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

## NEET-UG exam case: Viral videos showing leaked paper fake, says NTA in affidavit

**NEW DELHI:** The National Testing Agency on Wednesday filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying that the Telegram videos allegedly showing photos of leaked paper are fake and manipulated.

In the affidavit, NTA said that it carried out an analysis of the distribution of marks of candidates in NEET-UG 2024 at the National, State and City level and also the Centre level.

This analysis indicates that the distribution of marks is quite normal and there seems to be no extraneous factor, which would influence the distribution of marks. "This analysis indicates that the distribution of marks is quite normal and there seems to be no extraneous factor, which would influence the distribution of marks," the NTA said in its affidavit, which also gave details about the system in place for ensuring confidential printing of question papers, its transportation and



### Why SC stayed HC's order asking Gujarat govt to take back land

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court issued a stay on Wednesday against a Gujarat high court order directing the state government to finalize the process of reclaiming approximately 108 hectares of grazing land allocated to an Adani Group subsidiary near Mundra port in 2005. The court had asked the govern-

distribution. A bench headed by Chief Justice

ment on July 5 to restore the land to a Kutch village, almost 19 years after it was allotted to Adani Port and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ). "Issue notice. Stay of impugned order," the bench comprising B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said adding that the order was required to be stayed in interest of justice.

D Y Chandrachud is scheduled to hear on

Thursday a batch of pleas related to the controversy-ridden medical entrance exam NEET-UG 2024, including those alleging irregularities and malpractices in the May 5 test and seeking a direction to conduct it afresh.

While hearing the matter on July 8, the apex court had observed that sanctity of NEET-UG 2024 has been "breached". Meanwhile, the central government also filed an affidavit in the apex court saying that there was no "mass malpractice" in the 2024 NEET-UG exam. According to the Centre, data analytics conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras indicates no evidence of widespread misconduct or any specific group of candidates unfairly benefiting, which could result in unusual scores. The NEET-UG 2024 was taken up on May 5 by 23.33 lakh students at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including in 14 cities overseas.

## Biden passes first Nato fitness test but Democrats are still doubtful

**WASHINGTON:** With more focus on clarity of thought, delivery, and body language than substance of his speech, US President Joe Biden on Tuesday pledged Nato support to Ukraine till Russia is defeated. The assertive performance on the global stage did little to staunch pressure from Democrats who want him to stand down from the 2024 Presidential elections, with former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who is herself 84 and a long-time Biden ally, becoming the most prominent party grandee to express doubts about the 81-year old President's viability for a second term. "It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run. We're all encouraging him to make that decision. Because time is running short," Pelosi said in a TV interview on Tuesday, even though Biden has insisted he will now bow out. Pressed on whether she wanted



### Bengaluru firm building 'in talks with Musk's SpaceX

**BENGALURU:** At a time India's aspirations of having a sustainable human presence in space is taking shape in the form of Gaganyaan and Bhartiya Antriksh Station (BAS) programmes, a Bengaluru start-up is proposing "expandable space habitat". The company

him to seek re-election, Pelosi, in what fell well short of a full-throated endorsement, told MSNBC's Morning Joe, "I want him to do whatever he decides to do. And that's the way it is. Whatever he decides, we go with."

— Akashalabdhii — recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), has set its sights on creating the next generation of living quarters for astronauts, researchers, and potentially even space tourists. Having begun its work at IIT-Roorkee.

Elsewhere, Democratic Senator Michael Bennett expressed fears that Trump could win a landslide in November as things stand. Even George Stephanopoulos, the ABC News anchor and former Democratic operative.

### Cops hint at more arrests in Princeton trafficking, no. of victims could be 50

**Texas** Texas, have told US media channels that the number of victims in the human trafficking case in which four Indians, including three Telugus, have been arrested could touch 50. Officers also hinted at more arrests.

So far 15 victims have been identified but their names have been withheld by police. Reports in local newspapers and TV channels said the 15 victims found in the Ginsburg Lane residence of arrested couple Santhosh Katkoori and Dwaraka Gunda in Collin County were between 23 and 26 years of age. The Princeton Herald, meanwhile, published a statement by Katkoori's attorney, Jeremy Rosenthal, who disputed police claims of "forced labour" against the couple and two others.

## Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra offer discounts as demand dips



**NEW DELHI:** Is the slowdown in the car market forcing companies to cut prices? Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have reduced prices of some of their key SUVs to give a push to demand even as others such as Maruti, Hyundai and Honda offer discounts on certain models. Tata Motors has announced cuts of about Rs 1.4 lakh on its two premium flagship SUVs.

The Harrier now comes for Rs 14.9 lakh and the Safari Rs 15.5 lakh. Even the Nexon EV has an offer of Rs 1.3 lakh discount. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility chief commercial officer Vivek Srivatsa termed them "never seen before benefits" to increase the accessibility of the vehicles. The Punch electric is also being offered with a benefit of up to Rs 30,000, he added.

Mahindra & Mahindra also launched a special edition of the XUV700 with a price reduction. The XUV700's fully-loaded AX7 range now starts at Rs 19.5 lakh, a price cut of over Rs 2 lakh. "The price cut will enable more people to experience the range," the company said.

Car sales have been struggling to match the buoyancy that it witnessed over the past few years. Factors that punctured demand include a high base and other negatives such as severe summer heatwave, uncertainty around elections, and expensive vehicles. The numbers in the month of June saw Maruti and Hyundai - the top two carmakers - report weak growth in dealerships deliveries. While Maruti, which recently launched the new-gen Swift had a 3% growth in dealer dispatches.

## Congress: Those giving it political colour are playing games

**NEW DELHI:** Congress spokesperson and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi welcomed the Supreme Court order on maintenance rights of Muslim women but cautioned that those "mischievously and deliberately" reading politics into the judgment were unnecessarily playing games. Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba too welcomed



the judgment, which she said would provide justice to women in need, irrespective of their religion. Singhvi said it was too late in the day for the petitioner, as he did in this case,

to argue that the right to maintenance and support as provided in the secular law did not apply to married Muslim women as that had been decided several times earlier and the SC was only "reiterating, reapplying and reinforcing" the established law of the land. "The obligation to support a married woman applies irrespective of religion and is gender specific

for the help of women but is religion neutral. That is what the SC has said and the judgment deserves to be welcomed", Singhvi said. "It is an established principle of law which has been applied in a specific case by the Supreme Court and should not be made to acquire political hues and colours as some quarters are trying to do," he added.

**MUMBAI:** Indian residents can now open foreign currency accounts in GIFT City into which they can remit money for all purposes allowed under RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme. The scheme allows every individual to send up to \$250,000 abroad annually. So far, money transfers under LRS to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) were



allowed only for investing in securities within IFSCs, excluding Indian companies, and for paying education fees to foreign universities or institutions in IFSCs. Now, RBI allows remittances under

LRS for deposits, purchasing immovable property, investing in equity and debt, giving gifts, making donations, travelling, maintaining close relatives, receiving medical treatment as well .

## West Bengal wins round 1 versus Centre in Supreme Court on CBI probes

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court Wednesday trashed the multiple grounds cited by Centre to seek dismissal of West Bengal's constitutional suit raising a Centre-state dispute on CBI allegedly illegally carrying out probes in the state despite the Trinamool Congress govt's revocation of the general consent to the agency to start probes on its own. Rejecting preliminary objections raised by SG Tushar Mehta seeking dismissal of the suit and accepting contentions of advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Singhvi, who appeared for WB, a bench of Justices B



R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta posted the suit for framing of issues on August 13.

Centre's main contention was that CBI is neither a state, nor its investigation supervised by the Centre, and hence the state cannot claim any relief against Union govt. As the state's grievances are mainly against CBI, it could not have filed a suit without

making the central agency a party. Dealing with Mehta's submissions, the bench said, "We find that SG's contention that even if CBI, being an independent agency, is considered to be an instrumentality of the State under Article 12 of Constitution, it cannot be equated with Government of India as contemplated under Article 131 of Constitution,

in our view, holds no water." Writing the 74-page judgment, Justice Gavai said, "In our view, CBI is an organ or a body, which is established by and which is under superintendence of Govt of India in view of the statutory scheme as enacted by the DSPE Act." He said, "No doubt that powers of superintendence of central govt would not relate to superintendence of investigation of a particular case (which is vested with Central Vigilance Commission by a judgment of SC) and the probe agency (CBI) would always be entitled to investigate the offences independently."

### Teen abducted, drugged & raped, rescued after 10 days

**AGRA:** Ten days after a 16-year-old girl was abducted and assaulted in captivity by three boys in Aligarh, police rescued her and apprehended the accused, among them a minor and a woman, officials said on Tuesday. The perpetrators had allegedly held the teenager.

captive, force-feeding her multiple sleeping pills every day to render her unconscious, and then gang-raping her. During this period, they even called the girl's family and demanded a ransom. Subsequently, a team of 24 police personnel traced the mobile location and reached the accused on Monday. The father of the survivor, resident of a colony in the Quarsi police station area.

### NPCI to roll out credit line option on UPI

**MUMBAI:** The National Payments Corporation of India, on the rails of the UPI, is set to introduce a new product which will function like a credit card. RBI has allowed banks to offer credit lines to customers through UPI. Several banks, including Axis, HDFC, ICICI, Indian Bank and PNB, are live on this product. The credit line to customer is a product where the customer gets a fixed credit line and pays interest to the bank only to the extent they use their credit limit. The new credit feature on UPI allows customers to make purchases without immediately seeing any funds outgo from their accounts. The payments take place at the end of a cycle and can only be made to shops, with the shopkeeper bear-

ing the cost of credit in terms of fees. There is no charge for the customer. While this is a new product, the payment infrastructure that will be used will be the existing UPI payment and acceptance setup. In the eight years since its launch, UPI has replaced debit cards as the primary method for account-to-merchant payments. Credit on UPI offers similar capabilities as credit cards. One of the main factors driving adoption is the comparison of fees that merchants would have to pay in relation to credit cards. According to a report by AT Kearny and Amazon Pay, 53% of consumers prefer UPI for online purchases, while digital wallets and cards (credit, debit, and prepaid) are preferred by 30%.

## AIMIM to protest against mob lynching bulldozer policy

Prayagraj: All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen AIMIM Uttar Pradesh in the entire state organising one-day protest program organized under the leadership of the District President to stop the increasing incidents of mob lynching of Dalit and backward Muslims in the state and the action of bulldozers. In which a memorandum will be given to the President through the District Magistrate, all the Assembly Speakers, Youth Presidents and all the workers of the district have been called upon to reach there. While giving information, Metropolitan President of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Afsar Mahmood said that all the officials and workers will arrive in large numbers.

## BJP declared candidates for PMC Executive

Prayagraj: BJP District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani while giving information said that Bharatiya Janata Party Prayagraj Mahanagar has filed a petition in the Executive Committee of Municipal Corporation Prayagraj regarding the election of Executive Committee member of Municipal Corporation Prayagraj to be held on July 11. BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra declared the names of Councilor Gulab Patel, Councilor Gyanendra Mishra, Councilor Sunita Chopra, Councilor Ram Milan Pasi as member candidates. All the candidates declared were congratulated in advance for victory by Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani Councilor Kiran Jaiswal, Kunj Bihari Mishra Devesh Singh, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vijay Vaish, Vivek Aggarwal, Raju Pathak, Girjesh Mishra, Raghavendra Singh, Sachin Jaiswal, Subhash Vaish, etc.

