

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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## 'Fail to understand the great urgency to ...': SC said while granting bail to Kejriwal



### Encounter break outs in J&K's Baramulla

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court granted bail to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday in connection with a case filed by the CBI related to the excise policy. The court directed Kejriwal to be released on bail subject to bail bonds of Rs 10 lakh and two sureties, noting that he satisfies the triple condition for the grant of bail. During the hearing, the Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, representing the CBI, objected to Kejriwal not approaching the trial court for bail and instead directly approaching the Delhi High Court and then the apex court. Kejriwal was arrested by the ED on March 21, 2024, in connection with a money laundering probe related to alleged irregularities in the now-cancelled Delhi excise policy 2021-22. Subsequently, on June 26, 2024, he was arrested by the CBI while in ED custody. Here's what the top court said while granting

**NEW DELHI:** An encounter between terrorists and security forces began on Friday night in the Chak Tapper Kreeri Pattan area of Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir. Law enforcement and security forces are actively involved in the ongoing operation. Further details awaited. In a separate incident, two army soldiers died while two others were injured in an ongoing encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. The court said that the principle of liberty is integral to the judicial process. Prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty," Kant said. The court said that Kejriwal satisfies the

### Centre asks probe panel to submit report on Manipur violence by Nov 20

**New Delhi:** The Centre on Friday put a definite time-limit on proceedings of the Justice Ajai Lamba commission set up in June last year to probe the causes and associated factors of the ethnic violence that broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, asking it to submit its report latest by November 20. Amending its notification dated June 4, 2024 setting up the three-member commission of inquiry — which also comprises retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and ex-IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar — the home ministry, in a fresh notification issued on Friday, stated: "The Commission shall submit its report to the Central Government as soon as possible but not later than the 20th November, 2024." The original notification had capped the term of the commission at six months. However, the order to regulate the procedure of the commission was issued only on August 9, 2023 and notified by the Manipur government on August 26, 2023.

## Annapoorna row: Rahul accuses Centre of arrogance; Annamalai apologizes for the actions of 'functionaries'

**CHENNAI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused the Union government of arrogance after the owner of Annapoorna restaurant in Coimbatore requested a simplified GST regime. BJP state unit president K Annamalai, who is currently in the UK for an educational training program, issued an apology via X for the actions of BJP "functionaries" for making public a private conversation between a respected business owner and the Union finance minister. Taking to X, Rahul Gandhi stated that the owner of a small business like Annapoorna had made a request to the "public servants" for a simplified GST regime but was met with arrogance and disrespect. "Our small business owners have already endured the blows of demonetization, an inaccessible banking system, tax extortion and a disastrous GST. The last thing they deserve is further humiliation. Stressing that the MSMEs had been seeking relief for years, Rahul argued that a simplified GST with a



### BJP slams Rahul Gandhi after Pannun backs his remarks on Sikhs

**NEW DELHI:** Secessionist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun lauded Rahul Gandhi's allegation about Sikhs in India not being allowed to wear turban and kada and visiting gurdwaras as a vindication of the demand for a separate state of Khalistan, drawing a scathing attack on Rahul from BJP which also flayed him for meeting US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who has been supporting Pakistan's agenda on Jammu and

Kashmir. Stating that Rahul made the controversial remark to an audience which had many Khalistan supporters, Pannun said, "While addressing the gathering in Washington DC where many pro-Khalistan Sikhs were in the audience, Rahul Gandhi justified Sikhs For Justice's global Khalistan referendum campaign when he said 'fight in India is whether a Sikh will be allowed to wear turban and kada."

single tax rate would solve the problems of lakhs of businesses if the "arrogant govt" would listen to the people and

understand. The Congress leader accused Modi of preferential treatment for billionaires.

### Despite debate win, Kamala Harris makes no dent in battleground state

**WASHINGTON:** The needle has barely moved in the US Presidential election despite the widely perceived view that Kamala Harris trounced Donald Trump in Tuesday's debate. A Reuters/Ipsos poll shows Harris gaining about a point to lead 47-42 nationwide and a Morning Consult survey put her at 50-45, also up a point for her from before the debate. But pollsters say she has barely made a dent in the seven battleground states that will decide the election. Read also: Kamala Harris campaign calls Trump a 'chicken' after he backs out of third debate. Both candidates returned to the campaign trail on Thursday, with Harris clearly energized by positive reviews of her debate performance. But she insisted at a rally in North Carolina, a battleground state, that she remained the underdog in the election and there was much hard work ahead if she is to win, while Trump has suggested his win.

### 'I enjoy my battles with Virat Kohli because...': Mitchell Starc



**NEW DELHI:** Star Australian pacer Mitchell Starc has recently discussed his competitive relationship with Virat Kohli, the Indian batting sensation. Starc expressed his deep enjoyment of the "good battles" he has had with Kohli on the cricket field. The highly anticipated Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will feature the two cricketing giants, India and Australia, is set to commence on November 22 in Perth. This series will provide an opportunity for Starc and Kohli to continue their rivalry and engage in more thrilling contests. "I enjoy my battles with Virat Kohli, it's because we've played a lot of cricket against one another," Starc told Star Sports. "I always have some good battles. I've managed to get him out once or twice and he's no doubt scored a fair few runs against me so it's always a good contest and one we both enjoy." India emerged victorious in the previous four series, spanning from 2016-17 to 2022-23. The Indian team showcased their prowess by triumphing over Australia.

### 'Refrain or face same fate as your grandmother': Cong demands FIR over BJP leader's 'threat' to Rahul



**NEW DELHI:** The Congress party on Friday demanded that a FIR be filed over a purported "threat" issued by a BJP leader to Rahul Gandhi for his remarks in the US concerning the Sikh community. The Congress also called for a review of the Rahul's security, citing his new role as a Leader of Opposition, which is equivalent to

Cabinet rank. Members of the Delhi BJP's Sikh cell staged a protest on Wednesday against Rahul Gandhi, demanding an apology from him over his remarks in the US concerning the community. "Won't be surprised if he holds meetings with terrorists someday", BJP MP Tejasvi

Surya on Rahul Gandhi's US visit "Rahul Gandhi baaz aaja nahi toh aane wale time mein tera bhi wohi haal hoga jo teri dadi ka haal hua (Rahul Gandhi, refrain from such things, otherwise in the coming time, you will also suffer the same fate as your grandmother)," Marwah was heard saying in the video shared by several Congress leaders.

### 'Osama's 'dead son' is alive, leading al-Qaida in Afghanistan



**NEW DELHI:** The world is now, slowly but surely, realising that all the talk of Taliban 2.0 was just a ploy by the militant group to smoothen its take over of Afghanistan. The Taliban 2.0 is no different than Taliban 1.0. All the restrictions on girls and women are back. Terror groups are again being allowed to set up based and training camps. Pakistan, the

main advocate of Taliban 2.0, has seen a resurgence in terror attacks. Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), popularly known as Pakistan Taliban, is having a free run in Afghanistan. Pakistan, the main advocate of

Taliban 2.0, has seen a resurgence in terror attacks by TTP from safe havens in Afghanistan. TTP has openly declared its goal of toppling Pakistan's democratically elected government. The group aims to replace the current system with an emirate that adheres to its strict interpretation of Islamic law. TTP's violent campaign has resulted in the deaths of numerous.

### Mamata govt offers aid to kin of those who died 'due to long-drawn cease work by junior doctors

**NEW DELHI:** Amid the impasse with the protesting junior doctors, who refused to have talks with the state government without the meeting being telecast live, the West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Friday announced compensation for families of those who died due to the unavailability of protesting doctors. Mamata Banerjee said her government would pay Rs 2 lakh to families of each 29 people who died due to lack of treatment, given the protesting doctors' "cease work" move. Read also: 'Ready to resign': Mamata



Banerjee as dead-lock with doctors over RG Kar case continues. "It is sad and unfortunate that we have lost 29 precious lives due to disruption in health services because of long-drawn cease work by junior doctors," Banerjee posted on X. "In order to extend a helping hand to the bereaved families, state government announces a token financial relief of Rs 2 lakh to family members of each deceased person," she added. Soon after Mamata announced her decision, the BJP tore into her, calling it a "ploy to break the Junior Doctors' protest". Party's I-T cell chief Amit

Malviya said Mamata must "keep her inflated ego aside" that implement the Centre-backed Ayushman Bharat scheme inserted of state's Swasthya Sathi Scheme, which Malviya claimed is a "failed" policy and is "not accepted anywhere, even in West Bengal". "Mamata Banerjee's refusal to accept the globally appreciated Ayushman Bharat scheme in West Bengal is directly responsible for every tragic death. The failed Health Minister of West Bengal must resign," Malviya added.

### Patient, 11, raped in Agra medical college, doctor held

**A junior doctor was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly raping an 11-year-old patient admitted to the paediatric department of Sarojini Naidu Medical College (SNMC) in Agra on Tuesday night. The principal of the college suspended Dilshad Hussain, 28, the first-year resident doctor, and set up three committees - disciplinary, departmental and internal - to probe the matter. The girl, suffering from fever, was admitted to the emergency ward on Sept 6 before being shifted to the paediatric department the next day. Hussain, who was on duty at around 11.55pm on Tuesday, sexually assaulted her.**

### 'My father was on the flight': Jaishankar opens up about 1984 Air India hijack



**Vatika Times NEW DELHI:** External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Friday broke silence on the recent controversy around the Netflix's recent series 'IC 814 The Kandahar Hijack' and recalled another hijack story of 1984 in which his father was on the flight. Jaishankar, who was addressing Indian diaspora in Geneva, said he hasn't seen the series but added that the "film guys don't make the government look good". Read also: 'Not a single person...': Indian diaspora in

Geneva raise RG Kar rape-murder. What EAM said. Recalling another Air India plane hijack Jaishankar said, "In 1984, there was a hijack. I was a very young officer and was part of the team which was dealing with it. My son was a few months old and my wife used to work. So it was my day to go back home and feed him lunch." "So I rang up my mother to tell her said 'look I am unable to come, there's a hijack'. It was then that I discovered that my father was on the flight,"



## Ministers appreciate artist Anupriya Sharma's Jute and Zari Stall

Prayagraj: Giriraj Singh, Minister of Textiles, Government of India and Rakesh Sachan, Minister of MSME, Khadi and Village Industries, Sericulture, Handloom and Textiles, Uttar Pradesh, expressed bewilderment after



coming across Artist Anupriya Sharma's Jute and Zari Stall during the Craft Tourism Village's inaugural event in Mahewa, Naini, which was well received. They inquired about what it is, how it is manufactured, how it is made from Jute and Zari, and how many people work on it. How much does she make per year? According to Anupriya Sharma, many people like jute and zari jewelry. According to Deputy Director Taniya Banerjee, Prayagraj's Moonj is in high demand, and consumers prefer it as part of the one district, one product campaign. Artists are making considerable money with their creations.

## Member of Purvanchal Development Board reviewed actuality of development

Prayagraj: Arvind Singh Patel member of Purvanchal Development Board Uttar Pradesh inspected Phulpur Development Block, Community Health Center and Nagar Panchayat Phulpur on Thursday and checked the ground reality of the schemes being run by the government. While holding a review meeting with the officials



of the concerned departments, the board member said that the problems of the public should be resolved in a timely and correct manner. The government has made every effort to take its schemes to the last person in the village. Before the inspection, he was given a warm welcome by BJP workers and officials in Babuganj. On this occasion, senior BJP leaders Suresh Chandra Vishwakarma, Ashok Chaudhary, Mandal President Alok Gupta, Bhola Gupta, Vijaypal, Apna Dal S leader Jang Bahadur Patel, Rahul Vishwakarma, Monu Sahu, Gaurav Jaiswal, Rajkumar Modanwal, Avinash Singh Patel and dozens of workers were present.

