

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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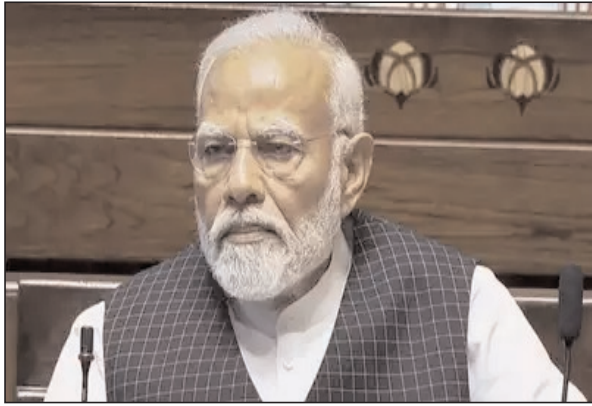
MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

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

## Isolate and expose States that back terrorism, PM Modi tells SCO

**NEW DELHI:** PM Modi addresses the SCO summit, emphasizing the need for a decisive response against terrorism and advocating for connectivity projects that respect sovereignty. PM Modi did not participate in the summit but, in remarks delivered through foreign minister S Jaishankar who filled in for him, he sought to allay apprehensions about India's commitment to the group saying in a world moving inexorably towards real multipolarity, the SCO will only become more important and that it occupies a prominent place in India's foreign policy. Isolate and expose States that back terrorism, PM Modi



**“Cross-border terrorism requires a decisive response”**

Only become more important and that it occupies a prominent place in India's foreign policy. However, he added its true value would depend on how well the member-states cooperate amongst themselves. Without naming Pakistan, the PM called for action to isolate and expose countries that harbour terrorists, pro-

tells SCO address to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO),

the security-oriented Eurasian bloc which held its annual summit in Astana Thursday, was replete with messages to Pakistan and China as he sought a decisive response against cross-border terrorism - calling upon all to shun double standards - and backed connectivity linkages that respect territorial integrity. PM Modi did not participate in the summit but, in remarks delivered through foreign minister S Jaishankar who filled in for him, he sought to allay apprehensions about India's commitment to the group saying in a world moving inexorably towards real multipolarity, the SCO.

## Surrogate moms also entitled to maternity leave, says HC

**CUTTACK:** Orissa high court recently directed the state govt to grant 180 days maternity leave to an Orissa Finance Service (OFS) officer who became a mother through surrogacy. Maternity leave should not be dependent on how a person becomes a mother, court said. The single judge bench of Justice S K Panigrahi ruled, "Maternity leave should be granted to employees who become mothers through surrogacy to ensure treatment and support for all new mothers, irrespective of how they become parents." The ruling came on June 25 while the court was considering the petition of OFS officer Supriya Jena, who had filed a petition in 2020. Odisha govt had denied her the leave



**Bus driver assaulted in Kathua after stray cattle hit and killed**

**JAMMU:** A bus driver was mercilessly assaulted by some locals in Ghati area of Jammu's Kathua district, after the vehicle accidentally hit and killed a stray calf and a bull. The incident occurred on Tuesday night, when the bus driver, employed with a factory in the Ghati

industrial area and on night duty, was returning to Kathua after dropping the workers. The severely injured driver is admitted to GMC hospital in Kathua. "One Ravinder Singh and his accomplices chased and intercepted the bus and took the driver back. "Additionally, the initial period after the birth of a child is crucial for the mother's involvement in caregiving and nurturing, which is pivotal for the child's development. Accordingly, the

**A tragedy & 4 calls later, phone went dead, Baba went missing**

**HATHRAS:** A recreation of the sequence of events after the stampede by cops based on call record details has revealed that Surajpal Singh, alias Bhole Baba, left the satsang venue in his convoy around 1.40pm as the stampede broke out on Tuesday. It is now widely believed that the stampede happened when several people rushed to collect soil, referred to as 'Charan Raj', which had been walked upon by Bhole Baba in the belief that it will bring them good luck. According to call records accessed by police, Bhole Baba received a call from his main organiser, Dev Prakash Madhukar, at 2.48pm, likely informing him of the tragedy. Madhukar has been named in the FIR.

## 'Good guys need to win, tell us about mischief makers in market'

**MUMBAI:** Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch on Thursday nudged market players to report mischief makers to enable the regulator to act against them, as the watchdog put in place an institutional mechanism for stock brokers in a bid to check frauds and market abuse. Addressing portfolio managers, Buch said the markets regulator wants to stamp out any irregularity at the earliest to prevent any systemic concerns. 'Good guys need to win, tell us about mischief makers in mkt' "I urge the association to bring forth to the regulator any instances of mischief in the market that are going on, so that the regulator can take early action and not wait until it explodes in the system and then we have to come back with a heavy hand," she said. Recalling her own experience as an industry participant, Buch said it is "frustrating" for the law-abiding participant when he or she discovers an industry peer gaining using bad practices. "Good guys need to win. You guys need to tell us about what mischief is going on so that we can stop it early on. It's in your own self-interest to come and tell the regulator what some of the bad practices are in the market." The Sebi chief said that mischief results in erosion of trust and a strong regulatory response. The circular on "measures to instil confidence in the market" issued Thursday evening has provided for implementation of the new rules for brokers in three phases starting Jan. Given that there are existing governance and client surveillance.

## Cong MP writes to Speaker demanding action over 'misleading' remarks in LS by PM

**NEW DELHI:** Congress MP Manickam Tagore has written to Lok Sabha Speaker alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP MP Anurag Thakur made "grossly misleading and factually incorrect" remarks in the House. Tagore has requested Speaker Om Birla to take note of the remarks and initiate appropriate action



against them. Tagore has in his letter flagged that Prime Minister Modi in his reply to the motion of thanks to the President's Address on July 2 in Lok Sabha had said

sharing that Congress vote share increased in HP, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Telangana etc." Tagore also highlighted that the PM said that the Congress made a false promise of Rs 8,500 per month to women. On this the Congress MP points out this was a promise made by the party if it would have won.

## Anant Ambani seeks blessings from RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

**NEW DELHI:** Anant Ambani seeks blessings from RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat at his pre-wedding gathering. Mukesh Ambani welcomed RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to their residence, Antilia, ahead of the much-anticipated wedding of his son Anant Ambani to Radhika Merchant, set to take place on July 12. Bhagwat and his team were

warmly greeted by the Ambani family for a special dinner in Mumbai. Infact the Anant Ambani was seen seeking blessings from RSS chief by touching his feet. This traditional Sanatani gesture by the Director of Reliance Retail Ventures highlights deep respect for his elders. Anant Ambani seeking blessings from RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat by touching his feet.

A video that quickly went viral captured the simple moments of the evening. The groom-to-be, Anant Ambani, donned a traditional saffron outfit and was seen respectfully touching the feet of the elders who had come to bless him. Mukesh Ambani was also spotted warmly greeting the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief.

## Distributed exams' can curb paper leaks: University body chief

**NEW DELHI:** Advocating for "distributed exams", the new president of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Vinay Pathak, has emphasised that "over-centralisation" of any test can lead to significant adverse issues and a single exam should not determine the future of a student. In light of the NEET-UG controversies and paper leaks, and the decision to revert to the pen-and-paper mode for UGC-NET and CUET-UG, Pathak, also the vice-chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (formerly Kanpur University), in an exclusive interaction with TOI, discussed the future of exams. He advocated for



technology-driven adaptive testing, similar to the GRE and TOEFL, as a "progressive solution". He also stressed that in addition to entrance tests, university admissions should incorporate multiple evaluation methods, including Board exam scores, group discussions, and personal interviews. While the govt considers adopting a JEE-style online test

format for entrance exams conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), Pathak highlighted the drawbacks of centralisation. "Over-centralising exams, where a single test determines a student's future, is fraught with risks. In engineering, for instance, moving from single-threaded systems improved reliability because if one part fails, others can still function. Similarly, decentralised exams could localise the impact of any single point of failure, like a paper leak," he said. Pathak highlighted adaptive testing as a promising solution, explaining that it

adjusts to the test-taker's ability level in real time. "Technologies like AI can create personalised tests that are both secure and fair. Tests like the GRE and TOEFL have successfully implemented adaptive testing, minimising the chances of leaks and ensuring a more accurate assessment of student abilities," he said. Limiting students to a single exam can be detrimental, leading to undue stress and even mental health issues, Pathak pointed out. "That's why you're seeing lots of depression during medical entrance tests and many suicides.

## Woman drugged, gang-raped by colleagues in car

**HYDERABAD:** Two sales executives of a well-known real estate firm here were arrested Wednesday for allegedly drugging, raping and beating their 26-year-old colleague for hours inside a car on the night of June 30. The colleagues left the woman outside a private hostel in Miyapur. after the crime, police said. The accused, identified as Sanga Reddy (39) and Janardhan Reddy (25), were sent in judicial custody on Wednesday. While a zero FIR was initially filed at Uppal police station based on a complaint by the survivor, the case was subsequently transferred to Miyapur police station as the crime occurred under the latter's jurisdiction.

## Mason numb with grief after losing mother, wife and daughter

**HATHRAS:** Kumar, who is numb with grief, told TOI: "I was out for work when I got a call from my family members saying that my mother, wife and daughter had gone to attend a satsang, about which I was unaware, where a stampede had broken out. I hired a taxi and rushed to the venue with my three sons, all teenagers. There, we were told that the victims had been taken to hospital, but no one told us which one." "We went from hospital to hospital, looking at the faces of dead people, searching for our loved ones but couldn't find them. Health centre with just 1 doctor and 3 nurses got swamped with injured. Some bodies were sent to Hathras hospital. We went there, and at midnight, we finally found the

bodies of my wife, Raj Kumari (42), and daughter, Bhumi (16). They were kept on ice slabs among several other dead women and children lying unattended," recalled Kumar. However, Kumar was yet to find his mother, Jaimanti Devi (65). He sat near his wife and daughter's bodies, staring at them and crying his eyes out before his elder son reminded him to continue the search for their grandmother. Jaimanti was the main devotee of Bhole Baba and had persuaded the family to worship him. "Had they not gone to the satsang, they would be alive," Kumar said. Eventually, Jaimanti's remains were found at the mortuary in Agra. Three bodies, zipped in black body bags, were brought to the village.

