhi govt has done satisfactory work here in the past few years. Our water problem has been solved and we get potable supply once in the morning. There is, however, a need for more garbage vans." Almost a decade ago, Sangam Vihar**

**colony was the hub of the illegal water tanker business and many tubewells were sunk without authorisation on public land. After coming to power, AAP govt sealed most of the tubewells and cut electricity supply to curb extraction of groundwater. Every time a truck passes, it raises a cloud of dust to add to the dust everywhere Pawan Kumar said, "The current govt hasn't done much besides opening liquor shops. There is no green park here or a govt school or a playground for children." Salman, an employee of a cycle store near Surya Public School, wasn't too happy either. "When the LG visited the area, some spots were cleaned. But after that the story is the same," he said. "The drains haven't been desilted so water flows into our shops in the monsoons."**

## Clip of man's stunts in SUV goes viral, cops seize vehicle

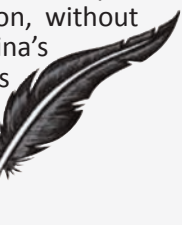
**New Delhi:** After a video of a man performing dangerous stunts with his SUV on the Najafgarh-Rajouri Garden route went viral on social media, police have identified and seized the vehicle. The SUV was flashing a red beacon. The video, which was shot by another driver who also tried to warn the accused, showed the white SUV being driven in a zig-zag manner on the road, endangering safety of others on both carriageways. Police received a complaint from the local residents' welfare association and launched a probe. In the viral video, the person recording the video was heard as saying "this is illegal", to which the accused responded, "We are rogues." The SUV driver also attempted to conceal the vehicle's identity by removing the numberplates. Police scanned CCTV footage collected from nearby areas, identified the car and seized it. DCP (West) Vichitra Veer said police were on the lookout.

## Editorial

### India's naval diplomacy: Building trust in the oceans

India's focus on its land borders has historically stemmed from past learnings from medieval-era invasions and in the current era, involved conflicts over land borders or around states contiguous to its boundaries. It is only in the last few decades that the role of the Indian Navy has gained prominence, as India aims to step up to a larger role in the global power hierarchy. In 2020, as India and China clashed in Galwan, several analysts pointed towards the need to use India's natural maritime advantages in its regional rivalry with China and in more effective power projection as an emerging and responsible global force. Keeping in mind India's ambitions in steering regional geopolitics, the role of the Indian Navy emerged from the shadows of India's arsenal to take on a more prominent role. Aside from developing its capabilities, India has recently played an active role in humanitarian and rescue missions, thus stamping its growing reputation as a responsible and capable maritime power. In the process, the navy has become a chief instrument in providing teeth to the country's aspirations outside the region. The Indian Navy is increasingly being seen as a capable and confident naval power that can be relied upon to make the seas a safer zone. "I think the scale of India's naval deployment is quite unprecedented, and in some ways this represents the confidence the Indian Navy has in its own abilities and the requirement to be seen as a benevolent regional player that is not simply looking after its own interests but also the interests of the global common," says Harsh Pant of the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. As the war wages in Gaza and with the Yemen-based Houthi rebels attempting to broaden the war by mounting attacks against passing ships, the US has retaliated by striking the Houthis. The war occasionally threatens to spill over to other parts of the region aside from the environmental risks that sinking of ships pose to the coral reefs in the region. Amidst this, India has made its presence felt by deploying warships and surveillance east of the Red Sea against any attack by the Houthis and pirates. In this context, it must be said that the Indian naval presence has made it safe for the conduct of commercial trade in the region.

With the states around India possessing limited capacity to use naval capabilities in the high seas, there has been a regular concern around the lack of law enforcement in the seas as pirates have continued to enjoy the largesse of terrorist groups, smuggling contraband, trafficking and attacking commercial vessels and affecting trade. "Maritime power is more than a matter of policing the commons or accumulating and projecting military force in the littorals. Sea power is equally about creating prosperity for the people and meeting the needs of national development," writes Abhijit Singh, Head of the Maritime Policy Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation. It was China that sent its naval ships to the Gulf of Aden two decades ago to ensure that commercial vessels were safe from pirates. Over the years, China has muscled its way into the Indian Ocean Region and in doing so, has raised concerns about its intent of colonial expansion. On the other hand, an expanding Indian role in protecting waters is building its credibility as a naval power that has both the capacity and the willingness to deploy naval assets to protect the sea lanes of communication, without attracting the unease that China's ulterior aims in its investments in ports and infrastructure projects have aroused. India's consistent patrolling is a reassuring presence in the deep waters, that cuts through ideological swamps.



### The role of state fiscal capacities in national growth

India's economic progress is a composite reflection of the growth trajectories of its states. Given the federal structure of the country, each state operates with a degree of autonomy in implementing policies that drive their individual economies. This results in a broad spectrum of growth rates across states, highlighting significant disparities. For the nation to achieve holistic growth, it is imperative for all states to experience economic advancement. Despite this, there is a notable discrepancy in the attention paid to fiscal matters at different levels of government. The Union Budget, detailing the central government's finances, often



garners substantial scrutiny and debate for its potential impacts on the nation's economic direction. In contrast, state budgets, which are crucial for addressing local needs and fostering regional development, do not attract a similar level of public and analytical

scrutiny. Fiscal capacity, the government's ability to generate revenue from available tax and non-tax bases, is crucial for several reasons. First, it underpins a government's ability to provide essential public goods and services. These range from healthcare and education to

infrastructure and defense, which are fundamental for the welfare of the citizenry and the smooth functioning of the economy. Without adequate fiscal capacity, governments may struggle to maintain these services at levels that meet public demand and expectations, potentially leading to social unrest or a decline in the quality of life. Second, fiscal capacity is vital for economic development and growth. Governments need resources to invest in infrastructure projects like roads, bridges, and digital networks, which are critical for enhancing productivity and competitiveness. Such investments not only improve current living standards.

## How data is fast becoming an X factor in elections?

The BJP has been the fastest in announcing the first list of candidates for the upcoming Parliamentary elections. This is typical of its working style, where it works as a 24/7 electoral machine. In sharp contrast, the largest Opposition party, the Congress, is lumbering along on a much too delayed Nyaya Yatra, with the de facto party chief miles away from headquarters, and seat adjustments within the INDI alliance far from complete.

Many people were surprised at the number of new names in the BJP list, including the jettisoning of heavyweights in favour of fresh candidates. Some of this could, indeed, as some people allege, be tainted by subjectivity. The supreme duo in the party is apparently not well-disposed to those whose loyalties are suspect, or who are not subservient enough, or who could even remotely pose a challenge. But this factor is not unique to them. In almost every political party in India, the lack of inner-party democracy is transparent, and arbitrary decisions, purely on the subjective choice of the suprema, are par for the course, even more so in the rash of dynastic parties all over the country.

This being as it may, there is a new factor that has increasingly become a very strong element in elections: data.



Gone are the days when the primary form of electioneering was posters and rallies. Today, while these still have their role, what decides their content, their location, and even their timing, is guided by finely honed data. This data decides what the messaging should be, where rallies should be organised for maximum impact, and what their chronological sequencing should be.

