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

## Indian killed in Israel, wasn't allowed to move to safe zone, says dad

**"Patnibin's father, Pathrose Maxwell, revealed there had been a similar cross-border attack two weeks ago in the same locality and he had advised"**



**KOLLAM:** On Monday morning, when Patnibin Maxwell phoned his family at home in Kollam, he was his usual exuberant self. But his father detected an unusual undercurrent of anxiety. Patnibin Maxwell had moved to Galilee just 2 months ago. Patnibin (31), who was calling from Galilee, northern Israel, chatted to his seven-month-pregnant wife Seyona, joked with his five-year-old daughter, Amiya, and then spoke to his father, admitting that the chicken farm at Margalioth, a moshav (collective agricultural community) where he worked, was no longer safe. Iran Greenlights Hezbollah's Border

Escalation Against Israel: Reports Hours later Patnibin was dead, killed in a cross-border anti-tank missile attack by the Lebanese Shia militant group Hezbollah. Seven others, including two other Keralites, Joseph George (from Vazathope) and Paul Melvin (from Vagamon), were injured in the attack. Patnibin's father, Pathrose Maxwell, revealed there had been a similar cross-border attack two weeks ago in the same locality and he had advised his son to move to a safer zone. "However, he could not as he did not get consent from his sponsor," Pathrose told TOI. "My

elder son, Nivin, who is also in Israel, called me around 4.30pm on Monday and told me that Nibin was injured in the attack and hospitalised. Later, around 12.45am, he told me that Nibin had died," Pathrose said. Patnibin had moved to Galilee just two months ago to work on the farm on an attractive salary. Raised in a poor family — his father is a daily-wage labourer — he was excited about going to Israel, believing his future was now secure. After securing a diploma in electrical engineering from Chavara ITI, Patnibin had moved to Muscat, where he had worked in an ice plant, and later shifted to Dubai to work in a

manpower supply company. His wife, Seyona, is a nurse by profession but not working at present. "Seyona's sister and my eldestson, Nivin Maxwell, work in Israel. They had arranged an agricultural visa for five years for Nibin to work there," Pathrose said. Hezbollah shelled the farm in Galilee on Monday afternoon and Patnibin and the other injured were rushed to a hospital nearby. His body is currently at Sieve Hospital. "We have been informed the body will be taken to Tel Aviv on Wednesday and in four days it can be brought here," said Pathrose. Hezbollah has been launching attacks on Israel's northern communities and military posts since Oct 8 last year, saying it is doing so to support Palestinians in Gaza. Skirmishes between Israel and Hezbollah have so far resulted in the deaths of seven civilians and 10 Israel Defence Forces (IDF) soldiers.

## YouTube, Gmail face disruption almost same time as Facebook, Instagram

**In what can surely be termed as strange or odd service disruption, users of two of the biggest technology companies faced outage almost at the same time on March 5. Many users of Google-owned apps like Gmail and YouTube as well as Meta-owned social networks Facebook, Instagram and Threads faced outage in services. Late evening, some users reported issues with Facebook, Instagram, Facebook Messenger, and other Meta services. While Facebook users were greeted with error messages or their account logged out and unable to log back in; Instagram users could not refresh their Feeds. Meta acknowledged the issue in an official post. As Facebook and Instagram services limped back to normalcy, some Google apps' users reported similar issues. Disruption in Google**



apps like Gmail and YouTube started around 9 PM IST, as per the internet traffic outage tracker platform Down Detector. Users complained that they have been logged out of their Gmail and YouTube accounts. Some Gmail users also reported not being able to send emails. However, comparatively there were far fewer reports of Gmail and YouTube services being down than that of Meta platforms. Also, most reports related to Google apps started to subside

around 11 pm (IST). **What Google said on the outage** Google confirmed the service disruption. Team YouTube in a post on X said: "Thanks to everyone who sent notes about loading issues with YouTube: we're on it!". On the Google Workspace Status Dashboard, Google confirmed an ongoing issue with Gmail. The company said that errors and delays are currently more common among Gmail users. Some Gmail users are

experiencing elevated error rates while performing various actions and may also see delays in email delivery. **Issue resolved status update** Google too confirmed that Gmail is back in order, claiming that a "surge in traffic" was to blame for issues. "We saw a surge in traffic starting around 7:25 AM Pacific Time on March 5, and we scaled up our systems to serve the additional load," said the company on its status page.

## HC hands over Shahjahan, Sandeshkhali case to CBI



**KOLKATA:** Calcutta high court Tuesday directed Bengal CID to hand over Sheikh Shahjahan's custody to CBI by 4.30pm, but central agency officers had to leave empty-handed after a more than two-and-a-half-hour wait. They were informed the state had moved Supreme Court against the order, and that Shahjahan could not be handed over until apex court decided the matter. A division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya also directed Bengal govt cops to transfer all FIRs relating to Jan 5 assault on ED officers, who had gone on a raid to Shahjahan's home in Sandeshkhali, to CBI by the same time. HC held it "has not only power and jurisdiction, but also an obligation to protect fundamental rights". Soon after this order in morning, state govt moved SC, with senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi mentioning the appeal petition before Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who it was learnt, has asked state to submit relevant papers before CJ. By then, CBI officers had reached the state CID's headquarters at Bhawani Bhawan. They were in for a long wait before CID officers told them about the state's appeal and their inability to comply with the HC's orders before the appeal was heard. In the meantime, ED moved in to attach Shahjahan's assets in Sandeshkhali and Kolkata. They attached around Rs 12.7 crore worth of movable and immovable assets in Shahjahan's and some of his associates' name. Agency sources said that a total of 14 immovable properties.

## SC junks ED's PMLA summons to DKS tied to 2017 I-T seizure

**NEW DELHI:** SC on Tuesday quashed ED's summons under PMLA to Karnataka deputy CM D K Shivakumar, which were issued shortly after an Income Tax raid in 2017 allegedly led to the seizure of Rs 7 crore unaccounted cash from Congress leader and his aide's premises. The summons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) were issued by ED tak-



ing conspiracy, punishable under Section 120B (conspiracy to commit an offence), to be a standalone predicate offence. Shivakumar's discharge plea was rejected by a Bengaluru special court and Karnataka HC, which had ruled that conspiracy was a standalone predicate offence and upheld the summons issued to Shivakumar. The Congress leader had moved SC and

pleaded that in absence of any conspiracy for commission of any 'scheduled offence', no 'proceeds of crime' as defined in Section 2(u) of PMLA can be said to exist. Consequently, Section 3 of PMLA cannot apply, he had said. In Nov last year, SC, in Pavana Dibbur case, had ruled that Section 120B will become a 'scheduled offence' only when it is the collective intention.

## Give tickets to all my 13 MPs: Eknath Shinde to Amit Shah

**Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde is firm on tickets for all 13 sitting MPs who came along with him to form an alliance govt with BJP in Maharashtra, said sources. Union home minister Amit Shah arrived in Mumbai on Tuesday. Sources said a meeting was held at Sahyadri state guest house and was attended by Shah, Shinde, and his deputies Devendra Fadnavis**



and Ajit Pawar. "Fadnavis and Pawar were there for some time and later left. Thereafter, Shah had a one-on-one meeting with Shinde. Shinde was insistent that all sitting MPs of his party be given tickets. Shah tried to explain the ground reality to him in various seats... the discussion will continue tomorrow," said sources.

## India ensuring no one exercises hegemony in Indian Ocean: Rajnath Singh's veiled dig at China

**PANAJI:** In a veiled reference to China's expansionist policy, defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said India would not tolerate hegemony or coercion in Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and would stand with allies when their sovereignty is threatened. Singh, who was in Goa to inaugurate new administrative and training building of Naval War College at Verem, and aircraft carrier piers at Karwar naval base, emphasised that if India was stronger, it would not only allow neighbouring nations to economically grow, but would also strengthen



democracy and rule of law in the region. "India is ensuring that all neighbouring countries and maritime stakeholders of Indian Ocean are helped in protecting their autonomy and sovereignty," he said, adding that Navy was operationally ready to fulfil its responsibility in IOR by providing full assistance to littoral countries. The defence minister also spoke about Navy playing a role in safeguarding the country's interests in the Indo-Pacific region. "Our Navy ensures that no country, with its overwhelming economic and military power, can suppress our friendly countries or crush their sovereignty in the Indo-Pacific region. The readiness with which Navy stands

with our allies provides substantive strength to India's global values," he said. Singh later also witnessed demonstration of "twin aircraft carrier operations" by new indigenous INS Vikrant and older, Russian-origin INS Vikramaditya, on western seaboard, while addressing naval commanders' conference. Highlighting the importance of focusing on maritime threats, Singh said due to past conflicts with Pakistan and China in north, efforts were made to strengthen land borders, because of which maritime domain did not get priority.

## 'Will step in if Bengal govt. fails to check poll violence'

**KOLKATA:** Stressing that there will be zero tolerance for violence during Lok Sabha polls, EC on Tuesday said it will step in if West Bengal administration fails to prevent it. Chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar said while "primary responsibility" to conduct polls lay with state, it had been cautioned against any "partisan role". Kumar said Central agencies will work in tandem with those in state. CEC along with a team, including election commissioner Arun Goel, was in city to check poll preparedness. EC asked all central agencies to improve their intelligence networks as they might be used in execution of non-bailable arres.

## Calcutta HC judge quits, says will join BJP tomorrow

**KOLKATA:** Calcutta high court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay resigned on Tuesday and announced his intention to join BJP on Thursday, stating that he had been in touch with the party for a week and would be with them "for now", regardless of whether he receives a ticket to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections or not. Gangopadhyay praised PM Modi, describing him as "hardworking and a very good man" and striving for the country's progress. "I approached BJP and BJP, too, approached me... That's why I did not adjudicate any case. I decided over this period to join BJP. I think it is the only party that can fight Trinamool here," he said at a press conference in his Kolkata home, two hours after posting his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu. "The party will decide whether I contest this election." Gangopadhyay accused Trinamool of corruption, labelling it a "drama party" and dismissing CM Mamata Banerjee as "just another politician". "Trinamool would not be there by 2026. Just two more arrests are needed," he said. He faced immediate political scrutiny, with Trinamool seizing on his statement about being in touch with BJP while serving as a judge. "A sitting Calcutta HC judge says he and BJP were in touch when he was passing judicial orders and making observations in the courtroom. I leave the rest to the people to decide.



