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## 'People feel judiciary lacks sensitivity': Murmu flags major challenges facing the courts

**NEW DELHI:** President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday recognised the Supreme Court's invaluable contribution as a "vigilant sentinel" of the judicial system of the world's largest democracy, but noted that a lot remains to be done especially when it comes to pendency and backlog of cases. Speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference of District Judiciary, organised by the SC, the President said: "Indian jurisprudence has a very respectable place because of the Supreme Court. In the 75 years since its establishment, the Supreme Court has organised many programs that have increased people's trust and attachment towards our judicial system." "The feeling of faith and reverence towards justice has been a part of our tradition. People consider every judge in the country as God. Every judge and judicial officer of our country



### Taliban appeals for 'engagement' after passing draconian morality

"Engagement is the only way that plays an important role in resolving challenges and expanding relations. Countries and international organizations should engage positively with the Islamic Emirate," Taliban official said. Taliban appeals for 'engagement' after passing draconian morality law. Taliban enforces new restrictions on women's in Afghanistan. and promptness and at a low cost is the basis of the success of our judiciary," said the President, who also unveiled the flag and insignia of the Supreme Court on the occasion. While noting that in recent years there have been significant improvements in the availability of infrastructure, facilities, training and human

resources of the judiciary at the district level, the President highlighted that pendency and backlog of cases is a big challenge before the judiciary. She stressed the need to ponder upon the serious issue of cases remaining pending for as long as over 32 years. The President emphasised that programme.

### Shivaji statue collapse: MVA leaders lead 'jode maro' protest in Mumbai

**Mumbai:** The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Sunday held a protest march in Mumbai over the collapse of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district. NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, party leaders Aaditya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut, along with Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, also participated in the march.

## 'Watching as mute spectator': Rahul attacks BJP after mob violence on beef suspicion

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the BJP government for its alleged inaction in the face of escalating violence against minority communities, especially Muslims. Rahul, sharing screenshots and videos of the two incidents, condemned what he described as a "reign of fear" being spread across the country. He accused the BJP government of enabling such violence by failing to act decisively against the perpetrators. "These miscreants have got free hand from the BJP government, that is why they have got the courage to do this. Attacks on minorities, especially Muslims, are continuing and the government machinery is watching as a mute spectator," Rahul said in a post. Rahul called for the strictest action to be taken against those responsible, framing the attacks as a direct challenge to India's communal unity and the principles enshrined in its Constitution. "Strict and



### North India likely to see heavy rainfall in September, cautions IMD

**NEW DELHI:** Continuing its August trend, monsoon rainfall in most parts of the country in Sept is likely to be 'above normal', with some states, including Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and parts of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, expecting extremely heavy rainfall that could lead to floods and landslides, India Meteorological Department said Saturday. India reported 16% more than 'normal' rainfall in Aug, the fifth highest

in the month since 2001 and 29th highest since 1901. Good rains (287mm) in Aug, however, could not bring down the overall temperature during the month as it reported the highest average minimum temperature and fourth-highest average mean temperature since 1901. India records 16% more than normal rainfall in August, fifth highest in the month since 2001, Sept may get above normal rains. severe action must be taken against such anarchic elements to uphold the rule of law. Any attack on India's communal unity and the rights of its citizens is an attack on the Constitution, which we will not tolerate.

### Woman leader who alleged 'casting couch' exists in Kerala Congress expelled from party

**NEW DELHI:** Former Congress party and PSC member Simi Rose Bell John was expelled from the party on Sunday following her alleged derogatory remarks against women leaders of the Congress in an interview. The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPPCC) General Secretary M Liju announced the decision, stating that Simi Rose Bell John's accusations were aimed at mentally harassing and defaming lakhs of women leaders and workers in the Congress movement, allegedly in collusion with political adversaries. Simi Rose Bell had alleged that several women within the party have faced exploitative behaviour from male party leaders, similar to the 'casting couch'.

### Pro-Khalistan groups in Canada honour former Punjab CM Beant Singh's assassin with floats

**Canada** Pro-Khalistan radical groups in Canada held another series of controversial parades on Saturday, commemorating the suicide bomber who assassinated former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh in 1995. The floats, which were displayed in front of the Indian Consulate in Vancouver, depicted the assassination scene, featuring a bombed car covered in blood and photographs of the slain Chief Minister. One float read, "Beanta Bombed to Death," while also paying tribute to the killer, Dilawar Singh Babbar. The assassination occurred 29 years ago, on August 31, 1995. A similar rally took place in Toronto, led by Inderjeet Singh Gosal, who referred to those campaigning for the Khalistan Referendum as "offspring" of Dilawar Singh. Gosal, a key organiser of the referendum and associate of Sikhs for Justice general counsel Gurpatwant Pannun, recently received a "duty to warn" notice from Canadian law enforcement regarding threats to his life. This warning was issued by both the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Gosal was also closely associated with Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was killed in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18 of the previous year. The 1995 suicide bombing in Chandigarh, orchestrated by Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), claimed the lives of 17 people. BKI, listed among Canada's proscribed terrorist entities, took responsibility for the attack. On June 9, another parade in Brampton, within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), featured a float with an effigy of Indira Gandhi being shot by her bodyguards. Posters on the float declared that her "punishment" had been "delivered" on October 31, 1984, the date of her assassination.

## 'You want to hide because your people are involved': Nadda criticises Kerala govt.

**NEW DELHI:** BJP National President and union minister JP Nadda on Sunday criticized the CPI(M)-led Kerala government for its handling of the Hema Committee report on the Malayalam film industry. The report, which highlights issues of workplace harassment, gender discrimination, and exploitation of women, has stirred controversy, with Nadda alleging that



leaders from the Communist Party are implicated in these issues. "Why delay in justice to the Hema Committee report? What is stopping them (the Kerala government)? What is haunting you? Because you are part and parcel of that...it is something you want to hide because your people are involved," Nadda remarked, news agency ANI quoted.

He further urged Kerala's chief minister to clarify the involvement of Communist leaders, saying, "I am very sorry to say that the Hema Committee report very specifically said that Communist party leaders are involved. The chief minister should come out and tell what really happened." Nadda's comments were made during an event in Palakkad, where he interacted

## Anger grows in Israel after Hamas kills 6 hostages; Netanyahu vows to 'settle score'

**NEW DELHI:** Israeli soldiers discovered the bodies of six hostages in a Gaza underground tunnel, brutally murdered by Hamas shortly before recovery. With 101 hostages still in Gaza, Prime Minister Netanyahu vowed retaliation. Amid rising violence in the West Bank, public pressure and protests mount in Israel for swift governmental action to secure the hostages' release.



Anger grows in Israel after Hamas kills 6 hostages; Netanyahu vows to 'settle score' Israel announced on Sunday that its troops had discovered the bodies of six hostages in an underground tunnel in the

Rafah area of southern Gaza. The remains were recovered on Saturday and have since been formally identified in Israel. Military spokesperson Daniel Hagari confirmed that all six hostages had been abducted alive and were "brutally murdered by Hamas terrorists shortly before we reached them." IDF confirmed that Hamas continues to hold 101 hostages.

