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

## In Chennai, PM Modi adds weight to BJP's poll push in TN

**"In South Chennai, the BJP, the party has a history of fielding candidates since the 1991 Lok Sabha elections. BJP's Tamizh Isai Soundarajan"**



**NEW DELHI:** With less than a fortnight to go for the polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday intensified the campaign trail for the BJP in Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister is on his seventh visit to the state this year and the first after the 'Katchatheevu' issue was flagged by the BJP. Amid chants of 'veendum meendum Modi ( We want Modi again),' Prime Minister held a massive roadshow along with BJP state president K Annamalai and three BJP candidates contesting in Chennai such as Tamizhisai Soundararajan, Vinoj P Selvam and Paul Kanagaraj. The PM dur-

ing his visit is expected to hold public rallies and roadshows in Vellore, Nilgiris, Perambalur, Virudhunagar in support of BJP and NDA candidates contesting under the alliance. The state, which will see all its 39 seats go to polls in a single phase on April 19, has witnessed high-profile visits from senior leaders of the BJP. Over the weekend, party national president JP Nadda, who was on a whirlwind tour, campaigned and held roadshows in the state after the Madras HC overruled police

objections. Other leaders of the high command, who visited the state include the likes of union ministers Rajnath Singh, Hardeep Singh Puri, and Anurag Singh Thakur. The Prime Minister's visit also comes amid claims by the ruling DMK that the visits, 'if anything, would benefit the DMK.' However, a closer look at the Prime Minister's itinerary in the coming days in the state makes it evident that the BJP is targeting constituencies where they see an opportunity to make inroads or, at the very least, fit in

as the second-largest party in seats traditionally dominated by either of the Dravidian parties. In South Chennai, the BJP, the party has a history of fielding candidates since the 1991 Lok Sabha elections. BJP's Tamizh Isai Soundarajan, who resigned from her constitutional post as governor of Telangana to contest electoral politics is pitted against Tamizhachi Thangapandian of the DMK and AIADMK's J Jayavardhan, son of former minister D Jayakumar.

## Law used in Covid war also gives Centre control over industrial alcohol: Solicitor general

**NEW DELHI:**

Union government on Tuesday told Supreme Court that Constitution-framers intended to give Centre complete control over any industry in public interest through a Parliament-enacted law ousting states' jurisdiction and this power was used by Modi govt to order diversion of steel plant produced oxygen to hospitals and industrial alcohol for hand sanitisers during Covid pandemic.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said enactment of Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, in consonance with regulating Entry 52 of List I of Seventh Schedule, occupied the regulating field for production and distribution of industrial alcohol, over which Centre alone had jurisdiction, while Entry 8 of List II gave states jurisdiction over liquor for human consumption. Fighting Covid pandemic would have been a difficult exercise with-



## Gurdwara president shot dead in Canada; Indian gangsters' role suspected

A gurdwara president, also the owner of a construction firm, was shot dead on Monday in Canada. Indian gangsters are suspected to be behind the killing of Buta Singh Gill, who was shot near a construction site in Edmonton's Millwoods area. He was the owner of the firm

out IDRA, he said. While going through IDR Act, a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud, a

Gill Built Homes Ltd. According to Canada-based sources, Indian gangsters have tied up with pro-Khalistan elements in the country and are extorting funds from rich Indian-origin Canadians. Monday's killing comes nearly 10 months after the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar

frowned at the "draconian nature" of the legislation and said it is not only regressive.

## Maharashtra minister sparks row with 'incest' slur on Congress

**NAGPUR/CHANDRAPUR:**

Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Tuesday urged EC to cancel the candidature of Maharashtra forests minister and BJP Chandrapur candidate Sudhir Mungantiwar for alleged "incestuous remarks" against Congress at a rally on Monday later addressed by PM Narendra Modi. Mungantiwar's remarks went viral, triggered outrage, ignited protests across the state and led to a police complaint. Although PM was yet to touch down at the rally venue in Chandrapur's Morwa when Mungantiwar went ballistic.

## Election Commission issues notice to Randeep Surjewala over Hema remark, raps Kharge

**NEW DELHI:**

Election Commission on Tuesday issued notice to Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala over his "sexist, vulgar and uncivilised" comments against BJP MP and candidate Hema Malini during campaigning in Haryana. It also wrote to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge pointing to repeated violations by his party leaders of EC's April 1 advisory asking campaigners to refrain from actions and utterances that may hurt the dignity of women, and sought details by Friday of the steps taken by the party to ensure its compliance. Stating that Surjewala's comments prima facie violated provisions of the model code of conduct that restrain parties and candidates from criticising all aspects of private life of leaders and workers of rival parties or making statements that may be malicious or offensive to decency and morality, EC directed Surjewala to reply to the show cause notice by 5pm on Thursday. This being the second instance of a Congress leader making disrespectful and undignified remarks against women candidates - the first being Supriya Shrinete's jibe against BJP candidate Kangana Ranaut, for which she was pulled up by EC - the commission, in a separate letter to Kharge, said, "The commission expected that such a serious issue, after (having been) taken up at your level, should have had a restraining effect. However, yet another incident of undignified utterance by a senior functionary.

## Lok Sabha polls: Minister hopes climate won't change here

**Alwar** Campaigning for Lok Sabha elections has pitchforked Bhupender Yadav, Union environment minister, BJP's key organisation man and backroom strategist, to the frontlines in Rajasthan's Alwar constituency, known as much for lakes, Neemrana and Sariska's tigers as it is for factories turning out cars, tractors and liquor. Less than 10 days from the first



phase of polling — also his debut as a Lok Sabha candidate — Bhupender addresses close to 40 corner meetings a day, diving into Bhiwadi's industrial townships and their neighbourhood villages. At every pit stop, he begins by highlighting Modi govt's assertive decision-making, citing

Ram Mandir construction and abrogation of Article 370 as examples. He quickly moves on to the region's water crisis, telling the motley crowds in housing societies and temple complexes that his development agenda for east Rajasthan's industrial hub will marry PM Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. "Drinking water supply and waste water disposal are crucial issues affecting this area.

## At least 12 dead, 14 injured in Chhattisgarh bus accident

**NEW DELHI:** At least twelve lives were claimed and dozens were injured after a bus fell into a mine pit in Durg district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. The rescue operations are underway and the senior police officials were on the spot. According to the officials, the toll might rise as the rescue is still going on and victims were badly wounded. The workers belong to a private distillery company of Durg



and they were returning home when the bus met an accident near Khapri. Sharing details of the incident, Durg Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary said 12 passengers were killed and 14 grievously hurt after the bus, packed with

workers, fell into a ditch in Durg. "The bus carrying labourers fell into a ditch near Kumhari around 8.30 pm, resulting in the deaths of approximately 12 individuals while 14 others were injured and admitted to a hospital.

## No easy pickings in Bengal's tea junction

**A 30km drive from New Jalpaiguri station takes a tourist to Bhorer Alo, a govt tourist estate at Gajoldoba in north Bengal's Dooars. Gajoldoba, where the first commercial tea estate was set up in 1874-75, is a tourist hot spot. Gajoldoba is also a microcosm of a Hills society in the throes of change — from tea to tourism, the region's demography, the changing aspirations of youth and, consequently, the politics of a region known for the world's finest brew: Darjeeling, Terai and Dooars — and Jalpaiguri, Alipurduars and Darjeeling, the three LS seats that vote on April 19 and April 26. One huge issue is climate change, and its effect on the region's 303 tea estates: a production and**



export slump. "The climate change has been drastic," said J C Pande, chairman of Indian Tea Association, Dooars chapter. "Rainfall is sporadic, untimely and temperatures have risen, resulting in poor yield. If you want to beat that, you need to use more chemicals, which will leave produce unsold. In addition, the region's organised tea sector has come under threat from Bought Leaf Factories (BLF), which procure tea leaves from tea grown on erstwhile

farmlands. Farmers took to growing tea on farmlands after they started getting low prices on food crops. This forced many tea estates to shut, adding to the uncertainty of the three lakh plantation workers. There are more than 50,000 small tea gardens in north Bengal, spread over Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and North Dinajpur districts. Political parties are now trying to woo people from a region in transition. In Darjeeling, it's essentially going to be a three-cornered

contest between second-time BJP candidate Raju Bista, Trinamool's Gopal Lama and Munish Tamang from the Congress-Hamro Party combine. But Bishnu Prasad Sharma, a BJP MLA from Kurseong who's thrown his hat into the ring as an independent, may queer the pitch. In Alipurduars, BJP candidate Manoj Tigga and Trinamool's Prakash Chik Baraik are leading roadshows in the foothills. Jalpaiguri is looking at a two-pronged fight.

## Monsoon likely to be 'normal' this year: Skymet

**NEW DELHI:** Skymet, India's private weather forecasting company, on Tuesday predicted 'normal' monsoon this year, saying the four-month season is expected to receive rainfall to the extent of 102% (with an error margin of +/- 5%) of the long-period average (LPA). Rainfall between 96-104% of the LPA is considered normal. IMD will release its forecast in the next few days. IMD scientists have already detected early signs of a favourable monsoon season this year with fading El Nino conditions. Monsoon season may start with risk of impairment, attributable to the remnant effects of El Nino. The second half of the season will have an overwhelming edge.

## Sensex hits 75,000, was at 25,000 when PM Modi won 10 years ago

**MUMBAI:** A little over 38 years after it was launched with a base of just 100 points, BSE sensex, the most watched stock market bellwether in India, crossed the 75,000-point mark on Tuesday, signifying past successes of Indian economy and the market, and raising hopes for more wealth creation in the years ahead. On Tuesday, sensex opened the session above the 75k mark - at 75,124 points - also its new all-time peak, but some profit-taking at those levels pulled it down to close at 74,684, down 59 points on the day. On NSE, Nifty, too, scaled a new life-time peak at 22,768 points during early trades but closed at 22,643, down 24 points. The slide was partially owing to

investors' nervousness about expected US inflation data due Wednesday, more so after recent high-employment data released last week, said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services. An uptick in US inflation reading could delay rate cuts by its central bank and put global investors on the backfoot. For sensex, the 75k milestone came a day after BSE went past a major landmark - scaling the Rs 400-lakh-crore market capitalisation. In the last 10 years, since Modi-led NDA govt came to office, investors' wealth, measured by BSE's market cap, has gone up by five times. Services firm, sensex at 75k not only reflects past successes of Indian markets.