## New income cap for EWS entry as HC modifies order



**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court on Tuesday ordered that children belonging to families with annual income up to Rs 2.5 lakh could seek admission to schools in the national capital under the economically weaker sections (EWS) quota, modifying an earlier order of the court. A bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora further stayed certain directions by a single judge of the high court on Dec 5 last year, which had raised the threshold income limit from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh annually until the govt amended the relevant law. The court acted on an appeal filed by Delhi govt challenging

the single judge's decision, who had also directed Delhi govt to immediately do away with the mechanism of self-declaration of income by parents and devise an appropriate framework for continuation of free EWS seats in schools. Delhi govt's directorate of education (DoE) shall frame a standard operating procedure (SOP) for income verification and regular monitoring of the eligibility criteria, it had said. Govt's standing counsel Santosh Kumar Tripathi submitted that the sudden increase in the threshold income would adversely impact the deserving candidates from families with income up to

Rs 1 lakh, potentially leading to reduced chances of securing admission under the EWS quota. In appeal, govt contended that arbitrary increase of threshold income limit to Rs 5 lakh would result in injustice, especially to children of manual labourers, and might hinder the intended purpose of providing free and compulsory education to EWS. It added that even if the directions of the single judge had to be implemented, the state would require time to change the system. The previous order came in a case in which a man had managed to secure his son's admission to the city's reputed Sanskriti School.

## Flipkart launches UPI to eliminate third-party app dependence

**Delhi:** Flipkart launched its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for online and physical payments within and outside its app. Flipkart, which has over 50 crore registered users and 14 lakh vendors, can minimize its dependence on third-party UPI programs like Paytm, PhonePe, Google Pay, and Amazon Pay. "Recognizing the dynamic digital landscape, the launch of Flipkart UPI seamlessly merges the convenience and cost-effectiveness of UPI with the trusted efficiency customers expect from us," stated Dheeraj Aneja, Flipkart's Senior Vice President, Fintech and Payments



GroupCustomers can create a Flipkart UPI ID to pay businesses and individuals and bills without switching apps. The company announced that Android users will initially have access to the Axis Bank-launched service. "At Flipkart, we are committed to delivering the best-in-class commerce experience to customers by offering safe and convenient payment options along

with a wide array of rewards and benefits such as Supercoins, Brand Vouchers, and others" Aneja. Flipkart group firms Myntra, Flipkart Wholesale, Flipkart Health+, and Cleartrip will use the in-house UPI service. Axis Bank has pioneered numerous UPI payment channels for consumers. UPI expansion continues with collaborations and innovations.

## Girders launched between Kalyan & Kasara till early Sunday morning

**MUMBAI:** The Central Railway launched a girder on the bridge between Khadavli and Vasind stations shortly till early Sunday morning and also girders for FOB between Asangaon and Atgaon. Due to the girder

work and related rail blocks, passengers were inconvenienced with late night suburban train cancellations for Kasara. Six Mail and Express trains were rescheduled while ten other long distance trains were regulated due to

the girder work. Girders were also launched for FOB between Shahad and Ambivali station. As a result, the suburban local train for Kasara leaving CSMT at 12.15am on Sunday was short terminated at Thane.

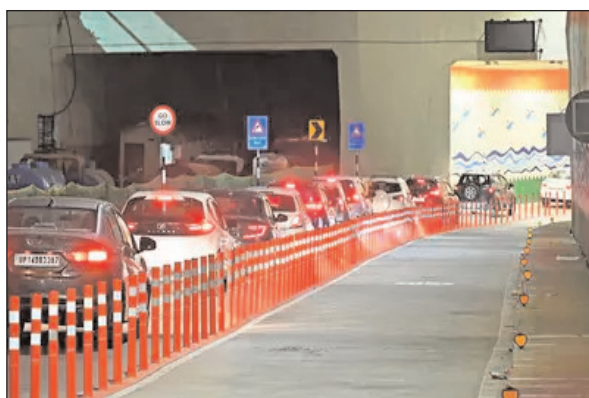
## Delhi establishes an initiative to supply assistive gadgets to 40% disabled

**The Delhi** government started the Sadgamaya Sahayak Scheme with ALIMCO, a PSU, under a five-year MoU. Scheme notification is recent. Under the Sugamaya Sahayak Scheme, eligible people with Benchmark Disabilities will receive artificial limbs, tricycles, motorized tricycles, wheelchairs, BTE hearing aids, crutches, Braille canes, MSIED kits, Braille kits, smartphones for visually handicapped people, smart canes, ADL kits for leprosy patients, and other devices. A "person with benchmark disability" is defined as a person with at least 40% of a specified disability, certified by competent authority, under Section 2(r) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The municipal government's Sugamaya Sahayak Scheme promotes inclusivity and accessibility to create a more equal society for all, according to a statement. A "person with benchmark disability" is defined as a person with at least 40% of a specified disability, certified by competent authority, under Section 2(r) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The municipal government's Sugamaya Sahayak Scheme promotes inclusivity and accessibility to create a more equal society for all, according to a statement. He noted that ALIMCO will assess Benchmark Disabilities patients and provide personalized assistance gadgets.



## On Trial Run: Bhairon Marg Underpass Opens Partially

**New Delhi:** The Public Works Department has partially opened the Bhairon Marg underpass for commuters, officials announced on Wednesday. "It has been opened for motorists on a trial basis," said a PWD official related to the project. Traffic was heavy during the evening rush hour on the lane in the underpass providing a signal-free route to Sarai Kale Khan from Bhairon Marg even as the opposite carriageway was completely empty. The underpass which has a steep curve has a speed limit of 20kmph to prevent



accidents. However, despite the warning signs put up by PWD, many motorists could be seen driving on the wrong side to gain access to the entrance of the tunnel. As reported Feb, the entry and exit of the under-

pass is at the same point. This caused a vehicular build-up on the entrance on Bhairon Marg on Tuesday. The traffic on that road slowly merged with the evening traffic moving on Ring Road towards

the Delhi-Meerut expressway. Currently only half of the underpass has been opened as the other ramp hasn't been completed. Technically called Underpass No. 5 of the Pragati Maidan transit corridor, it was supposed to be opened along with the main tunnel around two years back. But PWD was unable to finish it in time and the deadline then kept extending. The delay in finishing the transit corridor, comprising the main tunnel and five underpasses, has led to PWD serving a legal notice to the private fir.

## AAP's 2019 LS candidate Balbir Singh Jakhar from West Delhi joins BJP

**New Delhi:** Balbir Singh Jakhar, AAP's 2019 Lok Sabha candidate from West Delhi, joined BJP on Tuesday. Jakhar had not only got over six lakh votes less than BJP's Parvesh Singh Verma who had won the seat, but also come third after Congress' Mahabul Mishra. Jakhar said workers were given top priority in BJP and the welfare policies of the Prime Minister were reaching everyone without discrimination. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said people were inspired by PM Narendra Modi's com-



mitment to promote every section of the society and there had been a remarkable progress in empowering women in the past 10 years. BJP announces names of 5 Delhi candidates, fields Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri from New Delhi Lok Sabha seatBJP

changes candidates on most seats for Delhi Lok Sabha elections. Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of late Sushma Swaraj, gets nominated. Manoj Tiwari renominated. Candidates for North Delhi and East Delhi yet to be announced. Meenakshi Lekhi, Ramesh Bidhuri,

Parvesh Singh Verma fail to get party tickets. Bansuri expresses gratitude to PM Modi, HM Amit Shah ji, JP Nadda ji. BJP central leadership meets state leaders to distribute tickets for 29 Lok Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh. Party aims for clean sweep. Delhi meeting selects panel of three names per constituency. CM Dharam Singh rushed to Delhi to announce BJP Lok Sabha candidates from Uttarakhand. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, MP from Haridwar, became Union education minister.

## Shinde Sena ups demand, seeks 22 of 48 Maharashtra seats



**MUMBAI:** Though the seat-sharing formula between Shiv Sena and NCP (Ajit Pawar) has not been finalised, the Shinde-led Sena has upped its demand and asked for 22 of the 48 constituencies in the state. Sena minister Shambhuraj Desai said his party has insisted it should get the same number of seats in this election as in 2019. Desai said

party has also reviewed the 22 constituencies and provided updates to Shinde. Just last week, Shinde had held a meeting of his MPs and the Sena had staked claim to 18 Lok Sabha seats. Shinde had also asked the party's 13 sitting MPs to begin preparing for the polls. Raising the demand is seen to be a pressure tactic aimed at securing at least the mini-

mum number of seats needed to safeguard its interests. Given that it has 13 sitting MPs and has a claim to a fair share of the working class Sena vote, its leaders are hoping to drive a hard bargain with BJP and NCP. "It is certain that in the upcoming LS election, the grand alliance i.e. Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP will contest the elections together.

## The Delhi night shelters for the homeless provide three meals a day

**Delhi :** The Delhi government decided to offer free meals three times a day to people residing in the city's night shelters; a tender will be soon released to an organization for this service. At a meeting of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), a decision to this effect was made. The board informed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal that an organization has been assigned the responsibility of maintaining restrooms in slum areas. In addition, the board has given its approval to the SC/ST department's request for land so that it can construct a small stadium in Sultanpur Majra with top-notch sports facilities for kids. Notably, Kejriwal reaffirmed that there is zero tolerance for corruption in all Delhi



government departments by ordering an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) probe against a retired DUSIB officer involved in a case of disproportionate assets to income. During the

meeting, the agenda for the long-pending tender for the organization in charge of slum cluster toilet maintenance was approved. Many of the "jhuggis" in the city only have porta

cabin restrooms; there aren't many accessible restrooms. According to the officials, agencies have also been involved and tenders have been launched for the restrooms.

## Tarot card reader held for sexual assault

**New Delhi:** A 35-year-old Tarot card reader has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman on the pretext of solving her life problems. Police said they chased the accused for around 1,000 km, across multiple states, before arresting him in Kasauli. Police received a complaint on March 1. The accused was identified as Sidhant Joshi, a resident of Udhampur in Uttarakhand. The woman had allegedly contacted him to resolve her grievances with her boyfriend and was sexually assaulted multiple times. "The woman told us that Joshi sexually assaulted her on the pretext of marriage. She alleged that he clicked her private photos and videos and threatened her not to tell anyone about their relationship, or else he would leak the videos on social media," police said. A case under sections 376 (sexual assault) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered.