## Voter felicitation event today

Prayagraj: BJP District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani gave this information on July 11 at 5:00 pm. Bharatiya Janata Party Prayagraj Metropolitan will organize a voter felicitation ceremony in the city North Assembly Voter Felicitation Ceremony at the party office Civil Lines.

## Lamination machine inaugurated

Prayagraj: Laminash machine was launched today in Malviya Studio, which was inaugurated by senior journalist Ravi Pathak. Whereas Haji Aslam started the work by running the machine. After the inauguration of this program, Ravi Pathak said this is the best studio and Malviya Studio will establish a new identity in photography and media branding in the coming times. The program was conducted by senior photojournalist Sharad Malviya. Dozens of people including Vinod Pandey, Pratik Malviya, Sanjay Agrahari, Dulquer, participated in the program.



## Majlis & procession mark 3rd Moharram

Prayagraj: Martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain and others by Olma from morning till late night in Chak Zero Road, Ghantaghar, Sabzi Mandi, Shahganj, Barntala, Paththar Gali, Rani Mandi, Karaili, Karailabagh, Bakshi Bazaar, Daryabad and other Muslim dominated areas on the third of Mahe Muharram. Mention was made in the memory of 71 martyrs. Maulana Akhtar Hussain Sahib, while addressing the third majlis of Mahe Muharram organized by Hasan Aamir at Alamchand Azakhana, gave instructions to follow Sirat Mustaqem while in a poignant manner he remembered the martyrdom of the martyr of Karbala. When the story was narrated, tears started flowing from people's eyes. Naukhawano of Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimya, Hashim Bandvi, Jibran, Syed Haider Mehndi, Mahmood Abbas, Abid Hussain, Nazir, Mohammad Rizvi, Sheeraz, Rahib, Kaif, Alamdar, Hasnain, Hussain Askari, Mohammad Sadiq etc. Aamirur When Rizvi's Nauha was read, the words of 'Aho Buka' started reso-



ning from everywhere. Maulana Irfan Haider Saheb Qibla addressed the Qadimi Majlis at Azakhana Nishad Hussain 'Afroz' on the tekre of Kamal Khan in Dariyabad. When Shahenshah Sonvi read Marsiya, Anjuman Hussainia Registered Nauhakwanos Fazal Abbas, Shahrukh Hussaini, Mohammad Abbas, Raza Hassan, Misam, Mazhar, Aamir Abbas, Salman etc. read Purdard Nauha, people cried in queues.

Procession of Alam Tabut and Zuljanah taken out from Qadam Rasool. In Daryabad, the Qadimi procession of the third Moharram was taken out from Qadam Rasool, which ended late at night till Imambara Hussain Ali Khan raising the standards of mourning and mourning. Naukhawano Zia Abbas Arshi Yasir Sibtain of Anjuman Hashimaya Daryabad along with other people participated in the procession reciting sad Nauha. Mashhad Ali Khan, Shafiqat Abbas Pasha, Mohammad Ahmed Guddu, Councilor Fasahat Hussain, Syed Mohammad Askari, Mahmood Zaidi, Aun Zaidi, Jaun Zaidi, Asif Rizvi, Zamin Hasan etc. were included.

# MUNPL CEO Kamlesh Soni launches CIPET 2024 Prog under CSR initiative



Meja: MUNPL CEO Kamlesh Soni launched the CIPET 2024 Program at Meja Urja Nigam.

The program will train 60 candidates in Plastic Processing and Injection Moulding over 180 days. The program is aimed to ensure all participants secure 100% jobs in the Plastic and Polymer industry. Meja Urja Nigam will cover the expenses of this residential program of approximately Rs. 67 lakhs. CEO Kamlesh Soni emphasised the importance of skill development and encouraged students to work hard and secure a good job. He also high-

lighted the inclusion of 4 female candidates, and recognized it as a significant move towards women empowerment. Last year, the same program achieved 100% placement for 22 students.

During the occasion, all GMs, HoDs, and other senior officials were also present.

Meja: Meja Urja Nigam in collaboration with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Lucknow has started skill development and encouraged students to work hard and secure a good job. He also high-

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operator-injection moulding. It is noteworthy that by giving approximately 960 hours of training to both the batches, they will be made capable of getting employment in the plastics industry. Let us tell you that in these 6 months, the youth will be given theoretical training as well as practical training. Not only this, arrangements have been made for all the youth to stay for 6 months free of cost in CIPET Hostel located in Lucknow. During this period, Meja Urja Nigam will bear all the expenses from selection process to place-

ment. About Rs 67 lakh will be spent on this training. It is noteworthy that this is the second successful effort of Meja Urja Nigam in the direction of skill development training. Last year, 22 youth were provided training under the above training and 100% employment was provided and this year also it will be ensured that employment opportunities are provided to all the youth and their standard of living can also be improved. On this occasion, Kamlesh Soni, CEO of Meja Urja Nigam, while encouraging all the youth to complete the training with dedication,

said in his address that Meja Urja Nigam as well as your family members and society have great expectations from all of you. In which you all have to become self-reliant through your hard work and dedication. You all are the heritage of the country and the progress of the country is only due to your progress. While assuring all the villagers present and the families of the youth receiving training, Shri Soni said that Meja Urja Nigam will continue to work in the field of skill development training so that the nearby unemployed youth can get employment opportunities.

## Lord Shri Krishna's birth anniv celebrated with pomp

Prayagraj: Prayagshwar Nath located in Kashiraj Nagar by Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust and Kshatriya Sonar Youth Committee and Mahila Samaj. On the occasion of the fourth day of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha organized in the abode of Lord Jagannath, while giving the devotees the relish of the story, Pujya Shri Vinay Priya Tripathi Madhukar Ji Maharaj Vrindavan said that when unrighteousness prevails on this earth and the earth starts shaking with sin. It becomes difficult for the noble people to live then in order to free the earth from sins and for the destruction of unrighteousness and unrighteous people, Shri Hari Narayan incarnates in some

form or the other and it is said that in Treta Yuga Shri Hari Narayan incarnated in the form of Ram. He incarnated in 1550 BC and established Ram Rajya by killing the unrighteous Ravana



and when the sin of unrighteous Kansa began to dominate in Dwapar, then Shri Hari Narayan appeared in Mathura in the form of Lord Shri Krishna and destroyed Kansa and in Dwapar He established Dharma Rashtira by destroying unrighteous rulers like

Dhritarashtra and sinners like Duryodhana Dushasan. Apart from this, in today's story, Maharaj ji has described Dhruva character, Prahlad character, Lord Parashuram, incarnation of Lord Shri Ram.

Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani said that on this occasion, the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Krishna was celebrated with great pomp. Devotees sang Mangal Geet Sohar while dancing and singing and Sethaura Prasad was

distributed to all the devotees. The main host of the story was Rohit, President of Kshatriya Sonar Yuvak Samiti. Verma and his wife Gulab Verma and Ravindra Verma Shalini Verma were present on this occasion, former councilor Umesh Chandra Jaiswal, Shashikant Jaiswal Pappu, Durga Prasad Gupta, Jai Ram Gupta, women president Poonam Gupta, Kanhaiyalal Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani, Amar Rastogi, Indresh Nath Verma, Shivam Soni, Mrs. Kranti Johri, Rachna Verma Asha Soni, Aarti was conducted by Rath Yatra coordinator Basant Lal Azad, on this occasion Preeti Gupta, Arun Sahu, Sunil Arora, Shubham Aggarwal, Happy Kaseria, Pawan Gupta, Ramlal Garg, Arun Sahu, Ajay Agrahari, etc.

## Gulab Agrahari, who remained DGC for 6 years, presented govt's side brilliantly

Four people given death sentence, revision filed to PM, CM rejected

Prayagraj: DGC Gulab Chandra Agrahari, who started his government work in 2000 and reached the level of DGC, who got four accused hanged and 301 accused sentenced to life imprisonment, has presented the government's side brilliantly in the last six years. On one hand, Raja Kulandar, accused in journalist Dharendra Singh murder case and Inspector Shatrughan Singh, accused in guard Ram Avtar Shukla murder case, were given life imprisonment, while on the other hand, a revision was filed for registering an FIR against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister. Gulab Chandra Agrahari, who made headlines by getting the revision filed against Amit Shah rejected, completed his 6-year tenure as District Government Advocate Criminal in an excellent manner.

Gulab Chandra Agrahari, resident of village Chilla Mafi Pahadi, district Chitrakoot, started

government work in District Court Allahabad in 2000. During this period, he was Assistant District Government Advocate and has been holding the post of DGC for the last 6



years. In these unmatched and memorable years, Shri Gulab Chandra Agrahari got four accused in the Ayodhya case punished with life imprisonment and sent a proposal of appeal against the acquitted accused to the government. Also got the 46 year old case resolved. He made an important contribution in getting 41 accused in the immoral prostitution case punished. Along with this, the accused of attacking Inspector Anita Chauhan with a chapad was

brought to justice inside the court.

Regarding this golden tenure of his, DGC further said that if the bail applications of thousands of accused including Mahant Narendra Giri suicide case accused Anand Giri Shuats' RB Lal, former MP Atiq Ahmed, former MLA Khalid Azim alias Ashraf, Javed Khan were rejected. Former BSP minister Hiralal Gautam played an important role in getting the punishment to SPMLA Vijma Yadav, former MP Atiq Ahmed etc. accused of kidnapping Umesh Pal. Along with this, a proposal of appeal for more punishment against the acquitted accused in Umesh Pal kidnapping case and against Vijma Yadav was also sent to the government. The revision filed for registering FIR against the DGP, Police Commissioner, Police Station Heads and Judicial Magistrate was also rejected. Along with all this, eight accused including Don Bablu Srivastava's nephew were also punished in the famous Pankaj Mahindra

kidnapping case on 5 July 24.

Shri Agrahari also told that his position was presented as per the intention of the government. Due to which the cases of leaders like Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, former Education Minister Narendra Singh Gaur and MLA Praveen Patel etc. were returned by the courts. In view of these excellent and unmatched works of Gulab Agrahari, four citations were also given by the government. Along with this, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Mahant of Hanumangarhi Ayodhya, High Court Justice Sudhir Aggarwal, former Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi, DIG Gyan Singh, SP Satyarth Anurudh Pankaj, Khuladabad Joint Trade Board, Ramamandaleswar Mahamandaleswar, Mahant Pintu Maharaj of Uttarakhand etc also honoured him.

## BJP leader victim of police apathy, seeks commissioner intervention

Prayagraj: Khuldabad Police Station Head is allegedly unwilling to lodge FIR about the robbery incident with the son of co-convenor of Prayagraj BJP Business Cell, Uttar Pradesh. Kushal

was done. On 8th July, the area officer called the applicant Kushal Kumar to the CO office and recorded the statement of the applicant and said that on 9th July you will be informed



Lakhmani's son Uday Kumar Lakhmani is a resident of Lukerganj. He said that a request was made through an application to the Police Station-Khuldabad. Neither Police Station Head lodged the FIR of the applicant nor the medical examination of the applicant Kushal Kumar

through mobile. It will be given that you will go to the police station head and lodge an FIR and get the medical examination done, but neither the applicant was called to the police station nor the medical examination was done. Defeated, the victims are knocking at the door of justice.