## Congressmen greets Harkesh Tripathi on b'day

Prayagraj: Congressmen surprised senior Congress politician Harkesh Tripathi, a PCC member, by calling him at a restaurant in Civil Lines Prayagraj on his birthday. He was overwhelmed by the gesture and expressed gratitude towards those present. Fuzail Hashmi, Parvej Siddiqui, Kishore Varshney, Abhinav, Mukund Tiwari, Suresh Yadav and others graced the occasion with their august presence.



# Mentality of gaining control over nature is fatal: Prof. JN Mishra

Prayagraj: On the second day of the three-day international seminar being held at Thakur Har Narayan Singh Degree College, Karailabagh, Prayagraj on Friday, scholars from India and abroad presented their views on various streams of environmental subject. The seminar started with the lighting of the lamp by Honorable Chancellor Prof. Jai Prakash Lal, Director Dr. Uday Pratap Singh and Honorable Vice Chancellors of various universities. The program was presided over by Prof. J.N. Mishra, Department of Commerce, Allahabad University, Chief Guest Prof. Jai Prakash Lal, Chancellor of Central University said that the maximum amount of plastic is being consumed by us every day. Five and a half lakh people are being affected every day in the world. He said that 82.5 micro grams of plastic particles are going

inside the body from the plastic bottles we are drinking every day, which is very dangerous, hence purify the water and drink it.

He also threw light on organic and natural farming. Prof. J.N. Mishra, former Registrar/Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Allahabad University, while presiding over the program, said that the mentality of dominating nature is fatal, nature does not attack anyone, change should be done to nature as much as it can bear. Prof. PK Sahu said that coordination between environment, economy, society and technology is very important for sustainable development. He gave a research lecture on inclusive society, inclusive thinking, and holistic thinking towards the environment. He also talked about creating an environment of problem solving capability through education and learning. Prof. Vivek



Kumar Singh said that we are running with the flow of development along with modernity, but we have to achieve the goal of development with a mixture of modernity and traditional style. Prof. Hari Prakash Pandey said that environment is the basic basis for

the development of human civilization and culture. He also talked about the conservation of biodiversity and told that in the Vedic period, there were 2000 plant species out of which only 200 are available at present and the way The environment is being ex-

ploited and sustainability of even 20 species is not possible in the near future, hence we all will have to collectively take important steps for environmental protection.

Prof. Abha Tripathi talked about establishing higher values of life

through environment. In the second session of the seminar, Prof. Suvarna Sarkar drew special attention on environmental pollutants through slides and discussed the ill effects of water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution etc. and the measures to prevent them. Dr. Adinath threw light on bio energy by storing carbon through micro algal groups. Dr. Anurag Tripathi explained the need for environmental protection at every level to save human existence. Principal Dr. Ajay Govind Rao presented the vote of thanks. The program was conducted by Dr. Ambika Prasad, Dr. Anushree Singh and Ms. Priya Singh. Shri Govind Bihari Mishra, scholars and research students from various universities were present in the program. Research students read their research papers in both the sessions.

## Removing encroachment but no action against illegal occupation of ponds

Complaint about illegal encroachment on pond land made to CM

Prayagraj: The administration and Municipal Corporation may be removing encroachment from government land but they are not paying attention to the continuous encroachment on ponds. Houses and buildings are being extended till inside the pond. According to revenue records, there are a dozen ponds in Gram Panchayat Karehda Uparhar Tehsil Sadar Prayagraj. But they do not exist on the spot, the ponds are not visible at all, they are only enhancing the beauty of the revenue records. The responsible officials claim that encroachments will be re-

moved from the ponds. There is complete ban on conservation and beautification of ponds by the government. But except a few ponds, the rest are in bad condition. These days, due to lack of action by the Revenue Department and the Municipal Corporation, the spirits of the land mafia and encroachers are at their peak. Only a few ponds are left in the area. The land of these ponds is also in danger. The land of many ponds has been encroached upon. The corporation is also not showing interest in saving the land. The ponds were not demarcated for years. In the past, the ponds were

freed from encroachment and beautified and constructed so that not only the people get disposal facilities but the ground water level of the city is also maintained. Due to initial pressure from the administration, work was done on some ponds within the city but the remaining ponds could not even be cleaned. Now slowly encroachment is continuing here. Officers are not following the instructions of the Supreme Court in Prayagraj. The Supreme Court has ordered that no person should encroach on any pond, pond or any other public property. If this happens, action should be

taken but officers do not pay attention to it. Responsible revenue officials, bound by selfishness, are in collusion with land mafia and are occupying large parts of the ponds and building residential colonies. If the administration gets the Nazul land verified or demarcated on the spot every year, then such encroachment can be stopped. It is alleged that most of the places in the ponds have also been encroached upon. If the area is measured, the matter of encroachment will become clear, but due to the laxity of the corporation, the courage of the land mafia is high.

## Hundreds of farmers will join organic fertilizer campaign

Maintaining soil health will give higher yield: SK Verma

Prayagraj: A one-day Farmer's Day cum Bio-Fertilizer Campaign program was organized by IFFCO in Hemapur village located in Phulpur of Prayagraj district. About 150 farmers from nearby areas participated in the program. Deputy General Manager SK Verma who had come from IFFCO Lucknow, was especially present in today's program. At the local level Deputy General Manager Satish Kumar, Principal of IFFCO Cordet Many officers including Dr. Harishchandra, Area Manager Akshay



Kumar Pandey, Regional Officer Amit Singh, Mukesh Tiwari, SFA Amit Kumar and Anand Patel participated. In the program, mainly SK Verma gave detailed information to the farmers about IFFCO's new products Nano Urea and Nano DAP. He told that the upcoming products will be nano based products so that farmers can get maximum yield in their production while maintaining the health of their environment and soil. He also gave detailed information about bio-fertilizer in his address. Satish Kumar told the farmers that they should not depend only on chemical fertilizers and should also include other products of IFFCO like Sagarika water soluble fertilizer in their farming. Dr. Harishchandra informed the farmers about the various schemes being run by Chordate like bee-keeping, dairy etc. and also invited them to visit his Cordet training centre. All the visiting farmers were provided free bio-fertilizer and sickle for harvesting.

## Land mafia entered complainant's house, threatened to kill

Although the administration boasts of taking action by removing the illegal encroachment on government lands and filing a case against the land mafia under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, but the reality is far from the ground. Leave aside the issue of removing illegal encroachment from the pond land, now the lekhpals, limited by their selfishness, are provoking

the land mafia and giving various threats to the complainants.

Pankaj Sahu alleges that after filing the complaint, Halka Lekhpal threatened him by calling and after that the accused who had taken over the land of the pond entered the house and threatened to kill him if he did not withdraw the complaint.

## Flipkart's Seller Conclaves across 9 cities

Ahead of 11th Edition of The Big Billion Days

Varanasi: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has successfully concluded the seller conclaves across nine major cities in India, part of Flipkart's pan-India initiative, boosting opportunities for over 1.4 million entrepreneurs and sellers to grow their business. The on-ground Seller Conclave witnessed participation from over 4,500 sellers from Hyderabad, Jaipur, Surat, Delhi, Agra, Mumbai, Bangalore, Ludhiana and Tirupur, highlighting their belief in consistent support and efforts Flipkart is making towards empowering them.

These sessions were designed to provide in-depth insights into customer demand, purchase patterns, and growth-oriented plans. It was meant to equip the sellers with the right tools to effectively meet the festive demand ahead of the 11th edition of The Big Billion Days.

Flipkart kick-starts the festive period with the 'Big Sale of Small Things' sale

event going LIVE on September 15, 2024. As the festive season kicks off, the marketplace sellers will showcase essential and value items on the platform as they build up to the Big Billion Days. The products will be from across categories, including fashion, beauty, home decor, small electronics and more.

The Big Billion Days is set to create numerous job opportunities within the ecosystem, generating over 1 lakh new jobs and many more through the opportunities and employment created by the sellers on our marketplace platform.

Sakait Chaudhary, Business Head - Marketplace, Flipkart, said, "At Flipkart, we are committed to empowering our seller community of over 1.4 million. With over 4,500 sellers participating in the on-ground Seller Conclaves held across Bharat, we are equipping them with valuable insights and strategies to thrive in the 11th edition of The Big Billion Days. We've also introduced several new pro-

grams, including rate card simplification and industry-first policy changes, to foster a more inclusive and growth-oriented seller ecosystem."

The seller conclaves featured participation from senior leaders at Flipkart, including Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group; Sakait Chaudhary, Senior Vice President, Business Head - Marketplace, Flipkart; Hemant Badri, Senior Vice President and Head of Supply Chain, Customer Experience, and ReCommerce; Jeyandran Venugopal, Chief Product and Technology Officer at Flipkart, Sandeep Karwa, Vice President and Pratik Shetty, Head of Marketing and Media, Flipkart who shared the valuable insights and highlighted the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for sellers during the festive season. Flipkart also supports sellers through advanced analytics, cataloging, and more to maximize their success during The Big Billion Days.

## 11th convocation ceremony of Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation Univ held

Prayagraj/Lucknow: The 11th convocation ceremony of Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University was held today under the chairmanship of State Governor and Visitor Smt. Anandiben Patel. A total of 1615 titles and 159 medals were awarded to the students in the ceremony, which included 59 gold medals, 50 silver medals and 50 bronze medals. All the titles were uploaded on DigiLocker. At the ceremony, the Governor congratulated and congratulated all the degree and medal winning students and their parents and said that for a parent, it is a matter of joy and pride for their children to receive a medal. He said that parents have to work hardest for their disabled children. Praising the inclusive education in the university for the general category and the disabled, the Governor said that there should be separate awards for the disabled and the general public. Their merit should also be different. The Governor directed all universities to upload marks sheets of all years

along with degrees on DigiLocker. He expressed desire for implementation of Samarth portal for enrollment, admission, examination results and other subjects in the university. He said that middlemen should be removed from the education system and a healthy educational environment should be created. Welcoming Padmashree, the chief guest of the function, Shri Muralikant Rajaram Petkar ji, he said that the university should show a film based on his life story to the students so that they can get inspired. And can be encouraged. The Governor said in his convocation address that the Honorable Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi ji believes that to make the world better disabled inclusive, adequate opportunities should be provided to the disabled. He said that disabled people have a special talent and creativity given by nature. He said that in the cultural history of India, the examples of Rishi Ashtavakra and Surdas still inspire us and give positive direction to

life. Describing the role of disabled people as important in India's progress and development, the Governor said that India today does not need any introduction in the field of para sports. He appreciated the special training provided by the University to promote sports activities among the



disabled people. The Chancellor appreciated the best performance by the Indian players in the Paris Paralympics and said that the players of Uttar Pradesh have also proved that in our state there is no dearth of talent. Congratulating these players, he wished them a bright future and said that the disabled players, with their amazing talent and strong will power, have proved that disability never becomes a hindrance in their achievements. The

Governor made announcements for the disabled in the general budget. Referring to the provisions made, he said that a significant part of the budget is dedicated to the National Program for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities and directed the University to utilize the budget by preparing projects and ensure that the students benefit from it. He described the university as a place of knowledge yagya in the form of education and said that the university should reach villages and Anganwadis.