## UP CM Yogi introduces 'MYUVA Scheme' to empower youth entrepreneurs



**Delhi:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will launch the "Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (MYUVA)" plan to encourage young entrepreneurship. This ambitious project shows the government's commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs and encouraging innovation and enterprise. Through MYUVA, enterprising youth will obtain support and tools to establish their entrepreneurial endeavors, boosting Uttar Pradesh's economy. CM Yogi has ordered MSME Department staff to speed up the initiative's action plan. The

directive emphasizes the government's determination to quickly adopt MYUVA. Officials must submit the action plan quickly to promote entrepreneurship and youth development in Uttar Pradesh. The Yogi administration provides interest-free financing for projects up to Rs 5 lakh to prepare one lakh young entrepreneurs each year. The 2024-25 budget includes Rs 1,000 crore for this endeavor. This unique program empowers educated and skilled youngsters across the state to create self-employment and MSMEs. The initiative promotes entrepre-

neurship to create rural and urban jobs. The plan offers interest-free loans up to Rs 5 lakh to industry and service ventures. Finance 1,00,000 units annually to directly benefit one million units (10 lakh units) over 10 years. Participants in the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, One District One Product Scheme, Scheduled Caste, Tribe, Other Backward Class Training Scheme, and Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission Skill Upgradation (Kausal Unnayan) will be eligible for assistance. This program also

## UEA Offers Indian Students UK Higher Education Scholarships

**Delhi:** The University of East Anglia (UEA), one of the UK's top 25 universities, has launched a variety of scholarships for Indian students. Graduate and undergraduate applicants for 2024-2025 can apply for these scholarships, which cover tuition, housing, and living expenses. Indian postgraduate students studying Economics, Humanities, Engineering, Chemistry, and Law are eligible for the £4,000 UEA India Award. Following

**Global Undergraduate Excellence award: This distinguished award offers UEA undergraduate programmes to outstanding overseas students**

UEA's entrance requirements immediately qualifies candidates. Undergraduate Scholarship: UEA India High-achieving Indian undergradu-

ates at UEA can get a £4,000 tuition price discount in their first year. Global Undergraduate Excellence award: This distinguished award offers UEA undergraduate programmes to outstanding overseas students. Valued at £4,000 each year, exceptional applicants may receive £10,000. Gita and Sonny Mehta India Scholarship: UEA's Department of Literature, Drama, and Creative Writing offers this scholarship to bril-

liant Indian writers. Applicants must submit a separate £28,500 application. David Sainsbury Full MSc Scholarship: This scholarship covers the tuition cost (£31,500), maintenance grant, and £4,000 travel fees for Global Plant Health applicants. Scholarships are individual and cannot be combined. The UEA website lists deadlines. Framework is part of Norwich Research Park, Europe's.

## Research Internships from UGC Give Students Stipends, Insurance, and Academic Credits

**Delhi:** Stipends, insurance, and academic credits are awarded to fourth-year undergraduates who complete research internships. Participating enterprises must pay interns a set amount, according to UGC norms provided to higher education institutions. Nodal officers for research internships will negotiate

with corporations for the program at higher education institutions.

Higher education institutions may also seek group internships. The Four Year Undergraduate Programme's fourth year will include the research internship. Every student will have an internship supervisor to help them finish

their work on time. The UGC solicited stakeholder input on this guidelines draft. UGC chairperson M Jagdish Kumar said it implemented a credit framework at the undergraduate level following the National Education Policy 2020. He claimed the internship is mandatory to boost student employability.

Educational institutions will survey local market demand for research internships. Surveys and courses will inform internship projects. Educational institutions must publish internship projects and mentor information. Industry representatives should have been in career counseling, it said.

## Over 1,300 beggars got skills

**Delhi:** The economic survey says the Delhi government started skill development for homeless beggars last year. It claims 1,312 of Delhi's 16,000 homeless and pavement residents were taught between March and September 2023. The government said an interdepartmental committee would train city homeless before the 2023 G20 Summit. The lieutenant governor and chief secretary ordered.

## Within two months, Physics Wallah's 'Alakh AI' had 1.5 million users

**Delhi:** In less than two months, Physics Wallah's indigenously-built AI education package 'Alakh AI' has seen over 1.5 million users. It debuted the suite in late December 2023. Alakh AI offers AI Guru: Personalised Tutor, Sahayak: Smart Companion Powered by AI, and NCERT Pitara. At its flagship event, Vishwas Diwas, Physics Wallah launched innovative educational technolo-



gy projects. With the theme 'Padhai Ka Naya Andaaz (A New Era in Education)', the edtech platform featured innovations to make learning more personalized, effective, and engaging.

"'Padhai Ka Naya Andaaz' is more than a theme; it is our commitment to provide a learning experience that transcends traditional boundaries, making education more personalised,

effective, and engaging for every student," Physics Wallah CEO and Founder Alakh Pandey stated. This effort centers on Physics Wallah 2.0, a futuristic strategy that employs technology to improve student achievements. Physics Wallah has launched new technologies and offered up to 80% off most online courses. Its FY23 sales was Rs 798 crore, growing 3.4 times from the previous year.

## Congress leader Pradeep Chaudhary welcomed MP Deepender Hooda on his arrival in Kaithal

**Kaithal:** Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee member and former Chief Minister of Haryana Ch. Pradeep Kumar Chaudhary, a special supporter of Bhupendra Singh Hooda, said that in Haryana Ch. If the Congress government is formed under the leadership of Bhupendra Singh Hooda, monthly pension of Rs 6000 to the elderly, 300 units of electricity free to every family, gas cylinder for women at Rs 500, confirmed recruitment on 2



lakh vacant government posts for the youth, for poor families. By implementing the free plot scheme of 100-100 yards, along with building houses on that plot, the old pension scheme will be implemented for the employees. Pradeep Chaudhary was talking

to Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda last day in the office located near the bus stand in Kaithal after a formal meeting in Kaithal. Congress state executive member Pradeep Choudhary said that before 2014, during the Hooda

regime, Haryana which was number 1 in per capita income, per capita investment, law and order, sports players and providing employment, today Haryana is the worst in unemployment, crime, drugs and corruption.

Has become number 1 in. The government is sending the youth here to war-torn areas like Israel by giving them contract jobs through Skill Employment Corporation. Whereas other countries.

## MG Motor India introduces new Hector variants Shine Pro and Select Pro

**HISAR :** MG Motor India has announced the launch of two new variants of India's first Internet SUV - MG Hector. Named Shine Pro and Select Pro, the new variants pack many new features, intuitive technology, safety, and driving convenience. With a bold-striking exterior and interiors standardised with best-in-segment offerings and unique design elements, MG Hector now starts at an attractive price of INR 13.99\* Lakh (ex-show-room). With a host of best-in-class offerings like its dual-pane panoramic sunroof\*, MG Hector is a great value proposition for SUV enthusiasts who prefer to lean towards technology and top-notch performance in their vehicles. Both new variants, Shine

Pro and Select Pro, offer a superior in-car infotainment experience with India's largest 14-inch HD portrait infotainment system, complete with Wireless Apple CarPlay & Android Auto and a Wireless Phone Charger. The new variants of the Hector feature LED Projector Headlamps, Floating Light Turn Indicators, LED Blade Connected Tail Lamps, and Chrome Outside Door Handles. With an All-Black theme in premium upholstery and leather-wrapped steering, along with a brushed metal finish (CVT 5-seater), both Shine Pro and Select Pro variants come with a Full Digital Cluster with a 17.78 cm Embedded LCD Screen. On the comfort and convenience front, the Shine Pro

and Select Pro offer a Push Button Engine Start/Stop with a Smart Key. The new variants also offer the first-in-segment Digital Bluetooth® Key and Key Sharing capability\*. "Since its launch in 2019, the MG Hector has made a bold statement with its commanding presence and has redefined the SUV landscape with a multitude of tech features and superior driving comfort. With ADAS Level 2 and Connected features. Each subsequent variant has set new benchmarks in the segment by offering a harmonious blend of comfort, advanced technology, and ergonomic design. Using insights from our market research, industry analysis, and customer feedback.

## Galore of cricket, entertainment and cine starts as CCL reaches Chandigarh and Mohali

**Chandigarh:** The Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) will witness its zenith at the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), Mohali when home team 'Punjab De Sher' serves spectators a blend of Cricket, Fun and Cine stars. Team Punjab De Sher reaches Chandigarh for its last league matches and sweating hard during practice sessions. Team will face Bengal Tigers, Captained by Jisshu Sengupta on the glittering evening on March 8 followed by yet another clash against Mumbai Heroes, captained by Ritesh Deshmukh on March 9 under floodlights. Team captain Sonu Sood is confi-



dent that they will make a comeback in the tournament by winning both the league matches. Meanwhile, a match will be between Bengal Tigers and Bhojpur Dabangs captained by Manoj Tiwari, Member of Parliament on the afternoon of March 9. This match will also witness popular Bollywood faces such

as Sohail Khan, Suniel Shetty, Jenelia Deshmukh and many more. Puneet Singh and Navraj Hans, Co-owners, Punjab De Sher, extended his Punjabi liberty by serving an open invitation to cricket and cine fans. According to them, Punjabis are always cheerful and open hearted, hence they expect a massive

fan base with their complimentary passes. Punjab De Sher hopes that fans will turn in numbers to cheer for their favourite team - Punjab De Sher. Fans need to register on Punjab De Sher's website and social media platforms to grab the complimentary passes and in lieu they will have a memorable evening. Along with their practice, the Punjab De Sher team will also be visiting college campuses, popular hangouts and malls of Chandigarh Tricity to perform promotional activities and meet their fans to distribute free VIP passes and gift hampers.

## Computerized EWS lottery determines school entrance.

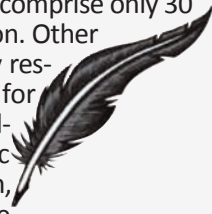
**Delhi:** The Delhi High Court ruled that schools must follow the Directorate of Education (DoE)'s computerized draw of lots for economically weaker section (EWS) admissions. Justice C Hari Shankar noted that the computerized draw of lots is based on the class strength communicated by the schools, and if a school does not have enough general students, it must apply to the DoE to reduce the number of EWS students. A pupil seeking admission to a private school's pre-primary class after a successful DoE computerized draw of lots petitioned the court. The school denied admission to the petitioner because the actual number of general category admissions was less than what was communicated to the DoE, and it had already admitted 25% of the actual number under the EWS category per legal mandate. "Once a school communicates the number of general category and EWS seats available with it for being filled in an ensuing academic year.