## Manipur violence: 2 dead, 9 injured in firing by militants

**Imphal:** Two people, including a woman, were killed, and nine others injured in a gun-and-bomb attack by suspected militants in the Koutruk and Kadangband areas of Manipur on Sunday. The militants reportedly fired indiscriminately from hilltop positions, leading to significant panic and damage. Police said the attackers targeted low-lying valley areas, resulting in heavy shelling and extensive damage to several houses. Hospital officials confirmed that five of the injured sustained bullet wounds, while others suffered splinter injuries from bomb explosions. The sudden



onslaught forced many villagers, including women, children, and the elderly, to flee to safer locations. The body of the deceased woman, identified as 31-year-old Ngangbam Surbala Devi, has been taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for a post-mortem examination. The identity of the other fatality has not yet been confirmed, according to police. Security forces, comprising both state and central units, have been deployed in the area to stabilize the situation. The state government has strongly condemned the attack. "The state government has learnt about the unfortunate incident of attack on unarmed Koutruk villagers using drones,

bombs, and sophisticated weapons reportedly by Kuki militants causing the death of two persons including one woman. Such an act of terrorizing upon unarmed villagers is viewed very seriously by the state government when it is putting all possible efforts towards bringing normalcy and peace in the state," read a statement by the home department.

### UP holds 'largest police exam', 32 lakh compete for 60,000 posts

**LUCKNOW:** Around 32 lakh candidates took the test for more than 60,000 vacant posts in Uttar Pradesh Police over five days concluding on Saturday amid tight security, with the state government describing it as the "largest police recruitment exam" in its history. The exam, conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board (UPPRPB), was held at 1,174 centres in 67 districts of the state on the fifth and last day of the exercise, which began last week. The exams were held in two shifts for five days -- August 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the candidates, the UPPRPB, district administrations and the state police for ensuring "smooth and fair" conduct of the exam. The fresh recruitment exercise to fill over 60,000 posts was necessitated after the exams scheduled for February 17.

### Rajasthan education minister vows to burn books that glorify Mughal emperor Akbar



**NEW DELHI:** Rajasthan education minister Madan Dilawar said on Sunday that all books portraying Mughal emperor Akbar as a great figure will be set on fire. The minister made this statement while addressing a gathering at an event in Udaipur's Mohanlal Sukhadia University. "We have seen the books of all classes. We have not found it (mention of Akbar as great) in the books yet. If it is there, then all the books will be burnt," Dilawar said.

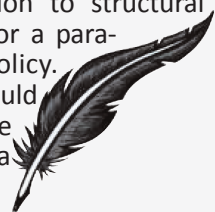
Dilawar said that comparing Akbar to Maharana Pratap, a revered Rajput warrior king, is an insult to the latter and Rajasthan. He described Maharana Pratap as a protector of the people who never bowed down, while accusing Akbar of causing numerous deaths for his own benefit. The minister labeled those who praise Akbar in school textbooks and refer to him as "great" as the biggest enemies of the Mewar region and Rajasthan.



## Editorial

### Stark reminder of the balance between human development and environmental sustainability

The recent landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, which have left at least 282 people dead, more than 200 injured, and 240 still missing, serve as a stark reminder of the fragile balance between human development and environmental sustainability. As rescue operations enter their third day, with over 1,000 people saved, the immediate focus is on providing relief and finding the missing persons. However, the broader implications of this disaster call for a critical evaluation of our approach to development and environmental management. Kerala, with its unique geographical and climatic conditions, is no stranger to landslides. Districts like Idukki, Kottayam, Malappuram, and Wayanad have long been recognised as landslide-prone areas. According to a study conducted by the Geological Survey of India, around 14.5 per cent of Kerala's total area is prone to landslides. The heavy rains during the southwest monsoon are a yearly phenomenon, yet the scale and frequency of deadly landslides in recent years are alarming. This tragic event underscores the urgency of addressing the root causes of such disasters, which include both natural and anthropogenic factors. The Madhav Gadgil report, submitted by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel in 2011, provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and mitigating these risks. The report emphasises the importance of preserving the ecological integrity of the Western Ghats, advocating for the restoration of denuded flora and the rehabilitation of people in vulnerable areas. The Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are a biodiversity hotspot and play a critical role in regulating the climate and hydrology of the region. However, the report highlights that climate change is exacerbating weather patterns, leading to unprecedented and unpredictable natural disasters. The panel warned that unchecked development and deforestation in the Western Ghats would lead to increased landslides and other ecological disasters. One of the key recommendations of the Gadgil report is to halt engineering projects in ecologically sensitive areas. This includes limiting quarrying, construction activities, and monocropping, all of which compromise the ecosystem's ability to cope with natural changes. Unfortunately, these recommendations have often been overlooked in favour of short-term economic gains. The Chaliyar River's devastating impact this year, intensified by increased rainfall and upstream deforestation, is a direct consequence of such oversight. The river, originating from an altitude of around 2 km, has brought fast-moving waters laden with debris, devastating villages in its path. The recurring nature of these disasters reveals a significant gap in warning systems and emergency preparedness. Despite landslide risk maps clearly identifying vulnerable areas, the state has been repeatedly caught off-guard. According to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, there were over 400 landslides in the state between 2018 and 2020 alone. The lack of proactive measures to mitigate risks and enhance resilience has resulted in avoidable loss of life and property. This calls for the establishment of well-equipped, staffed, and empowered expert committees to assess the feasibility of development projects in sensitive areas, ensuring that environmental concerns are not sidelined. In addition to structural measures, there is a need for a paradigm shift in public policy. Sustainable development should not be viewed as an obstacle to economic growth but as a foundational element.



### Is Third-Gender Olympics the Answer?

No one has to then gatecrash women's events and bathrooms. Rabbi David J Meyer writes: An entire tractate of Talmud, in fact, is devoted to the laws and rituals of bringing the First Fruits, detailing the ornamentation of the offerings, and how the gifts would be offered by the men and women. During the course of this discussion, the text poses a question that many today might find quite stunning. While reviewing the differing obligations of men and women when it comes to offering the first fruits of Shavuot, the rabbis pondered the circumstances for those who fall outside the norma-

tive identities of male or female. Here's how the discussion begins: Jewish legal tradition identifies no fewer than six distinct "genders", certainly assuming as normative the male and female, but including designations which we now refer to as "intersex" identities. To use the Hebrew terms: the androgynous, one who has both male and female characteristics, the tumtum, one whose biology is unclear, the ayilonit, who identified as female at birth, but at puberty, develops male characteristics, and the saris, who appears as male at birth, but later takes on more typically female biology. Even in

Christian scripture, there are many affirming passages for trans and gender non-conforming people. There are women warriors, Jesus's kind words for eunuchs, and a passage in Isaiah about eunuchs being given a name and a family. To fit Eliot into the free-for-all boxing ring of gender identity that the Paris Olympics has descended into, one might rephrase him: 'Between XX and XY, falls the shadow.' From Elon Musk to Rowling, from Emmanuel Macron to Georgia Meloni, everybody is throwing punches at the torrid global debate on whether those with male hormones, genetic makeup,

or genitalia should compete with women. The parody of the Last Supper and trans performances at the Games opening kicked off the controversy. But the real gender fist-fight began after Algeria's Image Khelif, who was ruled out of some previous competitions for having XY chromosomes and male hormones, clobbered Italy's Angela Carini in women's boxing, a sport which involves heavy physical contact. The International Olympic Committee and organisers in France vocally defended Khelif, saying no rule was violated. But Italian PM Meloni stood by Carini, and the Western Right.