Describing India as a country which is a symbol of religious harmony, tolerance, knowledge and culture, the Governor said that India has shown the direction of knowledge to the world for centuries and even today our country is

an important center of knowledge for the world. In this context, he gave the example of the great Chinese philosopher Fa Hien and said that due to his hunger for knowledge and respect for India, he traveled to India on foot even at the age of 62 to search for the Buddhist text Vinayapitaka. The Governor said that today the countries of the world are learning from India about the importance of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and joint family. Describing India as an ocean of knowledge, the Governor said that Nalanda and Takshashila Universities, which remained in disrepair for years, were reopened due to the efforts of the Honorable Prime Minister. Laying emphasis on education in the mother tongue, the Governor said that the National Education Policy Under this, arrangements have been made for education in the mother tongue till class five. He said that if India has to become a global knowledge superpower then education in mother tongue will have to be promoted.



## Training on Textile Dyeing and Printing conducted at SHUATS

Prayagraj: Department of Textiles and Apparel Designing, Ethelind College of Community Science, SHUATS, Prayagraj, conducted a hands-on training programme on Dyeing and Printing of Textiles, which saw enthusiastic participation from students. The training commenced on 9th September 2024 and successfully concluded on 13th September 2024, with participants gaining valuable insights and practical experience in a variety of dyeing and printing techniques. The training covered traditional and modern methods, including block printing, screen printing, batik, stencil printing, and tie and dye. Training was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Anshu (Dean), Prof. Dr. Ekta Sharma (Head TAD), Dr. Nargis Fatima (Organizing Secretary and Associate professor, TAD) and Dr. Komal Dwivedi (Organizing Secretary and Assistant Professor, TAD), participants were taught the intricacies of each technique, from material selection to finishing processes. As part of the training, participants produced a diverse range of dyed and printed samples that were displayed during Certificate distribution ceremony. The participants expressed their appreciation for the hands-on learning experience and the opportunity to explore various dyeing and printing techniques. The Dyeing and Printing Training Program is part of an ongoing initiative to promote skill development in the field of textiles. Plans are underway to offer more such training programs in the future to cater to the growing interest in traditional and contemporary textile techniques.



and literary contribution of novel emperor Premchand at the headquarters, on the birth anniversary of Goswami Tulsidas ji, a literary seminar was organized by Jhansi Mandal at Banda station and a poetry seminar on the birth anniversary of lyricist Shailendra at the Wagon Repair Factory, Jhansi. An official language exhibition of the work being done in the Railway Protection Force Branch, Accounts Branch, Signal and Telecommunication Branch and Personnel Branch was organized in the Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Agra and the use and dissemination of the official language was reviewed. Shri Satendra Kumar gave information about the competitions and programs organized at the headquarters during the Official Language Fortnight. Additional General Manager Shri J.S. Lakra and all the principal department heads and other officers and employees were present. The program was conducted by Shri Chandra Bhushan Pandey, Senior Official Language Officer and vote of thanks was expressed by Deputy Chief Official Language Officer and Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/Project Priyanka Singh.

## Our aim is only victory: Rakesh Sachan

Prayagraj: A meeting of Ganga Par district regarding the upcoming by-election of Phulpur Assembly. Uttar Pradesh Minister Rakesh Sachan held a meeting with the officials of Ganga Par district at the Circuit House. On this occasion, he said that the upcoming by-election Victory in the by-election of Phulpur Assembly is our only goal and for that we will have to implement all the work of the organization on the ground and make the conference of Women, Youth, Backward, Farmer, Scheduled Front orga-



nized by the organization successful and the Booth Committee. And by activating the entire team of Panna Pramukhs, we have to contact all the voters of the booth and our aim is to vote in favor of Bharatiya Janata Party.

District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that regarding Phulpur Assembly by-election, Mahila Morcha Conference 17, Yuva Morcha Conference 19, Pichda Morcha Conference 20-22, Kisan Morcha Conference 21, Scheduled Front Conference on 23 September 2024 have been confirmed by Ganga Par district. At the Circuit House, State Government Minister Rakesh Sachan was welcomed by BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Ganga Par District President Kavita Patel, Rajesh Kesarwani, Brijesh Tripathi Vivek Mishra, Prashant Shukla Rakesh Bharti with a flower bunch. District President was prominent in the meeting. Ganga Par Kavita Patel District Vice President Kiran Trivedi, Kisan Morcha District President Laxmikant Upadhyay, Backward Front District President Vijay Patel, Mahila Morcha District Convenor Smt. Rupam Tripathi, Scheduled Front District President Ashish Bharatiyata, Yuva Morcha District President Naveen Patel Media Incharge Brijesh Kumar Tripathi, Rajesh Kesarwani and Vivek. Mishra etc.

## Under Swachhhta Pakhwada, message of cleanliness via folk songs

Prayagraj: On completion of 10 years of the establishment of Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachhhta Hi Seva 2024 is being organized as Swachhhta Pakhwada from 14th September to 2nd October. North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under the theme of 'Nature Swachhhta - Sanskar Swachhhta', organized cleanliness drive through folk songs and birha at various places in Prayagraj to promote cleanliness campaign and make the general public aware about cleanliness. Per message will be given. In this sequence, under the Hindi Fortnight, an essay competition will be organized by the Center in various colleges of Prayagraj. According to Ashis Giri, director in-charge of the centre, the competition will be held on 14th September at Rani Revati Devi Saraswati Vidya Niketan Intermediate College, on 18th at Jwala Devi Vidya Mandir Intermediate College, on 19th at St. Anthony Girls Intermediate College and on 23rd at Jagat Taran Girls Inter College. The winning students of the competition will be awarded on 27th September. On this occasion, a Hindi poetry conference dedicated to the national language Hindi will be organized, in which young poets have been invited to recite poetry.

# Official Language Fortnight kicks off at NC Rly HQ

## Organization of meeting of Regional Official Language Implementation Committee held

Prayagraj: Official Language Fortnight inauguration program and meeting of Regional Official Language Implementation Committee was organized under the chairmanship of General Manager Upendra Chandra Joshi at North Central Railway Headquarters. On this occasion, General Manager Upendra Chandra Joshi inaugurated the Official Language Fortnight by garlanding the statue of Mother Saraswati and lighting the lamp. Addressing the officers and employees present on this occasion, Upendra Chandra Joshi said that Hindi as a language has developed by combining many languages and many dialects and dialects. Therefore, it is considered to be the language of the mixed culture of the country and it has been envisaged to give it an inclusive form by including words from all the major Indian languages in the Constitution. Hindi has its own extremely diverse and rich literature, which has infused new consciousness for social, cultural and national concerns. Today, with the increasing use of Hindi in various fields like information technology, media, entertainment, business, commerce, its nature has got a new dimension and its po-

tential and potential has increased manifold. Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi said that Railways is connected with the general public. We should provide them information about our works, plans and achievements in Hindi. This reflects our commitment towards the official language as well as the common people. The entire area of North Central Railway is famous for the tradition of literature, culture, history and heritage. The excellent literary creativity here has left its indelible mark on the entire country.

In this background, it is expected from us to contribute extensively in the use and spread of Hindi. The General Manager said that stations and public relations points are the identity of our work. Therefore, the use of Hindi-English bilingual form is being ensured in all the facilities and information related to passengers and customers at the stations. Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi said that our Railways is fully committed to provide its excellent services with full readiness to the pilgrims and tourists coming from every corner of the country and abroad in the upcoming Kumbh Mela. We have to demonstrate the spirit of unity in our cultural

diversity by providing information and services on passenger amenities to the passengers through easy

eral Manager's Office for receiving the first and third prizes respectively of Chal Vajiyanti of the City Offi-

the Headquarters' official language magazine 'Rail Sangam'.

In the meeting, Chief



and simple Hindi. Shri Joshi directed all the heads of departments and officers to maintain the progress achieved in the use of Hindi or Hindi-English bilingual form in all types of correspondence, comments, dictation, inspection reports, departmental proceedings etc. as per the provisions of the Official Language Act and Rules and achieve the expected target. Gave instructions to complete. Shri Joshi congratulated the Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Prayagraj and the North Central Railway Gen-

eral Language Implementation Committee, Allahabad for the excellent use and dissemination of Hindi and the Principal Chief of North Central Railway Personnel Officer/Administration Shri Mudit Chandra and Chief Traffic Planning Manager Shri Rajesh Kumar were congratulated by the Railway Minister for being awarded the Official Language Silver Medal. At the beginning of the program, General Manager Shri Upendra Chandra Joshi released the Personnel Department special issue of

Official Language Officer and Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Mr. Satendra Kumar welcomed the Chairman of the Committee, General Manager Mr. Upendra Chandra Joshi and all the members and informed about the work done for the use and promotion of the official language and the achievements achieved. Shri Satendra Kumar said that many literary seminars were organized on the occasion of birth anniversaries of litterateurs and great men. Depicting the life story

## Official language Hindi Fortnight kicks off at RTMM

Prayagraj: The official language Hindi Fortnight to be organized from September 13, 2024 to September 27, 2024 was inaugurated today at Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya (RTMM) (Constituent Allahabad University), Malviya Nagar, Prayagraj. Today a special lecture was organized on the first day. The learned speaker was Dr. Surya Narayan, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, Allahabad University. The program started with garlanding of Goddess Saraswati and lighting of lamp by Principal Prof. Ranjana Tripathi, scholar speaker Dr. Surya Narayan and coordinator of Official Language Fortnight Prof. Neelima Singh. In the lecture on the role of Hindi in nation building, Dr. Suryanarayan ji discussed in detail the important role of Hindi language and literature from the national movement till the present. Dr. Surya Narayan said that the goal of the national movement was not only political independence but also the fight against colo-

onial knowledge and the superiority of Western knowledge in which language was also a party. The early leaders of the movement were working with the English language but realized that if colonialism was to be fought, Indian intellectual-

Hindustani Academy was established in 1927. The national movement developed the concept of nation state and the need for a strong language was also a part of it. Even at the time of the movement, people who were not Hindi speak-



ity would have to be developed parallel to colonial intellectuality.

Indian language Hindi will have to be awakened. There was no grammar, criticism and scriptures in Hindi language at that time. It depended on Sanskrit and over time Hindi grammar, criticism and scriptures developed. In this sequence, Hindi Sahitya Sammelan was established in 1910 and

movement - one was whether it should be a Sanskrit language or Hindi should be the colloquial folk language.

The language should be people oriented but the grammar and expressions should be standard and there should also be discipline. He also mentioned some books in which Hindi nationalism is mentioned. Dr. Surya Narayan said that we will have to make our own efforts to establish Hindi as a national language from an official language. We will have to be proud and make efforts to preserve the identity of Hindi. Principal Professor Ranjana Tripathi welcomed the guest and expressed his gratitude. Convenor Prof. Neelima Singh conducted the program. On this occasion Prof. A large number of girl students including Namita Yadav, Dr. Renu Anand, Dr. Shamnaz, Dr. Anamika, Dr. Yashasvi Pandey, Dr. Ashwini Rai, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. Abhishek, research students Mr. Manish and Mr. Kamal Chaudhary were present.

## Various club activities held at GHS & College

Prayagraj: The aim of Girls' High School and College is to offer holistic education by balancing academics with extracurricular activities. Our syllabus is planned to make learning less stressful for the students without compromising quality. That is why our school has built various clubs that cater to various interests. Students get an opportunity to showcase and groom their talents. Activities conducted in schools not only benefit in shaping their interests and hobbies but also develop their leadership and social skills.

The activities organised by the various clubs commenced from 9th September to 13th September 2024. It comprised of thrilling activities like Debate competition, singing competition, mime competition, PPT competition, knock knock, sell it, model making etc. It was a platform for students to collaborate, learn and perform confidently and independently.