## Editorial

### Has Britain been taken over by Islamists?

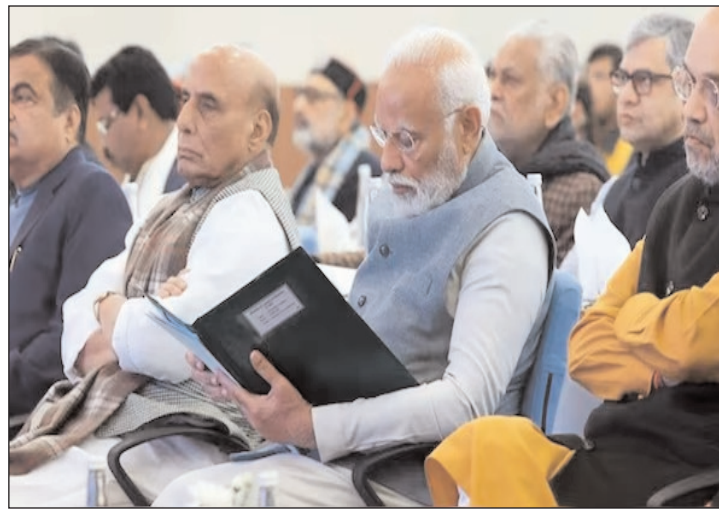
British MPs have been forced to hire personal bodyguards following threats by Islamist groups over Britain's support of Israel in the Gaza war. Three unnamed women MPs have been given additional security. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak issued a statement following the direct threats to British MPs: "Legitimate protests (have been) hijacked by extremists to promote and glorify terrorism, elected representatives verbally threatened and physically, violently targeted and antisemitic tropes beamed onto our own Parliament building." Threats of physical violence against British MPs have increased further since the killing by the Israeli army last week of over 100 Palestinian civilians seeking food aid in north Gaza. London has become a safe haven for Islamist extremists. Pakistan-origin mayor Sadiq Khan, in office since 2016, is accused of being soft on Islamists because he relies on Muslim votes in mayoral elections. As in India, Muslims in Britain vote in blocs. This was highlighted by the victory of controversial politician George Galloway last week in a by-election in Rochdale, a town in Greater Manchester. The by-election showed how deeply the Gaza war is influencing British politics. Labour party leader Keir Starmer is widely expected to be the next British prime minister given Labour's lead in opinion polls of more than 15 per cent over the Conservative party. In the Rochdale by-election, Starmer, a staunch supporter of Israel, suspended Labour's official candidate Azhar Ali for making antisemitic comments on Israel's war in Gaza. In the absence of party support for a Labour candidate, Galloway romped home to victory. A strong backer of Palestine, Galloway, who leads the small Workers Party of Britain, said after his win: "Labour will pay a high price for the catastrophe in the Gaza war." This alarmed Starmer enough to apologise to Rochdale voters after Galloway's win: "I regret we had to withdraw our candidate (Ali) and apologise to the voters of Rochdale." Galloway has promised to make life difficult for both Starmer and Sunak as campaigning gets under way for the UK general election later this year. Putting aside their parties' differences, Starmer and Sunak have come together to support Israel which could alienate young Britons, both white and ethnic minorities. It could make the result of the general election less predictable. It's not only British politicians who are under threat of violence. Crime in London has soared. Young knife-carrying gangs on mopeds snatch expensive watches, mobile phones and other personal effects. Several Indian tourists speak of being robbed in broad daylight in central London. According to a Sky News report: "India's business elite feel they have to look over their shoulder while visiting areas such as Mayfair in London due to the risk of being mugged. The theft of high-value timepieces sold on the black market has become a criminal enterprise in the UK capital in recent years with one former watch dealer telling Sky News it is 'more lucrative than drugs'." "High-profile targets include former world boxing champion Amir Khan, who was forced to hand over his £70,000 Franck Muller watch in a gunpoint robbery in east London." The man blamed for the descent of London into a crime-laden metropolis is mayor Sadiq Khan. On his watch crime in London has soared. British tourism authorities have issued a warning to London police that foreign holiday-makers have safer cities to visit in Europe other than London and more action is needed to make the city safer for tourists. The demographics of London are changing rapidly. According to the latest census, British whites now comprise only 30 per cent of London's population. Other European whites permanently resident in London account for another 20 per cent. The balance 50 per cent are ethnic minorities from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and the Caribbean.



# 2047 sets the tone for 2024 elections

Despite favourable tailwinds and a visibly rudderless political opposition it is to the credit of the Prime Minister that he has neither taken the electorate for granted, nor left room for overconfidence to creep in within his party. Image: PTI

The battle for the general elections 2024 in India has started well before the formal announcement of the poll schedule by the Election Commission. With the Narendra Modi-led BJP releasing its first list of candidates, the race to control the Lok Sabha is off to an early start for the ruling dispensation while the Opposition continues to flounder from blunder to blunder. The left manner in which key regional alliances have been struck by the BJP even as the Congress witnesses an exodus of leaders points to the stark divergence in confidence levels between the two political formations. By now it ought to be clear that the I.N.D.I. alliance is a non-starter in most states with the failure to coordinate seat sharing. Barring the deep south, the opposition alliance is not much of a factor in most states. A key leading indicator of the direction in which the political winds are blowing is the steady flow of talent towards the BJP. If the first list of candidates released by the BJP is anything to go by, a generational shift is underway with several veterans bowing out of the electoral race.



by Taboola Sponsored Links

The minutiae of electoral arithmetic notwithstanding, the battle for 2024 is in many ways a battle over the next decades to realise a developed India by 2047. Recording a stunning 8.4% GDP growth during the third quarter of 2023-24, the economic tailwinds and geopolitical undercurrents seem to be working in concert to propel the country towards the goal. Recognising the significance of the moment, PM Modi's government has bet big on sunrise technology sectors that will fuel the Indian economy in the decades to come. In the last few weeks a slew of decisions by the government underscore the central role technology has come to occupy in Modi's vision for a Viksit Bharat by 2047. From announcing to the nation, the final shortlist of astronauts for India's first manned space mission Gaganyaan to approving the first semicon-

ductor fab to come up in the country, Modi's techno-nationalism is emerging as the crucial mantra in this race to 2047 with 2024 as an important stopover. Semiconductor investments spanning from the east in Assam to the west in Gujarat, underscore how Modi's thrust on a technology-driven economy has become a political priority. With the decision to completely liberalise the space sector opening up to a hundred percent in foreign direct investment (FDI), sunrise sectors are poised to play a crucial role in sustaining and further accelerating the economic momentum. Casting a wide social safety net has been a hallmark of Modi's techno-nationalism over the past decade. The results from this laser focus on keeping the socio-economic fabric intact is most visible in the declining levels of extreme poverty across India. For the first time the World Poverty

Clock, a monitoring tool of the World Data Lab based in Vienna, has estimated extreme poverty in India to be below three percent. Writing for the Brookings Institute, an American think tank, noted economist Surjit Bhalla alongside Karan Bhasin, observed that extreme poverty stands eliminated in India as commonly defined in international benchmarks. This important socio-economic milestone on the road to a developed India by 2047 comes on the eve of general elections with a confident PM Modi making his case to the voters for what he believes to be an imminent third term. It also comes at a time when the aspirational middle class in India is experiencing accelerating growth as witnessed in the rising levels of automotive ownership, mobile phone penetration and exponential growth in digital payments. In stark contrast to the decadal growth vision of the Modi-led-BJP rooted in techno-nationalism, the narrative from the opposition continues to be regressive and lacking in a vision. Far from laying out a roadmap for a developed India, the political opposition's messaging has been a mish-mash of unsustainable entitlement programs bordering on fiscal irresponsibility and scorched earth politics of caste that is seeking to inflame social faultlines. The sullen petulance of the political opposi-

tion was most visible in its boycott of the pran pratishtha ceremony of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on specious grounds, having completely misread the mood of the nation. Despite favourable tailwinds and a visibly rudderless political opposition it is to the credit of the Prime Minister that he has neither taken the electorate for granted, nor left room for overconfidence to creep in within his party. Borrowing a leaf from best practices in business management of setting wildly impossible goals, Prime Ministers' Modi exhortation of a stretch target of 370+ seats for the BJP in the Lok Sabha, not only challenges the rank and file with a clear and unambiguous goal but it also forces his electoral machinery to think out of the box in breaking new ground in states that have remained beyond the BJP's grasp. Underlying the push to engage first time voters is the realpolitik of this not only being one of the largest cohorts of first-time voters but also a group that practically has no memory of the lost decade during the UPA era. By locating the central narrative for the battle of 2024 within the decadal vision for a Viksit Bharat by 2047, Prime Minister Modi has made the election as much about the future of India's first-time voters as about "India being the Future" in a world divided by geo-political conflicts.

## 62 years since Indo-China War

The year 2024 could mark the proverbial "anniversary" of the fateful 1962 China's aggression on India. Sixty-two years will have passed since our northern neighbour sought territories that history, and even later-day detente, had proclaimed as rightfully India's. Deliberation and debate can continue until 2062 about how a conference in Simla in 1914 determined a line, and the huff with which Ivan Chen, the Chinese plenipotentiary, left was otherwise a tripartite cordial. History, at this point, must be revisited. The two most important aspects of the meeting in the then British India retreat were that Tibet was free. The roof of the world had an emissary in Lonchen Shatra. Indeed, Shatra signed the Simla (readers must note that I am using the spelling of the hill sta-



tion as it was in 1914!) Conference document, which not only outlined inner and outer Tibet in unambiguous terms but also endorsed Sir Henry McMahon's Line, which determined the border between India and Tibet. Much of historiography will also ponder aspects such as why Major Bob Khatting and his posse of the noble Assam Riflemen "liberated" Tawang only in 1951, decades after McMahon drew a thick-nibbed terrain line that today subtly corresponds to the Thagla Ridge as well as the "Watershed," which determines borders, boundaries and frontiers in the sense by

which the Westphalian concept came to be enacted. The fact that a newly-cast Peoples Republic of China, post its communist inroads, invaded Tibet several years later cannot change the iron-clad nature of the border agreement between two sovereign entities: the fact that India achieved independence in 1947 and Tibet was conquered in 1951. The McMahon Line, although a soldier-diplomat drew it, will continue to confuse people worldwide, especially India and China. A 1914 quill continues to contest ground in terms of simple grazing expanse. But it is as inviolable as the 14th Parallel. Therefore, even as two powers exchange knights, rooks, and bishops, it must not behave sacrifices that incorporate destinies.

## How failure of Nehru-Liaquat pact served as a starter for CAA

Even as the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is set to be implemented, did the failure of the Nehru-Liaquat pact of 1950 play a key role as a starter of a 'benign and narrowly tailored legislation' aimed to protect the minorities in 'non secular' countries within our neighbourhood? The CAA provides that persons belonging to six minority communities, namely Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists, and Christians in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, who were compelled to seek shelter in India on grounds of religious persecution would no longer be treated as illegal migrants. Liaquat Ali Khan was the prime minister of Pakistan when he and Indian premier Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru signed an agreement in Delhi in 1950, commonly called the Nehru-Liaquat pact. The accord was signed to protect religious minorities in each other's territories. Under the Nehru-Liaquat pact, forced conversions were unrecognised, and minority rights were confirmed. Pakistan had solemnly agreed to accord complete equality of citizenship and a full sense of security with respect to life, culture, freedom of speech, and worship. However, Pakistan quickly went back on its promise. Liaquat Ali was assassinated in October 1951. When the holy relic in



Hazratbal, Srinagar, was stolen on January 3, 1964, there were large-scale disturbances in East Pakistan [now Bangladesh], leading to the loss of lives, arson, and looting targeted at the minority community. Even though the holy relic was recovered the next day, communal disturbances went on. In fact, responding to a calling attention motion in the Lok Sabha, the then Union Home Minister Gulzari Lal Nanda said that while India was implementing the Nehru-Liaquat pact, Pakistan was not doing its part.