## Tree plantation done by Triveni Sangam Seva Samiti

Prayagraj: Tree plantation started today by Triveni Sangam Seva Samiti, Mahewa Naini, by planting 5 saplings on the Arail bank. Founding Secretary Dinesh Yadav told that a network of roads is being laid all over India, due to which lakhs of people are stranded. Trees are



being cut in large numbers in the scorching heat where the temperature has reached 48 degrees Celsius, due to which the common people as well as animals, birds and cattle are getting burnt due to the heat. Therefore, it is the moral responsibility of all of us to keep the environment green and protect the future. To give a clean nation to the next generation, everyone should plant a tree in their name. The beginning of which has been started by Triveni Sangam Maheva. On this occasion, Dinesh Yadav, Swaminath Tripathi, Chandrabhan Singh, Vijay Rawat, Pradeep Bhartiya, Preeti Sonkar, Ashok Sonkar, Mohit Nishad, Rajesh Nishad, Bhola, Rohit Nishad, Shani Chaturvedi, Rahul Kushwaha etc. were present.

## Symposium on Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee today

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party Prayagraj Metropolitan will organize a symposium in the memory of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on 5th July, the eve of the birth anniversary of the founder of Jan Sangh, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, at 5:00 pm at the Civil Lines office, whose chief guest will be former Central Minister and former BJP state president Mahendra Nath Pandey.

## Poonam Mishra takes charge as Finance Officer of Open Univ

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Poonam Mishra, the regular Finance Officer of Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj, took charge today. Poonam Mishra, an officer of Uttar Pradesh Finance and Accounts Service Cadre Group A, was earlier working in Super Specialty Children's Hospital, Noida. In a function organized in the university, Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam welcomed Mishra and said that with the appointment of a full-time finance officer, the stalled work of the university will progress rapidly. Financial discipline should be the first priority for the development of the institution, to which the new Finance Officer will pay full attention. The Vice Chancellor has expressed his gratitude to the Uttar Pradesh Government for appointing a full-time Finance Officer in the University. On this occasion, the newly appointed Finance Officer of the University, Poonam Mishra, expressed her gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and said that under his guidance, she will make every possible contribution in the development of the University, keeping in mind the financial purity. On this occasion, the new Finance Officer was welcomed by the Director, Registrar, Controller of Examinations, officers and employees of the University.



## Puri Shankaracharya's 82nd b'day celebrated as Rashtrakarsh Day

Prayagraj: Govardhan Math Puri (Orissa) The 82nd birth anniversary of Peethadhishwar Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati was celebrated as "Rashtrakarsh Day". Maharudrabhishek of Lord Shiva was performed at Shivaganga Ashram, Prayagraj center of Govardhan Math in Jhansi and wishes for Shankaracharya's long life and health were made. Thereafter Hanuman Chalisa recitation, Sunderkand, Bhajan Sankirtan and Hindu Rashtra Seminar were organized 101 times. The speakers present in the seminar said that we should learn from the sacrifices and hard work of Shankaracharya that to protect our country and Sanatan Dharma, we should follow the path shown by him and the projects carried out by him. The life of Swami



Nischalanand Saraswati, the 145th Shankaracharya of Puri Peeth, has been full of struggles and he has dedicated his life to the Hindu Rashtra campaign. It is the duty of every Hindu to ensure his participation in this campaign. On the birth anniversary of Shankaracharya, his disciples also organized a program of Lassi distribution in the city area. A tree plantation program was organized in the evening under which saplings of Neem, Guava, Bael, etc. were planted. On this occasion, Surendra Pandey, Ajay Pandey, Vyas Muni, Acharya Ramanuj, Deepak Shukla, Ayush Singh, Munna Singh, Mahant Satyam Shukla, BP Singh, Rajeev Mishra Rana, KN Pandey, Pratap Dubey, Acharya Ramjas, Devi Tripathi, Ramakrishna Pandey, Disciples like Ashish Tripathi, Krishna Murari Tripathi, Manoj Tripathi, Priyanshu, Aditya, Ankur, Vivek Mishra etc. were present.

## Kicked off new session by vaccinating children at Durgavati International School

Meja: Durgavati International School and College Gosaura Kala Meja started the session once again after the summer holidays on Thursday by vaccinating the children in the traditional manner by the teachers. During this time, school manager Dr. Swatantra Mishra and Vice Principal Srijan Mishra, coordinator, Ankur, sir, Himanshu sir, Satyam Singh, Saroj Singh, Juveria Inkar and all the teachers and children together inaugurated the



school by performing havan ritually by Brahmins. It is noteworthy that

There was a wave of happiness among the children after coming back to

school after such a long vacation. Along with studies, children also enjoyed some sports and fun. The school manager has appealed to the children to attend the school regularly and study along with the new students. Along with this, it has also been told that the admission of children up to class eight and class ten through play group has also started. School manager Dr. Mishra also said that 50 percent admission fees will be waived off till July 15.

## 3-day story of Lord Jagannathji commences

Prayagraj: In the Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav, under the auspices of the Committee Trust, the Katha of Lord Jagannath Ji was organized at Arya Bhawan, Johri Tola Zero Road. On this occasion, Pandit Manoj Pandey while lecturing on the Katha said, That in order to remove the sufferings of the devotees in Kalyug, Shri Hari Narayan Lord Shri Krishna appeared in the form of Jagannath in Puri Dham of Nilanchal Pradesh, Orissa and said that Lord Jagannath is called the God of Kali Kaal and said that Lord Jagannath is physically present on this earth. He is Brahma and the devotee who takes refuge in Lord Jagannath gets freedom from many births. On this occasion, Kadha Prasad was offered to Lord Jagannath and symbolic Aarti was performed. Rajesh Kesarwani conducted the program. Trust on this occasion. President Durga Prasad Gupta, General Secretary Gagan Das Gupta, Treasurer Jai Ram Gupta, Basant Lal Azad, Poonam Gupta, Preeti Gupta, Triloki Kesarwani, Mamta Mishra, Lata Upadhyay etc. were among the devotees.



## Dissatisfaction among saints due to neglect of ancient heritage Mauni Baba cave in Shringverpurdham

Prayagraj: Shringverpurdham is the land of sages and penance. The glory of Shringverpurdham has been described in Shri Ramcharit Manas. Shringverpurdham gets special mention due to the penance of sage Shringi. In such a situation, on one hand by the Archeology Department and Nishadraj Park is being constructed by the Tourism Department. In Shringverpurdham, efforts are being made to close the cave of the ascetic Mouni Raghunath Das Maharaj who resides in the faith and mind temple of the local villagers. The cave is being covered by the construction of the pathway from Rajghat of Shringverpurdham and the boundary wall to be built. On Thursday, Shringverpurdham Peethadhishwar Mahant Ramprasad Das Shastri Maharaj's blessed Shridhar Maharaj and Shringverpur Teerth Kshetra Trust President Arun Dwivedi reached Mauni Baba Cave and raised the demand for its conservation, alleging neglect of the ancient cave in development works. President Arun Dwivedi told that this ancient cave of Shringverpurdham is built



on the banks of Ganga. Where the ascetic Raghunath Das Maharaj, known as Mauni Baba, did penance by remaining silent for 12 years. Maharajji did penance for 12 years by drinking Vilvapatra, Neemkori and Ganga water. The villagers also intensified the demand for the conservation

of Mauni Baba Cave. Has gone. Shri Dhar Maharaj says that the trees planted in the cave have been cut. The soil has been eroded. Due to which the heritage of saints is being destroyed. Accusing the tourism department of arbitrariness, demands have been made for the conservation of the ancient cave. Presently it is being looked after at private level by Tulsi Sahitya Prachar Samiti.

## Case of beating of Lekhpal couple: Sangh strike enters 2nd day

Prayagraj: The Lekhpal Association remained on strike for the second day over the beating of the Lekhpal couple in the district. Accountant Harish Verma along with his wife and Accountant Vaishali Jaiswal posted in Handia were beaten and injured by a lodge operator for removing the motorcycle in Avadhपुरी Colony of Colonelganj police station area, in which both of them got injured and admitted to the hospital. On the complaint of victim Vaishali Jaiswal, police registered a case and started investigation. The Lekhpal Association

alleges that the accused was released after being arrested. Due to which the

Yadav, Rakesh Lekhpals like Mishra, Mukul, Durga Prasad, Ramkrishna Mishra,



angry Lekhpal Association has decided to boycott work in the tehsil since Wednesday. On this occasion, Rajkumar Sagar, Avnish Pandey, Pratik Pandey, Ritukesh Srivastava, Rakesh

Mahesh Mishra, Anshuman Singh etc. were present. Lekhpal Association officials met the District Magistrate. Angered by the beating of the Lekhpal, District President of Uttar

Pradesh Lekhpal Association Rakesh Upadhyay met District Magistrate Prayagraj Navneet Singh Chahal and expressed his views and demanded that action should be taken against the accused as soon as possible. And the Lekhpal should be given justice. The police is trying to implicate the Lekhpal in a cross case against the Lekhpal. Lekhpal Harish Verma says that the police is not arresting the accused and we are Lekhpal Sangh said that if the accused are not arrested then work will be boycotted in all the eight tehsils of Prayagraj.

## Plant trees to conserve life: Ex-minister

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party Bhardwaj Mandal launched a tree plantation campaign in the name of his mother in the premises of CAV Inter College. On this occasion, former cabinet minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur inaugurated the tree plantation campaign by planting a tree and said that Man must now plant a tree for himself to preserve the life of the coming generation because we get oxygen from the tree and during the Corona period, man has faced the crisis of oxygen. Anil Bhatt, the convenor of the program, was the chairman of the CAB Inter on this occasion. College Principal Kaushal Kishore Prasad, Vice Principal Dinesh Kumar, Rajesh Kesarwani, Sharad Rai, Anjani Singh, Devraj Singh, Vinod Saxena, Abhay Jaiswal, Premlata Maurya, Anshula Goswami, Suchet Gupta, Karunesh Tiwari, Shatrughan Singh Sanjeev Kushwaha, Anil, Ramraj etc.



## Inauguration of Totality Campaign in presence of MLA Koraon and Deputy Advisor NITI Aayog Gol

Prayagraj: Under the Government of India NITI Aayog program of Aspirational Block, launch of Totality Campaign running from 04-07-2024 to 30-09-2024 On Thursday, in the presence of chief guest Rajmani Kol MLA Koraon and Harshit Mishra, Deputy Director, Deputy Advisor NITI Aayog, Government of India, in which 6 parameters were discussed by different experts regarding nutrition, health, education, agriculture, economic and social self-reliance. After this, on the second day of the visit of Aspirational Block Koraon of Prayagraj district by Harshit Mishra, Advisor to NITI Aayog, Government of India, primary school Kheska was first inspected today. He was pleased to see the attractive environment and interesting teaching system of the school. The mathematics question asked by him in class 8 was solved correctly, on which Mishra expressed happiness.