## Kitten thrown in garbage heap, humanity put to shame

Prayagraj: Teacher Poonam Gupta found an innocent kitten lying in the garbage near Allapur Bassi Dam. After the innocent child was found, information was taken from the people nearby and no one was able to tell anything. After this, after contacting

the garbage. This team went to Ashok Mishra's house with the innocent kittens which were continuously being thrown away. She got information about animal cruelty. It was given that what is the punishment and what is the fine regarding animal cruelty, only then



Abhilash Kesarwani, the youth district president of Janhit Sangharsh Samiti, after watching the CCTV cameras of nearby shopkeepers, it was learned that Ashok Mishra, Chitra Mishra, who are looking after many cases of animal cruelty, was called on the spot to throw the kittens in

Ashok Mishra accepted his mistake in writing and assured to keep the innocent child in his residence and take care of it, so that the innocent child can be saved. Animal lovers like Poonam Gupta, Subhash, Abhilash Kesarwani, Chitra Mishra etc. were present on the occasion.

# Appointment letters distributed to 229 lekhpals by MP Phulpur & MLA

Prayagraj: Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath distributed the appointment letters of 7720 accountants selected and recommended for the post of accountant on the basis of Accountant Selection Examination-2022 under the fair and transparent recruitment process of Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission on Wednesday in Lok Bhavan Auditorium, Lucknow. The program was telecast live in the auditorium of Allahabad Medical Association Hall. On the occasion of the program organized in the auditorium of Allahabad Medical Association Hall, MP Phulpur Praveen Patel, MLA Phaphamau Guru Prasad Maurya, MLA Bara Dr. Vachaspati, MLA Koraon, Rajmani Kol, Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal, Chief Revenue Officer Kunwar Pankaj. In presence, appointment letters were distributed to a total of 229 candidates selected for the post of Accountant in Prayagraj district. On this occasion, MP

Praveen Patel congratulated all the 229 accountants selected for Prayagraj district on receiving their appointment letters and wished them well for their

face many challenges because most of the problems of the people are related to the Revenue Department. He said that every person wants justice and if small

wishes, has also made you realize the responsibilities and responsibilities of your post. The government has made many arrangements so that people can get jus-

said that it is a matter of happiness to receive the appointment letters, but if the appointment letters are received in such a big public program, then there is a

letter. He said that you are getting the opportunity to serve the people and the person standing at the last rung of the society, you should do it with full honesty and devotion and play your role in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of a developed India. Programme At the end, District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal, while expressing his gratitude to the MPs and MLAs, congratulated all the accountants who received appointment letters and wished them a bright future and said that all of you will discharge your responsibilities with fairness, transparency and We will definitely work according to the inspiration, instructions and guidance given in today's program. He said that I hope that you will play a successful and important role in solving the problems of the people in Prayagraj district. The program was conducted by Prabhakar Tripathi. On this occasion, all the Additional Municipal Magistrates, Sub-District Magistrates, Project Director AK Maurya and related officials of the Revenue Department and others were present.

## Excise Minister praised officers Jitendra Singh, Gyanendra Pandey and Sushil Mishra

Prayagraj: Though the District Excise Officers are doing good work in all the districts across the state in the Excise Department, but the excellent work done by the District Excise Officers

excise officers from across the state were included. Ayodhya's District Excise Officer Jitendra Singh, Gyanendra Pandey of Mirzapur and Sushil Mishra of Prayagraj have been



of Ayodhya, Mirzapur and Prayagraj of the state, were applauded by UP Excise Minister Nitin Agarwal, who has praised a lot for the work done by them. Recently, Uttar Pradesh Excise Minister Nitin Agarwal was holding a state level review meeting of the Excise Department. In which district

highly appreciated by State Excise Minister Nitin Agarwal for collecting more revenue than the target during the specified period of time. In the meeting, Excise Principal Secretary Beena Sharma, Excise Commissioner Adarsh Singh including officials from across the state were present.



future and said that today is the best day for your life. All of you have got a huge responsibility and obligation to serve all the people of the state, which you should fulfill with great dedication, clear intentions and honesty. He said that in the area where you are going, you will get the opportunity to solve the problems of the common people every day and you will also

problems and disputes related to revenue are resolved honestly at the village level, then they will not turn into big problems and disputes. He said that this will definitely bring prosperity in the villages as well as a huge reduction in the litigations related to them. He said that in today's programme, the Chief Minister, along with best

feeling of pride. He said that you have received this appointment letter under a fair recruitment process, hence you should try to help the poor as much as you can, keeping in mind the social interest, impartially and without any pressure. MLA Phaphamau Guru Prasad Maurya said that many congratulations and best wishes to all of you for receiving the appointment

letter. He said that you are getting the opportunity to serve the people and the person standing at the last rung of the society, you should do it with full honesty and devotion and play your role in realizing the Prime Minister's vision of a developed India. Programme At the end, District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal, while expressing his gratitude to the MPs and MLAs, congratulated all the accountants who received appointment letters and wished them a bright future and said that all of you will discharge your responsibilities with fairness, transparency and We will definitely work according to the inspiration, instructions and guidance given in today's program. He said that I hope that you will play a successful and important role in solving the problems of the people in Prayagraj district. The program was conducted by Prabhakar Tripathi. On this occasion, all the Additional Municipal Magistrates, Sub-District Magistrates, Project Director AK Maurya and related officials of the Revenue Department and others were present.

## Taekwondo team to participate in state championship

Prayagraj: Prayagraj's Taekwondo team will participate in the state championship from 12 to 14 July 2024. They will participate in the State Taekwondo Championship to be held at K.D. Singh Babu Stadium of Lucknow. The competition is being organized by the Lucknow District Taekwondo Association under the Uttar

This championship will provide a big platform to the players to showcase their skills, discipline and sportsmanship. On this occasion, Association President Shivbhan ji, Vice President Nishant Malhotra, Joint Secretary Sunny Singh, Satyadev Yadav, Sunil Kumar, Navneet, Vimal, Sushmana, Kamal Yadav, Suchitra Kumari, Haseeb Ahmed



Pradesh Taekwondo Association. The players of the Prayagraj team, who are from various Taekwondo clubs and associations, are ready to showcase their skills and compete with the best players from the state. This competition will have both Kyorugi (sparring) and Poomsae (forms) competitions, in which players from different and weight categories will participate.

congratulated and wished for a bright future. The above information was given by Public Relations Officer Atul Sonkar. The list of participating players is attached. Men's Category: Satyam Kumar, Vinay Kumar Patel, Sanju Kesarwani, Anup Yadav, Aditya Rohit, Aryan Pal, Nawazish, Vikas Patel, Suresh Kumar, Karthikeya Yadav, Atif Khan, Utkarsh Yadav, Shaurya Pratap Vishwakarma, Ayush Patel, Kushagra Tripathi, Uday Women's category : Shivani Yadav, Tejashwi Sahu, Kripa, Shraddha Tiwari, Anika Chandra, Arshika Kashyap, Shagun Kesarwani, Angel Sahu, Deepanjali Pandey, Kajal Pandey, Jagriti Yadav, Karishma Maurya, Anjali Pandey, Agrata Singh, Sanjana, Aarohi Tiwari, Asmita Parth, Tanu Singh, Trupti Kumari, Hansika Pandey, Trignatmika Sheetal Shukla, Abhavya Jaiswal, Simran Sharma, Aarushi, Drishtita Singh, Meenu Kumari, Khushi Singh, Shirin Bhatt.

## Follow traffic rules: Pawan Pandey

Prayagraj: Naini Industrial Training Center installed L10 boards to create awareness about the rules, which was released by Inspector Pawan Pandey. On this occasion, Councillor Dharnesh Singh Arvind Rai, President Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Association, Shweta Sahu District President National Human Crime Control Bureau, Senior Citizen Dharamveer Yadav, Rachna Trivedi, Ajay Singh, Yasin, Abhishek Tiwari, Amandeep, Rohit Yadav, Beena, Niharika, Sunidhi Naini Patron of Industrial Training Center Mr. Mahendra Arora were present at the release of the display board. After this, the chief guest and special guest planted saplings and the students of the center and the local citizens were made aware of the traf-

fic rules. Pawan Pandey said that the students at Naini Industrial Training Center are very good citizens. Preparations are being made for the country. UPSP President Arvind Rai said. Told that the students of Naini Industrial Training Center are serving in all the industries of Prayagraj, these students are doing vital work for the industrial sector. Chvinath Yadav said in his statement that the students and programs here are career oriented in which good citizens are developed. Councillor Dharnesh, explaining the problem, said that the center is very beneficial for the local area, due to which the development of the area will be rapid. Umesh Yadav said that many students here often come out of their industries. Let's meet, who are proud of the work done by their

centre. The students of Naini Industrial Training Center took an oath that they will always follow the traffic rules and spread



awareness. Students took oath to become model citizens and follow traffic rules. Studying Skill Development at Naini Industrial Training Center helps students develop a variety of skills

which are valuable not only in one profession but also in various other fields. - Kunwar Singh, in this program a team of college officials conducted a campaign outside the training center to enforce the training rules in which they mainly participated in the program to make people aware at the board level and Pandey ji Traffic Inspector,

Mohammad Kausar Rohit etc. were present outside the centre. Everyone talked about keeping the environment pollution free by planting trees. Mohammed Kausar, Admission Incharge, NITC, said that he is very satisfied with the educational facilities and training placement. He declared that NITC is the best in Prayagraj. It is one of the training and skill development centres. Here the Guru-Shishya tradition is followed and while respecting the students he said that it is a matter of pride for the centre. The teachers of the center always emphasize that the students should learn well and do well in their future. Make it bright and successful. He called upon the teachers and students to teach and study with more hard work and dedication in the future.

## Curtains draw over training prog on grain production, processing & entrepreneurship

Prayagraj: The project related to millets is being run by the Directorate of Extension in the districts under Sam Higginbottom Agricultural Technology and Science University. Under the scheme, with the aim of promoting local and innovation related works of improved varieties of Shri Anna, demonstration of Shri Ann has been given in the fields of beneficiary farmers of seven districts. Apart from this, training was provided to the members of selected FPOs to provide them with technical information on production, processing and marketing. In the same sequence, FPO member training and seed distribution in village Gaurahi develop-

ment block, Karma district, Sonbhadra, dated 09.07.2024. During the training program, Chief Investigator of the project, Agri-



cultural Scientist Dr. Manish Kesarwani told that the main objective of the project is to research local and innovative varieties of millets, promote consump-

tion of millets and its processed products and develop marketing channel through FPO. Under this, the selected FPO members and

farmers were provided training by Shuats University to make them efficient in millets production, value addition, processing and marketing. Under the program, the

members of the Farmer Producer Organization were provided information about the techniques of scientific production of coarse grains

like jowar, millet, ragi, China, Kangni, Kutki, Kodo etc. and also the present farmers and farmer women were given information about the processing of coarse grains.

Practical training was provided to prepare products like Sanwa Kheer, Ragi Halwa, Ragi Laddus and nutritious Panjiri of other millets at home and commercial level. Mrs. Meena Nathan taught the farmers and farmer women how to prepare Ragi Laddus, Panjiri, Mathri and Halwa. And experimental information on making Sanwa Kheer was provided. Dr. Manish Kesarwani, the chief investigator of the project, along with the village head and director of the Farmer Producer Organization present in the program, distributed all the selected seven crops of coarse grains to the beneficiary farmers for farming in the Kharif season.