Regarding minorities in Pakistan, Nanda [who twice served as caretaker prime minister of India after the deaths of Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri] said India cannot shut its eyes to those "who were part of ourselves, with whom we have ties of blood and who are our relations and friends and that we can not turn our face against sufferings, the torture of their bodies and spirit and all that they are undergoing there." This was the time Nehru was prime minister and sitting in parliament when his home minister stated,

"If they [the Hindu minority in Pakistan] find it impossible to breathe the air of security in their country and they feel they must leave it, then we can not bar their way. We have no heart to tell them, 'You go on staying there and be butchered.'" Three days later, Nehru suffered a paralytic stroke on his left side in Bhubaneswar, prompting Nanda to temporarily assume the executive responsibilities of ailing Prime Minister Nehru. A ministry of home affairs document on CAA quotes Nehru's "Tryst with Destiny" speech delivered at midnight of the country's independence as saying, "We think also of our brothers and sisters who have been cut off from us by political boundaries and who unhappily can not share at present in the freedom that has come. They are of us and will remain of us whatever may happen, and we shall be sharers of their good and ill fortune alike..." The CAA has excluded Ahmadias, Shias, Bahais, Hazaras, Jews, Baloch, and Atheist communities on the grounds that persecution.

## Why India is the best bet for big cats

Numbers tell an astonishing tale. India is one of the most densely populated nations in the world, with 481 people per sq km. China, with only marginally less people has less than one-third of India's density at 152 per sq km. The first five countries on the list are just city-states: Macau, Monaco, Singapore, Hong Kong and Gaza. Ranked 30th, India is the first really large country in that list with a high density; those above and below it (Tuvalu and Curacao) are tiny. The purpose of this peroration? To put in context, India's feat in safeguarding and increasing its complement of critical wildlife in the face of increasing pres-



sure on land due to population. This week India revealed that the numbers of another iconic 'big cat'—the leopard—have risen by 8 per cent overall, from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022, although several states have reported a decline. The actual number would be higher as the survey did not cover all

habitats. Also from 2018 to 2022 India's tiger population rose by nearly 24 per cent from 2,967 to around 3,682 though the figure is probably closer to 4,000 as not all tiger areas were included in that survey. India has 75 per cent of the world's population, most of them in 54 tiger reserves. India is also the last habitat of the Asiatic lion with around 600, all of them in Gujarat as well as 718 snow leopards—around 1/6 of the world's total number. And all four felines' numbers are rising here. A valid comparison would be the state of another big cat, the jaguar, in the Americas, whose population is currently estimated to be around

170,000. Their habitat once stretched from Texas, through central America down to Argentina but is now half that area. Brazil, with a population density of only 26 per sq km, has nearly half the world's jaguars, mostly in the Amazon jungle and the Pantanal bordering Bolivia and Paraguay. But jaguar numbers are falling. The US has around 30,000 pumas (also called cougars or mountain lions) and the species can be found across the Americas from Canada to Chile. So far they are not close to extinction as their numbers hover around the 60,000 figure but their habitat has shrunk by over 30 per cent.



## The dream of drug-free India is coming true under the leadership of Modi ji: Amit Shah



**Chandigarh:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday released three videos about the success of the Modi government in tackling the drug trade and its menace. Modi government is moving rapidly towards achieving the goal of drug-free India through detection of drugs in the country, destruction of networks, detention of culprits and rehabilitation of drug addicts. A drug-free India under the leadership of Modi ji and the guidance of Amit Shah is the greatest gift to the coming generations. In the golden age of independence, under the strict approach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able guidance of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, preparations to curb the drug trade are going on in full swing, due to this approach there is the drastic rise in the number of arrests and

seizures. Due to Shah's strong policies, through Coordination, Cooperation and Collaboration among governments and agencies, the strategy has resulted in an increased number of drug seizures and cases registered. Under the leadership of Modi ji and the guidance of Amit Shah and the multi-pronged efforts made by the Home Ministry to curb the illicit drug trade, the quantity of narcotics seized increased by almost 100% and the cases registered against those dealing in it increased by 152%. According to the data, during the period 2006 to 2013 the number of cases registered was 1257 in

number which shot up by 3 times during 2014-2023 to 3755. The arrests increased by 4 times from 1363 in the 2006-13 period to 5745 in the 2014-23 period. The quantity of seized drugs doubled during the Modi regime to 3.95 lakh kgs from 1.52 lakh kgs seized during 2006-13. The value of seized drugs jumped 30 times during the Modi government. to Rs.22,000 crore from Rs.768 crore achieved in the period 2006-13. Due to Modi ji's leadership and Shah's foresight, anti-narcotics agencies did an unprecedented job of destroying 12 lakh kilograms of drugs worth Rs 12,000 crore. To realize the dream of

## Assam: Cyber crooks loot Rs 80L from Congress MLA's bank accounts

**GUWAHATI:** Cyber fraudsters allegedly looted around Rs 80 lakh from three bank accounts of a Congress MLA in Assam by submitting KYC with fake signature and documents.

The matter came to the notice of Pradip Sarkar, Congress MLA from Abhayapuri South assembly constituency, after a cheque of Rs 10 lakh that he had given to an institution on February 29 bounced due to insufficient balance. Sarkar said the money was withdrawn from three bank



accounts, which are in his name at the State Bank of India, over a period of one month. "I did not get any message on phone or email regarding the withdrawal

of money from my accounts as the fraudsters changed the phone number as well. I was busy in the budget session of the assembly throughout February," he added. Sarkar immediately rushed to the home branch of SBI located at Abhayapuri and enquired about the matter. "The branch manager checked transactions in my bank account and informed me that the money was withdrawn in small amounts on several occasions from different places, including Bengaluru," he

said. The MLA further added the branch manager checked every detail and it was found that the photograph was of a different person, signature was forged, and the documents submitted during KYC were fake. "I did not submit any KYC in the bank in the last couple of months and have not done any transaction. To verify it, I asked the branch manager to check the CCTV footage, where it can be seen that a person, whom I don't know, submitted the KYC," he added.

## 172 victims of child marriage brought back to school in South Tripura

**AGARTALA:** At least 172 girls of South Tripura district forced out of school and into early marriage, with dreams unfulfilled and all hopes lost, might not have imagined that they would get a chance to go back to the classroom again. But the district administration did the unthinkable. It brought all of them back to where they belonged — the classroom, in 15 months. Forty-four cases of child

marriage were reported in the district in September 2022.

It was all it took to swing the district administration into action. With 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' on their lips, officials of the district administration took a slew of initiatives under the Centre's scheme and ramped up efforts to save the lives and secure the future of girls married off young. Thereafter, in as many as 48 among 50 more

cases of child marriage where elopement was reported, marriage was not solemnised, thanks to the efforts of the district administration. District magistrate Saju Vaheed A on Monday said massive drives were undertaken using the "balika manchas" set up in the schools, which act as the primary information collecting machinery regarding child marriages. It marks a significant step by the admin-

istration in safeguarding the interests of girls, aiming to curb the prevalent practice of child marriage in society, the DM said. We also published the following articles recently Science centres in all districts Odisha govt to set up science centres in all districts. On National Science Day, chief minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated district science centres and planetariums.

## Over 1,300 beggars got skills

**Delhi:** The economic survey says the Delhi government started skill development for homeless beggars last year. It claims 1,312 of Delhi's 16,000 homeless and pavement residents were taught between March and September 2023. The government said an interdepartmental committee would train city homeless before the 2023 G20 Summit. The lieutenant governor and chief secretary ordered.

## New Holland launches Project Saksham to provide skill development for youth

**PANIPAT / ROHTAK :** New Holland, a brand of CNH has launched project "Saksham", focuses on training and empowering underprivileged youth in rural area. This is aligned with the National Skill Development Mission and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In association with SEEDS - Social Empowerment & Economic Development Society, the project aims to create a pool of



skilled and certified automotive sales professionals for AG and automotive industry. Individuals with a minimum education level of 12th grade, aged 18 and above can apply for the programme in Uttar

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Maharashtra regions. Speaking about the project, Sandeep Gupta, Sales Director of Agriculture Segment, CNH India, said, "Our Project Saksham is com-

mitted to providing rural youth with pertinent skills for the modern world. Through this initiative we intend to equip them with necessary skills that will enable them to possible placement opportunities which will create a positive impact on the economy. CNH is deeply committed to empowering unemployed youth through initiatives like LEAD and Hunar, that offers skill development and entrepreneurship training.

## The benefits of Palm Oil

"Palm oil is a versatile and widely used vegetable oil derived from the fruit of the oil palm tree"

**NEW DELHI:** Palm oil is a versatile and widely used vegetable oil derived from the fruit of the oil palm tree. It holds a crucial position in the global agricultural and food industries due to its unique properties and diverse applica-

tions. Oil palm trees originated in West Africa in the year 1875 over 149 years ago, they were introduced to South-East Asia primarily for ornamental purposes. Presently, Indonesia and Malaysia collectively account for more than 85% of the world's palm oil supply. However, it is noteworthy that palm oil is cultivated in 42 additional countries across the globe. This widespread cultivation underscores the global significance of palm oil production worldwide.

The Malaysian palm oil industry operates within a framework

of stringent regulations, currently encompassing over 15 laws and regulations.

Ongoing efforts focus on implementing various approaches and technologies aimed at minimising the industry's impact on the environment. These practices have proven successful in oil palm plantations, palm oil mills, and refineries. For more information on MPOC and Malaysian palm oil, visit mpoc.org.my. Dr. Meena Mehta, an Associate professor who is currently working as a visiting Faculty in Department of Post Graduate Studies and

Research in Home Science & Department of Food Science and Nutrition, S.N.D.T Women's University expressed her views saying, "Palm oil is a versatile and sustainable gift from nature, plays a crucial role in nourishing the world. I believe in highlighting the benefits of palm oil, from its unmatched efficiency in food production to its contribution to economic growth and rural development. Embracing responsible practices, we can harness the power of palm oil to create a healthier, more prosperous future for all."

## HDFC Bank signs MoU with SAIL for corporate salary relationship

**Ambala/Hisar:** HDFC Bank, India's largest private sector bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for Corporate Salary Relationship. Under the MoU, over 60,000 on-roll and 65,000 contractual employees of SAIL now have the opportunity to move to HDFC Bank's Corporate Salary Account (CSA). The move will vastly benefit the employees of SAIL from the host of facilities offered as a part of the account. SAIL is one of the largest steel-making companies in India and one of the Maharatnas of the country's central public sector enterprises. This relationship also offers extended benefits exclusively for the employees of SAIL:

facility  
 · Personal and air accident cover  
 · Medical top-up  
 · Exclusive range of credit cards and access to attractive offers on personal loans, home loans, auto loans and two-wheeler loans  
 The MoU with SAIL marks HDFC Bank's 5th association with a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) for corporate salary relationship. HDFC Bank already hosts salary accounts some of the other PSU across various industries including petroleum, infrastructure, food security and warehousing.  
 Mr. Manoj Mehta Sr. Vice President & Zonal Head EBFS, HDFC Bank said, "Through this partnership we look forward to catering to the banking needs of the 1,20,000 strong employ-

ee-base. They will have the benefit of an enhanced and differentiated experience as the benefits associated with a salary account are tailored to meet the needs of different industries." The MoU was signed by Mr. Praveen Nigam - ED F&A, SAIL and Mr. Manoj Mehta Sr. Vice President & Zonal Head EBFS, HDFC Bank in the presence of other senior officials including Mr. Manas Ranjan Rath-CGM HR, SAIL, Ms. Madhvi Vashist. - GM Finance, Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Sr. Vice President & Regional Head PSU, HDFC Bank. Mr. Mayank Srivastava National Account Manager - PSU, HDFC Bank, Mr. Yatin Sehgal Cluster Head, HDFC Bank Mr. Ashutosh Sinha - Area Acquisition Head, HDFC Bank and Ms. Radhika Sinha.