After this, Atal Residential School was inspected by NITI Aayog advisor Harshit Mishra and detailed information was taken about the facilities there. And Upper Primary School Bahiyari Khurd (1-8) was also

visited, where the average student attendance was found to be 80 pc. When Mishra asked questions to some children, all the children were found to be proficient. After that, trees were planted in the playground built in Bahiyari Khurd itself. Finally, Mishra visited Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls School in Chaka Block, where all the arrangements were found to be working smoothly. On this occasion, District Basic

Education Officer Prayagraj, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Prayagraj from Health Department, District Program Officer Prayagraj, Deputy Commissioner of Labor and Self-Employment Prayagraj, Project Director Prayagraj, Superintendent Community Health Center Koraon, Deputy Veterinary Officer Koraon, Child Development Project Officer Koraon, Sapna Singh ABP Fellow Koraon and all the officers and employees of the development block and all the village heads and area Panchayat members. The program was completed in the presence of Anganwadi workers, members of the National Rural Livelihood Mission and regional public representatives.

## Ensure all necessary preparations to deal with floods: Minister of State for Jal Shakti Immediately get the tube wells repaired

Prayagraj: Minister of State, Jal Shakti Department, Uttar Pradesh Ramkesh Nishad held a meeting with officials related to tube wells, canals, Jal Jeevan Mission and floods at Circuit House on Thursday and gave necessary guidelines. Taking information about the status of operation of tube wells, the Minister of State gave necessary guidelines to the concerned Executive Engineers. Instructions were given to immediately get the tube wells damaged due to mechanical and electrical faults repaired. He said that at present the work of paddy transplantation is going on, in such a situation all the tube wells must remain functional. He directed to prepare e-Khasra and update it by mentioning the areas irrigated by tube wells and canals. Also, after taking information about the condition of the canals, instructions were given to the concerned engineers to maintain the availability of water in the canals till the tail as per the roster. While reviewing the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Minister got information about the progress of the projects and the works, which were completed in time and quality. He gave instructions to get unfinished works completed. He said that if the quality is found to be poor, then penalty action should be taken

by registering an FIR against the concerned executing agency. Taking information about the construction of tanks and how many villages have been supplied with water through pipelines so far, he directed to speed up the work. Taking information about the preparations made by the Irrigation Department to deal with possible floods, he He



directed to repair the sluice gates and maintain the pumps in working condition. Besides, instructions have been given to set up a control room of the Irrigation Department and to coordinate with the district administration to ensure all preparations are made on time and to maintain constant vigilance. Officials from concerned departments were present in the meeting.

# Prayagraj set to transform ahead of Mahakumbh 2025

Prayagraj: The Yogi government is diligently preparing to make the Mahakumbh-2025, scheduled to be held early next year in Prayagraj, a grand and divine event. The administration is working in mission mode to ensure extensive beautification and cleanliness of the city, as well as security and convenience of the devotees and tourists who will be visiting the city to attend the event. The authorities have launched a comprehensive plan to enhance the aesthetics of the city. The rejuvenation of Prayagraj will replicate and even exceed the elaborate decorations witnessed during the Pran Pratishtha of the new idol of Ramlalla in Ayodhya,

claim officials.

Hundreds of pillars, green belts, horticultural enhancements, and thematic developments will be installed throughout the city reflecting the richness of Sanatan traditions. Besides, preparations are being made to leave the visitors awestruck by the splendour of the city immersed in religious faith, they added.

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath recently reviewed the preparations for the Prayagraj Mahakumbh and provided essential guidelines to various departments involved in its management. He emphasised ensuring Mahakumbh sets a benchmark for cleanliness, con-

venience, and security, informed a state government spokesperson.

According to the chief minister, Mahakumbh-2025 presents a significant opportunity to showcase Sanatan culture to the world. It will serve as a platform for global branding not just of Uttar Pradesh, but the country at large, he added.

In line with CM Yogi's vision, the beautification of 38 junctions is underway in Prayagraj. The Prayagraj Mela Authority (PMA) has collaborated with an agency to develop designs based on traffic density analysis. Additionally, green belts and sculptures will be established with a five-year maintenance plan.

Of the total junctions, 19 are being constructed by the Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA), 15 by the PWD and two by Setu Nigam. Urban routes are also undergoing beautification, with 38 routes (totalling 75 km) being enhanced.

Prayagraj Mela Authority has engaged eight architects to oversee green belt, horticulture, landscaping development, thematic development, and gap analysis for each route. Of these, 36 routes are beautified by the PDA and two by the PWD.

Street art and murals will also be created on approximately 1 million square feet of walls. The Prayagraj Mela Authority

will fund work on 5 lakh square feet from the Kumbh Mela fund, with the remaining 5 lakh square feet funded by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

There are also plans to construct four thematic gates, named Saraswati Dwar, Shiv Dwar, Ganga Dwar, and Yamuna Dwar, with the tender process currently underway. Furthermore, 108 decorative pillars are planned for construction along river roads, thematic gates, and various sites. Specifically, eight pillars will be installed at Bhardwaj Ashram, 48 at the four thematic gates, and 52 along River Front Road. The implementing agency for this project is C&DS.

## For me, Gandhi Bhawan teaches me to follow 'Gandhi's education': Karan Parihar

Prayagraj: Institute of Gandhian Thought and peace Studies is an integral part of Allahabad University. Gandhi Bhawan has been Completely Student-centric. People of almost all ages visit Gandhi Bhawan. This building, equipped with a calm and cool atmosphere, has been a source of inspiration for all of us. My own experience is that the walls of Gandhi Bhawan also used to teach me. The statements of Gandhi ji displayed on the walls are like 'Gagar men Sagar'.

My visit to Gandhi Bhawan generated a desire in me to read anything and everything related to Gandhi, Nehru and Gandhi, in about three months, I found myself purchasing many books related to Gandhi and I began to read them one by one in the hot afternoons.

I read an incident in the book Lokdev Nehru in which Pt. Nehru took almost 14 years to understand Gandhiji then Gandhi used to surprise him with his decisions and actions from time to time. This incident is mentioned because there is still a lot to read about



Gandhi ji.

The seminars, competitions and lectures held at Gandhi Bhawan where of such high standard that it made one feel that Gandhi was not a name of compulsion but of strength. I used to participate in the most of the programmes of the Gandhi Bhawan and was a part of the support team. The guidance of the Gandhi Bhawan's Director Prof. Santosh Bhadauriya sir was the indicator of the success of the programme. I got the opportunity to read many other books and old newspaper etc. in the library of the Gandhi Bhawan and I

definitely felt how important it is to read Gandhiji. For me, Gandhi Bhawan teaches us to follow Gandhi's teachings. The sound of birds, squirrels and the dance of peacock in the Gandhi Bhawan was very soothing. The purpose of reading Gandhiji is to implement his words in life. His words help us to become human beings. A human beings who will free us from fear, jealousy, anger, greed, condemnation, religion, caste, lust etc.

I like Marx, but I love gandhi more.

I love the cool breeze, I take inspiration from the storm. - Dinkar

## Farmer seminar and seed distribution prog organized by SHUATS

Farmers should get benefit from advanced farming & management of paddy nursery: Dr. Praveen Charan

Prayagraj: A farmer seminar and seed distribution program was organized by the Directorate of Extension, Shuats, Prayagraj in village Majhiyar, development block-Lalganj, district-Mirzapur. Director Extension Dr. Praveen Charan, who was presiding over the program, gave detailed in-

formation on the advanced production technology of Kharif crops and also told the farmers about advanced farming and management of paddy nursery and the paddy variety developed by the university, Shuats Paddy-3 (its Maturity is 128 days, production capacity is 60-65 kg per hectare and it is a variety resistant to brown hoppers and bacte-

rial blight and is suitable for timely and late sowing) its seeds were distributed free of cost to the farmers. Scientist Dr. Sarvendra Kumar distributed information about Kharif crops. While discussing production and management, it was said that to protect from diseases, seeds should be

phosphorus, 30 kg potash and 40 kg nitrogen per hectare and do top dressing at the rate of 40 kg nitrogen per hectare on 8-10 days of planting.

Scientist Dr. Mukesh P. Masih gave a detailed discussion on the cultivation of fruits and vegetables in Kharif. He said that this time is suitable for the cultivation of cucurbit vegetables. Also, if cucurbit vegetables have already been sown, then weeding should be done 25-30 days after sowing and top dressing of urea should also be done, this helps in good growth of the plants. Arrangements for drainage must be made. If water logging occurs during the rainy season, production is affected. He stressed on forming groups of farmers and doing cluster farming, so that farmers can get fair price for their produce. Anubhav Dubey, Director of FPO Mati Gram Farmers Producer Co. Ltd., Ram Bahadur Pal and other farmers were present in the program.

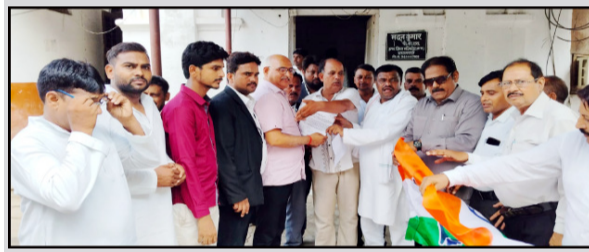


formation on the advanced production technology of Kharif crops and also told the farmers about advanced farming and management of paddy nursery and the paddy variety developed by the university, Shuats Paddy-3 (its Maturity is 128 days, production capacity is 60-65 kg per hectare and it is a variety resistant to brown hoppers and bacte-

treated and sown. Medium and late maturing varieties of paddy should be planted in the first fortnight of July and early maturing varieties should be planted in the second fortnight of July. 20-25 days old seedlings are suitable for paddy transplantation. Use fertilizers only on the basis of soil test. If soil test results are not obtained, then apply 40 kg

## Congmen demonstrated on Rahul's issue

Prayagraj: Workers of District Congress Committee Gangapur protested at the District Collectorate in the afternoon and condemned the opposition attitude of BJP on the issue of criticism of the government by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi. Congressmen under the leadership of President Suresh Yadav raised slogans against Prime Minister Modi and BJP and also condemned the attempt to burn Rahul's effigy under police protection in front of the residence of State President Ajay Rai in Varanasi last day. During this, State General Secretary Mukundan Tiwari said in the meeting that Rahul



cannot insult Hindus. Speakers said that Hindus cannot do violence but BJP is doing it 24 hours. PM Modi does not speak on NEET, paper leak, Agni veer, Hathras satsang incident, inflation, unemployment, farmers and women. Manipur is silent on violence. The latest example is the attack and violence by BJP people on Gujarat Congress headquarters. Said that Hindus have woken up and now BJP will not be able to sell lies. There is a need to save the image of Hindu thought from these people. Later the memorandum addressed to the Governor was submitted to the City Magistrate. Former UP Congress Committee spokesperson Kishore Varshney, UPCC members Fuzail Hashmi, Raees Ahmed, Manoj Pasi, Parvez Siddiqui, Rakesh Patel, Ehtesham Ahmed, Dheeraj Vishwakarma, Sant Lal, Mohd. Yasir, Ramesh Verma, Shah Nawaz Ahmed, Piyush Srivastava, Tabrez Ahmed, Rajesh Sonkar, Mohd. Yakub, Suhail Khan, Mohd. Modadsar etc. were present.