The 2014 parliamentary elections, in which Narendra Modi emphatically triumphed, saw the first widespread use of data in both the planning of an election campaign and the selection of candidates. In the last ten years, this data-driven process has become far more sophisticated, complex and

accurate. Based on scientific surveys, cross-checked against multiple factors, political parties can check the on-ground, realistic popularity of candidates, irrespective of what they claim, what 'status' they enjoy, and how many times they may have won before. This assessment is combined with changing demographics, caste considerations, local issues, grassroots party organisation, strength of possible opposing candidates, and new faces within the party that may have appeared, to create an algorithm that can zero in, if done competently, on who is the best choice for a particular constituency.

However popular some political leaders were when they first won a seat, and

often won them again, anti-incumbency against the same face can become a critical factor. Often, candidates after they win, rest on their laurels, fail to fulfil their promises to the voters, neglect the constituency, or are widely perceived to be corrupt. In the past, their earlier reputation as winning candidates was taken at face value. No more. The mood of the public is dynamic and can never be taken for granted. If a charismatic leader from the opposing side has diligently worked in a constituency, has proven his or her sincerity in addressing the needs of the people, and is physically available on the ground, when by contrast the elected incumbent, although at one time popular, is missing, the voting pattern can change dramatically. This is precisely what the role of data plays in assessing the winnability of a candidate, and the need to retain or replace him or her. Data also determines messaging for an election. What are the issues a party should focus on, both generically and at the micro level? A generic message may appear to have large popular support, but it needs to be buttressed in each constituency by due emphasis on local issues which affect people of that particular area. This too can now be accessed by a competent database and individualised briefs given to

candidates. For instance, in Bihar, a survey showed that the biggest problem for most rural citizens is that of drainage and the absence of naalis to drain water out, especially after the monsoons. In UP, to give another example, one of the biggest problems farmers have to deal with is damage to crops by bulls, who cannot be culled and are left to fend for themselves. The short point is that the nature of election planning has changed. A new symbiotic relationship has emerged combining field data and number crunching in war rooms where the ubiquitous weapon is a computer. It is for this reason that political parties, who have done their homework, can announce candidates well in time to give them a first-mover advantage. In this process, many candidates are replaced, and new faces are announced. Winnability is the key criterion. In the 2019 West Bengal Assembly elections, Prashant Kishor, on the strength of precisely this form of data, dropped dozens of sitting candidates. Many of them then joined the BJP, but their unpopularity became a liability for the BJP. The BJP is by and large, following the same script, and that is why you see so many apparently established faces in the party not figuring in the party's list of candidates.

### Bharat-Armenia: A tale of resilience diplomatic imperatives

In the words of British writer Annie Besant, "Hinduism is the soil into which India's roots are stuck, and torn out of that, she will inevitably wither as a tree torn out from its place. And if Hindus do not maintain Hinduism, who shall save it? If India's own children do not cling to her faith, who shall guard it? India alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one." Hindus and Armenians share several striking similarities. Both cultures bear the weight of ancient civilizations, enduring centuries of history on their resilient shoulders. Each has confronted existential threats from expansionist empires harbouring genocidal intentions yet has managed to persevere against the odds. Both boast revolutionary



heroes, such as the Chapekar brothers and Soghomon Tehlirian, who bravely sought retribution against the oppressors of their people. Moreover, both communities have suffered territorial losses, witnessing the creation of new nations on lands once integral to their civilisations. They have also experienced the unsettling reality of historical enemies aligning against them. In addition, both Hindus and Armenians have found themselves confronting Western indifference and ignorance, bordering on

Hinduphobia and Armeniophobia, respectively, in the contemporary world. Those who harbour animosity towards our existence exhibit striking parallels amongst themselves. Their intolerance is palpable, mirroring a worldview wherein the dominance of their community is deemed inevitable. They display a resolute unresponsiveness to peace proposals, often resorting to warmongering tactics. Furthermore, they demonstrate a preposterous tendency to distort history, selectively

### Why Israel must redefine notion of victory or else it risks losing war?

Two days after Hamas launched a horrific attack on Israel, on 7 October 2023, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his televised address announced five goals for his government and the IDF, which included among others destruction of Hamas. Destruction of Hamas is a military task which the IDF is pursuing in conjunction with other security agencies. The task requires the IDF to capture and kill Hamas' political and military leadership and as many members as possible, destroy the group's command and control capability and degrade its logistical capability and 'Gaza Metro'. Implicit in the tasks is securing the release of hostages and restoring deterrence against any further attack on Israel. Like most other modern militaries, the IDF too has struggled to find an answer to how to deal with a terrorist organisation which has the support of its people and external agencies. Ever since Operation Accountability and Operation Grapes of Wrath against Hezbollah in the 1990s the IDF operations have followed a predictable pattern, barring few exceptions – the IDF operations commence with air force strikes killing a few terrorist



leaders followed by a ground offensive when the group is still unbalanced, largely using standoff weapon systems. However, the terrorist groups recover soon and fight back. The IDF finds it difficult to keep the pressure and a negotiated settlement is sought, with international support, to terminate the war. Thereafter, Israel enjoys a limited period of peace before the next round of violence starts. The Israeli military doctrine is heavily biased in favour of the overwhelming use of air power and precision strikes, which the terrorist groups can counter by concealing fighters and resources, minimising electronic signatures, and using the Gaza Metro. The Israeli strategy euphemistically called the 'mowing the grass' strategy could never find a permanent solution to the raids by Hamas and other terrorist groups. To counter the predictability in operations, almost a decade ago, the IDF had conceptualised a plan

involving large-scale ground manoeuvre and capturing the three largest cities in Gaza - Gaza City, Khan Younis and Rafah – in two weeks. For some reason, the plans were shelved and never implemented.

During the tenure of Gadi Eisenkot, 21st Chief of Staff of the IDF, a plan codenamed, Operation Lightning Strike was also developed to overcome some of the challenges to ground manoeuvre. This was attempted in May 2021 with partial success, hence could not be repeated after the 7 October attack.

In the wake of the 7 October attack, the IDF had no plans for operations in the depth area, once the ground offensive began and had to hurriedly make one from scratch. On 20 October 2023, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant announced IDF's three-phase plan – air and ground campaign to destroy Hamas and its infrastructure, followed by low-intensity operations to destroy pockets of resistance and finally the creation of a new security regime and withdrawal of IDF.

The IDF conducted air campaigns and standoff attacks before initiating ground operations on 27 October. By then the element of surprise was lost and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

## Openers put India in charge after Kuldeep routs England with a fifer

**NEW DELHI:** England's vulnerability against high-quality spin once again came to the fore before India demonstrated the art of batting on a flat track, effortlessly reaching 135 for one at stumps on day one of the fifth and final Test in Dharamsala on Thursday. Opting to bat, England found themselves struggling against the mastery of left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who secured his fourth five-wicket haul in Tests. This allowed India to dismiss the visitors for 218 in their first innings shortly after tea. In his 100th Test appearance, R Ashwin played a pivotal role in cleaning up the tail, claiming four wickets, while Ravindra Jadeja contributed with one. Contrary to expectations, all 10 wickets fell to the spinners at the picturesque HPCA Stadium, and the last seven batsmen crumbled while adding a mere 43 runs. Under the bright sunshine, India took



charge with a formidable 104-run partnership between Rohit Sharma (52 not out off 83 balls) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (57 off 58 balls) as they reached 135 for one in 30 overs at the close of play. Shubman Gill (26 off 39 balls) was at the crease alongside Rohit. This partnership marked the highest opening stand for India in this series and was disrupted when Jaiswal, carried away by momentum, was stumped off Shoaib Bashir after registering consecutive boundaries. The southpaw's pre-meditated charge down the ground came soon after he became only the second Indian to amass

700 runs in a series after the legendary Sunil Gavaskar, who achieved the feat twice against the West Indies in 1971 and 1978-79. The ball did not do much for the England pacers and spinners compared to their Indian counterparts. Jaiswal was watchful to start with and waited for the spinners to be in operation. He put Bashir to sword in his very first over by dispatching him for three sixes into the stands, two of them over extra cover. The Indian skipper, at the other end, too played confidently. He made his intentions clear by pulling a 150kmph rising delivery off Mark Wood.