## Everyone wants to know whether Iran will respond to Israel

In 1997, he was injected with poison by Israeli agents in the Jordanian capital of Amman. But the mission was botched, the agents were captured and the then-king Hussein was so furious that he threatened to hang the agents, and scrap Jordan's peace deal with Israel unless it shared the antidote. Under Netanyahu, who was in his first term at the time, Israel agreed to hand over the antidote and Meshaal was saved. If he returns to the paramount position in Hamas, he will surely need to watch his back or perish like his predecessor. Coming back to Haniyeh's death which has caused serious embarrassment for Iran. Everyone wants to know whether Iran will respond. After all, all its proxies and its own sovereign territory are under attack. Israel's message is pretty clear. No one is safe. So, will Iran sit back down, take the loss and lose face as a result—or will it strike back? If you go by the reactions of Iran's leaders, then revenge is right around the corner. President Pezeshkian said, "I raised his victorious hand and today I have to bury him on my shoulders. Iran will make the terrorist invaders regret their cowardly action." Meanwhile, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "The criminal, terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest in our territory and has caused grief, but it has also prepared the ground for a severe punishment... It is our duty to take revenge." Khamenei has even ordered a direct attack on Israel, according to reports. But it's not as simple as it looks. Iran's words are failing to match its actions.



In April this year, Israel attacked the Iranian embassy in Syria and killed several IRGC officers. Iran retaliate but it seemed like it did not want a war. It rained down missiles over Israel, almost all of which were intercepted by the Iron Dome air defence systems. The damage was little and by no means a major escalation. Moreover, reports said that Iran had notified countries in the region, indirectly tipping Israel off about the attack and letting it prepare its defences in advance. Could it be that Iran does not want to be dragged into an all-out war with Israel, even though Israel is baiting it for confrontation every now and then? 39,000 Palestinians have been reported dead in Gaza, while over 100 Israeli hostages remain in captivity with no end in sight to the Israel-Hamas war. Israel has made a slow show of force in the last ten months, training its guns at Iran and Iran's proxies, all at the same time. But Iran is avoiding an all-out war. Iran's economy, already devastated by sanctions, is threatened not just by Israel but the United States. The US

has been sending billions of dollars in military aid to Israel at a time when it is already funding a bigger war against Russia in Ukraine. It has the resources and the political will to back Israel in a war. Israel has deep pockets and can play the game overtly but Iran does not, and it must use its funds tactically, which is what it has been doing by moving in the shadows with its proxy groups so far. Iran's 'Axis of Resistance' is in a crisis. If Iran is the mother-ship, the Houthis, Hamas and Hezbollah are its proxies, extending far and wide into the West Asian region. These extensions of Iran have allowed it to project power across the Middle East, tackling its enemy Israel and keeping Arab powers in check. But Israel attacked all three of these heavily armed militant offshoots within days, and it has not even spared Iranian territory in the process. News of the assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital of Tehran has sent shockwaves across the world and has embarrassed Iran. After all, he was a guest of Iran to attend

the inauguration of its new President Masoud Pezeshkian, when he was killed in a blast. Before this, Israel struck a building in another capital city, Beirut in Lebanon, eliminating Fuad Shukur, Hezbollah's most senior military commander and a right-hand man to the Shia militant group's leader Hassan Nasrallah. This was apparently in response to a rocket attack by Hezbollah which killed 12 children in the Golan Heights, a Syrian territory controlled by Israel since the 1967 war. Israel also declared that Mohammad Deif, the military leader of Hamas in Gaza, was also killed in an air raid last month. And this is not it. The Houthis also got a taste of Israeli retaliation when a crucial Yemeni lifeline, the Hodeida port, came under attack. The massive air strike on this Red Sea Port was an answer to a drone attack by the Houthis. Israel is prepared for any further escalation, it says, and is on high alert anticipating a response from Iran. Meanwhile, Iran is trapped in its own web. Israel has killed one of Iran's dearest guests in its capital city. Haniyeh was a guest of the Iranians. He attended the inauguration of the new Iranian President, met Supreme Leader Khamenei with a warm hug and posed with the victory sign with other Iranian leaders. That was the last the world saw of him as he was killed before dawn in his special residence in Tehran. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) reported it as a "Zionist raid" that took his life. It was initially theorised that it was an Israeli missile attack,

and it raised serious questions about Iran's air defence capabilities. But it is now being reported that it was actually a bomb placed inside the guest-house where Haniyeh was staying. And it was placed almost two months before the attack. For two months, the security apparatus in Iran failed to track this bomb. When Haniyeh was finally inside, the bomb was detonated remotely. This raises serious questions about Iran's security and intelligence capabilities. This was a lapse at many levels, if it was a lapse at all. After all, how could it be so easy to take Haniyeh out? This Hamas leader had been evading the Israelis for decades, enjoying safe haven in Qatar. Israel had been trying to take him out for years. Haniyeh was no small target—he was the political chief of Hamas since 2017, representing the group in diplomatic conversations with Arab and Western leaders. He shuttled from Turkey to Qatar and Iran to secure funding for Hamas. This is why some media reports will tell you that he was seen as a so-called "moderate" face of Hamas. This is not because he did not subscribe to the radical extremist ideology of Hamas but because leaders engaged with him behind closed doors to keep tabs on the Palestinian movement in Gaza. The truth is that Haniyeh was responsible for the intense militarisation of Hamas during his time in Gaza and was even accused of diverting humanitarian aid to the Hamas armed wing. He is also believed to have amassed a wealth of \$4 billion while being a leading face.

### BJP wants to partition Bengal again

The next day, Nishikant Dubey, BJP MP from Jharkhand's Godda, fanned the flames with an uninterrupted three-minute diatribe on West Bengal in the Lok Sabha. He claimed that Jharkhand's tribal population had fallen to 26 per cent from 36 per cent in 2000, when the state was formed; at the same time, he claimed that the Muslim population went up by some astronomical percentage in some areas of the state. If that wasn't enough, he added that 'ghuspetiya' or infiltrators from Bangladesh were marrying tribal women and settling into tribal villages, and that Muslims from Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal were overrunning Hindu villages in Jharkhand and changing the state's demography. At no point did Dubey reveal where he got his data from, especially about Jharkhand's tribal population. The Census survey hasn't been conducted since 2011. In 2001 and 2011, the Census stated that Jharkhand had 26 per cent tribal population. But no one has yet questioned Dubey's claims or the fine points of his data because the

demand he raised next in Parliament was stunning: he reeled off a list of districts at the Bengal-Jharkhand-Bihar border that are apparently getting dominated by Muslims that he demanded be merged into a Union Territory—ostensibly, a place where the Centre could conduct NRC exercise without political opposition. Following this, a BJP MLA from Murshidabad, Gauri Shankar Ghosh, cited an 'infiltration problem' and said Malda and Murshidabad should be turned into a Union Territory. Fellow BJP MLA Subrata Maitra from Baharampur went a step further: he wanted parts of Nadia and South Dinajpur districts added to the imagined Union Territory comprising Murshidabad and Malda. BJP Rajya Sabha MP Nagendra Roy aka Anant Maharaj joined the chorus and demanded the district of Cooch Behar be expanded to Greater Cooch Behar and granted Union Territory status. Is there some method to this madness? Or is this chorus for Union Territories and the carving up of West Bengal a sign of the BJP's impoverished politics.