## Youth killed for objecting to noise during barat, two held

Prayagraj: A youth was stabbed to death following an altercation with people attending a wedding procession at Bahraicha village under Khiri police station of trans-Yamuna area late Wednesday night. The incident led to stone pelting and clashes among groups and heavy police force had to be deployed in the village to restore order. An FIR has been registered and two persons have been arrested in this connection, police said.

As per reports, a barat had arrived at the house of one Angad Singh from Shukulpurwa of Meja area.

Some persons accompanying the barat were in an ebriated state and were creating nuisance. Angad Singh's neighbour's son Sonu Singh, 20, was sleeping outside his home and objected to the noise. However, there was an altercation over the issue following which Sonu Singh was stabbed multiple times with a knife. Sonu's father Ramesh Singh and uncle Mukesh were also assaulted and injured by the accused.

Soon, villagers assembled at the spot and surrounded the baratis. Both the groups clashed and pelted stones and in the

violence, many vehicles were also damaged. Senior police officials reached the spot and used mild force to restore order in the village. Sonu Singh and his kin were rushed to the hospital where Sonu was declared dead on arrival. SHO of Khiri police station Manoj Rai said on complaint of Sonu's father an FIR has been registered against Shubham Singh, Ashok Kumar Singh and some unidentified persons. The bride's father Angad Singh said the marriage ceremony could not be performed as the groom and baratis fled following the incident.

## Swami Vivekananda awakened flame of Hindutva: Rajesh

Prayagraj: At Munshi Ram Prasad's garden, Mutthiganj, on the death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda by the Amar Krantikari Tribute Group, homage was paid on the occasion. While paying tribute to Swami Vivekananda's pictorial, President of Tribute Group, Rajesh Kesarwani,



while reflecting on the life of Swami Vivekananda, said that Swami Vivekananda was a source of inspiration for the youth and was an integral part of Indian culture and Hindutva. He was the one who awakened different people in the world. He gave man a glimpse of human life. Abhilash Kesarwani conducted the program. Convener Shatrughan Jaiswal was among those who paid tribute. Ajay Agrahari, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Rajesh Sharma, Madhur Mathur, Shrestha Chaurasia, Abhilash Kesarwani, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Neeraj Kesarwani, etc. were present.

## Procession of Istiqbal-e-Aza today, ahead of Moharram's commencement

Prayagraj: The month of mourning, which will be observed for two months and eight days in the memory of the martyrs of Karbala, will start only after the moon sighting, but on Friday, the first procession of Istiqbal-e-Aza will be taken out from Imambarah Arab Ali Khan in Daryabad at 8:30 pm. Under the guidance of Shahzeb Asghar, the Majlis will begin with the sermon of Haider Zaidi Bittu Bhai, then Zakir-e-Ahlebait Maulana Irfan Haider Zaidi will address the Majlis. According to Syed Mohammad Askari, General Secretary of Ummul Baneen Society, Anjuman Hyderi Daryabad, Anjuman Asgaria Daryabad,

Anjuman Mohafizeh Aza Dariyabad, Anjuman Hussainiya Qadeem Dariyabad will present a tribute to Nauha and Mautam. Similarly, after the Majlis of Bade Ghar at 10 pm on 1st Moharram, the annual Majlis will be held at Azakhana Syed Farhat Ali Dariyabad in which the poetry of Reyaz Mirza and Shuja Mirza and Zakir A. Ahlul Bait Maulana Ashraf Abbas Khan Saheb will inaugurate the Majlis. After the Majlis, Shabihe Zuljanah will be taken out and Anjuman Hashimaya will present the Nazran of Nauha and Matam.

The mourners engaged in the practice of the Nauhs to be recited in Muharram.



The Nauhs to be recited in processions, Shabbedari and Majlis for two months and eight days, in memory of the incident that took place in Karbala, Iraq, fourteen hundred years ago, along with the noble fami-

lies. These days, various Matami Anjumans are making preparations. After getting the poets to write the Nauha and giving it a tune (tune and rhythm), more than two dozen Matami Anjumans from across the

city along with their Nauhakhwanos and Hamanwa friends are preparing Mashk i.e. Practice is going on. After giving final shape to Nauhe, today a majlis was held on behalf of Anjuman Guncha-e-

Qasimaya at the Azakhana of Mirza Azadar Hussain in Bakshi Bazaar in which the members of Anjuman were made aware of the tune and rhythm of Nauhe for the first time.

In the Imambaras, the claws and planks of the alums were given a new look by painting them. Now only a few days are left for the beginning of Moharram, in such a situation, keeping the ancestral tradition of Azadari intact, the Imambaras everywhere were kept clean and the claws of the alams were given a new look by painting them. All kinds of preparations are being done including electroplating and repairing the alum planks that have been kept for a year.

## E-rickshaws to make travel easy, eco-friendly in tent city during Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: The mega religious fair of Mahakumbh-2025 will not only be grand and divine, but this once-in-12-year event will also be eco-friendly. As part of this effort, pilgrims, especially differently abled and elderly, arriving to take a dip at Sangam will get specially deputed e-rickshaws operating in the sprawling tent city for arrival and return from different bathing ghats, including the revered Sangam, said officials. The e-rickshaws would operate across 4,000

hectares of the sprawling tent city. The Prayagraj Mela Authority has prepared its outline based on its past experiences in this regard. Big vehicles of devotees coming from far off places like buses and trucks will not be allowed in the fair area. Rather, they will be stopped in the designated parking sites set up outside the city limits. Shuttle e-buses will be present for ferrying the pilgrims in batches to reach close to Sangam every 10 to 20 minutes, said Mahakumbh Mela Adhikari

and CEO of Prayagraj Mela Authority Vijay Kiran Anand.

After this, e-rickshaws with colour codes will run in the fair area to take them to camps and bathing ghats. These e-rickshaws will have different colour codes meant for plying on specific routes/directions within the fair area, he explained. Right now, the colour code is being prepared for these e-rickshaws. The plan is to have specific coloured e-rickshaws operating on designated routes.

For example, if saffron coloured e-rickshaws are operating for Sangam, those going towards Akhara Marg will be red, white, blue or any other colour. This will allow the pilgrims to recognise the e-rickshaw heading towards their intended destination from a distance. These colour codes would be widely publicised, the official said. Along with this, some charging points will also be set up at different places in the fair area for these e-rickshaw operators.

Pilgrims would need to trek on foot only during bathing festivals: Only on the days leading to and immediately after the main bathing festivals will the vehicle movement will be restricted in light of the heavy influx of visitors. Only this time the pilgrims need to walk up to 3km to the bathing ghats.

Barring days of these bathing festivals, e-rickshaws will be operated in the fair area all through the 45-day fair. In 2025, the fair will kick-start with the bath-

ing festival of Paush Purnima on January 13, 2025, followed by 'Makar Sankranti' Shahi Snan on January 14 and the Mauni Amavasya bathing festival on January 29. The bathing festival of 'Basant Panchami', which would be the third and the final Shahi Snan of this fair, will take place on February 3, 2025. After Achla Saptami (February 4) and Maghi Purnima (February 12) bathing festivals, the fair would conclude with the Mahashivratri snan on February 26.

## Condolences on those killed in Hathras Satsang stampede: AIMIM

Prayagraj: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen AIMIM expressed deep condolence over the death of 121 people in the stampede that broke out during the satsang of Narayan Hari Maharaj alias Bhole Baba in village Kulrai of Sikdarmau area of Hathras. Metropolitan President Afsar Mahmood targeted the BJP government. It is said that in this government, bridges have been broken, sometimes due to train accidents and now in the present time, hundreds of people have died in the stampede in satsang, but there is no accountability of the Modi government, which is a matter of shame, the crowd is three times more than the permissible limit. There is no system of administration and management, no medical team, the real culprits are having fun, small people have been nominated in their place, Baba has been cleared and the officers have no crime at all. AIMIM leader Afsar Mahmood has demanded an impartial investigation from the Modi Yogi government and appropriate compensation to those killed.

## Editorial

### Russia, too, has been astonishingly

Putin has allocated \$117 billion for the special military operation against Ukraine. His war economy runs feverishly in an overheated mode. Most international estimates state that 7.5 per cent of Russia's GDP is directed to the military-industrial complex although Kremlin's official estimates claim it is 6.7 percent. It is a rare submission of a rising-cost problem from Putin, who had preferred to continue with his hunting-holidaying excursions pal Shoigu despite repeated allegations of systemic corruption and inefficiency against him for years. These allegations became the order of the day when mercenary group Wagner, led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, was brought to deliver victory in the infamous battle for Bakhmut in 2023. Putin's slighting of Prigozhin's outright allegations against Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov led to the incredible Wagner mutiny against the two generals, which ended up with Prigozhin's death in uncanny circumstances. It, however, unleashed an investigation into rampant corruption inside Russia's military leadership, of which Prigozhin had become the most notorious victim. Russia-watchers had an inkling of Shoigu's exit after Prigozhin and his aides were made to bid adieu into the flannel skies, and many corrupt links started to get exposed in the Ministry of Defence. The inkling became stronger as Shoigu's deputies, including Timur Ivanov, got arrested on corruption charges last month. Soon, two other deputy defence ministers allegedly backdated their resignations before 9 May, or the Soviet Victory Day. The Russian army was supposed to make an impressive win in Chasiv Yar on the eastern front but had to make do with American tanks captured at a small village called Berdychi when Ukrainians retreated, running out of ammunition to fire. All has certainly not been going as planned. The latest reshuffling in key defence and security offices has been Putin's biggest shake-up in the past 15 years. There are two reasons for this. One is ensuring economic efficiency at a time when the stakes are very high for Russia and Putin. And two, Shoigu's leadership has not been able to yield the anticipated results in the Ukraine war. His current appointment is a step-down with little direct authority. Getting an economist like Belousov in the key position of a defence minister also shows that Putin is preparing for the longer haul. It is a solemn reiteration that the Ukraine war has indeed been reduced to a grinding war of attrition, with both sides lacking the capabilities to end it anytime soon. Europe's combined strategies to support Kyiv militarily won't come to fruition until mid-2025. American aid and the conditionalities attached are likely to help Ukraine stay afloat, but not gain a decisive edge.