## RBI Approves Merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank with and into AU Small Finance Bank

**CHANDIGARH:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today approved the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited ("Fincare SFB") with and into AU Small Finance Bank Limited ("AU SFB"). This merger marks a significant milestone in the Indian banking sector, creating a formidable entity with a combined customer base of over 1 Crore, over 43,500 employees, and a network of over 2,350 physical touchpoints across 25 states and union territories, with deposit base of 89,854 Crore and Balance Sheet Size of 1,16,695 Crore as on December 31, 2023. Commenting on the merger, Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, Founder, MD &



CEO of AU Small Finance Bank, said, "We are extremely grateful to the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India for reposing their faith in us. This merger will allow us to participate in our Honourable Prime Minister's vision for the 'Amrit Kaal' and India's dream of becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The approval adds further responsibility on us, as custodians of public trust, and we are committed to continue building a sustainable and inclusive Bank and empower the unserved and underserved segments of society to take

part in India's economic growth. Combining the complementary products and geographic footprints of both the banks will make us a true pan-India deposit and assets franchise, underscoring our commitment to financial inclusion and creating a more robust and efficient bank. We are excited about the opportunities it presents for growth and innovation and committed to delivering enhanced value and service to our customers and all stakeholders". On October 29, 2023, the Board of Directors of both AU SFB

and Fincare SFB had approved the merger, and the 'Scheme of Amalgamation' was later approved by their respective shareholders at their meetings on November 27, 2023, and November 24, 2023, respectively. On January 23, 2024, the proposed merger scheme.

also received the approval of the Competition Commission of India ("CCI") under the provisions of Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. With the RBI's approval, Fincare SFB will merge into AU SFB effective from 1st April 2024 and shareholders of Fincare SFB will receive shares of AU SFB in exchange for their shares in Fincare SFB at the approved.

## Megablocks on C.Railway suburban to inconvenience commuters

The Central Railway will carry out megablock on slow lines between CSMT Mumbai and Vidyavihar from 10.55am to 3.5 pm today on Main line. On the Main line, during the rail blocks, the Up slow services departing Ghatkopar from 10.41am to 3.52pm on Sunday will be diverted on Up fast line between Vidyavihar and CSMT stations and will halt at Kurla, Sion, Matunga, Dadar, Parel and Byculla stations, an official said. On the Harbour line, the rail blocks will be carried out between Mankhurd and Nerul from 11.15am to 4.15pm. Special suburban trains will run on the CSMT Mumbai-Mankhurd section during the block period. Harbour line passengers are permitted to travel on Trans Harbour. / Main Lines from 10am to 4.30pm during the block period, the official said.



## Translating legal books into local languages takes time

The Bar Council of India (BCI) has formed a national committee to introduce legal education in 12 Indian languages in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020



Delhi: The Bar Council of India (BCI) has formed a national committee to introduce legal education in 12 Indian languages in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Experts say few books

are available in many languages, but the process is informal and run by private players. BCI chairman Manan Kumar Mishra said the Ministry of Education is accelerating regional language legal educa-

tion. In partnership with Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, all textbooks and help materials are being translated within six months to launch the new courses in 2023-24. The biggest issue for BCI is translat-

ing technical jargon into local languages. Local professors, lawyers, and translators are helping. "The idea is to help students from rural backgrounds and also make court proceedings at

the taluka and district level simpler for all," Mishra. Providing legal instruction in indigenous languages is laudable, but it would take years, says advocate Mohit Sharma. The first two are practice-oriented, while law is learned by reading as many case studies, materials, etc. as feasible. This would require extensive, time-consuming translation. Another concern is that lecturers recommend mostly foreign-authored literature.

"This adds to the excessive translation workload before local language legal education," said Saket District Court Advocates Sumit Kumar and Karambir Kamal.

## CM, Deputy CM dismissed; 11 new Rajasthan BJP members



Delhi: Rajasthan BJP President C.P. Joshi unveiled the new state executive team, which excludes Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. Joshi inducted 11 new members, including Jyoti Mirdha, who left Congress to run for assembly.

Pali's Mirdha and Nahar Singh Jodha are

party vice presidents. General secretaries Shruvan Singh Bagri, Santosh Ahlawat, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. Joshi inducted 11 new members, including Jyoti Mirdha, who left Congress to run for assembly.

Anil Sisodia is co-treasurer. The new executive team also excludes Vice President Sukhbir Singh Jaunpuriya, Jagveer Chhaba, Priyanka Meghwal, Bhanupratap Singh, Neelam Gurjar, Krishna Katara, and Shyam Aggarwal. 30 leaders make up the new state executive.

## Canada Extends Foreign Ownership Ban to Address Housing Crisis

Delhi: Canada extended the foreign ownership ban for two years to address housing affordability problems. Migrants and international students are driving up housing demand, while growing costs slow construction. Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said the government will use all available options to provide affordable housing for Canadians, extending the prohibition until January 1, 2027. An influx of migrants and international students has aggravated Canada's housing affordability dilemma



by increasing demand for homes amid rising costs and slow building. Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland extended the foreign ownership ban of Canadian homes until January 1, 2027, to demonstrate the government's commitment to this situation. This extension keeps houses for Canadian

families and prevents them from becoming speculative investments. To prevent residents from being priced out of local home markets, Canada is extending the foreign ownership ban.

Foreign ownership has raised housing affordability difficulties in many cities and towns.

## Nagaland opposes the India-Myanmar border wall



Delhi: Nagaland became the second state after Mizoram to urge the Union government to reconsider its recent decision to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and suspend the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar. India borders Myanmar for 1,643 km in four northeastern states: Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland. Nagaland borders Myanmar for 215 kilometers. The 2018 Centre Act East policy's FMR permits visa-free cross-border mobility up to 16 kilometers. The 60-member Nagaland assembly also asked the Centre to consult with border residents and include village council authorities in border movement regulations. The resolution, moved by deputy chief minister Yanthungo Patton, stated that the Centre's decision to suspend the FMR and fence the

Indo-Myanmar border "will seriously disrupt the age-old historical, social, tribal, and economic ties of the Naga people living on both sides of the international border." "These measures will cause immense hardship, inconvenience, and agony to the Naga people living in the Indo-Myanmar border areas because the traditional land holding system straddles the international border in many areas and people must cross the border daily for normal cultivation activities," it said. The voice-voted resolution passed unanimously. "In light of the special and unique situation mentioned above, this House, hereby, resolves to appeal to the Government of India to reconsider its decision and abandon the plan of suspending the FMR and fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border," the resolution stated.

## BJP puts 100 seats on hold, VK Singh, Maneka Gandhi on waitlist

The destiny of some incumbent MPs, including notable ones, is uncertain since the BJP has put candidate declaration on hold for over 100 Lok Sabha constituencies, including 29 in Uttar Pradesh for which multiple rounds of consultations have taken place. The fate of prominent figures like Union

minister V K Singh (Ghaziabad), Maneka Gandhi (Sultanpur), her son Varun Gandhi (Pilibhit), and controversial Kaiserganj MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh hangs in the balance, even though most of the seats the party has put on hold are in the eastern region where seat-sharing deals with small-

er parties are still being finalized. The first list of candidates for most Ghaziabad constituencies does not include VK Singh, suggesting that the party leadership may replace him. The leadership appears to be considering replacing Varun from Pilibhit for "non-adherence" to the party policy.

## The Yogi govt. buys 53.7 lakh tonnes of paddy to safeguard farmers' interests

Delhi: During the 2023-24 kharif marketing season, the Uttar Pradesh government bought approximately 53.79 lakh tonnes of paddy for Rs 11,745 crore, falling short of its aim of 70 lakh tonnes. In an effort to safeguard their interests, this amount was taken from more than eight lakh farmers. Due to farmers selling directly on the open market, the state was unable to reach its aim of obtaining 70 lakh tonnes. "On October 1, the procurement for the divisions of Lucknow and Ayodhya began, and on October 20, it moved on to the eastern divisions, commencing on November 1. 8,01,624 farmers at 5,207 centers provided the rice, according to an official spokeswoman. With more than 7.52 lakh tonnes, the Lucknow division reported the greatest procurement. With 6.49 lakh tons, the Bareilly division came in second, and the Varanasi division came in third with more than 6.18 lakh tonnes.



## Disqualified MLA Rajinder claims '9 more MLAs prepared to join us'

Delhi: Disqualified Congress MLA Rajinder Rana denied Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's claim that certain MLAs desire to return to the camp, saying at least nine party members were in communication with them. Rana further said Sukhu misled the people. The speaker disqualified Rajinder Rana and six other Congress MLAs who cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha elections. In the elections, the BJP won the state's sole seat. Rana said, "We took this decision to uphold the honour of Himachal Pradesh and



its people." "Did the Congress not have any candidate from the party workers in the state who could represent Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha?" he said. It was our choice."

Chief minister Sukhu denied the BJP's assertion that Himachal Pradesh's government is near collapse. Sukhu,

however, claimed that "80 percent of the Congress is together," attributing party dissen-sion to "trivial issues." He encouraged disqualified MLAs to meet with a coordination group to remedy the situation. Sukhu expressed optimism that the coordination committee would

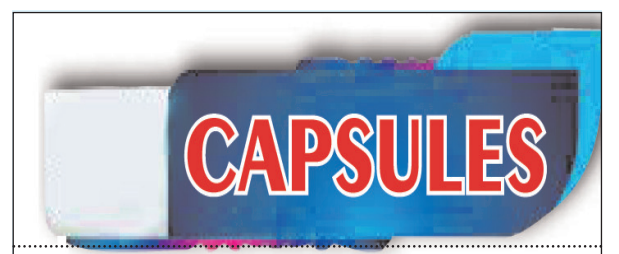
improve the situation ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, citing the Congress's 14-month commitment to honest and transparent government in the state. MLAs Sudhir Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Rajinder Rana, Inder Dutt Lakhnupal, Chetanya Sharma, and Devinder Kumar Bhutto were disqualified. Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania punished the six Congress MLAs who broke the whip by not voting for the Budget. The disqualified MLAs want to appeal the Speaker's decision at the Supreme Court.