## Yashasvi Jaiswal surpasses Virat Kohli for most runs in a Test series against England

**NEW DELHI:** Young India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Thursday surpassed talismanic Virat Kohli and other Indian batting greats to register most runs against England in a Test series.

Jaiswal achieved the feat on the opening day of the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala. In the final session on the opening day, Jaiswal went past Kohli, who had previously scored 655 runs in the 2016 Test series at home -- previous best for India against England. Before getting out for 57 late in the day, Jaiswal also breached the 700-run mark in the ongoing



series. Current India coach Rahul Dravid is third on the list. Dravid scored 602 runs during the 2002 India tour of England. With 593 runs, Kohli once again finds himself in the list. Kohli's run fest came during the 2018 tour of England which India lost 4-1. Batting great Sunil

Gavaskar, during the 1979 tour, amassed 542 runs while Vijay Manjrekar has 586 runs to his name in a single Test series against England. Along with registering the most runs for England, Yashasvi also became the second fastest Indian to 1000 Test runs.

## ISL: NorthEast United FC look to turn things around at home

**KOLKATA:** Aiming to get back into the race for sixth spot on Indian Super League (ISL) table, NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) will host Punjab FC at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Thursday. Both teams have seen their playoff hopes taking a blow in their previ-

ous games. The Highlanders, who travel back home after playing three consecutive away games, drew 2-2 at Hyderabad FC in the last game where they let go a two-goal advantage while Punjab FC went down to Mumbai City FC at home after going 2-1 ahead. Currently, NEUFC

are placed eighth on the table, with 20 points from 17 games and Punjab are 11th with 17 points from as many games. However, if NEUFC, who are one behind sixth-placed Bengaluru FC (21 from 18 ties), win against Punjab, they will go ahead of BFC.

## Shaheen becomes third bowler to hit 100-wicket mark in PSL

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan star pacer Shaheen Afridi became the third bowler to claim 100 wickets in the Pakistan Super League during the Lahore Qalandars clash against Islamabad United. Afridi who is the skipper of Lahore Qalandars reached the three-digit mark by dismissing Nasseem Shah. Before Afridi, only two players have managed to cross the 100-digit mark in the PSL. Wahab Riaz became the first bowler to claim 100 wickets in the PSL, he is the all-time leading wicket-taker with an



impressive 113 scalps to his name. Hasan Ali holds the second spot with 107 wickets to his name in PSL. Spinner Shadab Khan holds the fourth spot with 87 wickets while Faheem Ashraf is on the fifth position with 73 wickets in PSL. Lahore emerged victorious with a 17-run

win but are still at the bottom of the table. Qalandars held the upper hand while defending their target of 163 runs. They made early inroads making a difficult challenge for Shadab's side as they looked to claim victory. Skipper Shaheen made his mark by dismissing

Alex Hales for a duck. Agha Salman followed in the footsteps of Hales after scoring four runs. Shadab's wicket further increased Islamabad's woes. Colin Munro (15), Imad Wasim (7), and Jordan Cox's (7) dismissals in quick succession left Islamabad in a tough spot. Azam Khan and Faheem Ashraf tried to launch a late counter-attack to raise hopes of an unprecedented victory with their 35-run stand. However, Lahore bounced back to end their hopes of a victory.

## 'Isko toh kuch bhi daal': Another Rohit stumpmic quip goes viral during Dharamsala Test

**NEW DELHI:** Well known for his witty responses and viral on-field one-liners, India skipper Rohit Sharma produced another gem on the opening day of the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala when Jonny Bairstow walked out to bat. As soon as Bairstow arrived to the middle after the fall of Zak Crawley, Rohit's conversation with his fellow players was caught on stump mic. In the chat, Rohit was heard saying, "Isko Toh Kuch Bhi Daal (Bowl whatever you want to



him)", suggesting bowler Kuldeep Yadav, he can bowl anything to Bairstow. Earlier, Rohit highlighted that his one-liners and funny chats aren't deliberate. The skipper said he just regularly

communicates with fielders and these discussions inadvertently get captured on the microphone. "See, I don't have any favourite line as such and I don't even do it deliberately. Now I am

the captain so I stand in the slips, because the angle from there helps me get a better look at the fielders and take stock of DRS. So I keep talking to the fielders and it gets recorded," Rohit said. England were bowled out for 218 in the final session on Day 1 with Kuldeep Yadav grabbing a fifer and Ashwin picking up four wickets. Amid a blistering start from the openers, India reached 135 for one at the close of play on opening day. While Yashasvi Jaiswal fired 58-ball 57 before falling late.

## Mumbai Indians crush UP Warriorz by 42 runs to jump to second spot

**NEW DELHI:** Mumbai Indians exacted sweet revenge on UP Warriorz, securing a 42-run victory and claiming the second spot in the Women's Premier League (WPL) standings on Thursday. Choosing to bat first, MI overcame early setbacks to reach a respectable total of 160/6. The partnership between Nat Sciver-Brunt (45 off 31) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (33 off 30) steadied MI, with Amelia Kerr (39 not out off 23) and rising star Sajeevan Sajana (22 not out off 14) providing a late flourish, adding 43 runs in 4.2 overs. In their chase, UP Warriorz struggled to find runs and could only manage 118 for nine. MI's victory was a payback for their previous loss to UPW on February 28 in Bengaluru. UPW faced



early troubles, losing key wickets of skipper Alyssa Healy, Kiran Navgire, and Chamari Athapaththu within the first five overs for just 15 runs. Despite Deepti Sharma's unbeaten 53, UPW failed to recover, and the match slipped out of their grasp. Only three UPW batters—Grace Harris (15), Deepti Sharma, and Shweta Sehrawat (17)—reached double-digit scores. Saika Ishaque (3/37) and Nat Sciver-Brunt (2/14) were the main wicket-takers for MI. During MI's innings,

both openers Yastika Bhatia and Hayley Mathews fell within the fourth over to Chamari Athapaththu. Nat Sciver-Brunt played aggressively with eight boundaries, while Harmanpreet Kaur anchored the innings. After Sciver-Brunt's dismissal, Harmanpreet accelerated the scoring with Kerr, who played some crucial shots. UPW's skipper, Alyssa Healy, made a smart bowling change, bringing in Saima Thakor in the 15th over, leading to the dismissal of Harmanpreet.