Students attended the Club Activities with boundless enthusiasm, passion and joy. They expressed keen interest in learning by doing, while thinking beyond their classrooms and textbooks. They opened up their minds to new ideas as they explored untapped areas of knowledge, skills and hobbies under the careful guidance of the Principal Rev. Dr. Vinita Eusebius and the Club Incharges. The young members ventured out and soared to exciting new heights of imagination and into the ever-expanding horizons of possibilities.



## Food festival organized in SHUATS Business Studies dept

Prayagraj: Food Festival 2024 was organized in the Department of Business Studies of Joseph School of Business Studies and Commerce, SHUATS. During this, separate stalls of Chinese, Tibetan, Nepalese, Arabic, American



and Indian cuisines were set up. The staff and students of the university enjoyed the food festival. It was an entrepreneurial initiative by the students. Dean Dr. Ronald V Mani, while encouraging the students, said that the food festival strengthens the spirit of entrepreneurship development in people, gives experience of marketing as well as enhances knowledge of customer dealing; he congratulated the organizers also for success of the event.

## Investiture Ceremony of MPVM Interact Club

Prayagraj: On Friday, in the premises of Maharshi patanjali Vidya Mandir, Rotary club organised the Investiture ceremony of MPVM Interact Club of students. Rotary is a global network of more than 1.2 million neighbours friends, leaders and problem solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe in our communities and in ourselves. The program commenced with presenting the collar to the President Rotarian Ajay Agarwal followed by singing of the national anthem. There after it continued with the auspicious lamp lighting ceremony and a beautiful Ganesh Vandana by the students of the school. The past president Rotarian Shri

Ravindra Gupta addressed the gathering and motivated the students with his ever inspiring words to be an active member of the In-

teract Club. The President Rotarian Mr. Ajay Agarwal handed over the charter to the newly elected president of interact club Kaustubh Dey and pinned the badge to him. The Principal of the school, Mrs. Alpona Dey



Vibhu Agarwal. Thereafter, the past president Rotarian Desh Deepak Arya pinned the badge of Joint Secretary to Saarth Pandey, Aviral Mishra was given the badge of Surgeon of Arms, by the past president,

Rotarian Sunil Jaiswal,

Aatmik and Anushka Verma were given the badge of director by the Principal of MPVM and the Senior Incharge Mrs. Mrignainy Arya.

Mr. Ajay Agarwal proposed the token of appreciation to all the newly elected members of the MPVM Interact Club and highlighted the mission of inculcating leadership, quality and the spirit of service before self among the students. At the end of the ceremony, the principal of the school, Mrs. Alpona Dey, proposed vote of thanks to all the Rotarians for choosing MPVM for the interact club and motivating the students to be a good human beings by serving the society, under privileged ones and community.

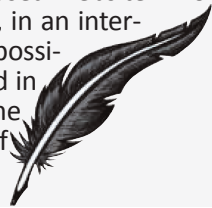


## Editorial

### Why we don't care enough for minorities in Bangladesh

Still, that doesn't guarantee him safety. As per a 2021 human rights report, Bangladesh saw more than 3,600 attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh since 2013. Hasina had been in power since 2009. Minorities in Bangladesh had been ardent Hasina supporters not because the killing of Hindus, the destruction and looting of their property, including temples, and the wanton discrimination regularly meted out to them had stopped completely. Every now and then, on one pretext or the other, there would be violence where only one particular community would be targeted. The last "great killing" took place in 2021 when a copy of the Quran was found at a Durga Puja pandal. It later turned out to be the handiwork of a Muslim man, but the damage was done. As a result, if The Daily Star, the largest-circulating daily English-language newspaper in Bangladesh, is to be believed, "117 Hindu temples or puja pandals and 301 shops/homes were also damaged". The Hindu-Muslim violence in Bangladesh is starkly different from that in Bharat. One tends to loosely use the term riot to describe it. But then they are not riots. There can never be a riot in a Muslim-majority state. Remember that line from Taslima Nasrin's Lajja, where Suronjon is caught in an argument with his father, Sudhamoy Datta: When the father defends his stay in violence-prone Bangladesh, saying there "are riots in all countries. Aren't there riots in India?", the son responds: "Riots are good, Baba. But here we don't have riots. Here Muslims are killing Hindus!" Still Hindus supported Hasina. Because she ensured there was a semblance of order, a sense of normalcy in their lives. They had seen much worse, so much violence that Hasina's 'controlled chaos' was something they grasped with both hands.

But as the saying goes, 'good' things don't last long. And they ended this Tuesday, August 6, when Sheikh Hasina was given the 45-minute ultimatum to pack her bags and leave the country. The chaos soon descended on the streets of Bangladesh and even the statue of Bangbandhu — the man who got the country's freedom in 1971 — was not left alone. For Hindus in Bangladesh, the era of a jhatka-type of execution was back in action. One can grasp the seriousness of the situation from the fact that the head of Bharat's Ministry of External Affairs, which is instinctively prone to take a less alarmist position, informed Parliament that "properties of individuals associated with the (Hasina) regime were torched across the country. What was particularly worrying was that minorities, their businesses and temples also came under attack at multiple locations". Within 24 hours, there were reports of Hindus being attacked, their houses and temples ransacked, and their valuables looted in as many as 27 districts of Bangladesh. Even an ISKCON temple wasn't spared. Orchestrated by Jamaat-led Islamist outfits, one saw the resumption of ethnic cleansing that Sheikh Hasina had put a lid on 15 years ago. One can gauge the scale and nature of violence from a harrowing video in circulation these days when Islamist fundamentalists are seen inspecting the genitals of a lynched man, and expressing happiness that he is a Hindu! The othering of Hindus was always normal in Bangladesh. But now, the genie of jihad, which Hasina had kept inside the bottle for 15 years, is out in the open. Unfortunately, at a time when the minorities of Bangladesh deserved care, empathy and support, there is a tendency, especially among Hindu 'liberals', to look the other way, if not completely discount their sufferings. One editor of a New Delhi-based website who carries an American passport, in an interview recently, dismissed the possibility of Hindus being attacked in Bangladesh. Ironically, the same gentleman is never tired of raising.



### MEA's proclivity for dry understatements, one can be reasonably certain that the situation is alarming

Bangladesh is in the throes of Islamist pogrom against minority Hindus, and our liberals are busy obfuscating reality. Members of the army clear an entrance of the Ganabhaban, the Bangladeshi prime minister's residence, a day after the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka on August 6, 2024. Reuters. What started as a students'-led 'liberation movement' in Bangladesh leading to Sheikh Hasina's ouster is in danger of losing its legitimacy before the eyes of the world as it appears to have been co-opted, appro-

priated and hijacked by Islamist fundamentalists who have utilised the ensuing chaos, turbulence, lawlessness and the lack of any governing authority to launch a genocidal campaign against the minority Hindu population. Ever since the Bangladesh prime minister was forced to flee, resulting in a power vacuum in the eighth-most populous country in the world, images, videos and accounts are streaming in of atrocities against the Hindu minority in Bangladesh, whose numbers have dangerously depleted over decades almost

to the point of extinction. The circumstances are so dire that even India's external affairs minister mentioned the issue during his statement in both Houses of the Parliament. S Jaishankar told the Parliament that attacks on police, including police stations and government installations are being carried out, "properties of individuals associated with the regime were torched across the country. What was particularly worrying was that minorities, their businesses and temples also came under attack at multiple locations. The full extent of this

is still not clear." He said India is "monitoring the situation with regard to the status of the minorities." Given MEA's proclivity for dry understatements, one can be reasonably certain that the situation is alarming. Led by radical Islamist groups such as the banned Jamaat-e-Islami and its various front organisations and entities, an ethnic cleansing of Hindus is under way across the length and breadth of the country. Hindu temples are being desecrated, business establishment and houses destroyed, torched.

## How Bangladesh crisis will truly test Indian diplomacy?



India's relationship with its neighbours have always been that of an affluent elder sibling whom the others love to hate. Among them Pakistan is probably the most straightforward as it is mostly hostile with little shade of grey. However, it is most complex in the case of Bangladesh whose birth India had mid-wifed but the kid sister refuses to acknowledge. That Bangladesh is encircled on three sides by India with a highly nebulous and porous border adds an additional layer. Its religious composition and obvious affinity to the Islamic world is a further dimension. Shared water resources demand a high level of cooperation.

Thus, in short, unlike other countries India cannot afford to look the other way from its internal developments. We are joined at the hips by an umbilical cord as it were. Thus successive governments have been carefully watching local developments in Bangladesh since its creation. However, a few questions arise after the August 5 denouement. Should India have been so heavily invested in Sheikh Hasina even when it was apparent that she was losing international support and ground was slipping from beneath her feet at home? Going with Sheikh Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh National Party (BNP) was not an option given her strong anti-India position and leanings towards radical Islamic elements. But could India not have cultivated other moderate politicians or silently promote potential successors to Sheikh Hasina within Awami League? It is

probably easier to find an answer to the first question. The very weaknesses and challenges that Sheikh Hasina faced made her dependent on India. She knew that no other country would stand by her the way India has over the years irrespective of which regime it was in Delhi. For India, there could not be a better bet than Hasina against its detractors notwithstanding her occasional flirtation with China for pure commercial expediency. More importantly, if India had to tackle cross border infiltration of 'Jihadi' assets only Hasina would help because she was afflicted by the same malaise. On this score India reciprocated by handing over to Sheikh Hasina many who were on the look out notice in Bangladesh including the killer of her father. With so much at stake India — especially the Modi government — which has been committed more than any government before it to tackling the menace of infiltration — could not afford to antagonise Sheikh Hasina by cultivating alternate leadership in her home. What it could have done, per-

haps, is work harder to convince Hasina to take a less rigid line to bring in the moderate elements from the opposition into her fold rather than go for a steamroller approach. Here, perhaps, there was an uncanny meeting of minds between the Modi-Shah and Hasina and over-confidence in a hardline strategy. Everyone would remember the not so veiled threats from the United States establishment to hand over the administration to an interim government for overseeing the elections or face consequences. She ignored the warnings and pressed on with the elections that her opposition boycotted to return with a walkover victory. One would assume she had the tacit support of India in her decision. Could India have prevailed on her to follow the US suggestion and would that have taken the heat off her will remain a matter of conjecture. It is also common knowledge that the United States was not entirely averse to the idea of a regime change in India though it could not have openly called for one. The counter-factual

question that is bound to arise, therefore, is whether the current events have escalated so dramatically had Narendra Modi returned with a larger majority even if not his dream number of "400 paar"? Here it is not difficult to resist the temptation of a flashback of August 15, 1975 when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated on a day when Indira Gandhi was unfurling the Indian Tricolour at the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of Indian Independence Day. Less than two months ago she had declared an Emergency in the country fearing a popular uprising and put opposition leaders behind bars and muzzled the media. There was no love lost between her and the United States — who were unhappy with her dismembering its vassal state Pakistan in 1971 creating Bangladesh and installing Sheikh Mujib as the prime minister. At that time Indira was firmly ensconced with the Soviet Union, which had used its veto power in the United Nations Security Council during the India Pakistan War in

1971. Is it possible that Indira was apprehending a similar destabilisation of the country and political overthrow? Finally she did have to relinquish power albeit through elections — which some believe she may have been nudged to call by a friend or foe. Though she returned to power after a hiatus it was not the same Mrs Gandhi one knew post 1971 and prior to 1975. It is ironic that some of her own have been seen to be supping with players of the same club in recent times. Bangladesh like many nations of its ilk is unfortunately fated to go through turbulent times but the implications of its descent to anarchy would have serious implications for India. Fortunately, political parties across the aisle realise the risks and unequivocally pledged their support to the government, who on its part have taken the opposition into confidence. But once the current crisis blows over some may not be beyond fishing Hilsa in the turbulent waters of the Padma river. Their visceral hatred for Narendra Modi has always been in public and they have found it difficult, or even necessary, to conceal their voyeuristic glee fantasising the prospects of a similar uprising in India and with a similar endgame. This is going to be a challenge that the Narendra Modi government would have to navigate with diplomatic deftness. India has always been a playground of big powers. Now the world is no longer bipolar but it is not multipolar or a Quad as yet. At best it is tri-polar. Seen to be leaning towards.

