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

# **INDIA bloc a coalition of** 7 families: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: Home minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had smashed the fake binaries which were manufactured by previous regimes that lacked the vision of comprehensive development.

In an hour-long speech marked by aggression, Shah came down hard on Congress and its allies, emphasizing that they had the support of George Soros, the "rabidly anti-Bharat" Ámerican hedge fund billionaire who has committed a chunk of his wealth for removing regimes he dislikes. "For long, it was maintained that a government could be either pro-farmer and pro-poor or pro-industrialist; that it could either work for the villages or the cities; that you needed to compromise on national security in order to have good ties with other countries. Modi ji, with his holistic outlook, has exposed the alleged contradictions



#### **BJP empowers parliamentary board** to decide party president term

NEW DELHI: BJP's president is generally national council meetelected ing on Sunday amended the party's constitution, allowing its apex organisational 50% of its state bodbody, parliamentary board, to take decisions related to its president, including his/her term and its extension, in "emersituations. assembly or Lok Sabha gency" Party general secretary Sunil Bansal brought a proposal in this regard. The party polls.

as false binaries," Shah that a government can said. "He has shown that the poor and the farm-

rails; that it can improve the conditions in both villages and cities; and by raising the standing of India in the international community as Viswa Mitra while treating the security of our borders as government's foremost obligation, he has also established that strong defence and successful foreign policy are not mutually antagonistic goals," added.Shah's reference to Soros was perthrough organisational polls haps the first instance of the billionaire being after elections are carried out in at least attacked by a senior politician of the ruling party. The attack was ies. State unit polls are contingent upon elecaccompanied by one on controversial pastions in district bodies tor George Ponnaiah, and so on. Sources and was part of the said when the party is full-scale assault on busy preparing for Rahul Gandhi and Congress. elections, it is hard to Congress prince takes follow the laid down blessings practice for internal the Ponnaiah who insults Bharat Mata. George Soros who is rabidly anti-Bharat supports work for the welfare of them," said Shah.

ers, and still put the

economy back on the

he

"The

of

curb 'cheating' by traders: SKM **BATHINDA**: Blaming the "selective" Centre's crop procurement system for inequity in pricing, farm organisation Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Sunday said a robust, legally enforceable minimum support price (MSP) mechanism was the only way to curb what it termed "cheating" by traders. "Govt procurement is from a handful of states, including Punjab and Harvana. Traders exploit this system, purchasing produce cheaply from various states



MSP guarantee only way to

where they sell at govtdeclared MSP," SKM said. "This unfair practice will stop only with guaranteed procurement and opening of mandis in all states. SKM declared it was

"rejecting in advance" any attempt to bring a central MSP ordinance based on "A2+FL", rep-

based on the C2+50% formula. In 2023-24, MSP declared for wheat was Rs 2,125 a quintal and Rs 2,183 for paddy, both of which were based on A2+FL calculations, it said. The farm organisation argued that if MSP were based on C2+50%, the same products would be priced around 30% higher. paddy yield of 25 quintals an acre, a Punjab farmer suffers a loss of Rs 17,075 an acre. If the farmer goes for two crops annually, the loss per acre would be Rs 34,150," SKM said.

### BJP staged incident, stoking Sandeshkhali fire: Mamata Banerjee

SURI/KOLKATA: BJP was "stoking flames instead of restoring peace" in Sandeshkhali after having staged "one incident" there, Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said on Sunday. Accusing BJP of triggering unrest in

and transporting to

Punjab and Haryana,

Sandeshkhali, she said: molehill. Instead of plaints you have, I'm "One incident took restoring peace, they place. That incident has been staged. First, they send ED. Then its friend, BJP, entered with ED. And some media stepped in.... And they are making a said: "I want to tell mountain out of a them, whatever com-

are stoking flames." She said the entire if anyone says that Sandeskhkhali incident was being blown out of proportion. Appealing to its residents, she

resenting costs incurred

by farmers on various

inputs and the imputed

value of family labour.

SKM wants MSP based

on the C2+50% formula

recommended by the

Commission. SKM said

that during the 2014

poll campaign, BJP

promised to implement

Swaminathan

sending officers, they will listen to you.... And someone has taken anything from them, everything will be returned. Remember, I do whatever I promise."

#### Russia takes control of Avdiivka. Is Putin winning in Ukraine?



NEW DELHI: **D**ismissing reports about tank's death as "greatly exaggerated", 12-lakh strong Indian Army is going in for a major pgrade of its existing



Army eyes 57,000cr project to make

combat vehicles to replace T-72 tanks operations' were missing. Tanks remain relevant for both offensive and defenoperations. sive There is no other platform that pro-

### AAP, Cong mutually agreed to go solo in Punjab: Kejriwal

**NEW DELHI: De**nying a rift with Congress, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Sunday Aam Aadmi Party and Congress in Punjab "mutually agreed" to contest independently of each other and that

parties are still "open

and positive" in Delhi,



persistent prodding for AAP to be accommodated in Harvana. Singhvi's power lunch, which saw a sizeable turnout of Congress and AAP leaders including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Mukul Wasnik, Ajay Maken and AAP minister Atishi among others, saw both sides underscore that the INDIA partnership is alive and well, and that all parties remain committed to putting up a strong challenge to the ruling BJP.

Russia's control of a pivotal city in eastern Ukraine boosts morale ahead battles of the future. of upcoming elections. The trajectory | Senior officers conof the war hinges on the US election | tend the wide-scale outcome, economic strain, and Western support. Putin anticipates a "window of opportunity" in 2024. Experts believe that significantly increased Western aid for Ukraine is essential to alter the current trajectory of the conflict.

The capture of Avdiivka is not just a tactical win but also serves as a morale booster for Russia, coinciding with President Putin's upcoming reelection bid.

Russia has announced the full control of a pivotal city in eastern Ukraine, marking a notable development in the protracted conflict as the second anniversary of its comprehensive invasion looms. This victory, confirmed by both the Russian defense ministry and Ukrainian military officials, underscores the intense struggle that has characterized the region for months.

The capture could serve as a morale booster for Russian forces and the nation as it prepares for upcoming presidential elections. The fall of Avdiivka came after Ukrainian forces, outnumbered and outgunned, valiantly defended against a relentless Russian assault for four months. President Vladimir Putin personally lauded the troops for their "important victory," signaling a potential shift in the war's momentum. The Kremlin's advancement in Avdiivka represents Moscow's most substantial progress since seizing Bakhmut, underscoring a pivotal moment ahead of the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The capture of Avdiivka is not just a tactical win but also serves as a morale booster for Russia, coinciding with President Putin's.

tanks, as well as gearing up to induct newgeneration ones for destruction of Russian tanks by drones, man-portable anti-tank missiles,

NLAWs (next-generation light anti-tank weapons) and artillery in the ongoing war with Ukraine, especially in the initial days, was more due to "poor tactics" rather than anything else. For one, Russia

deployed tanks without adequate logistics chains. For another. tanks were not adequately backed by infantry, artillery, electronic warfare and close-air support units. "The critical 'combined-arms

vides requisite mobility, firepower and armoured protection in large-scale ground battles," a senior officer said. "Our future tank projects are planned enhanced survivabili-

as not doing so will benefit BJP. Kejriwal's assertions, made durbeing ing a lunch hosted with Congress MP and senior lawyer Abhishek Singhvi, his "sankat



on merit," she said.

On comments by Ajit

Pawar at a public

rally in Baramati last

week, where, with-

out naming Sule, he

had said that civic

issues cannot be

resolved only by

making speeches in

Parliament.

but

#### ging claims and power tussles

ISLAMABAD: Jailed former Pakistan PM Imran Khan's party Sunday demanded a judicial probe into allegations of vote rigging even as two major political parties failed to reach a powersharing formula to form a coalition govt. Though independent candidates backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) won the maximum number of seats in Parliament.

, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have announced they will form a coalition govt after the Feb 8 elections resulted in a hung Parliament. Their post-poll alliance could mean that PTI will not be able to form the next federal govt, prompting Khan's party to allege that the two rival parties were trying to steal the people's mandate with the help of the powerful establishment. Khan's beleaguered party received a major boost Saturday when a senior govt official in charge of the election process in the garrison city of Rawalpindi alleged that rigging took place

mochak (troubleshooter)" according to him, came even as former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, also present at the event, remained non-committal to the Delhi CM's gentle but

### Beware, how criminals are stealing 'facial data' of iPhone and Android users

iPhone and Android malware that tricks victims into scanning their faces and ID documents, which are believed to be used to generate deepfakes for unauthorised banking access. It was reported that it was doing more damage to Android users than those with iPhones. Google has now responded to the report. The named 'GoldPickaxe', which employs social engineering schemes to trick users, was spotted by Singapore-based Group-IB and is said to be a part of a malware suit.

e developed by the Chinese threat group known as 'GoldFactory'. This group is responsible for other malware strains such as

'GoldDigger' A cybersecurity company has spotted a new 'GoldDiggerPlus,' and

> 'GoldKefu. As per Group-IB, attacks have been observed primarily targeting the Asia-Pacific region, mainly Thailand and Vietnam. The attack starts with

social engineering tricks. According to a report by Bleeping Computer, the distribution of Gold Pickaxe started in October 2023 and is still ongoing. Victims are approached through phishing messages on the LINE app.

These messages are written in local language, impersonating government authorities or services, and push victims to install fraudulent apps, such as a fake 'Digital Pension' app hosted on websites impersonating Google Play.

PUNE: Baramati MP Supriya Sule on Sunday said that politics was not 'Bhatuklicha Khel' - a Marathi term for a children's role-play game with a mock marriage of dolls or playing house.

She was replying to talks about likelihood of her cousin and NCP leader Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra infighting

contesting against wrong."The battle is her. Speaking to not personal. There reporters here, Sule are no relationships also said that calling politics, in this battle family

responsibilities are important. I don't was

On eve of Supreme Court hearing, Chandigarh mayor quits, BJP claims 3 AAP defections

**CHANDIGARH:** In a new twist after a meeting with the BJP to the row over Chandigarh's mayoral election last month, BJP's Manoj Sonkar resigned from the post late Sunday, a day before Supreme Court is due to hear a case involving the defeat of AAP-Congress candidate Kuldeep Kumar after eight votes were controversially declared invalid. Sources said Sonkar resigned

leadership in which all possibilities were discussed.

"As the opposition bloc INDIA has been constantly creating doubt in the minds of residents of the city and constantly defaming BJP, we thought it better to give up the post for now and start afresh," Chandigarh BJP chief Jatinder Pal Malhotra said.

Sonkar's resignation coincided with BJP announcing that three AAP councillors had crossed over. BJP shared a photograph of the trio -Poonam Neha. and Gurcharanjeet Singh alias Kala - after they purportedly joined the saffron party. Chandigarh BJP will give them their due based on their potential.

#### Pak amid poll rigmix relationships and my work. It is a fight of ideologies. People should vote for me



NATIONAL

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

# Ajit Pawar hints at wife Sunetra contesting against cousin Supriya at Baramati

.....

#### Delhi

Ajit Pawar's speech fuelled speculation that the party will field Sunetra wife his against his cousin, the incumbent Baramati MP, Supriya Sule.