### If you want an efficient all-India service, allow them to open their mouth freely—Sardar Patel

The Heads of the Departments of the Police in every province are covered under this guarantee. Are you going to change that? Are you going to put your Congress volunteers as captains? What is it that you propose to do? I am grieved to find that in a Parliament of this kind, Members, senior Members, speak in this strain. I would refer you to the Indian Independence Act which gave birth to this Parliament, and you find that the guarantees have been included there. When the Indian Independence Act was to be passed in Parliament, the draft was sent here. The leaders of the nation were called for; the Cabinet was there, the Congress President was there, your President was there, and your Leader today was there. Mahatma Gandhi was also present. Every section was scrutinised and the draft was approved. After that, it was passed in Parliament. Now, these guarantees were circulated before that to the provinces. All provinces agreed. It was also agreed to incorporate these into the Constituent Assembly's New Constitution. That is one part of the guarantee. Have you read that history? Or, you do not care for the recent history after you began to make history? If you do that, then I tell you we have a dark future. Learn to stand upon your pledged word, and, also, as a man of experience I tell you, do not quarrel with the instruments with which you want to work. It is a bad workman who quarrels with his instruments. Take work from them. Every man wants some sort of encouragement. Nobody wants to put in work when every day he is criticised and ridiculed in public. Nobody will give you work like that. So, once and for all, decide whether you want this service or not. If you have done with it and decide not to have this service at all, even in spite of my pledged word, I will take the Services with me and go. The

nation has changed its mind. The Services will earn their living. They are capable people. They were trained in a different setting. I know a senior Member of the Service with about twenty-five years' service who went to England for higher education and training in the Civil Service, and spent about fifty thousand rupees. He took a loan; he did not have the money. But there is a glamour for the Civil Service on the part of the Indian youth. He went there, he passed with distinction and came here. He served very ably, very loyally the then Government and later the present Government. His business is to serve the Government—that he is serving. He had a sense of patriotism. Often he came into difficulties with the then Government when he had to carry out orders against the Congress people, putting them in jail and otherwise. But he could not go beyond a certain limit. Now all his balance today at the end of twenty-five years' service is ten thousand rupees, and his wife and children, when he dies, will get some provident fund. These were the circumstances in which many of the service people took their training, came here, and served. Now we can say, "Very well, they did it with open eyes, let them suffer." Then you make up your mind to prepare for a substitute. We already have a substitute. We have started a training school here in India; we have fixed the cadre, proposals for which have been approved by Provinces—you know all that. If you want an efficient all-India service, I advise you to allow the services to open their mouths freely. If you are a Premier, it would be your duty to allow your Secretary, or Chief Secretary, or other services working under you, to express their opinion without fear or favour. But I see a tendency today that in several provinces the services are set upon and told, "No, you are servicemen."



## CM Yogi orders construction of Vedic-3D museum at Sampurnanand Sanskrit

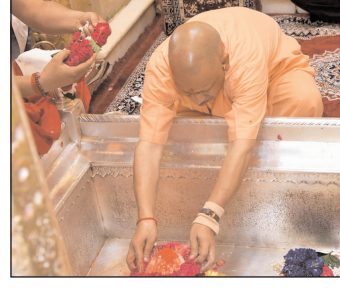
Varanasi Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, ordered construction of Vedic-3D museum at the main building of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Kashi, dedicated to Indian astrology and astronomy, and the Vedic literature. The museum will showcase the evolution of Vedic literature, highlighting the 16 Sanskars, 64 arts, and 18 Vidya Shthans as well as contributions of Indian sages and serve as a platform to revive the tradition of 'Shastrartha' (spiritual discourse). CM Yogi made the announcement during his maiden visit to the university in Kashi. The Chief Minister was visibly moved upon seeing the rare manuscripts preserved in the historic Saraswati Bhawan, including the "Raas Panchadhayai," Shrimad Bhagwat Gita, and Durgasaptashati, all inscribed with gold

letters and adorned with gold artistry on special cloth. CM Yogi praised the university's efforts in preserving India's cultural heritage and assured full support from the state government for the ongoing conservation work being carried out by the National Manuscript Mission with the backing of India. CM Yogi Adityanath also inspected the 234-year-old main building. During the visit, CM Yogi approved, in principle, the proposal to reintegrate the Government Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya, Chaukaghat, as a faculty of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University. CM Yogi Adityanath also inspected the Ganganath Jha hostel, where he instructed the establishment of bicycle and vehicle stands and emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness. He directed that other essential tasks,

including replacing worn-out wiring, be completed promptly. Additionally, CM Yogi called for the installation of Sanskrit signboards for all departments, improvements in sewer and drainage systems, and the repair of dilapidated roads. He further directed that the construction corporation complete the boundary wall on schedule and requested proposals for any additional necessary work. Vice Chancellor Prof. Bihari Lal Sharma, UP's Minister of State for Stamp and Court Registration Fees (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal, Minister of State for AYUSH and Food Security (Independent Charge) Dr. Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', former minister and MLA Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari, MLA Saurabh Srivastava, Honorary Member of Development Authority Ambareesh Singh Bhola.

## CM Yogi offers prayers at Baba Kaal Bhairav and Shri Kashi Vishwanath temples

Varanasi Sunday afternoon, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath arrived in Varanasi to attend the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha's state working committee meeting and membership campaign workshop. Upon his arrival in Kashi, he paid his respects at the Baba Kaal Bhairav and Shri Kashi Vishwanath temples. After landing at the Police Line helipad, the Chief Minister proceeded to the temple and performed rituals as per tradition. During his visit to Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple, CM Yogi Adityanath visited



the Adiyogi and performed the Shodashopachar puja in the sanctum sanctorum, praying for public welfare. He also performed aarti for Baba Kaal Bhairav, the Kotwal of Kashi, and sought his blessings. Devotees in the temple greeted him with chants of "Har Har Mahadev." CM Yogi

Adityanath graciously accepted the greetings of the devotees with folded hands and raised arms. On his way out of the Kaal Bhairav temple, he paused to interact with children and offered them sweets. Later, the Chief Minister visited Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, where he inspected the manuscripts. State Government Minister Dayashankar Singh, Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', Ravindra Jaiswal, MLA Saurabh Srivastava and others were present.

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

MUMBAI: In a govt resolution issued on Monday, for the first time, the state has enlisted the role of government nominees in autonomous colleges in the state. While govt nominees were always there on the board of autonomous colleges, their roles were never explicitly defined.

From attending every meeting of the governing body to ensuring their budget comprehensively reflects all aspects, the nominee is now expected to be the eyes and ears of the government in the truest sense. There are over 70 autonomous colleges affiliated to Mumbai

University alone. A govt nominee is usually an educationist, not below the rank of a professor or a govt officer in the directorate of higher education or the state council of higher education. They are expected to be the link between the institutions and the govt.