# Udghosh - 2081 begins with the sound of conch shells, bells and gongs

Create values inside yourself that the following generation may be proud of: Dr. BB Aggarwal

Prayagraj: A large number of people welcomed the New Year in the Udghosh-2081 program with the sound of conch shells and bells and gongs at Hanumat Niketan premises, Civil Lines. Under the banner of Srijan Jan Seva Samiti, people took a pledge that if needed, they would sacrifice every moment of their lives to protect Indian culture. While addressing Udghosh-2081 virtually from Tarappa, Kerala, Astrologer Peethadhishwar Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati said that this is a wonderful moment for Prayagraj. Through this program, Dr. Bibi Aggarwal is spreading spiritual consciousness among the people. For this he deserves gratitude. Addressing Uddosh-2081, President of the program, General Secretary of All India Sant Samiti, Dandi Swami

Jitendranand Saraswati said that those who are spreading the misconception about what will happen with the construction of the temple. They should know that in lakhs of villages of India, crores of people depend on temples for their livelihood. In true sense, the way spiritual consciousness flows through the temple, the effect of disease on the human body is greatly reduced. Not only this, our temples play an important role in strengthening the economy. On this occasion, Justice Saurabh Srivastava of Allahabad High Court said that Dr. BB Aggarwal is not only serving the people through medicine but is also making people aware about religion and spirituality. They are continuously spreading spiritual consciousness by organizing such events. Justice Manju Rani Chauhan said that through



such events we carry forward our rich cultural tradition. The way people used to say that Shri Ram will come. Actually Shri Ram has come. In the same way, we will have to take a pledge to make India a world leader again and to protect and promote our culture. On this occasion, Dr. BB Aggarwal, Secretary of Srijan Jan Seva Samiti Prayagraj, paid tribute to those great men who sacrificed their lives to protect Hindu religion and culture. He said that today we have to remember their sacrifices and develop similar values

within ourselves, so that the coming generations can be proud of us. Navasamvatsar is not based on the birth of any great man, it is based on nature and astronomical principles. The most important thing is that despite thousands of years of slavery, we perform fasts, festivals, marriages and other auspicious functions according to the Indian calendar. This is the specialty of Indian culture. The great mathematician Bhaskaracharya composed the almanac on this day by calculating the day, month

and year. His calculations were so accurate and scientific that even today scientists of the world consider his calculations as iron. On this occasion, former member of the State Public Service Commission, Dr. Sabita Aggarwal, while expressing her gratitude, said that Lord Sun is the source of energy of the earth. On the occasion of Navsamvatsar, we all have welcomed his first ray. We wish there should be light in everyone's life. He expressed special gratitude towards Shankaracharya Vasudevanand Saraswati and the guests present on

the stage. Before this, the program started with devotional music performances by singer Manoj Gupta. After this the learned Acharyas recited Swastiva. Flowers were showered on the stage from all directions. Saroj Yogi Public Service Commission members Gan Kalparaj Singh, Haresh Pratap Singh, AK Verma, Ram Pyare, Dr. Sushil Kumar Sinha, Raj Kishore Agarwal, GL Gupta, Anil Pandey, Shivdutt Patel, Lalu Mital, Sushil Kesar Wani were present in the programme. Anish Tandon Amit Mishra Mahendra Goyal Anil Pandey Ashwani Jain Raju Srivastava Dr. Meha Dr. Abhijeet Aggarwal Kanika Aggarwal Meena Arora Sapna Singh Ajay Singh Operation Dr. Divesh Ranjan Tripathi Bharat Vikas Parishad Provincial President Anup Ji Former President Nisha Jaiswal General Secretary Amit Shyammina Arora President Tejashwi Branch Lions Club East President Meena Agarwal Dr. Asha Jaiswal Dr. Sapna attended.

## 75,593 people booked under CrPC from March 16 till now in UP Licenses of 3946 licensed weapons cancelled

Lucknow: In compliance with the Model Code of Conduct, on April 8, the police seized two licensed weapons from criminal persons. Licenses of 25 weapons were cancelled and deposited. 75,593 people booked under CrPC from March 16 till now, 13,61,464 people have been quarantined. At the same time, 266 unlicensed illegal weapons, 241 cartridges and four bombs were seized. Raid was conducted on 121 centers manufacturing illegal weapons and 6 centers were seized. State Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said on Tuesday that in view of the Lok Sabha elections, the model code of conduct should be strictly followed to maintain law and order in the state. For intensive investigation, 513 interstate check posts and 1825 check posts are operated within the state. From March 16 to April 8, 480 licensed weapons from criminal persons were seized. Licenses of 3946 licensed weapons were cancelled and deposited. Similarly, taking preventive action under CRPC, notices have been sent to ban 20,79,645 people, out of which 13,61,464 people have been banned. Apart from this, 5022 unlicensed illegal weapons, 5249 cartridges, 2066.5 kg explosives and 260 bombs were recovered and seized by the police department. Police raided 1634 centers manufacturing illegal weapons and 88 centers were seized.

## Yogi expressed grief over death of 3 people in Pratapgarh accident Ordered officials to ensure better treatment to injured

Pratapgarh: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the death of three people, including an innocent child, in a road accident in Pratapgarh district. He gave strict instructions to the administrative officials to provide better treatment to the injured. On Monday night at around 1 o'clock, the bus going to Vindhyachal Dham on Lucknow-Prayagraj Highway

collided with a truck and overturned near Phulmati of Hathigwa in Kunda. Sandhya (12), Krishna Kumar (50) and Vasu (30), daughter of Ramnarayan, resident of Dhata in Unnao district, died in the accident. More than twenty-four devotees were injured. Of these, the condition of ten has been referred to Prayagraj as critical. Police are investigating the matter by sending the bodies for post-mortem.

## Admin silent on illegal mining in Shahpur Kala by setting up water mill boat by sand mafia

Meja: Due to the indifference of the mining department officials in Shahpur Kala of Meja police station area, the matter of installing a watermill boat in the middle of the river has come to light. It is said that illegal sand mining is in full swing in the foothills of Tons river in Meja police station area. Sand is being mined at Jhariyahi Pipra in Tons River Keshahpur Kala Ghat and lifter machine water mill boat at Bhaganpur Ghat. Due to sand mining in the middle of the river, there is a danger of extinction of aquatic animals living in water, which is not environment friendly. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has also banned mechanization in the depths of the river, but due to the connivance of the mining department officials, this business has been flourishing for a long time. The villagers allege that the huge pits in the river bed are a threat to the Tarahari people. There is a danger of small children drowning while bathing. At the same time, there is a big problem in giving water to the cattle to drink and bathe. The business of removing sand by cutting the river bed with ma-

chines is in full swing these days. There are heaps of sand at many places without storage permission. While the mining department is collecting royalty from mining, illegal mining poses a serious threat to the environment. The villagers of the area have



demand from the District Magistrate to ban sand mining due to mechanization taking place in the river bed.

## Meja Urja Nigam got title of NTPC Corporate Communication Meeting 2024

Meja: During the inauguration of the two-day NTPC Corporate Communication Meeting ceremony held in Lucknow, Public Relations Officer of the corporation, Pratigya Yadav, received the Excellence Award. During the NTPC Corporate Communications Meeting Ceremony 2024 held in Lucknow, Meja Urja Nigam was awarded the Corporate Communications Excellence Award under the Best Feature Story category. It is noteworthy that this honor award was received by Smt. Pratigya Yadav, Public Relations Officer of Meja Urja Nigam present there during the inauguration ceremony of the two-day program of NTPC Corporate Communication Meeting. He said that in the year 2023, he was honored by Dilip Kumar Patel, Director of Human Resources De-

partment of NTPC, by recognizing the excellent efforts made by the Public Relations and Corporate Communications Department in increasing awareness about CSR



efforts. During the program, other senior officials were present along with Executive Director of Corporate Communications Department Harjeet Singh, General Manager K.M Prashanth.

## Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra visited Jaunpur

Jaunpur: Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra along with his family is coming to Jaunpur on Tuesday. As part of his one-day program, he will visit the residence of Brahmdev Mishra in Tehsil Madiyahun. The Governor of Rajasthan will land at Varanasi airport at 1:30 pm. From the airport, the Governor's convoy will leave for Madiyahu tehsil of Jaunpur district

via Jamalpur by road under tight security. Here he will reach the residence of Brahmdev Mishra at 2:10 pm. After staying here for more than two and a half hours, the Governor of Rajasthan along with his family will leave for Mahadev's city Kashi (Varanasi) at 4:45 pm. On reaching Varanasi, he and his family will visit Sankat Mochan Temple and perform worship.

# TAILORS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL AHEAD OF EID

## There is no let-up in the demand for tailors even though they have raised their charges

PRAYAGRAJ: It's brisk business for tailors during Ramzan, with their workload shooting up 50-60 percent during the holy month as compared to the rest of the year. The demand is such that shop-owners have to engage additional tailors to meet the overwhelming orders for stitching kurta-pyjamas, trousers and shirts for men, salwar-suits and burqas for women. Tailors in the city are working overtime to add colour to the Ramzan festivities by creating dazzling apparel from their overcrowded shops in the lanes and bylanes of the city. Despite the popularity of readymade apparel there is no dearth of visitors to their workshops as many people prefer to get their clothes stitched.

Ahmed owner of a tailoring shop near Titan Showroom in Civil Lines. Meanwhile, one of the oldest tailors of the city, says: "In the case of a 'sherwani' people prefer a stitched one over a ready-to-wear one because fitting matters the most." Majority of tailors are struggling to meet their obligations. "Ramzan is always a busy season for us," says owner of Fitwell Tailors near Manmohan Park, Katra. New orders are a no-no, he said, adding that they have enough orders to keep them occupied till Eid. "We have extended our working time by four hours. As Ramzan draws nearer we work even during nights to meet deadlines," Md. Javed, another tailor, said. "The pressure is enormous," he says, adding that it was the same last year and will continue till Eid.

Due to enormous pressure from clients some reputed tailors of the city are also outsourcing some of their work to other tailors. "We have to arrange for extra labour before the

Ramzan season starts or else it will be difficult to cope with the rush," he observes. But he says that finding skilled workers has become quite difficult. "Most of the skilled workers either return to their village during Ramzan or are too old to work. Since children are not following their traditional vocation, there is a shortage of skilled workmen," he laments.

"Normally, we stitch seven to eight dresses in a day but these days, we have to complete 25 to 30 every day," said owner of a tailoring shop at Indira Bhawan, Civil Lines. He employs four tailors on a regular basis and has hired three more to cope with the deluge of work. "We are expecting one more tailor from rural areas to join us in a day or two," he added, apologetically declining fresh orders. The pressure to deliver the clothes on time is so high that most tailors stop taking orders from the commencement of Ramzan.

"We generally stop tak-

### HEAVY DEMAND

Interestingly, there is no let-up in the demand for tailors even though they have raised their charges. In fact people have placed orders even two months in advance to avoid the last-minute rush. "We have our hands full and already stopped accepting new orders from the commencement of Ramzan," says owner of Season Tailor near Boys High School. The increase in the number of readymade shops have little impact on the tailors and instead many new makeshift tailoring shops have come up in the city. Moreover, to deal with the demand city-based tailors have hired their counterparts from adjoining districts.

### ADVANCE PLANNING

"If we are late then we will not be able to get workforce even from the adjoining districts. So we make it a point to engage them before Ramzan by paying advance wages in addition to providing them lodging and food," explains owner of reputed tailoring shop in Noorullah Road. Though the sales of readymade apparel is gaining momentum but there is a good rush at the suiting and shirting material stores around the city, particularly in shops famous for stocking dress material for 'Kurta and salwar'. "It is a regular trend witnessed before the month of Ramzan," says a cloth merchant.

Eid-ul-Fitr is the occasion when the people of all ages are seen busy in buying new clothes to wear on the eid festival and tailors and embroidery workers have become high in demand. Majority of the people have handed over their clothes to the tailors before start of Ramzan fearing the closure of bookings due to the Eid rush while some are managing to hire the services of some tailor these days to get their clothes stitched with more charges. "No doubt Eid-ul-Fitr is the biggest occasion to earn good business but it is very difficult to make huge business on this Eid due to power outages and hot weather conditions", Amjad, a tailor at Pathar Gali said. He said "I have closed the bookings from now onward so that the already booked orders can be delivered in time to the customers".