## In a year, India will produce 300 crore semiconductor chips.

Divya Delhi:

According to Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the nation will produce "300 crore semiconductor chips in a year" by 2029 in addition to meeting its domestic need for semiconductors. Assembly, testing, marking, and packaging (ATMP) and manufacturing capabilities are now complementing design in India, according to the minister.

Our needs for semiconductors will be mostly met by Indian manufacturers. The minister declared, "We will also grow into significant exporters, just as we have grown into significant exporters of mobile phones." Industry sources estimate that the government is presently reviewing investment proposals totaling about \$26 billion for the nation's semiconductor production.



## Rahul Gandhi asserts that India has a double the unemployment rate of Pakistan



Delhi: During his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, he made a statement to a group in Madhya Pradesh, stating that India has a greater rate of youth unemployment than Bangladesh and Bhutan. "The country's jobless rate has reached its highest point in the previous 40 years right now. India's unemployment rate is double that of Pakistan's. Rahul Gandhi was cited by ANI as saying in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, "We have more unemployed youth than Bangladesh and Bhutan because Narendra Modi has finished small businesses by demonetization and implementing GST." According to the 2022 World Bank study, India has a higher youth unemployment rate—23.22 percent—than its neighboring countries, Bangladesh (12.9 percent) and Pakistan (11.3 percent). The Congress leader also highlighted data on social inequality, showing that 73 percent of people are backwards (50 percent), tribal (8 percent), and Dalit (15 percent). "Among this 73%, not a single person works for a large corporation. Then he said, "Modi Ji says that I work for the underprivileged." Rahul Gandhi then questioned how someone could be against a caste census without being aware of the number and affluence of tribal people, Dalits, and other backward castes.

## Ggm residents fight unlawful hoardings, advertisements

Delhi: City residents of Sectors 69 and 70 have started removing illegal hoardings from the five-kilometer stretch between Vatika Chowk and Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) that spoiled the green belt and caused nighttime accidents. At Tulip Chowk, resident welfare associations (RWAs) removed approximately 400 posters, banners, unlawful hoardings, and advertisements from public places and Sector markets. The RWAs claimed that the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) had ignored their repeated demands, forcing them to launch the drive to clean and preserve their path. They have launched such operations multiple times to remove illegal city ads, but some realtors and other firms reinstall them without permission. Using equipment from their organizations, several resident teams demolished the iron poles, frames, and other stuff.



## The Ambanis paid Rihanna 74 crore to sing at the Anant-Radhika pre-wedding party



**Delhi:** Rihanna and her group came to Jamnagar, Gujarat, and performed for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding parties, earning \$8-\$9 million (₹66 to 74 crore). On July 12, Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani's youngest son, Anant, will marry industrialist Viren Merchant's daughter, Radhika Merchant. Rihanna exited the airport in a viral video wearing a black high-neck top and purple cargo trousers.

A striped cloth was knotted around her waist. American singer and songwriter J Brown and multi-instrumentalist, song-

writer, and producer Adam Blackstone came to Jamnagar for the three-day pre-wedding celebrations. Mukesh Ambani, his son Anant, Radhika Merchant, and other family members served traditional Gujarati cuisine to Jogwad village people near Reliance Township in Jamnagar. The Ambanis, including Radhika Merchant, served traditional Gujarati food to the residents of Jogwad hamlet near Reliance Township in Jamnagar. The 'anna seva' included Radhika's maternal grandmother and parents, Viren and Shaila Merchant.

Over the fol-

lowing two days, 51,000 residents will be fed. After dinner, guests enjoyed folk music. Gujarati superstar Kirtidan Gadhvi stole the show. Indian culture will be showcased at the pre-wedding festivities. Women from Kachchh and Lalpur in Gujarat will make them traditional scarves. Former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, President Donald Harrison, Bolivian President Jorge Quiroga, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, and Forum Chair Klaus Schwab are also guests.

## The Real Reason Nimrit Kaur Left 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2'

**Delhi:** Famed director Dibakar Banerjee was to direct Nimrit Kaur in "Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2." She passed the job due to the film's sexual scenes. According to an industry source, the actress declined the part because the writing became too aggressive for her.

Nimrit Kaur left 'Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2' due to racy scenes, a source stated. After appearing on 'Bigg Boss', Ektaa R Kapoor cast Nimrit Kaur as her Bollywood debut protagonist. The source added, "As the film requirements got bolder and more sensuous, the actress had to pass on the role as she was not



comfortable doing intimate scenes." The film's neon-colored, sexual motion poster was revealed recently. It previews its engaging story about relationships in the digital age.

Dibakar's third directorial picture after earning National picture Awards for 'Khosla Ka Ghosla' and 'Oye Lucky!

Lucky Oye!' is a sequel to the 2010 sleeper smash 'Love Sex aur Dhokha'. The sequel is anticipated because its predecessor pioneered Hindi movie storytelling with experimental filming. Balaji Motion Pictures, a part of Balaji Telefilms and Cult Movies, presents 'Love Sex aur Dhokha 2',

## Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 11 winner Manisha Rani wins Rs...

**Delhi:** Fans are going crazy about Manisha Rani's Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 11 triumph. The famous dance show's grand finale tomorrow, March 2, was shot in Mumbai's Film City. Insiders say Manisha Rani beat Shoaib Ibrahim and Adrija Sinha to win the award. Top 3 were



Manisha, Shoaib, and Adrija. The winner's name has been leaked,

but tomorrow's episode will reveal it. After Manisha Rani's victory, people want to know how much she made on Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 11. Examine her pay. As a 9th-week wildcard, Manisha Rani performed for 8 of the 17 weeks of the season. She reportedly earned

## CAPSULES

### The Great Indian Kapil Show' on Netflix is about to launch on over-the-top (OTT) platforms



**Delhi :** Get ready for some really funny moments, Kapil Sharma fans! The Great Indian Kapil Show, a new comedy series on Netflix, stars the well-liked actor-comedian. The icing on the cake is this: Following their spectacular run on "The Kapil Sharma Show," Sunil Grover, who is well-known for his humorous antics, will be reuniting with Kapil Sharma.

The show's title appears to be a witty reference to Kapil Sharma's earlier endeavors, "The Kapil Sharma Show" and "The Great Indian Laughter Challenge."

In a Netflix teaser video, Kapil Sharma, Rajeev Thakur, Krushna Abhishek, and Archana Puran Singh are shown discussing ideas for a spectacular method to reveal the show's identity.

## Randeep Hooda unveils Swatantrya Veer Savarkar teaser

**Delhi:** Swatantrya Veer Savarkar, starring Randeep Hooda, will release its trailer. Randeep ('Highway', 'Extraction', 'Kick', and 'Sarbjit') directs his first picture. The trailer will debut at a Juhu multiplex in Mumbai. Randeep announced the trailer releasing on X (previously Twitter) on Sunday. Tweeting the film's poster, he said: "Unsung and unheard, until now! We tell the forgotten narrative of Akhand Bharat's most controversial revolu-



tionary. Swatantrya Veer Savarkar Trailer Airs Tomorrow." The film 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar' follows Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Randeep

plays the title role in the film he directed. The film stars Ankita Lokhande and Amit Sial. On Savarkar's death anniversary, Randeep visited the

Andaman & Nicobar Islands' cellular jail, Kalpana. X (previously Twitter) hosted his visit photos. The actor tweeted a lengthy statement about how he couldn't stay in jail for 20 minutes during filming.

Zee Studios, Anand Pandit, Sandeep Singh, Randeep Hooda, Yogesh Rahar, Roopa Pandit, Sam Khan, Anwar Ali, and Panchali Chakraborty will produce the Hindi-Marathi film, which will be released on March 22.

## Varun Tej's Operation Valentine Review

**Operation Valentine, inspired by the Pulwama attacks in Kashmir, is Varun Tej's latest gamble. Operation Valentine is Varun's Hindi debut**



**Delhi:** If presented well, patriotism films will reach all audiences. These genre films are rare in South and Telugu cinema. Major was successful for Adivi Sesh. Operation Valentine, inspired by the Pulwama attacks in Kashmir, is Varun Tej's latest gamble. Operation Valentine is Varun's Hindi debut. Operation Valentine is a big-budget Telugu

and Hindi film. Arjun alias Rudra (Varun Tej), an Indian Air Force Wing Commander, is the protagonist of Operation Valentine. Fighter aircraft testing is his specialty. His past is bitter too. Operation Valentine is about

the Indian Air Force's retribution for the 2019 Pulwama assault. The movie tells how Wing Commander Rudra and Ahna Gill (Manushi Chhillar) helped the mission.

## Disha Patani Defends Karan Johar: "If I Am An Actress Today..."



**Delhi:** At Yodha's trailer launch, Disha Patani, who will star with Sidharth Malhotra, said Karan Johar discovered her. Disha didn't mention nepotism at the event. She implied that by calling herself an "outsider." Disha remarked during the

ceremony, "Karn Johar discovered me as a model, thus I'm an actress today. I was 18. If he hadn't seen me, I wouldn't be here. I am an outsider when people say whatever (implying nepotism). I think he gave me this chance." Karan Johar

was called the "flag bearer of nepotism" by Kangana Ranaut on Koffee With Karan 5. Karan Johar has been criticized on social media for supporting stardoms since then. Karan Johar said, "I love you." in response to Disha's sentiments.

## Step inside fancy venues for Anant Ambani's 1260 crore pre-wedding festivities with larger-than-life florals all around

**Extravagant** decor at Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding celebrations stole the show. See photos of the beautifully-decorated venues in Jamnagar.

Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani and family went all out for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding celebrations in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The three-day festivities featured celebrity guests such as Rihanna, Bill Gates, Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, among many others, yet the opulence and beauty of the various venues for the different functions hosted by the Ambani family between March 1-3 emerged as a main character onto themselves, offering the perfect setting for the grand festivities. Also read: 5 best moments from Anant Ambani, Radhika Merchant's star-studded Jamnagar bash. As per a recent report by Daily Mail, the pre-wedding festivities hosted by Nita and Mukesh Ambani cost a staggering £120 million (approximately ₹1260 crore) with the catering contract alone,



awarded to one of India's leading five-star hotel groups, rumoured to be around £20 million.

**Massive flower arrangements** On March 1, the first day of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding festivities was celebrated as 'An Evening in Everland', where guests wore elegant cocktail attire. Fashion designer Manish Malhotra shared a picture on Instagram Stories with American floral designer Jeff Leatham, who was responsible for all the intricate flower arrangements at the extravaganza. Known for his work with reality TV star and entrepreneur Kim Kardashian and the rest of her family, Jeff

created larger-than-life white, pink and purple flower arrangements for the night.

**Animals and forest-inspired day-time event**

On March 2, art inspired by India was the decor theme as the Ambanis hosted 'A Walk on the Wildside' with 'jungle fever' being the dress code. Held outdoors in the Ambanis' animal rescue centre Vantara in Jamnagar, the event featured peacock and jaguar motifs on chairs and furnishings. Forests, birds and animals could be found on everything from carpets to walls. In the evening, the guests proceeded to 'Mela Rouge'.