02

The 2024 contest for Baramati will be one of most keenly the watched battles. On Friday, without naming Nationalist names, Congress Party (NCP) president Ajit Pawar made an emotional appeal to his constituents to elect a "first timer" who is though surrounded by "experienced people." Ajit Pawar's speech fuelled speculation that the party will field his wife Sunetra against his cousin, the incumbent Baramati MP, Supriva Sule. The



used the occasion to launch a chariot that will run through the constituency talking up the social initiatives taken up by Sunetra Pawar. While speaking to his party workers, a day after Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar

would field a candidate who has not contested an election earlier, but that person would have the support of those with ample experience. People, he added, should vote for his candidate as if he himself were in the fray.

"As party workers, you should tell voters without hesitation that the elected MP from here will work more for the development as compared to the one you have been electing for the last three to four terms.

Tell the voters that this is a promise to them from Ajit Pawar that even if our candidate is a first

timer, they are surrounded by people with ample experience of winning polls." Although she has stayed away from active politics so far, Sunetra Pawar, 60, hailed from a political family before marrying into another one. Her brother Padamsinh Patil is a former minister while her nephew Jagjitsinha Rana Padamsinh Patil is a BJP from Osmanabad. The Pawar couple's elder son, Parth, had unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from

Maval. The Pawar clan may have had a serious political cleave in the last one year, their personal relations have remained close.

# Sunny, shotgun, among the "khamosh" 9 in the 17th LS

Delhi: Though moviegohave been ers enthralled with his famous "tareekh pe tareekh" conversation BJP's for years, Gurdaspur MP Sunny Deol never said a word in the 17th Lok Sabha. The Bollywood actor was one of nine Members of Parliament who, throughout their five-year tenure, never once addressed the house.

But Deol was not by himself. Shatrughan Sinha, a TMC MP who was elected to the Lok Sabha in an April 2022 by-election, too stayed



'khamosh'. The Asansol MPs shortly after he MP never spoke, subwas named speaker of mitted no questions, or the Lok Sabha, encourbrought up any imporaging them all to speak tant issues pertaining to in front of the house at his area, despite making least once, even if it was simply to make Zero multiple appearances in the lower house and Hour interventions. taking part in a few Some lawmakers failed opposition marches. to make even one This was by no means speech in the Lok Sabha an easy achievement to between 2019 and pull off. Om Birla creat-2024, despite their ed a list of first-time greatest attempts.

### **Telangana assembly** approves caste survey



The ruling **Congress prom**ised the caste survey before last year's assembly

#### elections

Delhi:

Hyderabad: A comprehensive home caste census to provide socio-economic, educational, job, and political possibilities to Backward Other

Classes, SCs, STs, and

other weaker groups of

Telangana was unani-

mously approved by

the assembly approved the resolution. This House resolves to conduct a comprehendoor-to-door sive household survey Economic, (Socio, Educational, Employment, Political, and Caste Survey) of

Telangana state to plan and implement socio, economic, educational, employment, and political opportunities for Backward Classes, SC & ST citizens, and other weaker sections

# Hemant Soren's brother is one of eight appointees in Champai Soren's expanded cabinet

#### Delhi:

About two weeks after taking office as Jharkhand's new chief minister, Champai Soren appointed seven other MLAs including incarcerated the brother of former chief minister Hemant Soren as ministers. Eleven ministers, including the chief minister, will make up the new cabinet; one position will be held open, as it was in the previous Hemant Soren government, for future entry. Champai, one Congress and one RJD MLA, had taken an oath on February 2. Soon after the results of the 2019 assembly elections were announced, the JMM-Congress-RJD "mahagathbandhan sarkar" agreed upon a cabinet slot sharing formula of 7:4:1. They maintained it on Friday as well. Congress MLAs

protested at Champai's decision to remove JMM's Latehar MLA Baidyanath Ram from the cabinet at the last minute, despite Raj Bhavan having issued an appointment warrant in his name, which thwarted JMM's attempts to fill the 12th ministerial berth. Even though RJD only has one MLA out of the 81 members of the house, during Hemant's government, MLAs from JMM and Congress were interested in the open cabinet position. The Congress

claim to the 12th ministerial slot in question. JMM's decision to dismiss Ram was criticized by the BJP, who described it as "an insult to the 50-lakh strong scheduled caste population of the state." MBasant (44), the current MLA from the party stronghold of Dumka, met Hemant in Birsa Munda Central Jail in Ranchi and asked for his blessings. "The move has exposed the anti-Dalit face of the JMM. Congress and RJD,' opposition politician Amar Kumar Bauri wrote on X.

sought to assert its



New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Friday recorded a clarification submitted by Delhi govt's counsel that the matter of 76 non-conforming areas in the liquor policy case reached the LG on Jan 16 this year. Disposing of an application filed by Delhi govt's counsel Arun Panwar, the court took on record his statethat ment on 18.09.2023 and 04.12.2023 (when the court requested the LG to take a call on the issue) the final report had yet not been placed before the LG. Panwar clarified that what was mentioned in the court was that the report of the committee set up by LG was being considered by the govt at various levels, since there were huge financial implications involved. The MP High Court in Bhopal and Jabalpur directed the state government to present a status report on DNA-FSL reports in court.



#### JD(U) supports simultaneous LS, assembly votes but not **local bodies**

Delhi:

JD(U), which rejoined the NDA recently, supports 'one nation, one election' due to its reduced financial burden, policy continuity, political stability, and logistical ease in conducting simultaneous Lok



#### opens in 2 weeks.

**Dwarka Expressway Gurgaon** 

Delhi: After discussing the problem with Nitin Gadkari, Gurgaon MP Rao Inderjit Singh claimed the 18.7km segment of the Dwarka Expressway will open in two weeks.The eightlane Gurgaon expressway would make getting from new sectors to NH-8 and other sections of the city faster and easier. The city expressway was finished last year, but the



National Authority of India (NHAI) delayed opening it for a safety evaluation.

of the Delhi highway may take five to six months. Gurgaon commuters, mostly from expressway-adjacent neighborhoods, want to use the eway. Motorists have also passed the eway's barricades and cloverleaf intersection with SPR and NH-8. The Delhi

Highways 6 months more. The remaining 10km

the assembly. The ruling Congress promised the caste survey before last year's assembly elections. This makes Telangana the third state with a castebased headcount, following Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. section of the Dwarka expressway will take 5-

Plastic

plastic collection vehicles

will take up plastic week-

Ponnam Prabhar, state backward classes minister, proposed and

of the state. The study would collect caste data for tar-

geted welfare and equitable resource distribution, Prabhakar said in the House. "This day is unforgettable for the weaker sections. We will proceed with beneficial knowledge on everyone's welfare. The caste census is under the national government, but we're doing it because of state conditions.

Sabha and state assembly elections. Nitish Kumar's party opposes local body elections in synchronized elections. JD(U) general secretary Sanjay Jha and parliamentary party leader Rajeev Ranjan Singh told the one-nation-one-election committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind that "simultaneous elections are important to strengthen the architecture of good governance". It agreed with business associations like CII, Ficci, Assocham, and others that simultaneous polls would boost economic growth. JD(U) argued third-tier elections must "be held simultaneously but separately and not with the House of the People and state legislature". BJP's Bihar ally listed 10 benefits of concurrent polls: cost savings, continuity in policy decisions, undivided attention to governance, higher voter turnout, reduced disruptions in normal life, streamlined electoral process, level playing field, ease of implementation, reduced poll-related violence, and political stability

#### Siddaramaiah accuses central govt of discrimination

#### Bengaluru

Siddaramaiah's budget on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government, accusing it of discrimination in devolution of funds. "The collection of cess and surcharges for 2023-24 has increased by 153%... If cesses and surcharges are shared with the states, a total of ?11,34,301 crore was available for devolution for all states. Due to non-sharing of cesses and surcharges by the Union government, the state suffered a loss of ?45,322 crore in the last seven years," he said. The CM blamed the Centre's "unscientific implementation of GST" for the losses. "Unscientific implementation of GST, increase in cesses and surcharges and change in allocation formula- these three injustices meted out by the central government coupled with the short release of funds to the states have adversely affected the financial strength of all the states of the country. As the ruling party in several states are same as that in the Centre, these states are unable to raise their voice against the injustices meted out against them." He further alleged that the state suffered staggering losses due to changes in the method of calculating state income and the use of the 2011 census instead of the 1971 census, resulting in a shortfall of 62,098 crore under the devolution of Central Taxes over six years.

#### Famous athletes coach at all 16 complexes: DDA

Delhi: The urban athletics, badminton, authority said "renowned sports persons" coach archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, chess, and other squash, table tennis, sports at DDA sports complexes. The DDA runs 16 sports com- vised by experienced plexes. "While coaching facilities have operations. The DDA been available at our said the coaching sports complexes, not facility is well-strucmuch awareness is there among the general masses," an official stated.The DDA also published a statement on Saturday to promote coaching facilities. lt said "state-of-the-art facilities and coaching by renowned sports persons are available" at DDA sports complexes facilities for a small for aerobics, archery, fee.

basketball, boxing, chess, cricket, football, gymnastics, martial arts, muay thai, Delhi: MCD will select skating, shooting, large weekly markets in each zone to make them taekwondo, and golf. single-use plastic-free All facilities are superunder the '100 Days to Beat personnel for difficult Campaign'.The action plan for the next several months includes free Tihar Jail inmate-made tured to help pupils cloth bags, plugging meet criteria and drives, and plastic bottle improve over time. crusher machines at The urban council said major markets. The drive, the amenities are which began January 31, open to the public, will end on June 5, World including sports com-Environment Day. The plex members and campaign will create non-members. To prepop-up stores in lowfurther vent income neighborhoods. encroachment, stu-Officials said specialized

dents can use these

# Free weekly single-use plastic markets from MCD



ly. "All zonal deputy commissioners have been directed to take up and supervise all the activities as per the action plan of the campaign and provide a weekly report for monitoring of activities undertaken during this campaign," said MCD official.Google was mapping all plastic-related

infrastructure for easy public access. Officials say MCD has produced a students vs plastic' tool package to increase student participation in this endeavor. All Delhi schools are being contacted to maximize student tool kit use. Along with weekly markets in each zone, local shopping

centers and neighborhood markets were chosen for single-use. BMC fined Rs 10,000 for using banned single-use plastic carry bags below 120 microns. The drive now targets Salt Lake neighborhood markets.In a webcast, singer BoA denied plastic surgery rumors, saying her appearance was due to braces and natural habits. The drama Marry My Husband dominates ratings. The Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation's environment department fined retailers and consumers Rs 10,000 for using banned single-use plastic carry bags.