## How Kuldeep 2.0 emerged as India's most impactful spinner?

**NEW DELHI:** After the fall of the last wicket, Kuldeep Yadav tossed the 57.4-over-old red SG Test ball to his senior teammate, the milestone man Ravichandran Ashwin, who, in turn, insisted on returning it. After a round of catching, Ashwin, in a gesture reminiscent of an older brother, literally pressed the ball into Kuldeep's hands. While Ashwin had taken four wickets in his 100th Test, Kuldeep achieved a five-for, a feat he had narrowly missed in the previous game against England. This symbolic exchange might subtly indicate a changing of the guard in terms of who will lead the spin attack in the coming years. Despite Ashwin having claimed 21 wickets in this series with one more innings



to go, Kuldeep, who was initially left out of the opening match, has stood out in terms of impact. The left-arm wrist spinner showcased his mastery with the 'Chinaman's leg-break,' dismissing top batter Zak Crawley and evoking memories of his brilliance in the 2019 World Cup. A perfectly pitched delivery outside the off-stump enticed Crawley into a lunge drive, sneaking between bat and pad and leaving the batter bewildered

— a moment that encapsulates a left-arm wrist spinner's dream. In 2019, during a Test in Sydney where Kuldeep secured a five-for, then-head coach Ravi Shastri declared him "India's lead spinner in overseas Tests." However, inconsistent selections and a career-threatening knee surgery relegated him down the pecking order. Despite facing challenging times, Kuldeep found little support around him when he

needed it the most. The current captain, Rohit Sharma, has changed this narrative by providing the comforting support Kuldeep required. Notably, Kuldeep has experienced a resurgence in form across formats whenever Rohit has been at the helm. Kuldeep's childhood coach Kapil Pandey, a tough cookie from Azamgarh, a thoroughbred in Mumbai club cricket and someone who has navigated through the Kanpur maze wouldn't allow his ward to throw in the towel. "He has three hat-tricks in white ball cricket but I completely understand that team combination is always paramount," Pandey, who runs his academy in Kanpur, told PTI during a recent interaction.

## 'Real leg spinner': Sachin heaps praise on para cricketer Amir

**NEW DELHI:** Legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar commended the dedication of para cricketer Amir Hussain Lone, hailing him as a "real leg spinner" during their participation in the opening match of the Indian Street Premier League in Mumbai. Taking to social media, Sachin expressed admiration for Amir's distinctive playing style, labeling him an inspiration to all. The 34-year-old cricketer, known for his unique approach, bowls using his legs and bats using his shoulder and neck. "Defying odds with every delivery, Amir stands out as the real leg spinner!" You're an inspiration to all," Sachin wrote on X. Discovered by a teacher who recognized his talent, Amir entered the world of para cricket and has been actively participating in professional cricket since 2013. The 34-year-old cricketer faced a life-altering accident at the age of eight, losing both his arms in an incident.

CAPSULES

## He was born to play Test cricket: Ashwin's childhood coach Subramaniam

**NEW DELHI:** Sunil Subramaniam could never quite put his finger on why he failed to break into the Indian team despite being one of the country's best left-arm spinners in the early 1990s. It rankles, but the pain pales in comparison to the joy his most illustrious ward, Ravichandran Ashwin, brought to his life, years after he had quit playing competitive cricket. The 57-year-old, who taught Ashwin the nuances of spin bowling in his formative years, takes great pride in saying that the senior India spinner "was born to play Test cricket." "I had a lot of confidence that he would become a good Test player and a quality Test bowler, first a match-winner for the state then a match-winner for India," Subramaniam told PTI. "At that time, it was difficult to say that his journey would be this long. As he was on his journey, it became obvious he would have a long career. "I'd be lying to say that we think that he is going to end up playing 100 Tests. But, I certainly knew that we had a Test cricketer in the making, and a good one at that," he added. Despite enjoying a fairly successful career in first-class cricket, Subramaniam is best known as Ashwin's childhood coach, but he has no qualms about it. "When I met him in 2007, at the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association's bowler's camp, the journey started there. We had to discover the next generation of bowlers. "Slowly, he progressed from first-class cricket to Test cricket, his bowling evolved, and he understood how to study the wicket. "When you play first-class cricket, you have a different mindset compared to Test cricket; you take time to adapt to the environment."

## Big cheer! Cabinet approves 4% dearness allowance

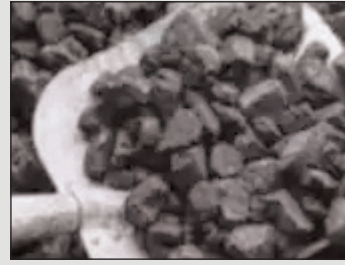


**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved a 4% hike in dearness allowance for central government employees, bringing the total to 50%. According to the government, this decision will benefit 50 lakh employees and 68 lakh pensioners. This will cost the government Rs 12,868 crore. Due to increase in DA, the government has also approved additional benefits for House Rent Allowance. The hike in dearness allowance is determined by the central government based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for industri-

al workers. The CPI-IW data is published monthly by the Labour Bureau, under the Ministry of Labour. This calculation follows a specific formula applicable to both employees and pensioners of the central government. Notably, this formula applies exclusively to central government employees and pensioners receiving salaries based on the 7th Pay Commission's recommendations. **The formula for DA calculation is:** 7th CPC DA% = [(12 month average of AICPI-IW (Base Year 2001=100) for the last 12 months - 261.42)/261.42x100]. The current 12-month average for CPI-IW data stands at 392.83, which translates to a DA of 50.26% of the basic pay, states an ET report. All government employees and pensioners receive dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) as part of their salary to mitigate the impact of inflation. These allowances are periodically adjusted to revise the effective salary of government employees. This rise aligns with the established formula derived from the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

## Government panel seeks carbon tax rejig to discourage coal imports

**NEW DELHI:** An inter-ministerial panel of officials tasked with charting a course for stopping coal imports by 2030 has recommended raising the carbon tax on superior imported fuel and reducing the same on lower quality domestic produce. The government currently charges a flat Rs 400 per tonne GST Compensation Cess for both imported and domestic coal. The panel, set up by the coal ministry, has suggested linking the cess to the heating quality of coal to level the field for consumers both imported and domestic coal and dis-



courage imports. Under the current system, users of domestic coal with high ash content and lower heating value of 3,000-3,500 kcal (kilo calories) bear a higher cess burden per unit of heating as they have to burn double the quantity of fuel compared to consumers using imported fuel with low ash content and higher heating value

of 5,000-6,000 kcal. The current system ends up raising power tariffs as majority of generation companies burn domestic coal. Other users such as sponge iron producers prefer superior imported coal. According to the panel, every Rs 100 per tonne increase in coal price pushes up power tariff by 6 paise per unit. In other words, the current cess has an impact of 24 paise per unit. The GST compensation cess collection from imported coal stood at about Rs 8,359 crore on a total import value of Rs 22,8742 crore.

## Trade deal with 4 European nations before Lok Sabha elections

**Delhi:** Commerce ministry will give the finishing touches to a trade deal with the European Free Trade Association — comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein — after the Union cabinet is learnt to have approved the deal in-principle. A

formal announcement on what will be a pact with another bloc of developed nations is expected to be announced before the Election Commission sets in motion the poll process in the middle of next week. After holding back bilateral trade treaties for years, India

has been on an FTA overdrive of sorts, signing agreements with Mauritius, Australia and the UAE, while holding talks with the UK, European Union, Oman and Sri Lanka. In addition, a review of the agreement with Asean is under way, but negotiations with Canada

## CAPSULES

### Trade deal with 4 European nations before Lok Sabha elections

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## Authority detects 1,000 crore GST fraud

**NEW DELHI:** Meerut CGST Commissionerate on Thursday busted a syndicate that fraudulently claimed Input Tax Credit (ITC) of over Rs 1,000 crore through a network of 232 fake firms and arrested three persons. The anti-evasion branch of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) of Meerut Commissionerate started an investigation in October 2023 into a syndicate that fraudulently claimed ITC by way of fake billing, a statement said.