## CAPSULES

### Rahul Gandhi lying, says Ashok Chavan reacting to 'weeping' claim

MUMBAI: A day after Congress politician Rahul Gandhi's critical remarks, former chief minister Ashok Chavan, now a Rajya Sabha member from BJP, described the comments as baseless and illogical. "Rahul Gandhi did not mention my name. If he is referring to me, then I will describe his remarks as baseless and illogical. Let me make it clear, before joining BJP I did not meet Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi. In fact, till the last moment, I was working in the Congress office, working on the seat-sharing formula. What Rahul Gandhi said is a lie. Rahul Gandhi's remarks are factually incorrect. It is just a political stunt in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha election and to embarrass me," Chavan said. Chavan said that before joining BJP, he resigned from the assembly and, a few hours later, quit the primary membership of the party. Addressing a public meeting at Shivaji Park, Rahul Gandhi said a senior leader from Maharashtra, whom he did not want to name, left Congress and wept in front of his mother, Sonia Gandhi.

### Fire safety steps missing, JLN Stadium told not to host events

NEW DELHI: Delhi fire department has written to the administrator of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) to stop using the premises for sporting events and functions due to a lack of fire safety measures. The fire safety certificate of Samrat Hotel in Chanakyapuri has also been cancelled over non-compliance with fire safety regulations. The hotel management, however, said it hasn't received any notice.

## Won't sit quietly till government in Maharashtra is changed in next two months: Sharad Pawar

NEW DELHI: Amid ongoing protest against the Eknath Shinde government in Maharashtra, NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar on Sunday said that opposition won't sit quietly till the Mahayuti government was removed from power. He said that the new government would be formed on the ideals of Shivaji, whose statue collapsed in Sindhudurg district on August 26, sparking criticism for the ruling government. "I assure you (party workers) that if you show your unity, then we will not sit quietly till the government in Maharashtra is changed in the next two months and a new govern-



ment is formed on the ideals of Shivaji Maharaj that will safeguard the interests of people," Pawar said.

The collapse of the Shivaji statue at Rajkot Fort in Malvan tehsil has sparked a firestorm in the state, with

the opposition accusing the BJP-led Mahayuti of "corruption" and "insult" to the icon.

Earlier in the day, Pawar participated in a protest march organized by the opposition bloc Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) from Hutatma Chowk to the Gateway of India in South Mumbai, in response to the statue collapse.

The 'jode maro andolan' (hitting with slippers) protest highlighted the unity among the Maha Vikas Aghadi partners—Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP), and Congress—against the ruling coalition of Shiv Sena, BJP, and NCP.

## Switched to 'patriot' to save democracy: Uddhav

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Amid criticism from opponents, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday defended his opening remarks of "patriot" at the Mumbai rally. "Since we have to save democracy and the country, I switched to 'deshbhakt (patriot) and deshpremi (country-loving) brothers and sisters'. As soon as I said this, the BJP got rattled. Modi-bhakt are claiming that my language has changed. I want to ask these bhakts whether they are patriots or not," he said, while addressing a public rally at Basmat in Hingoli district. Thackeray usually starts his addresses with the phrase: "Hindu brothers and sisters". However, on Tuesday, Thackeray had started his speech with "brothers and sisters of my family". Chief minister Eknath Shinde is among those

who have criticized Thackeray over his opening remarks during the Mumbai rally. Terming it a "black day", Shinde questioned why Thackeray omitted the 'Hindu' reference. Targeting BJP over the electoral bond issue, Thackeray said a "big hammer" has dealt a blow to the party, but it is shameful. "The BJP has become a gang that officially uses govt machinery to extort money.

Instead of using the photo of my father (during campaigns), it should use the photos of ED, income-tax and CBI," he said. He also dared BJP to fight elections by removing the "support" of all govt agencies, and then see how people react. "They order inquiries against opponents and claim to be the largest party in

## Manipur violence: 2 dead, 9 injured in firing by militants

Two individuals, including a woman, were killed and nine others injured in Manipur's Koutruk and Kadangband areas during an attack by suspected militants. The militants targeted low-lying valley areas, causing heavy damage and panic. Security forces have been deployed to stabilize the situation, and the state government condemned the attack. Manipur violence: 2 dead, 9 injured in firing by militants. Two people, including a woman, were killed, and nine others injured in a gun-and-bomb attack by suspected militants in the Koutruk and Kadangband areas of Manipur on Sunday. The militants reportedly fired indiscriminately from hilltop positions, leading to significant panic and damage. Police said the attackers targeted low-lying

valley areas, resulting in heavy shelling and extensive damage to several houses. Hospital officials confirmed that five of the injured sustained bullet wounds, while others suffered splinter injuries from bomb explosions. The sudden onslaught forced many villagers, including women, children, and the elderly, to flee to safer locations. The body of the deceased woman, identified as 31-year-old Ngangbam Surbala Devi, has been taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for a post-mortem examination. The identity of the other fatality has not yet been confirmed, according to police. Security forces, comprising both state and central units, have been deployed in the area to stabilize the situation. The state government has strongly

condemned the attack. "The state government has learnt about the unfortunate incident of attack on unarmed Koutruk villagers using drones, bombs, and sophisticated weapons reportedly by Kuki militants causing the death of two persons including one woman. Such an act of terrorizing upon unarmed villagers is viewed very seriously by the state government when it is putting all possible efforts towards bringing normalcy and peace in the state," read a statement by the home department. The government also sees the attack as an attempt to disrupt ongoing peace efforts. "The state government has already taken up immediate action to control the situation and to punish those who were involved in the attack on Koutruk Village.

## In alarming sign, US military veterans split publicly over support for Donald Trump

WASHINGTON: Alarm bells are starting to go off in the US over a very public and potentially dangerous political schism among military families and veterans, following Donald Trump's visit to the Arlington National Cemetery last week, ostensibly to honor 13 personnel killed in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan. Under attack from the current administration, veteran groups and Kamala Harris for politicising the event for electoral gains, Trump lashed back on Sunday, posting videos from several families who said they had invited him for the commemoration on the third anniversary of the tragedy, and they were honored he came. A member of one family said they had intimidated the White House about the event but did not hear back from the Biden-Harris administration, while



some others went so far as to blame the current dispensation for the death of their beloved. At the same time, several military veterans and families of fallen soldiers excoriated Trump for turning a solemn occasion on hallowed ground into a political spectacle and releasing what they characterized as a "campaign video." The clash is now turning bitter, with questions ranging from who was responsible for the debacle in Afghanistan to what constitutes patriotism. The disquiet among family members of the fallen and surviving veterans had been simmering for five days when Kamala

Harris jumped into the fray over the weekend purportedly provoked by criticism that neither she nor Biden went for the event. "As Vice President, I have had the privilege of visiting Arlington National Cemetery several times. It is a solemn place; a place where we come together to honor American heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of this nation," Harris said in a statement, excoriating Trump for turning a private event into a "political stunt." "This is nothing new from Donald Trump. This is a man who has called our fallen service members 'suckers' and 'losers'.