## Slowly but gradually facts continuously being exposed in ARO/RO paper leak case

Prayagraj: Many truths are still being revealed layer by layer in the ARO/RO paper leak case. Many affected people were continuously writing demanding an investigation into the paper leak case, as a result of which a notice was issued to the DIOS and the then principal of the school and called for questioning. On which the DIOS had asked for 15 days' time, the then principal of the school, Parul Solomon, neither responded to the notice nor participated in the inquiry, on which the examinees union also expressed strong objection. There was a strong demand to make the then school principal Parul Solomon an accused in the paper leak case. Taking

cognizance of this, UP STF has issued a reminder notice to the DIOS along with the then Principal Parul Solomon and called them for questioning. In the ARO/RO paper leak case, the paper was leaked by accused Arpit Vineet Jaswant from Bishop Johnson Girls School, who was neither an employee of the school nor had anything to do with the school. In such a situation, it is clear that there is collusion between the higher officials and the principal in the paper leak case due to which the responsibility of conducting such a big competitive examination was handed over to the accused. However, taking cognizance of this entire

incident, Bishop Morris Edgar Dan, Chairman of the Diocese of Lucknow, the organization that runs the school, removed the then Principal from his post, but in a very dramatic manner, the then Principal filed an FIR against her removal against the Chairman and many others. In this regard, Bishop Morris Edgar Dan said that she had already been expelled. There are many other allegations against the then principal also. After the paper leak episode, there was immense anger among the teachers and parents of the school against the then principal. In such a situation, her continuity in the post would have been injustice to lakhs of candidates.

## BJP workers congratulated Defense Minister on his b'day

Prayagraj: BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra and District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani, while congratulating him on his birthday, said that Honorable Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is the source of inspiration for crores of workers of Bharatiya Janata Party and during his tenure as National President, Bharatiya Janata Party has been strengthened. Got Aadhaar and served the country as Home Minister in the first term of Modi government and is serving the country as Defense Minister in the second and third term. Among those who congratulated were Kunj Bihari Mishra, Devesh Singh Varun Kesarwani Rajesh Kesarwani Ramesh Pasi. Vivek Aggarwal Raju Pathak Girjesh Mishra Raghavendra Singh Sachin Jaiswal Subhash Vaishya Rajan Shukla Prashant Shukla Rakesh Bharti, Ajay Agrahari Shatrughan Jaiswal Rajesh Sharma Madhur Mathur Padmakar Srivastava Shrestha Chaurasia, Vikas Chaurasia Neeraj Kesarwani, etc. Hundreds of workers congratulated him on his birthday.

## Cong presented Khiraze Aqidat to ex-CM Abdul Ghafoor on d'anniv

Prayagraj: On the death anniversary of former Chief Minister of Bihar Abdul Ghafoor, Minority Congress presented Khiraze Aqidat. On this occasion, city president Arshad Ali, remembering him, said that Ghafoor Saheb was born in 1918 in Bihar. Born in a farmer's family in Lalgopalganj district of Uttarakhnad, he received his higher education from Aligarh University and actively participated in the freedom struggle and was jailed many times for the freedom of



the country. Arshad Ali told Gafoor Saheb 2 July He was the Chief Minister of Bihar from 1973 to 11 April 1975. He also worked as a cabinet minister in the Rajiv Gandhi government. He died on 10 July 2004. On this occasion, minority Congress officials prayed for the blessings of Abdul Ghafoor Saheb. On this occasion, Mahfooz Ahmed, Talib Ahmed, Haji Sartaj, Mukhtar Ahmed, Mohd Haseen, Zahid Neta, Ghulam Waris, Mohd Akmal, Laiq Ahmed etc. were present.

## Editorial

### Nancy meets Dalai Lama as shows eagerness to engage India on Tibet

For Tibet watchers, the past few weeks have been special; one does not know which side to turn one's attention to. Apart from the 'courtesy calls' to the Dalai Lama by some of the candidates during the campaign for the legislative elections, an announcement about renaming some places in Tibet has been making the rounds (this, however, remains irrelevant as nobody has seen the new names yet). More important was the news from Washington that the US Congress has passed the 'Resolve Tibet Act', now waiting for President Joe Biden's signature to become law. Among other things, the Act mentions that the "claims made by officials of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party that Tibet has been a part of China since ancient times are historically inaccurate". It has serious implications for India's northern border, which for millennia had been with Tibet; unfortunately, after Tibet's invasion in the early 1950s, it ended up being the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The Act also speaks of Beijing's current policies, which "are systematically suppressing the ability of the Tibetan people to preserve their religion, culture, language, history, way of life, and environment". Since 1959, when the Dalai Lama crossed the Indian border into Arunachal Pradesh (then the North East Frontier Agency), successive governments in Delhi have supported the Dalai Lama and his followers in this regard and ensured that India was their second home. Today, projects such as the Nalanda University in Bihar could further strengthen the relations between Tibet, where the 'Nalanda Tradition' was practiced for centuries, and India. Then, the Act says that Beijing "is failing to meet the expectations of the United States to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives or to reach a negotiated resolution that includes the aspirations of the Tibetan people". It is doubtful that concrete progress will be seen in this regard in the near future for the single reason that Beijing is today not in a mood to listen to any 'advice' from the US (or India). Perhaps more meaningful is the following point: "The US public diplomacy efforts should counter disinformation about Tibet from [Beijing], including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama." Apart from the new law, the visit to India (and Dharamsala) of former United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, along with other members of a Congressional delegation and their audience with the Dalai Lama, needs to be looked into as it raises several questions. Why did the US delegation visit Dharamsala just a few days before the Dalai Lama leaves for the US for knee surgery? Could not the delegation have met the religious leader in the US? But perhaps Washington was keen to involve India in the Tibetan issue? That Delhi agreed to this is clear, as the same delegation was received in Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar on its return from Dharamsala. The media missed another visit, which was certainly not a coincidence. Xinhua News Agency reported that on June 18, the day the US delegation arrived in Dharamsala, President Xi Jinping conducted an 'investigation' at the Hongjue monastery in Xining City (Qinghai province): "to understand the Tibetan Buddhist community to carry forward.

# Great game of leverage



One of the key concepts in Sanatan Dharma is 'maya'. Nothing is what it seems. This illusory nature of maya leads us into delusion and prevents us from understanding the true nature of things. In the material world, for instance, that which appears 'spontaneous', 'coincidental', 'unrelated' at first glance might have an underlying connection that eludes the naked eye. Take for example, foreign interference in Indian elections, or the illegitimate intrusion of international lobbies in Indian domestic politics. Foreign interference is a serious issue that compromises the sovereignty and integrity of a nation. Chinese manoeuvring in Australian domestic politics led the bilateral relationship almost to a point of no return. The US Senate formed a high-powered intelligence committee to probe allegations of Russian efforts to influence 2016 presidential elections. Despite a restive debate in India that has led the external affairs minister and even the prime minister to comment on the topic bang in the middle of general elections, it is difficult to pinpoint the nature of the meddling, the source, and the way public discourse is being subtly remodelled to build and suit narratives by influence operations. There is no fixed template for foreign interference. Given its amorphous nature, it becomes even more difficult to combat

such information warfare in an open society like India that has a democratic political system, a complex, ram-bunctious polity and a discursive tradition of argumentation and debate. Swirling allegations in India of western interference have always been met with layers of incredulity and plausible deniability. If we can't pinpoint the players in this murky game of shadows, if we can't access their motives, mitigating the challenges becomes nearly impossible. We often hear about Western 'Deep State' and foreign lobbies that are opposed to the so-called 'Hindu nationalist' regime in India, working to subvert the democratically elected government, or even trying to shape electoral outcomes. What is this 'Deep State'? How does it operate? What is its motive? Is it a signifier for the shape-shifting aggregation of western intelligence agencies, perma-bureaucracy, academia, major foundations, multinational corpo-

rates, civil society, political activists, 'human rights' organizations, 'democracy rating' agencies, media outlets and think tanks that further each other's interests and all curiously end up advancing the major goals of American foreign policy, neoliberals and globalists? It all sounds very far-fetched and fantastic, and therein lies its effectiveness. Diffusion is an instrument of statecraft. Tracing the source of influence operations led by the Deep State could be a bit like tracing hackers who keep their IPs bouncing around the globe. And if you can't trace it, you have no case. The omnipotence and omniscience of this ambiguous clique of vested interests paint a mayajaal (an illusory network) of narratives in a way that not only pushes and establishes preset western notions/ interpretations, but also make the viewpoints and perspectives seem 'organic' and even indigenous. It also makes targeted action difficult and open to criticism. If a for-

eign journalist's visa is not renewed by the Indian government, the focus is likely to be on the controversy. The government will inevitably be painted as a 'thin-skinned bully' and the fact that a foreign national working in India may have willfully blurred the line between 'journalism' and 'political activism' will be silently glossed over. It'll invite even more charges of 'democratic backsliding' and 'repression', no matter how ill-placed and misleading those charges are. There have been allegations that the major narrative weapons in the Opposition's armoury, such as 'caste census', in the just concluded general elections where the Narendra Modi-led BJP saw an erosion in power, were provided by shadowy figures of this nebulous foreign adversary. According to painstaking research by Disinfo Lab, an independent OSINT-based research organization, that went after the hydra-headed money trail, it appears that liberal 'philanthropy' funds were pumped out to various fronts, think tanks, western media outlets, and members of academia in nations such as France and the US to influence public discourse in India through a tsunami of macro, micro and meta narratives and impact voter mindset. The pattern of funding, according to their findings, suggests an aim to invalidate the legitimacy of Indian electoral process and undermine Indian democracy, the world's largest where 642 million Indians recently exercised their voting rights. Former Prasar Bharati chief Shashi Shekhar Vempati's compilation of some of these media headlines are worth a look, if only to have an idea about the depth and scale of the 'seemingly uncoordinated' operations. As I said, 'mayajaal'. These patterns are visible, however, with a degree of effort. For instance, there has been a lot of noise of late over a report by Australian government-funded ABC News's 'Four Corners' report that highlighted India's alleged actions against Khalistani terrorists based in Australia, one of the nations in the Five Eyes (FVEY) Anglosphere intelligence network comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the US. India is already involved in major controversies with Canada and Washington over the issue of Khalistani terrorism, and the report, named 'Infiltrating Australia', claims that the Indian government is prying into the lives of the Indian diaspora to smoke out the Khalistani network, and that at least four Indian diplomats were asked to leave by the Australian government on charges of "spying". Interestingly, while the Australian government has sought to play down the controversy - the media discourse.

### Terror attacks in Kashmir: Critical revamping needed in war against terrorism

Even before the abrogation, the authorities made claims that their counter-terrorism efforts had confined the terrorism to three districts of South Kashmir and that the Pir Panjal area, i.e., the Jammu region, had been rid of militancy a long time ago. Hence, post-Article 370 abrogation, the real test was in the Kashmir valley. No one thought of the Pir Panjal area. So, today, almost five years after August 5, 2019, in Kashmir, the spike in the brutal terror attacks in Pir Panjal, an area declared terrorism-free long ago, is more than shocking. Sounding an alarming note, the recent developments suggest the following: First, contrary to official and media versions, the

state's success in crushing the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is not good enough. Second, in the Kashmir valley, though the big-ticket terror attacks and fidayeen missions are not visible, Islamist outfits like Jamaat-e-Islami are massively working on the ground on radicalisation, restructuring, and strengthening their terror and Islamist networks. Third, the fact that the hard-core Pakistani terrorists infiltrate and strike in Pir Panjal (Jammu region) shows they have robust intelligence penetration and networks and a support base among the local population. **Trends in Kashmir valley** One needs to look at the sentiment in the

Valley and the other developments to understand the trajectory of future trends. The phase after August 5, 2019, has seen a massive boost in tourism in Kashmir. Every year, the tourist footfall breaks its previous records. The local economy and trade have boomed, resulting in a large inflow of capital and growth in the economic prosperity of Kashmir. Present-day Kashmir may have strong separatist and fundamentalist ideological fervour coupled with unprecedented economic prosperity on account of booming tourism and development projects. The combination of money and anti-India sentiments is a lethal combination.