### REGION



# Will win all 7 Lok Sabha seats...': AAP suggests going alone in Delhi after rejecting Congress in Punjab

"Punjab has 13 Lok Sabha seats and Chandigarh one, totaling 14. Within 10-15 days, AAP will announce its candidates for all 14 seats. The Delhi chief minister told supporters that to win all 14 seats "AAP must win all 14 seats"

Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said Delhi voters will give Aadmi Party Aam (AAP) all seven Lok Sabha seats in the next elections, ruling out a Congress alliance. "People of Delhi have decided to give all 7 Lok Sabha seats to AAP if people of Punjab give all 13 seats to AAP

too. it will strengthen the Bhagwant Mann government and the Centre won't dare to block any funds for the state.'

were reportedly considering a 4:3 Delhi seat-sharing formula in which Congress would

contest one more seat than AAP. Kejriwal announced a day earlier that AAP will contest all 13 Punjab seats and 1 Chandigarh seat Congress and AAP on its own, ruling out a

seat-sharing deal with INDIA bloc Congress. Punjab has 13 Lok Sabha seats and

Chandigarh one, totaling 14. Within 10-15 days, AAP announce its candidates for all 14 seats. The Delhi chief minister told supporters that to win all 14 seats "AAP must win all 14 ally ". AAP and seats Congress contested

the Chandigarh municipal election together, however they have not reached a seat-sharing pact for 2024 Lok Sabha elections in various states. AAP claims to be with the INDIA bloc but has independently announced its Lok Sabha candidates in various states. Sandeep Pathak, AAP national general secre-(organization), tary named his party's Lok Sabha candidacy in three Assam seats this week, dissatisfied with Congress' seat-sharing

will Given the limited time for Lok Sabha preparations, the Kejriwal-led party has encouraged the INDIA bloc parties, especially Congress, to speed up seat-sharing talks.

talks.

**Revival of over 1,000** 

# **Delhi LG Saxena demotes** V-C pharma varsity



Delhi: Prof Ramesh K professor Ramesh K Goyal as DPSRU vice-Goyal was implicated by a recruitment probe chancellor. An inquiry committee. Lieutenant committee investigated governor VK Saxena the university's removed the vice chan-2017–2019 teaching faculty recruiting proof Delhi Pharmaceutical cedure under Goyal Sciences and Research and determined his University (DPSRU) for involvement in the an alleged 2017-2019 scheme. Saxena wrote in the file: "In exercise recruitment scam, officials said. A top LG secof powers under Clause retariat officer, who 4(2) of the Delhi requested anonymity, Pharmaceutical claimed Saxena, the Sciences and Research university's ex-officio University-Delhi chancellor, ordered the Statutes, 2017, read immediate expulsion of with section 16 of the

General Clauses Act, 1897, I order that Prof. Ramesh K. Goyal, Vice Chancellor, DPSRU, be removed from the post without delay for largescale irregularities and illegalities in the university's recruitment process.Based on various accusations, the committee inquiry found severe inconsistencies, illegalities, and partiality in DPSRU's 2017-2019 teaching faculty recruitment. Saxena noted the findings.

03

## In April, AIIMS will allocate hostels online

Delhi: Starting on April 1, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will implement an online method for assigning hostel accommodations, eliminating the need for students and resident physicians to physically visit the hostel area to submit an application. Through an online dashboard, students will be able to monitor the availability and allocation status of hostel accommodations thanks to this method. They will be able to apply online for the same position as well. This method will be used by the hostel sec-



students to Prof. M. tor to distribute accommodations in a timely Srinivas, the director of and transparent man-AIIMS, to make the proner. Officials state that cedure more transparthe online system will ent so that they wouldselect the applicant's n't have to physically preferred room number visit the hostel area. Dr. at random from among Vinay Kumar, president the available rooms to of the resident doctors' which the applicant is association, praised the entitled. The idea to decision and said that implement an online the administration had finally complied with a system came about as a result of requests from long-standing request. resident physicians and

# **Delhi vice-principals** obtains L-G approval



Delhi: Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena revived 1,027 viceprincipal positions in the Delhi Directorate of Education (DoE) for 2014-15 to 2019. Raj Niwas officials said the vice-principal positions needed to be revived since there was a severe shortage of

contractually. or Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena revived 1,027 viceprincipal positions in the Delhi Directorate of Education (DoE) for 2014-15 to 2019. Raj Niwas officials said the vice-principal positions needed to be revived since there was a severe shortage of people, which is crucial for school operations. An official told the L-G that 873 of these 1,027 posts were filled on ad hoc basis via promotion up to September 2018 (prior to amendment of Recruitment Rules dated October 15, 2018), while 154 posts for 2018-19 were vacant. According to the person, the DoE is already short on viceprincipals and fills these positions ad hoc

#### **Provide anti**rabies serum at PHCs

cellor

Delhi: Anti-rabies serum must be made available at all sub-health centers, primary health centers, and urban primary health centers, per a directive from the Center to all states and Union territories. According to the National Health Mission, financial assistance would be given for the purchase of the antirabies serum. When there is a possibility of serious exposure following contact with a rabid animal or when an animal is thought to be rabid, anti-rabies serum is given. In severe cases, it should be administered in addition to the rabies vaccine. According to experts, the majority of primary health centers do not carry it, and each dose costs more over Rs 10,000. In a recent letter to the states and UTs, an NHM official said that rabies is a fatal viral infection and that having access to medications for both prevention and treatment is crucial to preventing the financial and psychological toll that rabies has on families.



#### PPP approach for Badli industrial maintenance

Delhi: The Delhi government will hire a concessionaire to redevelop and maintain Badli industrial area on a public-private partnership. Officials said the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC), which maintains 29 planned industrial pockets in the capital, is hiring a consultant to identify critical gaps and suggest the best maintenance model. In recent months, Delhi government-owned DSIIDC has redeveloped and maintained regulated industrial sites. An independent engineer will maintain civic amenities and infrastructure in the Bawana industrial area, while facility management companies will maintain the Patparganj and Okhla phase-III indus

trial pockets and a consultant will identify critical

infrastructure gaps in the Bhorgarh industrial area in

#### delayed again

Punjabi Bagh overpass

Delhi: The second deadline for the Punjabi Bagh flyover between ESI Hospital and Bharat Darshan Park will be extended by the Public Works Department. Flyover construction was due to finish last month. In October last year, PWD minister Atishi visited the site and ordered officials to finish the flyover by January, but deadline has the



passed and officials say it will be ready next month. The Ring Road near Punjabi Bagh is heavily used by

Haryana Rohtak Road traffic. A PWD rep added, "We are trying to complete the main flyover, which is one section of the corridor redevelopment, by next month." The corridor renovation proposal includes a 1.6km flyover between ESI

Hospital and Bharat Park and Darshan another near Moti Nagar to Punjabi Bagh West.

people, which is crucial for school operations. An official told the L-G that 873 of these 1,027 posts were filled on ad hoc basis via promotion up to September 2018 (prior to amendment of Recruitment Rules dated October 15, 2018), while 154 posts for 2018-19 were vacant. According to the

person, the DoE is already short on viceprincipals and fills these positions ad hoc or contractually.

the capital. For Badli, officials stated a transaction advisor will examine industrial infrastructure facilities and identify crucial infrastructure gaps by knowing industrialists' unit requirements. An official said the consultant or transaction adviser will suggest an effective, economically viable, technically practicable, and implementable plan for Badli industrial area growth and management based on the assessment and understanding. A complete infrastructure assessment and development plan for vital infrastructure such as internal roads, storm water drains, parking, horticulture, and lamps would be done by the consultant, officials added. The consultant must also recommend and assist DSIIDC in implementing a Badli maintenance model. The Badli industrial area. 78 acres in northwest Delhi, includes three phases, with phase 3 opening in 1998. Officials said most basic utilities including roads and stormwater drains were in place but needed upgrading and repairs to meet service levels. Area industrial units number 373. "DSIIDC intends to develop infrastructures which got damaged in the last few years and make them fully operational," stated a source.Before the MCC, the government will implement GPS-based NH tolling. The UPA authorized toll plazas near cities, which inconvenienced locals. Toll plazas within 6-7 km of cities and factories are avoided.

#### Centre lends 10k street sellers

Delhi: After giving 10,000 Delhi street vendors subsidised loans, housing and urban affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri claimed the PM SVANidhi scheme has restored their dignity. He stated street merchants no longer need informal lending channels with "exorbitant interest rates". Puri told Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and two central ministers that the initiative will revive street vendors' "swarozgar, sva mban and swabhimaan" at an event. He stated the initiative was launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, when street merchants were hardest hit. "While it impacted all, including those in formal jobs and agriculture sector, street vendors were the worst hit as they need to go out everyday to earn their livelihood," stated.

#### MCD purchases eight vacuum cleaners for the markets in Delhi

Delhi: For real-time based devices, accordjob monitoring, the ing to Mayor Shelly machines have built-in cameras and GPS without creating dust. placed on them. Eight electric vacuum cleaning and suction equipment that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) purchased will be placed in the city's main markets to be cleaned twice a day. The additional apartments will be removed from the Civic Center, according to informed officials. They also mentioned that the devices include builtin cameras and GPS for

real-time work moni-

Oberoi, remove trash Because these devices run on batteries and don't produce noise pollution, they are environmentally beneficial. They may be used to gather 800-1000 liters of rubbish every day, or four to five cycles of waste disposal per day, the speaker continued. According to an MCD official, the pilot project will begin. "Electric machines will clean all of Delhi's

These vacuum- these devices will be

water fluoride levels can cause dental fluorosis, bone damage, and skeletal fluorosis. The Delhi administration informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that it found elevated fluoride levels in 58 tubewells around the city after sampling 1,256 tubewells. The government informed the tribunal that it had ordered the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to either stop supplying water from these tubewells or use it for all other purposes except drinking. On December 12, 2023, NGT instructed states and Union territories to

markets if the pilot analyze groundwater project is successful." samples for arsenic and The markets in which fluoride. The tribunal

# High fluoride in Delhi groundwater



November 30 Hindustan (Hindustan Times' sister magazine) item captioned "Arsenic found in groundwater in 25 States, fluoride in 27 States: Govt". The Delhi gov-

а

ernment tested 1,256 tubewells for arsenic and fluoride. Arsenic was not identified in 122 samples in north, central, and west Delhi, thus testing kits will be needed in other areas. It reported that 58 of took suo-motu notice of 1,256 fluoride tests

exceeded the 1mg/litre limit. With 34 samples, Bawana had the most, followed by Nangloi with 11. All DJB tubewells deliver fresh water to portions of the city. DJB usually mixes them with Yamuna and other freshwater to boost the city's water supply.

Over 1.5mg/l may discolor enamel, whereas over 5mg/l may induce bone stiffness and injury. Badarpur, Rajouri Garden, Govindpuri,

Bawana, Narela Dichaon Kalan, Nangloi, Paprawat, Jharoda, Kakrola, Khera Khurd, Shakarpur, and Fateh Nagar had excessive fluoride levels. Water fluoride can cause dental fluorosis, bone deterioration, and skeletal fluorosis.

It can cause arthritis

and tendon and ligament calcification. "The Delhi Jal Board's quality wing collects random groundwater samples from tubewells to test fluoride and arsenic. The statement stated that DJB has taken safeguards and instructed its maintenance divisions to either halt supply from such tubewells or use the water for all other purposes except drinking.

toring.