The investigation conducted so far has revealed that 232 fake firms, with 91 companies registered on a single mobile number, are registered at various places across the

country and have passed inadmissible ITC of around Rs 1,048 crore, it said. The total value of goods shown to be supplied through these firms is around Rs 5,842 crore, it said. During the course of the investigation, it came to light that 'Full Fledged Money Changer Companies' (FFMCs) were used for parking/routing of funds generated through fraudulently passed on ITC, it said. Further investigation revealed bulk purchases of around Rs 1,120 crore from two of such FFMCs from other FFMCs, it said. However, no record of further disposal/receipt of said foreign currency has been recovered during searches.

## 820 crore 'suspicious' UCO Bank transfers draw CBI's glare

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI on Wednesday conducted searches at 67 locations in seven cities across Rajasthan and Maharashtra in connection with suspicious transactions of Rs 820 crore from UCO bank branches. The transactions were conducted using the immediate payment service (IMPS) mode, officials said. The agency had filed an FIR in November last year on the basis of a complaint received from UCO bank. "It was alleged that in a span of three days IMPS



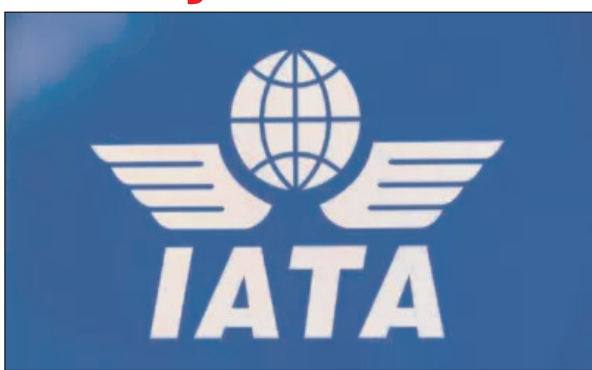
transactions initiated from around 14,600 account holders of seven private banks were wrongfully posted in the accounts of over 41,000 UCO bank account holders," CBI spokesperson R C Joshi said. Sources said that around 8,53,049 IMPS transactions took place

between November 10-13. This, officials said, resulted in Rs 820 crore being credited to UCO Bank accounts without actual debiting from the originating banks. Numerous account holders exploited this situation, making wrongful gains by withdrawing

funds through various banking channels. Earlier in December 2023, searches were conducted at 13 locations involving private individuals and UCO Bank officials in Kolkata and Mangalore. Continuing the operation, extensive search operations were carried out on March 6 in Jodhpur, Jaipur, Jalore, Nagaur, Barmer, Phalodi and Pune. "During these operations, 130 incriminating documents related to UCO Bank and IDFC, as well as 43 digital device.

## Domestic load factor up in January: IATA

**MUMBAI:** In the first month of the year, demand for air travel was up about 17%, while the airline seat capacity went up 14% and passenger load factor almost touched 80%, according to January data released recently by airlines' trade body, the International Air Transport Association (IATA). International demand, measured in revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs), rose 20.8%; capacity, measured in available seat kilometers (ASK), was up 20.9% and the load factor remained at 79.7%, while domestic demand rose 10.4%; capacity was up 4.6% and the load factor was 80.2%, which was up by about 4 points, it said. The total demand then was up 16.6%; total capacity, was up 14.1%; and the load factor was 79.9%, said IATA. The year 2024 is

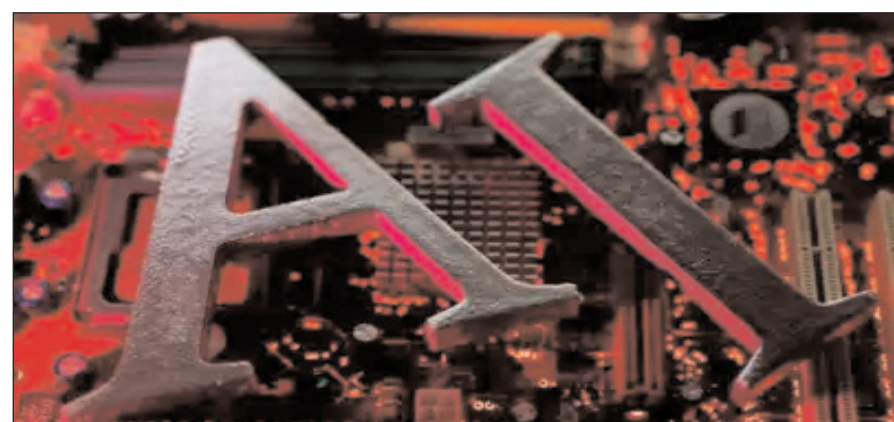


off to a strong start despite economic and geopolitical uncertainties, said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General. "As governments look to build prosperity in their economies in the busiest election-year ever, it is critical that they see aviation as a catalyst for growth. Increased taxes and onerous regulation are a counterweight to prosperity. We will be looking to governments for policies that help aviation to reduce costs, improve efficiency and make progress towards net zero CO2 emissions by 2050," he

added. Asia-Pacific airlines saw an 45.4% increase in January 2024 traffic compared to January 2023, continuing the region's rapid recovery after the lifting of pandemic restrictions. Capacity climbed 48.1% and the load factor fell by 1.5 percentage points to 82.6%. "The exceptionally strong growth rate is largely attributable to China which was in the early stages of lifting Covid-19 travel restrictions in January 2023. The recovery in major international routes to/from Asia-Pacific.

## T-Hub to house DST's AI & ML tech hub MATH

**HYDERABAD:** The department of science & technology has joined hands with Telangana govt led T-Hub to set up a one-of-its-kind Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Technology Hub (MATH) that aims to foster AI innovation, create job opportunities and provide a conducive ecosystem for AI startups. T-Hub has allocated an entire floor for MATH, which will be equipped with cutting-edge facilities such as a mini data center with GPU capabilities, a world-class learning management system (LMS) tailored for AI education and robust data infrastructure to support diverse AI applications. The centre of excellence (CoE) is positioning itself as the go-to destination for AI-driven



initiatives across the country and is targeting nurturing over 150 startups per annum with an aim to generate over 500 AI-related jobs by 2025. "From providing access to state-of-the-art compute infrastructure to offering AI skilling programmes, data lakes, virtual connectivity to global AI ecosystems and opportunities for patent conversion, MATH will be positioning itself as the ultimate destination for AI-driven

things AI and ML," it said. T-Hub said the launch of MATH signifies a pivotal moment for startups, researchers, and students as the CoE would introduce a range of programmes and initiatives to empower stakeholders across the AI and ML spectrum. As per estimates, India's AI market is growing at a CAGR of 25-35% and is poised to reach \$17 billion by 2027. T-Hub CEO Mahankali Srinivas Rao

said: T-Hub and MATH will work together to empower entrepreneurs to harness the power of AI and ML, drive meaningful change and propel India onto the global stage of technological leadership. MATH CEO Rahul Paith said: "The inauguration of MATH marks a significant milestone in our journey towards harnessing the potential of AI and ML to drive innovation and create impact.

