

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Wednesday 25 September, 2024 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

## Watching child porn on your laptop, PC or smartphone is now a punishable offence

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court of India (SC) has ruled that the mere possession of child pornographic material, even if not disseminated further, constitutes a criminal offence. The court used the legal term "inchoate crime" to describe this act, which is defined as a criminal act committed in preparation for a further offence. In a landmark judgement, the court emphasised the importance of the doctrine of inchoate crimes in criminal jurisprudence. This doctrine addresses the legal culpability of individuals who engage in preparatory actions that precede the commission of a substantive crime. The court clarified that the intention behind possessing child pornographic material is punishable, regardless of whether there is an actual transmission of the content. The mere act of storing or possessing such material with a specific intention is consid-



### The judgement also addressed the concept of "possession"

"What is sought to be penalised under Section 15 of the POC SO is the storage or possession of any child pornographic material when done with a particular intention or purpose as stipulated in sub-section(s) (1), (2) or (3), as the case may be. Thus, the bare textual reading of the said provision makes it clear that it is the intention which is being punished and not the commission of any criminal act in the traditional sense. This

judgement said "Inchoate crimes are

### Punishments for different offences related to child pornography

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act provides various punishments for different offences related to child pornography. What is the punishment As a report news agency PTI writes, the section 15 of the POC SO Act provides different punishments of varying jail terms or fine or both: \* Section 15 (1), which deals with possession of child pornographic material, provides for a minimum fine of Rs 5,000 which may extend to Rs 10,000.

defined as criminal acts that are committed in preparation for a further offence. The term 'inchoate' itself means 'undeveloped' or 'incomplete', a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

## 'Revenge politics ... will not resign': Siddaramaiah attacks BJP, JD(S)

**NEW DELHI:** Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday blamed the BJP and the JD(S) for hatching a conspiracy to dislodge the Congress government in the state after the high court dismissed his petition challenging governor's approval for probe in the MUDA site allotment case. Blaming the BJP-led NDA and its ally JD(S) for "creating trouble for him", Siddaramaiah said: "Our judicial struggle against this 'revenge politics' of BJP and the JD(S) will continue. I have faith in the judiciary." "I will not hesitate from facing investigation. I will consult experts whether such a probe is allowed under law or not," the chief minister added.

Addressing a press conference, CM said that the Bharatiya Janata Party and Janata Dal (Secular) will not succeed in destabilising the Congress government. "They might have succeeded in the past, but not this time. It is not a prosecution. I will



### 'Don't drag us into your agenda': SC dismisses NCPDR plea

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on Tuesday cautioned the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) against involving the judiciary in its "agendas", dismissing a plea seeking a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into allegations of children being sold by shelter

homes in Jharkhand including those run by the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa. A bench comprising Justices B V Nagarathna and N o n g m e i k a p a m Kotiswar Singh criticised the NCPDR's approach, saying that the relief requested in the plea was "vague".

discuss with legal experts & ministers how to fight this, and take a further call. We will not be scared of BJP and JD(S) conspiracy, as well as that of the Governor's office. People have blessed us. I have their blessing. I also have the high com-

mand and party leaders backing me," he said. He asserted that the people of the state are with him in this political struggle. "I believe in law and constitution. Truth will finally win in this fight. This is a fight against the revenge politics of Modi-led BJP .

### Patriarchal sexist beliefs in India make women susceptible to gender violence

**LONDON** A new academic study has found that the "pervasive problem of violence against women in India" will not be solved by men protecting women, as such patriarchal sexist beliefs can also be harmful. The first large-scale analysis of associations between sexism and tolerance of violence against women in India, written by academics in the UK, New Zealand and US, has found that patronising beliefs about women that are framed in protective terms can make them more vulnerable to violence as they create a power dynamic in which women are subordinate to their male partners. "Prescriptions that women should be protected from outsiders can simultaneously legitimise men's dominance.

## New Sri Lankan PM Harini Amarasuriya's fascinating link to India

**NEW DELHI:** Sri Lanka welcomed its 16th Prime Minister on Tuesday, Harini Amarasuriya, an academic-turned-politician who became the first woman to hold the position since Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 2000. Amarasuriya brings both a deep academic background and a significant link to India. Amarasuriya, 54, spent her formative college years at Delhi University, studying at the renowned Hindu College in the early 1990s. From 1991 to 1994, she pursued her Bachelor's degree in Sociology at Delhi University, a period that her alma mater believes may have shaped her future trajectory. "It's an honour to know that a Hinduite has become the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Harini was a student of Sociology from 1991 to 1994, and we are extremely proud of her accomplishments," Hindu College Principal Anju Srivastava told PTI. "I hope her time at Hindu played a part in shaping her path to success." Srivastava highlighted that Hindu College has a rich tradition of student governance. "Hindu College has a long tradition of student government, and we elect a prime minister and a leader of opposition every year. Harini's appointment is another milestone in our college's storied history" she added. Nalin Rajan Singh, now a Bollywood director and a batchmate of Amarasuriya, recalled the early 90s at Hindu College. "I vaguely remember her, but I know she was very involved in college festivals and debates. It was the 90s, and a lot of us — people like .

## 'Sheba' tree, grown from a 1,000-year-old seed, shows promising anti-cancer qualities: Study

**NEW DELHI** A remarkable scientific achievement has emerged from a study involving an ancient seed that is nearly 1,000 years old. This seed, which has been named "Sheba" after a biblical queen, has successfully sprouted into a tree that now stands approximately 10 feet tall following 14 years of careful cultivation. The seed was unearthed during an archaeological

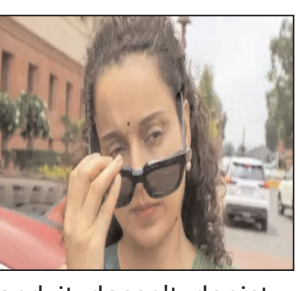


excavation in the Judean Desert in the late 1980s and is believed to date back to a period between 993 and 1202 CE. Researchers speculate that this seed may have belonged to a tree species mentioned in biblical texts, specifically one that is now extinct but once flourished in regions corresponding to modern-day Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. The leaves of

the "Sheba" tree have shown promising medicinal qualities. Chemical analysis reveals that they contain compounds that may have anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties. Researchers identified a series of glycolipid compounds in "Sheba's" resin that, to their knowledge, have not been reported elsewhere. These compounds could have potential medicinal activity in future study.

## Kangana in dock again, BJP condemns MP's remarks on farm laws

**NEW DELHI:** The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday distanced itself from party MP Kangana Ranaut's controversial statement suggesting the government should bring back the repealed farm laws in the interest of the farmers. BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia condemned Kangana's statement and said that she is not authorised to make such statement on behalf of the party



and it doesn't depict BJP's view on the farm bills. "On the social media platforms, BJP MP Kangana Ranaut's statement on the farm bills that was withdrawn by central govt, is going viral. I

want to make it clear that this statement is a personal statement of her," Bhatia said in social media post on X. "Kangana Ranaut is not authorised to make such a statement on behalf of BJP and it doesn't depict BJP's view on the farm bills. We condemn this statement," he added. Talking to reporters, Mandi MP Kangana Ranaut had said, "I think the losses that farmers.

## J&K polls: Stage set for phase 2; Omar Abdullah, Ravinder Raina among key candidates in fray

**NEW DELHI:** The second phase of elections in Jammu and Kashmir is set to take place across 26 constituencies on Wednesday, with over 13,000 polling personnel deployed at 3,500 stations. Voters will choose from 239 candidates in this highly anticipated phase, which covers politically sensitive regions, including the border districts of Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi, as well as the hill areas of Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Budgam. Key political figures in fray Heavyweights from Jammu and Kashmir's politics are contesting in this phase. Former chief minister Omar Abdullah, Apni Party's Altaf Bukhari, and BJP's state unit



president Ravinder Raina are among the prominent leaders seeking election. Ravinder Raina, in particular, is contesting for re-election from Nowshera, facing tough competition from five former ministers and ten ex-legislators. Heightened security in terror-affected areas Security is a major concern in the districts of Rajouri, Poonch, and Reasi, areas that have experienced multiple terror attacks since 2021. Given the proximity to the Line of Control (LoC), extensive security measures have been deployed to ensure a peaceful polling process. The security strategy includes a comprehensive deployment of local police forces and central paramilitary units. Foreign diplomats to observe J&K elections For the first time, the Central government will bring nearly 20 foreign diplomats to Jammu and Kashmir

as election observers. These diplomats will represent countries from ASEAN embassies, including the United States, France, Germany, Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia. This delegation marks the third visit by foreign envoys since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. Over 2.5 million voters to decide results More than 2.5 million voters are expected to cast their ballots in this phase. Rajouri district has the highest number of candidates, with 34 vying for five key seats. Poonch and Reasi are also expected to see strong voter turnout, continuing the trend of high participation in these regions.

### 'Hindus also our citizens': Bangladesh's foreign affairs advisor addresses attacks on minorities

**Md Touhid Hossain**, the foreign affairs advisor of Bangladesh, on Tuesday said that the country's interim government is taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and protection of its citizens adding that "Hindus in Bangladesh are also our citizens." "Any violence that has taken place is being shown as violence against Hindus, this is not correct. I think Indian media needs to come out of this hyping up this issue. We are doing everything possible for the protection of our citizens, and Hindus in Bangladesh are our citizens, we are taking care of them," Hossain said on the reported attacks on minorities and Hindus .

## Israeli strike kills Hezbollah's top missile commander; toll hits 569



**BEIRUT:** Israel said it killed a top commander with Hezbollah's missile and rocket unit Tuesday as the Israeli military traded fire with Hezbollah again and the death toll from a massive Israeli bombing campaign climbed to nearly 570 people. Military officials said Ibrahim Kobeisi, who joined Hezbollah in the 1980s, was responsible for launches towards Israel and planned a 2000 attack in the Mount Dov region in which three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped and

killed. He was killed in a strike on Beirut, the military said, adding that "other key commanders" were with Kobeisi at the time of the strike. But officials did not say whether any of the others were killed or wounded. Israel struck the Hezbollah-controlled area of Beirut for a second consecutive day. Lebanon's health ministry said at least six people were killed and 15 wounded when a building in the Ghobeiry neighbourhood of Beirut was struck.

## Prayagraj metropolis reached figure of 1.25k in BJP membership campaign

Prayagraj: In the first phase of BJP membership campaign, the list of membership campaign till 23rd September has been released by Kashi region today. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that in the list of membership campaign of BJP Kashi region till 23rd September, a total of 1399429 people are in Kashi region. Members have been formed in which Prayagraj metropolis has crossed the figure of 125000 and remains at the third position by forming 125211 members and the city of Prayagraj metropolis remains at the top position in the list of assembly of Kashi region by forming 51286 members while the city of Southern assembly is at the top position with 40120 members. By making members, it remains at the fifth position and the city western assembly has left the ninth place by making 35805 members and has made its place at the seventh position. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani informed that Pratapgarh district is first by making 142808 members, Mirzapur by making 136404 members and Prayagraj metropolis is first by making 125211 members. Is in third place and the list of top 10 assembly of Kashi region is 51286 Prayagraj Metropolitan North Assembly (First), 46932 Varanasi Cantt, (Second,) 42953 Pratapgarh (Third), 41234 Syed Raja, Fourth 40120 City South (Fifth,) 38985 Mirzapur (6th) and 35805 Prayagraj Metropolitan City remains at seventh position by becoming member of Western Assembly. BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra will achieve the target of our first phase membership campaign by 25th September.

## BJP workers welcomed pilgrims from Orissa

Prayagraj: Pilgrims from Orissa who came to Prayagraj to visit Ayodhya, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra



Mishra welcomed the workers. He was welcomed and felicitated by wearing Ang Vastram and garland and made arrangements to stay in CPS Hotel Civil Line. Invited him to come to Prayagraj Mahakumbh and left for Orissa. Among those who welcomed him were Neeraj Pandey, Prashant Shukla, Rajesh Kesarwani, Rakesh Bharti, Vivek Mishra, Vijay Srivastava, Deep Dwivedi, Kuldeep Mishra, etc. were workers.

## Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji's birth anniv today

Prayagraj: On 25 September, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji's birth anniversary will celebrate BJP In 2017, tribute will be paid to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji in the statue park of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji located at Balsan intersection. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that apart from this, tribute will be paid to the statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji in all the 1216 booths of Prayagraj metropolis. A seminar based on his life philosophy will be organized.