That said, in exploiting the window of opportunity that had remained open for the last six months as Ukraine was outgunned and outnumbered with a lack of troops and ammunition. Despite the high intensity, war-economy mode with the reported 7.5 per cent of GDP directed to war effort, the Shoigu-Gerasimov duo could have done better than landing villages along with Avdiivka on the eastern front. Russia could have certainly conquered more than half a dozen.

or more in the buffer zone in the 'bolt out of the blue' Kharkiv raid launched on 10 May, which concluded without significant strategic gains four days later. Even though Moscow has been clearly able to ramp up pressure on an outgunned Kyiv holding on in regions like Robotyne.



## Nitish was foisted as the chair of the alliance

The BJP aims to match the Congress's performance in 1984 when it won over 400 seats. However, it's important to remember that those 400 seats came as a harvest of the sympathy wave in the favour of the party following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. What differentiates the BJP in 2024 from the Congress in 1984 is that it has delivered on its ideological agenda. This has solidified the commitment of its cadre, leading to an expanded poll machinery. This could work both ways. If there is an undercurrent, it would bring bonus points and if there is voter indifference, the per-

formance should not fall below, as they say in commerce, the reserve price.

Though some point out that Kharge and not Nitish was foisted as the chair of the alliance, given his track record, the Bihar chief minister's opposition to the BJP was always suspect. The second move by the Congress has been to channelise the strength of the alliance partners to keep itself afloat. To this end, the Congress is contesting only 328 seats this time, significantly fewer than the 421 it contested in the 2019 polls. This number would have been 330, but one candidate's nomination papers

were rejected in Surat, and another withdrew in Indore. This means that the Congress in INDIA has created an alliance base that is much wider than that of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). This also means that the party has shrunk from the position of a dominant partner to a senior partner with some other members of the bloc like the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab not even entertaining an alliance. Those in charge of forging alliances for the Congress claim that this time the grouping is much more pragmatic than in 2019. Uttar Pradesh is a case in

point. In 2019, the Congress went into the polls alone, with no major allies. Facing both the BJP and the SP-BSP alliance, it contested 67 of the state's 80 seats but could win only one: Sonia Gandhi in Raebareli. This time, in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, it is contesting just 17 seats, down by 50. People close to poll planning point out that it has been done to conserve the party resources for more realistic contests. Similarly, in West Bengal, from contesting 40 seats in 2019, the Congress is taking on just 14 seats this time, giving the remaining Ones to its alliance partner, the Left.

# Chief Minister Adityanath has not only benefited the people of Uttar Pradesh

In 2014, when Modi wave was running in the whole country, no one would have thought that a BJP leader would come in this way and by creating his own identity away from the allegations of corruption that are usually leveled on leaders, he would become famous among the people like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and became so famous that people started seeing him as the next Prime Minister. But when the five-time MP from Gorakhpur parliamentary seat, Mahant of Gorakhnath Bhaam Math and former MP, became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest number of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats in the country, in 2017 at the age of 45, his reputation definitely changed, the reason for which is his clean image and saintly nature. It is usually said that no other face can become big in front of a big face, but Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has earned his stature through his work, law and order and his impeccable image that when it comes to the public, no one else can be compared to him



in the party in the state. Actually, Chief Minister Adityanath is not only famous for his impeccable image, he is also famous for taking action against the wrongdoers and working in the interest of the common people.

He is the first Chief Minister of the country, who, apart from being famous as a saint after becoming the Chief Minister, has also become famous as Kulchner Baba. He has also received the title of the most popular Chief Minister of the country. Chief Minister Adityanath has not only benefited the people of Uttar Pradesh, but has done excellent work under many development schemes on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government. And not only is his

support base the strongest in Uttar Pradesh, but he is the main face of all the MLAs and ministers in his government, due to which he is able to take decisions in his government unopposed. He not only gave free hand to the police to deal with the criminals to end the lawlessness in Uttar Pradesh, but also by ordering bullock carts to break the chains of those who grab property illegally, he created the image of a good Chief Minister in the minds of those people who eat simple food. Even today he finds immense joy in serving cows and used to sing Hindu Hriday Samrat. He is known as the image of Ram R Ram Raja.

Apart from this, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has done

major reforms in the pilgrimage places of Uttar Pradesh and has also given the names of places changed in the modern times to their historical names.

The old name of Allahabad Sangam was Prayagraj. It has got its own identity. The biggest Kumbh Mela of the country has been held in Prayagraj for centuries, but no one till the time of the state paid attention to its development and improvement.

But after becoming the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath first got the Pracharagran renovated and the Prayagraj is worth seeing. Similarly, he has also developed many other places. Eastern Uttar Pradesh was once suffering in terms of development, now international level roads have been built there. Apart from this, his government has made efforts to provide water to every village. Now in Uttar Pradesh, whether it is the election of the Prime Minister, Assembly or Lok Sabha, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has a big and strong influence in the elections, on the basis of which BJP

gets a good number of seats in every election. Actually, I am getting all this because many people are not aware of the stature of Chief Minister Aditya and his clean political record or it can be said that they are taking Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lightly. Yesterday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, after coming out of jail, held a press conference and said that as soon as Modi becomes the PM, he will finish Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Arvind Kejriwal said that PM Modi does not want to fight this election for the country or the party, he wants to fight only for one person Amit Shah. He said that he will remove Yogi Adityanath from power next time. Sources say that after Arvind Kejriwal's statement of removing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the game of checkmate and checkmate started in the coin division, and it also revealed who all are in the race for the post of Prime Minister in BJP. According to the number of supporters and impeccable record, Yogi Adityanath is the youngest leader in India.

## Why Delhi-Tehran deal on Chabahar Port is good news for India's Shia Muslims

**China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).** Its timing, amid the chaos in West Asia disrupting important trade routes, makes it even more significant. Furthermore, beyond these tangible benefits, India's diplomatic success shines through the forging of successful ties with conflicted powers. Its diplomatic success is evident in its ability to foster friendly relations with Israel while extending support to Palestine. Simultaneously, New Delhi adeptly navigates deepening ties with the United States and successfully negotiates with Iran, showcasing its diplomatic prowess. Meanwhile, our long-standing partnerships with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Japan continue to flourish. India's leader-

ship roles in the G20 forum and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) highlight that its diplomacy is actually working. After extensive negotiations, India and Iran have finally sealed a historic 10-year bilateral agreement for the operation of the strategically located Chabahar Port on the Gulf country's eastern coast. While India initially engaged in short-term agreements with Iran starting in 2016, the newly inked deal marks a significant milestone. With its presence in Chabahar, India aims to circumvent reliance on Pakistan's ports in Karachi and Gwadar, facilitating smoother access to landlocked Afghanistan and other Central Asian nations via Iran.

This deal has a lot of economic significance for India. Despite the nation's preoccupation with the ongoing Lok Sabha election, the Narendra Modi government's decisive action, including the special permission reportedly obtained from the Election Commission of India (ECI) to dispatch a central minister to Iran, underscores the paramount importance of this deal for the nation's strategic interests and economic future. In geopolitical dynamics, this deal is a major achievement for India and a testament to Modi's personal diplomacy.

It marks our first step into managing overseas ports and serves as a strategic move against the emerging

## A sign of serious concern

These figures have been in the public domain for the last five years, still, it is amazing that in this country, we have some eminent journalists and political commentators misinterpreting the 2019 election as mostly decided on the basis of Pulwama and Balakot. Coming to the 2024 elections, Lokniti-CSDS released a pre-poll survey in April where the data pointed out that the satisfaction level towards the Modi government has seen a dip of around 8.1 per cent — a sign of serious concern for the BJP. Increasing unemployment (12.2 per cent), price rise (7.6 per cent) and falling income (4.1 per cent) are some of the crucial issues in the survey that matter to voters. The pre-poll survey also points out that there is an increase of around 5 per cent in support for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi — 26.5 per cent — as the next prime minister compared to the 2019 pre-poll survey. Interestingly, there is also a 2 per cent increase in support for Narendra Modi — 47.5 per cent — as the next prime minister. This is despite 10 years of anti-incumbency. Many journalists and political commentators are seen discussing that Ram Mandir in Ayodhya isn't a poll issue. First of all, this isn't an issue for a particular election — Ram Mandir is a sentiment for the Hindus. That said, it's still an issue in this election. According

to the pre-poll survey, for 7.5 per cent of voters, Ram Mandir is an important issue when they vote, with an additional 2.3 per cent of voters separately pointing to Hindutva as an important issue when they vote. Clearly, the BJP's Hindutva agenda remains a significant factor for 9.8 per cent of voters in this election, though a small fraction of them may be anti-Hindutva voters. Unemployment remains the most important issue for voters — 27.3 per cent — when they vote. However, it is wrong to conclude that all voters citing unemployment as an important issue are necessarily anti-BJP voters. If they vote for the Modi-led BJP, liberals and Leftists label them as being "blind" towards basic issues like unemployment and price rise. Interestingly, according to the pre-poll survey, 9.1 per cent of voters cited employment as the most liked work of the Modi government — the second most liked factor after Ram Mandir. This means that there is a section that believes that although unemployment is a burning issue, the Modi government has been working to address it. After unemployment, price rise has been cited by 23.4 per cent of voters as an important factor. However, it's worth noting that despite price rise being an important issue during the 2009 elections, the

Congress-led UPA came to power with an increased number of seats. This is not to deny the disillusionment of voters towards the Modi government on price rise. However, welfare schemes, cited by 18.1 per cent of voters as the biggest change since Modi became prime minister, and infrastructure-related works are likely to aid the government, lessening the impact of this disillusionment and preventing it from converting into votes against the BJP-led NDA. Liberals and Leftists aren't happy with Narendra Modi's election speeches targeting Congress-led Opposition for Muslim appeasement. They argue that this is not a significant issue. While the Congress manifesto does not discuss wealth redistribution, the CSDS-Lokniti pre-poll survey suggests that concerns about policies targeting Muslim communities resonate with some voters. The survey found that 47.3 per cent of voters agreed that Muslims are unnecessarily pampered, compared to 32.2 per cent who disagreed, while 20.4 per cent chose not to respond. Modi's speeches on Muslim appeasement, targeting the Opposition, particularly Congress, aim to address the concerns of these voters, close to 50 per cent of those surveyed, while also appealing to undecided voters.