## Govt invites stakeholder inputs to make LGBTQI+ policies inclusive; issues enabling advisories on ration cards and banking

NEW DELHI: The government has invited inputs of stakeholders and the public at large to ensure that policies and initiatives regarding LGBTQI+ community are inclusive. Announcing the outreach on Sunday, the ministry of social justice and empowerment shared some measures, including advisories issued by the department of food and public distribution and the department of financial services, to ensure that queer people in a relationship are able to get a ration card and open a joint bank account without any discrimination. As per the advisory to all states and UTs, partners in a queer relationship are to be treated as part of the same household for the purposes of ration card. According to officials, anyone who does not identify as male, female or transgender will have the option of marking themselves as 'other' and their relationship as 'other' in the form seeking a ration card. Similarly, to ensure banks do no discriminate, department of financial services has issued an advisory that there are no restrictions on people from the queer community on opening a joint bank account and also nominating a person in a queer relationship as a nominee. These measures have followed the constitution of a committee led by the cabinet secretary in April in keeping with the directions of the Supreme Court on Oct 17 last year for defining and elucidating the scope of entitlements of the queer community. The committee first met on May 21 and has since held reviews with the latest meeting held on Aug 22.



## 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

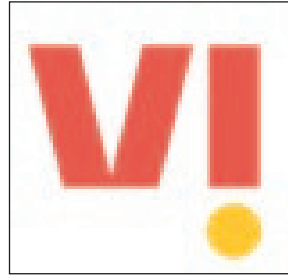


soon as the Hooda government is formed. Former MLA Sultan Jadoula alleged that playing with the future of educated youth, paper leak in the name of recruitment, recruitment cancellation, recruitment being delayed in court, making youth run around courts, this is the report card of 10 years of BJP. BJP 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 arrogance 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 (NCPCR) 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 (NCPCR), 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.

## 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.



## Govt. limits tur, chana stock until Sept to curb hoarding

### The import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024

Delhi: The Union Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said wholesalers, retailers, huge chain shops, millers, and importers will be subject to stock limits. The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits, and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order went into effect. Stock limits for

each pulse are 200 tonnes for wholesalers, 5 tonnes for retailers, 5 tonnes at each retail outlet, and 200 tonnes at the depot for big chain retailers; last 3 months of production or 25% of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for millers. The measures discourage stockpiling and boost market availability. Importers cannot keep imported merchandise after 45 days after customs clearance. Tur, urad, and chana prices have been constant yet high all year. India imports 15% of its pulses annually to meet demand. Legal companies are required to report stock positions on the Department of Consumer Affairs portal. "In case the stocks held by them are higher than the prescribed limits then, they shall bring the same to the prescribed stock limits by 12th July 2024," the note added. As Kharif pulses like tur and urad are likely to rise, the government expects tur and chana dal prices to fall. The statement anticipates the import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024. A new crop of chana in Australia and its import from October 2024.

## Google cancels Play Store online gaming trial due to lack of rules

Delhi: Google paused its pilot program to list fantasy sports and rummy games on the Google Play Store, but gave India a "grace period". This means Google will not increase Play Store open access for more real-money games as planned in January. Existing Play Store apps will stay there. Google suspended the pilot, which began in July 2018 and was extended in January in India, Brazil, and Mexico, due to a lack of a "central licensing framework" that governs game legality. "Expanding our support of real-money gaming apps in markets without a central licensing

framework has proven more difficult than expected, and we need additional time to get it right for our developer partners and the safety of our users," a spokesman for Google said. The move hurts India's online gaming industry, which is divided over whether games are 'games of skill' or 'games of chance'. Supreme Court cases challenging Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's internet gaming prohibition remain pending. Google said it is developing a framework for permitted applications in this field. "In the meantime, in India, we are extending the grace period of

the pilot program so existing apps offering fantasy sports and rummy games in India can remain on Play Store," the spokesman said.

A senior Google executive said on condition of anonymity that the company intends to create a framework, but conversations are ongoing and there is no "specific timeline" for when these apps can be used again.

India's major online gaming companies by revenue—Sporta Technologies (Dream11), Gameskraft, and Games24x7—listed their fantasy and rummy apps on Play Store after

## RBI changes priority sector lending rules

Delhi: RBI has amended its priority sector guidelines to encourage banks to provide modest loans in economically challenged districts with low loan amounts. New rules discourage lending in districts with large average loans. Fresh priority sector loans in districts with low credit availabil-

ity (less than Rs 9,000 per person) would receive 125% additional weight starting in FY25. In districts with substantial credit availability (above Rs 42,000 per person), loans weigh 90%. Except for outlier districts with poor credit availability and excessive loan sizes, all other dis-

tricts will remain 100% important. "RBI has decided to rank districts based on per capita credit flow to the priority sector, and to establish an incentive framework for districts with lower credit flow and a disincentive framework for districts with higher priority.

## CAPSULES

### A Japanese company is creating battery material with an energy density that is 100 times higher

Delhi: TDK, a multinational electronics business based in Japan, has revealed that it has created a material for solid-state batteries that has an energy density that is roughly 100 times higher than that of traditional ones. The Tokyo-based company claims that a variety of wearable gadgets, including smartwatches, wireless earbuds, hearing aids, and environmental sensors, may make use of their technology. Although the new material is intended to replace current coin cell batteries, it makes use of lithium alloy anodes and an oxide-based solid electrolyte. "Batteries are quite safe since they employ solid electrolyte based on oxides. It stated in a statement that "it is intended for use in wearable devices and other devices that come into direct contact with the human body." "The battery can be applied for replacing coin cell primary batteries in compliance with EU battery regulations, which require them to be replaced by rechargeable batteries, which is expected to contribute to the reduction of environmental impact," it stated. According to the company, the new technology also makes it possible for batteries to be smaller and have a longer operating life.

### Voda to sell 10% Indus share for \$1.1bn

Delhi: Vodafone Group will sell 10% of India's Indus Towers for up to \$1.1 billion to service debt, according to a term sheet obtained by Reuters. Last week, Reuters reported that Vodafone was considering selling its 21.5% holding in mobile-tower operator Indus Towers through several group businesses.

## Installation Ceremony for ASHRAE held at CII

Chandigarh

Dr. Balkar Singh has been appointed as President along with other committee members during the installation ceremony of the ASHARE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers), Chandigarh Chapter at CII, Northern Region, Sector 31. The other members in the committee includes Money Khanna as President Elect, Harmeet Singh as Vice President, Ar. Amit Kumar Sharma as Secretary and Amardeep Singh as Treasurer. The installation was done by Richie Mittal, Director and Regional Chair, Region XV of ASHRAE in presence of Guests of Honours - Ms Sapna, Chief Architect Punjab and Architect Kapil Setia, Chief Architect,



UT. Visawanath Krishnan, Regional Nomination Chair and Dr. Varun Jain, RVC GAC. VAARTA - Voice on Air Conditioning, Air Quality, Renewable Technology &

Architecture was organized on the theme of Building Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Living wherein key speaker Architect Gaurav Shorey deliberated upon the topic. The

event was attended by the HVAC&R and Building Science industry leaders, Consultants, Senior Officers from government organizations and experts.