## 310 members joined BJP under Abhilasha's leadership

Prayagraj: Former Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandiji, under the Mahaparva Membership Campaign 2024 of the organization of Bharatiya Janata Party, around 310 members were given membership by organizing a camp at Muthiganj Chhota Chauraha intersection under BJP



Prayagraj Metropolitan BJP Muthiganj Mandal by download the Narendra Modi app and offline form. After that, every person at that place was inspired to join BJP. Abhilasha Gupta Nandi gave information about the schemes run by the Honorable Prime Minister and asked the businessmen of all the areas to reach the party on the number 8800002024 and put stickers. During this, Board President Kishori Lal Jaiswal, Parmanand Verma, Sudhanshu Tripathi, Sunil Jaiswal, Sachin Jaiswal, Vinay Jaiswal, Anshuk Chaurasia, Malti Kesarwani, Satya Jaiswal, Shubham Sahu, Rajesh Pareek, Rohit Bharti, Prince Gupta etc. were present.

## SP State President to meet ex-city Qazi's bereaved family

Prayagraj: SP State President Shyam Lal Pal will visit the residence of former city Qazi at 9:30 am. State President of Samajwadi Party, respected Shyam Lal Pal ji will visit the residence of former city Qazi, late Maqbool Hussain Habibi Saheb, located at Chakia Nai Abadi today, 25th September at 9:30 am. He will go to meet the bereaved family and express condolences.

# Cong aims to stifle the ruling BJP in Haryana: Shekhar Bahuguna Predicted a clean sweep for Grand Old Party

Prayagraj: "Unlike the political upheaval in the state that resulted in a hung assembly verdict in 2019, the situation is very different this time. As seen by the general election results, there has been an increase in anti-incumbency sentiment against the ruling BJP. The party's vote share and number of seats both dropped dramatically. Generally speaking, the Congress remains the primary adversary to the BJP's effort to establish a government for the third time in the background of its better-than-expected performance in the Lok Sabha polls, mostly owing to the convergence of Jat, farmer, and Dalit votes in its favour,"

says senior Congress leader, Shekhar Bahuguna while interacting with mediapersons on Tuesday. He was holding a presser after returning from Haryana, where he was engaged in hectic campaigning for Congress candidates and based on his observation predicted a clean sweep for Grand Old Party in upcoming assembly polls.

"During my journey to Faridabad, I encountered Rakesh, a local citizen who stated that the village's backing had moved. Voters initially supported the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), but then switched to the JJP after the INLD split in 2019. However, the

villagers appear to be drifting towards the Congress party, motivated by a year-

previous elections show that SC voters are more aligned with either the Congress or



ing for change in the state and Bhupinder Hooda's undeniable influence," he opined.

According to him, pre-

the BJP, reducing the potential usefulness of the INLD-BSP alliance. "These altering political dynamics in Haryana reflect a move

away from the traditionally dominating family-based political system, as new alliances and shifting voter emotions continue to transform the state's political scene," he claimed.

"In Haryana's political environment, Bhupinder Hooda stands out as a towering figure whose influence endures even a decade after his term as Chief Minister. Hooda, who served from 2005 to 2014, was Haryana's first Chief Minister to win two consecutive terms. His legacy includes revolutionary initiatives such as the Metro-Lane expansion to Bahadurgarh and Gurugram, as well as the "Padak Lao, Pad Pad Pao"

(Bring a medal, get a government job) campaign, which is still warmly remembered by citizens. Despite a decade away from the state's highest office, Hooda's influence spans beyond castes and regions, solidifying his status as a strong political power. Under his leadership, the Haryana Congress has launched the Haryana Mange Hisab Yatra, a statewide campaign to address pressing issues such as unemployment, irregularities in the Parivar Pehchan Patra, Agniveer recruitment, drug addiction, and alleged corruption scandals from the previous decade of BJP rule," he opined prior to signing off.

## UP government plans to establish 58 Centers of Excellence to boost state institutions to global levels

Authorized a budget of Rs 3.88 crore

Lucknow: In a huge endeavour to raise higher education to global standards, the Uttar Pradesh government plans to build 58 Centers of Excellence at the state's eight main institutions. This project intends to improve research, innovation, and teaching quality, therefore making the state's universities more competitive on a national and worldwide scale.

The government has authorized a budget of Rs 3.88 crore for fiscal year 2024-25. The monies will be utilized to offer cutting-edge facilities, ensuring that students and educators are prepared to face future problems. Yogendra Upadhyay, UP Higher Education Minister, said here

on Tuesday that the state government is dedicated to preparing the state's institutions to meet global standards.

He emphasized that the construction of Centers of Excellence around the state would not only provide students with new opportunities for research and technical competence, but will also improve the overall quality of education in these institutions. The minister also stated that the government's objective is to provide a platform where UP students may use world-class education and resources to define their careers. The effort intends to provide students with the tools they need to compete on a global scale, while also

encouraging innovation and academic achievement at the state's institutions. As part of the 'Center of Excellence' plan, eight outstanding institutions in UP have been chosen to improve academic quality and research capacity.

This scheme includes the following universities: Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly; Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur; Lucknow University; Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, Ayodhya; Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti Bhasha University, Lucknow; Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi; Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University,

Lucknow; and Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur.

He stated that the initiative will provide these universities with cutting-edge research equipment, upgraded library facilities, and access to digital resources. "The introduction of project fellows will encourage students to participate in research and innovation, giving them more chances in academia and industry. The government will rigorously oversee the execution of 'Centers of Excellence' initiatives in accordance with set rules. Regular progress reports will guarantee that institutions continue to satisfy increasing criteria of excellence," claimed Yogendra Upadhyay.

## Headphones, re-mastered: Introducing Dyson OnTrac headphones

Varanasi: Today, Dyson unveiled its first high-fidelity, audio-only headphones: the Dyson OnTrac™ headphones in India. The much-anticipated product was introduced at a launch event in New Delhi by Jake Dyson, Chief Engineer alongside India's Dyson OnTrac™ headphones Ambassador and music icon Badshah. Additionally, they premiered the trailer of the upcoming OTT show 'OnTrac to Stardom' which offers viewers an inside look at Badshah's creative process in making music.

India's Dyson OnTrac™ headphones Ambassador Badshah."As one of the early users of Dyson OnTrac™ headphones in India, I'm truly amazed by their exceptional sound quality, innovative design, and all-day comfort.

They're not just advanced in terms of technology, but they also resonate with my personal style and creative approach. Dyson embodies the same spirit of innovation that I strive for as an artist. I'm especially excited for the upcoming 'OnTrac to Stardom' show where audiences will get an inside look at my journey in creating music."

The Dyson OnTrac™ headphones offer best-in-class noise cancellation<sup>1</sup> and deliver up to 55 hours<sup>2</sup> of immersive listening. With over 2,000 customisable colour combinations for outer caps and ear cushions, each ear cushion is crafted from ultra-soft microfiber and high-grade foam for superior comfort and acoustic seal. Multipivot gimbal arms and a uniquely positioned battery

in the headband ensure balanced weight distribution.

Jake Dyson, Chief Engineer: "People in India share Dyson's appreciation for high quality audio, design and style. The Dyson OnTrac headphones deliver best-in-class ANC, exceptional sound quality, and all-day comfort. We've also invested significantly in making the Dyson OnTrac a customisable product that complements the rich and diverse personal styles and the iconic music culture of people in India. These headphones embody Dyson's audio engineering mission to preserve the integrity of the artist's sound wave, free from interference."

Best-in-Class Noise Cancellation: To create an optimal listening environment, the Dyson OnTrac™ features a custom Active

Noise Cancellation (ANC) algorithm which uses 8 microphones, sampling external sound 384,000 times a second. This combines with superior materials and carefully designed internal geometry to cancel up to 40dB of unwanted noise.

Enhanced Sound Range: With 40mm, 16-ohm neodymium speaker drivers and advanced audio signal processing, the Dyson OnTrac™ ensures that every note or word is delivered with precision. The headphones reproduce frequencies from as low as 6 Hertz to as high as 21,000 Hertz, providing deep sub-bass that you can feel, and clear highs at the upper end of the frequency range. Meanwhile, the speaker housing tilted 13° towards the ear for a more direct audio response.

## Demand for two-wheelers on Flipkart has soared by 6x

Prayagraj: Flipkart, India's leading e-commerce platform, is gearing up for the festive season by redefining the two-wheeler shopping experience. The marketplace platform offers a diverse mix of petrol and electric two-wheelers from leading brands like Hero, Bajaj, TVS, Ola, Chetak, Jawa, Yezdi, Vida, Ather and more. With an extensive reach, covering over 12,000 pin codes across more than 700 cities, Flipkart is providing an unmatched convenience, affordability and reliability to customers nationwide, making this festive period the perfect time to ride into the celebrations with style. Customers can also benefit from affordable financing options, including 5% unlimited cashback on Flipkart Axis Bank Credit Card, special deals from leading banks, and loyalty benefits through Supercoins, making the process even more rewarding.

Jagjeet Harode, Vice President - Electronics, at Flipkart, said: "At Flipkart, we are dedicated to transforming the two-wheeler shopping experience for our customers. Our goal is to provide unmatched convenience and transparency, ensuring that every customer, whether in a city or semi-urban area, can easily find and purchase the perfect

two-wheeler. Our range caters to both petrol and electric two-wheeler enthusiasts, reflecting our commitment to meeting the varied needs of our customers. We've introduced innovative features to empower our customers to make well-informed decisions confidently. By offering exceptional value through affordability, trust, and a wide selection, Flipkart has solidified its position as the premier destination for two-wheeler shoppers."

"At Flipkart, we're committed to delivering a seamless, convenient, and transparent experience for customers purchasing two-wheelers. Our platform provides comprehensive and user-friendly On-Road Pricing, including insurance and registration, all in one place. Customers can complete the entire purchase process—insurance, registration, and financing—from the comfort of their homes, supported by expert audio/video guidance. Additionally, advanced features like 3D and augmented reality enable customers to visualize two-wheelers in their own environment, ensuring a more informed and enhanced shopping experience," said Ravi Krishnan, Head of Category Experiences Product at Flipkart.

## Initiative in Naini Jail by Rotary Alld Midtown

Women prisoners trained to become empowered through handicrafts

Prayagraj: Rotary Allahabad Midtown, in collaboration with Mahila Vyapar Mandal, launched a unique initiative in Naini Jail on Tuesday, 24th September, aimed at women prisoners. To be empowered through handicrafts.



Handmade paper was distributed under this project, which was provided by Rotary member Sudhir Poddar. Along with this, the prisoners were also given necessary materials like fevicol and ribbons for making paper bags and envelopes. Rotarian Anuragini Singh also conducted a demonstration showing how prisoners can make paper products using these materials. Club President Radha Saxena said this initiative will not only promote sustainability but also help in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

## Organization of research workshop on DIET

Prayagraj: There may be surrounding problems, subject of research, said Professor Sandeep Kumar Malhotra) The above ideas were given by Professor of Zoology Department of Allahabad University. Sandeep Kumar Malhotra while addressing the research workshop. Under the direction of DIET Principal and Deputy Education Director Rajendra Pratap, research work is being done on the topic 'Study of innovations and challenges in the



use of science kit', whose coordinator is Dr. Ambalika Mishra and co-convenors Prabhshankar Sharma and Poonam Choudhary. In this workshop, questionnaires were filled with teachers along with discussions regarding the challenges faced in schools in the practical use of science kits. These data will be used for research work. Dr. S.K. was present as the guest in this program. Singh, Vivek Tripathi and Dr. Anita Yadav presented their views on the practical use of science kit. At the closing ceremony of the program, coordinator Dr. Ambalika Mishra expressed gratitude to all the guests present.

## Devotees went to Dham for salvation of ancestors

Prayagraj: On the first day of the month of interview with the ancestors, with the blessings of God the Supreme Father and the ancestors, Shri Rajendra Prasad ji and Shri Awadhesh Shukla ji, residents of Sheshpur village of the area, with the blessings of all the villagers for the salvation of the ancestors. They went on a pilgrimage to Shri Jagannath Dham. After the last two days of Pind Daan and worship with complete rituals and listening to the story of Gaya Mahatmya, Shri Rajendra Prasad ji and Shri Awadhesh ji started their journey along with the procession on 23rd September, seeking the good wishes of all the people. Before this, all the members of the Shukla family and the villagers took the blessings of the Vice-Chancellor and the noble people, after that all the area residents toured the city with the chief devotee Shri Rajendra Prasad ji and Shri Awadhesh Shukla ji while playing drums and raising enthusiastic slogans of Shri Gaya Dham ji. Bid farewell with best wishes for his pleasant journey.