### Tarun Tahiliani was too busy dressing Bollywood

Team India's outfits for the Paris Olympics 2024 opening ceremony on 26 July were unveiled last week. And, the fashion gods are weeping. I am disappointed with Tarun Tahiliani, couturier to the stars. There's not a single detail I can appreciate in the designs. We're headed to the Olympics, not a school Independence Day programme. And I'm not the only one who thinks this way. On social media, people are calling out the outfits for their tackiness. India's sports women will wear saris, while the male athletes have a kurta bundi set—both displaying the Tricolour. But there's a way to wear patriotism with style, and this is not it. And, as if the designs were not enough to digest, I have a hard time believing that they were crafted by Tahiliani. Tarun Tahiliani is the fashion magician who dressed up Indian stars and even Kim Kardashian, for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding festivities. Is this the best

he could do for the Indian athletes? It seems like the designer poured all his time and effort into dressing celebrities and then hastily threw together the athletes' outfits as an afterthought. Honestly, this is worse than the bare minimum effort some men put into relationships. The men's kurta set is made from lightweight moss cotton, while the women's sari is viscose crepe paired with a high-neck blouse. "They are going to be wearing it for three hours. At 40 degrees Celsius, how to make them look good? So, we focused on cottons," Tahiliani told The Hindu. His lack of effort is evident in his statement—weather forecasts put the temperature in Paris at a high of 25 degrees Celsius and a low of 15 degrees Celsius on the day of the ceremony. Regardless, I'm all in for creating attire that's breezy, lightweight, and weather-appropriate. But it doesn't mean making our athletes look like they've escaped from a circus.

### The night of July 30 may have changed the West Asian region forever

The night of July 30 may have changed the West Asian region forever. On this fateful night, three strikes across three capitals in the region led to two key assassinations. Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh, who was in Tehran for the inauguration of Iran's newly elected president Masoud Pezeshkian, was assassinated in a targeted strike at his residence in a closely guarded area of Tehran. In Beirut, a precision airstrike took out senior Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur, who Israel had blamed for the missile attack in the occupied Golan Heights on July 27, which led to the death of 12 Israeli citizens. Elsewhere, in Baghdad, a missile attack by US forces targeted a base south of the city used by Iran-backed Iraqi Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), killing four members of the group. A day later, on 1 August, Israel claimed it had also eliminated Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif in an airstrike carried out in Khan Younis city in Gaza on July 13. Earlier, on July 20, Israeli fighter aircraft had targeted

the port city of Hodeidah in Yemen, which is controlled by the Houthis, setting a major oil storage dump on fire and killing six people. With Israel being blamed for all the strikes, the Gaza war, which has been oscillating between hopes of a ceasefire and continuing death and destruction, may have just crossed a critical threshold. It may no longer be possible to keep the conflict isolated to Gaza. This is especially relevant in view of Iran's announcement, after a brief military spat with Israel in April this year, that "the era of strategic patience is over" and that any Israeli assaults will be met with a "direct" response. Following the assassinations, the response was led by none other than Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was firm and clear about seeking revenge. The leader of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, also vowed severe retaliation against Israel. A strike by Iran and its allies thus seems inevitable; it is only a question of 'when' and 'how'. As the region awaits the inevitable, it may be relevant to

examine the military capabilities of each side to better understand how such strikes could unfold. **Military capabilities** Iran is the main protagonist in the anticipated strike. For years, it has relied on its proxies in the region to wage war on its behalf, but this time, it is likely to undertake a direct strike. As Iran and Israel are separated by almost 1,800 km, a ground war or "boots on the ground" is unlikely. Therefore, military power projection will be through stand-off weapon systems like drones and missiles. Regarding airpower, Iran has a poorly equipped and ageing fleet. Its air force comprises an array of aircraft, ranging from US-made F-14s to Chinese F-4s, F-5s, and F-7s, along with Russian Sukhoi and MiG-29s. Most estimates suggest a total of 330–350 aircraft. Although Iran has been asking Russia to supply Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, this is unlikely to materialise soon. It is Iran's missile technology, however, that is potent and lethal. Iran's array of missiles is the largest and most diverse in the region.



## Nitish Kumar launched a tirade in the state legislative assembly

A day after apologizing for his controversial birth control remarks, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched a tirade in the state legislative assembly against former ally Jitan Ram Manjhi, whom he had appointed to lead the state after the Janata Dal (United)'s poor 2014 Lok Sabha performance.

Nitish's heated interruption occurred during Manjhi's talk on the Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill, which would increase SC, ST, OBC, and OBC quotas in government positions and state-run schools from 50% to 65%. Inko idea? Ye galati hai jo iss aadmi ko humnein bana diya mukhya mantri. No sense, iska.



Aise bolted. Nitish: Nahi matlab. Has he any idea?

It was my fault for making him chief minister. His words make no sense. After repeating that he chose Manjhi to lead the state out of "murkhta" (stupidity), the chief minister said

that when he dissolved his 17-year coalition with the BJP in June 2013, he wanted him to stay with the party. "I started getting complaints two months after appointing him chief minister. However, he joined us in 2023. Send him to you

(BJP). JD(U) chief: Even his relatives are not with him. Nitish replied: "He (Manjhi) joined you (BJP) to become a governor" when BJP MLAs accused him of "insulting" a Dalit leader by calling him "tum" (you). Make him governor." "Chup raho (keep quiet)," Nitish

told Manjhi, who remained talking after his mike was off. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary then tried to soothe Nitish. As he left the Vidhan Sabha, Manjhi said that Nitish chose him as his successor because he dreaded resignation calls after the party's abysmal 2014 Lok Sabha performance. "But Nitish underestimated me.

He expected a rubber-stamp CM. Nitish Kumar and his followers had problems when I started making my own decisions, said Manjhi, the founder of the BJP-led NDA's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM).

## Mahayuti will not field a chief minister in Maharashtra



Delhi: A top BJP official claims that the Mahayuti will not field a chief minister in Maharashtra in the assembly elections and will claim at least 160 of 288 seats. Shiv Sena and NCP are furious with BJP's CM and seat count stance. After careful consideration, the BJP functionary decided not to nominate Mahayuti netas Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnis, or Ajit Pawar for CM. The functionary said the new CM will be chosen following the assembly elections. "BJP did not field a neta as CM in MP,

Rajasthan, or Chhattisgarh assembly elections. We want to follow the same method in Maharashtra," said the official. The BJP functionary stated the party will claim 160 seats under the seat-sharing system. We won't compromise on 160 seats. We will want this figure during discussions. Only after winning more than 100 seats can we seize the CM's post. "BJP recently said that its nominee would become CM if it wins the most seats. Shiv Sena, on the other hand, argued that Eknath Shinde will be

CM regardless of how many seats the Sena gets because the Mahayuti government was constituted under the banner of insurrection. "There will be no compromise on the post of CM, Shinde will continue as CM," Siddiqui stated. An NCP member claimed his party will seek 100 seats and Shiv Sena equal seats. In New Delhi, Union home minister Amit Shah will decide the seat-sharing formula. "NCP and Shiv Sena are demanding 100 seats each, we expect to settle for 80 seats each," the functionary added.

## Uttarakhand to ban Char Dham name misuse

Delhi: In light of the recent controversy over the proposed construction of a Kedarnath temple replica in Delhi, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami's cabinet introduced a strict law to prevent the misuse of Char Dham shrines and other prominent Uttarakhand temple names, reports Kautilya Singh. The law prohibits organizations and trusts from using the name of Uttarakhand's leading temple committee "as it may cause confusion among the



public." Some people or organizations are using the names of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath, and other top Uttarakhand temples. Names that are similar cause confusion, local hostility, and religious offense.

"The proposed law will prevent temple managers from misusing Char Dham or other prominent temple names," said CM secretary Shailesh Bagauli. Dhami lay the foundation stone for a Delhi Kedarnath temple, sparking controversy.

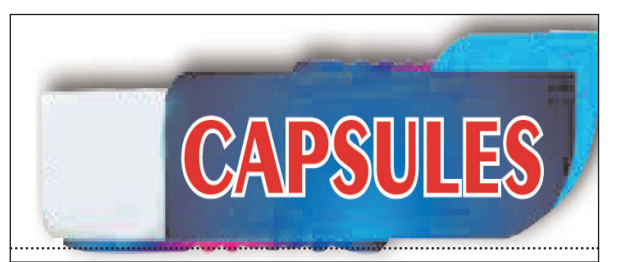
## Yogi govt to facilitate export of Kalanamak Rice to England after seven decades and for first time to USA

Lucknow Under the leadership of the Yogi government, England and United States of America will now experience the unique taste of Kalanamak rice. After nearly seven decades, this renowned rice variety will be exported to England and, for the first time, to US. The popularity of Kalanamak rice has surged since it was declared an OPOP by the state government. This year marks a significant milestone as 5 quintals of Kalanamak rice will be exported to England. In a similar vein, another 5 quintals will be exported to America for the first time. Prior to this, Kalanamak rice had already made its way to Nepal, Singapore, Germany, Dubai, and other countries. England has a historical fondness for the taste and aroma of Kalanamak rice. This tradition dates back about seven decades,

when British colonials had large farm houses across India. These farms were so prominent that they became landmarks, such as Birdghat and Campierganj. Siddharthnagar was also part of this trend, where the British cultivated Kalanamak rice extensively. They appreciated its unique flavor and fragrance, which commanded high prices in England. During that era, shiploads of Kalanamak rice were sent to England. However, following the abolition of the zamindari system about seven decades ago, this trade gradually declined and ultimately ceased after India gained independence. OPOP initiative boosts popularity of Kalanamak Rice. The popularity of Kalanamak rice has surged ever since the Yogi government declared it the One District One Product (ODOP).

## Udhayanidhi Stalin may become Deputy Chief Minister

Delhi: Sources told India that Tamil Nadu's DMK administration may make Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin Deputy Chief Minister. Like his father, MK Stalin, who became Deputy CM following the 2009 Lok Sabha elections. Udhayanidhi, DMK's youth wing leader and Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni MLA, became a minister in December 2022. Sources say Udhayanidhi was slated to be Deputy CM twice this year. DMK's intentions failed due to controversies. Due to the Sanatana Dharma issue and Kallakurichi hooch catastrophe, his appointment as Deputy CM was canceled in January. The Sanatana Dharma debate began in January when Udhayanidhi compared it to "malaria" and "dengue" and called for its eradication.