Azmat Khan, a customer said, "I have visited several tailor shops but was unable to find anyone ready to take an order. If I fail to get my clothes stitched, I will have to get a readymade dress on Chaand Raat."

ing further orders for this month as our hands are tied with enough work till Eid," he says. However, despite the increase in demand, they do not raise their stitching charges. The situation is no different at tailoring shops in other parts of the city, who are packed with customers vying to place their orders.

"I have been waiting here for 10 minutes now. Actually, first I went to place orders for my sisters' dresses, but the two shops I visited have stopped taking orders. So, I decided to first order my pathani suits and then find a tailor for my sisters," said Sadiqur Rehman, 26, one of the many standing in the serpentine queue stretching out from the shop in Kareli. Here too, shop-owner Aftab, 45, has increased the number of his tailors from two to 12. "Normally, I manage my shop with two tailors but during Ramzan, we employ part-time tailors," he said, adding that they come from Pratapgrah, Jaunpur, Mirzapur and

Kaushambi.

These tailors are paid according to number of outfits they stitch in a day. But the price per dress varies. For instance, "for shirt and trouser they are paid Rs.200, for simple kurta-pyjama Rs.100, and for pathani suits Rs 150," said Dawood, the owner of Rizwan Tailors. The tailors' working hours too increase during the season. In spite of the extra hands, their workday extends to 14-16 hours from the normal eight hours.

"We work from 8 am to 3 am in two batches. One batch of tailors works in the morning while the other batch continues till the wee hours of the next morning," Dawood said. However, there are some tailors of the city who are not keen on making hay while the sun shines. They have a traditional customer base and do not want to lose them by charging more. The proliferation of readymade garments has definitely made an erosion in the patronage of tailors.

# Process of filling 268 positions in UP Agricultural Services begins today

Prayagraj: The Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) will start accepting online applications for 268 posts of Uttar Pradesh State Agricultural Service Examination-2024 from Wednesday. The Commission had mentioned this recruitment exam in its annual calendar released on January 12 this year. The recruitment process is going to start after getting approval from the state gov-

ernment regarding the examination plan and syllabus.

UPPSC secretary Ashok Kumar has advised candidates to apply only if they have the requisite qualification for the advertised posts as specified in the advertisement. Candidates who have completed 21 years of age and have not crossed the age of 40 as on July 1, 2024 can apply. Online applications will be accepted till May 10. The

UPPSC website <https://uppsc.up.nic.in/> will remain open till May 16 for correction of errors in the application already submitted by the aspirants.

Under UP Agricultural Services, recruitments for the posts of district horticulture officer grade-2, grade-1 principal of government food science training centre/food processing officer grade-2, senior technical assistant etc were done

through PCS before 2020.

For the first time, the Commission issued a separate advertisement for UP Agricultural Services on December 29, 2020. At that time, 73,792 candidates had applied for 564 posts. Since then, the recruitment advertisement for the agricultural services did not come in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

However, despite the recruitment advertisement being issued after such a long

gap, the aspirants are a little disappointed due to fewer number of posts on offer. Aspirants claim that the Commission has received requisition for more than 360 posts but recruitment is being done for only 268 posts. UPPSC officials have made plain that the number of posts on offer can be increased or decreased as per need and that this has been duly mentioned in the advertisement.

## 101 RAF Battalion commemorates 'Shaurya Diwas'

Prayagraj: The 101 Battalion of Rapid Action Force (RAF), a unit of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), celebrated 'Shaurya Diwas' on Tuesday. The 'Valour Day' is celebrated on this day every year in remembrance of extraordinary valour, unparalleled courage, exemplary fortitude and steadfast devotion to duty displayed by merely two companies of CRPF on April 9, 1965 at Sardar Post in Rann of Kutchh, Gujarat, against a full-fledged brigade attack deceptively orchestrated by Pakistan

Army. In this fierce battle, 34 Pakistani soldiers were neutralized while 4 were apprehended. Six bravehearts of CRPF also attained martyrdom on this fateful day.

The Commandant of 101 Bn of RAF Manoj Kumar Gautam took the quarter guard salute in the traditional manner and honoured the soldiers and officers by awarding them medals and appreciation letters. On the occasion, the Commandant inspired the soldiers and officers for their devotion to duty and asked them to maintain the glorious tradition of the force. He re-

minded them that the interest of the country and the public is paramount. An art competition was also organised in which children of the 101 Bn of RAF personnel participated. The children were also awarded by the Commandant. Many programmes were organised on the camp premises like inter-corps volleyball matches and Barakhana (community meal) in all the messes. A team of 101 RAF also met family members of Martyr Varun Kumar Tiwari in village Lonakhak at Holagarh, Prayagraj and presented them gifts. Punarvasu Tiwari, (second in-command), Brijesh Kumar Dubey (Deputy Commandant), Neeraj Kumar (Deputy Commandant) and other officers, subordinate officers and soldiers were present.

## SHUATS to hold National Seminar on Beekeeping from today

Prayagraj: The one-day national seminar on "Recent advances in beekeeping" is going to be organized by Society of Biosciences, Department of Biological Sciences, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, in Collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Re-



search, Lucknow and Council of Science & Technology, Lucknow, on Wednesday at University Auditorium, SHUATS.

Dr. Kamin Alexander (Organizing Secretary) told that the objective of the seminar is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of beekeeping, covering both fundamental principles and the latest advances, to pro-

mote sustainable beekeeping practices and maximize the impact on agriculture and ecosystems.

This seminar will serve as a beacon for bee enthusiasts, academicians, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers by providing a platform to explore the most recent developments in beekeeping methods, technologies and research findings. Seminar will have technical sessions involving invited speakers followed by poster presentations.

Most Rev. Prof. (Dr) Rajendra B. Lal (Vice Chancellor, SHUATS), Dr. Sanjay Singh (Director General, UPCAR, Lucknow), Dr. Dharendra Kumar Srivastava (Director, CST, Lucknow), Prof. Dr. ir. Johnathan A Lal (Pro-Vice chancellor -Academics Affairs, SHUATS), Prof. Dr. Bishwaroop Mehra (Pro-VC-Administration), Prof. (Dr.) Alok Milton Lal (Director, Directorate of Research, SHUATS), Prof. Dr. Ranu Prasad (Registrar, SHUATS), Prof. Dr. Arif A. Broadway (Director, Directorate of Extension, SHUATS) and Dr. C. John Wesley, Joint Registrar (Administration) and other dignitaries would grace the occasion.

## Jai Bohra, CLAT 2024 Topper, shares his success mantra LTP sets benchmark for excellence in legal education

Prayagraj: Law Prep Tutorials (LTP), Allahabad honoured outstanding accomplishments by admitting students to top legal institutions on Tuesday at Hotel Grand Continental, where All India CLAT 2024 Topper Jai Bohra was also present, who shared his success mantra with the audience and replied to the queries of mediapersons. Law Prep Tutorials Allahabad is pleased to announce its excellent achievement in the field of legal education, with some of its star students earning prominent spots at India's premier law schools. Ruchir Khurana and Manjul Singh have accomplished a remarkable accomplishment by being admitted to the prestigious National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bangalore, the pinnacle of legal education in

the country. Their extraordinary performance and perseverance have propelled them to this presti-

admission of Ananya Prakash Singh and Prajeet to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University

of Law Prep have culminated in this outstanding accomplishment. Aastha Singh has also obtained a

students' achievements. Their accomplishment not only displays individual brilliance, but also demonstrates the efficacy of our comprehensive coaching approaches and dedication to developing legal talent."

Law Prep Tutorials in Allahabad has long been recognized for its thorough and rigorous coaching programs that prepare students for the competitive world of law entrance exams. The institute's dedication to quality, along with personalized attention and experienced coaching, has repeatedly helped students achieve their goals. Law Prep Tutorials Allahabad is a pioneer in the world of legal education, with an uncompromising dedication to quality and a proven track record of achievement. It remains a symbol of greatness.



gious institute, where they have set a standard for excellence. Furthermore, Law Prep Tutorials Allahabad is pleased to announce the

(RMLNLU) via the CLAT test.

Their devotion, hard work, and rigorous preparation under the direction

seat at NLU, Aurangabad. Gaurav Agarwal, Director, Law Prep Tutorials Allahabad, stated, "We are really happy of our stu-

## Anshika's sustainable path with 'Save As' - from fabric waste to fashion forward

Prayagraj: Driven by the fashion industry's environmental cost, Anshika's path from design student to eco-entrepreneur has sparked a movement for sustainable fashion. Witnessing the industry's excessive waste firsthand, she felt a strong urge to make a change. During the pandemic's disruptions, she returned home and started using leftover fabric to create stylish designs. With her mother's initial investment of Rs. 25,000, Anshika started a self-funded venture, leading to the birth of 'Save As'.

This year's Amazon Karigar Mela, themed "Thriving Sustainability with Handmade," perfectly aligns with Anshika's vision. The event celebrates the core values of 'Save As': promoting eco-friendly

practices and supporting artisan communities. These values are more than just words for Anshika; they are the fundamental principles that have shaped her remarkable journey. Starting with just a tailor by her side, this local initiative has gained widespread recognition, showcasing the transformative power of individual action.

Overcoming Challenges with Amazon, Embracing Sustainability

Amazon's support has bolstered trust within the customer base, providing heightened credibility and visibility. Her customers are more inclined to make purchases through Amazon, as it is a more trustworthy option compared to buying directly from their website.

Initially, setting up a

production unit in Prayagraj presented several challenges for Anshika. Lack of community awareness about sustainability hin-



dered acceptance of upcycling practices. Building a cohesive team and sourcing raw materials were

also challenging due to local skepticism. However, they have successfully upcycled approximately 3000 kilograms of locally sourced waste, achieving zero waste output.

Moreover, navigating logistics proved challenging as unfamiliarity with logistics companies resulted in high shipping costs. With Amazon's FBA and Easy Ship programs backing them, they've extended their reach throughout India. Empowering Women and Fostering Creativity: Boasting an 80% female workforce, predominantly consisting of individuals embarking on their first job experiences, she fosters a culture of empowerment. Through on-the-job training, each team member can participate in the design process, a practice

seldom seen in conventional brands. Embracing a collaborative approach, they champion idea contribution and active involvement in design and production processes, nurturing individual growth and development within our team. Scaling Up: Save As's Expansion Journey: Anshika has been primarily focused on managing basic production with a small team. Now, as they expand, setting up a new unit in Lucknow and hiring for marketing and social media, Save As aims to boost production, delve into B2B sales, and widen their customer base. Strengthening the team and expanding their reach are top priorities, driven by a commitment to sustainable fashion and a desire to inspire change in the industry.

## GM awarded 11 railway staff of NCR for extraordinary commitment towards safety

**Priyanka Devi conferred with "Employee of the Month Award"**

Prayagraj: General Manager, North Central Railway, Shri Ravinder Goyal conferred awards to staff for their alertness and contribution towards safety in train operations in the presence of PHODs of North Central Railway. 11 Railway staff were conferred with Safety awards by the General Manager on the occasion. Awarded employees include 1. Shri Rahul Kumar Station Master-Mirzapur/Prayagraj Division 2. Shri Ravi Kumar Verma Station Master-Kailahat/Prayagraj Division 3. Shri Subhash Chandra Yadav Pointsman-

Panhai/Prayagraj Division 4. Shri Deepak Prasad ESM/Signal/Agasod./Jhansi Division 5. Shri Braj Nandan Singh/Train Manager Goods-Jhansi/Jhansi Division 6. Shri Gaur Ravi Shri Ganesh Prasad Track Main-

Track Maintainer-I Palwal/Agra Division 11. Ms. Priyanka Devi Constable/Subedarganj/Prayagraj Division.