## Govt should give appropriate compensation to families of deceased girls: Ujjwal

Prayagraj: Expressing condolences to the family of the deceased girls in the tragic accident that took place in Samhan Meja, MP Ujjwal Raman Singh said that this accident has become a big tragedy for the family of the deceased girls, may God bear it. The MP demanded from the state government that immediate compensation should be given to the families of the deceased daughters and the injured should be treated free of cost in a big hospital.

## Handicraft items on display at Gandhi Craft Bazaar

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, the Gandhi Craft Bazaar has been organized at Maidan Rambagh Prayagraj, sponsored by the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of Handicrafts and Textiles, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and organized by the Upkar Samiti Rupapur Opium Kothi Pratapgarh. Gandhi will run from 17th September to 26th September 2024. In the craft market, the art of artisans and craftsmen from all over India is displayed. The Government of India and itself organizes such events to promote Sahasra and provide a market to the handicraftsmen. In the Gandhi Craft Market, handicraft items from different states of India are displayed. This market has been set up for the exhibition and sale of Gandhi Crafts. Mainly in the market, Tant Saree, Stone Jewellery Terracotta, Jaipuri Quilt, Silver Jewellery Rajasthan Jutti, Gujarati Saree, Patch Work, Katha Cushion Cover of Bengal, Lac Bangles, Hyderabad Pearl Work, Bedsheet, Sofa, Leather etc. Jewellery from Andhra Pradesh, Chanderi saree, Phulkari from Madhya Pradesh and shoes from Punjab have become the main attractions of the craft market. Gandhi Craft Bazaar, a market to promote Swadeshi, must be visited.

## CISCE National Basketball Tournament: UP & UK team register glorious victory against K'taka

Prayagraj: Boys' High School and College, Prayagraj, is thrilled to announce the remarkable achievement of its students, Praygan Yadav, Maulik Sharma, and Zidan Khan, who played pivotal roles in securing the gold medal for the Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand (UP & UK) team at the CISCE National Basketball Tournament 2024. The presti-



gious event was held at St. Joseph School, Greater Noida. Praygan Yadav and Maulik Sharma showcased exceptional skills and pivotal moves during the CISCE National Basketball Tournament 2024, leading the UP & UK team to a glorious victory against Karnataka.

Together, Praygan, Maulik, and Zidan formed a formidable trio, showcasing teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship, leading their team to a well-deserved victory with a final score of 64-50 against Karnataka. Their success at the CISCE National Basketball Tournament is a testament to their talent and the excellent training they have received at Boys' High School and College.

## Preserving life by giving CPR and basic assistance to unconscious individual: Dr. Shanti Chaudhary

Prayagraj: You can be saved from death by providing timely medical care through life-saving cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). In a one-day medical awareness program organized by All India Mahila Parishad Subodhini City Branch at Dr. C.P. Sharma Classes in Tagore Town, Anesthesia and Critical Care Specialist Dr. Rajeev Gautam, while giving pictorial information about CPR, said that artificial health and CPI. Stopped breathing and heart rate can be revived by this. Dr. Shanti Chaudhary, Standing Committee Member of All India Women's Conference



Subodhini City Branch, Allahabad, introducing the topic, said that one can live without food for a month, without water for a week, but it is difficult to live for a moment without oxygen. Service is our biggest religion. Do not ignore the accident victims but can help in saving life by providing CPR and first aid to the unconscious person. Ravi Shankar Dwivedi of Civil Defense, who was awarded the President's Medal, told important things about first aid. Experts resolved the queries of the students. At the beginning of the program, Dr. C.P. Sharma welcomed and finally A. I.W. Secretary of C. Jyoti Srivastava expressed vote of thanks. Patron of the organization Jamnatri Gupta, senior members Dr. Geeta Kaura, Subhash Rathi, Priya Narayan, Rajlakshmi Shukla, Dr. Rashmi Shukla contributed in this program. Hundreds of students benefited from this.

## Zila Mahila Vyapar Mandal making women prisoners self reliant

Prayagraj: With the joint efforts of District Mahila Vyapar Mandal and Rotary Allahabad Mid Town, clothes and handmade paper were made available to provide employment opportunities to the female prisoners of Central Naini Jail. Through this initiative, efforts are being made to make the women captives self-reliant. Earlier, the labor cost of the swings made of clothes provided by the District Mahila Vyapar Mandal was also provided to the women, which provided them financial assistance. Women were motivated to take part in new purposes of employment in the newly constructed Central Jail, such as making bags, envelopes, and shopping bags and become self-reliant. In making this work successful, Senior Superintendent Amita Dubey, Superintendent Rang Bahadur at Central Naini Jail And the efficient direction and guidance of Karawal Shailendra Pratap Singh had an important contribution. She inspired the women prisoners to participate in various workshops and manufacture handmade products. Along with this, through meditation camps organized by Heartfulness organization, women prisoners were also helped in becoming mentally and spiritually strong.

President of District Mahila Vyapar Mandal, Smt.



Avantika Tandon said, "Through such activities we can empower women economically and bring stability in their lives." General Secretary Smt. Pallavi Arora informed that the garments and products manufactured by these women will be displayed in various exhibitions and Diwali fairs, so that their benefits will directly reach the people of

Prayag. Treasurer Mrs. Hina Khan said, "By empowering the weakest section of the society, we can empower the entire society." President of Rotary Allahabad Mid Town, Smt. Radha Saxena assured that regular meditation camps will continue to be organized through Heartfulness organization, which will provide an opportunity to women for self-development. President of Prayag Vyapar Mandal, Shri Rana Chawla and President of Missionary Organization, Shri Amrish Khurana assured full support to the District Mahila Vyapar Mandal and said that they will stand shoulder to shoulder in this initiative. On this occasion, Mrs. Anuragini Singh, Mrs. Mamta Aggarwal and Mr. Channi Bhaiya were also present. Avantika Tandon, Pallavi Arora, Hina Khan, Radha Saxena, Anuragini Singh, Mamta Aggarwal, Rana Chawla, Channi Bhaiya, Ambrosh Khurana had special contributions.

## UP and UK win CISCE National Football Championship in Kerala

Prayagraj: In a remarkable display of talent and determination, Boys' High School and College footballers have been selected to the Sports and Games Federation of India (SGFI). The students have excelled at the National Football Tournament, earning accolades, and setting the stage for future success. They are thrilled to congratulate the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Under-14 team for becoming Champions at the CISCE National Football Tournament held in Kerala defeating other states and UAE team. The exceptional performances of Shubham Yadav, Divyanshu Banaudha, Sitanshu Sonkar, and Mohammad Hammad earned them well-deserved spots in the upcoming SGFI games.

A special mention goes to Divyanshu Banaudha for his leadership as captain of the Under-14 UP and UK team, and to Shubham Yadav for his remarkable

skills as a goalkeeper, both of whom made a significant impact on the team's success. Additionally, it is commendable that Sani Sharma has been selected to repre-



sent the CISCE board in the Under-19 category at the SGFI level, demonstrating his consistent excellence on the field.

They are also proud to announce that Fernando Preston of Boys' High School and College has been selected as the coach for the CISCE Under-14 Nationals team, which will be participating in the SGFI

Games to be held in Maharashtra. Further highlighting the talent and dedication within the school.

The unwavering support from the school's prin-

icipal, academic supervisor, event manager, teachers and coaches has been instrumental in these outstanding achievements. They look forward to seeing these young athletes continue their success in the SGFI game. The Principal of Boys' High School and College D.A. Luke has awarded them with scholarship and free boarding.

## SPG security demanded for RaGa

Prayagraj: Activists sent a memorandum to His Excellency the President through District Magistrate Prayagraj for giving SPG security cover to Leader of Opposition Shri Rahul Gandhi and against the violent statements made by Modi government ministers and BJP leaders. It was given under the leadership of Advocate Sahajadul Haq Haldi District President Minority Jamuna Par Congress Party Allahabad and Rohit Kushwaha ji District President Backward Propost and Ehtesham Hussain Ganga Par District President Minority G and State General Secretary Narendra Adivasi ji Anil Kushwaha ji Parvez Siddiqui ji Sunil Yadav ji Manoj Pasi ji Santosh Singh ji, Mahmood Ahmed ji, Zaid Sheikh ji, Sultan Sheikh ji, Wasi Abbas ji, Asad Siddiqui, Ghulam Waris ji, Raju Khan ji and etc. were present.

## Gathering organized by Anjuman Naqvia at Asghar Manzil, Daryabad

Prayagraj: On behalf of Anjuman Naqvia, Asghar Manzil, many poets recited qasidas in the gathering of Jashn, Mursale-e-Azam and Eid-e-Zahra. Maulana Aamirur Rizvi started the gathering with Hadith-e-Kisa. Under the guidance of Raunaq Safipuri, Maulana Syed Zair Hussain Naqvi made a special statement on Jashne Mursale-e-Azam and Eid-e-Zahra. Poets Sharib Rizvi, Irfan Lakhnavi, Aman



Zaidi, Azhar Allahabadi, Shaheer Ralvi, Javed Dulhipuri, Ishan Koralvi, Hashim Bandvi, Asghar Daryabadi, Abid Sonvi, Dr. Qamar Abdi, Amirur Rizvi, Najeeb Allahabadi made the atmosphere pleasant with their excellent poetry. On behalf of Anjuman Naqvia, former Secretary and Patron of Anjuman Aijaz Haider Zaidi was honored by giving bouquets and shawls at the hands of Hasan Naqvi and Olama. Asghar Manzil was attractively decorated with colorful lights and chandeliers in Mehfil-e-Masrat. On the spot, Maulana Mohammad Ali Gauhar, Zafar Haider, Hasan Naqvi, Zulqarnain Abdi, Qibla Naqvi, Shujaat Rizvi, Shahan Zaidi, Neyazul Hasan, Zafar Raza, Wasiul Hasan Rizvi, r Abbas Jafri, Haider Abbas Naqvi, Baqer Mehndi, Zargam Haider, Syed Mohammad Askari etc. were included.

## Shri Krishna's birth anniversary celebrated with pomp

Prayagraj: While praising the story of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha on the fifth day in the knowledge library organized by Shri Prachin Dadhikando Mela Committee, Krishna Nagar Triveni Marg, Kidganj, Pandit Batuk Ji Maharaj said that Shrimad Bhagwat gives a historical description of the incarnations of God and not Narayan Padam. It is a great step to attain and said that whenever unrighteousness and demonic powers start increasing on this earth and start destroying humanity, then Shri Hari Narayan takes birth in some form or the other to protect the religion and when Dwapar When the tyranny of Kansa started increasing in the era, then Lord Shri Krishna incarnates on earth to destroy the demonic powers and the religion and protects the religion by destroying the demonic powers. On



this occasion, before this, Vyas Ji Maharaj had written about Vaman Charitra Ramcharitra. Narrated the story of Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani told that in today's story, the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Krishna was celebrated with pomp. Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani adopted the character of Vasudev to take Lord Shri Krishna to Gokul. On this occasion, Mahant Durgadas of Panchayati Akhara, Nirmani Akhara's Yamunapuri Maharaj and BJP leader Rais Chandra Shukla performed Aarti. On this occasion, Manish Kesarwani, Krishna Sahu, Rajesh Kesarwani, Amresh Jaiswal, Ajay Jaiswal, Lallan Jaiswal, Vivek Aggarwal, Pappu Katra, Mukesh Kasera, etc. were among the devotees.

## Red Cross always performed duty of saving lives by staying in front line: Nandi

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi attended the swearing-in ceremony of Red Cross Society members at Sangam Auditorium on Tuesday. Minister Nandi administered the oath to the newly appointed members. Indian Red Cross Society Lucknow State Branch Uttar Pradesh General Secretary Dr. Hema Bindu Nayak, Vice President Akhilendra Pratap Shahi, Treasurer Arun Kumar Singh along with newly elected Chairman Dr. Ashu Pandey, Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Tiwari, Treasurer Dr. Rohit Pandey. All the members and office bearers took oath. Minister Nandi said that Red Cross Society is known all over the world for its social work. Providing treatment to the injured and patients in various situations during war or peace time, as well as always being prepared for such emergencies, shows the organization's sense of duty towards society and humanity. He said that in

today's times, natural disasters have increased and their impact has also become widespread, in such a situation the Red Cross has

prevent many diseases through various awareness programs is also a praiseworthy task. Minister Nandi said that our government

health services with the resolution of One District One Medical College. On this occasion, Dr. Ashu Pandey, Chief Medical Officer/Chair-



always performed the duty of saving lives by staying in the front line.