## CM-VNY to be monitored at state and local levels, aiming to boost urban contribution to a \$1 Trillion economy

Lucknow The Yogi government is optimistic about the 'Mukhyamantri Vaishwik Nagaroday Yojana' (CM-VNY), launched to boost the income of urban local bodies and enhance infrastructure. The government aims to integrate urban bodies into its vision for a \$1 trillion economy. To ensure transparency and timely completion, all projects and proposals within these bodies will be evaluated and monitored from the local to the state level. The Urban Development Department has initiated this scheme as a 'Mission to Movement,' expanding various existing schemes and missions across all urban local bodies in Uttar Pradesh, promoting comprehensive city development and increased revenue collection. The scheme will be overseen at the highest level by the Urban Development Minister, who will not only supervise but also guide its overall implementation. The State Level Governing Body will be chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary of the Urban Development Department, with the Director of Local Bodies serving as the Member Secretary. The committee will include secretaries from the Housing, Health, Energy, Basic Education, Finance, Women and Child Development, and PWD departments as well as the Director of C&DS. The Director of NIC will also participate in relevant projects, and special invitees may be included at the Chairperson's discretion. The State Program Monitoring Unit will operate under this body. The Technical Appraisal Committee will be chaired by the Director of Local Bodies, including the Chief Engineer, AD Accounts, Director C&DS, and PMU Representatives. This committee will also incorporate the State Program Monitoring Unit. In committees formed for Municipal Corporations, the Mayor will act as Chairperson, while the Municipal Commissioner will serve as Member Secretary and Convener. The DM, VC of the Development Authority, and an SE of PWD appointed by the Divisional Commissioner will be members. Projects will be approved by committees established at the civic body level under the 15th Finance Commission. For Nagar Palika Parishad and Nagar Panchayats, the DM will chair the committee, which will include the Executive Engineer, Executive Officer, Accounts Officer of the relevant body, and a nominee of the DM. The scheme aims to standardize urban infrastructure across the state while enhancing the contribution of urban local bodies toward achieving a \$1 trillion economy. Expected outcomes include increased revenue sources for urban local bodies, improved liveability indices in urban areas, and better infrastructure integration with master plans.

## "Haryana maange hisaab" asserts the state has the greatest unemployment

Delhi: After fighting the Lok Sabha election over price hikes and unemployment, the Congress is preparing to run in Haryana on similar issues. The party's slogan "Haryana maange hisaab" asserts the state has the greatest unemployment, price rises, and crime rates. "Unemployment, price hikes, and law and order will dominate our

campaign. Over two lakh government department seats are unfilled. Former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda says more than 30 test papers have been leaked and unemployment is 37.4%. Haryana has the third-highest kidnapping rate in the country despite having the greatest law and order issues,

according to the Social Progress Index. Following Rahul Gandhi's two marches, Lok Sabha MP Deepender Hooda began a "Haryana maange hisaab" padyatra (foot march) on Sunday as a prelude to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Gandhi's main campaign closer to the elections.

## Joshimath's derailed hydropower facility obtains NDMA approval

Delhi: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), under the Union ministry of home affairs, said "it has no objection to Uttarakhand govt permitting NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) to restart construction at Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project site" after subsidence in Joshimath town in January 2023. The Uttarakhand government halted all activities at NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad project after soil subsidence in Joshimath made hundreds of homes uninhabitable and forced 1,000 people to flee

owing to enlarged fractures. After this, NDMA formed a group of multi-institutional expert organizations to immediately assess the hazard and damage, study the causes and contributory factors, and conduct a comprehensive, in-depth multi-disciplinary investigation into subsidence and its causes. NDMA reported to HC that specialists have given numerous reasons for the soil subsidence. The most prevalent being that unregulated construction in the town impeded natural water flow from Auli to Joshimath.

## The world recognized the unwavering valour and bravery of Indian soldiers during the Kargil War: CM Yogi

Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Friday that the world recognized the indomitable valour and courage of Indian soldiers during the Kargil War. Speaking at the 'Silver Jubilee Celebration' marking the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas at Surya Auditorium, Central Command, Cantt, Yogi remarked that the Kargil War was imposed on India. "Pakistan had covertly infiltrated Kashmir, imposing war on India. However, the outcome of the war

was determined by our brave soldiers. Despite facing adverse circumstances, no enemy could stand against the valour of our soldiers." The CM further stated, "I take immense pride in honouring the courageous women and families who have lost their loved ones in the Kargil War." He emphasized that India's global identity is not that of a country that forcefully monopolizes. CM Yogi highlighted that Indian tradition holds, "Shastrena Rakshite Rashtre Shastra Chinta Pravartate," meaning

that contemplation of 'shaashtra' (scriptures) is possible only in a nation safeguarded by arms. He remarked, "Even when India was a global leader in strength, intelligence, and knowledge, we never initiated aggression. However, when invaders dared to disrupt our peace and goodwill, our brave soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the motherland." CM Yogi stated that the state government consistently supports the brave soldiers who defend the country's borders.

He mentioned that if a soldier is martyred in battle or while safeguarding the border, the state government provides Rs 50 lakh in assistance. to their family. Additionally, employment is guaranteed for one family member. Since 2017, the government has also committed to honouring the memory of martyred soldiers by naming a grand memorial, institute, or road after them in their village, city, or town. CM Yogi remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi .



## Instead of fulfilling the expectations of the people, BJP showered lathis: Jadoula

**Kaithal:** Senior Congress leader and former Chief Parliamentary Secretary Sultan Singh Jadoula, under the pledge of Congress' Hath Se Hath Jodo Abhiyan, exposed the anti-people policies of the current BJP government by publicizing the Congress's announcements in several villages of the constituency. While interacting with the villagers, Jadoula said that every Haryanvi will be connected with brotherhood, every farmer will be connected with the guarantee of MSP, employees will be connected with OPS, the elderly will be connected with a pension of Rs 6000 per month, every housewife will be connected with a cheap cylinder of Rs 500, all families will be connected with 300 units of free electricity and poor families will be connected with free plots of 100 yards each and all the announcements will be implemented with the first stroke of the pen as

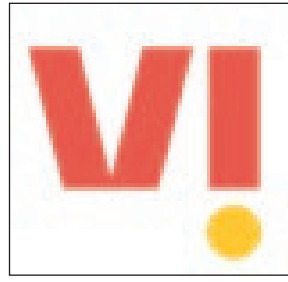


soon as the Hooda government is formed. Former MLA Sultan Jadoula alleged that playing with the future of educated youth, paper leak in the name of recruitment, recruitment cancellation, recruitment being delayed in court, making youth run around courts, this is the report card of 10 years of BJP. BJP government first cheated the youth in the name of CET, cancelled every recruitment in the name of CET and then made such rules which could not even stand in court. It is clear from the decision of the Supreme Court that the BJP government deliberately left such loop holes in the recruitment rules

and process so that it could get an excuse for not making recruitment. Haryana is the only BJP government in the country which is not able to properly defend even the rules made by itself in the court. Congress leader Jadoula said that instead of fulfilling the expectations of the people, the BJP government harassed them and showered lathis on them. Papers are being leaked every day. Due to this, the future of the youth of the country is being played with. The youth of the state are migrating to foreign countries due to rising unemployment. He said that the BJP government lathicharged the farmers who were protesting for their demands in the Kisan Andolan and in the arrangement of power, the government tortured the Sarpanchs, Anganwadi workers, Asha workers and employees, the consequences of which will have to be paid in the assembly elections to be held this year.

## Vi Engages with Samsung for 4G-5G Radio Network

**GURUGRAM / HISAR :** Leading telecom operator Vi has been in an active discussion with Samsung on the new technologies, such as virtualized Radio Access Network (vRAN) solution for its 4G and 5G deployments. With an objective to expand Vi's 4G footprint and introduce 5G, Vi and Samsung have been engaged for the last 12-18 months on network trials in Chennai, India. Further to the encouraging trial response and at par performance with incumbent suppliers, Vi has extended Samsung deployments in Karnataka and Bihar circles. These setups have enabled Vi to fulfil its 5G Minimum Rollout Obligation (MRO)



in these three circles (Chennai, Karnataka and Bihar) with NSA vRAN architecture. Vi is committed to expand its collaboration with Samsung for the vRAN solution and to harness the cloud benefits in the RAN domain. This unique blend of traditional RAN deployments and new technologies and architecture with better performance and customer experience. Commenting on the

deployment, Jagbir Singh, Chief Technical Officer, Vodafone Idea Limited said, "We are proud to demonstrate our leadership in next-generation radio solutions (vRAN) that can deliver enhanced experience to our customers with better TCO. This vRAN deployment, delivered through Samsung's innovation and joint technological strategic initiatives, is in sync with our technology transformation roadmap and enriched vendor ecosystem. We see a major role ahead for hybrid architecture in delivering the network enhanced capabilities that will push new dimensions in radio architecture."

## Bournvita and Other Drinks Will No Longer Be Listed as "Health Drinks"

**Delhi ; The Central Government** ordered all e-commerce sites to remove all so-called drinks and beverages, including the well-known milk supplement Bournvita, from the 'healthy drinks' category, dealing a severe blow to fitness drink businesses. The National Commission

for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) undertook an investigation and came to the conclusion that the FSS Act of 2006 did not specify a health drink, thus the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued the order. "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR), a

statutory body constituted under Section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no 'health drink' defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI.

## Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

**Delhi:** To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2023-24, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. "We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the



government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request.

MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to

reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road

maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites.

## One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

**Delhi:** Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Special Housing Scheme units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered



agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until

RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated

to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets.

## HDFC Bank Empowers MSMEs with Special Knowledge

**AMBALA/HISAR,** June 26, 2024: Ahead of World MSME Day today, HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, started an exclusive campaign for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to provide an impetus to businesses in deeper geographies. The campaign aims to spread awareness on various banking products and services, government policies for MSMEs and encourage them to adopt digitisation in their business dealings. As part of the campaign, the Bank will be providing a host of offers on working capital loans, business loans, business cards, trade services and Dukandar Overdraft. The Bank will also run virtual and on-the-ground knowledge sessions in partnership with HDFC SKY, HDFC ERGO, Niva Bupa General Insurance, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, and Aditya Birla General Insurance, among others. The sessions, which are themed around digital



transformation of businesses, will happen in the following 15 cities: Indore, Surat, Roorkee, Nashik, Ludhiana, Raipur, Dehradun, Coimbatore, Varanasi, Vizag, Patna, Nagpur, Kanpur, Hubballi, and Guwahati where over 1,000 small and medium businesses will be invited. On the occasion, the Bank has released a special film thanking MSMEs for trusting HDFC Bank as their banking partner. Mr. Rahul Shyam Shukla, Group Head - Commercial and Rural Banking (CRB), HDFC Bank said, "MSME entrepreneurs, through their perseverance and enterprise, play a strong role in shaping India's economic growth trajectory. HDFC Bank recognises their contribution to GDP, exports and most importantly, employment creation.

A large number of micro enterprises do not apply for credit despite being eligible for loans due to lack of access to information. We continue to address MSMEs' financial needs by providing services in over 700 districts, extending education on a variety of government schemes, and by going beyond the usual assessment criteria like firm size, value added, access to trade credit, among others, to specifically address their needs." As of 31st March, 2024, the Bank's distribution network stands at 8,738 branches and 20,938 ATMs across 4,065 cities/towns. A total of 52% of the branches are in semi-urban and rural areas, along with 15,182 business correspondents, which are primarily manned by Common Service Centres.

## One-liner satires are becoming popular in India too : Acharya Rajesh

**Chandigarh:** An online seminar on the one-liner satire genre was organized today by Samvad Sahitya Manch. Speaking as the chief guest, senior satirist Acharya Rajesh Kumar said that in view of the demand of the time, one-liner satire is becoming popular in India too. Recently, he has edited a book titled 'Dekhan Mein Chhote Lage'. The publisher of the book, Sushil Swatantrata, said that his publication will continue to contribute to the satire genre. The program was conducted by the Forum's General Secretary Dr. Neeru Mittal 'Neer'. While introducing the guests and expressing his views on the book, he said that



these satires are small in appearance but sharp and serious in thoughts. Senior litterateur and Forum President Prem Vij, while welcoming, said that it is necessary to have satire in every discipline related to satire.