# **EDITORIAL**

demands after coming to

power at the Centre. And

now when the farmers are

demanding their rights by

reminding the Modi govern-

ment at the Center about the

same thing, then the farmers

are being seen as traitors to

the government. The ques-

tion is whether the govern-

ment will now give only the

capitalists the right to earn

huge profits? Does the gov-

ernment want the farmers to

continue handing over their

crops to middlemen and cap-

italists after suffering losses?

And they keep filling their

coffers by looting the coun-

try by making huge profits on

the same crops? On one

hand, a farmer, working day

and night, cannot earn

enough profit from his own

fields to sustain himself and

his family, and on the other

hand, a capitalist can pack

the same crops and charge

more than the Maximum

Retail Price (MRP). They earn

money and are unable to

spend it even after living a

luxurious life. Is this dual pol-

icy of the government right?

In fact, the country's biggest

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

that the government is tak-

# Editorial

04

#### Modi govt did for India-Greece ties what others didn't in 40 years

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will be the chief guest at the annual Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi from 21 to 24 February 2024. This would be the third consecutive year of having a European guest at the summit – Delhi hosted European Commission president Ursula Von der Leyen in 2022 and Italian PM Georgia Meloni in 2023. The business delegation accompanying Mitsotakis will visit Mumbai and Bengaluru as well and is likely to explore economic opportunities in sectors such as construction material manufacturing, food and beverages, defence, renewable energy sources, high technology, agriculture, shipping, and tourism. Mitsotakis' visit marks a significant upgrade to India-Greece bilateral ties. It also builds on Delhi's strategic outreach to Southern Europe and the Mediterranean within the expanding diplomatic footprint in Europe at large. India and Greece are among the world's oldest democracies, both being ancient cultures and civilisations that reinvented their ethos through various epochs. Early Greeks knew of the river Ganges and called it Phison and the great Greek political philosopher Plato knew of the Indian tradition of mystic meditations. The latter's celebrated work The Republic concludes with a reflection on the transmigration of souls, which has an indelible mark of Indian spiritualism. From Mauryan-era trade to the fascinating chronicles of Alexander the Great, linkages with Greece were significant in ancient India. Despite sharing such a rich history of economic and cultural exchanges, the ties between the two countries never moved beyond a point. PM Narendra Modi has carved the space to upgrade the ties between the two countries to a strategic partnership that's suitable to today's fastchanging geopolitical context. His efforts have opened up newer pathways of cooperation amid fresh challenges. From India's perspective, Greece was the only natural ally with whom strategic cooperation had not been given the same attention as Cyprus, Italy, Spain, and France. For the first time in 40 years, an Indian PM visited Greece when Modi went to Athens in August 2023, where he was rightly conferred with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour, the country's second-highest civilian honour. This upgradation to a strategic partnership was built on the groundwork laid by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in 2021 when he paid an official visit to Greece. The following year, the Greek parliament ratified the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a treaty-based organisation that was proposed by Modi in 2015. In March 2022, Jaishankar's visit was returned by his then-Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias. This slew of developments has been instrumental in enhancing ties between the two countries. It opened new vistas to expand areas of convergence in not only trade and joint military exercises but also connectivity projects, which could help in the full utilisation of Greece's strategic location as a gateway to Europe for India and the Gulf countries. The much-touted India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was conceived on the same logic of connecting diverse geographies of South and West Asia to Europe through Haifa in Israel and Piraeus in Greece. The region is a prospective yet contested pathway for new, competing intercontinental connectivity corridors. Many wrote off the IMEC when Hamas' brutal attack on Israel on 7 October 2023 put the normalisation process on hold. But remarks made by Indian finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament and Modi in the United Arab Emirates have roused fresh interest in the project. It is likely to be back on track once the situation in the Middle East improves. Northern Cvprus declared independence in 1983 with Turkish support, sealing the fate of the region in a perpetual disquiet – the power balance in the Eastern Mediterranean.

# **Treating farmers like criminals**

Farmer movements are once again in full swing, especially regarding Minimum Support Price (MSP) and other demands. Farmers from many states including Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh are moving towards Delhi. However, the kind of efforts the government is making to stop the farmers cannot be justified, because these contrary promises have been made by no one but the government itself. The government itself is making every effort to stop farmers from coming to Delhi. He has deployed a large number of police forces and paramilitary forces on the borders of the capital. The demands of the farmers reaching the borders of Delhi are the same as the government had promised the farmers in 2020 to end the agitation against the three agricultural laws and the demand for MSP. However, now the question is how the Modi government at the Center has got entangled in its own web. Because if these three agricultural laws had not been made antifarmer, then farmers would not have traveled to Delhi in such large numbers during the Corona epidemic. Not only this, the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, who used to demand implementation of the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission before becoming the Prime Minister, are now seen turning away from the same

The verdict came ahead of the Lok Sabha elections expected to take place in April or May this year and was immediately welcomed by opposition parties. Supreme Court The struck down the Centre's 2018 electoral bond (EB) scheme of political funding, declaring it to be "unconstitutional" because it completely anonymised contributions made to political parties and added that restricting black money or illegal election financing – some of the articulated objectives of the scheme – did not justify violating voters' right to information in a disproportionate manner. Ordering full disclosure of donors and recipients of EBs issued since April 2019 on the website of the Election

Commission of India (ECI) by March 13, a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Chandrachud, ruled

of the scheme, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in power at the Centre since 2014, has received 54.8% of the electoral bonds purchased in this period society and CIVII activists. Welcoming the the verdict, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the party had called the scheme "opaque and undemocratic" when it was launched. Subsequently in its 2019 manifesto, he added, the Congress promised to scrap the "Modi government's dubious scheme". "We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court which has struck down this 'Black Money Conversion' scheme of the Modi Government, calling 'Unconstitutional'," Kharge said in a post on X.

elections are round the corner and the Modi government at the Center is treating the agitating farmers who are standing against it as criminals instead of giving them their rights, which will not be in the interest of the government in any way. Recently, Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda had said that the government has accepted most of the demands of the farmers. The government is ready to discuss the demand related to MSP guarantee. But he also said that the law guaranteeing MSP cannot be brought in haste without consultation. My question is that three rounds of talks have taken place recently and before this there were more than a dozen talks between the farmers and the government. After this, in the year 2021, the Supreme Court had formed a committee and asked to resolve the issue of farmers' demands as soon as possible. The Modi government at the Center itself had formed a committee for this long ago, then what is left

ing so much time to do? MSP has a simple formula, on which the government does not need to think too much. Directly to the Modi government at the Center on all the crops of the farmers for which the government has promised to buy at MSP prices. According to the Swaminathan Commission report, the price has to be decided and a bill has to be made on it and passed in the Parliament and it has to be given legal status. As far as other demands are concerned, what is the harm in fulfilling them also? If the government feels that any demand of the farmers is illegitimate or wrong, then the government should openly present its views before the country. But why is she trying to make farmers into villains by distorting everything? Farmers are making only those demands which the government has promised to fulfill. And then what is the harm to the Modi government at the Center in implementing the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission? She is giving Bharat Run to Swaminathan for his contribution in agriculture. Swaminathan Commission was constituted in the year 2004 in the month of November, which 'National named was Commission on Farmers'. Swaminathan was not only aware of the problems related to agriculture, but he was

also the father of the Green

Revolution. His committee had submitted its report to the Manmohan Singh government at the Center in 2006, in which it had made several recommendations to improve the condition of farmers. The then Congress government did not implement this report and at that time the BJP was continuously cornering the Congress's Manmohan Singh government on this issue and because of this it had called the Congress government anti-farmer. But now when the NDA government is not only at the Center but also in many states. But BJP is not only shying away from implementing this report, but is now calling this demand illegitimate. But in view of the Lok Sabha elections, now the Modi government at the Center seems to be trapped in its own trap, that is why it wants to deal with it with the help of force. Actually, the demand of farmers is that they should get 50 percent surplus MSP over the cost price.

The Swaminathan report also supports this. Because farming is proving to be a loss-making deal for most of the farmers of the country. Due to which dozens of farmers in the country are taking the path of suicide every day. The Swaminathan Commission recommended the formation of farmer commissions at the state level to prevent suicides by farmers, as well as to increase health facilities.

#### **India Occupied Pakistan'?** Pakistan might just take Aaj sher khul gaey amid

Kashmir Day and Valentine's Day fall in February. Mix both and you get sugar, spice, and a fight. With Hrithik Roshan's Fighter, you get a well-spent national holiday with a side of

Patty up on his offer! WE becoming part of YOU will only be your headache. The fact that inspired from former there was no Wing Commander Abhinandan halwa puri. In this 2 Varthaman in Fighter kept us all entertained hours and 40-odd min- and hence no mention in those blue days. In utes, we relive the 2019 of the world-famous this multiverse, imagine "tea is fantastic", was a bummer. What is an India-Pakistan conflict without that cup of chai offered to Abhinandan? The receipt and mug of Abhinandan is now displayed at Pakistan Air Force museum for posterity. How do you make a film without such crucial details? What Pakistan now celebrates every 27 February as its victory of downing an Indian jet and capturing a soldier. Of course, we find out that Fighter is only loosely based on real events; when it gets fictional, 80 per cent of the film has ended. Since the known Pakistan and Indian history of this episode (and the four wars fought) varies, they say they killed terrorists in Balakot. We say there were some pine trees and one crow. But at least both sides agree there were warplanes involved. Red Nose, a Pakistani sorma wearing officer and the one-red-eye jihadi will give you a red heartache if not an

attack. Heartening to

see here that the

Pakistani pilot has more

time to come up with

gossip on his adversary.

The team of his Indian

while, is busy dancing to

mean-

a high volatile border tension. Looks like the red nose character is director general of military PR, Asif Ghafoor, whose boastful tweets Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as the jihadi villain Azhar Akhtar but with Keratin hair treatment and a conjunctivitis-like red eye who walks in and out of the offices of Pakistan military at will. Almost like he lives in GHQ. He tells these Generals what needs to be done, as if he owns them. But what do we know? If Emraan Hashmi (as Aatish Rehman) can be in a proverbial lip lock with Pakistani Generals against Pakistani politicians in Tiger 3, then anything is possible in love and films. Maybe RAW agent Tiger can be asked to save democracy in Pakistan in the aftermath of the 2024 election results, which have created more turbulence. The single super success of ISI in a year has been Deepika Padukone—from а good ISI agent doing insaniyat ki khidmat in Pathaan, she has ended up as an IAF officer in Fighter. Even ISI wouldn't have expected this quick turnaround. This is unlike the RAW agents who apparently have their passports

handy when on a killing

spree in Pakistan.

Agents, learn from

Deepika. that in uni-

form after the mission

accomplished.

**Supreme Court scraps** electoral bonds

amendments that made in Representation of the People Act, Income Tax Act, and Companies Act through the 2017 Finance Act violated the constitutional right of the electors to access information on the funding of political parties "which is necessary to identify corruption and quid pro quo transactions and governance information".