Priyanka Devi, has been conferred with the award of the "Employee of the month"



Safety Award for March, 2024. On 18.03.2024, Ms. Priyanka Devi saved the life of a lady passenger who slipped from the train no. 0 4 1 4 1 (Subedarganj-Udhampur Ex-

press) while boarding the moving train and was about to fall on the tracks under the train. Due to her timely, vigilant and prompt action, the life of passenger could be saved. She has rendered excellent service in the line of his duty with extraordinary commitment and full dedication.

## Bishop Rev. Bipinjohn M. Masih sends a letter to authorities, requesting legality

Prayagraj: Bishop Rev Bipinjohn M. Masih of the Diocese Church of North India has sent a letter to the Chief Minister of the Uttar Pradesh Government in Lucknow and the Commissioner of the Prayagraj Division in Prayagraj. District Magistrate Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police, Lucknow, and Prayagraj Commissioner of Police. He claimed to be the Bishop of CNI and claimed that Morris Edgar Dan was appointed as the Bishop of CNI by the moderator, but he was stripped of the position

due to Morris Edgar Dan's association with the fake CNI organization whose so-called moderator is BK Nayak, who is involved in land sales and other forms of corruption. He claimed to have been appointed Bishop Diocese of Lucknow CNI and was carrying out his responsibilities.

He mentioned Allahabad High School Society letters 1-12 regarding CNI, DEB I 35070 ECC, and all CNI-related institutions as the ex-officio chairman in place of Morris Edgar Dan. "No letter given by Morris Edgar Dan as

Bishop of the Diocese of Lucknow CNI should be accepted," he stated in a letter to officials. Aside from that, he is pursuing legal action to register his name in lieu of Morris Edgar Dan at the High Court and other places where the name Morris Edgar Dan is linked to CNI Bishop. He demanded that it be brought under the Society Act and granted him the status of CNI Bishop Diocese of Lucknow. He included a copy of the appointment letter along with the application for necessary action in this regard.

## Shraddha Narendra Pandey conducts flag march

Prayagraj: With a view to ensure peaceful/safe conduct of upcoming Lok Sabha elections and to create a sense of security among the public, Deputy Commissioner of Police Yamunanagar conducted a flag march in the sensitive areas along with the local police force and paramilitary force personnel. Deputy Commissioner of Police Yamunanagar Commissionerate Prayagraj Shraddha Narendra Pandey, with a view to ensure peaceful/safe conduct of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and to create a sense of security among the public, along with the personnel of the local police force and paramilitary force, in the sensitive/hypersensitive area of Naini police station. Flag marches were carried out in the areas, along with an appeal was made to the public to vote fearlessly.



## Editorial

### Political ignorance in democratic system

When our brave martyrs took the pledge to sacrifice their lives as well as their families to liberate India from the chains of slavery, they must have kept this dream in their eyes that they would liberate their enslaved India and then Will make a golden bird from it. And when India became independent in August 1947, most of the people who came into politics tried to strengthen the then weak India at their own level. But even at that time, some such politicians came into politics, who did not contribute anything to the progress of India, but rather filled their coffers, and even today, a large army of such politicians is present in this country, who are facing nothing but corruption. Doesn't come. In fact, by capturing power, hollow and corrupt politicians work to spoil both the direction and condition of the country. In reality, such politicians do nothing for the common public, whereas these people get all the luxuries and luxuries for the money earned by the public's hard work day and night, but still these people are not answerable to the common public. Instead of being a body, they become accountable to the capitalists as if they were their servants. These politicians not only capture power by forming an alliance with the capitalists, but also work to severely weaken the democratic structure by capturing the resources of the common people, so that these people can provide maximum benefits to the capitalists who have become their friends. And the capitalists could suck as much blood as possible from the people and throw a piece or two of it towards these leaders like a pet. In fact, the capitalists take full advantage of this wagging of the tail of the politicians and make these traitor leaders of the country dance to their tune continuously. Due to the greed of the leaders and their greed for power, the opportunities for the progress of a better country and good days for the people come to an end, and the bad days of the people keep coming. These politicians, who stand before the public with folded hands during elections, start looting the public as soon as they come to power, by luring them into the web of false promises, claims and statements. Social worker and thinker Nepal Singh Sehrawat says that the electoral bond game that has taken place in the present times actually has very deep roots. Allegations are being made that the trend of giving relief to the capitalists like loan waiver worth lakhs of crores of rupees, giving them contracts and even ignoring their tax evasion, has happened under the guise of this electoral campaign. But it has to be understood that giving away relief funds and other facilities to the capitalists is tantamount to robbing the country's revenue. This is a huge looting of the common man's resources, which corrupt politicians, capitalists and corrupt officers are looting and putting in their own pockets. Whoever gets the opportunity commits as much theft as he does, and if an honest person comes in the midst of all this, then huge conspiracies are made against him. Be it a politician, a capitalist or an officer. Because this is an organized corruption, every finger pointing towards it is broken or cut. And the surprising thing is that even after 75 years of independence, instead of ending, the roots of this corruption are becoming deeper, due to which the rich are continuously getting richer and the poor are continuously reaching worse conditions. The situation is such that even in cities today, people who have come from villages agree to do big jobs ranging from labour, guard and peon jobs for less than the minimum wage, because the question is about running a household and they do not have money. There is no other option for this. Due to this, the gap between the rich and the poor in India is continuously increasing, the result of which is in front of us in the form of unemployment and inflation reaching its peak, which are becoming increasingly severe.

# Political mathematics of UP in view of Lok Sabha elections

As the weather is getting hotter, the political temperature is also rising along with it. There are many reasons for this, but the biggest reason is the Lok Sabha elections to be held in India, which will start from the third week of April. In such a situation, the eyes of the entire country are fixed on Uttar Pradesh, where all the parties including BJP have put in their full strength. On one hand, BJP is making full efforts on every seat by claiming to win all 80 seats and is giving tickets to such candidates who do not have much need to prove their identity by campaigning among the public. At the same time, other parties are also fielding their candidates thoughtfully on every seat. On one hand, BJP has declared its candidates on all 80 seats, while on the other hand, big parties like Congress, SP and BSP are lagging behind in this matter. However, political parties are almost ready to play the game of checkmate in this most important election of the country. This time the opposition, from the Indian Alliance to the BSP, is trying to defeat the BJP with its Hindutva card. Because on the lines of BJP playing the Hindutva card, parties like Congress, SP and BSP are also fielding Hindu candidates on most of the seats. However, BJP has not given



tickets to even a single Muslim candidate in Uttar Pradesh. But compared to earlier, Congress, SP and BSP have fielded less Muslim candidates. These parties have given tickets to Muslim candidates only in Muslim dominated areas. Be it Western Uttar Pradesh, Central Uttar Pradesh or Eastern Uttar Pradesh. There may be only 20-21 percent Muslim population in entire Uttar Pradesh, but in Western Uttar Pradesh, somewhere 25, somewhere 30, somewhere up to 50 percent Muslims live. And in this important earning belt of Uttar Pradesh, Muslims have the power to decide the victory and defeat on many seats, apart from some seats in Purvanchal, be it assembly elections or Lok Sabha elections. Despite this, it is quite surprising that Congress, SP and BSP are giving tickets to Muslim candidates less than before,

especially SP with MY factor is playing negligible stakes on Muslim candidates. Contemporary as on this day in 1983. 500 people died in the devastating earthquake in Popayán, Colombia. Quite shocking. However, this can also prove to be a good strategy. Because where Muslim voters are in majority, almost all the three parties, Congress, SP and BSP, used to give tickets to Muslim candidates. Due to this, Muslim votes got divided and almost 60-70 percent of Hindu voters voted for BJP, due to which the candidate of the other party could hardly get victory. Now, if these parties field only Hindu candidates, then obviously the vote bank of BJP will reduce, because due to the increasing resentment among the people towards BJP, Hindu voters have once again started looking towards other parties. At the same time, Muslim voters

will not vote for BJP in the first place. In such a situation, where the Muslim community has the power to change the electoral figures, there is little hope of its division and the BJP will not be able to get the Hindu vote unilaterally, due to which its candidate may have to face defeat. However, if we talk about the party that has given tickets to the maximum number of Muslim candidates, till now it is BSP, which has fielded 7 Muslim candidates. This time, SP has given tickets to only 4 Muslim candidates so far. Apart from this, Congress has given tickets to only 2 Muslim candidates. In this way, if any party has been saved the most from playing the Muslim card, it is SP. In this way, if we look at the Lok Sabha seat of Muzaffarnagar, the sugarcane belt of western Uttar Pradesh, here only Muslims and Jats decide the victory and defeat in the elections. This time from Muzaffarnagar, BJP has again placed its bet on Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan for the third time in the hope of attracting the Jat vote bank to its fold. At the same time, SP has also made a big move by fielding Harendra Malik, a strong and old Jat leader of this area, in his contest. Apart from this, BSP has appointed Dara Singh

Prajapati as its candidate from here. Many times before this, SP and BSP have been fielding Muslim candidates from here. There have been Muslim MPs from here many times. Similarly, in the seat of Baghpat, where there is about 26-27 percent Muslim population, RLD, which has become a part of NDA in alliance with BJP, has placed its bet on Rajkumar Sangwan, although earlier it was believed that Jayant Choudhary would contest from here. He can contest elections himself or any member of his family but he has tried to create a new equation by making Rajkumar Sangwan the RLD candidate. After the break of SP-RLD alliance, angry SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has challenged RLD by giving ticket to Manoj Choudhary and BSP supremo Mayawati to Praveen Bansal. Now if we look at the Meerut seat, there are approximately 35 to 37 percent Muslim voters here, where this time BJP has fielded Arun Govil, who played the role of Ram in Ramayana. But SP first gave ticket to Bhanu Pratap Singh, but due to opposition, it made its party's old worker, former MLA Atul Pradhan, its candidate. This decision of SP has posed a challenge to BJP. At the same time, BSP has also fielded Devvrit Tyagi to break into BJP's Brahmin boat bank.

## Debunking Misconceptions: Sadhguru's Approach to Healthcare

In the wake of Sadhguru's recent health emergency and subsequent surgery, there has been a flurry of debate surrounding his choice to seek modern medical treatment. Some have labelled this decision as hypocritical, citing his advocacy for yoga and traditional medicine. However, such assertions fail to grasp Sadhguru's holistic perspective on healthcare. Contrary to popular belief, Sadhguru has never been against modern medicine or allopathy. His stance advocates for utilising any system of medicine that proves effective, whether it be allopathy, Ayurveda, or Siddha. This inclusive approach is underscored by his acknowledgement of the strengths of modern medicine, particularly in emergency situa-

tions. In his own words, "If you are really in a state of emergency, going to an Ayurvedic doctor is not the best thing to do. You go to him only when you have time to recover. In an emergency, Allopathy has better systems than any other. But when your problems are mild and you know they are evolving, Ayurveda and other systems are very effective means of treatment." The Isha Health Solutions, spearheaded by Sadhguru, exemplifies this integrated approach to healthcare. By combining allopathic methods for treating infectious diseases with indigenous systems aimed at bolstering the body's natural defences, Isha Arogya offers a comprehensive and accessible healthcare model.