## Greenzo Energy unveils indigenous alkaline electrolyser for green hydrogen production

**Greenzo Energy India Limited,** a pioneer in green hydrogen solutions, announced the launch of its 1 MW Alkaline Electrolyser, the first of its kind in India. The Electrolyser, developed entirely under the 'Make in India' initiative, is a breakthrough innovation that will accelerate India's transition to a clean energy future. Gujarat industries minister Balvantsinh Rajput unveiled the electrolyser at Sanand Global Expo, organised by Sanand Industries Association. Speaking on the occasion, Rajputsaid, "This launch of India's first indigenous Alkaline Electrolyser by Greenzo Energy is a significant step towards realizing the vision of Gujarat as the country's Green Hydrogen Hub. Green hydrogen holds the promise of not only addressing our energy security concerns but also in aligning with our national goal of achieving net zero emission.

## Hijab-clad entrepreneurs break barriers, spark startup revolution in Hyderabad



**HYDERABAD:** A group of hijab-clad women is silently revolutionising Hyderabad's startup scene. Defying societal norms, these young entrepreneurs, aged between 20 and 22, have captivated industry giants with their innovative enterprises, while also fostering employment opportunities for fellow women to achieve financial independence. Their rallying cry? "By the women, for the women." Yet, the path to success has been anything but smooth. Arma Sahar, a 20-year-old from Adilabad district, faced resistance from within her own community when she embarked on her journey to launch Unicorn, a driver training app exclusively for women. Recalling the challenges, Arma recounted a pivotal moment when a school principal criticised her efforts, claiming they were "spoiling the culture" of Muslim girls.

Undeterred, Arma forged ahead, driven by a desire to ensure women's safety during commutes in Hyderabad. "I love Hyderabad, but worried about stepping out alone," Arma said. "To resolve this, I decided to build an app and train women drivers." She founded Unicorn in 2021, enlisting five women trainers who have since empowered 179 women. The trainers earn monthly salaries ranging from Rs 8,000 to Rs 9,000. Bushra Abdul Khader and Firdous Unissa, both 22 and computer science graduates, faced similar uphill battles as they sought to establish StudentUnion.im

in 2023. Their vision was clear: to provide student volunteers for tech events and programmes organised by high-net-worth individuals, offering students valuable learning and networking opportunities. "Muslim women are set in a box and portrayed as weak," Bushra said. "It is not a problem of community or religion, but of perception that others have towards us." Their perseverance paid off as they quickly built a database of 300 students who volunteered at esteemed venues like T-Hub and BITS Pilani, earning upwards of Rs 750 a day - gaining recognition.

## Supreme Court: Isn't Maharashtra speaker decision contrary to our verdict?

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on Thursday took the prima facie view that Maharashtra speaker Rahul Narwekar's January 10 decision recognising the Eknath Shinde faction as the real Shiv Sena based on its legislative majority could be violative of the SC's May 2023 judgment barring him from deciding the dispute based solely on the strength of group MLAs in the assembly. Maharashtra Speaker acted in total breach of 2023 order, SC told Senior



advocates Devadatt Kamat, Kapil Sibal and A M Singhvi told a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that Narwekar

acted in complete breach of the May 11, 2023 judgment in the Subhash Desai case where it had ruled that "speakers must not base their decision as to which group constitutes the political party on a blind appreciation of which group possesses a majority in the legislative assembly. This is not a game of numbers, but of something more". Sibal said Maharashtra assembly elections are due in October this year and the Shinde faction wants to delay

the hearing on the petition filed by Sena (UBT) leader Sunil Prabhu as the Shinde faction has not yet filed its response to the petition despite the court issuing notice on Jan 22. "We need urgent hearing on the petition," he said. CJI Chandrachud said, "The speaker decides (which is the real Sena party) based on legislative strength of the factions. Is this not contrary to our judgment in the Subhash Desai case?"

## Jharkhand court says Soren prima facie guilty of ignoring ED summonses

**NEW DELHI:** Enforcement Directorate has received a booster from a Jharkhand court, which held former chief minister Hemant Soren prima facie guilty under IPC Section 174 for defying seven summonses issued by the probe agency. The ruling exposes Soren, already in judicial custody, to the risk of a jail term, one month each for the summonses he ignored. ED has also invoked Section

174 against Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal for not complying with its repeated summonses related to its investigation into the alleged liquor scam. The matter is pending in a Delhi court, which has summoned Kejriwal on March 16 to decide the validity of ED's complaint. Hemant Soren arrested by ED, to be produced in court on Thursday. The Jharkhand court has summoned Soren on April 3 when it

is expected to pronounce its order on the culpability of the former CM. During the last hearing on Kejriwal on Feb 7, additional chief metropolitan magistrate Divya Malhotra had said that "in view of the discussions, the complaint filed by the complainant (ED) and accompanied by the supporting documents discloses all the necessary ingredients constituting the offence punishable under Section 174 of IPC.

Section 63(4) of PMLA enables prosecution under Section 174 of IPC for disobedience of any direction under Section 50 of the Act." The judge also noted that people summoned by ED are bound to comply with the same by virtue of Section 50(3) of PMLA. Under Section 174, a court can summon a suspect evading investigation and enforce his/her presence before the enforcement agency.

## 'Satyamev jayate': BJP on HC's Sandeshkhali order

**Calling it "verdict of truth",** BJP hailed Calcutta HC order to transfer to CBI the case of attack on ED officials by a mob allegedly at the behest of TMC strongman Shajahan Sheikh in Sandeshkhali in Jan. "Satyamev Jayate," BJP spokesperson Shehzad said and cited the court's critical observations on state police to assert that TMC tried to shield Sheikh.

## NIA: Bengaluru cafe blast suspect went to Ballari before reaching Pune

**BENGALURU/BALLARI:**

**National Investigation Agency (NIA) officials** probing the March 1 Rameshwaram Cafe blast have learnt that the man who planted the bomb travelled to Ballari from where he is suspected to have gone to Pune. While it is not clear how he reached the Maharashtra city, he is found to have boarded a bus heading for Gokarna in Karnataka on March 1 night. NIA officials visited Ballari on Wednesday and examined footage of CCTV cameras installed



in the New Bus Stand, which showed the suspect getting down from a bus and boarding another. He appears to have boarded a Mantralaya-Gokarna bus. The officials are yet to find out where he deboarded the vehicle.

According to the bus conductor, the suspect was in the vehicle that travelled through Hospet and Hubballi. Police initially suspected he might have reached Gokarna or Bhatkal but they are yet to procure any CCTV footage of

him arriving there. Late Thursday, investigators reached Pune, claiming they had credible information that the suspect was spotted in the Maharashtra city. NIA officials have not released any new images of the suspect. Meanwhile, Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths visited Tumakuru, Nelamangala and Hoskote in their efforts to get leads on the suspect and his associates. But sources said NIA officials asked CCB to stop the parallel investigation.

## 'The BJP babu... ': Mamata accuses ex-judge Abhijit of 'taking away jobs of thousands of youth'

**NEW DELHI:**

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday launched a scathing attack on former Calcutta high court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who joined the BJP today after stepping down two days ago. Mamata, who led a rally of Trinamool's women wing, did not take his name but referred to him as "the BJP guy who was sitting on the chair as a judge" and accused him of "taking away jobs of thou-



sands of youths" across the state through his "politically biased judgments." "The BJP guy who was sitting on the chair as a judge has joined the BJP. The youths will not forgive you. All your judgments

are under question. We will ensure your defeat. From tomorrow onwards, the people of the state will act as the judge for your actions," said. The chief minister also said that the "former judge" unnecessarily

targeted the Trinamool. "As a judge, he gave television interviews. He said a lot of things naming Abhishek Banerjee. Finally, he announced his decision to join the BJP. Now, he has been unmasked. In the coming days, he will be judged by the common people," CM said. TMC national general secretary and nephew Abhishek Gangopadhyay's move exposes the BJP's "twisted tango with a section of judiciary."