Famous writer Prabhat Goswami said that satire should be on ideas, not on people. Famous litterateur Harish Kumar Singh said that every form of satire delights the reader. Famous poet Ranavijay Rao said that now one-

liner satire is also being discussed. Dr. Vinod Sharma said that this art of satire will soon become popular. Dr. Sarita Mehta, Tarinder Kaur, Bimla Guglani, Dr. Pragya Sharda also expressed their views.

## Currency circulation increases despite 2k note ban

**Delhi:** Despite the elimination of Rs 2,000 banknotes, the currency in circulation increased by Rs 1.3 lakh crore in FY24 from Rs 33.5 lakh crore at the end of March 2023 to Rs 34.8 lakh crore. Growth has slowed the most since 2018. In FY24, currency in circulation as a proportion of GDP fell since 4% is slower than GDP growth. CIC grew 7% last year and over 10% the year before due to a pandemic cash rush. Currency in circulation grew 0.5% to Rs 35.3 lakh crore in the week ended April 5. RBI data shows that the increased issue of Rs 500 notes has more than offset the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes. ON May 19, 2023, RBI announced their withdrawal. In March 2024, Rs 2,000 notes were worth Rs 8,202 crore, down from Rs 3.6 lakh crore a year earlier. The value of Rs 500 notes rose to Rs 30.1 lakh crore from 25.8 lakh crore a year before.

CAPSULES

## A warning against bogus syllabuses and sample question papers is released by CBSE

**Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a warning alert informing parents and students to be wary of false information pertaining to the curriculum, study guides, and practice exams for the 2024-25 school year. The Board has issued a warning to pupils about the dangers of falling for online scams that spread false information. We've noticed that some websites and online portals are disseminating stale information and unreliable updates about curriculum, sample question papers, CBSE resources, and activities. The alert said, "These links and news erroneously assert to offer up-to-date information for the session 2024-25. "In the interest of the public, we wish to emphasize that information from unauthorized sources can be misleading and may cause unnecessary confusion among schools, students, parents, and other stakeholders," it continued. Due to significant discrepancies between theory and practical scores in a few courses, CBSE has recently instructed schools to assess practical exams appropriately. In a notification, the CBSE said that, based on data from prior years' results, it had used sophisticated AI techniques to identify significant disparities between theory and practical grades in specific courses among 50% or more students in about 500 CBSE-affiliated schools. In the meantime, the July 15th date of the CBSE supplementary examinations for Classes 10 and 12 has been set. The Class 12 supplementary test will take place on a single day, July 15, while the Class 10 CBSE supplemental exam 2024 .



## Digital competition bill next year

**Delhi:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) formed a Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL) to assess the necessity for a digital market competition law. After a year of consideration, the CDCL decided to add an ex-ante framework to the Competition Act, 2002's ex-post structure. This framework was included in the draft Digital Competition Bill. The Competition Act, 2002 is the main law against anti-competitive conduct. Competition Commission of India (CCI) becomes national anti-competitive regulator. The Competition Act, 2002 is ex-post, like all other competition laws. The CCI can only enforce anti-competitive behaviour after it has occurred. The CDCL favors ex-ante competition regulation for digital markets. They want the CCI's enforcement powers expanded to prevent digital firms from engaging in anti-



competitive behavior. Ex-ante competition regulation is rare. Only the EU has a complete ex-ante competition regime under the Digital Markets Act. Digital marketplaces' particular qualities support this strategy, according to the CDCL. First, digital firms benefit from economies of scale and scope, which lower manufacturing costs per unit and overall expenses per service.

This helps businesses develop faster than traditional market participants. Second, network effects boost digital service utility as user numbers rise. Given that markets can swing rapidly and irrevocably in favor of incumbents, the existing system allowed

violating parties to escape examination by taking time. Thus, the CDCL supports preventative responsibilities to enhance ex-post fact enforcement. The draft Bill follows the EU's Digital Markets Act. It merely requires "dominant" digital market segment players to be regulated. Ten 'core digital services'—search engines, social media, video sharing platforms, etc.—are listed in the draft Bill. The draft Bill sets quantitative benchmarks for the CCI to determine digital enterprise dominance. The 'significant financial strength' test weighs financial characteristics, whereas the 'significant spread' test considers Indian users.

## This week, 13 companies will launch IPOs to raise Rs 8,644 cr

**Delhi:** This week, four companies, including Bajaj Housing Finance, will launch IPOs to raise Rs 8,390 crore. In addition to these four main-board IPOs, nine SMEs will launch their first public offerings this week, seeking Rs 254 crore. These 13 firms want to raise Rs 8,644 crore via IPO. IPO markets will be busy in the next two weeks. Among the four main-board IPOs are Bajaj Housing Finance, which is anticipated to raise Rs 6,560 crore, P N Gadgil Jewellers, Kross Ltd., and Tolins Tyres. Financial data in the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP) must be less than six months



old at IPO, per Sebi. September is the last month corporations can utilize FY24 financials to IPO. Bajaj Housing Finance, Kross Ltd., and Tolins Tyres will commence share sales on September 9 and close on September 11, while P N Gadgil Jewellers will open on September 10 and close on September 12. On September 16, Arkade Developers and Western Carriers India may also go public. This year has seen over 50 main-board IPOs and one Vodafone Idea FPO. The Shree Tirupati Balajee Agro Trading Company IPO is underway, and Bazaar Style Retail and Gala Precision Engineering IPOs closed this month. In August, 10 compa-

## Will GST cover petrol and diesel?

**Delhi:** Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre wants to include petrol and diesel in GST and states can decide. As introduced by previous finance minister Arun Jaitley, the GST aims to include petrol and diesel "Sitharaman after the meeting. The states must decide and collaborate to include petrol and diesel

### PUMP PRICES TO DROP

Price Build-Up in Delhi (Nov 1, 2021)	Value (Rs/litre)	
Elements	Petrol	Diesel
Base price	47.28	49.36
Freight etc	0.30	0.28
Price to dealers (excl excise, VAT)	47.58	49.64
Excise duty	32.90	31.80
	<b>27.90</b>	<b>21.80</b>
Dealer commission	3.9	2.61
VAT (incl VAT on dealer commission)	25.31	14.37
Retail price	109.69	98.42
Expected pump price drop (Rs/litre)	6.07	11.16

in GST. The Central Government wants fuel and diesel included in GST, she said.

## CAPSULES

### Lower insurance GST may not benefit buyers

**Delhi:** States anticipate to resolve the high GST on health and life insurance complaints, but they worry that insurers may not pass on the lower fee to consumers without an anti-profiteering authority. Lower life insurance charges aren't a major worry for most state finance ministers. Beyond revenue loss, health insurance is the actual issue. "Officials have come up with multiple options and we will try to decide on something that is in the interest of consumers, but the fear is that companies may not share

#### No Anti-Profiteering Body

- > States point to the absence of an anti-profiteering body
- > They feel insurance companies may pocket benefit of lower GST on health and life covers
- > Insurers have significantly raised premium since Covid-19 outbreak, citing higher claims
- > Insurers have not offered any concession to customers, although Covid-related claims have come down

the benefit with those who purchase medical insurance," a finance minister. Another minister stated that given the public mood, ministers would try to find a mechanism that lessens the burden on consumers and ensures that firms, which have dramatically raised premiums since Covid due to greater claims, do not pocket the gain. Despite lower Covid-related claims, insurers have not provided clients any concessions, citing adverse claims ratio and loss of money on health covers.

## Reliance forms JV with Israeli apparel company Delta Galil to make innerwear: Report

**Delhi:** Reliance has entered into a 50:50 joint venture with Delta Galil, an Israeli apparel company known for its global innerwear brands, to manufacture and sell lingerie products in India. This move positions them as direct competitors to Page Industries, the current market leader with brands like Jockey and Speedo. According to a report in , Delta Galil holds licenses for renowned brands such as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfifer, and Columbia, and has recently partnered with Adidas and Polo Ralph Lauren. According to an official familiar with the development, "The Indian 50:50 JV will make lingerie for existing Reliance brands and



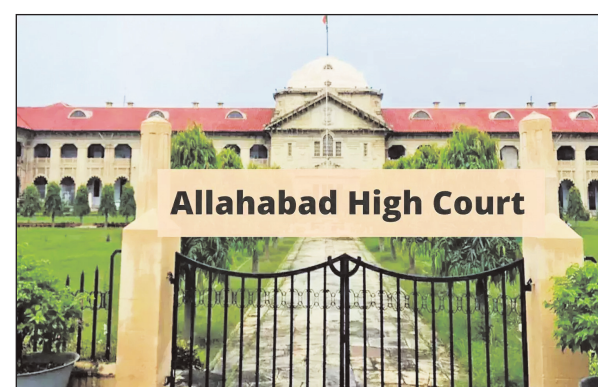
will also bring Delta's global portfolio of its own brands such as 7 For All Mankind and Necessities." Established in 1975, Delta Galil has three R&D centers focusing on fabric innovation, performance socks, and bras in Israel, Oregon, and China, respective-

ly. The company also possesses a significant intellectual property portfolio, including seven registered patents, 12 pending patents, and eight active tech trademarks. Reliance has been expanding its presence in the lingerie market by acquiring retailers

and brands such as Clovia, Zivame, and Amante, which collectively generated sales exceeding Rs 2,000 crore in FY24. The company also offers its private label brand through Reliance Trends and has joint ventures with Marks & Spencers and Hunkemoller International. The innerwear segment in India has experienced substantial growth over the past decade, reaching a market size of Rs61,091 crore in 2023, according to Wazir Advisors. The category is projected to reach Rs75,466 crore by 2025, with women's inner and comfort wear holding a 60% share, followed by men's at 30%.

## Poker and rummy are skill games, not gambling, rules Allahabad high court

**Delhi:** A division bench, consisting of Justice Shekhar B Saraf and Justice Manjive Shukla, ruled on M/S Dm Gaming Pvt Ltd.'s writ petition, "We believe the officer should investigate the issue after reviewing the apex court and high court judgments. The Allahabad high court ruled that poker and rummy are skill games, not gambling, and ordered the authorities to reconsider their license decision. studying the apex court and high court rulings on the matter. Denial of



authorization based on the officer's clairvoyance is unsustainable. To refuse recreational gaming approval, the officer must present hard evidence. Play poker and rummy at Sunit. The petitioner M/S Dm gaming Pvt Ltd was denied a license to run a gambling unit that would play poker and rummy by the deputy commissioner of police (DCP), City Commissionerate, Agra.

## Adani establishes unit as co maintains Kenyan airport runway despite protests



**Delhi:** Adani Enterprises created a Kenyan firm to buy and administer an airport as part of its global expansion. The newly founded Airports Infrastructure plans to run Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. I give solid counsel, not tips. Global Airports Operator, Adani's Abu Dhabi affiliate, is managing this initiative. The business plans to spend \$750 million by 2029 on a new terminal and

taxiway system and \$92 million by 2035 on renovations. If successful, Adani will open its first airport outside India, where it operates six. Our Wealthline is 92345 Know More Kenya's transport workers protested the move, fearing job losses. Kenya's agreement with India's Adani Group to expand and run the airport worries the union.

taxiway system and \$92 million by 2035 on renovations. If successful, Adani will open its first airport outside India, where it operates six. Our Wealthline is 92345 Know More Kenya's transport workers protested the move, fearing job losses. Kenya's agreement with India's Adani Group to expand and run the airport worries the union.