The contribution of the Red Cross Society in limiting the loss of life due to disaster cannot be appreciated enough. This is a divine work. Along with this, making people aware about health and preparing them to

has provided first aid and other medical facilities even to the most deprived person of the society. The contributions and efforts of Red Cross Society in this direction are helpful in achieving our goal of building a healthy Uttar Pradesh. Our government has given special priority to improving

man, Indian Red Cross Society Prayagraj welcomed all the guests and highlighted the work being done by the Red Cross Society in Prayagraj district. At the end of the program, thanks were given by Dr. Arun Kumar Tiwari, District Tuberculosis Officer/Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society Prayagraj.

## Bishop Johnson Girls School, Katra in troubled waters

Prayagraj: Bishop Johnson Girls School, located on Mission Road, is once again becoming tense. After the appointment of former accountant Sanjay Singh, teachers are now adamant on demanding their outstanding salary of about 18 months. The teachers said that the PF, which had stopped during the tenure of Parul Solomon, already has more than 18 months' salary outstanding, regarding which the teachers have protested in the past too, but the issue is now being suppressed by the management and financial irregularities are being blamed. The accomplice to the execution, former Bishop Peter Baldev and his advisor, has once again been appointed with the connivance of the management. The teachers also said that the former accountant, at the behest of the then management, made the teachers sign fake outstanding salary slips and pocketed the entire money. Giving information, the teachers said that on the complaint of Bishop Morris Edgar Dan of Diocese of Lucknow, taking cognizance of the PF scam during the tenure of former Principal Parul Solomon, the Chief Minister has handed over the investigation to the STF, which is being investigated by the STF. The teachers have held the former management and their close accountant Sanjay Singh responsible for this. The teachers made it clear that if the outstanding salaries are not paid then all the teachers will submit a memorandum to the STF demanding an investigation.

The teachers also alleged that Md. Anees alias Ashish, husband of newly appointed Principal Shirley Masih, is now working with the former accountant to defraud the school and the institution. According to the teachers, Mohd. Anees alias Ashish has no right to interfere in the matters of school management, on which Bishop Morris Edgar Dan has also objected, but despite this, his interference in school decisions has increased and now he is giving trouble to the Bishop. On the other hand, teachers have also appealed to DEB Secretary Rakesh Chhattri to take action and demanded that acting principal Shirley Masih be removed from the post and the post be given to someone more qualified.

## Editorial

### Clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong

President George W Bush was famous for his quite often hilarious gaffes, but he has been receiving steady competition from the 81-year-old President Joe Biden. The latest Biden pronouncement may be more by way of a clumsy and ill-informed analogy gone wrong. Luckily for him, his presidential election rival, the almost 78-year-old Donald Trump, makes quite a few bloopers too.

Republican contender, former President Donald Trump, may be tough on Mexican immigrants with his infamous, if not too effective, border fence and wall, but Democrat Joe Biden, the incumbent president, is in harmony with the Democratic Party pro-immigration stance. This even in the face of internal advice that he should tough talk on the same border issue. Of course, hordes of poor and largely illiterate illegal immigrants in 2024 who don't speak English are not as welcome as they were in the 1870s. In the 19th century and before, immigrants, largely from Europe, slaves brought in from Africa, and some immigration from China, helped to populate the vast country. They threw out the British colonists, pushed back the French and Mexicans, subdued the native Red Indians, built the engines of growth, and even fought a civil war amongst themselves. Immigrants, many originally poor and persecuted in their erstwhile home countries, have been a crucial feature of American DNA. This is what Biden meant, but perhaps he should have stopped right there. Immigrants into America are known and lauded for their hard work, ingenuity, and grit, and Biden was addressing a crowd of mostly Asian Americans. More recently, the brilliant IIT educated ones from India, its 'brain drain' and America's gain, have been most useful in building America's preeminence in IT, other technology, and commerce. Scores of Indian-origin CEOs of marquee companies on the Nasdaq and S&P 100 indices have led to the joke that you can't be CEO in America if you aren't Indian. It is a complete makeover of the earlier American image of India as a land of teeming poverty, with tigers, snake charmers, and fakirs thrown in. President Joe Biden, keen to distinguish his candidature from that of Donald Trump, decided to praise immigrants at a campaign reception fundraiser. On the campaign trail for Biden 1.0, he had vowed to enact legislation to make the immigration process more 'humane' in contrast to President Trump's mostly intended, but not implemented, harsh measures. This time, too, Trump is speaking of deportations. However, as president, Biden could not make much progress on immigration legislation without bipartisan support because of surges of illegal immigration at the southern border. And calls, certainly from Republicans, but even from Democrats, to seal the border and crack down on asylum seekers. Some went so far as to call for banning asylum altogether. But the consensus is that, at this fundraiser, Biden let his analogies run away with him. Biden said American allies and partners Japan and India are struggling economically 'because they're xenophobic'. He included 'frenemy' China and combatant Russia in the illustration as well. Japan is opening up to a cautious immigration policy as it grapples with its diminishing and ageing population, and its economy has been showing signs of recovery from a 25-year-long recession. It is keen, however, not to import terrorism and other social upheavals into its very well-ordered culture. India is the most populous country in the world, with 65 per cent of its people under the age of 35. It is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, with 6-7 per cent GDP growth per annum.

## Global strategic oil storage: China is stockpiling, India must boost reserves

Petroleum products continue to be strategic assets that are still the drivers of all transportation, significant electricity production, and many industrial processes. Petroleum and gas reserves are nature's blessing to only a few select regions of the world. Most large economies in Europe, China, Japan, and India, among others, are major importers of petroleum products. Global strategic petroleum reserves refer to crude oil inventories (or stockpiles) held by the government of a particular country, as well as private industry, to safeguard the economy and help maintain national security during an energy crisis. Strategic reserves are intended to be used to cover short-term supply disruptions. The Ukraine war once again emphasised the need for logistic supply chain management and how disruptions can upset any country's strategic and tactical intentions. They also impact the day-to-day lives of the citizens. The disruption of electric power, petrol, and gas in winter 2022 in Europe and Ukraine was severe.

American sanctions on Iranian and Russian oil have greatly upset demand and supply dynamics. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) often operates as a cartel to control production and thus



influence prices. There is thus a need for all importing nations to not only broaden the basket of sourcing countries but also to build their own strategic storage capacities.

### Global Petroleum Reserves

The world consumes roughly 100 million barrels of crude oil per day. This translates to 36.5 billion barrels per year. The proven global oil reserves currently are nearly 1,650 billion barrels, and that will last nearly 45 years. For the last one decade there has been no addition to known oil reserves. Major countries with percentages of reserves are Venezuela (18.2 per cent), Saudi Arabia (16.2 per cent), Canada (10.4 per cent), Iran (9.5 per cent), Iraq (8.7 per cent), Kuwait (6.1 per cent), UAE (5.9 per cent), Russia (4.8 per cent), Libya (2.9 per cent), United States (2.1 per cent), China (1.5 per cent), India (0.29 per cent), and Pakistan (0.021

per cent), among many others.

### Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves

The International Energy Agency (IEA), a group of 31 countries, requires members to hold strategic reserves equal to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, though commercial stockpiles can be included in that total. Only net-exporter members of the IEA are exempt from this requirement. The forward commercial storage agreements allow oil-exporting countries increased flexibility in commercial storage and allow petroleum to be stored within an oil-importing country. Such reserves remain technically under the control of the oil-exporting country.

In 2022, approximately 4.1 billion barrels of oil were held in strategic reserves by IEA member states, of which 1.4 billion were government-controlled and the remain-

der were held by private industry. The US, China (non-IEA member), and Japan are leading crude oil consumers and maintain the largest SPR. Many other non-IEA countries have started working on their own SPR.

### China's Strategic Petroleum Reserves

China has the second largest storage, at 511 million barrels. China's daily consumption is around 12 million barrels of crude. Thus, their SPR is equivalent to between 40 and 50 days of imports. China eventually wants to raise the figure to 90 days of reserve. Russia has been the major supplier to China of late, contributing as much as 2.14 million barrels per day, overtaking Saudi Arabia. Russian oil was substantially discounted due to Western sanctions. Stockpiling partly insulates Beijing from the supply chain and pricing dynamics. Also, larger stocks will be required for a possible Taiwan Strait conflict that could result in a military blockade or economic or trade sanctions. China has also secured supply chains through pipelines from Russia, the trans-Myanmar oil and gas pipeline, and from central Asia, predominantly Turkmenistan.

Simultaneously, China is rapidly shifting to electric vehicles and is not only building lithium stocks for batteries but has also acquired pro-

cessing facilities and mines, including overseas. Investment bank UBS estimates that China might control a third of all global lithium supplies by 2025. The US SPR is the world's largest, with an authorised maximum capacity of 727 million barrels. The reserves are kept in salt caverns located at different locations along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. The US consumed an average of about 20.01 million barrels of petroleum per day. It was a net petroleum exporter of 1.64 million barrels per day in 2023. It thus has the capacity to play around with the SPR. The US government has historically tapped into its SPR following man-made accidents, economic crises, and natural disasters, though it has also sold and loaned crude oil from the SPR to other nations at times. Japan held SPR equivalent to 133 days of crude oil imports in early 2022. That amounts to 332 million barrels based on the country's average monthly imports in 2021. Commercial stocks amounted to 86 days of imports. Japanese SPR storage is spread across nearly a dozen facilities. South Africa has an SPR storage capacity of 45 million barrels, managed by PetroSA. Singapore has sophisticated oil refineries and storage terminals, is one of the world's major oil refining centres.

## Rafah offensive and war in Gaza

A girl walks next to a tent sprayed with a message in solidarity with pro-Palestinian university students, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinians, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, May 2, 2024. Image: REUTERS

The war in Gaza is due to complete seven months on May 7, marking the longest war in Gaza since Israel's voluntary vacation of Gaza in 2005. Contrary to expectations, borne more out of Israel's enormous military superiority against Hamas as well as past conflicts in Gaza, the conflict has not ended swiftly. During this time, however, Israeli strikes have flattened Gaza to the ground, making it completely uninhabitable, perhaps for decades. The stench of death and decay overwhelms the thin strip straddling

the Mediterranean Sea, with estimates of over 34,500 deaths, including 13,000 children, and over 77,500 injured and maimed for life. Medical aid, food, and water have been severely restricted, and most international aid agencies, including UNRWA as well as WCK (World Central Kitchen), have been targeted and prevented from delivering lifesaving aid. Despite a UN Security Council resolution of March 25 calling for an immediate ceasefire and the unconditional release of hostages, neither of the warring parties has been able to come to a common understanding.

In the midst of it, there was a period of dangerous escalation when an Israeli strike on April 1 targeted the Iranian Consulate building in Damascus, Syria, resulting in the

deaths of seven members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, the senior-most commander in Lebanon and Syria. Outraged by the attack on its 'sovereign territory', Iran retaliated on April 13 with a massive and well-synchronised attack by drones and missiles. While most of the drones were intercepted mid-air, some of the missiles found their mark and struck the Nevatim Israeli air base in the Negev desert. Nevatim is the air base from which Israel launched its F-35 fighters that attacked the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Despite decades of hostility between Israel and Iran, this was the first time that Iran had launched strikes directly on Israel from its territory.

The prosecutors see this as a criminal act, especially as it led to tax evasion and suppression of information, preventing the American voter from making an informed judgement. Numerous legal experts are not convinced and opine that the case is weak. The Trump legal team tried hard to delay the trial until after the elections or have it shifted to another city. They have been successful in most of the cases, including three prospective criminal trials involving unlawful possession of classified documents by Trump even after demitting office and an attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, to overturn the people's mandate. His lawyers took the stand that their client could not get justice in the Manhattan Court in New York, a bastion of the Democratic Party. They further alleged that Judge Merchan's daughter had a business relationship with the Biden administration, and hence there was a conflict of interest. They demanded that the judge must recuse himself.

Next, they asked that the hearing be deferred until the Supreme Court's decision on Trump's claim of absolute presidential immunity from all public or private actions. They tried to delay the jury selection. None of these worked, prompting intemperate rants from the defendant, despite numerous gag orders by the courts. Earlier this week, Judge Merchan finally cracked the whip, holding

Trump in contempt for nine violations. He imposed a \$1000 fine for each violation, the maximum permitted under the law, while recognising that it may not mean anything to the defendant but ominously cautioning that further violations could even result in his incarceration. Trump is putting up a brave front, but the legal troubles are taking their toll. He is short of funds; his campaign has lost some momentum, as he is obliged to be present in court for eight hours or more, four days a week. It may possibly have even begun to sow doubts in the minds of some supporters. In any event, his family members are conspicuously absent at the trials.