Sadhguru emphasises the importance of such integration, stating, "At Isha Health Solutions, Siddha Vaidya, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Yogic systems, Homeopathy, and Allopathy – all six – are practised together at one place." Moreover, Sadhguru's recent interview underscores his belief in a preventive healthcare approach. He clarifies that holistic health practices are intended to prevent illnesses rather than cure them and that modern medicine is more equipped to deal with diseases such as cancer. This philosophy is reflected in the healthcare facilities at the Isha Yoga Centre, where allopathic treatment is prioritised for residents, emphasising the importance of early intervention.

## Disgruntled pilots are a sign of worry

The start of the new financial year was a tough one for Vistara, which until now had the reputation of providing the best customer service among Indian carriers. In a major flight disruption, the Tata Group airline saw cancellations of about 100 flights in just the first two days of the week. The primary reason was that there were not enough pilots to fly the planes. The utter chaos was allegedly due to pilots calling in sick in what was seen as a silent protest over concerns regarding the revised pay structure and being treated as "bonded labour". Following the many last-minute cancellations and extensive flight delays, the airline faced severe backlash from customers, many of whom took to social media to voice their grievances. The scale of disruptions also prompted an intervention by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The regulator is monitoring the situation and had asked the airline to submit daily reports on the cancelled and delayed flights. That is why Vistara is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. The trouble, however, has been brewing at the airline for some time now. It's been facing flight delays and cancellations, due to crew shortage with pilots reporting sick, since February this year. The crux of the problem is the revised pay struc-



ture, due to the merger between Vistara and Air India, which would result in a pay cut of Rs 80,000 to Rs 1.4 lakh, as their guaranteed pay is brought down from 70 flying hours a month to 40 hours. The airline had given the pilots an ultimatum of 15 March to accept it. However, the company has denied that pilots reporting sick led to the delays. It is expected that the merger of the two airlines will be finalised by mid-2025. Post the merger, the Tata Group plans to let go of the Vistara brand, which is a joint venture with Singapore Airlines. The new pay structure is in line with revised terms of employment and salary allowances introduced by Air India last year, amid overall consolidation of the Tata Group's aviation business. Given that Air India faced strong opposition on the revised pay structure with pilots even warning of "industrial unrest" if coerced to sign the "draconian" terms, Vistara should have been better prepared. In a almost 30-minute town hall with the pilots on Wednesday, Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan dismissed that a section of pilots

reported being sick to protest against the new pay structure announced in mid-February. But he acknowledged that there are issues related to stretched working hours for pilots. He assured that the company will revise the rostering system to make it more relaxed and bring in work-life balance, and the airline will also look at scaling back its network to resolve the issue. He also tried to allay pilots' fears by telling them that there will be more opportunities for the staff after the merger with Air India. Pilots don't fit in the 9-5 category of jobs. Following an erratic roster that involves working in shifts and regularly spending nights away from home as part of layovers takes a toll on their health. It's why they feel aggrieved when airlines tend to prune salaries, often to make the carrier's financials look neat. But airline sources maintain that taking sick leaves at the end of the financial year in March was normal as the pilots utilise these before they lapse. Lesser number of pilots clubbed with already high pilot utilisation at

## Rahul from Wayanad: Sacrificing Self-Esteem And Secular Symbolism for Survival

Priorities reveal a lot about a person. And it is therefore important to pay attention to them. Rahul Gandhi has made his priorities clear by declaring his unequivocal loyalty to Kerala's Wayanad. In 2019, the voters of Wayanad after all saved the Congress scion's face when he was handed an ego-pulverising drubbing by bete noire, BJP's Smriti Irani, in his family bastion of Amethi. But by not declaring his intent on contesting from Amethi — located in the Indian political crucible of Uttar Pradesh — ahead of

contesting from Wayanad, Rahul Gandhi has all but sacrificed family pride or his own self-esteem for survival. This probability gains credence when one considers that in 2019, the Congress's first list of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections featured both Amethi and Raebareli. Sonia Gandhi and then Congress president Rahul Gandhi contested from their family's traditional bastions. Now, in 2024, almost a month and a dozen lists later, there is still no clarity on whether Gandhi will contest from Amethi. Is it

because Rahul Gandhi knows that there's just no possibility of him clawing back the seat? Or does he know that the majority in Uttar Pradesh is unconvinced about his commitment to its interests? Let's not forget the BJP has made it a point to drill into voters that the Congress is a "Muslim Party" that has privileged minorities in policy matters and legislation. Nevertheless, make no mistake, exalted gratitude to Wayanad's voters is not the only reason for Rahul Gandhi's unambiguous betrothal to the picturesque

Kerala parliamentary locale. Gandhi is facing a stiff challenge in the seat. First, reports emerging from Wayanad suggest that the novelty of being associated with a political celebrity is now inexorably wearing off. The good people of Wayanad don't just want to be surrogates — the temporary custodians of the young Gandhi's political fortunes. They are seeking instead a long-term engagement, with preferably a local, who has as much to gain from Wayanad's success as they do.

## In a further setback to the Commonwealth Games, Singapore declines to serve as host

**Delhi:** The Commonwealth Games in 2026 will not be held in Singapore or Malaysia, further casting doubt on the multi-sport competition's future. After Australia's costs skyrocketed, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has been working feverishly to locate a new host. Last year, Victoria pulled out due to skyrocketing expenses. Although Malaysia was offered a £100 million (\$126 million) sweetener by the CGF, the country declined the offer last month due to financial concerns. Any potential host is eligible for financial assistance. The two sports organizations released a joint statement with little additional information, saying only that "Commonwealth Games Singapore and Sport Singapore have studied the feasibility of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games and have decided not to make any bid to host the



**"Questions have been raised about the future of the Games, which are held every four years and feature most of the competing teams from former British colonies"**

Games." Questions have been raised about the future of the Games, which are held every four years and feature most of the competing teams from former British colonies, in light of Victoria's abrupt withdrawal and the lack of a clear replacement. The last time an English city held the Games was Birmingham in 2022.

The Commonwealth Games Associations that are interested are actively participating in the selection process to choose the host of the 2026 Games.

### PhD admissions will be based on NET results

**Delhi:** The National Eligibility Test (NET) results will be accepted for PhD admission starting in 2024-2025, according to a University Grants Commission announcement, doing away with the necessity for separate entrance tests. The expert committee's suggestions served.

## Regulation of coaching centers by the government will reduce academic stress

**Delhi** The majority of Indian parents envision their kids going into one of the two most significant professions: engineering or medicine. Regrettably, the aspirations of parents have resulted in lucrative opportunities for coaching centers, which have proliferated throughout the nation. These tutoring facilities produce "entrance-ready children" by having students repeat classes and tests incessantly. Guidelines for managing bullying and preventing suicides brought on by academic stress in coaching centers were released by the central government in January 2024. The standards



state that pupils under the age of sixteen cannot be admitted to coaching centers. The new standards from the national government require tutoring centers to be registered and strictly regulated. The guidelines state that coaching centers should have the bare minimum of amenities, offer additional academic support to students who struggle

with learning, give students weekly holidays instead of holding exams right after, have counselors and psychologists on staff, and regularly assess and assist children's mental health. The new central guidelines issue a strong warning against creating distinct batches according to student accomplishments.

## April-May new syllabus textbooks for Class 3 and 6

**Delhi:** According to NCERT Chief Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, new textbooks for classes 3 and 6 under the redesigned syllabus would be released in April and May. Saklani told this outlet that other class texts will only be updated and amended to

reflect new advances. NCERT has also created a 15-day foundation course for Class 3 and a month-long bridge program for Class 6 to help CBSE, KVS, and NVS students transition to the new syllabus. revised books for Classes 3 and 6 under the revised syl-

labus will be released in April and May. We'll post these books. Because of the syllabus change, we have added a bridge course to help kids transfer to the new books. "He claimed teachers will be trained before instructing. "The plan to release the

## Send requests for fee increases to Delhi's private schools through the Directorate of Education prior to the start of the new term

**Delhi:** According to officials, the Delhi Directorate of Education has requested that private schools in the city that are looking to raise fees submit their plans no later than the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. No private, unaided school in Delhi that has received land from the government is allowed to raise tuition without first receiving approval from the Directorate of Education. "These are standing directives that are a component of private schools' affiliation requirements. As per the circular, should a school choose not to submit the proposal, it would not be permitted to raise any fees until the Directorate of Education has given its proposal approval. If the DoE receives a complaint about a fee increase that was made without prior consent, it will enforce punitive measures against schools in accordance with the law.

### 30% of students at IITs are still unplaced

**Delhi:** In January, the Indian Institutes of Technology initiated a new cycle of student placements nationwide, with an average of 30%-35% of students still awaiting placement. Compared to last year, the hiring pace has slowed slightly. Most campuses have once again set up counters where new businesses can sign up to recruit people. Certain IITs have stepped up their efforts to locate organizations that are open to hiring.

## Early skill development in school is crucial

**Delhi:** Child development is vital to their future. Children must build a firm foundation during these years to become better people. School definitely shapes a child's personality. Most parents associate education with academic performance, which is crucial, but education is more than that. Today's fast-changing world emphasizes life skills over grades. School without opportunity to develop talents prevents students from becoming well-rounded. Children must thrive in academics and learn physical, creative, and emotional abilities to live in this competitive environment. The following criteria stress the necessity of early holistic skill development in school: Children are more creative with a skill-based curriculum. Young students learn new abilities faster and are more cre-

ative and innovative when exposed to fresh situations. Schools should encourage dance, singing, and sketching since the benefits go beyond learning those abilities. Traditional schooling teaches students to evaluate themselves by grades. However, early skill-based learning prepares students for the real world beyond test scores. As they experience life, children set goals. Most students are still unsure of their job path after graduation. Because they never discovered their inner passion and talents, they focused on memorizing information without applying them. School skills will help kids identify their strengths and shortcomings early on. Instead of just passing examinations and getting good grades, they'll learn with a purpose.

### 75% of JEE(M) applicants take both tests in order to increase their score

**Delhi:** Three out of four participants in the next JEE-Main 2024 have chosen to sit for both exam sessions, demonstrating a growing trend of individuals looking to maximize their chances of scoring well and raising their ranks. 48.3% of candidates have opted to attend both sessions, according to registration data for the April session, while another 27.9% have registered to attend the second session. Similar patterns were seen in the January session.

## India tops the Wada list of drug offenders

**Delhi:**

India topped the list of nations with the greatest percentage of dope offenders in 2022 testing data published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada), which was a humiliating admission for the nation's anti-doping apparatus. In all, 4,064 Indian samples (including urine, blood, and athlete biological passports) were gathered. A total of 3.26% of the sample, or 127 Indian athletes, were found to have used illegal drugs. The samples were



examined at the JLN stadium's National Anti-Doping Laboratory (NDTL). The statistic was based on drug test failures in countries where testing laboratories examined over 2000 samples. With 1.8 percent, or 11 incidences of adverse analytical findings

(AAFs), or the highest number of failed EPO-Receptor Agonists (ERA) tests performed per laboratory (blood), India also ranked #1 among all other nations. This demonstrates the extent to which the threat permeates the Indian sports ecosystem and underscores the

necessity for India to establish a strong system of science and research. The data also demonstrated the absence of fundamental awareness regarding prohibited supplements and medications among Indian coaches, physicians, and physiotherapists working with teams from various disciplines. Among the 4,169 samples examined, South Africa has 80 dope failures (2.04%), ranking it second on the list. Bangkok's testing facility came in third place.

