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

## NEET-UG leak case: CBI arrests 'mastermind', 2 MBBS students who acted as 'solvers'

**NEW DELHI:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested the alleged "mastermind", a B.Tech graduate, and two MBBS students who acted as 'solvers' in the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak case. The two MBBS students arrested are from a medical school in Bharatpur, Rajasthan, news agency PTI reported. The arrests were made a day after the arrest of Surabhi Kumari, a first-year MBBS student at Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS). Kumari was interrogated for two days regarding her involvement in solving the stolen examination paper on the day of the NEET-UG exam, May 5. The national investigation agency has



### 'Chances of India travelling to Pakistan for Champions Trophy are very slim'

**NEW DELHI:** Former Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Khalid Mahmood has expressed doubts that India will participate in the ICC Champions Trophy in Pakistan early next year, highlighting the potential financial and operational repercussions for both the PCB and ICC if India doesn't attend. "They are very very slim chances they will agree to play in Pakistan," Mahmood, who is a retired senior bureaucrat, said. He mentioned that India's absence

could set a precedent for other cricketing nations, further complicating the event's logistics and profitability. "India is the richest cricket board and carries a lot of clout. If they don't send their team to Pakistan I foresee even countries like Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bangladesh following their path," news agency PTI quoted Mahmood as saying. "This would basically reduce the Champions Trophy into a venture where revenues will take a hit, expenses.

launched a massive crackdown on those involved in the paper leak, in response to the widespread outrage that followed the incident. The NEET-UG paper was allegedly stolen by Pankaj Kumar, also known as Aditya, a 2017-batch civil engineer from the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur. Kumar is accused of taking the paper from the NTA trunk in Hazaribagh. Prior to Kumari's arrest, four MBBS students from AIIMS Patna, who were also part of the solver module, were taken into custody by the CBI and have been placed under a four-day remand. The solver module was responsible for quickly solving the stolen paper and creating an answer key, which was then provided to NEET aspirants who had paid for their services.

## 'Sensible people should take note': Sharad Pawar on RSS chief's 'superman' remark

**NEW DELHI:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's "superman" remark has fed ammunition to the opposition INDIA bloc as it was NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday who took a dig, saying "sensible people" should take note of Bhagwat's statement. "Someone started calling self a god and now people from the BJP and RSS are talking about it. Sensible people should take note of this," Pawar said when reporters sought his view on the RSS chief's remarks, reported news agency PTI. Speaking in Jharkhand on Thursday, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief had said in the course of self-development, a man may want to become "superman", then "Devta" and "Bhagwan" (God) and aspire for "vishwaroop", but nobody is certain what lies ahead. "In the course of self-development, a man may want to become 'superman', then 'devta' and 'bhagwan' and aspire for 'vishwaroop', but



### AAP's Somnath challenges BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj election in HC

**NEW DELHI:** Aam Aadmi Party's Somnath Bharti moved Delhi high court challenging the election of Bhartiya Janata Party MP Bansuri Swaraj. Bharti has moved to the court challenging the election on grounds of alleged corrupt practices. Swaraj won the 2024 Lok Sabha elections 2024

from New Delhi constituency defeating Bharti. The BJP had given ticket to Sushma Sawaraj's daughter for the first time this elections. "The present election petition is being filed by the petitioner (Bharti) under Section 80 and 81 of the Representation of the People Act challenging the election.

nobody is certain what lies ahead, Bhagwat said, while addressing a village-level workers meeting, organised by a non-profit organisation Vikas Bharti in Gumla, Jharkhand. There is no end to the development of the inner and outer self and one should work relentlessly for humanity, he said, adding that a worker should never be satisfied with his or her work. "Work should continue, one should strive to work constantly in areas of environment, education and health...

### Government says in contact with Latvian authorities

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian embassy in Sweden and Latvia said on Saturday that it is closely coordinating with Latvian authorities following the suspected drowning of an Indian student in Riga. In an official statement, the embassy expressed its commitment to assist the bereaved family. "The Embassy is in regular contact with Latvian authorities regarding the unfortunate incident of suspected drowning of an Indian student in Riga. We remain in touch with the family and will continue to extend all possible help," read the embassy's post on X. Albin Shinto, a student from Kerala, was swimming with four friends in a canal on the evening of July 18 when the tragic incident occurred. According to Lsm.lv, a Latvian news portal, Albin started to struggle in the water and began to sink.

## Gujarat rain fury: Flood-like situation in Saurashtra region districts

**AHMEDABAD:** Flood-like situation prevailed in several districts in Gujarat's Saurashtra region as heavy rains continued to batter the state on Saturday, cutting off villages and inundating low-lying areas, prompting rescue and relief operations and deployment of NDRF teams. Dwarka taluka in Devbhumi Dwarka district recorded 163 mm of rainfall in 12 hours ended at 6 pm on Saturday, followed by Junagadh city and taluka (133 mm of rainfall), and Patan-Veraval in Gir Somnath district, which received 117 mm rainfall, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said. Officials said 10 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were deployed in the affected districts and rescue and relief operations were underway to shift stranded people from waterlogged low-lying areas to safer places. Copious rains caused 16 reservoirs to overflow. Separately, an alert has been issued for 36 reservoirs and 25 dams, including Sardar Sarovar dam, which are filled up to 50 to 70 per cent of their total capacity. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said exceptionally heavy rainfall occurred over Dwarka district in Saurashtra, and extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places in Junagadh and Porbandar. A cyclonic circulation persisted over Saurashtra and Kutch extending up to 5.8 km above the mean sea level and tilting southwestwards, the Met department said forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall coupled with extremely heavy rains in districts under the Saurashtra region and south Gujarat till Tuesday morning. Amid heavy rains, Union labour minister and Porbandar MP Mansukh Mandaviya arrived at his constituency to assess the situation and coordinate relief efforts.