## GST Council to change alcohol tax legislation, settle disputes

Delhi: The GST Council is considering amending GST legislation regarding extra neutral alcohol (ENA), a highly pure alcohol used in liquor manufacture but not for direct consumption. These revisions explain that ENA should not be GST-taxable, which could relieve the spirits industry by avoiding dual taxes. In addition to legislative changes, the Council is anticipated to propose a mechanism that would allow central and state tax agencies to stop recovering past tax dues,

helping the spirits industry. This action is part of a larger attempt to settle tax disputes and streamline taxation. The GST Council will discuss officer committee revisions at its meeting in the national capital. According to two Centre-state sources, this committee was charged with drafting legislative revisions to keep ENA outside the GST regime, a decision made at the GST Council's 52nd meeting on October 7 last year. The proposed revisions clarify tax implementa-

tion by excluding ENA from GST under section 9 of the Central and state GST statutes. GST is currently applicable to non-alcoholic goods and services, however ENA is not mentioned. The clarification should reduce the alcoholic beverage industry's tax burden by preventing the same commodity from being taxed under several streams. The Centre would submit CGST and IGST Act revisions in Parliament, while states will alter SGST laws. Since the 2017 indirect tax reform.

## Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai



Delhi: The insurance regulator prohibits promoting Ulips and index-linked plans as investment products. The Irdai mandated tight standards for fund performance ads in a circular. They should show compounded yearly returns for the past five years with a caveat that past success does not guarantee future results. If applicable, benchmark index performance

must be stated with fund performance. The circular advised advertisers not to overestimate benefits, selectively offer benefits without constraints, or make derogatory comparisons to competitors or the industry. The laws compel insurers to form an advertisement committee and appoint distribution channel compliance officers to ensure compliance. These businesses strictly over-

see advertisement material and enforce restrictions. The regulator also requires companies to let policyholders pay premiums online or hire a new agent or direct sales staff if the policyholder's agent leaves. A any new policy from the allocated insurance agency or direct sales staff for the same policyholder if the assigned policy is not resurrected or abandoned within six months.

## Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

Delhi: LIC plans to sell some of its premium commercial buildings and land nationwide to raise \$6-7 billion (50,043-58,384 crore). LIC, India's third-largest landlord, has instructed an internal team to develop a selling plan for its real estate assets nationwide, according to two sources. The process may begin in Mumbai. The article listed LIC's premium assets as the Jeevan Bharti building in Delhi's Connaught Place, the LIC building in Kolkata's Chittaranjan Avenue, and

Mumbai's Asiatic Society and Akbarally's buildings. Two sources informed that LIC's real estate assets were valued at a cautious 50,000-60,000 crore during their latest valuation. "LIC-owned buildings may be revalued for the formal asset sale procedure. LIC buildings may have a market value of at least five times the conservative estimate of 2.5-3 lakh crore, as many have never been sold.

The first insider informed that LIC may incorporate a separate business to

keep and monetize real estate assets due to the difficulty of valuing them. He added LIC owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

"The insurance company owns numerous marquee buildings. The valuation must be done properly. Only piece-by-piece auctions can determine prices. However, the LIC Act must be amended and laws changed

## Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

Delhi: As India's e-commerce power-house targets rapid commerce, the sector will heat up again. Three sources told Entrackr that Flipkart has begun building infrastructure for its rapid commerce play. "In six to eight weeks, Flipkart will launch 10-15 minute delivery in at least a dozen cities," stated an anonymous insider. "It's building up a chain of dark stores across several cities including Bengaluru, Delhi (NCR) and Hyderabad among others." Flipkart's move into rapid commerce comes as experts expect it to cut into India's e-commerce pie soon. A 2022 Redseer analysis estimates the Indian fast commerce market at around \$45 billion. More crucially, Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy's Instamart, and Zepto have shown investors that rapid

commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto received a unicorn round, but Blinkit (previously Grofers) and Swiggy Instamart have scaled up with improved profits for their owners. "Flipkart's latest launches indicate its move into fast commerce. It started same-day delivery in 20 cities a couple of weeks ago and delivered flowers and cakes around Valentine's Day (February 2024)," an e-commerce analyst told Entrackr, asking for anonymity. Flipkart will have a larger library than Zepto, Instamart, and Blinkit, according to sources. "The company will have a sharp focus on FMCG, grocery and daily essentials but it would also push categories such as electronics, fashion," said the aforesaid insider.



## Punjab Anganwadi Mother-Child Nutrition Scheme full of large-scale corruption: Anil Sareen



**Ludhiana:** In a press conference held at BJP office in Ludhiana today, State BJP General Secretary Anil Sareen said that a scheme being funded by the Central Government for buying nutritious food for the Anganwadi Centers of Punjab for children up to six years of age & lactating mothers, being given crores of rupees for the purpose, disclosed that there is large-scale corruption in the Punjab Social Security, women & child Department. Sareen asked why the Punjab government is playing with the lives of pregnant women, lactating mothers and children up to six years of

age? Instead of giving nutritious food to the mothers and children, they are being served poison. He shared all the evidence in this regard with the journalists which included some videos, photographs and newspaper reports. Sareen said that under the Central Supplementary Nutrition Program\*, hundreds of crores of funds have been allocated by the Central Government to provide nutritious food containing vitamins, proteins, minerals and other essential elements for health to children up to six years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Funds are being given to the

women and child development department, but due to corruption by the Punjab government, cheap and inferior food items are being supplied. Action was taken against the Anganwadi workers who refused to serve this fungus laden inferior food. The CDPO of Rayeeva refused to issue an "all is well" certificate in this regard and he was also suspended. But no action has been taken against the firms which are supplying all these inferior foods, whereas it is clearly written in the agreement with the government that if any defect is found in any product.

## Government's Sports Policy empowers talented players: CM Yogi

**Lucknow**

India's national game, hockey, has long been a symbol of its sports talent and is now steadily reclaiming its former glory. Uttar Pradesh has produced numerous legendary international players, with the name of hockey wizard Major Dhyana Chand etched in the hearts of every Indian, said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday. The Hockey India Junior Men Inter-Zone Championship is now paving the way for a new generation of talented players, preparing them for future Olympics and international events, he added. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while speaking at the championship's opening ceremony, praised the government's Sports Policy for providing a platform for the state's talented athletes and actively encouraging them. He said, "The state has also gifted the nation with hockey icons like KD Singh Babu, Mo Shahid, Ravindra Pal, and Syed

Ali, all of whom have brought pride to the country by leading the Indian team in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and World Championships." Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that six teams will compete in this championship over a week, offering players a new and valuable experience that was previously unavailable. He acknowledged that there was a time when it felt like our national game was being neglected in its own country, but now it is advancing with renewed enthusiasm and confidence. CM Yogi highlighted that the Indian hockey team has made the nation proud in the last two Olympics, in Tokyo and Paris. He said, "Lalit Upadhyay, who was part of the Indian team in both events, was appointed as Deputy SP in UP Police, and Rajkumar Pal, who excelled in the latest Olympics, will also be

made Deputy SP." CM Yogi emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, significant strides have been made to promote sports over the past decade. Thanks to PM Modi's initiative, the once-negative perception of sports is replaced with positivity. Private sports academies have played a crucial role in this progress, and the government has introduced a sports policy to further this momentum. This policy ensures that athletes who win medals in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and World Championships are directly recruited into government service. Additionally, the policy encourages and supports the pursuit of sports at all levels. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that his government has already provided government jobs to over 500 athletes across various sectors, and this support will continue in the future.