### China's name change spree in Xinjiang and Tibet continues unabated

The Chinese Central government has not only been devising but also religiously implementing the policy to change the names of streets, villages, places, and townships in the country, especially in the minority-dominated areas in its western part. The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) have borne the maximum brunt in this process. For example, in Chinese academic parlance, Tibet has been described as Xijang since 2023. This Chinese trick has two mottoes: firstly, China deliberately attempts to dilute the culture of the minority people, or perhaps aims at stamping out ethno-religious or ethno-cultural identities of the minorities, particularly the Uyghurs and Tibetans; and secondly, it wants to expand the process of sinification by dint of imposing the overarching Chinese communist ideology on the minority people. In a joint report published recently by Human Rights Watch (HRW) and a Norway-based Uyghur organisation (Uyghur Help), the Chinese atrocities on Uyghur culture and identity have come to light time and again. According to the report, the Chinese Central Government has been "systematically changing hun-



dreds of village names" bearing historical, religious, and cultural meanings for Uyghurs into new names that faithfully reflect the ideology of the Communist Party of China (CCP). It is important to note herewith that the name-changing spree in Tibet and Xinjiang by the Chinese can be traced back to the end of the 2000s, particularly after the Tibet unrest in March 2008 and the Urumqi riots (5 July 2009) in XUAR. Along with the stern policy of "Strike Hard, Maximum Pressure" in both Tibet and Xinjiang, it led to massive securitisation and surveillance in both the restive regions in the later period. The Chinese authorities have meted out excesses against Tibetans and Uyghurs. They slyly began one of the government-sponsored measures of "cultural erasure" of the Uyghurs and Tibetans as part of their sinification design. It has been an uphill task for these hapless minorities to maintain their centuries-old unique culture against 75 years

of Chinese onslaught. The HRW Report gives detailed information, elaborating that as many as 3,600 of a total of 25,000 villages in Xinjiang (almost 15 per cent of the total villages) have witnessed name change in the last one and a half decades (from 2009 to 2023). In 630 villages (nearly one-fifth of the total of 3,600 villages), the names bearing the religion, culture, and history of Uyghurs have witnessed change. The popular Uyghur names, such as Mazar (shrine), Hoja (Sufi teacher), Meschit (mosque), Haniqa (Sufi meeting place), Gumbaz (dome), Orda (palace), Xelpe (Khalifa), Wap (Islamic Foundation), Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), Dutar (an Uyghur music instrument) and Sultan (Emir), are now replaced with pejorative Chinese names such as Hongxing (Red Star), Qianjin (Forward), Hongqi (Red Flag), Youyi (Friendship), Guangming (Light), Bostan (Oasis), Hexie (harmony).

### Climate hypocrisy: West's moral high ground

In 2019, during the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, leaders from industrialised nations delivered impassioned speeches about the urgency of addressing climate change. Yet, behind closed doors, they continued to approve new fossil fuel projects and delay meaningful climate finance commitments. This dichotomy highlights a fundamental hypocrisy in global climate politics: The West often preaches sustainability but falls short in practice, prioritising economic interests over environmental imperatives. As the countdown to the COP29 climate



summit in Azerbaijan this November continues, the Bonn Climate Change Conference in Germany concluded in a stalemate last week. Nations disagreed on the size and scope of loss and damage financing, repre-

senting a significant setback in global climate negotiations. The Bonn talks did not achieve meaningful progress on climate financing, underscoring a persistent issue: industrialised nations, which bear the greatest responsi-

bility for the current climate crisis, resisted calls from Global South countries to compensate those who suffer the most but have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions. Over a decade ago, developed nations pledged to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries. Copenhagen Accord in 2009 and reiterated in the Paris Agreement, has not been met. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that climate finance reached only \$79.6 billion in 2019.

## BJP's CAA card has confused Matua voters in Bongaon



**BONGAON:** A palpable quiet looms over the sleepy villages and bustling market places in Bongaon, with just a week to go for polling (May 20) in this Lok Sabha constituency, tucked away on the India-Bangladesh border. "We will vote on May 20, but no one has come here yet to ask for votes," said Kalpana Sardar (40), a housewife from Petropol village adjoining the border gate, even as the outer wall of her pucca house has Trinamool Congress graffiti on it. There are no party flags anywhere

across the paddy fields or the large ponds around house, except for some wall writing by TMC and BJP to be spotted infrequently. VideosIt's a direct fight between sitting BJP MP Santanu Thakur and Trinamool Congress (TMC) nominee Biswajit Das. Both belong to the dominant Matua community in this seat. CPM's Pradip Biswas is hardly talked about even as the seat was a Left bastion before TMC took it over. Inevitably, the first job for whoever wins this round will have to be addressing the

utter confusion that prevails among Matuas, who constitute about 70 per cent of about 19 lakh voters of Bongaon making them the deciding factor in the constituency. In fact, there is hardly any election activity to be noticed along the two-and-half hour drive from Kolkata right up to the Petropol border with Bangladesh, where van-carts are still ferrying citizens from both sides on official permits locally known as "multi visa" as they visit relatives or buy and sell goods from either side.

## No writ petition can be filed against Air India, rules SC

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on Thursday said no writ petition can be filed against Air India as it has ceased to be a public body after Tata group owned Talace India purchased 100% equity in the airline in Jan 2022. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta gave this ruling while answering a question whether writ petitions by erstwhile employees of Air India, which were maintainable being filed years before its privatisation, could still be continued against the airlines even after its privatisation. Upholding a Bombay HC

decision, the bench said, "There is no dispute that (after) govt of India having transferred its 100% share to Talace India Pvt Ltd, (it) ceased to have any administrative control or deep pervasive control over the private entity (Air India) and hence, the company after its disinvestment could not have been treated to be a State anymore after having taken over by the private company." "Thus, unquestionably, Air India after its disinvestment ceased to be a State or its instrumentality within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution. Once

Air India ceased to be covered by the definition of State within the meaning of Article 12, it could not have been subjected to writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution," the bench said. It further said on the matter, "Air India, erstwhile govt-run airline having been taken over by private company Talace India, unquestionably, is not performing any public duty inasmuch as it has taken over govt company Air India Limited for ... commercial operations, plain and simple, and thus no writ petition is maintainable against Air India."

## Vantara lauded for timely rescue of ailing elephant, calf in Tripura

**NEW DELHI:** In a timely rescue operation, Anant Ambani's Vantara mobilised from Gujarat a large convoy of vehicles, including ambulances, feed vehicles, and a team of personnel, to rehabilitate an ailing elephant and her calf in Tripura's Unakoti

district. An online video showing the rescue and rehabilitation effort has gone viral. In the video, a woman -- later identified as 'Go Green and Help Stray Animals' organisation general secretary Kuntala Sinha -- can be heard thanking Anant Ambani and

Vantara's team of doctors for their prompt action and saving the elephants. She said the Vantara team reached Unakoti within a day of her approaching them for help in treating the elephant. The convoy made the remarkable 3,500-km journey.

## CAPSULES

### Lightning kills Kerala tourist on Goa beach

**PANAJI:** A 35-year-old tourist from Kerala died in a lightning strike at Goa's Miramar beach on Tuesday, police said on Thursday. While Akhil Vijayan, his wife, friends, and children were scurrying back to their car from Miramar beach to escape the rain, lightning struck, leaving Vijayan, his wife, and a male friend unconscious. Vijayan's wife and his friend regained consciousness soon, police said. They suspected Vijayan had a heart attack and admitted him to GMC hospital. The postmortem attributed the Ernakulam resident's death to "electrocution and blast injuries consistent with lightning strike", police said.

### Wildlife struggles in scorching summer as temperatures sore in India

During the summer months, animals often face the challenges of heatstroke and viral infections. The situation is worsened by the scarcity of water, hindering their ability to stay hydrated and regulate their body temperatures effectively. **Climate-driven heatwaves impact wildlife** Heatwaves can lead to dehydration, reduced body salt levels, decreased appetite, and lowered production in animals. Human-induced climate change has caused significant harm to wild animals in India, particularly due to the prevalence of extreme heatwaves. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted that northwest India will experience heatwave conditions for the next five days, particularly affecting Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

## AESL Sirsa students create history in NEET 2024, Jatin Dev scores 701 out of 720 and AIR 1589

**Sirsa :** Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparation services, is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of its 13 students in Sirsa who have scored 650 and above marks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. Along with this, they have achieved impressive All India Rank. Among the students who scored impressive marks, Jatin Dev scored

701 marks and AIR 1589, Tejaswini Sharma scored 700 marks and AIR 1855, Khushi scored 695 marks and AIR 3105, Satvik Verma scored 695 marks AIR 3291 and Srujan scored 691 marks. At the same time, a total of 13 students from Sirsa scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The achievement of the students is a big contribu-

tion of their families, teachers, and Aakash Educational Services Limited. The united support of their peers, family and supporters has brought them to this important milestone. The students have made their parents and the entire staff of Aakash Institute proud by achieving impressive scores. Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) said, "Congratulations to all the students on their

outstanding achievement." "We are proud of the achievement of our students. Their impressive scores are shining examples of the potential of our students and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. At Aakash, we are committed to providing the best resources and training to help our students achieve their dreams. The success of these students will undoubtedly inspire many more students to strive for excellence."

## Thakur Guni Prakash expressed happiness over Naveen Jindal's victory and distributed laddus

**Kaithal:** BKU (Mann Group) Haryana State President Thakur Guni Prakash expressed happiness over the victory of BJP candidate Naveen Jindal from Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency and said that farmers voted in large numbers in favour of MP Naveen Jindal and in village Faral also people of every class including farmers, he went to every village of the Lok Sabha constituency and appealed to the farmers to vote in favour of Naveen Jindal and farmers openly voted in favour of Jindal. He said that MP Naveen Jindal



Sabha elections brought him to victory. Along with people of every class including farmers, he went to every village of the Lok Sabha constituency and appealed to the farmers to vote in favour of Naveen Jindal and farmers openly voted in favour of Jindal. He said that MP Naveen Jindal

will play an important role in solving the problems of farmers under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with solving the problems of farmers on priority basis and also raising voice loudly in the Parliament. Bhakiyu State President Guni Prakash said that the

way MP Naveen Jindal has won with a huge number of votes, now proper development work will be done in Kurukshetra Lok Sabha, because he has the experience of being an MP for the last two times and he knows where development work is needed in Kurukshetra Lok Sabha at this time. His becoming an MP will strengthen the BJP government in Haryana and good work will be done in the 9 assembly constituencies of Kurukshetra Lok Sabha.