Some of his former friends and associates, including former Vice President Mike Pence, have gone cold or even turned hostile. That is not to say that his grip over the party has weakened. Very few in the Republican Party dare to cross swords with him. He continues to be ahead of President Biden in opinion polls by 4 to 6 percentage points. That brings us back to the question about the timing of the court cases. The 'hush-money' case dates back eight years, and the other criminal cases date back at least three years. The civilian cases also go back in time. What were the prosecutors doing all these years? Even if he had immunity from prosecution as president, it has been over three years since he relinquished office. Is it a mere hap-

penance that a flurry of court cases has come up for hearing bang in the middle of the presidential campaign? If they have coalesced organically at this juncture, it is indeed too much of a coincidence! Given the stakes involved, it is prudent not to take things at face value. The Biden administration naturally maintains that the Department of Justice and courts are independent and that it has no role to play. True, division of power is enshrined in the Constitution, but is it so watertight? Trump and his followers blame the White House for master-minding his legal troubles. He has been calling President Biden 'crooked' besides deploying even more colourful language. He describes the trials as an "assault on America". Be that as it may, it is a no-loss proposition for the ruling Democrats. If Trump is disqualified, the Republican campaign could be thrown into disarray. At the very least, the renewed spotlight on Trump's character-flaws and misdemeanours is bound to dent his standing with the independents and moderate Republicans voters. And yet the greatest irony is that, come November, Trump could very well succeed in reclaiming the high office. All court cases could then instantly vanish in thin air, and everything could be forgiven if not forgotten. Would therefore one be wrong to surmise that when it comes to the rich and powerful, the wheels of justice.

## Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone

West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lower Dibang Valley, Anjaw, and Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh adjoining Tibet and Myanmar is a geostrategic milestone. It was conceived in 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2027. Work in this direction has started at a quick pace. This shows the urgency and importance India gives to its territorial integrity. The infrastructural development that China has brought along the McMahon Line is quite extensive. The frontier highway is a precise and direct response to this and to curb China's irrationality. The highway will become an all-weather road to handle any geopolitical and geostrategic pres-

sure likely to emanate from the other side of the border. From Tawang to Vijayanagar, which covers the entire border space in Arunachal Pradesh, the frontier highway is a milestone in India's robust preparedness in the eastern Himalayas. The dragon finds a fitting competitor. The scale with which China develops its infrastructural might, both at the border and in the hinterland, the frontier highway is a geostrategic imperative. The risk these complex infrastructures present leaves no scope for a second thought but to act urgently to protect the territorial integrity of India. The frontier highway manifests India's right intent and seriousness in addressing the pos-

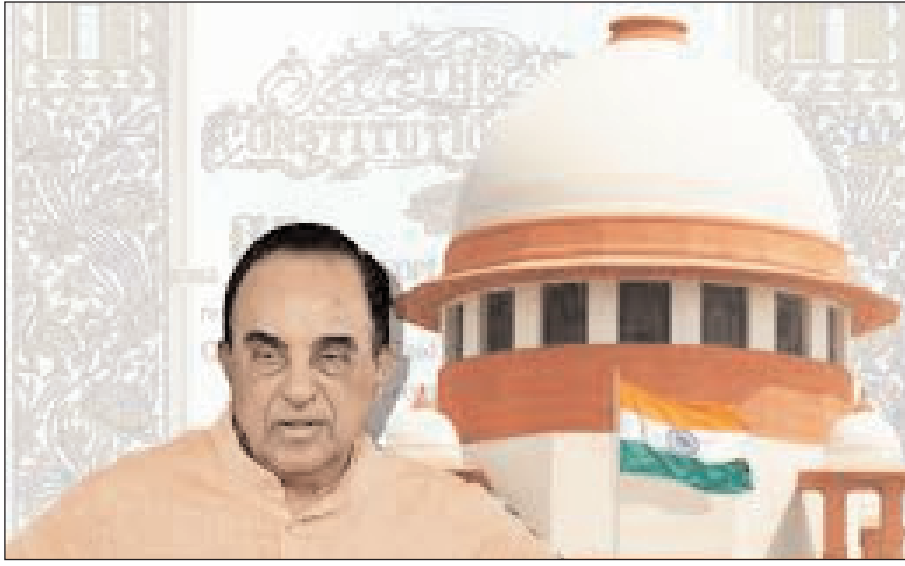
sible dangers that the enemy constantly poses. The frontier highway will present the required checkmate to Chinese bullying attitudes in the region. Beijing's reaction to these infrastructural initiatives is not new. It always does this to keep itself relevant in the thick of things. However, it has no business in making any comment as Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the sovereign India. China uses this drama to keep the issue alive and effectively uses its propaganda machinery to develop some geopolitical weight in the region. It presents no hesitation in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK). It knows the disputed character of PoK and exercises no restraint. Instead, it tutors India on what it does in its sovereign territory. India understands China's cunning and exercises patience and quietness, making necessary preparations to check the latter's possible misadventures. However, the work-in-progress frontier highway will significantly strengthen India's border infrastructure and seamless connectivity. It will present a significant impetus for encouraging economic engagement in the region. Infrastructure and connectivity have always played a pivotal role in modernising the economy and opening the scope for economic.

# Delhi HC to treat Swamy's plea on Rahul Gandhi's citizenship as PIL

Delhi: The Delhi high court on said that the plea filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy regarding the citizenship of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be treated as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

Subramanian Swamy, in his plea, had requested that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) be directed to take action on his representation, which seeks the cancellation of Rahul Gandhi's Indian citizenship. During the hearing, the court clarified,



"We have not commented on the merits of the case." Swamy's plea also called for the MHA to provide a status report on the representation he had sub-

mitted against Rahul Gandhi, who is the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha. The petition, filed by advocate Satya Sabharwal, mentioned that Swamy

had written to the ministry on August 6, 2019, alleging "violations" by Gandhi. Specifically, Swamy claimed that Gandhi had "voluntarily dis-

closed" to the British government that he was a British citizen, which would require holding a British passport. Swamy argued that, as an Indian citizen, Gandhi's actions violated Article 9 of the Constitution, in conjunction with the Indian Citizenship Act, and that this would result in the loss of his Indian citizenship. Swamy further stated that he had repeatedly inquired with the ministry regarding the status of his complaint, but no action had been taken, nor had he received any communication on the matter.

## Congress makes significant changes to the party's units

Delhi : The Congress named Tariq Hameed Karra as the president of its Jammu and Kashmir branch and Keshav Mahto Kamlesh as the leader of the Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee in a significant reorganization ahead of the Assembly Elections. In Jammu and Kashmir, Karra succeeds Vikar Rasool Wani, while Kamlesh succeeds Rajesh Thakur. As the party gets ready for the Assembly Elections in the Union Territory, Congress President Mallikarjun



Kharge named Tara Chand and Raman Bhalla as the party's working presidents for Jammu and Kashmir. The dates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections were released by the Indian

Commission. Additionally, Wani has been immediately named by Kharge as a special invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC). The party released a statement announcing Karra's resignation as a permanent invitee to the CWC.

## Cong workers seize Amt collectorate MP office

Delhi : Congress workers headed by Teosa MLA Yashomati Thakur and Amravati MP Balwant Wankhade smashed the lock of an MP's district collectorate office after not receiving keys. Taking over the local MP's office was discussed during a meeting led by guardian minister Chandrakant Patil. Thakur is furious and

asks Patil questions in a viral video from the meet. Patil stated that the divisional commissioner does not have the keys. Thakur says in the popular video that it's wrong that Wankhade, the new MP, didn't get the keys. "After waiting, we'll break the office lock. If you want to sue us, fine," Thakur replied before

Congress staffers smashed the office lock. The spouse of former MP Navneet Rana, told a Marathi news channel, "We had handed over the keys of the office to the collector last week itself, hence we have no connection to this incident." Wankhade, who beat Navneet Rana in Lok Sabha elections, remarked.

## Preserve CCTV footage: Court on coaching centre deaths

Delhi :: A Delhi court recently directed Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to preserve the CCTV footage half an hour before and after the vehicle being driven by Manuj Kathuria crossed the coaching centre in Old Rajender Nagar, where three UPSC aspirants died last month. Kathuria was granted bail by a Delhi court on Aug 1. He had moved an application before the court and sought preservation of the CCTV footage in which he can be seen driving his SUV. "The IO shall take steps for ascertaining the location of three cameras and any other cameras in the

vicinity and preserve the CCTV footage half an hour before and after the vehicle being driven by the accused/applicant crosses the building of RAU's IAS (Study Centre)," said additional chief judicial magistrate Nishant Garg of Rouse Avenue Court in an order dated Aug 17. Kathuria's counsel told the court that at the time of his remand, cops of Rajender Nagar police station had shown video footage from three different cameras to the court, out of which, one camera was installed in the premises of the coaching centre itself.

## Lateral entry seeks to snatch quotas, give plum posts to RSS picks: Cong

Delhi: Congress' Rahul Gandhi called the "lateral entry" in central govt posts an attack on reservations for Dalits, tribals and backwards, and party president Mallikarjun Kharge said the scheme is designed to hand over reserved posts to RSS nominees — the second day of a full-scale assault on the Modi govt's scheme suggesting that Congress plans to use the controversy as a social justice issue against BJP in coming elections.

Rahul said, "BJP's distorted version of Ram Rajya seeks to destroy the Constitution and



snatch reservations from Bahujans." Kharge retaliated against Modi govt's charge that Congress had ushered in the policy, stating that UPA brought lateral entry for "handful of experts in sector specific posts", while Modi govt is deploying it

"not to appoint experts but to snatch rights of SC/ST/OBCs." He pointed out that sale of PSUs has ended 5.1 lakh posts in ten years, "casual and contract employment" has increased 91%, and SC/ST/OBC posts fell by 1.3 lakh till 2022-23. The Congress brass

## Nod to two airports and three cities' Metro projects

### THREE METRO PROJECTS

**Bangalore Metro Rail Project**  
Phase-3 of the project, with an estimated cost of ₹15,611 crore, will add two new elevated corridors totaling 44.65 km, comprising 31 stations.

**Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project**  
The 29-km ring corridor, with a budget of ₹12,200 crore, will feature 22 stations, connecting key areas such as Naupada, Wagle Estate, Hiranandani Estate, and Kolshet.

**Pune Metro Phase-1 project**  
The project will extend further south, with the Cabinet approving the Swargate to Katraj underground line extension. This 5.46 km stretch, known as Line-1B, will include three underground stations, connecting key areas like Market Yard, Bibwewadi, and Katraj, and has an estimated cost of ₹2,954.53 crore.

### TWO NEW AIRPORTS

**In Bihar**  
The New Civil Enclave at Bihta will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹1,413 crore. The proposed New Integrated Terminal Building at Bihta Airport spans 66,000 sqm and is designed to handle 3000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP) and annually cater to 5 million passengers.

**In West Bengal**  
The Cabinet has approved the proposal for the development of a new civil enclave at Bagdogra Airport, Siliguri, with an estimated cost of ₹1,549 crore. The new terminal building will cover 70,390 sqm and is designed to handle 3,000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP), with an annual capacity of 10 million passengers.

Delhi : The Center authorized two airports for Patna in Bihar and Bagdora in West Bengal, which are now handling commercial aircraft, principally defense facilities, and three major metro projects for well-known cities: Bengaluru, Pune, and Thane. The projects would cost a combined Rs 30,765 crore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the Cabinet meeting where the decision was made. Union Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnav briefed the media on the choices, stating that two elevated corridors totaling 44.65 km with 31 stations will be part of the Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-III, which was authorized on Friday. Bengaluru will have an operating metro rail network of 220.20 kilometers upon the completion of Phase 3. The project would cost a total of Rs 15,611 crore to complete. Additionally, the Pune Metro Phase-I project's Swargate to Katraj Underground

Line Extension of the PCMC-Swargate Metro Line was authorized by the Cabinet. The 5.46 km long Line-I B extension would connect important locations including Market Yard, Bibwewadi, Balaji Nagar, and the Katraj suburbs. It will also have three subterranean stops. The project is scheduled for completion in February 2029 and aims to provide seamless connectivity in Pune. The project is expected to cost Rs 2,954.53 crore.