The verdict came ahead of the Lok Sabha elections expected to take place in April or May this year and was immediately welcomed by opposition parties — since the inception

### UAE's new Hindu temple is a lesson for India. **Respect for other faiths doesn't weaken yours**

India and the UAE have cultivated a deep connection, ranging from official diplomatic engagements to vibrant cultural exchanges at the grassroots level. As both nations navigate the complexities of modern diplomacy, their historical ties serve as a sturdy foundation upon which to build a future of prosperity and friendship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday marks yet another milestone in this journey. During my childhood in Abu Dhabi with my parents, we, as Muslims,

gious fulfilment. However, despite the city's cosmopolitan atmosphere, there were moments when the spiritual needs of non-Muslims seemed overlooked. My mother often recounted tales of our Hindu friends yearning to visit temples, especially during festivals and special occasions-a sentiment I found deeply saddening. Coming from India, where minorities are afforded dignity and their rights, including religious freedom, are respected, it was disheartening to witness this disparity. India boasts lakhs of mosques despite the

did not feel any lack of reli- minority status of Muslims, so it felt strange and sorrowful to see that the UAE lacked similar provisions for people of other faiths, even if they were expatriates rather than citizens. The contrast left one questioning the UAE's stance toward religious tolerance and diversity. However, the scenario has been improving slowly. In contrast to other regions in the UAE, Dubai's Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al Maktoum took a significant step in 1958 by allowing a place of prayer for Hindus to be built. This temple was established on the first floor above a maze of traditional

in shops Bur Dubai. Unfortunately, this historic temple closed its doors last month, and relocated, along with the gurudwara at the Bur Dubai complex, to another site in Jebel Ali. For decades, this temple stood as the solitary sanctuary for Hindus, who constitute roughly 6.6 per cent of the UAE's population. Therefore, witnessing the inauguration of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) temple in Abu Dhabi this week filled me with joy as an Indian Pasmanda Muslim.

India-Pakistan saga with a tadka of green eyes, red nose, kohl, flirting enemies and the usual baap hum hain, aapjanab starter pack. This is not Border; this is not Gadar. Fighter starts from where the great battle of Baghpat with crazy uncles ended in 2021. Of course with dandas minus the warplanes and a kiss. No wonder that the film's director has been complaining how 90 per cent Indians have never flown in an airplane so they never understood a thing. And if they had, Patty would be flying in and out of Pakistan on an airbus with 90 per cent Indians onboard. A potential plot for Fighter 2: how to make Akhand Bharat in your dreams. Here Patty aka pretty Indian Air Force officer in a tight one piece, not a bikini, wows in thousand punches: "POK ka matlab hai Pakistan Kashmir. Occupied Occupy tumne kiya hai, malik hum hain." Definitely not quoting from Pakistan's school textbooks. It would be scary if it was somebody else and not Hrithik Roshan warning that if India comes the best verbal comedown to badtameezi, backs and collect girl Pakistan will become "India Occupied Pakistan". Given the adversaries, current account deficit,

# ECONOMY

### Walmart seeks out new **Indian suppliers**



Delhi: Walmart, the massive US retailer, is relying more and more on India, one of its main growth regions, and is looking to connect with new suppliers there as it attempts to diversify its supply chain and lessen its need in places like China. In order to fulfill its goal of buying \$10 billion worth of goods from India annually by 2027, the corporation would also require new suppliers. The retailer is highlighting its growing focus on India, where CEO Doug McMillon stated that production capacity is expanding and scaling, by holding its inaugural growth summit there. India is the only market to host such an event outside of the US, Chile, and Mexico. Beyond collaborating with export suppliers, the company is looking to form partnerships with regional entrepreneurs who are developing supply chain solutions as part of the India market. "We see so many prospects in India that we are the only market outside of the US where we have set a sourcing aim. Our next move in pursuing that opportunity is this growth conference, where we will collaborate not only with export suppliers but also with creative startups and organizations that offer supply chain solutions. In a video message, McMillon stated, "We want to investigate potential solutions that challenge us to improve and to make our value chain

even more effective. India has some of the brightest minds in innovation." Walmart claimed that over the previous 20 years, it has already purchased goods from India valued at \$30 billion. Walmart has flown in more than 100 of its associates marketplace, from sourcing, and merchant teams from markets including the US and Canada to the summit being held in Delhi in an attempt to make a strong appeal to several Indian suppliers. From a category standpoint, I believe there are countless potential in India, and as long as we continue to identify the appropriate partners and suppliers, I see room for exponential development.

# Non-resident' gets abroad income tax relief

#### Delhi:

The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) ruled that a 'non-resident"s wage income (including allowances) for services done abroad cannot be taxed in India, saving a salaried individual working abroad. An Indian digital technology business sent Devi Dayal to Austria for a project, which the ITAT Delhi court heard. An Indian living overseas is called an NRI, although tax laws call them differently. Tax residency in India depends on the number of days spent in India, not the nation of origin. India taxes residents' global income regardless of where it was earned. For non-residents, only

force open the UK

market for ghee in

exchange for intro-

ducing the latter's

blue cheese to the

Indian market as part

of the proposed free

agreement

trade



income earned in India (such as savings account interest or rental income from a Mumbai residence) is taxable. Thus, India does not tax nonresidents' bank account salaries for services perabroad. formed According to EY-India tax partner and India mobilleader Amarpal ity Singh-Chadha, "Despite

favorable rulings, tax authorities, especially lower levels, deny exemption for salary received outside India. They try to litigate the matter on various grounds, such as nonfurnishing the TRC from the country or proof of taxes paid in the host country, or challenging the taxability of income.

#### India wants to trade UK-sourced ghee for blue Reta cheese.

Delhi: According to an being discussed by official with knowlthe two nations. edge of the situation,

Trade repre-India is attempting to sentatives are pressuring the UK to relax its sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations in order to allow the entry of dairy products like ghee, which are now prohibited from the

British market.

This is a result of the food safety regulations' insistence on product traceability, which is challenging in India, where millions of small and individual dairy farmers provide milk to major dairy cooperatives.



05

#### TVS 6th auto co to reach 1 lakh crore market cap

Delhi: TVS Motor became the sixth Indian automaker to reach Rs 1 lakh crore in market worth. The companv's market cap was Rs 1 lakh crore, second to Eicher Motors Rs 1.1 lakh crore. Maruti Suzuki leads with Rs 3.6 lakh crore, followed by Tata Motors with Rs 3.4 lakh crore. Bajaj Auto and M&M rank third and fourth with Rs 2.4 and Rs 2.3 lakh crore, respectively. After TVS acquired 28.57% of the non-profit Indian Foundation for Quality Management, its market cap rose. TVS paid Rs 25 crore for 2.5 crore Rs 10 equity shares. IFQM will allot shares by April 15 within 60 days of subscription payment. The transaction is related partly because TVS chairman emeritus and MD Venu Srinivasan is also an IFQM director. The twowheeler giant's Q3 FY24 net profit rose 68% to Rs 593 crore from Rs 353 crore.

#### To save expenses, SpiceJet would eliminate 1,400 positions.

Delhi: As part of its turnaround strategy, low-cost carrier SpiceJet intends to fire 1.400 workers by the end of March, or around 15% of its workforce. The airline announced its confirmation of the decision, claiming that it will enable them to save up to Rs 100 crore every year. There are about 9,000 workers at the cashstrapped airline right now. "It currently operates about 32 aircraft and another ten aircraft on wet-lease, that have come with pilots and cabin crew," stated a spokesperson for the airline. They also mentioned that as of March 2019, the airline was flying with a fleet of 120 aircraft prior to Covid. Only non-operational workers will be affected by the layoffs; pilots and cabin crew will not be among them.

# **Tesla wants Indian rooftop** solar panel partner

Delhi: An unidentified source says Tesla is actively recruiting Indian rooftop solar panel manufacturers. This partnership would involve the partner manufacturing and installing, while Tesla provided technology and sales skills. The corporation has informed the government of its ambitions and is seeking subsidies and grants. Tesla makes solar roofs, Powerwalls, and solar panels in addition to electric cars. Following a 59% drop in US solar installs in the December quarter, Tesla made this strategic step. Tesla has a major opportunity in India's rooftop solar incentives. Tata Power Solar, Adani Solar, Servotech Power Systems, and Waaree Energies are Indian rooftop solar players. The US



installed was Tesla after acquiring SolarCity in 2016. Analysts expect India's rooftop solar capacity to rise 47% annually. India had 11.1GW of rooftop solar capacity in December, with 2.7GW in residential use. India falls short of its 2022

solar rooftop market leader rooftop capacity target of with approximately 800MW 40GW. To solve this shortage, the government created the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana to deliver rooftop solar installations to 10 million families, generating up to 300 units of electricity per month and lowering electricity bills. The initiative needs locally-

# **Chinese FDI in Paytm Payments under scrutiny**

**Delhi:** Sources said the government is reviewing Chinese FDI in One97

Communications' payment aggregator Payments Paytm Services. Paytm sought for an RBI payment aggregator license in November 2020 under the Regulation of Payment Aggregators Payment and Gateways. However, RBI rejected its application in November 2022 and requested the company to resubmit it to comply with Press Note 3 under FDI guidelines. Chinese



investment from One97 into the company to conform with Press Note 3 under FDI standards.An interministerial committee is reviewing Chinese investments in Paytm and will decide on FDI after careful study. Under Press Note 3, government the required prior clearance for foreign investments in any industry from land-bordering nations to prevent opportunistic takeovers of indigenous enterprises after the pandemic. agencies

invests in One97 Communications.The company filed the req-

company Ant Group uisite application with the government on December 14, 2022 for prior downward

### Health insurance pricing reviewed

despite mounting claims



Delhi: Some non-life due to modifications insurers want to use 'cohort-based pricing' to raise premiums for plans with high claims. Many health insurance businesses have claims that exceed premiums, causing pricing issues. Meanwhile, high premiums are driving people away. At a recent regulator meeting, solo health insurance companies endorsed the approach. Insurers say some policies pay claims for over a decade. In addition, many who have paid for decades without a claim are having their premium skyrocket

and increased senior rates. "While this proposal may make actuarial sense, insurance is for unexpected risks and this goes against the principle of risk distribution in insurance," stated a public sector

general insurance company official. The biggest concern is that the measure will raise insurance costs for the poor. Punitive premium loadings at renewal disproportionately affect chronic health patients. Digit insurance spokesperson: This method wors-

healthcare

ens

inequities and ignores these persons' ongoing care needs, potentially endangering their access to vital therapies.

> Health insurance has grown 35%, mostly due to premium increases, according to industry data. Higher premiums and policyholders buying extra insurance due to rising hospitalization costs.Diagnostics have healthcare raised expenses after the epidemic, insurers say. One way to lower health insurance costs is to lower the GST.

# In boost for India, US House passes bill on Quad

US-India-Australia-Japan Quad alliance, the US House of Representative has passed the "Quad Bill" with a near-unanimous vote to establish a body facilitating closer ties between the four countries. The bill was cleared by a roll call vote of 379 in favour and 39 against. The bill, officially called the 'Strengthen US-Australia-India-Japan Cooperation', directs the US State Department to submit a roadmap to increase engagement with Quad members. The bill seeks to foster closer collaboration between Quad members with an aim to strengthen the alliance across various cooperation areas. It proposes that Biden administration must develop strategy to address cooperation on issues including (1) preparing



for the next pandemic, (2) co-developing new innovative technologies, and (3) deepening economic engagement and integration. Greater cooperation between Quad nations matter since the group is seen as a counterweight to China in the Indo-Pacific region. It has openly advocated for a "free and open Indo-Pacific". What's driving the news The bill directs the US

State Department to ...