## What Priyanka Gandhi said on Swati Maliwal assault case

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Thursday came out in support of AAP MP Swati Maliwal, who was allegedly assaulted by Arvind Kejriwal's ex-aide, but avoided any direct comment on the case calling it AAP's internal issue. "If any atrocity happens to any woman anywhere, we stand with the woman. I always stand with women - irrespective of which party they belong to. Secondly, AAP will discuss amid themselves and make a decision. It is up to them," Priyanka said when asked about the alleged assault which has put not just the AAP but also other parties of opposition's INDIA bloc on the back-foot. The opposition leaders have avoided a direct remark on the alleged assault case even as the BJP has stepped up the ante demanding action

against Bibhav Kumar, who was PA to Arvind Kejriwal. Swati Maliwal, who has fought against injustice and violence against women for years, has chosen to remain silent on the issue, adding to the intrigue. The AAP has accepted that Bibhav misbehaved with Maliwal at Kejriwal's residence and has maintained that action will be taken against the former PA. Earlier today, Kejriwal did not respond to queries on the case during his joint press conference with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow. When asked a pointed question during the press conference, Kejriwal was shielded by Akhilesh who said "there are other issues that are more important than this." The BJP has slammed Kejriwal for

his silence on the issue and sought his resignation. "She is certainly the leader of the opposition party but BJP is fighting to ensure that she gets justice. In the police general diary it was mentioned that a call had been received by police and it was made through Swati Maliwal's mobile the caller mentioned that 'I am speaking from CM's residence and he made me thrashed from his PA Bibhav Kumar'. It's not important which party she belongs to she should get justice," said BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia. "Arvind Kejriwal should answer and if you are a coward CM and cannot speak even a single word then you should resign because the women of the country are angry and feeling insulted and only Arvind Kejriwal is responsible for this," he added.

## AESL Kurukshetra students create history in NEET 2024

**Kurukshetra:** Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparation services, is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of 30 of its students in Kurukshetra who have scored 650 marks and above in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024 and secured impressive All India Ranks. Among the students who scored impressive marks are Anand Garg with 710 marks and AIR 387, Sanyam Jain with 710 marks and AIR 413, Shruti with 710 marks and AIR 684, Aditya Kumar with 705 marks and AIR 1314 and Sachi with 702 marks and AIR 1443. A total of 30 students from Kurukshetra have scored 650 marks and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has



recently declared the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The achievement of the students is a big contribution of their families, teachers, and Aakash Educational Services Limited. The united support of their peers, family and supporters has brought them to this important mile-

stone. The students have made their parents and the entire staff of Aakash Institute proud by achieving impressive scores. Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) said, "Congratulations to all the students on their outstanding achievement. "We are

proud of the achievement of our students. Their impressive scores are shining examples of the potential of our students and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. At Aakash, we are committed to providing the best resources and training to help our students achieve their dreams.

## Corporates debate setbacks in creating gender inclusive workspaces

**BENGALURU:** Corporates acknowledge that there is a need for streamlining the system to increase female workforce participation in the organized sector. Poor pay parity is one of the key aspects contributing to high attrition, stakeholders agreed. Karthik SK, head of talent acquisition, human resources at Biocon Biologics, mentioned that women construction workers were tasked with heavy lifting while men did plastering, stone laying, and were paid Rs 200 more. After a dialogue with the contractor, he ensured the rectification of this discrepancy to provide equal pay for all. During an in-depth study, Karthik discovered that the lack of clean and dedicated washrooms contributed to women leaving the workspace within six months of joining. "When young girls join, I observe their families waiting outside until evening for them. They are unsure.

## Industrial output grows 5.8% in FY24, slows a tad

**New Delhi:** The country's industrial output growth slowed marginally in March but manufacturing and electricity sectors remained robust, offsetting the slowdown in mining, while growth for the full fiscal year remained stable, data showed on Friday.

Numbers released by the National Statistical Office on Friday showed the index of industrial production (IIP) rose an annual 4.9% in March, slightly lower than the downwardly revised 5.6% in Feb but above the 1.9% posted in March last year. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, industrial output growth rose to 5.8% from 5.2% in the previous year. Industrial output grows 5.8% in FY24, slows a tad in March. The manufacturing sector rose 5.2% in March, higher than the 1.5% posted in March last year, while the electricity sector grew 8.6% compared with a 1.6% contraction in the same month a year earlier.



The mining sector grew 1.2% in March, slower than the 6.8% recorded in March last year. The manufacturing sector expansion was consistent with other data such as the PMI for manufacturing, which had predicted stable expansion for the sector on the back of robust domestic demand. The consumer durables sector grew 9.5% in March compared with a contraction of 8% in the year earlier period, while consumer non-durables grew 4.9% during the month compared with a contraction of 1.9% in the year earlier period. The capital goods sector, which is seen as a gauge for investment

activity, rose 6.1% in March, slower than the 10% recorded in March last year, while the infrastructure/construction goods sector rose 6.9% during the month, slightly slower than the 7.2% in March last year. "On the consumption front, output of consumer durables grew by 9.5% whereas non-durables output growth turned positive, rising by 4.9% following two consecutive months of contraction. However, the sustenance of this trend remains to be monitored in the upcoming months," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist at ratings agency CareEdge.

**Mumbai:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 53 crore located in Navi Mumbai in the case of Monarch Universal Group. The ED initiated an investigation based on multiple FIRs registered by the police under various sections against Monarch Universal Group, Gopal Amarlal Thakur, Hasmukh Amarlal Thakur, and others for allegedly cheating flat buyers by



collecting money from them for flats and not registering the same in their names. ED investigation showed that Gopal Amarlal Thakur diverted and siphoned off a huge amount of investors' money to various sister entities

and, through a complex web of money trails, parked substantial proceeds of crime with various builders in Navi Mumbai. Gopal Thakur of the group was arrested in July 2021. He is currently in judicial custody.

## Maoist IED blast kills woman in Bijapur district

**RAIPUR:** A 25-year-old woman was killed when a Maoist pressure IED exploded in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh's Bastar division on Saturday, just 20km from where 10 Maoists were killed in a gunfight a day before. The victim, Shanti Punem, was col-

lecting tendu leaves near Mallur village when she stepped on a camouflaged IED, police said. The explosion was heard in the village. Locals found Shanti's body and alerted police. The site is not far from the site of Friday's 11-hour gunfight. Locals

found Shanti's body and alerted police. The site is not far from the site of Friday's 11-hour gunfight. The victim, Shanti Punem, was collecting tendu leaves near Mallur village when she stepped on a camouflaged IED, police said. The explosion was heard

## No bail to DHFL promoters seeking relief for spending half of term in jail

**MUMBAI:** Refusing to grant bail to DHFL promoters Dheeraj and Rakesh Wadhawan, who sought the relief on the grounds that they had already spent more than half the maximum sentence of seven years in jail, a special PMLA court said the one year that the duo consumed in stalling their bail pleas had to be deducted from the computation of the time they had spent as undertrials. The brothers were arrested in 2020 in a money laundering



case in which Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor and others are also accused. In Dec last year, Kapoor was granted bail in the case after the judge pointed out

that he had spent more than the minimum punishment period of three years, without the framing of charges and a trial. In an 83-page order, the judge had cited a

table chronicling 207 dates in the case, emphasising that Kapoor was not responsible for the delays. Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure Code allows the release of undertrial prisoners upon completion of half of the maximum jail sentence. In the case of the Wadhawans, the judge, though, said the section does not provide an absolute right of bail and it may be denied where the trial is delayed because of the accused.

## Congress's Surat pick 'back', says party betrayed him first in 2017

**SURAT:** Suspended Congress leader Nilesh Kumbhani, whose nomination form was rejected over discrepancies leading to BJP winning the Surat Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat unopposed, resurfaced on Saturday after 20 days and alleged it was the grand old party that had betrayed him first in 2017. Kumbhani said he was silent all these days because of his respect for state party president Shaktisinh Gohil and the party's Rajkot Lok Sabha candidate Paresh Dhanani. "Congress



leaders are accusing me of betrayal. However, it was the Congress which betrayed me first in the 2017 assembly elections when my ticket for Kamrej Assembly seat in Surat was cancelled at the last moment. It was the Congress which made the first mistake, not me," Kumbhani told

reporters here. "I did not want to do this but my supporters, office staff and workers were upset because the party is being run by five self-proclaimed leaders in Surat and they neither work nor allow others to work. Though AAP and Congress are part of

INDIA alliance, these leaders raised objections when I used to campaign with AAP leaders here," he claimed. Asked if the turn of events in the ongoing Lok Sabha poll was his revenge on the Congress, Kumbhani refused to give a direct reply and reiterated his charge about cancellation of ticket in the 2017 state polls. Kumbhani, who had earlier served as a Congress corporator in the Surat Municipal Corporation, fought the 2022 assembly polls from Kamrej but lost to the BJP.

## TISS student moves HC against suspension for attending protest

**MUMBAI:** Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) research scholar, Ramadas KS, has moved the Bombay High Court against the institute's suspension order. He was suspended for two years from the institute and debarred from entering all the four campuses, in an order passed last month. In his petition, Ramadas has appealed to the court to set aside the inquiry report of the institute's empowered committee and the revocation of the suspension order and restore his entitlements as a student. He said that he was 'unlawfully, arbitrarily and unfairly suspended by the institute' Ramadas has also asked for the withdrawal of the public notice issued by the insti-



tute on April 20, two days after the suspension order was passed. The public notice, stated the petition, was 'malicious' and 'defamatory' in nature and 'puts his life and academic pursuits under grave threat'. He also pointed out that his legitimate participation in student life and exercise of his constitutional rights has been deemed as 'anti-national' by the institute. The petition also seeks directions to the union ministry

of social justice and empowerment to ensure the continuation and monthly disbursement of the national fellowship he was entitled to. In his petition, Ramadas mentioned that he did not receive the fellowship amount for April 2024, in pursuance of the suspension order. Ramadas has also set an interim stay on the suspension order and the continuation of the fellowship pending the hearing.

## With the help of silicone models and photoshop, ma comes to life again

**Glittering** lehengas, elaborate rituals, and sumptuous food. The wedding of Gujarat-based real estate developer Piyush Patel's twin daughters in February last year had it all. Yet, one absence loomed large: that of their mother Daxaben, who passed away months before the event due to a brain stroke. The void was hard to fill, but Patel was determined to plug it a little. He decided to commission an artist and give his daughters a surprise they'd remember the rest of their lives: a life-size hyper-realistic silicone model of their mother, adorned in a bright turquoise saree, real gold jewellery, and a warm smile. Seeing it, not just the daughters, but many



other guests present cried, he recalls. "It was like she was really there, blessing our daughters," he adds. From photographs to pooja rituals, Daxaben's model marked her presence at the wedding ceremony. It sits in their home even today, with fresh clothes and makeup, for occasions like birthdays, festivals, and more.

**MODEL MOM** Vadodara-based artist Vibha Patel, who made the statu-

ue, says she gets many requests to make silicone models for people who've lost near and dear ones, but they often back out after getting to know the cost. Such models typically cost around Rs 3-5 lakhs to make. While not everyone can afford a silicone model, people are finding different ways of keeping the memory of their late mothers alive. From rings made from strands of their hair that were preserved

## Punjab accepts IAS BJP pick's resignation, rejects VRS

**BATHINDA:** Punjab govt has reportedly accepted the resignation of IAS officer Parampal Kaur Sidhu — BJP candidate for Bathinda Lok Sabha seat — rejecting her plea for VRS and associated benefits, reports Neel Kamal. She will not get retirement benefits like pension, which according to her, would have been around Rs 1 lakh a month. Parampal alleged AAP govt was "harassing her" as it fears her candidacy. She said Punjab govt did not treat other officers opting for VRS in the same manner. "But contesting as a BJP candidate from Bathinda is a reward for me which is more than the pensionary benefits," Parampal Kaur told TOI. Earlier, the state govt had asked her to resume duty immediately or face action. Parampal was to retire on Oct 31, 2024, but sought VRS in April.