## BookMyShow may face stiff competition from Zomato

**Delhi:** Book MyShow, the market leader, will face competition from Zomato's acquisition of Paytm's movies and ticketing company. Industry observers say Zomato Entertainment, where it is investing Rs 100 crore, wants to expand its live events and ticketing services. Analysts are optimistic about Zomato's success in live events

and ticketing despite BookMyShow's domination because the company has previously succeeded in synergies with its other businesses.

Zomato bought Blinkit and turned it around despite Swiggy Instamart and Zepto's early beginnings. Zomato's core proposition is food, but they've done well in rapid com-

merce. "If they acquire Paytm Insider and execute well with superior customer experience, they can coexist with BookMyShow," Karan Taurani, senior vice president and research analyst, Elara Capital, told Fe. BookMyShow thrives at ticketing, but Zomato wants to offer a fuller "going out" experience.

## Road safety efforts a failure: Transport minister Nitin Gadkari

**Delhi:** Dismayed at the large number of fatalities in the country due to road accidents, transport minister Nitin Gadkari called it's a continuance of "failure" for govt, which has been fuelled by lack of respect for rules by motorists and pedestrians. "This is a dark issue for my ministry. We are trying our level best but not getting

success. This is one of our failures," Gadkari said.

He said around 1.7 lakh people died in around five lakh road accidents, with 66% of them in the age group of 18-36 years. "Our target was to reduce accidents by 50%.

However, we feel there is a problem with society. There is neither fear, nor respect for law."

## Yogi govt to form a Technical Project Management Unit for revamping Basic and Secondary schools

### Lucknow

**In alignment** with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision for educational reform, the modernization of basic and secondary schools in Uttar Pradesh is advancing rapidly, with a strong emphasis on integrating cutting-edge technology. As part of this initiative, the government is set to implement smart classroom setups across schools.

To facilitate this, a Technical Project Management Unit will soon be established. The Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Limited (UPLC) has been tasked with overseeing this initiative, and the process has already commenced. To equip the state's basic and secondary schools with smart classrooms and e-learning systems, various components, including inter-

active boards, displays, and advanced audio-visual setups, will be installed and operated. A Technical Project Management Unit (TPMU) will be established to oversee the project. Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Limited (UPLC) will select a pre-empanelled agency to handle the task, and this selection process is already underway. Once the agency is

finalized, the TPMU will coordinate efforts between UPLC and the Basic and Secondary Education Departments to implement smart class infrastructure across the state's schools. The first step will be the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) by TPMU, outlining the plan to equip schools with smart class and e-learning systems, in collaboration with UPLC.



## Maruti Suzuki launches the Epic New Swift S-CNG; most fuel-efficient hatchback in its segment

**FARIDABAD / SONIPAT :** Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) today launched the S-CNG variant of the Epic New Swift. This exciting addition to the iconic Swift lineup seamlessly blends its style, performance, and cutting-edge features with an unmatched fuel-efficiency of 32.85 km/kg#. With this, the new Swift S-CNG cements its position as India's most fuel-efficient premium hatchback in its segment. The newly launched Swift is being appreciated for its distinct design, underscored by its bold wraparound character line, which lends it a sporty identity in the premium hatchback segment. The Swift S-CNG continues to uphold this distinct sporty character. Complemented by the Z-series Dual VVT engine it emits low CO2 and delivers



an impressive maximum torque of 101.8 Nm @ 2900 rpm for better city driving. To better cater to diverse customer preferences, the Swift S-CNG is now offered in three variants: V, V(O), and Z, up from two in the previous generation. Each of these trims is equipped with a 5-speed manual gearbox. Maruti Suzuki Swift CNG VXi is Priced at Rs. 8,19,000, while the VXi (O) variant is available at Rs. 8,46,500 and the ZXi model is offered at the cost of at Rs. 9,19,500. Announcing the introduction of Epic New Swift S-CNG, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing and Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "The Swift brand has always been synonymous with spirited performance and iconic style. With the launch of the Epic New Swift S-CNG, we are not just expanding its rich legacy but taking it to new heights. Powered by our all-new Z-series engine, it delivers remark-

## TATA.ev celebrates 'Festival of Cars' with amazing prices on EVs

**GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD :** TATA.ev, the pioneer of India's electric mobility revolution, has announced never-before prices on its bestselling models, Tiago.ev, Punch.ev and Nexon.ev, as part of its 'Festival of Cars' celebrations. Focused on making EVs more accessible to mainstream customers, prices have been reduced by up to ₹3 lakh for the Nexon.ev and up to ₹1.20 lakh for the Punch.ev. TATA.ev has been passing on the benefits of localization and technology improvements to customers, and has been able to bring ICE price parity with



## Encephalitis controlled in just two years through willpower- CM Yogi

**Lucknow** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasized on Friday that eastern Uttar Pradesh is now free from encephalitis, with the death toll reduced to zero. "This achievement has been made possible through unwavering determination and the collective

support of everyone involved, something that was once thought impossible," he remarked. Addressing the fourth Foundation Day celebration of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, CM Yogi recalled that five years

ago, the region was plagued by encephalitis, with an annual death toll ranging from 1,200 to 1,500 between July and November, and Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College alone accounting for 500 to 700 deaths. He highlighted that this crisis persisted for 40 years.

## Bayer launches ForwardFarm in India to demonstrate positive effects of regenerative agriculture

**Panipat :** Bayer has launched its global initiative, 'Bayer ForwardFarming', in India. This is the newest of 29 ForwardFarms worldwide. Each ForwardFarm serves as a beacon of sustainable agricultural practices, providing a platform for farmers, researchers, and stakeholders to collaborate and share knowledge. The Bayer ForwardFarm in India will demonstrate innovative farming techniques tailored to the needs of 150~ million small-holder farmers in the country, with a particular focus on sustainable rice cultivation, thus promoting the transition towards regenerative agriculture. Natasha Santos, Head of Sustainability & Strategic



Engagements at Bayer, stated, "Creating value for farmers is at the heart of what we do. We are excited to bring Bayer ForwardFarming to India, a country that is pivotal to global food security. By supporting and empowering local farmers, we aim to enhance agri-

cultural productivity and sustainability, increasing food security for all." **Direct Seeded Rice: A Comprehensive Approach to Regenerative Agriculture** For Bayer, regenerative agriculture is an outcome-based crop production model with

improving soil health at its core. Strengthening resilience is a key objective, alongside mitigating climate change, maintaining or restoring biodiversity, conserving water, and increasing yields. Ultimately, the combination of regenerative practices aims to improve the economic and social well-being of farmers and their communities. The potential of regenerative agriculture in India is particularly high in rice cultivation given its role as the world's second largest producer of rice.

The need to shape an economically viable and sustainable rice cultivation system has never been more pressing.

## CM Yogi hails renaming of Port Blair to Shri Vijaya Puram as a historic milestone

**Lucknow** The central government made a significant decision on Friday, renaming Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, to Shri Vijaya Puram. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed this move as 'historic,' stating that it resonates with the sentiments of 140 crore Indians. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), CM Yogi wrote, "Renaming Port Blair as 'Shri Vijaya Puram' under

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi aligns with the sentiments of 140 crore Indians. This historic step, advancing the Prime Minister's vision of freeing the country from all remnants of colonial rule, is a unified tribute from the entire nation to the martyrs and freedom fighters of India's independence movement." He further added, "The name 'Shri Vijaya Puram',

symbolizing the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' pivotal role in the freedom struggle, reconnects us with the sacred memories of India's glorious past and the sacrifices of legendary figures like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and 'Swatantryaveer' Veer Savarkar. Heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister for this decision during Amrit Kaal, and congratulations to the people of India."

## HDFC Bank Signs MoU with Indian Coast Guard

**HISAR/AMBALA:** HDFC Bank Ltd., India's leading private sector Bank today renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Coast Guard to offer salary and pension accounts to its personnel. An MoU was signed in 2022 and it has now



been extended with additional benefits. The MoU was signed by Mr. Harmanpreet Singh Khanna, Head - Strategic Affairs & Central Government Business - HDFC Bank and Mr. Narendra Singh, Deputy Inspector General - Indian Coast Guard in presence of Mr. Arun Mediratta, Branch Banking Head, North - HDFC Bank and other esteemed dignitaries from Indian Coast Guard and HDFC Bank. As a part of this MoU, Indian Coast Guard personnel will get access to HDFC Bank's suite of

products and services along with digital banking products, offering them convenience and easy access. This will benefit over 14,000 Indian Coast Guard personnel and their families. Indian Coast Guard personnel having account with HDFC Bank will be able to avail a host of additional benefits including: Personal Accidental Death cover of up to Rs. 80 Lakhs Permanent Total/Partial Accidental Disability cover up to Rs. 80 Lakhs. Education Benefit of up to 5 Lakhs for dependent child.

## MDB Group Redefines the Concept of Luxury Living and Lifestyle

**KRUKSHETRA / PANIPAT :** MDB Group, renowned for setting benchmarks in luxury real estate across the Tricity, Patiala, Sangrur, and Dirba, has once again demonstrated its commitment to excellence through a spectacular event that set new standards in honoring channel partners and offering luxury experiences. The founders of MDB Group, Mr. Surinder Bansal and Mr. Pankaj Bansal, offered their esteemed channel partners an exclusive helicopter ride from 'The Elysium' to 'GD Villa.' This unique initiative not only showcased the deep respect of the Bansal family towards their partners but also marked the begin-



ning of a day filled with grand celebrations, a connection to tradition, and a redefined sense of luxury. Upon landing, Mr. Surinder Bansal and Mrs. Sophia Bansal, along with their channel partners, received a warm welcome at their ancestral village, reflecting MDB Group's unique philosophy of blending tradition with modern luxury.

The event was organized with the belief that luxury is not just a word but a

feeling embodied in experiences that connect and elevate people. The program turned into a cultural celebration with various activities, joy, and an outstanding performance by the renowned Punjabi singer Kanwar Grewal. MDB Group is a dynamic and rapidly growing real estate developer established in 2012, focusing primarily on residential and commercial properties, including plots, flats, and open street markets.

## As hundreds of Chinese items lose tax exclusions

**Delhi:** Recently, the US has banned, restricted, or imposed high taxes on hundreds of Chinese imports to stimulate domestic production and reduce dependence on Chinese commodities. The USTR has already added tariffs to half of 429 items. The USTR excluded further duties from the "Section 301" probe of China's technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation measures in previous announcements. The current 429 product-specific exclusions (352 reinstated and 77 COVID-related) expire on May 31, 2024. The US trade agency declared a 14-day transition period for all current exclusions until June 14, 2024, and to "extend certain exclusions through May 31, 2025" in a new notice. "To allow for a transition period, the US Trade Representative is extending all currently expiring exclusions

through June 14, 2024," it stated. Chinese motors and medical equipment are excluded until May 2025. The USTR ruled that "extending these exclusions will support efforts to shift sourcing out of China, or provide additional time where, despite efforts to source products from alternative sources, availability of the product outside of China remains limited". Last March, the USTR reinstated some "Section 301" tariff exceptions for Chinese goods. Former President Donald Trump began a trade war with China and imposed tariffs on nearly \$300 billion in Chinese goods, invoking Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Trump granted product tariff exclusions. for select businesses to help them. Last week, US President Joe Biden quadrupled tariffs on Chinese electric cars (EVs) and.