Submit to US Congress

a strategy within 180 days of bill's enactment to increase engagement and cooperation with the Quad Enter into talks with India, Japan and Australia to establish a

Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group within 60 days of bill's enactment. Establish a US group, with maximum members of 24

Congress, to represent America in the working group. Establish guidelines for annual meetings and group leader-

ship. Submit an annual report to the Congressional foreign affairs committees. My legislation works to ensure the Quad's success and longevity by calling on the State Department to develop a strategy on bolstering democratic coordination in the Indo-Pacific region, and establishes a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to greater facilitate engagement and cooperation among the

four legislatures.

#### Maldives ties shaky, India doubles aid

Delhi: Despite strained relations with the Maldives, Delhi will prioritize Indian Ocean development projects. India increased its 2023-24 Maldives budget from Rs 400 crore to Rs 770 crore. Second only to Bhutan and Nepal, it has allocated Rs 600 crore for the Maldives in 2024-25. India has not let disputes with Male, particularly in defense and security cooperation, impede the \$500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project, its largest infrastructure project. Maldives allocations are grants, not loans. Bhutan retained its top budgeted allocation, with India allocating Rs 2,068 crore to Thimphu. Nepal gets Rs 700 crore. Including Bhutan's loan, India's 2024-25 estimate for grant and loan assistance to foreign governments is Rs 5,667 crore. This is 874 crore less than last year's revised projection. In 2024-25, India allocated Rs 250 crore for conflict-torn Myanmar, down from Rs 370 crore last year.

# **SPORTS/EDU**

**Pioneer Kamal Convent School** enthusiastically observed "Basanti Panchami"



Delhi: In the Vikas Nagar courtyard, the Kamal pioneer Convent School, which has always taken the lead in the sphere of education, held Basant Panchami. Students sang the Gayatri Mantra and danced throughout the school on this particular day. In order to do this, the school held Saraswati Puja and gave the pupils prasad. The significance of Basanti Panchami was explained by the school manager, Mrs. Dr. Seema Bajaj, who mentioned that Goddess Saraswati



was born on this day. She materialized on a lotus field this exact day, holding a book, a veena, and a garland. Basant Panchami is also the commence-

ment of the spring season. Mrs. Mallika Bajaj, the principal of the school, wished the pupils a happy Basant Panchami on this particular occasion.

# **IIT-Madras Zanzibar wants** triple 2024-25 intake

**IIT MADRAS** 

Delhi: IIT-Madras Zanzibar, elated by "positive response" to its sixmonth-old courses, has tripled its second batch for the 2024-25 academic year, reports Manash Gohain. IIT now offers two undergraduate and master's programs, but it plans to provide seven in three to four years. In August 2023, Tanzania's IIT-Madras Zanzibar began offering a four-year BS and two-year MTech in data science and AI. In the 2023-24 batch, 5035 undergraduates (15 Indians) and 15 postgraduates (8 Indians) were accepted. The UG program has 22 African students, 40% of whom are women.

Around 500 applications were received for the inaugural batch at IIT-Madras Zanzibar. The Zanzibar campus has 50% Indian students and the balance from foreign countries, according to IIT-Madras director V Kamakotil. For the second batch (2024-25), which is being applied for, 150 will be accepted." Working out of a temporary cam- 1,500 crore.

pus, "the complete exercise of setting up the campus took just six months from the time discussion between the two govts till ministry of external affairs signed the agreement with Tanzania govt," said Kamakoti. The permanent campus will be built on 232 acres of sea-facing property for which Zanzibar has invested Rs

#### Nari Shakti Vandan NCERT module promotes women's programs

Delhi: The National Council of Educational Research and Training released a supplementary module for school students on women's empowerment, highlighting government initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, self-help groups, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana,

and the recent law that reserves 33% seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies. Nari Shakti Vandan is the third of the council's

reading additional material for school curricula. IT previously issued modules on India's Chandrayaan-3

space project and G20 "The chairmanship. modules have been prepared with the aspiration to integrate significant achievements of the country into the school curriculum as supplementary reading," an official said. seeking anonymity.



#### **WWF India Suspension** Lifted Immediately

Amateur wrestling's international governing body, United World Wrestling, lifted the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) ban immediately. The WFI was provisionally suspended by UWW on August 23, 2018, after the Indian body failed to hold an election. A UWW Disciplinary Chamber statement said the body was provisionally suspended because the situation in the federation lasted at least six months. The same source indicated that the UWW Bureau reviewed the suspension and agreed to lift it under certain conditions. The Athletes' Commission elections were rescheduled by WFI. Active athletes or retirees under four years will serve on this commission. In all cases, only athletes can vote. Elections can be held during trials or senior national championships, but they must be held by July 1, 2024. "The WFI must immediately provide UWW with written guarantees that all wrestlers will be considered for participation without discrimination in all WFI events, including Olympic Games trials and other major national and international events. The three athletes who criticized the former President are included in this non-discrimination "official statement. The judgment by UWW means that Indian wrestlers who couldn't compete under their country's flag can now do so at the next event. While suspended, Indian wrestlers competed under the UFF flag. Indian competitors who won the gold medal were not allowed to perform the national anthem. After the global wrestling body's judgment, such arrangements are void.

# Nagal enters top-100 with **5th Challenger win**

Delhi: Sumit Nagal, India's top men's singles player, won the Chennai Open Challenger final easily. Nagal defeated top seed Luca Nardi of Italy 6-1, 6-4 at the SDAT Tennis Stadium to win his fifth Challenger championship and join the top-100 for the first time. Nardi's slow start and important blunders helped Nagal break up. Nagal's shoulder ailment from his semifinal win seemed to be The backhand test Nardi gave Nagal was insufficient. Nardi was exhausted by the end of the set, and 26-year-old Nagal wrapped it up easily. Nagal raced to break again in the second set. Nardi refused to give up and broke Nagal twice to tie



gone as he built on the break. scores 4-4. Nardi made three world. Feeling emotional. I

# 23 candidates—seven from Telangana get a flawless score of 100 in JEE Main.

Delhi: A total of twenty-three candidates, the maximum of whom came from Telangana, achieved a perfect score of 100 in JEE-Main 2024. Of those who obtained an NTA score of 100, seven hail from Telangana, two from Delhi (Madhav Bansal and Ipsit Mittal), three each from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, entile, and Maharashtra, two from Haryana, and one each from Gujarat, top Karnataka, and Tamil female Nadu. While there are no female candidates who scored 100 perdents



unforced errors, two back-toback, in the ninth game. Nagal anywhere better. I'm learning also surprised Nardi with a great forehand.Nagal struggled with his first serves in the encounter. Nagal tried to win another title and become one of the top 100 players in the

couldn't have won the title to stay cool and patient to improve my game "Nagal said. Prajnesh Gunneswaran was the last Indian in the top-100 of the ATP in 2019.

After five years, Nagal will

inconsistencies in Dharmeshkumar Patel percentile calculaof Gujarat secured the tions. Aaditya Kumar among of Rajasthan, who candidates achieved 100 perwith an NTA score of centile, stated, "I want 99.99. Several stu- to do research in pointed out astrophysics. I have

always been lascilla ed by space science." They asserted that there was a significant discrepancy between the percentile estimates and JEE Main scores.

### **SKV, Prashant Vihar Tang Soo Do Event Successfully Organized by Delhi Olympic Association**

The Delhi Olympic Association happily hosted Tang Soo Do at SKV, Prashant Vihar, 300 talented Delhi residents enthusiastically participated. Sh. Luv Sehrawat, President of the ITF Tang Soo Do Sports Federation of India, motivated the participants with his words and continuous support for the sport. Rohit Sharma, Olympic Delhi Association Coordinator, helped the event run well, exhibiting his dedica-

DELHI

Sh. Pawan Chauhan, Titiksha Selector and Cricket School's Coach, whose advice has helped Delhi's sports grow, added distinction to the event. All present were impressed with

tion to sportsman-

ship and fitness in



Public who made the event performsuccess. а The ance, which showed Association continexcellent skill and ues to promote passion. The Tang sports excellence and Soo Do Family thanks togetherness in Delhi all participants, viewthrough events like ers, and sponsors these.

# No free private schools for EWS kids in Maharashtra if govt. schools are nearby

#### Delhi:

**Educational** experts criticized the decision as violating the RTE Act. According to recent gazette amendments to Maharashtra's school education department's regulations, economically disadvantaged students will lose free access to private schools under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE) from the next academic year if there is a government school nearby. The amendment prohibits underprivileged children from attending an unassisted private school in their area under the 25% RTE quota if there is a government or government-aided school within a kilometer. In



spot

major areas like Mumbai and Pune, government where schools are prevalent, this will prevent students from this strata from attending Englishmedium private schools. Educational experts criticized the decision as violating the RTE Act. The Supreme Court is deciding whether to uphold a Karnataka government decision. The government estimates that 500,000 poor children

attended private schools through RTE over the past decade.An education official stated that the revision was necessary due to the state owing 1,463 crore to private schools for RTE admissions over the past 12 years. Without the amendment, this amount would have exceeded 2,000 crore. It claimed private unaided schools that wanted to participate will no

in the state have longer be reimbursed. Educationist Kishore Darak asked, "How can a state government amend RTE rules, nullifying Union law?" The announcement violates RTE and may be overturned by courts." education School deputy secretary Tushar Mahajan stated, "Our current plan is to bolster government and government-aided schools with increased funding and improved infrastructure.

**Registration for the SOL Skill Center has** begun

Delhi: The School of Open Learning (SOL) at Delhi University's Center for Innovative Skill-Based Courses (CISBC) is now accepting applications. This will provide 30 shortterm, publicly accessible skill-based certificate courses in areas such as cyber security, tax assessment, and driving, among others, that will be offered by CISBC. SOL Director Payal Mago provided the details, stating that the registration period opened on February 15 and will end on March 15. She also mentioned that there are only a few spots available for these classes, so those who are interested should apply as soon as possible to guarantee a spot. Yogesh Singh, the vice chancellor of Delhi University, officially opened CISBC on January 31, 2024. The vice chancellor had stated at the time that students will have access to skill-based courses at this Delhi University center, and that it would improve their lives.



the region.

#### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

# **ENTERTAINMENT**

Monday 19 Feb, 2024



# Pamma's 30 years in the interest of the society

Delhi: Often referred to as ' The Angriest man of India' on numerous social media platforms and public gatherings, with over 30 years of dedicated and undeterred social service, addressing both local and global issues, directly affecting the common man, meet Sh.Paramjeet Singh Pamma, National Akali Dal National President **CHAIRMAN** & Federation of Sadar Bazar Traders Association. Pamma has always been raising his voice for the welfare of the society with the sole mantra of providing assistance to those in need. His unwavering commitment to become a voice for the masses, Pamma, now 52 has dedicated a major part of his life helping those in need, both individually and through various organisations run under his guidance and able support.