## CAPSULES

### Mumbai ex-cop Sharma gets SC bail in 2006 fake encounter case

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to former Mumbai police officer Pradeep Sharma who was convicted and awarded life imprisonment in a 2006 fake encounter case. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy & Prashant Kumar Mishra passed the order after the counsel for Maharashtra govt said it had no objection to grant of bail to him. While convicting him Bombay HC directed Sharma to surrender to undergo sentence but the apex court had on April 8 permitted him not to do so till the next hearing and issued notice to the state on his appeal against HC order. **The top court admitted Sharma's appeal against the March 19 Bombay HC verdict** Sharma challenged HC order in the 2006 fake encounter of Ramnarayan Gupta, an alleged close aide of gangster Chhota Rajan. HC had upheld the conviction and life sentence imposed on 13 other accused, 12 former policemen and a civilian, in the case. It quashed the 2013 judgement passed by a sessions court acquitting Sharma due to lack of evidence and termed it 'perverse and unsustainable'. On Nov 11, 2006, a police team had picked up Ramnarayan Gupta alias Lakkhan Bhaiya from Vashi, along with his friend Anil Bheda, and killed him in a staged encounter near Versova the same evening.

## Congress prepares for 2025 Delhi assembly elections

**Delhi:** In order to begin preparations for the 2025 assembly elections, Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) chairman Devender Yadav attended executive committee meetings of Adarsh Nagar and Karawal Nagar district units. A resolution was voted to host monthly block-level meetings, raise party flags at all members' houses, and invite social organizations, residents' associations, and NGOs to join or support the party, Congress officials stated. Congress workers are proud that the party's vote share increased in the Lok Sabha elections and that Delhi residents are again looking to the party for excellent administration. Congress rule brought unparalleled growth to Delhi. In his Adarsh Nagar talk, Yadav said people now struggle to access potable water, experience frequent power shortages, and deal with waterlogging,



air, and water pollution. In the 2024 Delhi Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won all seven seats despite Congress and AAP's partnership. The AAP and Congress stated their alliance was restricted to Lok Sabha polls and it was unclear whether they would contest assembly elections separately or together. A Delhi Congress senior said block and district members offered methods to strengthen the party and solidify grassroots achievements. The leader noted that strengthening the block and district units, which work on the

frontlines of the party, is necessary to strengthen the party in the Capital. Devender Yadav said sessions with grassroots workers will strengthen the party at the booth level and put it in a strong position for the early 2025 Delhi assembly elections. "Congress workers should not lower their guard and diminish their enthusiasm, as, under the dynamic leadership of Rahul Gandhi, the party was poised for a major leap, because people wanted change and stable leadership," Yadav stated.

### Core sector growth drops to 6.3% in May

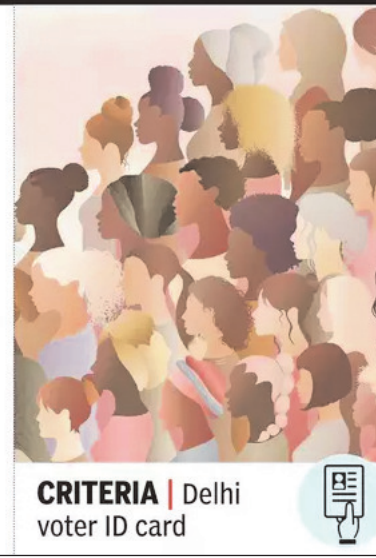
**In May,** the eight key industries grew 6.3% year-on-year, down from 6.7% in April, mostly due to weaker steel, refinery products, and crude oil output, the commerce ministry. Core sector growth was 5.2% in May 2023. As a sequential measure, core sector output grew 3.7% in May. May output usually rises from April. In the preceding 12 years, the month-on-month growth averaged 6.8%, but this year it was lower. "A combination of factors, including the heat-wave over parts of the country and the phased parliamentary elections.

**Delhi:** The Delhi government has launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana to give Rs 1,000 to women over 18. Delhi women and child development minister Kailash Gahlot said he has ordered officials to speed up the process to eliminate "bureaucratic hurdles" and launch the plan fast. "I've instructed the department to write the cabinet note to start Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana. The project aims to help economically disadvantaged women live decent lives and become financially independent. He said they wanted Delhi women to benefit from the plan quickly. The finance, planning, and law departments would approve the cabinet note, according to a top Delhi official. "The officials will vet it, give comments, and after their approval, it will go to the cabinet," he said. However, other authorities noted that chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's imprisonment pre-

**WHO'S ELIGIBLE |** AAP gov't in its last budget announced a monthly aid of ₹ 1,000 to Delhi women aged 18 or above

**MONEY ALLOCATED |** An amount of ₹ 2,000 crore has been set aside for this scheme named Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana

**EXCLUSION |** The scheme will not apply to govt employees, taxpayers and beneficiaries of any govt pension plan



**CRITERIA |** Delhi voter ID card

vents cabinet sessions, making scheme implementation difficult. "It has to be notified by the cabinet and after that, it goes to the LG for approval," a rep said. The AAP government proposed the policy in its 2024-25 budget and hopes to implement it before the 2025 assembly elections to attract women. Kejriwal dubbed it the "world's biggest programme" for women's empowerment. The initiative

received Rs 2,000 crore in 2024-25. Women must be Delhi voters to qualify for the scheme. She must fill out a paper and self-declare that she is not a government employee, taxpayer, or member of any government scheme. Based on her self-declaration, she will get scheme benefits. The woman must furnish her Aadhaar card and bank account information with the form.

### The Directorate of Estates constructs homes for parliamentarians

**Delhi:** A top government source, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed that Gandhi would be given a new home fit for a Union Minister. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Directorate of Estates is searching for and assigning residences to the 280 new MPs, the highest since 2014. Rahul Gandhi and other Union ministers will take possession of their new Lutyens Delhi residences next week. A top government source, who wished to remain anonymous, claimed that Gandhi would be given a new home fit for a Union Minister. Up to his disqualification from the Lok Sabha in August 2023, Gandhi resided at 12 Tughlak Lane. Though we haven't chosen the address, Rahul Gandhi will receive a category VIII mansion similar to those owned by cabinet ministers. He hasn't asked for anything,

## Panel warns officials about illegal tree cutting

**Delhi:** A three-member Delhi ministerial fact-finding committee has issued letters to senior DDA, forest, and Delhi Police officials for reportedly destroying 1,100 trees in Ridge without authorization. On Saturday, ministers Atishi, Saurabh Bharadwaj, and Imran Hussain constituted a committee to report to the forest minister. Does the opposition's request for a SC-appointed inquiry into NEET-UG 2024

irregularities make sense? The committee has ordered the principal secretary, DDA vice-chairman, principal commissioner (LD and LM), DDA commissioner (housing), deputy commissioner of police (south Delhi), station house officer (SHO), and other senior officials to attend a July 1 meeting. The committee's factual report to Supreme Court is due July 11. "As the next date of hearing in this matter is

12.07.2024 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed GNCTD to file an affidavit based on the facts before 11.07.2024, your cooperation is needed to adhere to the strict timelines imposed by Supreme Court of India," Bharadwaj wrote in his email. Delhi's government and civic agencies were ordered to meet to consider comprehensive green cover measures by the court.

### Smt Smriti Irani Launches 24/7 Violence Helpline for Women

**Delhi:** Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Former Union Minister for Women and Child Development, inaugurated the National Commission for Women's 24/7 helpline today to improve women's safety and security nationwide and advance the Union Government's goals. The helpline supports women afflicted by vio-

lence 24/7 online by referring them to police, hospitals, District Legal Service Authority, psychological treatments, etc. Smt. Irani praised the NCW and the new helpline at a virtual launch. In times of need, this digital helpline assures women that their government and Commission would support them.

## ICICI Pru iProtect Smart offers 'Life Continuity' option

**KARNAL/HISAR:**

Every earning individual has financial goals, such as buying a house, funding children's education, or saving for retirement. But life is unpredictable and the untimely demise of the earning member can disturb the financial goals and put the family in financial distress. As a thumb rule, individuals must follow the 'first Protect then Save' approach. The starting point for building a financial savings plan is purchasing a term insurance plan. The reason is simple, what if the earning member passes away how will the family continue with the savings plan. Ideally the life cover amount should cover all outstanding liabilities and be sufficient for the family to contin-

ue with their lives. ICICI Prudential Life offers the 'Life Continuity' option in its best-selling term insurance product, ICICI Pru iProtect Smart. This feature enables the family to receive the claim amount as monthly income which is very useful for families who may not know how to manage the lumpsum claim amount. Another valuable add-on benefit is the critical illness benefit that should be taken. Studies suggest that approx. 10 crore Indian families are pushed into poverty every year due to healthcare expenses. For a nominal additional premium, iProtect Smart provides the critical illness benefit which covers 34 ailments such as cancer, kidney

failure, leukemia, parkinson's etc. The critical illness benefit pays out the claim upon diagnosis, ensuring individuals have the finances for medical treatment. Checking the claim settlement ratio and the average claim settlement time are two important points which individuals should consider before buying a term insurance plan. In FY2024, ICICI Prudential Life had a claim settlement ratio (non-investigated) of 99.17% and the average settlement time of just 1.27 days. Fulfilling the responsibility towards the family is making a commitment to secure and safeguard their future. Many financial experts agree that term insurance is the foundation.



## Government prepares senior folks' fifth home

**Delhi:** Delhi's new senior citizen home in Paschim Vihar, north west Delhi, is ready for opening. The capital's fifth elderly and infirm facility, officials said. Four old age homes at Bindapur, Wazirpur, Tahirpur, and Kanti Nagar are operated by the social welfare department, while eight others, including Paschim Vihar, are under development. A senior social welfare official said the five-story geriatric care building is ready for the city's elderly who require shelter. The new senior home will house 96 people. "The building finished early this year. A few finishing touches can be done 10-15 days before the inauguration. An official said the fire department's no objection certificate is required before the center's opening. Destitute Delhi citizens 60 years and older who have no family can live in old age homes if they don't have an infectious condition. Residents receive free housing, food, clothes, bedding, TV-radio, books, an amusement center with religious and spiritual programs, health check-ups, and physiotherapy. For the elderly to "interact with each other, sit together and talk about their joys and sorrows" officials set up round tables. "No one wants to live in old age homes, but the government must develop them and offer all the amenities they need. The official added we will provide free cutting-edge facilities to seniors in old age homes. Another senior age home in Sarita Vihar may open in 2025.



## Wait 7 days to port after replacing the SIM

**Delhi:** New Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) rules require mobile phone users to wait at least seven days after replacing a lost or non-functional SIM card before switching service providers. The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2024, prevent fraudsters from

porting to new service providers under new names. The service provider cannot give the user a unique porting code until this seven-day period ends. The customer receives an alphanumeric porting code from the current TSP to port their phone number to a new TSP. TSPs had three-and-a-half months from the TRAI to modify their

telecommunication systems to refuse UPC requests in the seven-day period and test the systems before the system was rolled out across India.

The (DoT) wrote to TRAI in September 2022, "It has come to the notice that mobile connections are being fraudulently ported out by the criminals/fraudsters.