## Sharad Pawar said, "Our alliance is our collective 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

## General Dwivedi becomes Army chief, confronts China, J&K tests

**Delhi:** New Army head General Upendra Dwivedi will face an aggressive and expansionist China, which has forward deployed 1.4 lakh troops and heavy military systems along the border from eastern Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh for five years. Gen Dwivedi, who took over the over 11-lakh strong force as the 30th chief from Gen Manoj Pande on Sunday, will also have to deal with the spike in militancy in J&K, especially the series of military-style ambushes by well-trained terrorists that have set back his force in the densely forested and hilly Poonch-Rajouri region. Gen. Dwivedi is familiar with China and Pakistan's collusive threats. Gen Dwivedi, commissioned into the J&K Rifles in 1984, was GOC-in-C of the important Northern Command for two years before becoming



vice-chief in February. "While China has mastered salami-slicing and grey zone warfare, Pakistan continues with its proxy war," a top aide said. Gen Dwivedi's appointment was announced by the Army, which stated, "The global geo-strategic environment remains dynamic, with security domain challenges becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements and ever-changing character of modern warfare." Thus, the chief would prioritize operational readiness to confront security risks to a burgeoning nation.

A concentrated response strategy to many non-traditional security issues will also be a priority to strengthen the nation's defense "said. Gen Dwivedi, like Navy head Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, is a Rewa Sainik School alumnus. He would have to accelerate Army modernization and transformation during his two-year term. Modern air defense weaponry, fourth-generation anti-tank guided missiles, attack and light utility helicopters, and night-fighting capabilities are still lacking in the army despite emergency procurements.

## Champai Soren might offer to take over as Hemant's CM

**Delhi:** Champai Soren may agree to relinquish his position as Jharkhand chief minister in order to allow his predecessor Hemant Soren to assume the role once more, but Supriyo Bhattacharya, the party's national spokesperson and general secretary, suggested that the latter might not be amenable to a change of leadership before to the assembly polls later this year. "In all likelihood, he (Hemant Soren) will ask his chacha (uncle) to complete the remainder of his tenure," Bhattacharya said. Hemant, the JMM



executive president, will represent the party throughout the assembly polls' campaign. He will take over (the chief ministership) after the INDIA bloc returns to office with a thumping majority," the spokeswoman for the JMM stated. There was conjecture that Hemant's spouse Kalpana Murmu Soren would take Champai's place prior

to his release on bail in the land scam case. This came about following her victory in the Giridih district's Gandey sector byelection. A growing divide between Champai and Kalpana inside the JMM camp over the chief minister's chair was reported by the state branch of the BJP.

## Odisha to launch women's spl scheme on PM Modi's 75th birthday



**Delhi:** The Odisha government announced that it would inaugurate the Subhadra Yojana, a key promise in the BJP's election campaign, on Sept. 17, when every woman will receive a Rs 50,000 voucher that may be paid over two years. The first state cabinet meeting approved the scheme, which Modi may attend. Does the opposition's request for a SC-appointed inquiry into NEET-UG 2024 irregularities make sense? The government had promised to complete the Centre-funded project within 100 days of taking power. It is determining how much money will be credited, how often, and how much. "Drafting of the modalities is being finalised," Mr. Majhi stated. According to the BJP manifesto, the initiative would benefit

all Odisha women, regardless of income or residence. According to the 2011 Census, Odisha has 2,07,62,082, requiring Rs 80,000 crore for the project. It may apply to all women, those 18 and older, or one lady per home. We are working on the details. We will also decide if women living outside the state are considered. A senior government official said whether working women and their income criteria will be considered. The government has stressed that vouchers can be used to improve women's socio-economic position, including education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship, but the final guidelines will specify permitted spending, the official said.

## 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.



## Grant Bihar "Special Category" Status: Nitish Kumar's Gathering at the Important Meeting



**At the end** of their national executive meeting, the Janata Dal United (JDU) passed a resolution calling for Bihar to be given special state status. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the party highlighted the long-standing demand for Bihar to be given special status, emphasizing the differences in the state's economy and growth. Following the meeting, a top JDU leader made an address to the media, saying, "The demand for Bihar to have special state status is not new. It is an essential step in tackling the particular issues facing the state of Bihar and quickening the state's growth trajectory." The resolution also emphasized how important it is to protect Bihar's recently raised reservation quota of 65 percent.

## Shivraj launches rapid bank interest subvention claim settlement portal

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

(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.

## New SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

**The Financial Services Bureau (FSIB)** appointed SBI's senior managing director CS Setty as chairman. SBI managing director Mr. Setty oversees International Banking, Global Markets, and Technology. He will succeed Dinesh Kumar Khara, who will retire on August 28 at 63, the SBI chairman's maximum age. "Keeping in view their performance in the interface, their overall experience and the extant parameters, the Bureau recommends Challa Sreenivasulu Setty for the position of Chairman in SBI," the FSIB stated. Conventionally, the

chairman is chosen from SBI's managing directors. FSIB will suggest the name to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), which will decide. Narendra Modi leads ACC. Former DoPT secretary Bhanu Pratap Sharma leads FSIB. The organization includes the Financial Services Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises Secretary, and RBI Deputy Governor. Former Oriental Bank of Commerce chairman and MD Animesh Chauhan, RBI ex-executive director Deepak Singhal, and ING Vysya Bank MD Shailendra Bhandari are also

## Shah says BJP will run alone in Haryana

**Delhi:** Despite losing five Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, senior BJP leader and home minister Amit Shah declared that the party will contest the assembly elections alone and urged party workers to seek a two-thirds majority. "We lost a couple Haryana seats but increased our vote percentage by 5% from 2014. We shall fight alone and win this time. "We must win Haryana with a two-third majority this time," Shah told BJP activists in Panchkula at his first public rally following Lok Sabha elections. The decision to go alone is noteworthy after Congress reduced BJP's state vote. The



Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party (JJ), a BJP ally in the state, split from BJP before LS elections. Shah stated that the party will not make concessions to win back the former ally. Shah downplayed BJP's poor LS vote showing, focussing on Narendra Modi's historic third straight victory. The home minister asked,

"How can this be possible without the blessings of the people of India?" He claimed Congress is using misleading propaganda to make their Lok Sabha loss look like a win. The past election saw 5% higher BJP votes. The home minister said BJP alone won more seats than all INDI Alliance parties together. Congress is a party

of dynasties, he said, calling Rahul Gandhi "Tara" and Deepender Singh Hooda "Sitara". Tara and Sitara cannot rule Haryana. Sonia Ji's Tara and Hooda Saheb's Sitara won't shine in Haryana." The BJP has appointed key strategist Dharmendra Pradhan as poll in-charge and former Tripura CM Biplab Deb as his deputy.

## Cong MP Tagore begs Om Birla to relax Parliamentary journalist limitations.

**Delhi:** Congress MP Manickam Tagore wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to abolish Covid restrictions on Parliament-covering media. A copy of his June 27 Birla letter was posted on 'X'. Wrote to Hon @loksabhaspeaker to abolish Covid restrictions on Parliament reporters. Curbs are limiting established journalists. Media access must be restored and given their due "Tagore wrote. In his letter to Birla, he said Covid-19 guidelines are restricting multiple journalists, many of whom have covered Parliament for over a decade. "Barring them from Parliament hinders their professional duties and limits public access to correct information. The Congress MP said that all accredited reporters must be permitted to cover the events without interference to preserve our democracy. I request that you lift the restrictions and provide accredited media free access. This will strengthen our free press and keep our democracy strong and transparent," Tagore remarked.

## Indian medical students benefit from Philippines standards changes

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

event. With a total lift of 193 kg (86 kg + 107 kg), Babulal Hembrom won the bronze in the men's 49 kg event, making him the fourth lifter from India to place on the podium.

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

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

## Sindhu beat Ongbamrunghan to reach the Malaysia

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



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

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

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

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

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

final.

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

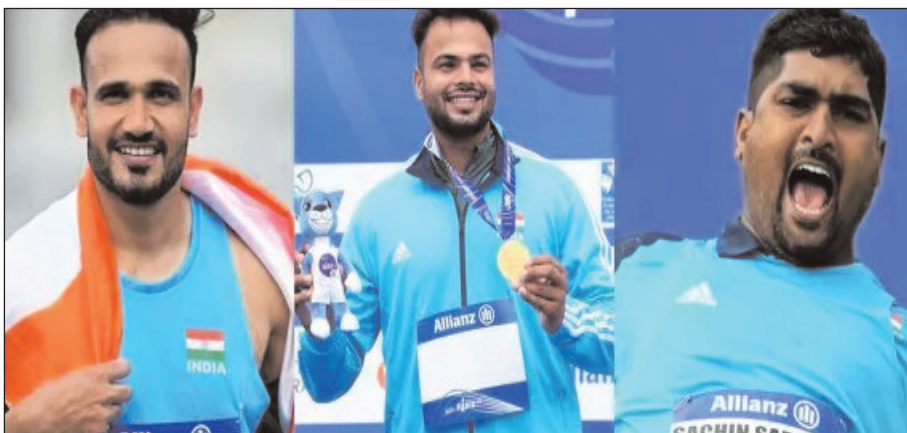
Delhi: As part of their ongoing European tour, the Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team defeated Belgium with a resounding 4-2 shootout victory after regulation ended in a stalemate. India's best goal scorer, Kanika Siwach, led the team with an outstanding brace. In the first quarter, the Indian Junior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

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

was able to contain Belgium and keep the lead.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



final. After an early lead, the Indian duo succumbed by two points, 155-153. Jyothi and Priyansh opened the match with a near-perfect 39 out of 40, giving India a two-point advantage.

They lost consistency in later rounds. By halfway, the USA pair tied the score and beat the Indians with a perfect third end to win the gold medal. Prathamesh Fuge just missed a bronze medal in the individ-

ual events after losing to world number one Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands in a shoot-off. Fuge defeated Austrian world number six Nico Wiener in the quarterfinals

. He lost in the shoot-off after overcoming a two-point deficit to force a tiebreaker, losing his first World Cup medal. In the compound men's individual semifinal, Fuge lost to world number seven James Lutz of the US 143-148.

## HC overturns JNV's admittance denial

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



## How first battle between Modi govt 3.0, INDIA bloc hits a flashpoint over NEET

**New Delhi:** With the Lok Sabha election results signalling a resurgent Opposition INDIA bloc, the raging row over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination and the now-cancelled UGC-NET examination have become the first major issue of conflict between the new BJP-led NDA government and the Opposition alliance. This is set to make stormy the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha beginning June 24. The Congress-led Opposition has made its intent clear soon after the poll results — that it will not let the government rest, vowing that it would be a “fierce challenger” on issues of national importance. At a press conference in Delhi two days ago, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi repeatedly attacked the government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over their



alleged failures to stop paper leaks. Rahul made it clear that the Modi government 3.0 will face “intense scrutiny” of the Opposition on various public issues. “They (government) can indulge in eye-wash. But they will face such pressure from the Opposition that they are going to think twice about whatever they are doing. We will make sure that we put so much pressure on them that this issue (leaks of exam papers) is resolved,” Rahul said. He added that the Opposition would raise this issue in the upcoming session of Parliament. **Was paper leaks a**

**poll issue?** During the recent Lok Sabha polls, which saw the INDIA bloc win 234 seats, the issue of paper leaks featured frequently in the election speeches of prominent Opposition faces — including Rahul, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, among other INDIA leaders — as a way to reach out to the youth. The Congress, in its manifesto, had promised fast-track courts to adjudicate cases related to question paper leaks.