In the most critical of like the times Pandemic, while oth-



were locked ers indoors, Pamma took to the streets helping people with both medical aid and support. the core,

This is my country and all Indians are my kin, says Pamma and has lived this quote to

### Sanya Malhotra 'can't believe' Dangal girl Suhani Bhatnagar is dead

Sanya wrote for Suhani Bhatnagar, "I can't believe it's real. There was no one quite like our Suhani. She was so special, so talented, and way too young to have left us so soon. Rest in peace Chotu (kid). My deepest condolences to Pooja, Puneet and the entire family."Discover the thrill of cricket like never before, exclusively on HT. Explore now! Sanya penned a note for the late 19-year-old actor.Sanya penned a note for the late 19-yearold actor.What happened to Suhani According to Suhani's family, she was suffering from dermatomyositis, a rare inflammatory disease that causes skin

rash and muscle weakness. Suhani was admitted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences on February 7 and died on February 16 after medical complications."She developed a red spot on her hands about two months ago. We thought it was allergy and we consulted with doctors in different hospitals in

Faridabad but it couldn't be diagnosed," Suhano's father told reporters, as quoted by news agency PTI. He had also said, "When her condition started deteriorating, we got her admitted to AIIMS. But there was no improvement and her lungs were damaged due to accumulation of excess fluid.

#### Will Esha Deol join politics after separation from husband Bharat Takhtani? Mom Hema Malini reveals

Hema talks about family, Dharmendra's support During the interview, Hema Malini said, "The family is with me all the time. Because of them, I am able to do this. They are taking care of my house in Mumbai, so I am coming to Mathura very easily. I come and go back. Whatever I'm doing, Dharam ji is very happy with that, which is

why he supports me and also comes to Mathura.' Discover the thrill of cricket like never before, exclusively on HT. Explore now! Hema on if Esha will join politics Hema was asked if her daughters Esha and Ahana Deol are interested in joining politics. To this, she said, "If they want. Esha is very interested in it, she loves doing it. In the next few years, if she is

interested, she will definitely (join politics)." About Esha, Bharat Esha is the daughter of Dharmendra and Hema. She has been in the news recently after she confirmed her separation from husband-entrepreneur Bharat Takhtani, 11 years after their wedding. Rumours of their split were doing the rounds on social media for quite some time.



#### Ram Charan's rustic sports drama RC16 will include Janhvi Kapoor

Janhvi Delhi: Kapoor has signed a second film. She is scheduled to debut in Telugu with Jr. NTR's Devara. She will be collaborating with Ram Charan, Jr. NTR's RRR co-star, in the next Buchi Babu Sana-directed movie. "It's a pan-India project and the filmmakers were looking to cast an actress



with a national recall," a confirmed statement from a member of the film crew said. Janhvi was selected to play the female lead. The movie, which is being billed as a rustic sports drama, stars Shiva Rajkumar, a popular Kannada actor, in a major part. "The story is set in Uttarandhra and will showcase a different side of both Ram and Janhvi," the person continued. Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Bobbili. Parvathipuram, Rajam, and other locations will be used for filming."In order to provide a real rural flavor, director Buchi Babu is now holding auditions for local actors. AR Rahman is writing the soundtrack for the movie. It is anticipated that the movie will premiere in March.

### **Rajkumar Santoshi granted bail with**in 24 hours in cheque return case

"The prosecution didn't produce any documentary evidence to prove that Mr. Santoshi had taken money at all. The prosecution itself has admitted that a third party had collected the said money from the complainant. In-return the third party had provided altered eleven cheques of Rs.10 lakh each, which Mr Santoshi was not aware of it. The magisterial court over-



cheques, the fact that and even more," added the complainants do not Rajkumar's lawyer want to present or call- .Rajkumar Santoshi's crore to Rajkumar in the said third party cheque bounce case line who had collected the case began when the money, about Mr complainant, Ashok Lal, Santoshi does not know. a prominent industrialist So we shall appeal at a and shipping magnate higher forum with the from Jamnagar, claimed above highlighted points that he received ten

cheques of ?10 lakh each from Rajkumar Santoshi, totalling ?1 crore, which subsequently bounced. Piyush Bhojani, the advocate for the businessman in the case, confirmed to ANI on Saturday that the filmmaker was sentenced to two years in jail. According to the advocate, his client Ashok Lal contributed ?1 Santoshi's film.The complainant claimed that once the cheques were deposited in the bank within the stipulated time frame, they bounced.

#### My goal is to pursue two occupations simultaneously

Delhi: After much effort, Parineeti Chopra fulfilled her concert singing goal. After singing Maana Ke Hum Yaar Nahi (Meri Pyaari Bindu) and Teri Mitti (Kesari), the actress made her live performance debut in Mumbai. In our conversation, she adds, "25 years of thoughts, dreams, and preparing led to this moment. Her songs appear in the actorsinger's OTT film Chamkila starring Diljit Dosanjh, which will be released later this year. According to her, "Singing 15 songs for this film was a major draw. During this film, my costar Diljit heard me sing and encouraged me to perform live. Everyone around me kept telling me I could be on stage."Her spouse Raghav Chadha urged try professionals. Raghav sugher to perform live, as did indus-



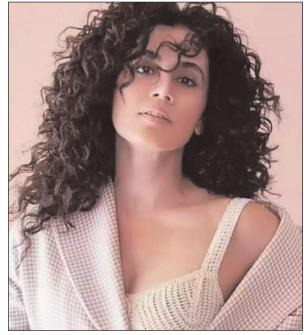
despite knowing me only briefly. He said I should have done this five years ago. I was nervous before my first performance. She believes singing that first word makes you forget where you are and get in your element. When asked about balancing acting and singing after a personal change, she answers, "This trend should end. Not in real life. Getting married doesn't slow me down. I wish that spot wasn't used for everyone. diverse people have diverse marriages, relationships, and lives. Some work on their wedding day. My partner is a politician, whereas I am an actress. We live in various cities. A different kind of marriage. Work doesn't effect our marriage and vice versa. Everything must coordinate.

looked these facts and against ruled us. Therefore, on the ground of invalid and false claims, alterations happened in the

gested I conduct live shows

# I'd adore to consider a glamorous part

Delhi: Taapsee Pannu, who is well-known for playing rooted, passionate roles in films, has gained a lot of attention on social media after sharing a video of herself in a swimsuit and sparking conversation about her unique image. Speaking about it, Taapsee states, "I don't want to just dump everything on you. I do not simply show up wearing a two-piece and strike a pose. There's going to be an of fun element involved. In the video that you are referring to, I am shown introducing my playful side while wearing a black bikini and an awesome jacket." orange Taapsee continues, "I believe that my personality, rather than my attire, is what gives me my hotness or sizzling quotient. That, not the bikini, should be the reason for setting the



internet on fire (laughter). I've spent the bulk of my life in good shape. I consider it important to have selfassurance and ease in order to ensure that a photo is artistically taken and doesn't appear sleazy. I am quite at ease in my own skin and body." She

responds, "I would love to explore glamorous roles," when you ask if she wants to try her hand at a glamorous character on screen. However, that depends on a filmmaker with an unconventional vision. For that, I'm always grateful to director David Dhawan, sir.

# Rakul Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani hire Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's security team for Goa wedding

Rakul Preet Singh-Jackky Bhagnani wedding: Ananya Panday, Aditya Roy Kapur as guests to strict 'no-photo policy' and beefed-up security, find out everything. Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani are going to marry on February 21 in Goa. On Saturday, the couple, along with family, landed in Goa. They were spotted with Yusuf Ibrahim, who provides security to top Bollywood celebrities such as Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor, and has also worked with Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone and Shah Rukh Khan. As per a new report by ETimes, Yusuf opened up about the 'challenges of high profile weddings'. Also read: Rakul Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani seek blessings at Siddhivinayak temple ahead of wedding Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani will also have a strict no-photo policy at their wedding, apart from having Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's security team. Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani will also have a strict no-photo pol-



icy at their wedding, apart from having Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's security team. Security at Rakul Preet-Jackky wedding Yusuf Ibrahim told the portal, "It is not tough if we plan it accurately and execute properly." He added that 'maintaining secrecy and security is always the top priority'. Regarding arrangements and protocols for guests, Yusuf said, "They are invited guests with love and respect... so they have a free hand to do what they want to." Discover the thrill of cricket like never before, exclusively on HT. Explore now! Moreover, as per

a report by News18, there is a strict no-photo policy at Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani's Goa wedding. "Guests will have to deposit their phones at the security. Rakul Preet and Jackky are private people and they don't want any photographs to be leaked from their wedding. They will officially share the photographs once the wedding is completed," a source told the portal.Rakul Preet and Jackky's wedding guest list "Many prominent A-list actors are going to be a part of the couple's marriage.

Shashi Tharoor, Kangana Ranaut congratulate Gulzar as he wins Jnanpith Award for 'extraordinary services to Urdu poetry

'Warmest congratulations to Gulzar Sahib'On Saturday, after Gulzar was named as one of the recipients of the 58th Jnanpith Award, Shashi Tharoor congratulated the veteran poet. Jnanpith Award is the highest Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith for people's 'outstanding contribution towards literature.Discover the thrill of cricket like never before, exclusively on HT. Explore now!He tweeted, "Warmest congratulations to Gulzar Sahib on winning India's highest literary award for lifetime achievement, the Jnanpith Award, for his extraordinary services to Urdu poetry. Richly deserved! One of those rare accolades applauded both by the general public and the cognoscenti."

#### Monday 19 Feb, 2024

# REGION

### Akhand Bharat Sandesh

# 'Hamrai dosti Hindu College se shuru hui'....

They met in 1984 while preparing for the Founder's Day event of Hindu College. So, nostalgia was at its peak for Rekha and Vishal Bhardwaj when they performed at

**8**0

Mahotsava – a series of celebrations commemorating 125 years of their alma mater - on Saturday. After the college hosted their alumni during the day, Vishal and Rekha shared the stage for a musical performance in the evening, during which they revisited how their love story bloomed at this Delhi campus. Hindu College's alumni power couple Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj performed at the college's 125th anniversary celebration. From timeless tunes to tales



only filled the air with music, but also shared the story of how their love blossomed on the campus

Hindu College's alumni power couple Vishal and Rekha Bhardwaj performed at the college's 125th anniversary celebration. From timeless tunes to tales of romance, they not only filled the air with music, but also shared of romance, they not

the story of how their love blossomed on the campus 'Yahan college se dosti shuru hui'From Phir Le

Aya Dil to Beedi, Rekha and Vishal performed several of their hits. Sharing anecdotes from college their between songs, Rekha said, "Yahan college se dosti shuru hui. It was when we started preparing for the

Founder's Day program here in 1984. We became good friends. After a few years, we started dating, but little did I know that I would get married to this genius." Before the couple presented O Re, Vishal Saathi shared, "Mere live iss baat ko explain karna mushkil hai ki mujhe kaisa lag raha hai. Main toh uss taraf tha (where the audience sits), yahan kaise aagaya! Main bohot shukrguzar hoon Anju ji (Srivastava, the college Principal) ka, college ka ki humein yeh mauka diya ki hum yahan aayein. Bahut hi nostalgic moment hai humare liye."