## Two new booze vends will cheer up domestic flyers at Delhi airport

**Delhi:** Delhi Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited plans to open a liquor shop at T3's arrival section by the first week of July and another at T1's departure area in the following weeks. This strategy aims to help Delhi restore share of domestic liquor sales after the closure of private-operated premium liquor stores due to the rescission of Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 in September 2022.



International passengers can buy liquor at T3's duty-free shops. Following this trend, domestic terminals will shortly open shops. The Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 allowed six private

premium liquor stores in the Delhi airport's domestic terminals at its height. After the scheme was canceled amid CBI and ED probes for alleged irregularities, the Delhi govern-

ment returned to the excise regime and gave retail liquor to four government corporations. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation and Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation tried to rent airport space for booze shops but couldn't negotiate conditions. Finally, Delhi Consumers' Cooperative Wholesale Store Limited found space for the shops.

## Magenta Line is first driverless Metro network

**Delhi:** All 29 Magenta Line trains are presently unmanned. DMRC has removed the drivers' cabins, although an attendant is present after three-four trains. They will be removed in phases. Magenta Line trains would be fully automated. "Magenta Line can now transport people without drivers. DMRC officials stated attendants will be removed gradually. The Pink Line will follow the Magenta Line. Full automation is available



on Magenta and Pink lines in Delhi Metro's 97km network. Only one network operates driverless trains in India. Driverless trains will operate in DMRC's Phase-IV expansion lines. Driverless train

operation was inaugurated on the Janakpuri West-Botanical Garden Magenta Line in December 2020 and the Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar Pink Line in November 2021. A train operator was present until now to

instill trust and support. With the expertise from these two lines, we will try this in Phase IV soon. We installed track monitoring cameras for driverless operations in Phase IV "DMRC managing director Vikas Kumar. A DMRC spokesman remarked, "Driverless trains increase flexibility and eliminate human errors. The system also increases coach availability for operations. Driverless trains eliminate pre-induction.

## HMD, Makers of Nokia Phones, Launches 'Bharosa Wohi, Shuruat Nayi' Campaign; debuts first feature phone HMD 105 in India

**GURUGRAM / KARNAL** : HMD today announced the launch of its highly anticipated HMD 105 device. Building upon the company's legacy of ground-breaking products, the HMD 105 represents a major technological leap forward, combining exceptional performance, sleek design, and industry-leading specifications. The phone comes with an inbuilt UPI application, combining the trusted reliability of phones with the convenience and accessibility of UPI, enabling users to securely and seamlessly perform UPI payment transactions even without a smartphone.

HMD 105 phone comes with advanced industry leading attributes including excellent multimedia features, voice assis-



tance and large display with immersive clarity and enhanced visibility.

The phone also comes with an assured one year replacement guarantee making it a reliable option for the users. Ravi Kunwar, VP-India

& APAC, HMD Global, commented on the launch "The HMD 105 and HMD 110 are our first feature phones to be launched in India with stylish new

designs and UPI capabilities. These devices underscore our commitment to providing accessible technology. The feature-packed HMD 105 and HMD 110 aim to bridge the digital divide and enhance financial access for all within our feature phone category.

These phones embody our 'more for less' philosophy as we continue our multi-brand journey."

## Paytm acquires five UPI addresses

**Delhi**: The parent firm of Paytm, One97 Communications, a prominent fintech business, has partnered with four banks to acquire five UPI handles. State Bank of India (SBI), Yes Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank are these four banks. An update to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) website earlier this week indicated that this calculated step guarantees the continuation of UPI transactions for Paytm users. Of these, the well-known and currently in use @paytm is still up and running, so users can carry on with their transactions as usual. In addition, in collaboration with Yes Bank, NPCI has approved the



creation of the closed user group UPI handle @ptyes. The NPCI has also approved two additional handles: @ptsbi (in conjunction with State Bank of India) and @pthdfc (in association with HDFC Bank). These handles won't become active right away, though. Users can utilize the @paytm handle

without any issues, according to a Paytm representative. This event follows the clearance of Paytm's third-party application (TPAP) provider permit by NPCI. SBI, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, and HDFC Bank are collaborating to provide continuous UPI services for Paytm's user base.

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

**MUMBAI**: In a govt resolution issued on , 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.

## TCS launches AI platform to accelerate GenAI adoption

**Delhi**: Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) announced TCS AI WisdomNext to help its clients swiftly adopt new technologies like generative AI (GenAI) at cheap prices. Tech businesses are becoming GenAI-friendly, and this platform follows. The Mumbai-based software exporter was the first Indian IT company to unite AI and cloud operations into AI.Cloud. Instead of having separate teams for each client, the company would supply AI and cloud solutions under one banner. WisdomNext would bundle different GenAI products and offer clients customized industry blueprints based on the company's experience in various industries.

"TCS AI WisdomNext gives enterprises a choice to select the right large language models at an optimal cost," Ganesan said 100 customers in banking, financial services, retail, consumer goods, travel, manufacturing, life sciences, and healthcare used WisdomNext. Krishna Mohan Reddy, vice-president and deputy head of TCS's AI.Cloud branch, said the platform worked on sales, marketing, code development, and real-time supply chain improvements. TCS CTO Harrick Vin claimed the WisdomNext platform would increase jobs, not replace them.

## Nandan Denim Ltd. Reports Solid Earnings for Q4FY24, PAT Jumps 880% YoY

**CHANDIGARH**: Nandan Denim Ltd. (BSE: 532641, NSE: NDL), a leader in the denim industry, has reported solid earnings for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2024. For the quarter ended 31 March 2024, the company reported Revenue from operations at Rs. 579.12 Cr, a growth of 26.68% YoY. The EBITDA jumped 68.69% YoY, from Rs. 23.12 Cr (Q4FY23) to Rs. 39 Cr (Q4FY24). EBITDA margin improved by 168 bps, from 5.06% to

6.73% (Q4FY24). PAT grew a staggering 881.88% YoY, from Rs. 2.76 Cr (Q4FY23), to Rs. 27.10 Cr (Q4FY24). For the year ended 31 March 2024, the company saw a 0.82% decline in its revenue from operations, declining marginally from Rs. 2026.76 Cr (FY23) to Rs. 2010.08 Cr (FY24). EBITDA grew 40.67% YoY, from Rs. 84.1 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 118.30 Cr (FY24). EBITDA margin recorded an improvement of 174 bps, and stood at 5.89%.

PAT grew by a staggering 8384.91% YoY, from Rs. 0.53 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 44.97 Cr (FY24). A global leading denim manufacturer, Nandan Denim Limited is redefining the denim industry for more than 27 years. With a passion for fashion and design, it produces more than 2000 denim products every year. The company manufactures and supplies denim fabric, yarn/dyed yarn, cotton fabric and shirting fabric to renowned clients

across the globe. Along with an extensive range of products, the company reaps the benefits of economies of scale and continue to sustain its market leadership across key products, even in the most challenging circumstances. The Chiripal Group, incorporated in 1972, has an extensive presence across diverse business segments including petrochemicals, spinning, weaving, knitting, fabric processing, chemicals.

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

**Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar**: Amid criticism from opponents, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray 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-bhaktas are claiming that my language has changed.

I want to ask these bhaktas 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 the world," he said.

## Dee Development Engineers Limited IPO to open on June 19, 2024

**GURUGRAM** : Dee Development Engineers Limited ("Dee Piping" or "The Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. The total offer size of Equity Shares (face value ₹ 10 each) comprises of fresh issue aggregating up to ₹ 3,250 million (The



"Fresh Issue") and offer for sale of up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares. (The "Offer for Sale"). This offer includes a reservation of up to aggregating up to ₹ 10.00 million (₹ 1 crore) for subscription by eligible employees. (The "Employee Reservation Portion") The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 for subscription and close on Friday, June 21, 2024. ("Bid Details")

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ₹ 193 to ₹ 203 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 73 Equity Shares and in multiples of 73 Equity

Shares thereafter. (The "Price Band"). The Company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares towards (i) Funding working capital requirements of our Company estimated to ₹ 750 million in Fiscal 2025; (ii) Prepayment or repayment of all or a portion of certain outstanding borrowings availed by our Company estimated to ₹ 1,750 million in Fiscal 2025; and balance to General corporate purposes (the "Objects of Issue"). The offer for sale of up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares ("Offered Shares") comprising up to 45,82,000 Equity Shares by Krishan Lalit Bansal .

## Bahamas Launches the Spring-Summer Collection for 2024

**HISAR** : Bahamas, the free spirited footwear brand under the leading footwear manufacturer, Relaxo Footwears Ltd., is thrilled to announce the launch of its highly anticipated Spring-Summer 2024 (SS '24) Collection. Infused with the spirit of fun, joy, and carefree living, this collection embodies the essence of the youth, captivating the hearts of Gen Z and millennials across the nation. The SS '24 Collection is tailor-made for individuals who enjoy the high-energy, high output work ethic and style with gusto. With a range of contemporary and fashionable articles, Bahamas invites customers to immerse themselves in the fun & youthful aesthetic and uplift their person-



al style quotient. Mr. Gaurav Dua, Executive Director, Relaxo Footwear Ltd., shared his insights on the SS '24 Collection, stating, "At Bahamas, we are dedicated to capturing the essence of youth through our dynamic and spirited designs. Our Spring-Summer 2024 Collection is all about embracing a lifestyle filled with joy, freedom, and unbounded energy. We prioritize providing the best in style and comfort, ensuring that

every step our customers take exudes confidence and flair. With the new range, we believe our valued customers will celebrate a season of exuberance and youthful vitality with Bahamas." Bahamas, known for its vibrant and carefree brand image, has strategically tapped into the larger-than-life persona of Bollywood superstar Salman Khan to further enhance its ethos of positivity and resilience.

## After British, it's fight against 'desi Angrez': Amit Shah in Bundelkhand

**LUCKNOW**: Union home minister Amit Shah said that there was a time when Uttar Pradesh was known for "producing country-made pistols (kattas)" but, after PM Narendra Modi built a defence corridor in Bundelkhand, "cannonballs are made" Shah said, "If Pakistan makes any mistake", shells made in Bundelkhand will be used to "destroy" that country. In an apparent reference to Congress functionaries, he asked Bundelkhand voters to fight the "desi Angrez" just like they fought against the Mughals and the British. In Amethi, Shah attempted to give a last-minute push to BJP's campaign with a roadshow. Addressing a crowd in Amethi, Shah attacked Congress for referring to Amethi and Rae Bareilly as their "family seats". "Did Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, or Priyanka turn up in Amethi or Rae-Bareilly when the Covid pandemic struck," Shah asked as people shouted "No". Shah also asked the people to choose between Modi and Rahul. He said that after losing from Amethi, Rahul fled to Wayanad and is now back in Rae Bareilly. "I have been in Rae Bareilly for three days and can say with confidence that he (Rahul) is losing from there also," he said. In Jhansi, he told voters they have a choice to make between two categories of leaders: one, a person behind a ₹ 12 lakh crore scam who was born with the proverbial silver spoon and holidays in Thailand; and two, Modi, whose tenures as CM and PM have been unblemished, and who was born in a poor house, and never took a holiday. Shah described Samajwadi Party as one that ordered firing on Ram bhaktas in Ayodhya (in 1990). "Then we have Modi, who got the Ramjanmabhoomi case pursued, won it, and eventually got a temple constructed," Shah said.