**Guntur:** A row broke out over the demolition of an office of YSRCP in Guntur district on Saturday with party chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy accusing Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of functioning “like a dictator”. “Chandrababu took vendetta politics to the next level. Like a dictator, he got YSRCP’s central office demolished with excavators and bulldozers, which was almost complete,” he said in a post on X. Former CM Jagan also accused the state government of carrying out the demolition against the high court orders.

**What had the high court said about demolition activity?** According to a statement by YSRCP, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday had ordered the demolition to be halted. The order was also conveyed to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) commissioner by a party lawyer, but the authority is said to



have still gone ahead and demolished the structure at 5.30 am on Saturday. “The demolition proceeded even though the YSRCP had approached the High Court the previous day (Friday), challenging the preliminary actions of the CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority),” the statement read. According to YSRCP, CRDA’s action amounts to contempt of court. “Law and justice completely vanished”: Jagan on NDA govt in Andhra. The former chief minister lashed out at the newly-formed NDA government in the state and added that the demolition indicates how Naidu’s reign in the next five

years would be. “Law and justice have completely disappeared in the state,” he said in his post. The NDA government in the state comprises of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in alliance with Pawan Kalyan’s Jana Sena Party and the BJP. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the TDP won 16 seats while its allies won three (BJP) and two (JSP) respectively. In the state Assembly polls which were held simultaneously, the TDP won 136 Assembly seats, while the JSP and BJP emerged victorious in 21 and eight seats respectively. The Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP was restricted to 11 seats, down from the 151 it won in 2019.

## Like a dictator’: Jagan Mohan Reddy hits out at Andhra CM

## CAPSULES

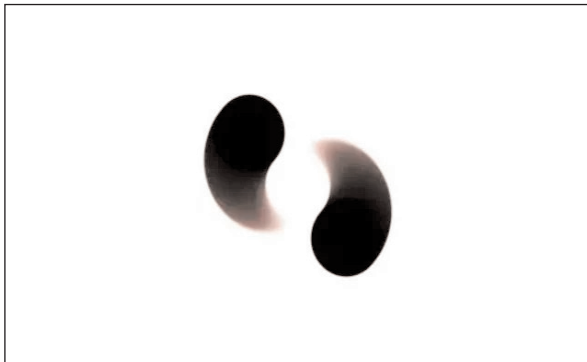
### Aundh-Baner residents grapple with inadequate garbage disposal problem and its consequences

Ill-equipped waste disposal systems, leading to garbage getting piled at various points, is a cause of worry for residents of Aundh, an area which is otherwise considered as one of Pune’s most developed and progressive zones. Residents are concerned about the problems that could be caused by frequent dumping of trash at various spots in the Aundh-Baner areas, such as those between Jupiter Hospital and Nagras Road. “I know there are these agencies that dump garbage anywhere in Aundh; there are specific spots. There is no control at all,” noted Subhabrata Sanyal, 51, a resident of Kumar Padmalay. He said the waste menace could also draw in more stray dogs, posing a threat to people going for morning and evening walks.

“When you walk onto the streets, you can see food littered all over, that attracts stray dogs. In case we go near the garbage by mistake, these animals could even attack us,” observed Deepa Adiga, 47, a resident of Sylvan Heights. Residents blamed lack of a proper collection system by the municipality for the mounting garbage piles. “Sometimes the municipal truck may be arriving at a particular time and the waste is generated later, particularly by restaurants where the waste is generated very late at night, post 11 pm or midnight, after the restaurant is closed,” said Anil Gokarn, founder of ProEarth Co., a company that deals with effective waste management.

## Meet Dot, a new AI chatbot that could become your ‘friend, companion and confidant’

**AI chatbots** like Gemini, ChatGPT, and Copilot may be helping you with work and everyday tasks, but Dot AI is designed as a digital companion that mimics human speech and empathy. Developed by New Computer, a startup founded by ex-Apple designer Jason Yuan and engineer Sam Whitmore, the app is currently available for free on the Apple App Store. While it may appear to be just another AI chatbot at first glance, what makes Dot unique is



its ability to remember your conversations to offer a more personalized experience. As of now, there are no specific details on the underlying technology, but some reports suggest that Dot AI uses natural language pro-

cessing in combination with machine learning to understand user inputs and generate responses. Unlike ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot, which focus on providing factually correct information, Dot AI focuses on

emotional support and intelligence. Dot AI App Store For unlimited conversations, you have to buy a monthly subscription. According to the Apple App Store listing, Dot AI is described as a “friend, companion, and confidant.” On opening the app, users are taken through an onboarding process with questions like “What do you do for work?”, “Favorite TV show?”, and “How do you spend a typical Sunday?” Based on these answers, the chatbot asks more

about the user.

Subscribe for new launches, reviews and all that’s making headlines in the tech world. The App Store description also indicates that Dot AI has an infinite long-term memory and can assist with career advice and date spot recommendations. While a free plan offers limited conversations, users can bypass this limit by purchasing the paid plan for \$11.99 per month, which includes access to Chronicles, a feature that curates a history of the user.

## Tamil Nadu govt to rehabilitate reformed bootleggers

**Tamil Nadu:** Prohibition and Excise Minister S Muthusamy told the legislative assembly on Friday that bootleggers who are remorseful and wish to turn over a new leaf will be rehabilitated after they serve a prison term. Such persons who repent for their wrongdoings should be rehabilitated to prevent them from returning to bootlegging, he said. The minister’s statement comes amid the hooch tragedy that has claimed the lives of 48



persons and has affected the health of more than 100 people, who are currently undergoing treatment at various hospitals. “Persons punished for the offence of distilling and selling illicit arrack will be rehabilitated if they show a change of heart, after serving a term,” Muthusamy said. They will be provided a sub-

sidy of Rs 50,000 each and encouraged to start a trade on their own. The government has earmarked Rs 5 crore for the rehabilitation fund, he said replying to the demand for grants for his department. Further, an integrated scheme will be formulated to equip them with the required skills through various departments, he added. A campaign to create awareness among the people, particularly the youth, on the dangers of consuming illicit arrack.

## No request yet from Nikhil Gupta for consular access: MEA

**New Delhi:** Indian authorities haven’t received any request for consular access from Nikhil Gupta, the Indian national extradited to the US from the Czech Republic following allegations of his involvement in a foiled plot to assassinate Khalistani extremist Pannun. Gupta, who was arrested in the Czech Republic in June last year, was extradited to the US on June 14. “He was extradited to the US on June 14. We have so far not received any request for consular access from Gupta but his family has got in touch with us,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “We are in touch with the family mem-



bers and are looking at the matter as to what can be done on their request,” he said during his weekly media briefing while replying to a question. Gupta, 53, pleaded not guilty when he was produced in a court in New York on June 17. While Gupta was in custody of Czech authorities, Indian officials were given consular access to him on a few occasions. Last November, US federal prosecutors charged Gupta with working with an Indian government

employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun in New York. Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual of the US and Canada. The issue of consular access to Gupta would be decided in line with provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular of 1963, people familiar with the matter said. Article 36 of the Convention states that a detained person will have to make a request for consular access to authorities of his or her country. “Nevertheless, consular officers shall refrain from taking action on behalf of a national who is in prison, custody or detention if he expressly opposes such action,” the article states.

## National Conference urges PM to keep his word on holding J-K polls

**Jammu:** The National Conference urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to back his word on holding assembly elections, restoring statehood and bridging development gaps in Jammu and Kashmir with concrete action. In a statement, NC leaders and members-elect of Parliament, Mian Altaf Ahmad and Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir “are tired of empty promises and meaningless rhetoric”. “It is time for some real progress. Let’s see some action instead of just words. The people of J-K deserve more than just lip service.

It is time for the prime minister to deliver on his promises and bring about real change in the region. The future of J-K hangs in balance, and it is up to PM



Modi to make a difference.

The time for action is now,” they said. The newly elected MPs said the people of J-K “have been dealt a raw deal for the past 10 years”. “They (people) are demanding action, not just empty words. Our people lament the lack of progress despite all the talk of humanity, democracy, and bridging ‘Dil Ki Doori’. It seems like all we have gotten are vague promises and no real answers about where the funds are going,” the joint statement

said. The MPs-elect said people were expecting big announcements about infrastructure projects like Gurez, Simthan, Mughal Road and Karna tunnels, as well as a substantial employment package for the youth. during the two-day trip of the prime minister to the valley. n’But, alas, all they got was big disappointment. With over 14 lakh educated individuals twiddling their thumbs due to unemployment, what good does it do to issue a measly .

## Seasoned diplomat and India’s envoy to Turkiye Virander Paul dies

**New Delhi:** A 1991-batch IFS officer, Paul was struggling with health issues for over one-and-a-half years and he breathed his last at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi this evening, one of his colleagues said. “Deeply grieved at the passing away of Virander Paul, our Ambassador in Türkiye,” Jaishankar said on X. “A great loss to the Indian Foreign Service. Have worked closely with him in his many postings. Always admired his commitment and service and value his many contributions,” he said. Paul held a medical degree from AIIMS. The external affairs minister also conveyed his “deepest condolences” to Paul’s family. Paul is survived by his wife Racheline and two daughters. “We are deeply sad-

dened at the untimely demise of Ambassador Virander Paul, India’s envoy to Turkiye. A dedicated officer, he will always be remembered for his exceptional human qualities and impactful professional contribution,” external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “Our heartfelt condolences to his family. Team @MEAIndia stands with them in this difficult hour,” he said on X. Before arriving in Ankara as ambassador of India to Türkiye in the second half of 2022, he was India’s High Commissioner to Kenya and Ambassador to Somalia. Prior to that, he served as additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, dealing with multilateral engagement in India’s neighbourhood.