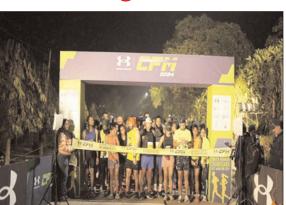
After Vishal sang Dil Toh Bachcha Hai Ji, he called Rekha back on stage and said, "Arrey, "Main kahan ho?" tha.

life

peeche dance kar rahi thi," replied Rekha After Vishal sang Dil Toh Bachcha Hai Ji, he called Rekha back on stage and said, "Arrey, kahan ho?" "Main peeche dance kar rahi thi," replied Rekha

Aaj main aur Rekha jo kuch bhi hain, iss college ki wajah se hain' Before performing Dil Toh Bachcha Hai Ji, Vishal expressed gratitude to the college saying, "Main ek chote shehar Meerut se yahan padhne ke liye yahan aaya tha aur mujhe kabhi zindagi mein umeed nahi thi ke aisi success milegi. Bahut struggle ki maine par yeh Hindu College aur yeh Delhi University ne jo mujhe rachaya ... Mera admission yahan sports quota mein hua

### **Under Armour CFM** reshapes faster running in India



Chandigarh : The inaugural Under Armour Chandigarh Fast Marathon concluded at Chandigarh Club on Sunday marking a significant milestone in the world of competitive running. clear emphasis on

to qualified participants, who had to demonstrate their performance past data for consideration. the race witnessed a remarkable display of personal bests among its par-Conceived with a ticipants. Beyond its athletic significance, and the marathon also served as a catalyst for tourism, attracting visitors from far and wide to experience the charm and hospitality of Chandigarh. From exploring the city's vibrant markets to indulging in its rich cultural heritage, participants departed with fond memories of their time spent amidst its grandeur.

# Rae Bareli seat will remain with Gandhi family: Jairam Ramesh

VARANASI: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday said Rae Bareli seat will remain with the Gandhi family.

There is an unbreakable bond between Rae Bareli and the Gandhi family, said Jairam, who accompanied Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Varanasi. The party will decide who will be fielded from Rae Bareli, he added.

Earlier this week, Sonia Gandhi, who had represented the seat since 2004, informed voters of Rae Bareli through a letter that she will contest the not upcoming Lok Sabha polls due to health and age issues. Regarding SP, Jairam said the party's participation in Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra

Rahul Gandhi's yatra to skip west UP, cut short by 5 days

LUCKNOW: Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra has been curtailed by five days and will skip most of the scheduled stops in western UP. While the party said the decision was taken because of the UP Board examinations from Feb 22, it was viewed as linked to Jayant Chaudhary's **RLD** quiting INDIA bloc and joining NDA.

RLD's base is western UP, where it was supposed to have been



Rae Bareli.

would be visible soon.

We also published the following articles recently Rae Bareli seat will remain with Gandhi family: Jairam Ramesh

Rae Bareli seat will remain with the Gandhi family.

Jairam Ramesh accompanied Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Varanasi. The party will decide who will be fielded from Congress bastion.

'Will not contest Lok Sabha elections in view of ...': Sonia Gandhi's letter to Rae Bareli 'family' Sonia Gandhi writes a letter to thank Rae Bareli voters and announces she won't contest Lok Sabha elections 2024. She filed Rajya Sabha nomination with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra supporting her, and Rae Bareli is a



#### Woman ends life after husband snatches her mobile phone

Rachna Sahu died by suicide in Bhilai after her husband confiscated her phone. She was found hanging in their house. The police sealed the room and sent the body to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital for post-mortem examination. Their daughter, reels, Instagram, arguments, living on the second floor with in-laws, neighbours, and passing away were factors leading to the suicide. Woman ends life after husband snatches her mobile phone A woman died by suicide in her house after her husband snatched the device, in the steel city -Bhilai. The woman is survived by a five-year-old daughter. Before the police arrived, locals had already brought down the woman's body from the noose. Subsequently, the police sealed the room and sent the body to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital for post-mortem examination. Supela SHO Durgesh Sharma informed that prima facie, the reason behind the suicide appears to be related to the mobile phone. Upon arrival at the scene, it was discovered that Rachna Sahu, wife of Bhupendra Sahu, a tiles worker, was found hanging.During interrogation, Bhupendra told the police that they had been married for six years and had a five-year-old daughter. On Friday afternoon, he confiscated Rachna's smartphone and left home. Only his mother, sister-in-law and their children were at home at the time. Approximately four hours later, at 7 p.m., he received a call informing him that Rachna's body was found hanging, the SHO said. Upon returning home, Bhupendra found his wife Rachna's body. She had a sari noose around her neck. Bhupendra explained to the police that Rachna would spend the entire day engrossed in her mobile phone, neglecting household chores and childcare responsibilities. She was focused on creating reels, Instagram videos, and posting them, he told the police. He had repeatedly asked her to limit her phone usage, leading to frequent arguments between them. When Rachna refused to list n, Bhupendra, in anger, confiscated her phone on Friday, her husband told the police. Rachna lived on the second floor of the house with her husband, while the in-laws lived downstairs. On Friday evening, only Rachna's motherin-law, sister-in-law, and their children were at home. Rachna took her daughter upstairs, locked her in a room, and then went alone to another room.When the child cried, the mother-in-law and sister-in-law rushed upstairs and found Rachna hanging from the noose. They made noise, and neighbours arrived. They brought her down from the noose, but by then, she had already passed away.

### Tamil Nadu man facing five revenge-murder cases nabbed while plotting 6th hit

CHENNAI: A 42-year- ed killer of his elder old man, who was brother and returned arrested in connection with five murders and released on bail, was stopped in his tracks on Friday while planning his sixth hit. All his six targets, including the five victims, were named as accused in the murder of the man's elder brother in 2012. In the intervening 11 years, S Suresh Kumar of PV Kalathur in Nithyanandam Chengalpet murdered all but one. Every time he got out on bail, he killed another suspect- Kumar

to jail. Police said Suresh Kumar's brother S Vijayakumar, a village panchayat president involved in the Palar sand mining issue with another rival gang from the locality, was murdered in 2012 on road by a gang comprising Kuppan, Chandru, Venkatesan. In 2012, Kuppan was en route Chennai when Suresh blocked

Kuppan's car with his that Kalathur Duraidass, Sekar, and gang,

gang and hacked him to death on road, said police. In 2014, Duraidass was murdered in Guindy. Later year, Nithyanandam was murdered at P V outside his house. In 2015, Chandru was murdered in Chennai.

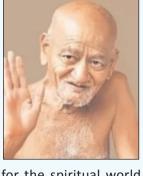
In 2016, Sekar was murdered in broad daylight in Chengalpet district. The last of the 'Bunk' Venkatesan, absconded, said police

#### irreparable loss to the society: Yogi

Vidyasagar Maharaj's demise is an

#### Lucknow

Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath expressed his grief over the demise of spiritual guru of Jain seer Acharya Shri 108 Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj. He also shared his condolences on social media. "The demise of the revered saint of Jainism, spiritual guru, Acharya Shri 108 Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj is an irreparable loss



for the spiritual world and the entire society. Lots of respect," CM Yogi wrote on X.It is

reported that Acharya Shri 108 Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj took a threeday fast and then took Samadhi (voluntarily left his physical body) Dogarpur, Chhattisgarh Saturday night. Prior to this, he had maintained unbroken silence. The news of his passing has triggered waves mourning in the Jain

community.

performance achieving faster timings, this event provided participants with a platform to qualify for the prestigious World Marathon Majors. Hailing from 18 difon ferent cities across India, runners converged upon Chandigarh for an exhilarating weekend of of athletic prowess. With entry restricted

by

February

the bulwark of the opposition resistance to BJP.

There was also a tiff between Congress and Jayant in RS when he was called to speak about the Bharat Ratna to his late grand father and farmer leader Charan Singh, creating bitterness. The yatra will now touch upon western UP only at the exit point to MP, sources said.

#### Class IV student stabbed, head smashed with iron rod, stone

UTTARPARA: A class IV student was stabbed with a vegetable knife, his head hit with an iron rod and then smashed with a stone idol while



he was studying in his room at Adarshnagar near Konnagar on Friday evening. The exceptionally brutal manner in which eight-year-old Snehangshu Sharma was murdered has left even hardened police officers shaken. Terming the murder "exceptionally brutal", Chandernagore Police commissioner Amit Kumar Javalgi said; "We have already sealed the house and are talking to a number of people." While the murderer could be a psychopath, criminologists said the motive could also be very personal. Sources said among those being questioned are the driver of the pool car used by the boy to commute to school.

### Yogi govt to showcase UP's rich culture to the **GBC@IV** participants right from their arrival

Lucknow In line with Chief formed Minister Yogi Maharaj Adityanath's vision, the Sansthan. On February Department of Culture 19-20, in Uttar Pradesh has completed its preparations to welcome guests coming for the Ground Breaking Ceremony (GBC@IV) with an array of cultural events. A total of 14 stages are being set up from the airport to the venue at Gandhi Indira Pratishthan (IGP) in her melodious songs. Lucknow, on which 350 On artistes from 22 cultural troupes will perform to give visitors a glimpse of UP's rich cultural her-In addition, itage. Bollywood artistes will entertain the audience at IGP for two days. A dance drama on Ram

Stuti will also be per- near the flyover connecting the airport to Birju Kathak Shaheed Path, in front of the statue of martyrs Bollywood on Shaheed Path, 1090 artistes will regale audi-Chauraha, Women ence at the IGP with Power Line, Samata Mulak Chowk, Sangeet their performances. On the 19, 12 artistes from Natak Academy, before Birju Maharaj Kathak the flyover leading to Sansthan will present a IGP via Lohia Path, Kathak dance drama on along with gate numbers one and two of the Ram Stuti. Popular playback singer Monali IGP.Other prominent Thakur will also captiartistes to perform durvate the audience with ing the event include, Rajesh Sharma and Jagriti Pal 20, Grammy Award-winner Mathura, who will be Ricky Kej's band and presenting dance and Vijay Yadav flautist Rasika Shekhar will enchant the audiand Sheetla Prasad ence with their presen-Verma from Ayodhya tations.The stages will who will perform be located at various Faruwahi dance. Besides, Prakriti Yadav points, including in front of the airport, will be presenting

Awadhi dance, whereas Rajesh Gaur and Satish Kumar from Azamgarh will perform Kahrwa dance. Additionally, Umesh Kannaujiya, Salturam will present Gazipur's Dhobiya dance whereas Preeti Singh and Kruti Srivastava will perform Prayagraj's Dhediya folk dance. Nishant Singh Bhadauria and Imran Khan Rai from Jhansi, and Khazan Singh and Mahipal Singh team will from present Bamrasia folk dance from Mathura. Mayur Asha Kumari will perform Sonbhadra's Jhoomar dance while Santosh Singh's will present Adivasi dance, and Banti Rana will present Pilibhit's Tharu dance.