## Seerat Kapoor says her father took her acting tryouts



**Delhi:** According to actress Seerat Kapoor, her father was her 'greatest critic' and took to auditions so she could practice. Mannat, played by Seerat in 'Rabb Se Hai Dua', relies on her family, especially her father. Seerat's father, who left a 20-year corporate career to pursue acting at 40, inspired her when she was five and started modeling. Seerat said: "My father guides me. His bravery in pursuing his passion at an age when most people settle into a routine taught me the value of doing so. He encouraged my early career and continues to inspire me in all aspects of life."



## Electricity bills waived for farmers with private tube wells in UP



**Lucknow**

The Yogi government has announced a big gift for farmers of Uttar Pradesh ahead of the Holi festival. In a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday, it was decided to waive electricity bills of farmers with private tube wells with retrospective effect from April 1, 2023. The decision will benefit around 1.5 crore farmers of the state. The government has provided Rs 1800 crore in the 2024-2025 budget for implementation of the scheme. Furthermore, the government has put forth a proposal for a

scheme aimed at assisting farmers with outstanding electricity bills predating April 1, 2023, in bill settlement without accruing interest and offering them convenient installation options. Informing about the decision following the Cabinet meeting at Lok Bhawan, Energy Minister AK Sharma said that with this announcement the government has kept its promise of providing 100 percent exemption from power tariff to the farmers owning private tube wells in the state.

He added: "There are about

14.73 lakh private tube wells in the rural areas and 5,188 in urban areas of the state. During our tenure, we have converted about 200 Gram Panchayats into Nagar Gram Panchayats, eliminating the difference between the two. As such, a total of 14.78 lakh tubewells will benefit from the decision of the Cabinet. B"According to Sharma, on an average 8 to 10 farmers benefit from one tube well in terms of irrigation of their fields and thus, the total number of beneficiaries of the scheme will reach about 1.5 crore in Uttar Pradesh.

## Today, number of tourists visiting Uttar Pradesh is twice the population of the state: Chief Minister

**Lucknow**

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, on Monday, that the current influx of tourists to Uttar Pradesh has doubled, surpassing the state's population. He made the remark during the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of 762 development projects totaling Rs 2,758 crore, organized by the Tourism Department at Lok Bhavan Auditorium. Congratulating the people of the state for all the schemes related to the Tourism Department, the CM said, "For the first time, we are simultaneously inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for schemes based on proposals from the public representatives, Pro-Poor Scheme and the Chief Minister Tourism Development Scheme, aimed at systematically developing tourism spots across all 75 districts and 403 assembly constituencies of the state." The Chief Minister highlighted the transformation of Uttar Pradesh,



stating, "Today, we witness a new Uttar Pradesh emerging. From a tourism perspective, our efforts extend beyond the development of individual sites; we strive to foster overall growth, ecosystem preservation, and employment opportunities. With clear government intentions and swift execution, we witness tangible results." He further remarked, "The improved security and law enforcement in the state have reshaped perceptions of Uttar Pradesh. The government's decisions have yielded significant benefits. Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Kashi, Ayodhya Dham in Ayodhya, Naimish Tirtha in

Naimish have been revitalized. The Vindhyavasini Corridor has undergone a remarkable transformation, while Brijbhoomi is once again captivating the world's attention. Events like Prayagraj's Kumbh, the development of religious places like Chitrakoot, and Shukirtha, along with the systematic promotion of heritage and ecotourism, have contributed to Uttar Pradesh's remarkable turnaround, making it a preferred destination for tourists." The Chief Minister cited examples of cities like Kashi, Ayodhya, Mathura, Prayagraj, and Gorakhpur, where hotels are fully booked.

## CAPSULES

### CM Yogi congratulates 4 new ministers of his cabinet



**Lucknow**

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the new ministers inducted into his cabinet on Tuesday and conveyed his best wishes to them. Taking to his official X handle, CM Yogi wrote: "Hearty congratulations to all the colleagues, who have taken oath as ministers in the Uttar Pradesh government today! We are confident that all of you will play an important role in realising the resolve of 'Viksit Uttar Pradesh' by bringing 'Modi's Guarantee' to the ground. My best wishes to all of you for your bright tenure!" Governor Anandiben Patel administered the oath of office to the four ministers namely Omprakash Rajbhar, Dara Singh Chauhan, Sunil Sharma and Anil Kumar at a formal ceremony held at Gandhi Auditorium of Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the first swearing-in ceremony of his second term. Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath greeted the four new ministers with bouquets.

## Domestic equities hit fresh highs on stronger GDP

**Delhi:** Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said domestic stocks rose to record highs after India's Q3 GDP grew 8.4% due to strong manufacturing, demonstrating the economy's strength and potential. The Sensex reached a new all-time high of 73,819.21 in intra-day trade and closed 1.72 percent or 1,245.05 points higher at 73,745.35, while the Nifty closed at 22,338.75, up 355.95 points or 1.62 percent. Materials, financials, banking, oil & gas, and auto sectors support-



ed the rally, Khemka said. Global markets were hopeful after US core PCE inflation fell to 2.8%. He claimed robust domestic statistics helped Nifty reach a new high above 22,300. Geojit Financial Services

Head of Research Vinod Nair said better-than-expected Q3FY24 GDP and lower US inflation boosted domestic and global markets. He said strong economic growth figures gave investors confidence

for a pre-election rally as the general elections approached. He noted that in-line US personal consumption expenditure data and benign Euro zone inflation will make global central banks dovish on interest rates.

## Saharanpur division set for a facelift with over Rs 5K crore investment

**Lucknow**

The Saharanpur division of Uttar Pradesh is set to undergo transformation with the launch of 14 significant projects valued at over Rs 50 crore each, spanning across Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, and Saharanpur districts, during the ground breaking ceremony (GBC 4.0) held recently. These projects, totaling Rs 5435 crore, are poised to create over 10,000 job opportunities. They encompass diverse sectors such as ethanol production, solid waste management, power

transmission, private industrial ventures, wooden handicrafts, hospitality, distilleries, and rebar manufacturing. Maximum investment in Muzaffarnagar district Under the Saharanpur division, the Muzaffarnagar district has emerged as the prime destination for investment through GBC@4.0, witnessing significant success in bringing investments to fruition. Five projects, each exceeding Rs 50 crore, are set to inject a total of Rs 2,811 crore into the district, facilitating the creation of

1,420 job opportunities. Among the notable investors in Muzaffarnagar, GC India Solutions Pvt. Ltd. is spearheading investment in Solid Waste Management with a whopping Rs 1,480 crore, expected to generate around 500 jobs. Reshu Advertising Pvt. Ltd. is investing Rs 600 crore in manufacturing Diwali puja boxes, leading to 150 employment opportunities. Saptam Decor Pvt. Ltd. is investing Rs 301 crore in wood-based product manufacturing, aiming to create

300 employment opportunities. Swaroop Steel Industry Pvt. Ltd. has committed Rs 270 crore for TMT sariya manufacturing, anticipating 325 employment opportunities. Additionally, Alcobulls Ltd. has invested Rs 160 crore in constructing a distillery, paving the way for 145 employment opportunities. Maximum employment in Saharanpur Among the three districts comprising the Saharanpur division, the district headquarters, Saharanpur.

## India stops Pak-bound ship from China carrying 'military-grade'

**NEW DELHI:** The officials said there have been concerns that Pakistan might be utilising China as a conduit to acquire restricted items from Europe and the US, masking identities to evade detection. According to documents such as bills of loading and other

details of the consignment, the consigner was mentioned as "Shanghai JXE Global Logistics Co Ltd" and consignee was "Pakistan Wings Pvt Ltd" of Sialkot. However, a deeper investigation by the security agencies indicated that the consignment, weighing 22,180 kilogrammes, was shipped by Taiyuan Mining Import and Export Co Ltd and was meant for Cosmos Engineering in Pakistan, the officials said. The port officials, with specific intelligence, had alerted the Indian defence authorities who inspected the heavy cargo and reported their suspicions, after which the consignment was seized, the officials said, adding that the seizure falls under the prevention of possible

proliferation. by Pakistan and China. CNC machines are basically controlled by a computer and produce a scale of efficiency, consistency and accuracy not possible manually. Since 1996, CNC machines have been included in the Wassenaar Arrangement -- an international arms control regime aimed at stopping the proliferation of equipment with both civilian and military uses. India is among the 42 member countries that exchange information on transfers of conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies. GHp2koLXC5sx2 This is not the first instance when Indian port officials have seized such dual-use military-grade items being shipped from China to Pakistan.

## 'Married Muslim woman's live-in amounts to 'zina' & 'haram' in Islam as per Shariat'

**PRAYAGRAJ:** While denying any protection to a married Muslim woman in a live-in relationship with her Hindu friend, Allahabad HC has observed that a legally wedded Muslim wife cannot go outside marriage and her live-in relationship with another man would amount to "zina (fornication)" and be "haram (forbidden)" as per Shariat. While rejecting a protection plea filed by a married Muslim woman and her Hindu live-in partner fearing a threat to her life from her father and other relatives, a bench of Justice Renu Agarwal added that the "criminal act" of the woman "cannot be supported and protected" by court. As per case facts, the woman started living with another man after her husband deserted her to marry another woman. But, observing



that the petitioner woman had not acquired any divorce decree from appropriate authority from her husband and was engaged in a live-in relationship, HC said, "The first petitioner is living with second petitioner in contravention of provisions of Muslim law (Shariat) wherein a legally wedded wife cannot go outside marriage, and this act of Muslim women is defined as zina and haram." "If we go into

criminality of the act of first petitioner, she may be prosecuted under IPC Sections 494 (marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife) and 495 (same offence with concealment of former marriage from person with whom subsequent marriage is contracted). As such, the relationship is not covered within the phrase live-in relationship or relationship in the nature of marriage," it added.

When her husband, Mohsin, remarried two years ago, the petitioner moved to her matrimonial home and then opted to reside with a Hindu man in a live-in relationship.

State's counsel opposed her plea by submitting that since she had not obtained any decree of divorce from her husband and started living with second petitioner in adultery, their relationship could not be protected by law.

## AIIMS gives tout complaints WhatsApp no.

**Delhi:** AIIMS Delhi has a WhatsApp contact for reporting touts exploiting patients. Starting February 29, 9355023969 will be dedicated. The administration ordered on Wednesday that the hotline would only be for reporting such incidents, including soliciting bribes, and that the security department would monitor it 24/7. The number will be publicly displayed in English and Hindi around the institution. We send a rapid response team to verify complaints immediately. If a complaint is valid, outsourced security professionals will be relieved and regular guards suspended pending investigation. Supervisors in each region will likewise be held accountable.