## HC seeks stand of govt, agencies on plea over child's drowning in drain

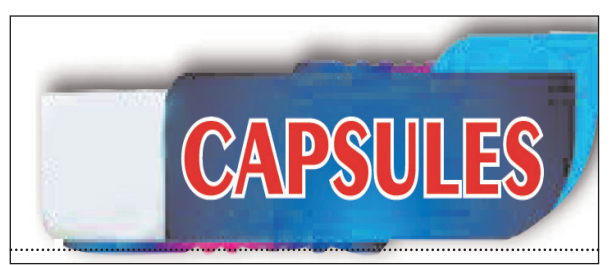


New Delhi: Delhi High Court has sought the stand of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi govt and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on a plea by parents of a two-year-old who drowned last year in an open, unbarricaded drain in the city. Pointing out that the matter required "deeper examination," Justice Dharmesh Sharma issued notice to civic authorities last week. The plea, apart from seeking Rs 10 lakh compensation from DDA, also blamed other govt agencies for criminal negligence for their failure to barricade the open drain in Shastri Park, leading to the death of the child. "The present writ petition is directed against criminal negligence on the part of Delhi govt, DDA, and MCD for not

barricading the open drain near Khatta Park, Kabristan, Shastri Park, leading to the death of a two-year-old child, Arman, by drowning in the open drain," said the plea filed through advocate Ashok Aggarwal. The parents have also challenged the refusal of authorities to compensate the family for Arman's death, arguing that it is "violative of the fundamental right to life of the petitioner's son as guaranteed under the Constitution of India". Informing the court about the fateful day, the plea said Arman fell into the open drain at 5.30 pm on Nov 6 last year. Locals were alerted to his cry for help and pulled the child out of the drain. However, by the time he was taken to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, he was declared dead on arrival.

## Numerous birds were wounded after being struck by kite strings

Delhi : Numerous birds were killed during Uttarayan in various areas of the state when they struck kite strings. Among them were three painted storks and a white-rumped vulture. During the festival, hundreds of birds were injured, including foreign migratory species like pigeons, geese, ducks, storks, flamingos, kites, eagles, owls, egrets, and peacocks. These injuries were reported by nonprofit organizations that collaborated with the state government in the Karuna Abhiyan campaign to rescue and treat birds. 540 birds who were hurt when they struck kites were treated at the Jivdaya Charitable Trust (JCT), an Ahmedabad NGO dedicated to the welfare of animals and birds. These include migratory birds that travel internationally, such as bar-headed and greylag geese, as well as other species.



## Haryana polls: How the BJP is planning to take on resurgent Congress

Delhi: With the Election Commission announcing October 1 as the date of polls for Haryana assembly, the stage is set for an interesting electoral battle between a resurgent and aggressive Congress and the incumbent BJP which has seen its popularity ebb in the state after two consecutive governments, not least due to farmer protests which have alienated the farming community. While the Congress under veteran leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Hooda is confident of winning back the state after two terms, the BJP is in an overdrive to consolidate its voter base. While the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) of Dushyant Chautala, a former BJP ally, and the INLD-BSP alliance are other contestants, the fight is seen to be between the BJP and the Congress.

## Delhi nursing student found dead with cannula in hand

Delhi :: A nursing student was found dead in her locked room in Delhi's New Ashok Nagar, leading to suspicions of suicide. The authorities were alerted through a PCR call about the girl's unconscious state behind the locked door. Upon gaining entry, the police and fire department personnel discovered the girl with "a cannula in her hand and two drips hanging from a ceiling fan." The Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS) medical staff declared her dead, and her body was transferred moved to the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital. The police have seized her mobile phone for a thorough investigation and her family has been informed.

## 48% of 1,563 grace-marked candidates skip NEET-UG retest

Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) reported that only 813 or 52% of the 1,563 candidates who were initially awarded grace marks in the National Eligibility Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) before they were withdrawn last week took a retest. Affected students who did not retake were allowed to keep their scores without grace marks. Two candidates from Chandigarh did not take the exam, but 219 from 602 in Chhattisgarh, one from Gujarat, 287 from 494 in Haryana, and 234 from 464 in Meghalaya took the retest. NTA released the data after the exam was held at seven centers in five states and one union territory. The 1,563 students' retest was held days after the Centre scrapped their grace marks, taking the first step toward solving India's premier medical entrance exam's paper leak crisis, which threatens hundreds.

# Netsmartz Announces \$20 Million Investment in Canadian Tech Expansion

**Chandigarh:** Netsmartz, a global IT services company having development centers based in India at multiple strategic locations like Chandigarh, NCR, Pune and more, has announced the expansion of its operations in Canada, furthering its commitment to innovation and excellence in the North American market. With a presence in more than ten global locations for over 25 years, Netsmartz has grown to employ more than 1,000 professionals, providing comprehensive IT solutions and services to a diverse range of clients.



Netsmartz's strategic expansion into Canada signifies a crucial step, emphasizing the country's pivotal role in our global growth strategy. This strategic shift is about improving service delivery, strengthening relationships with local businesses, and investing in infrastructure and local talent to address clients' needs better and integrate more effectively into the Canadian tech sector. Canada's thriving technology sector, skilled workforce, and supportive business environment offer an ideal

backdrop for enhancing Netsmartz's global delivery capabilities. Manipal Dhariwal, Co-founder and CEO of Netsmartz Group stated, "Over the next five years, Netsmartz plans to invest \$20 million to enhance its infrastructure, research and development, and local partnerships. This investment aims to foster innovation, support local talent, and create numerous job opportunities within the Canadian tech industry." Stewart Wheeler - Acting High Commissioner of Canada to India said "We are delighted to

welcome Netsmartz in Canada and have them join some of the largest Canadian software and AI companies. Canada has a diverse, highly educated and growing tech talent pool that continuously attracts investments from global businesses" Manipal Dhariwal said "I sincerely thank Patrick Hébert - Deputy High Commissioner of Canada to India and Soumen Mondal - Trade Commissioner for investments at the High Commission of Canada in New Delhi for helping us navigate this opportunity.

## Phase 1 votes in Jammu & Kashmir have 61% turnout

**Delhi:** The first phase of Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls on 24 constituencies in seven districts saw 61.13 percent voter turnout. Voting began in 24 seats, including 16 in Kashmir and 8 in Jammu. Voting was calm.

Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir began peacefully and enthusiastically after the Lok Sabha Elections 2024 "EC stated in a release.

"Voters from all sections of society responded to the 'call of democracy' wholeheartedly, reaffirming the confidence expressed by CEC Rajiv Kumar during the announcement of assembly elections that the people of J-K will give a befitting reply to the nefarious forces attempting to disrupt the electoral process," said it.

District-Wise Approximate Voter Turnout in Phase - 1 (11:30 PM)				
S. No.	District	No. ACs	Approximate Voter Turnout (%)	
1	Anantnag	7	57.84	
2	Doda	3	71.34	
3	Kishtwar	3	80.14	
4	Kulgam	3	62.46	
5	Pulwama	4	46.65	
6	Ramban	2	70.55	
7	Shopian	2	55.96	
Above 7 Districts			24	61.13

The poll panel stated the long lines of voters at polling sites

showed the globe J-K's deep belief in democracy. Kishtwar had the highest turnout at 80.14 percent, followed by Ramban at 70.55 percent, Doda at 71.34 percent, Kulgam at 62.60 percent, Anantnag at 57.84 percent, and Shopian at 55.96 percent.

## PM Modi heads back to India without handing MAGA supremo a 'trump card'

**WASHINGTON:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi headed back home to India on Monday night after a hectic 72-hour visit to the US during which he steered clear of domestic American politics, including giving a wide berth to the two 2024 Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris. Modi's packed schedule, which included bilateral talks with out-

going President Joe Biden, a summit of Quad leaders, an address at the UN Summit of the Future, a community reception, and meeting with high-profile CEOs, left him little time to meet the candidates, both of whom have also been on the road electioneering. But a Trump teaser last week that Modi was coming to the US to meet him had

triggered speculation about whether the MAGA supremo would turn up in NYC or at the diaspora event at the Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, where Trump himself had held a raucous rally a few days before. As it turned out, it was just some hot air from the MAGA poohbah, whose bloviating in recent months includes constant bragging.

## Servotech Power Systems Ltd. Board Approves Issues of Convertible Warrants to Promoter

**Chandigarh:** Servotech Power Systems Ltd. (NSE: SERVOTECH), India's largest EV Charger manufacturer, has announced that in its board, in its meeting held on 23 September 2024, it approved the issue of 58,50,000 convertible at a price of Rs. 167.40 per share, aggregating up to Rs. 97.93 Cr to Sarika Bhatia, Promoter of the company. Recently, the company secured a substantial contract to build 11 DC Fast EV charging stations from Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM). This contract involves Servotech installing public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 11 Regional Transport Office (RTO) premises across Karnataka. The project will significantly enhance the charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, making it more convenient for EV owners to charge their vehicles across various regions of Karnataka. Servotech will manage the entire

project execution, from planning and design to final installation. This includes developing a comprehensive plan for the installation of EV charging stations at each RTO location, ensuring optimal placement and capacity. High-quality charging stations will be manufactured, tested, and inspected to meet strict safety and performance standards. Additionally, Servotech will provide warranty support and handle all necessary electrical connections and power supply arrangements. Earlier, the company secured a substantial contract for installing 12 EV charging stations from the Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (ANERT), Department of Power, Govt. of Kerala. Under this contract Servotech has to build 12 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations with 30KW Fast DC EV Chargers at the various locations of Kerala Motor Vehicle Department.

## Didn't indulge in victim shaming, says FM after Oppn fire on EY case



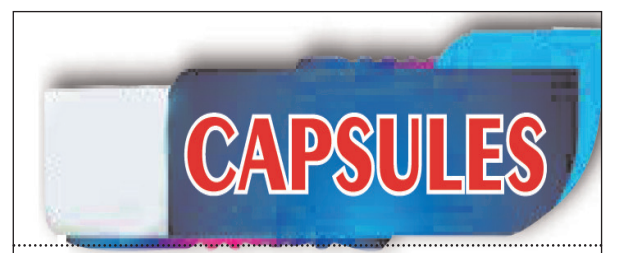
**NEW DELHI:** Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday clarified that she had not intended or indulged in any "victim shaming" when she referred to building inner strength to deal with work-related stress. The FM's comments were in response to a post on X by Shiv Sena (UBT) lawmaker Priyanka Chaturvedi who referred to Sitharaman's remarks in Tamil Nadu over the weekend to accuse her of "victim shaming". This was in reference to

the recent death of EY chartered accountant Anna Perayil in Pune due to alleged work-related stress. Sitharaman's comments have stoked a controversy, with Congress and other opposition parties attacking her for "lack of sensitivity". "Anna had inner strength to handle the stress that came with pursuing a gruelling chartered accountancy degree. It was the toxic work culture, long work hours that took away her life which needs to be addressed. Stop victim

shaming and at least try to be a little sensitive, am sure god will be the guide if you seek," Chaturvedi said on X. Referring to her talk at a deemed university on the outskirts of Chennai, the FM said, "Had specifically mentioned that after clearing a demanding and rigorous examination such as CA, the stress on her was unbearable. No names were taken, neither of the lady nor of the firm. The university has set up a meditation hall and a place of worship for all its students.

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

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



## Odisha joins Ayushman; BMW Delhi, Bengal remain

**Delhi:** Odisha may soon join AB-PMJAY. Health ministry sources say discussions with the Odisha government, now led by the BJP, are nearing completion and the government may sign an MoU with NHA, AB-PMJAY's implementing agency, within days. Only Delhi and West Bengal remain to join AB-PMJAY after Odisha. After Odisha joins AB-PMJAY, Delhi and West Bengal are the only remaining states/UTs. A senior health ministry official said all other states/UTs had adopted the scheme. In 2018, AB-PMJAY provided Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 55 million people, or 12.34 crore poor and vulnerable families. The former Odisha government, led by BJD's Naveen Patnaik, refused to join Ayushman Bharat, arguing that its own health system, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), covered about 90% of the state's population and had higher health coverage.

## Out of Kashmir, Pandits vote for Valley return

**Delhi:** Kashmiri Pandits, expelled from Kashmir three decades ago by militancy, cast their ballots in Jammu, Udhampur, and Delhi in hopes of returning. Family and I moved to Jammu in 1990 as part of the exodus. Assembly elections are finally held after 10 years. I voted today in hopes that the new government will restore our property, orchards, and land and fix our long-standing concerns, said PL Tickoo, 83, originally from Batmaloo in Shopian district. Family and I moved to Jammu in 1990 as part of the exodus. Assembly elections are finally held after 10 years. I voted today in hopes that the new government will restore our property, orchards, and land and fix our long-standing concerns.