## How do on-duty police officers cast their ballots?

**Delhi:** The general elections in India are scheduled to begin on April 19. According to the Election Commission of India (ECI), there will be seven stages to the polls, with results to be published on June 4. Officers assigned to polling places have two ways to cast their ballots: via mail ballot or an Election Duty Certificate (EDC). Over six years have passed since these techniques were overseen. Officers assigned to polling places are given a form to complete by the Election Commission (EC). After finishing, they get an EDC. Any polling place in their constituency is acceptable for an officer with an EDC to cast their ballot, not only the one where their name is on the



list. Officers on poll duty may also choose to vote via mail.

They complete a certain form, which is gathered and arranged according to constituency. The Returning Officer (RO) of the relevant constituency is then given the separated forms. 543 Elections for Lok Sabha seats will begin on April 19. Seven waves of voting are planned: April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13, May 20, May

25, and June 1. On June 4, the votes will be tallied. In the 2019 elections, which will see the BJP-led NDA compete for a third consecutive term.

As the opposition seeks to offer voters an alternative, about 97 crore individuals are eligible to cast a ballot. All police personnel are assigned to poll duty due to the significant scope of the General Elections.

## MOOC exams will be offered offline starting in July

**Delhi** Beginning in July, students enrolled in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) through the Swayam site will have the opportunity to take course exams through their universities and independent colleges. The Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) has permitted universities and autonomous colleges to administer exams locally for MOOC online learners in an effort to improve the low exam registration rates relative to enrolled students. Currently, about 37.6 lakh students are enrolled in MOOCs, but only about 8.1 lakh students are enrolled in exams. "MOOC exams were administered by NTA, at a cost to students of about Rs 600. The exam is administered online, which may be



challenging for certain people. As a result, for the convenience of the students, universities and autonomous institutions are now permitted to administer MOOC exams. The CEC director, professor Jagat Bhushan Nadda, stated at the EMRC, DAVV, "It will be free of cost." According to Nadda, MOOCs—which are available on the government of India's Swayam platform—are a kind of online learning in which students can virtually enroll in courses designed and instructed by distinguished subject matter experts in digital

higher education. Students can take examinations to receive academic grades through Swayam, participate in discussion forums, and access high-quality, expanded educational resources.

"Once enrolled the learner will be able to appear for the exam on course completion from July onwards," Nadda said. Professor Renu Jain, the vice-chancellor of DAVV, added, "We will begin administering exams for MOOCs courses in July. A variety of MOOCs have been created by EMRC for students.

### Indians pursuing MBA aspirations in Canada were at a 5-year low in 23

**Delhi:** In 2023, there was a significant decline in diplomatic ties between India and Canada. Additionally, there was a five-year low in the number of applicants for graduate management education (GME) that went to Canada. India ranks fourth among the countries where Indian students choose to study for an overseas MBA degree. Experts claim that because of Canada's economic conditions and dearth of employment prospects, Indians are even becoming wary of participating in exchange programs. Down from 10% to 6% although the reduction never stopped.

### Memorandum of Understanding signed between GGSIPU and University of Ladakh

**Delhi:** An agreement was formed by the University of Ladakh (UoL) and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) to support research and educational initiatives for professors, students, and scholars. According to an official release, both universities will collaborate to organize and carry out lectures, workshops, and conferences at the state, national, and worldwide levels as part of this project. The students will have access to field trips, trainings, internships, placements, and much more under this Memorandum of Understanding. According to the statement, they will collaborate to conduct research and study projects as well as create MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and learning modules in the fields of entrepreneurship, information, and communication technology, and value-added skill enhancement programs for students.

## Excise probe: Bibhav, the PA for the Delhi CM, is questioned; Durgesh Pathak is called in

**Kumar is being questioned in order to get more information about certain papers**



**Delhi:** The personal assistant of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Bibhav Kumar, is being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and MLA Durgesh Pathak of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has also been called in relation to the money laundering investigation in the Delhi excise policy case. According to those with knowledge of the development, Kumar is being questioned in order to get more information about certain papers related to the excise investigation. In addition, Pathak has been

called in since his name surfaced in a few reports concerning payments made in cash during the Goa assembly elections. An unnamed officer stated, "He is anticipated to show up to ED headquarters in the afternoon. According to the ED, the AAP used a ₹45 crore bribe from South Group during the 2021-2022 Goa election campaign, which was obtained through the hawala channel. Statements from Dinesh Arora, a close adviser to former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, and

people from several companies involved in cash transfer routing are cited. The organization has further asserted that cash payments were given to individuals (based on their declarations) working as survey workers, area managers, assembly managers, and other ground staff for AAP's Goa groundwork. AAP Delhi MLA Pathak and former AAP communications head Vijay Nair oversaw these individuals. According to ED, this demonstrates how Sisodia's representative used/dissipated PoC in the Goa polls.

## The Delhi Excise Department releases the April-June list of dry days

**Delhi:** Officials informed of the situation say that the Delhi administration has released a list of "dry days" for the months of April through June. According to a directive from the excise department, alcohol establishments in Delhi would be closed on April 11 for Eid-ul-Fitr, April 17 for Ram Navami, April 21 for Mahavir Jayanti, May 23 for Buddha Purnima, and June 17 for Id-ul-Zuha. Additionally, because all Lok Sabha seats in the Capital are up for election on May 25, liquor vending machines will be closed from 6 p.m. on May 23 to 6 p.m. on May 25.



The officials further stated that on June 4, when the votes will be counted, all liquor stores in the city will be closed. In a related move, the excise department has mandated that all alcohol stores in Delhi that are close to the Uttar Pradesh border close from 6 p.m. on April 24 to 6 p.m. on April 26 due of elections in the Ghaziabad, Gautam

Budh Nagar, and Baghpat Lok Sabha seats on that day. The decision, which was issued by excise commissioner KM Uppu, stated that "(this) will be applicable for all the licensee whose vends/premises are situated within 100 meters of the border with Baghpat, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Budh Nagar districts of Uttar Pradesh."

## Five NGOs' FCRA licenses are revoked by MHA

**Delhi:** At least five more NGOs had their foreign funding licenses revoked by the Union Home Ministry due to purported infractions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011. According to the sources,

the following NGOs have had their FCRA registrations revoked: Evangelical Fellowship of India, Voluntary Health Association of India, Indo-Global Social Service Society, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, and CNI Synodical Board of Social

Service. These NGOs are no longer able to use their prior foreign contributions or obtain funds from outside sources due to the loss of their FCRA license. The ministry revoked the NGOs' FCRA registration because it claimed they were using the foreign donations.

## RERA Approves DDA's Luxurious Housing Project

**Delhi:** The Delhi Development Authority's plan to build HIG (multi-story) homes in Dwarka has received registration from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority. The action was taken a day after RERA asked DDA to provide an explanation for selling the apartments without a registration certificate. "Since, the applicant promoter has advertised and sold flats before obtaining project registration and the act was in contravention to section 3 of Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the applicant promoter is directed to give explanation by April 23 as to why penalty should not be levied on them under section 59 of the Act," according to the order issued on April 2. The hearing for the matter is scheduled for April 30. According to an RERA official, even though DDA had first submitted for registration on June 1, 2023, no submission had come from the other side despite numerous warnings to address the gaps and submit the application in the required format with all necessary information. Meanwhile, RERA discovered that the applicant had violated section 3 of the Act by publishing public advertisements to sell the apartment. "RERA approval for the flats has been received," a DDA official stated. The same is being said in response to the inquiry about delays.

## Delhi Police Crack Down On Drunk Driving

**Delhi:** In the first quarter of 2024, Delhi saw more drunk driving. Drink-and-drive challans have skyrocketed, according to Delhi Traffic Police figures. A record 6,591 violators were booked from January 1 to March 31, up from 5,384 the year before and 333 in 2022.

## Olympic athlete Vijender, the Cong's 2019 nominee for S Delhi, joins the BJP

**Delhi:** A blow to the Congress was Vijender Singh, the party's candidate from South Delhi in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, joining the BJP. Singh, the first boxer to represent India at the Olympics, is a member of the powerful Jat community, which has considerable political influence in Rajasthan, western Uttar Pradesh, and his home state of Haryana. The former congressman stated, "This feels like homecoming," after making the transition. I ran for office in 2019 and it's nice to return. It is praiseworthy that under the BJP



and Modi government, athletes are respected both nationally and internationally. My goals are to help this government, guide people, and point them in the correct direction." There was a lot of speculation that Singh may run for Congress in Mathura against actor and current BJP MP Hema Malini, from

which she has since been re-nominated. Singh, a well-known professional boxer from Bhiwani, Haryana, rose to fame as a pin-up athlete after winning the Olympic bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing Games as an amateur. In 2010, he was granted the Padma Shri honor. However, accusations of his involvement in a

doping scandal in 2012 destroyed his career. In 2013, he was found not guilty of any allegations. Singh, who joined the Congress before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, ran from South Delhi but was defeated by Ramesh Bidhuri of the BJP. Alongside Congressman Rahul Gandhi, Singh took part in the inaugural leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in January at Karnal, Haryana. Many were taken aback by Singh's political decision, particularly in light of his previous social media activities.

## Soil-born farmers should bring their wheat crop to the markets only after cleaning and drying it: Amarendra

**Kaithal:** Sardar Amarendra Singh Khara, the head of the Siwan Grain Market Arhtiya Association, while calling upon the farmers, said that the farmers should bring their wheat crop to the market only after thoroughly cleaning and drying it, so that the farmers do not face any problem in selling it and the government procurement agencies do not face any problem in purchasing it. He demanded from the government and administration that during the season, if any farmer



demands payment of the crop through the arhtiyas, then his payment should be made through the arhtiyas after taking an affidavit and the farmer who wants payment directly in his account should be paid directly. Pradhan Amarendra Khara was talking to journalists in

Siwan. Former head of the Sarpanch Association Sardar Gajjan Singh Gobindpura and other farmers were especially present with him. While talking, Pradhan Amarendra Khara said that all the arrangements for wheat purchase have been com-

pleted by the district administration and the market committee in the Siwan grain market and the farmers bringing the crop to the market will not be allowed to face any problem including electricity, water, toilet, cleanliness. Every grain of the farmers' crop will be sold at the support price. He said that the market is with the farmers and no harm will be allowed to come to the interests of the farmers. Every problem of the farmers will be resolved by making the administration aware of it.