## CAPSULES

### Shyam Sunder Kaul has been playing an important role in strengthening the Congress for 25 years

**New Delhi:** Senior Congress leader and special supporter of former Chief Minister Choudhary Bhupinder Singh Hooda and former Sarpanch Shyam Sunder Kaul, a strong contender for Congress ticket from Pundri Assembly Constituency, has been playing an important role in the politics of Pundri constituency for the last 25 years as an active Congress worker, propagating the party's policies, participating in Congress party's dharnas, demonstrations, agitations and meetings, as well as taking part in panchayati, social, religious functions. For which the Congress High Command and former Chief Minister Choudhary Bhupinder Singh Hooda have also congratulated him by patting his back several times. Shyam Sunder Kaul has become Sarpanch of village Kaul twice in a row and is a special supporter and very close to former Chief Minister Choudhary Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Senior Congress leader and former Sarpanch Shyam Sunder Kaul, while addressing the villagers after propagating the Congress policies in several villages of the constituency as part of his election public relations campaign, said that in the upcoming Assembly elections to be held in Haryana on October 5, the Congress High Command, former Chief Minister Choudhary With the blessings of Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Congress State President Udaybhan, Haryana Incharge Deepak Bavariya and MP Deepender Singh Hooda and the cooperation, support and blessings of the people of Pundri Assembly Constituency, we will hoist the flag of victory. Creating a new history of development and employment, Pundri will be made number one in every field.



## Punjab Education Minister awards Aryans Group of Colleges for Excellence in Higher Education

**Ludhiana:** Education Minister Punjab, Harjot Singh Bains honored Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh with prestigious "Excellence in Higher Education" Award in an award ceremony. Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges received this award. On the occasion Aryans Brand Ambassador Amir Hussain Lone, Para Cricketer, JK was also honored by Education Minister. After receiving this honour while thanking, Kataria said that Aryans Group is committed to quality education in the region. It is a matter of pride for him to receive this prestigious award. Kataria con-



gratulated the whole Aryans Team & said that the students and staff of Aryans Group have achieved many achievements in the last 17 years. A total of 32 eminent personal-

ities from different walks of life were the honoured on the occasion where the Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains was the chief guest. The renowned persons

were honoured for their contributions and achievements in their respective fields. It is to be mentioned that, established in 2007, Aryans campus is located on Chandigarh-Patiala highway, near Chandigarh and has lush green 20 acres pollution free campus. Aryans Group has been serving the educational and intellectual interests of the youth in a commendable manner.

The Group is running Engineering College, Law College, Pharmacy College, Management College, Business School, Education College, and Nursing College, Faculty of Physiotherapy & Paramedical etc.

## No saint or yogi can ever be power-hungry: CM Yogi

**Chandauli,** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, said that no saint, mahatma or yogi can ever be power-hungry. "Rather, he inspires the society to follow in his footsteps. Baba Keenaram had presented the same ideals to everyone through divine meditation 425 years ago", he stated. CM Yogi was speaking at the 425th incarnation ceremony organized at the birthplace of Aghoracharya Baba Keenaram. He said,

"The country became a slave because foreign invaders succeeded in dividing the country and society. At the same time, all the achievements and sadhana (meditation) of saints and sanyasis lie in national interest, social interest and human welfare." He paid tribute to Baba Keenaram, expressing that although his program was initially scheduled for Sonbhadra, he felt privileged to be present at Baba Keenaram's birthplace due to divine grace.

He spoke of Baba Keenaram as a divine figure from birth, born into an aristocratic family, who attained spiritual enlightenment through intense practice and meditation. Despite his elevated status and spiritual accomplishments, Baba Keenaram used his powers not for personal gain, but for the welfare of the nation and its people. CM Yogi emphasized that Baba Keenaram played a crucial role in uniting Dalits, tribals, and various other sections of society.

## Dr. Vinod Kumar honoured with memento in 5th Tricity Karate Championship

**Chandigarh:** Dr. Vinod Kumar attended the 5th Tricity Karate Championship as a special guest. He was honoured with



a bouquet and memento in this 5th Tricity Karate Championship. This champi-

onship was organised in Arya Samaj 7B. The organiser of this championship was Wisdom Martial Arts Academy.

## Readers and Writers Society of India organized a literary function in memory of the late Dr. I.D. Singh

**Chandigarh:** Readers and Writers Society of India (RWSI) in collaboration with T.S. Central State Library Sector 17, Chandigarh organized a literary function in memory of the late Dr. I.D. Singh, President, Readers and Writers Society of India, Chandigarh, at the Library Auditorium. The function was presided over by senior writer and senior journalist Shri Prem Vij. Shri K.K. Sharda (President, Freedom Fighters Welfare Association) was the Chief Guest. Expressing his views, he mentioned Dr Singh's selfless service to literature. Sharing his time spent with Dr. I.D. Singh, Prem Vij said that this relationship is years old, he was dedicated to literature with body, mind and money. He was a litterateur even though he was not a writer himself. Vinod Khanna talked about him that how he helped litterateurs and provided a platform to new writers. While reciting his poem



written on Dr. I.D. Singh, he read: "There was a man with a heart of gold Cast by almighty in a special mould" The programme started with the singing of Bhajans by Anurani Sharma, Rashmi Sharma, Shelly Taneja and Nirmal Sood also shared their memories. Kavita Sharma read a poem written by Chhaya Tyagi on the departed soul. Dr Jarnail Singh, Inder Sachdev, Vimla Guglani, Sahib Noor, Parminder Soni and other poets and writers of Tricity paid their emotional tributes to the late Dr Singh.

Late ID Singh's sister Jasreet Kaur and Brother-in-law Harjinder Singh were honoured with garlands. Famous litterateur and journalist Dr. Vinod Sharma was also present on the occasion. The programme was conducted by Ms. Veer Abhinav. The names of the new office bearers of the society were announced by Mr. Prem Vij as follows: President: Vinod Khanna, Vice President: Mrs. Rashmi Sharma, Co-Vice President (University Chapter): Dr. Nandita Singh, Secretary: Dr. Veer Abhinav.

## One lakh youth will be recruited in UP Police in the next two years: CM Yogi

**Varanasi**

In a significant announcement on Sunday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled ambitious plans for youth employment during his visit to Varanasi. The Chief Minister said that within the next two years, the state government will recruit 1 lakh youth into the UP Police. CM Yogi was speaking at the State Working Committee meeting and membership workshop of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha in Varanasi. CM Yogi said, "2 lakh more youth will be provided with government jobs across various sectors in coming two years." He emphasized that the state has established a fair and transparent system for government recruitment, ensuring that all youth have equal opportunities. Reflecting on the achievements of his administration, CM Yogi highlighted that over the past seven and a half years, more than six and a half lakh youth have already been employed through various government initiatives. He also noted the recent successful completion of the state's largest police recruitment examination, which will soon enable over 60,200 young individuals to join the police force. CM Yogi also offered valuable insights to the youth, urging them to embrace politics not as a pursuit of power or personal gain, but as a platform for upholding values and ideals rooted in principles. He emphasized that politics should serve the interests of the state and the nation, rather than individual ambitions. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, CM Yogi reminded the youth of the importance of principled politics. He stated, "Always remember, politics without principles is a noose of death. We must not fall into temptation and must never compromise our values, no matter the circumstances." He highlighted the transformative changes in Uttar Pradesh, noting that the focus on empowering the youth has led to significant progress.