## 'Grave insult': Atishi's 'Bharat'-like gesture with CM chair for Kejriwal angers Congress, BJP

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi's new chief minister Atishi faced criticism from the BJP and Congress as she decided to leave Arvind Kejriwal's chair in the office empty in a symbolic gesture and sat on a second chair on the day she took over the office. The opposition hit out at Atishi describing the gesture as a "grave insult" to constitutional norms and the role of chief minister. Atishi, who took office as Delhi's eighth chief minister, said she would serve a four-month term, likening her role to that of Bharat from the Ramayana, who ruled Ayodhya in Lord Ram's absence by placing his wooden slippers on the throne. Atishi placed an empty chair beside her CM chair and said, "This chair belongs to Arvind Kejriwal. Today I took charge as the CM of Delhi. Today I have the same pain in my heart as Bharat ji had. Just like Bharat ji worked by keeping Lord Shri Ram's sandals, I will take charge as CM for the next four months."

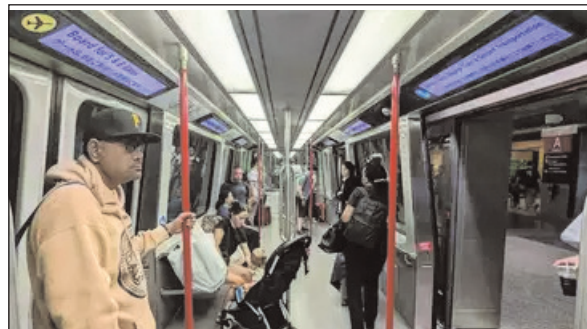
## Cellecor Gadgets Ltd. Expands Home Appliances Portfolio, To Launch Refrigerators, Geysers, & Room Heaters This October

**Chandigarh:** Cellecor Gadgets Limited (NSE: CELLECOR), a pioneer name in the consumer electronics industry, is pleased to announce its latest additions to the home appliance market. In line with its mission to enhance everyday life through innovative and reliable products, Cellecor is launching a new series of refrigerators, geysers, and room heaters this October, diversifying its portfolio with modern and efficient solutions that cater to house-

hold needs. **Refrigerators: Practicality Meets Affordability** Cellecor is launching a new line of refrigerators, available in 180L, 185L, and 205L capacities. These refrigerators cater to household needs, combining energy efficiency and durability. With an energy-efficient compressor and toughened glass shelves, these refrigerators provide reliable performance and ample storage, ensuring reduced electricity bills and lasting durability.

## Delhi airport to get India's first air train by 2027 for seamless terminal connectivity

**Delhi:** Transitioning between Delhi Airport's Terminal 3 & T2 on one side and T1 on the other will finally be a breeze before the end of calendar year 2027. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has issued the tender to build an air train or automated people mover (APM) that will have four stops - T2/3, T1, Aerocity and Cargo city. The GMR-backed DIAL has given the alignment for this 7.7-km route. Once ready, trudging by DTC buses between these two distant terminals from city side will be a thing of the past. Sources say the airport



operator is likely to get bids for what will India's first air train at an airport, in Oct and Nov. The winning bidder will be decided based on the cost quoted by different parties and whether they offer a revenue share model or seek viability gap funding for the project. "If all goes well, contract will be awarded before the end

of this fiscal. Work will then begin and it is targeted to be over before end of CY 2027. That is what has been conveyed to the Union aviation ministry by DIAL," say sources. The tender document says: "DIAL proposes to implement an elevated cum at-grade APM system at Delhi International Airport on

design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) model. The APM system is intended to provide reliable, fast and seamless connectivity between T1 and T3/2 spanning route length of around 7.7 km via Aerocity and Cargo city. In addition to providing required connectivity between terminals, APM system will enhance passenger convenience, improve ASQ score and reduce carbon footprint. "The aviation ministry in Modi 2.0 had told DIAL it will not allow levy of any development fees to fund this project before the same is ready.

## #Travel With Limca On An Exhilarating Exploration Of Your City

**Panipat/Karnal:** first sip of the ultimate thirst quencher, Limca, a layer of happiness envelops her, igniting a sense of excitement and curiosity. Energized by the refreshing taste, Triptii's journey takes an enchanting turn, setting out to traverse through the hidden gems of her city. From bustling markets to sizzling street snack shops, she uncovers the rich experiences, inspiring consumers to tour the city with a refreshing Limca. Expressing her excitement about joining the Limca family, Triptii Dimri said, "I am very happy and excited to be a part of Limca. Exploring new places and experiencing different cultures has always been my passion, and I am thrilled to encourage others to do the

same. Together with Limca, I look forward to embarking on this exciting journey of discovery." Ruchira Bhattacharya, Senior Director, Marketing – Hydration, Sports and Tea Category, India and South-West Asia Operating Unit at The Coca-Cola Company, said, "With its legacy of lime and lemony credentials, Limca has been rejuvenating consumers with its unique taste for 5 decades. We are thrilled to launch the #TravelWithLimca campaign featuring Triptii Dimri as our new Limca face. With this campaign, we hope to encourage people to get out there and discover the beauty of their own cities and refresh themselves with a chilled Limca! Mukund VML, Chief Strategy Officer, Studio X said.

**GURUGRAM :** Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (the "Company"), proposes to open the initial public offering of its Equity Shares on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. ("Offer") (The initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating to ₹ 10,000 million ("Fresh Issue") and an offer of sale of up to such number of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 20,000 million by BCP Topco VII Pte. Ltd. (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder") ("Offer for Sale") and together with the Fresh Issue, the "Offer"). The Company proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds from the Fresh Issue, (i) to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending; and (ii) general corporate purposes. The Equity Shares are being offered through the Red Herring Prospectus dated April 30, 2024 ("RHP") filed with the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka at Bangalore ("RoC"). The



Equity Shares issued through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges being BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE" together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges"). For the purposes of the Offer, the designated stock exchange shall be NSE. Amit Dixit, Head of Private Equity Asia, Blackstone, said, "The listing is a significant milestone for Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, and its transformation is a great example of what we do best: Building businesses that build India. We brought our scale, network, and best global

practices to grow the business, and empowered the company in digitizing its processes, end to end from origination to collection. It has been a wonderful partnership, and we couldn't be more proud of where the business stands today." Mukesh Mehta, Senior Managing Director in Blackstone Private Equity, said, "It is rewarding to be a part of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited's mission to enable underserved Indians to own homes and play a role in the company's transformation and growth. Our priority has been to build through close.

## CAPSULES

### Rush at OPDs as heat soars, doctors sound dehydration-exhaustion alert

**KOLKATA:** The hot and discomfort weather conditions in the past few days are taking a toll on the health of Kolkatans, especially those who have to remain outdoors for hours. Even though none of the city hospitals have recorded any heat stroke cases so far, doctors are getting a good number of people with heat exhaustion and dehydration. Health experts have cautioned people to take all precautions when outdoors to avoid severe consequences.

"Because of such hot and humid weather, the people who are engaged in outdoor activities are prone to develop heat exhaustion when the body starts sweating a lot due to the rise of the core body temperature resulting in dehydration. Heat exhaustion makes the person feel weak, dizzy and thirsty. I have seen two to four such cases in the past one week, mostly middle aged men, probably due to their higher exposure to the sun," said internal medicine specialist Joydeep Ghosh of Fortis Hospital, Anandapur. opd

B P Poddar Hospital had tended to 14 persons in its emergency in the past three days, most of them down with extreme dehydration making them unwell while they were out in the sun. "37 patients came to our OPD with heat related issues. While most of them were middle-aged patients, some were school children. We had to admit two senior citizens because in addition to dehydration they had other issues like BP fluctuation and sodium, potassium imbalance," said Supriyo Chakrabarty, group advisor, BP Poddar Hospital.

## Probe Shortage Of Medicines: Bharadwaj To LG

**New Delhi:** Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has written to lieutenant governor VK Saxena demanding strict action against officials responsible for the non-availability of medicines and consumables at Delhi govt health facilities. He also demanded a "time-bound inquiry" against them for misrepresenting facts and misleading govt on the issue. The letter was sent on Thursday in response to a story, 'Boy with broken arm turned away by hosps'. On April 1, an 8-year-old boy with a broken arm was turned away by two state-run



hospitals, Dr Hedgewar Aarogya Sansthan and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, a dedicated paediatric facility. While one hospital claimed it did not have cotton, the other said it had no orthopaedic doctor at the time to treat the boy. The boy's father, a guard with a monthly salary of

Rs 15,000, had to ultimately take him to a private hospital and pay Rs 13,000, including the doctor's consultation fees, which would have been negligible at a govt hospital. Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, where Class II student Aditya Kumar was taken by his parents, has now started "emergency ortho" till

8pm on all working days. Until now, this facility was available from 9am to 4pm. Bharadwaj wrote about the health secretary misinforming and misleading the minister concerned about the availability of the items. Bharadwaj underlined that either the senior officers of health and family welfare were unaware of the actual situation or were not deliberately resolving this imminent crisis. He said he had directed the chief secretary and the health secretary multiple times to ensure the supply of medicines and consumables.

## PAT Day 1 marked by shortage of question and answer booklets

**Mumbai:** As the Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). School heads said despite sending details of the number of students appearing for PAT, the SCERT on Thursday directed schools to take photocopies of the question papers wherever there was a shortage. Schools also complained of not receiving the answer keys to the questions. Teachers assess papers based on answer keys. Mahendra Ganpule, spokesperson of the Maharashtra School Principals' Association

highlighted the need for improved planning by the education department. Ganpule said, "Despite the challenges, teachers managed to distribute papers on the first day, albeit with additional effort and expense. The issue was more pronounced in remote areas and was exacerbated by a lack of manpower at the taluka level for distribution." Over one crore students are participating in these exams, which are part of the Strengthening

Teaching-Learning and Results for States project funded by the World Bank. The PAT aims to enhance the quality and governance of school education and includes a basic test followed by two comprehensive assessments. The mandatory test is to determine the learning outcome of students. It is based on second semester syllabi. Schools that incurred expenses on photocopying question papers last year said they are yet to receive reimbursement.

## HC seeks status of criminal cases filed in 2020 Delhi riots

**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court on Thursday sought status of criminal cases registered following riots that broke out in the national capital in Feb 2020. A bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Manoj Jain asked police to furnish details after noting that over 750 FIRs were registered in the aftermath of violence and the investigation in 273 was still pending. Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on Feb 24, 2020, after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 700 injured. The bench was hearing a public interest litigation by Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind seeking setting up of special investigation team (SIT) to hold an independent probe

into the riots. The petitioner's lawyer said that SIT should be set up at least in those cases where the stage of filing of chargesheet has not even come till now. "How much time will you take? That was 2020 and we have entered 2024...Total cases registered is 757; transferred to Crime Branch 62; number of cases chargesheeted 367; number of cases pending trial 250 and pending investigation is 273. Therefore, pending cases are 273 as on April 2. So many cases," said the bench, relying on the figures furnished. During the hearing, the court observed that the cases were registered in 2020 but several of them were still pending and asked the police the reason behind it. The petitioner had approached the high court in March 2020 seeking several

reliefs, including preservation of the CCTV footage of the riots in northeast Delhi. The PIL claimed that FIRs have not been lodged against persons responsible for the riots and alleged that the police is not accepting the complaint in which the accused are named and they are insisting to give a complaint against unknown persons. The court posted the matter for next hearing on April 29. We also published the following articles recently: 2020 Delhi riots: Court rejects Tahir Hussain's bail. Former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's bail plea rejected by New Delhi court in the 2020 Delhi riots case due to prima facie true allegations. and UAPA provisions, including dismissal based on a larger conspiracy.

## 2 calves born in Kashi farm mark new start for Gangatiri breed

**LUCKNOW:** UP govt's Varanasi farm has become the country's first conservation centre to breed two high-merit Gangatiri cow calves using embryo transfer technology (ETT) and IVF. The two female calves were born on March 26 and 27. Gangatiri breed is native to eastern UP and Bihar. It got its name after Ganga as it is the belt along the river which is its natural habitat. The breed has low input costs and is resistant to many diseases. "Gangatiri is recognised nationally and has high significance as a source of livelihood to local farmers in the state," said Dr Neeraj Gupta, CEO of the UP Livestock Development Board. The ETT will help produce elite cows at a faster rate as a single mother can produce multiple high-merit progenies, he added. In the current case, four elite females at the farm were selected as egg donors. Semen from a high-merit bull was used to fertilise the eggs in-vivo (inside the body).