## Sarveshwar Foods Ltd. Completes Acquisition of Singapore Based Green Point Pte. Ltd.

**CHANDIGARH:** Sarveshwar Foods, a renowned name in the food industry, has announced that in continuation to its earlier intimation regarding acquisition of 100% Ordinary shares i.e. 1 Ordinary share of face Value of 1 SGD and Business of Green point Pte. Ltd, the Company has acquired 100% Ordinary shares and business of Green Point Pte. Ltd. Henceforth, Green Point becomes a wholly owned Subsidiary of Sarveshwar Foods Limited. Green point Pte. Ltd had a Turnover of 3,139,471 US\$ (as per the Financial Statements as on March 31, 2023). Earlier, the company informed that it has successfully been awarded bids to sup-

ply 90,000 Quintal of premium white rice to Africa through government's nodal agency NAFED amounting approx. 6 Million USD (~Rs. 50 Crores). Sarveshwar Foods remains steadfast in its mission to deliver superior-quality rice products that nourish and delight consumers around the world. NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd) is an apex government organization of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce in India, founded with sole objective to promote the trade of agricultural produces, forest resources and to organize, promote and develop marketing, processing and storage of agricultural, horticultural and for-

est produce, distribution of agricultural machinery, implements and other inputs, undertake inter-state, import and export trade, wholesale or retail as the case may be and to act and assist for technical advice in agricultural, production and the promotion of its members, partners, associates and cooperative marketing, processing and supply societies functional across the India. Sarveshwar Foods Limited (SFL) is an ISO 22000:2018 and USDA (United States Food and Drug Administration) certified company. SFL also has BRC (biggest global standard for food safety), Kosher, NPPO USA & CHINA along with NOP-USDA Organic. certifications for its products.

## Shri JJT University became AIU Cricket Champion

**New Delhi.** All India Inter University Cricket (Men's Category) Tournament 2023-24 Shri JJT University, Jhunjhunu won the trophy by defeating Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University, Jaunpur by 7 runs in a thrilling final match. With this, host Shri JJT University Jhunjhunu also became the first university of Rajasthan to win this Tournament. The trophy was handed over to the winners by President Dr. Devendra Singh Dhull under the guidance of University Chairperson Dr. Vinod Tibrewala. The final match of the All India Inter University Cricket Tournament, was played between the host Shri JJT University Jhunjhunu and Purvanchal University, Jaunpur at Dr. Vinod Kumar Durgadutt Tibrewala Sports Complex. After winning the toss host team elected to bat first, Shri



JJT University's opener Jatin Kadyan scored 38 runs on 37 balls and Amit Dalal gave a good start to the team by scoring 25 runs on 20 balls. The first wicket of the host team fell at 60 runs. After this, captain Lakshya Dalal, who came to bat, scored a brilliant 50 runs in 19 balls (6 sixes) and with the help of Sonu Chhikkara's 14 runs, scored 140 runs by losing 4 wickets in 15 overs. From Purvanchal University Jaunpur, Shubh, Vijay Yadav, Sudhanshu and Rishi took one wicket each. Chasing the tar-

get, Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University Jaunpur's opener Sudhanshu scored 48 runs with the help of 1 six and 8 fours in 24 balls and Priyanshu scored 23 runs in 42 balls, putting the team in a strong position. But after Priyanshu was out, Vijay Yadav and Shubh kept the team in the match. In the final overs, Purvanchal University could score only 133 runs and lost the final match by 7 runs in a match that dragged on till the last over due to the tightening of the screws by

the spin bowlers of the host Shri JJT University, Jhunjhunu. In the Tournament, Shri JJT University Jhunjhunu stood first, Veer Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University Jaunpur stood second, Sambalpur University Sambalpur and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Sekhawati University Sikar stood joint third, was honored with a trophy by University President Dr. Devendra Singh Dhull. On this occasion, Registrar Dr. Ajit Kumar, Director Estate Engineer Balkrishna Tibdewala, Advisory Committee Member Dr. Madhu Gupta, Sports Board Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar, Chief Finance Officer Dr. Aman Gupta, Physical Education Department Principal Dr. Manoj Goel and various teams, managers, coaches, players and university administration officials were present.

## Revisions to the DGCA's pilot duty and rest schedule are on hold

**Delhi:** The Indian civil aviation regulator's updated regulations regarding airline pilots' duty and rest periods, which were developed to help better manage fatigue, have been placed on hold. Airlines have an unlimited amount of time to implement a plan that complies with the aforementioned revised rest regulations. According to a new document, airlines may continue to roster their pilots for duty and work period in accordance with the previous laws created in 2019 as long as the regulator does not approve of such a plan. The revised Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms were published on January 8 by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The changes included a 12-hour increase in the weekly rest period for pilots, an extension of the night duty period.

## Voltas' stock price increased by 10%

● In a press statement, Voltas stated that "the Company achieved over 2 million AC units during this fiscal 2023-24"



Delhi: The price of Voltas shares increased by 10% during trading, reaching 52-week highs. In FY 2023-2024, Voltas declared reaching a record-breaking sales milestone of two million AC units. Voltas emphasized that it had achieved this noteworthy milestone as the first brand in the history of the air conditioning industry in India. In Q4 of FY24, Voltas' AC sales experienced an astounding 72% volume rise.

In a press state-

ment, Voltas stated that "the Company achieved over 2 million AC units during this fiscal 2023-24, with a volume growth of 35%, the highest ever sale of ACs by any brand in a financial year in India." Voltas attributed the success to the company's strong offline and online distribution network, strongest brand equity, and innovative new product launches in addition to the year-round high demand for cooling equipment. "We are delighted to achieve this extraordinary

milestone of achieving 2 million ACs in FY 2023 - 24, which is an industry first," Voltas MD and CEO Pradeep Bakshi stated. In Q4 of FY24, Voltas Beko, a home appliance brand, had a 52% rise in volume as the company achieved the goal of producing over 2 million home appliances (including refrigerators and washing machines) in FY24.

Analysts believe that Voltas' focus on growing its geographic reach and increasing penetration in South.

## Google proposes to charge for AI-powered search

Delhi: Alphabet's According to sources, Google is considering charging for premium services on its generative AI-powered search engine, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday. The article said the internet giant is considering adding AI-powered search to its premium subscription services, which currently include its new Gemini AI assistant in Gmail and Docs. Google would put its key products behind a paywall for the first time to gain advantage in the fast-moving AI industry.

The article said its standard search engine



would stay free and adverts would appear alongside search results even for subscribers. No ad-free search experience is being considered. We'll keep adding premium capabilities and services to Google's subscription offers, as

we've done many times "Google emailed Reuters. Google is also fighting ChatGPT's inventor OpenAI and its supporter Microsoft, two industry leaders that have captivated the corporate world's attention.

## Adani to invest 2.3 lakh crore in manufacturing and renewable energy

Delhi: Adani Group wants to invest 2.3 lakh crore through 2030 in renewable energy expansion and industrial capacity, despite a short-seller attack, to continue its rapid growth plans. Adani Green Energy Ltd. plans to invest ₹1.5 lakh crore in expanding solar and wind power capacity at

Khavda, Gujarat, to 30 GW from 2 GW, and ₹50,000 crore in 6-7 GW projects nationwide, according to a top company official. Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), a division of Adani Enterprises Ltd, would invest around ₹30,000 crore in Mundra, Gujarat, to increase solar cell and

wind turbine production. AGEL, which operates 10,934 megawatts (10.93 GW), wants 45 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. 30 GW will be built at Khavda. He added ANIL is tripling windmill production to 5 GW in three and a half years in addition to solar manufacture.

## Maruti Suzuki expects 3 lakh exports in FY25 and 8 lakh by 2030

"This accomplishment is a component of a planned growth process that aims to reach up to 800,000 units by 2030"

Delhi: After a record-breaking fiscal year with record exports, Maruti Suzuki India says it is certain it would ship more than 300,000 units overseas in FY25. According to a senior corporate executive, this accomplishment is a component of a planned growth process that aims to reach up



to 800,000 units by 2030. According to this trajectory, Maruti Suzuki plans to launch more models in its large export markets, which include over 100 nations. In addition, the corporation intends to

strengthen its distribution network through the adoption of effective procedures from India. These programs include making bank financing available at dealerships, strengthening the infrastructure for

servicing vehicles, and guaranteeing the availability of parts in export locations. "Up until around three years ago, we exported between one and two lakh autos annually. We made the decision to build up significantly out of both a sense of national purpose and corporate ambition. From those levels, we exported roughly 2.59 lakh units in 2022-2023 and 2.83 lakh units in 2023-2024. Because of this, Maruti Suzuki accounts for 42% of all cars exported from India." "We're not limited to using pre-existing models for this. Thus, expanding the model launches into additional nations while also expanding the distribution network.

## India lifts export limitations to the Maldives on rice, onions

Delhi: For the current fiscal year, India lifted the prohibitions on the export of a certain quantity of nine goods to the Maldives, including potatoes, onions, eggs, rice, wheat flour, and sugar. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) stated in a notification that "the export of above items to Republic of Maldives will be exempted from any existing or future restriction/prohibition on export," and that these exports have been allowed to Maldives under a bilat-



eral trade agreement between the two countries during 2024-2025. A trade agreement between India and the Maldives was concluded in 1981 and allows for the export of necessities. Stone aggregate, river sand, and da will be the next items whose

export limitations are lifted. 21,513.08 tonnes of potatoes, 35,749.13 tonnes of onions, 1,24,218.36 tonnes of rice, 1,09,162.96 tonnes of wheat flour, 64,494.33 tonnes of sugar, and 224.48 tonnes of dal are among the specified quantities permitted.

## Big tech fights deep fakes

Delhi: Nearly two dozen internet companies promise to fight AI-generated deep fakes to fool voters online, but pro-regulation advocates and some lawmakers want more with the 2024 presidential election approaching. AI-generated deep fakes put us in new terrain, says data scientist Professor Neil Johnson. Johnson stated that robocalls for Biden have been utilized in Indonesian elections. Deep fakes mimic reality. The world's biggest tech giants have committed to crack down on phony politician photographs, but Public Citizen president Robert Weissman believes that's not enough. "It's a positive step that they're going to do their best, but their best right now isn't good enough," Weissman said. Johnson said over 3 billion people will vote globally, therefore more corporations must sign the commit-



"There are upwards of 100 platforms and most of them are small and don't have the resources to police AI," adds Johnson. 100 platforms trump huge platforms. A lot of AI goes to META and X." Last week, almost two dozen businesses, including Google Meta, X, and TikTok, pledged to take "reasonable precautions to

detect and label political deepfakes" and restrict or remove content. Weissman and Public Citizen want federal political deep fake bans. Senator Mark Warner (D-Va.) says Congress must act before democracy suffers. "I continue to worry we may be looking at foreign interference in our elections," Warner added.

ment for it to work. "There are upwards of 100 platforms and most of them are small and don't have the resources to police AI," adds Johnson. 100 platforms trump huge platforms. A lot of AI goes to META and X." Last week, almost two dozen businesses, including Google Meta, X, and TikTok, pledged to take "reasonable precautions to

## Due to a pilot shortage, Vistara reduces flights by 10%

'According to the firm, "all affected passengers have already been re-accommodated on other flights'

Delhi: The airline Vistara declared that it is cutting back on flights by 10%, or about 25-30 every day, in an effort to handle the situation brought on by the lack of pilots and staff. For the summer timetable, the airline—a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and the Tata Group—was scheduled to run more than 300 flights each day. However, prior to



Vistara's merger with Air India, pilots staged a protest by calling in sick in large numbers, demanding changes to the compensation structure and a stretched roster. This caused interruptions to flights. We are gradually reducing the number of flights we operate by 25-30 per day, or around 10% of the total capacity we were using. This will restore flying operations to their previous level as of the end of February 2024 and give the rosters the much needed resilience and buffer," the firm said in a statement.