## Gautam Navlakha claims 'extortion' as NIA slaps Rs 1.6 crore security bill

**NEW DELHI:** Bhima Koregaon case accused Gautam Navlakha, in house arrest since November 2022 at Mumbai's Comrade BT Ranadive Memorial Library with companion Sahba Hussain, is facing a demand of Rs 1.64 crore from authorities towards escort protection charges, of which he has paid only Rs 10.4 lakh. Appearing for National Investigation Agency (NIA), additional solicitor general S V Raju informed a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and S V N Bhatti the agency's opposition to a year-old plea of Hussain, on behalf of Navlakha, for shifting his house arrest location from Mumbai to Delhi. NIA has challenged a Bombay HC order granting him bail in December last year. Raju and advocate Kanu Agrawal said, "As far as house arrest is



concerned, they are supposed to make a payment of Rs 1.64 crore. This is due and payable. They must first make this payment." Navlakha's counsel Nithya Ramakrishnan immediately said this amounted to "extortion". How can an agency which keeps an accused under house arrest and demand such an exorbitant amount, she asked. Agrawal said the amount is relatable to the facilities Navlakha and his companion demanded. Raju objected to the legitimate dues being referred to as 'extortion' when it was vol-

untarily agreed by Navlakha to pay for his house arrest security and facilities. He said Navlakha should pay some amount towards what is due and payable. Ramakrishnan said some amount has already been paid. Navlakha had on November 19, 2022, paid Rs 2.4 lakh and on the court order of April 28 last year, deposited Rs 8 lakh more. When Ramakrishnan reiterated that authorities can't demand more than a crore of rupees from a citizen kept under house arrest, Raju said, "Not all citizens facing grave charges are allowed.

## Supreme Court: Right to health already covers palliative care access

**NEW DELHI:**

After devising a passive euthanasia mechanism in 2018 allowing a dignified end for terminally-ill patients in permanent vegetative state, Supreme Court on Thursday said such patients had a fundamental right to palliative care till their eventual death & sought a comprehensive report from the Centre on rollout of such measures in govt hospitals. Appearing for PIL the petitioner, senior advocate Jayna Kothari pleaded for a declaration from SC that palliative care is part of right to health under Art 21 (right to life). A bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala & Manoj Misra said right to health already includes access to palliative care, hence a declaration would be superfluous. Kothari



said globally, around 14% of the population received palliative care, but in India, only 1-2% of people requiring palliative care had access to it. "There is no uniform provision of palliative care under the public health system in the country," she said. SC in Gian Kaur case in 1996 had rejected euthanasia and ruled it could only be permissible through a legislation enacted by Parliament. In 2011, in Aruna Ramachandra Shanbaug case, SC allowed passive euthanasia but only in cases where such a

plea was approved by jurisdictional high court, which relatives could approach after an elaborate process of examination of the patient by a medical board. However, in 2018, in the Common Cause case, a five-judge bench laid down guidelines titled 'Advance Medical Directive', which could be executed by an adult of sound mind stating withdrawal of life support system when, in future, he enters a permanent vegetative state without a chance of recovery. But this too could

be given effect only after multiple medical boards examining the terminally-ill patient and concurrently arriving at the conclusion that there was no chance of the patient surviving with advanced medical care. Importantly, SC bench, which included Justice Chandrachud, in 2018 had discussed the need for palliative care as part of right to health, without issuing any direction to govt to devise policy parameters covering the public health system. After Kothari brought up the untouched field of palliative care in the public health system, CJI-led bench issued notice to the Centre, though all states have been made parties in the PIL, and ordered filing of a comprehensive report on administration of palliative care to terminally-ill patients.

## 36% increase in non-fare revenue earning of the Metro

**Kolkata**

The Metro Railway, Kolkata has been instrumental in significantly boosting the Non-Fare Revenue earnings of the Indian Railways, playing a pivotal role despite being one of the smaller zones within the system. Metro Rail achieved a remarkable non-fare revenue of Rs. 40.12 crores from April 1, 2023, to February 29, 2024, marking a notable increase of 36.15% compared to the previous fiscal year, where it earned Rs. 29.47 crores during the same period. Notably, in February 2024 alone, the Kolkata Metro generated Rs. 2.57 crores in non-fare revenue. P. Uday Kumar Reddy, the General Manager of Metro Railway, expressed his satisfaction with these results, emphasizing the Metro's commitment to meeting and exceeding the expectations set by the Railway Board in the current fiscal year.

## PM Modi empowered the poor, Dalits rights: CM Yogi



**Agra** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP National President JP Nadda, on Thursday, laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 124 development projects worth about Rs 5200 crore in Agra. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister praised PM Modi's efforts in uplifting the underprivileged citizens of the nation. "Today, we pay homage to Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. Honoring Baba Saheb signifies respecting the marginalized communities and upholding the Constitution," he emphasized. Highlighting the party's commitment to social

welfare, the Chief Minister remarked, "In the past decade, under PM Modi's leadership, we have witnessed the emergence of a new India- an India where unity transcends caste, religion, and language. "It's an India that aspires to integrate every village, poor person, farmer, youth and woman into the societal mainstream in order to empower them to lead dignified lives and forge ahead. It is not founded on caste, religion, or language. The guiding behind this endeavor is 'Sabka saath, Sabka Vikas'." He continued: "Even those sections of society that were deprived of their rights since independ-

ence, are experiencing a sense of inclusion and development under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi today. Furthermore, he stressed that honoring Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar translates to upholding the values of the Constitution and the parliamentary system of India. He credited Prime Minister Modi for amplifying the voices of millions of underprivileged individuals across the country. The CM also credited PM Modi with the significant naming of the international airport in Ayodhya after Maharishi Valmiki, the 'trikaldarshi' sage who had a dialogue with Lord Ram.

## Removal of Article 370 means that SCs will be entitled to quota in Jammu as well: JP Nadda

**Agra** During the national convention of the Scheduled Castes of Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday, BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda said, "Let the opposition go on 'jail and bail yatra.' You make the lotus bloom and propel India into becoming the third-largest economy of the world." At the convention held at Kothi Meena Bazar ground in Agra, the BJP outlined its efforts for the Scheduled Castes community. Nadda discussed initiatives such as the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, granting Scheduled Caste individuals the right to settle and contest elections there. In the national convention of BJP's Scheduled Caste Morcha, National President JP Nadda launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing them of disrespecting Babasaheb. Nadda also criticized nepotism in politics. He mentioned that PM



Modi had actively worked towards increasing scholarships in the field of education. Additionally, hostels were constructed with an expenditure of Rs 173 crore to accommodate students, and every year, 20,000 students benefit from free coaching. He highlighted that 18% of Scheduled Caste individuals are availing the benefits of the Mudra Yojana, bringing about significant progress. Furthermore, he noted that 25 crore people have risen above the poverty line, marking a significant achievement. JP Nadda criticized previous governments, stating that while Nehru and Indira

Gandhi bestowed upon themselves the Bharat Ratna, Dr. Ambedkar was overlooked until their government took charge. He emphasized that it was under their administration that Babasaheb was rightfully honored with the Bharat Ratna. "While Congress's slogans have divided society, BJP's slogans focus on inclusivity and development for all. Under Modi ji's leadership, significant efforts have been made to uplift our Scheduled Castes brothers and sisters, enabling their integration into the mainstream." Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also present on the stage with him.