After about seven days, the embryos were flushed from the donor cows and transferred into four surrogate cows, which may not have been of high merit. However, only two pregnancies were successful, and two calves were born, said Gupta. The ETT is being extensively used for the improvement of indigenous cow breeds at var-

ious places as elite cows are used as egg and sperm donors. "This technique will increase the efficiency as well as productivity of Gangatiri bovine herds. It has huge potential to multiply the income of farmers," said Ravinder, principal secretary of animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, and chairman of UPLDB.

## Joyride? Man risks life travelling 400km on the train's roof

**KANPUR:** A man spotted lying on the roof of New Delhi-Gorakhpur bound Humsafar Express (12572) triggered panic at the Kanpur Central railway station on Tuesday. Investigation revealed that the man, identified as Dilip Kumar of Fatehpur, had travelled an astonishing 400km between Delhi and Kanpur by lying on the train's roof. The video of his bizarre act also went viral on social media. Fortunately, Kumar did not stand on the train's roof during the journey and got saved from getting electrocuted by the overhead wires, said GRP personnel. When the train entered platform 9 of Kanpur Central, passengers noticed Dilip on the roof of the B-11 AC coach of the Humsafar Express and raised an alarm. Deputy chief traffic manager Ashutosh Singh, assistant commercial manager railway Santosh Kumar Tripathi, station superintendent.

## Pawar rejected the idea of projecting an individual as the chief ministerial face

Delhi: NCP (SP) Sharad Pawar rejected the idea of projecting an individual as the chief ministerial face of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for the upcoming Assembly elections in Maharashtra, despite the Shiv Sena (UBT) persisting in its demand that party chief Uddhav Thackeray be projected as the CM face. "Our alliance serves as the face of our group. We cannot have one person serve as our chief minister. In response to questions over Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's demand that Thackeray be presented as the chief ministerial face of the MVA, Pawar, "Collaborative leadership is our formula."



The head of the NCP (SP) continued, "All three of our alliance partners will make a decision in this regard." "The PWP (Peasants and Workers Party of India), AAP, and Communist parties helped us during the

recent Lok Sabha elections," Pawar added, calling for the inclusion of all Left parties and those against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the MVA. Even though the MVA has three partners, all of these parties ought to

be involved. Everyone who is against Modi ought to join the MVA. Any choice that must be made on the chief ministerial face will be decided after consultation and after everyone has been given the benefit of the doubt.

Raut reiterated on Saturday that the MVA has to present a CM face. It will be risky for the MVA to contest the Maharashtra elections without a chief ministerial face. Maharashtra witnessed Uddhav Thackeray's management of the state, particularly during the pivotal Covid-19 phase. Because of Uddhav Thackeray's popularity, people voted for the MVA. Raut had previously stated, "A faceless alliance will not help our cause of winning the election." To make his point, Raut used the performance of the INDIA bloc and the lack of the prime minister's visage. image.png

## Vi Introduces All-New REDX Plan for Postpaid Users; Adds Netflix with Host of Other Offerings

GURUGRAM / HISAR : Vi, a leading telecom operator, today launched an all-new REDX plan for its postpaid users bringing the ultimate premium postpaid experience of unparalleled connectivity with a host of exclusive benefits. The revamped plan also brings the renowned global streaming service provider – Netflix for its users, further strengthening its entertainment offering. With this partnership, Vi Postpaid users will be able to enjoy world-class entertainment with the best streaming experience on any device of their choice – mobile or television. Designed to cater to modern lifestyles, the all new enhanced REDX plan integrates entertainment, dining, travel, security, and priority customer service, all for just Rs 1201. The new REDX plan provides access to a host of features that bring conven-



ience, entertainment, and security – all in one single plan.

OTT Streaming with Netflix: The only postpaid plan that gives (mobile + TV) access to five OTT platforms, including Netflix. Other OTT players include Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar, Sony Liv, and Sun NXT. With these partnerships, Vi Postpaid customers will not only enjoy top entertainment options but also live sports action especially with the on-going Euro Cup on Sony Liv. Swiggy One Membership: Avail complimentary Swiggy One membership access for 6 months. Enjoy free

deliveries on your food/Instamart orders above Rs. 199 and get exciting discounts with Swiggy Dineout/Genie. International Roaming & VIP Lounge access at the airports: The REDX plan includes a complimentary 7-day international roaming pack worth Rs. 2999 once a year, access to domestic and international airport lounges (up to 4 times annually, including 1 international airport lounge), and exclusive EaseMyTrip discounts on flight bookings Device Security: Complimentary access to Norton mobile security for 12 months.

## Dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles

Delhi: A month after opening its first engineered landfill in Tehkhand, Municipal Corporation of Delhi assigned its operation and maintenance to an experienced agency. The civic authority noted that managing the leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space, and most significantly, leveling ash from two waste-to-energy plants—Okhla and Tehkhand—requires competence. The site can hold 10 lakh tonnes of ash, and 12,000 tonnes have been dumped. "While the horticult-

ure department has planted a 30-meter strip around the designed landfill, the weighing bridge, roads, and drains need a dedicated system for maintenance.

Leachate treatment plant operation will also be monitored by the agency. Three official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of con-

duct is lifted.

MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep

trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're

dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully. Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash." Source.

## The people of Haryana are looking towards Hooda with hopeful eyes: Sultan Jadoula

Kaithal: Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary

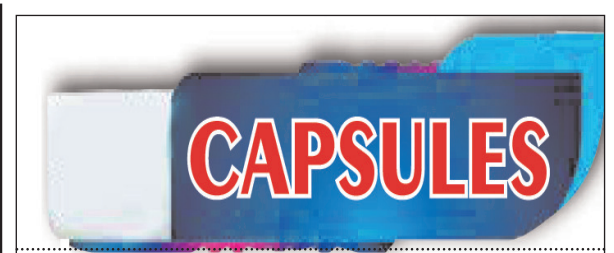
Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula said that the upcoming assembly elections in Haryana are a fight to save the future of youth, farmers, labourers, poor and deprived sections. Today people in Haryana are looking towards former Haryana Chief Minister Choudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda with hopeful eyes. He said that the BJP government has humiliated every section. The BJP will have to be ready to face the consequences of this in the assembly elections. Talking to journalists at his establishment in New Anaaj Mandi Dhand, he said that in the BJP rule, farmers, MNREGA labourers, sports persons, watchmen, employees, sarpanchs, women, Asha workers, elderly and even children had to come on the streets against this government. Haryana was known for Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, but this government neither spared the jawans nor the farmers. There is huge resentment in every section against the government. Congress leader Sultan Jadoula reiterated the



resolution of the Congress and said that the party's state in-charge Deepak Babaria, Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Choudhary. When the Congress government comes to power under the leadership of Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Congress President Chaudhary Udaybhan and MP Deepender Singh Hooda, the elderly will get the highest old age pension of Rs. 6000 in the country, old pension scheme for employees, free plots of 100 yards each and 2 room houses worth Rs. 3.5 lakhs to poor families, MSP guarantee for farmers, 300 units of free electricity to every family, players will be linked with the Bring Medal, Get a Post policy, every housewife will get a domestic gas cylinder for Rs. 500, timely appointments will be made to the youth on the 2 lakh vacant government posts. every village and city of

## Congress wants a Constitutional amendment for quota over 50%.

Delhi: Congress wants Parliament to modify the Constitution to allow SC/ST/OBC reservation to exceed the Supreme Court's 50% threshold. The party requested that the law be introduced before Parliament in the next session and that PM Narendra Modi clarify his position. A day earlier, NDA constituent JD(U) passed a resolution at its national executive meeting urging the Centre to put Bihar's reservation law under the Constitution's Ninth Schedule to prevent judicial scrutiny of quota increases beyond 50%. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned BJP, JD(U)'s state and federal ally's silence over X on Sunday. He said reservation regulations exceeding the 50% ceiling in the Ninth Schedule were unworkable since a 2007 SC decision.



## CBSE recommends stronger internal examinations in schools to reduce theory-practice gaps

Delhi: The CBSE recently advised schools to review their own assessment systems. After finding a large gap between theory and practical test marks in classes X and XII in over 500 schools. Many students who did poorly in theory tests did well in practical exams. The advice proposes a more robust, transparent, and dependable approach to provide realistic assessment and significant academic value for pupils." The CBSE circular says An anonymous CBSE official said, "We have complete theory and practical mark data for grades X and XII. If all 40 students in a class obtain full marks in practical but just a few get good scores in theory, we can uncover exam disparities." The board has provided guidance before, he says, adding that the CBSE conducts this procedure annually. Says, "Many schools give additional marks in practical tests to boost grades. With practical marks, a student can pass the exam despite low theory marks. This improves school performance and reputation." Teachers and school management should be consistent and ethical while deciding practical marks. "Many times, to save their jobs, teachers resort to mark inflation," he says. "These discrepancies affect the morale of the bright students who despite all their hard work are positioned together with the non-deserving students." Senior official: "There are a few rules, but officials are striving to establish a more comprehensive assessment system to eliminate irregularities. CBSE will sensitize schools." Former Delhi government school administrator Sangeeta Jay believes, "Familiar environments improve student performance. Students feel comfortable at school since they are surrounded by instructors and friends during internal assessment and no other agencies or examiners are involved. This is why 30%-40% of pupils do well. When students appear for boards that require them to complete papers at different centers, they may be nervous in a new atmosphere. This may hinder student performance.

A tiny fraction of kids may be weak in studies yet consistent in attendance, compliance, behavior, values, and ECA. "There are a few first-generation students, who get better scores in practical on humanitarian grounds," she says, pointing out that some students think they don't need to study hard because teachers will give them good practical exam marks, which will help them perform. "Long-term academic performance suffers. In many cases, the school and instructor must show results, resulting in compromise.

## To speed up bank interest subvention claims under Agriculture Infrastructure

Delhi: Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan established a web platform to speed up bank interest subvention claims under Agriculture Infrastructure.

Chouhan launched the web portal developed by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

(DAC&FW) and NABARD to automate and speed up the settlement of bank interest subvention claims under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), that the new credit claims automation will resolve claims in a day, compared to months for manual settlement. "The move will also ensure transparency and check corrupt

methods," Chouhan said

The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund scheme was launched in 2020 to develop post-harvest management infrastructure to reduce losses, improve farmer value, innovate agriculture, and attract investments with Rs 1 lakh crore from banks and financial institutions up to 2025-26.

## 3 law students sue Delhi University for substandard amenities

Delhi: Three law students sued Delhi University for heat-stroke and typhoid after drinking from a cooler at the Faculty

of Law. The suit asserted a lack of pure drinking water, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and other campus infrastructure issues, and the Delhi High Court summoned a stakeholder meeting this week. Ronak Khatri, Ankur Singh Mavi, and Umesh Kumar, all second-year law students, are campaigning for better university facilities.

Both petitioners and advocates are involved. However, they had to act after all doors were closed. "We protested at the Faculty of Law .

## Servotech Power Systems Ltd. Leads Green Push with Solar-Powered EV Charging Station in Delhi

Chandigarh: Servotech Power Systems Ltd. (NSE: SERVOTECH), a leading manufacturer of EV chargers and solar solutions, in collaboration with India's apex solar organization, the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), has inaugurated Delhi's first grid-connected Solar-Powered EV Charging Carport. This Solar-Powered EV Charging Carport, established as a pilot project at the Hauz Khas Village parking station, marks a significant milestone in sustainable energy and electric vehicle infra-

structure. Servotech has manufactured, designed, and commissioned the solar panels and EV chargers used to establish the carport. Additionally, Servotech has been responsible for designing and implementing the overall infrastructure for the carport. Dr. Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan, was the chief guest at the event, inaugurating the solar-powered EV charging station in the presence of Mr. Raman Bhatia (Founder and MD, Servotech Power Systems Limited)

Mr. Amarjeet Singh, (CEO, BSES Yamuna Power Limited) Mr. Chintan Shah, (Principal Advisor, NSEFI) and Mr. Subrahmanya Pulipaka, (CEO, NSEFI). This initiative is a collaboration between the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) and the Bundesverband Solarwirtschaft E.V (BSW), in cooperation with BSES and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The Solar-Powered EV Charging Carport was established under the KVP project framework.

The KVP project is supported by the German non-profit company Sequa GmbH, as part of the Business Membership Organization Partnerships of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This PV Carport introduces a new business model for DISCOMs and business operators aiming to replace last-mile delivery vehicles with an electric fleet. The system enables fast charging for two and four-wheelers in under an hour.