## People have completely lost faith in the examination system under BJP rule: Sultan Jadoula

**Kaithal:** Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula said that in the assembly elections to be held in Haryana this year, the people of the state will crown former Haryana Chief Minister Choudhary Bhupendra Singh Hooda as the Chief Minister for the third time. Congress is fully prepared to contest the elections under the leadership of Hooda. He said that the current BJP government has lost the trust of the people and in the upcoming assembly elections, the people will oust the BJP from power and form a Congress government. Congress leader Sultan Singh Jadoula met MP Deepender Singh Hooda at his Delhi residence and congratulated him for registering a record-breaking victory in the Lok Sabha elections. After this, while talking to journalists in his office in the town, former MLA Jadoula



said that MP Deepender Singh Hooda has settled in the hearts of the people of the state due to his clean, pure and friendly image. Hooda's victory is the victory of 36 communities of Haryana. Hooda is fighting day and night selflessly for the interests of the people of the state and with the excellent roadmap made by him, Congress is becoming strong and empowered at the grassroots level in every district of the state. Former Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Jadoula alleged that during the BJP rule, whether it is an exam for a job or an entrance exam, people have completely lost faith in

the examination system. Paper leak, fraud, rigging have ruined the future of the youth. First there were reports of paper leak of the country's biggest medical entrance exam NEET and now lakhs of youth and their families are worried due to allegations of rigging in the NEET exam results. The candidates are seeing dark clouds hovering over their future. Jadoula said that a high-level investigation should be conducted into the entire matter and justice should be given to the students as per their demand. Congress is with the youth and will not let their interests be harmed.

## Pharma exports grew 10% to \$28 billion in FY24, poised to hit \$31 billion in FY25: Pharmexcil

**HYDERABAD:** India's pharmaceutical exports clocked a nearly 10% growth in FY24 to hit \$27.8 billion, propelled by the double digit growth in the US and UK generics market, and is poised to reach \$31 billion in the current fiscal year, a top official of Pharmexcil said on Thursday. India's pharma industry, which is currently pegged at around \$65 billion, is poised to grow to around \$130 billion by 2030, Pharmexcil director general Ravi Uday Bhaskar said at the inaugural of the 10th edition of PharmaLytics here. Pointing out that 50% of the Indian pharma sectors exports go to highly regulated markets, Bhaskar said exports to



US grew over 15.6% to over \$ 8.7 billion in FY24 due to shortages in drug manufacturing capacities and the increasing demand for drugs pertaining to lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, depression, diabetes in the US. He said exports to the UK saw a 21.6% growth partly due to the increased cost of drugs, which were ear-

lier sourced from Europe, post-Brexit. Apart from this, Africa showed a positive turnaround during FY24. from a degrowth of 5% to a growth of 8% as NGOs, who had diverted their funds meant for Africa towards Covid-19 vaccines and medicines, restarting procurement of drugs, he said.



## ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches its First ULIP with Fund Value-based distributor payouts – ICICI Pru Platinum

**SONIPAT/PANIPAT, May 24, 2024:** ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched ICICI Pru Platinum, the Company's first unit-linked product which aligns distributor payouts to their customers' fund value – the distributor commissions are linked to their customers' Assets under Management. This unique product incentivises distributors to encourage their customers to stay invested for the entire policy tenure. Notably, it offers customers a cost and tax-efficient route to build wealth over the long-term. ICICI Pru Platinum provides unlimited free switches between asset classes, without any cost or tax implications. Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this product, comprising 13 equity and four each in the debt and balanced categories, besides offering an option of four portfolio strategies. Announcing the launch, Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "ICICI Pru Platinum, our Company's first unit-linked product designed to make distributor payouts aligned to their customers fund value, promoting the long-term interests of both. We endeavour to continuously innovate and introduce products and processes which are simple. This is in line with our philosophy of ensuring right product to the right customer at the right price and through the right channel."

## Bajaj Housing Finance Limited files DRHP with SEBI for an IPO

**GURUGRAM :** Bajaj Housing Finance Limited (BHFL), part of the Bajaj Group (with Bajaj Finance Limited and Bajaj Finserv Limited as promoters), has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for an Initial Public Offering (IPO). BHFL is a non-deposit taking Housing Finance Company ("HFC"), registered with the National Housing Bank ("NHB") since

September 24, 2015, and engaged in mortgage lending since Fiscal 2018. The Public Offer aggregating up to ₹7,000 crore comprises a fresh issue of equity shares of up to ₹4,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹3,000 crore by the "Selling Shareholder" (The "Offer for Sale") with face value of ₹10 each equity share by Bajaj Finance Limited (The

"Promoter Selling Shareholder"). The Public Offer includes a reservation of Equity Shares for subscription by Eligible Employees ("Employee Reservation Portion") and a reservation Equity Shares of Face Value of ₹10 each for subscription by Eligible Shareholders of promoters ("Shareholders Reservation Portion") including

individuals and HUFs who are public equity shareholders of the Promoters. BHFL proposes to use the net proceeds for augmenting the company's capital base to meet future business requirements of the company towards onward lending.

Includes a reservation of Equity Shares for subscription by Eligible Employees ("Employee

Reservation Portion") and a reservation Equity Shares of Face Value of ₹10 each for subscription by Eligible Shareholders of promoters ("Shareholders Reservation Portion") including individuals and HUFs who are public equity shareholders of the Promoters. BHFL proposes to use the net proceeds for augmenting the company's.

## Remedium Lifecare Ltd. Board Sets 06 July As Record Date for 3:1 Bonus Issue

**Chandigarh:** Remedium Lifecare Ltd. (BSE: 539561), a company engaged in trading API intermediates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, sets the record date for the bonus issue of shares as 06 July 2024 (if approved by shareholders in AGM). Recently, the board approved and recommended a Bonus Issue of 3 Equity Shares for every 1 Equity Share held as on the Record date decided for this purpose, subject to approval from members

and appropriate authorities. For the year ended 31 March 2024, the company recorded revenues of Rs. 4042 Crores, a growth of 692% YoY. The EBITDA jumped 312% YoY, from Rs. 8 Crores to Rs. 33 Crores (FY24). The PBT grew 614%, from Rs. 7 Crores (FY23) to Rs. 50 Crores (FY24). PAT jumped 560% YoY, from Rs. 5 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 33 Crores (FY24). The EPS was reported at Rs. 90.92 per share. Remedium Lifecare Ltd., a company engaged in trading API intermedi-

ates (KSMs and CRMs) and various other raw materials essential to API trading, has bolstered its performance and presence within the pharmaceutical and healthcare domains by trading amino isophthalic acid, tellurium oxide, grignard reagent, iodine, selenium metal powder, trimethyl sulfoxonium iodide (TMSI). As a leading contract trader and brand owner of advanced intermediates and APIs, Remedium has shifted its paradigm into the trading of intermediates and APIs.

## 'International Khan Market gang': Jaishankar on Western media's portrayal of India

**NEW DELHI:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar slammed the Western media and called the anti-India ecosystem the 'international Khan Market gang'. On the portrayal of India by the Western media, Jaishankar said we must ask "why they are

doing it". He said that just like there's a 'Khan Market gang' in India, there also exists a global extension of it, 'international Khan Market gang'. "In the country today, there is a certain thought process, or entitlement process for which the metaphor of 'Khan Market gang' is a very good description. TOP PICKS FOR YOU article show 110125113 Countries which have to go to court to decide result of polls are giving us lectures about how to conduct elections: EAM Jaishankar 'My lowest turnout is higher than your highest,' EAM Jaishankar slams Western media I want to tell you there is an international Khan Market gang as well," Jaishankar said in an interview to news

agency ANI. "These are people who are sort of linked, you know, to the entitled people out here. They are socially comfortable with them. They know them. They feel like they advance similar viewpoints. They are essentially a kind of an elitist left-lib thought process. So there's a symbiotic relationship between the two," he said. Talking about how they openly endorse leaders and parties, he said, "When the sales are down in the domestic Khan Market, the International Khan Market gang feels like, I need to pep up these guys and give them support and you can actually see which stories they play up, how do they slant things and in previous elections perhaps even in this one they've actually openly.

## Maharashtra specifies role of govt nominees in autonomous colleges' board

**MUMBAI:** In a govt resolution issued on , for the first time, the state has enlisted the role of government nominees in autonomous colleges in the state. While govt nominees were always there on the board of autonomous colleges, their roles were never explicitly defined. From attending every meeting of the governing body to ensuring their budget comprehensively reflects all aspects, the nominee is now expected to be the eyes and ears of the government in the truest sense. There are over 70 autonomous colleges affiliated to Mumbai University alone. A govt nominee is usually an educationist, not below the rank of a professor or a govt officer in the directorate of higher education or the state council of higher education. They are expected to be the link between the institutions and the govt.

The GR mentioned that specifying their duties and responsibilities was being considered for a long time by the govt and therefore the guidelines have been issued. An official from the department said that the idea is to bring in more efficiency in the process and to get proper feedback from the nominees about what is happening on ground. The official added that the govt is defining the role of their nominees even in private universities and not autonomous colleges alone. The nominees are expected to attend all the board meetings and also to inform the govt in advance if they are unable to. It also seeks their participation in the strategic decision-making processes with regards to enhancing colleges' academic quality. They should convey the govt's vision and priority areas to the board

and also ensure the compliance of government policies. They are also expected to resolve controversial issues between the college, the university and the government. Implementing the National Education Policy of 2020 is also enlisted as one of the guidelines. A principal said that the nominees are expected to submit reports to the govt about the meetings of the governing board and also to a report on whether the policies are in violation of the govt policies. "We do not know what report these nominees are expected to submit, we are not sure if they would interfere in our routine decision-making process. It is surprising that the govt felt the need to issue these guidelines now, when autonomous colleges have been around for more than a decade," said the principal.

## Wrong section, delay in blood sample: The lapses in Pune Porsche crash

**NEW DELHI:** As the investigation into the Pune Porsche crash intensifies, several lapses in the police investigation have come to light. This includes allegations of the teen accused of driving the luxury car under the influence of alcohol getting preferential treatment, being served pizza at the police station, and more. Commissioner of police Amitesh Kumar on Friday said the authorities are determined to ensure a thorough investigation and a 'watertight' case against the accused. **Who is Vishal Agarwal?** All you need to know about father of teen involved in Pune Porsche crash case 'Sent driver with son': Father of Pune crash accused on why he should get bail Meanwhile, two officials from the Yerawada police station have been suspended for neglecting their duties. The case has

also now been transferred to the crime branch. So what were the lapses in the initial investigation of Pune police? 1. Late reporting: Two officials from the Yerawada police station were suspended on Friday for neglecting their duties related as they failed to inform the wireless control room about the accident on May 19. Inspector Rahul Jagdale and assistant police inspector Vishwanath Todkari were suspended for "late reporting" and "dereliction of duty". 2. Delay in collection of blood sample: Commissioner of police Amitesh Kumar on Friday admitted that there was a delay in blood sample collection of the teen accused in this case. He confirmed that though the juvenile was sent to Sassoon General Hospital around 9am on May 19, his blood samples were collected at 11pm.