The airline began by noting that in order to minimize annoyance to customers, these cancellations are often made on the domestic network and well in advance. According to the firm, "all affected passengers have already been re-accommodated on other flights, as applicable," and the punctuality has improved. Beginning on April 1, the airline canceled over 125 flights in three days.

The airline was requested to provide a daily report on flight delays and cancellations by the aviation authority, DGCA.

## Other Tata airline pilots share the same concerns as the Vistara crew

Delhi: The other Tata Group airlines' pilots have now reiterated the concerns voiced by Vistara pilots regarding subpar rostering and general working conditions. Concerning the "justification of Vistara pilots' demands and prevalence of issues across Tata group airlines," the pilot unions of former Indian Airlines and Air India—the two airlines merging to form the current AI in 2007—have written to N Chandrasekaran, the chairman of Tata Group. Indian Commercial Pilots' Association (ICPA of former Indian Airlines) and Indian Pilots Guild (IPG of former AI) have written to the Tata Group chairman, stating, "The pilots of Vistara have been steadfast in their advocacy for fixed 70 hours compensation, improved working conditions, and stable roster... we firmly believe their demands are not only reasonable but also reflective of broader challenges prevalent within Tata Group airlines." "...the worries raised by Vistara pilots are not unique; rather, they are a sign of structural problems with all of the aviation businesses in the Tata Group. According to the statement, pilots at all Tata Group airlines "consistently echoed the issues of 70 hours fixed remuneration, approval of leaves, adequate rest periods, unstable roster, stretching pilots to max flight duty, botched roster practices and an unsupportive work environment." Pilots may be reluctant to voice concerns about safety or matters that could affect flight operations if they feel intimidated or threatened. It states, "This should not be taken lightly as it poses a significant risk to the safety of our passengers and crew members."

## Massive Ram Navami celebrations are planned, along with longer temple hours



**Delhi:** The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has announced that the first Ram Navami celebrations at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya will be televised live on public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati. Additionally, it said that on April 17, the temple will stay open for 20 hours to guarantee that every devotee receives a darshan of Ram Lalla. For the transmission, Prasar Bharati will also install LED screens in Ayodhya and the surrounding districts. Massive Ram Navami celebrations in Ayodhya are scheduled to begin on April 9 and last until April 17. The

nine-day Navaratri celebrations will come to an end on this day. The Trust anticipates that during the Ram Navami celebrations, several lakh people will visit Ayodhya. "To guarantee that every devotee receives a darshan of Ram Lalla, Ram Mandir will be open for business for 20 hours on April 17. To improve devotee flow, seven lines will be established," said Rai. During the festivities, Ayodhya will have elaborate security systems in place. The temple town will also see the deployment of multiple companies of paramilitary personnel in addition to civil police.

### The Congress promises to maintain the current national minimum wage of Rs 400 per day.

**Delhi:** If voted into power, the Congress has pledged to establish a national minimum wage of Rs 400 per day. Additionally, it stated that MGNREGS will pay the same salary. Mallikarjun Kharge, the president of the Congress, stated that during the 2009-14 UPA government, real salary increases were 8.6% for the agriculture sector and 6.9% for non-agricultural sectors, respectively. In contrast, throughout the ten years of the Modi administration,

## Gourav Vallabh leaves the Congress in hours, blaming "suffocation," and joins the BJP

**Delhi:** Gourav Vallabh, a senior leader in the Congress, left the party a day later and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), joining the lengthy list of established parties that have defected ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Vallabh left Congress in protest over the party's positions on a number of subjects, including marks. I expressed all of my concerns and feelings in a letter to Mallikarjun Kharge, the national president of the Congress. I was offended by my party's lack of response when several well-known INDIA bloc leaders made



derogatory comments against Sanatan. My public opposition to our party's stance on Ram Mandir, the Ayodhya-based 'Pran Pratishtha' of Lord Ram Lalla, was also expressed." Vallabh claimed in his resignation letter, which he shared on social media site X, that Congress's current position on eco-

economic issues has always been "demeaning" to wealth producers and that the party has a bad opinion of any disinvestment that occurs in the nation. He added that the party's position on economic matters made him feel stifled. "I teach economics, or Arthashastra, to students.

## Alina Saldanha, a former Goa minister, joins the Congress

**Delhi:** Alina Saldanha, a two-term Cortalim MLA and former minister of forests and environment, joined the Congress with her supporters. Saldanha (72) resigned from both the primary membership of the BJP and as an MLA, and in December 2021,

he joined the Aam Aadmi Party. Additionally, in January of this year, Saldanha resigned from the AAP. She remembered, "I remember my days as a young person when the Congress ruled the state," in a speech she gave after entering the

Congress. The state was in a state of law and order and harmony. There was camaraderie between different communities. Other large states in the nation took note from our tiny state. Saldanha remarked, "I feel like we are missing those days..."

## Setback by Nitish Kumar's resignation, INDIA needs common agenda

### "The Opposition alliance must draft a unified minimum policy"

**Delhi:** Sanjay Singh, an Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member, said Nitish Kumar's exit from the INDIA bloc was a significant loss and that history would judge him harshly. He also said the Opposition alliance must draft a unified minimum policy before the Lok Sabha elections. Singh was a



major alliance negotiator before his October arrest. The Janata Dal (United) president and Bihar Chief Minister was known for his anti-BJP views. Singh said Nitish Kumar ji's withdrawal was a surprise, the INDIA bloc's biggest

setback. He joined NDA after traveling to unite opposition groups. This position change affects your appearance. I acknowledge that you may gain power and benefits temporarily. History will judge you

### Six candidates are listed by the Congress for Goa, MP

**Delhi:** The Congress has unveiled its slate of candidates for the Madhya Pradesh, Goa, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Lok Sabha seats. For the South Goa seat, the party has filed Capt. Viriato Fernandes, whereas the Congress has selected Ramakant Khalap for the North Goa seat. Notably, Francisco Sardinha, the current Member of Parliament for the

## A blow to the BJD, Mahtab, a founding member, will run for office on a BJP ticket

**Delhi:**

Bharatruhari Mahtab, a six-time Cuttack Lok Sabha MP and one of the founding members of Biju Janata Dal (BJD), joined the BJP and is expected to run as the saffron party's nominee. In advance of the next Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, the action is perceived as a setback to the BJD. In addition to Mahtab, two-time former BJD Berhampur MP and actor Sidhant Mohapatra, as well as Santali writer Damayanti Beshra,



joined the saffron party, which further boosted the party's morale. There have been rumors after Mahtab's BJD resignation that he will run for office in Cuttack on a BJP ticket.

Cuttack, Kandhamal, and Jajpur are not among the 18 Lok Sabha candidates that the BJP has announced thus far. Mahtab would challenge BJD's Sanrupt Mishra for the

esteemed seat if he is nominated from Cuttack. Mahtab, who joined the BJP in Delhi shortly after, hinted at the impending collapse of the current Naveen Patnaik government in Odisha by saying that change is inevitable there. "I am excited to start working in a new team," he remarked, praising the accomplishments of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mahtab declared, "I am committed to serving as a disciplined soldier of the BJP."

## For lack of discipline, the Congress party banishes former MP Sanjay Nirupam

**Delhi:** Sanjay Nirupam, a former member of parliament for the Congress Party, was expelled for a period of six years due to accusations of insubordination and making anti-party remarks. In the wake of Nirupam's



"In the Mumbai North West seat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Nirupam lost to Gopal Shetty of the BJP. He conveyed his desire to run for the Mumbai North West seat, but Shiv Sena (UBT) complicated matters by presenting its own candidate, foiling his aspirations"

public criticism of the party's leadership during seat-sharing negotiations with the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) ahead of the next Lok Sabha elections, the party president, Mallikarjun Kharge, has approved this dis-

ciplinary action. The Maharashtra Congress moved quickly to approve a resolution demanding Nirupam's dismissal. The party's high headquarters in Delhi received this resolution right away and will take appropriate action.

## Parties' SWOT analyses show that the BJP, TMC, Left, Congress will compete for 42 seats

**Delhi:** The TMC is standing alone in the Lok Sabha elections in an attempt to stop the BJP's advance and maintain unity among its supporters. The party is beset by accusations of corruption, internal power struggles, and withdrawal from the state's opposition INDIA bloc. Mamata Banerjee, the chief minister of West Bengal and head of the TMC, has a lot riding on the outcome of the next elections. Riding on concerns about deteriorating law and order, corruption, crimes against women, and the CAA, the BJP is hoping to increase its tally before facing the TMC in the 2026 assembly elections, in addition to replicating its success of gaining 18 seats in 2019. After losing all



of their seats in the most recent assembly elections, the Left and the Congress—who are currently in alliance talks—are fighting to establish their electoral viability in Bengal. The TMC secured 22 seats, the Congress secured two seats, and the BJP secured 18 of the state's 42 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. This is an examination of the parties' SWOT (Strengths

Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). TMC is a firmly established company. TMC has put in place a number of welfare programs targeted at women, who make up 50% of voters.

After the state's CAA is put into effect, the ruling party hopes to gain support from subalterns, Bengali elites, and minorities, who make up about 30% of the vote.

### For the LS polls campaign, AAP leader Atishi will travel to Assam

**Delhi:** According to party sources, AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi would spend three days in Assam the next week in order to promote the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections, which is scheduled for April 19. Atishi will participate in election rallies and roadshows.

### OPS struggles with dummy candidates before LS

**Delhi:**

In Ramanathapuram, expelled AIADMK rebel O Panneerselvam is running as a BJP-backed independent: At least three other O Panneerselvams have nominated; more may follow. Since OPS will not be running on a party emblem, his adversaries' 'dummy' candidates may make this impossible. OPS confidant V Pugazhendi accused EPS of fielding namesakes. "It is to prevent OPS from getting the preferred symbol as the returning officer will decide by lot if more than one independent candidate has given their first preference for the same free symbol," explained. Pugazhendi petitioned EC to freeze AIADMK's two leaves. OPS is O t t a k a r a t h e v a r Panneerselvam, but the others are Ochappan, Oyyaram, Oyyathevar, and Ochathevar.

## CAPSULES

### 238 setbacks and yet seeking more

**Delhi:** K Padmarajan is unfazed as he gets ready to run for office in the biggest democracy in the world once more, despite having lost his previous 238 attempts at running for public office in India. In 1988, the 65-year-old proprietor of a tire repair company in Mettur, Tamil Nadu, started participating in elections. When he threw his hat into the ring, many laughed, but he explained that he wanted to show that a regular man could compete. With an impressive walrus moustache and a vibrant shawl slung over his shoulder, he declared, "All candidates seek victory in elections." He said that he is "happy losing" when his inevitable defeat occurs since for him, the real success is in the participation. This year, he is running for a parliamentary seat in the Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu in the six-week general elections, which start on April 19. Called the "Election King" by many, Padmarajan has run in national elections as well as municipal and presidential contests. He has fallen short against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, past Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, and Congressman Rahul Gandhi over the years. He declared, "Victory is secondary." "Who's the other contender? I don't give a damn." Padmarajan's primary concern at the moment is prolonging his losing run. It hasn't come cheap; in the course of more than thirty years, he estimates that he has paid lakhs in nomination costs. Included in it is a Rs 25,000 security fee for his most recent attempt at running, which will not be returned until he receives more than 16% of the vote. His only accomplishment to far has been to be listed in the Limca Book of Records, India's collection of records owned by Indians.