## CAPSULES

### Yogi's mantra for safety, dignity & self-reliance of women works wonders in Uttar Pradesh

**Lucknow**

The initiatives undertaken by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the last seven years towards safety, dignity and self-reliance of women are reaping rich dividends, whether in terms of reduction of crime against women, increasing number of women entrepreneurs, or the general increase in their participation in Uttar Pradesh's workforce. The latest Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) report reveals a significant surge in the participation rate of women in the state's labor force - escalating from 14.2 percent in 2017-18 to an impressive 32.10 percent in 2022-23. This encouraging shift is attributed to the relentless efforts spearheaded by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath aimed at women's upliftment. It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister's personal supervision has fostered an environment in the state where women not only feel secure and respected, but are also encouraged and assisted in achieving self-reliance. According to the report, India recorded a women's labor force participation rate of 39.80 percent in the financial year 2022-23, while Uttar Pradesh recorded a rate of 32.10 percent.



## Acid attack survivors felicitated in Kolkata on the eve of International Women's Day

**KOLKATA:** Even after surviving acid attacks the survivors continue to battle with physical deformity. On Friday on the eve of International Women's Day few such brave acid attack survivors who had defied deformities to go ahead in life, were felicitated in Kolkata. They said that support from organisations like Brave Soul Foundation (BSF) has made their journey easier. Poly Debnath, one such survivor has been left blind in one eye after an acid attack in 2014. After days in hospital care she survived. But the attack



had also left her with deformities and with dental issues. "The journey ahead after the acid attack would have been tough if it was not for organisations standing behind us," said Debnath. Doctors said that acid attack survivors often grapple with intricate dental issues, including

deranged bite, malocclusion, and injuries to the jaws that may necessitate maxillectomy or mandibulectomy. The psychological toll is equally extensive, manifesting as dental anxiety. Moreover, in the aftermath of such traumatic incidents, victims may experience physical deformations, with

oral manifestations ranging from a shrunken and narrow mouth to a loss of its full range of motion. These challenges significantly impact essential functions like eating and speaking. "As dental professionals, we are aware of the profound impact that acid attacks can have on oral health. Acid attacks often lead to severe dental erosion, compromising not only the physical well-being but also the emotional and psychological aspects of survivors," Dr Biswajit Panda during the event on Friday.

## New hotel brands eye Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar

**AHMEDABAD:** The pandemic was the worst period for the hospitality sector, with occupancy levels, footfall and event business taking a plunge. But the Ahmedabad market ever since has been a pleasant exception for industry players. A number of new hospitality brands are eyeing Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar for expansions and new properties, a move that will alter the hospitality landscape. The hotel brandsThe country's first International Financial Services



Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City near Gandhinagar is all set to see a luxury hotel coming up within its campus. The hotel will be the third property here besides the Grand Mercure and Gift City Club, according to sources.

Gandhinagar-based developer, Kavyaratna Group, recently won the tender to build the five-star hotel project. S K Patel, founder, Kavyaratna Group said, "The project will have a built-up area of around 5 lakh sq feet including

the hotel and commercial space. It will be a 30-floor building. We are going to invest around Rs 650 crore in the project and are looking for hospitality partners. We envision an international hotel brand to begin operations here soon." Marriott International is also set to bring its premium Le Meridien brand to the city by renovating an existing property in Ahmedabad's Ramdevnagar area. "The property which is currently managed under Marriott's brand - Courtyard - is under renovation.

## Rs 500 crore tax evasion: Evidence found hidden in Rajkot slum

**RAJKOT:** In what is claimed to be the first such extensive use of technology by the income tax department in India, incriminating data related to Rs 500 crore alleged tax evasion by a city-based real estate group was unearthed from a dingy room in a congested slum. tax evasionThe I-T sleuths

scanned through 450 CCTV cameras with the help of police for a week and narrowed down the location of crucial data and files of black money of the Ladani Group to a slum behind the PGVCL main office on University Road. Ankit Shira, company accountant, and his associate Raj Sisodia, were handling all the data related to black money transactions of the group and the former had chosen a makeshift room in the slums to hide the evidence. The I-T department searched 30 premises of the Ladani and their close relatives on Feb 27 for five days following specific information about tax evasion. However, they couldn't find the papers and other data related to black money. The data of transactions was stored in laptops and

physical files. Slum room rented for 4K a month The officials then took the help of the police and started surfing CCTVs to ascertain the movement of important people associated with the Ladani. "We found that Ladani's confidante frequently visited a slum behind the PGVCL office and came out within 5-10 minutes. The street leading to the slums was very narrow. We visited the place but it was very congested and it was tough to ascertain where he was going. One CCTV footage showed him walking to a small room. On searching the room, we found a laptop and physical files which gave the details of Rs 500 crore tax evasion," a senior I-T officer told TOI. Shira had rented out this room for Rs 4,000 a month.

## BJP, BJD hint at Naveen Patnaik's return to NDA after 15 years

**BHUBANESWAR:** Naveen Patnaik-led BJD's return to NDA looks imminent, top sources said, even as Naveen and BJP national president JP Nadda separately met leaders of their respective parties to discuss their plans on Wednesday. While supporters of both parties are waiting for the official announcement, BJP top brass is hoping to add all 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha to the NDA tally. Naveen is aspiring to return to power for the sixth term and become India's longest-serving CM after the simultaneous assembly polls are announced. To a question on the coalition, senior BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra, who attended the Naveen-led meeting, said, "The BJD will take whatever decision is in the best interest of the



state as Odisha eyes new milestones of development in its centenary year of its formation in 2036." After Nadda chaired a meeting of BJP's state core committee members in Delhi, former Union minister Jual Oram said, "There were discussions on many issues, including a possible coalition plan. The central leadership will take a final call." Sources said a formal announcement is likely

by Mar 8, the day BJD walked out of the NDA in 2009. After venturing into politics in November last year following his voluntary retirement from IAS, chief minister Naveen Patnaik's close aide V K Pandian played an important role in solidifying the imminent BJP-BJD alliance. While multiple meetings with home minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister's principal secretary, Pramod Mishra, Pandian dili-

gently negotiated a pact securing a significant number of assembly seats in triple digits for BJD, while offering a larger share of Lok Sabha seats to the BJP. It suits both. Though the final shape of the partnership is "still a work in progress," sources said Pandian's offer of more LS seats was a comforting factor for BJP given its aim of securing more than 400 seats in the upcoming poll.

## After drilling into shop at Chromepet, gang flees with goods worth 30 lakh

**Chennai:** An unidentified gang drilled a hole in the wall of a textile shop and a mobile shop run by two brothers at Chromepet and escaped with cell phones and clothes worth more than 30 lakh early on Thursday. Police said Ansari runs a mobile phone shop and his brother Mansoor run a garment store adjacent to each other on GST Road near Chromepet signal. Though Ansari checked the CCTV footage of the shop on his mobile phone till 1.30 a.m on Thursday, he did not find anything amiss. On Thursday morning, Madhavan, a staffer of the clothing shop, found garments and accessories strewn around.