## Health ministry reviews Chandipura virus, Acute Encephalitis Syndrome cases

**NEW DELHI:** The Union health ministry along with experts reviewed the Chandipura virus cases and Acute Encephalitis syndrome cases in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Dr Atul Goel, DGHS, Union health ministry, and Director of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) along with experts from AIIMS, Kalawati Saran



Children's Hospital, Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) cases in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh on Friday. After a detailed discussion and review of the status of the Chandipura virus and Acute AES cases, the

experts concluded that infectious agents contribute to only a small proportion of the AES cases across the country, the ministry said in a statement. They emphasized the need for comprehensive epidemiological, environmental and entomological studies of the AES cases reported in Gujarat. A multidisciplinary central team from the NCDC.

## Mamata to attend Niti Aayog meeting, hold key discussions with INDIA bloc

**NEW DELHI:** West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee is expected to land in Delhi next week, for her first visit since the Lok Sabha polls results – to add sparks to the politically charged atmospherics in the national Capital – during the first full session of Parliament of the 18th Lok Sabha that opens on July 22, with the presentation of the Union budget. Banerjee is likely to be here on July 24

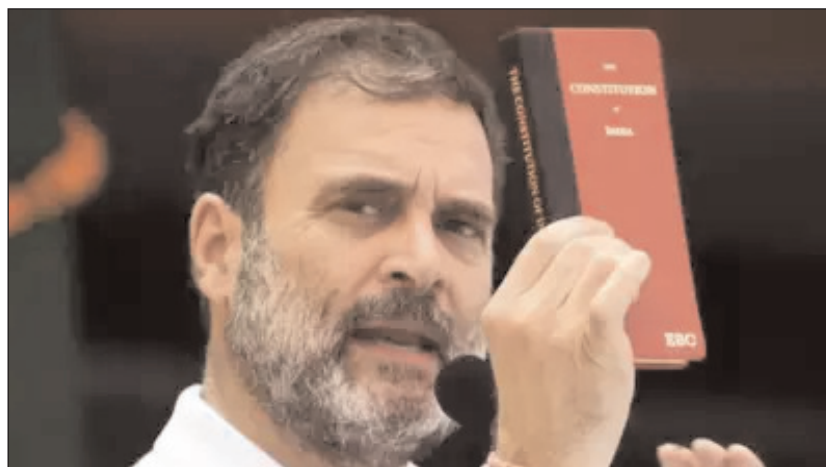


or 25 and return to Kolkata after attending the Niti Ayog governing council meeting, scheduled for July 27, where all chief ministers have been invited. The TMC chief will also meet with INDIA bloc of opposition leaders here, including

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal and possibly with Congress leader Sonia Gandhi among other leaders, during her visit here. She will be interacting with her party MPs including the new members who have been elected to the 18th Lok Sabha. As chairperson of the parliamentary party, Banerjee has been addressing party MPs, to formulate the party's line in the House.

## Editors Guild writes to Rahul, seeks support in raising issues of press freedom in Parliament

**NEW DELHI:** The Editors Guild of India on Saturday sought Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's support in raising issues of press freedom and right to information in Parliament and claimed the government has taken several legislative steps to regulate and control the media. In a letter to Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Guild expressed concerns on legislative measures taken to control the media -- print, broadcast and digital -- over the last few years and called for renewed debate and consultations. The Guild also flagged concerns



about the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, Broadcast Services Regulation Bill, Press and Registration of Periodicals Act and the IT Rules 2021 and subsequent amendments to it in 2023. "We believe that a free and independent press is vital for the health of our

democracy and it is imperative that these legislative measures are revisited to safeguard these fundamental principles," the Guild said. It said a general concern about these legislative measures was that they were taken without adequate stakeholder consultation and parliamentary scrutiny in the drafting and passing of these laws. "They carry provisions that are vague and overbroad, which could be misused to restrict legitimate journalistic activities. These provisions give sweeping powers to a wide array of government authorities and agencies to take

### One mustn't try to become superman, says RSS chief Mohan

**NEW DELHI/GUMLA:** Asserting that people should never be content with their accomplishments and work relentlessly for the welfare of mankind since there is no end to the pursuit of development and human ambition, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on suggested. that one should strive to serve humanity. "In the course of self-development, a man may want to become 'superman', then 'devta' and 'bhagwan' and aspire for 'vishwaroop', but nobody is certain what lies ahead, Bhagwat said, while addressing a village-level workers meeting, organised by a non-profit organisation Vikas Bharti in Gumla, Jharkhand.

## Jindal Group takes action against senior executive following molestation allegation; probe initiated

**NEW DELHI:** A Jindal Group company sent a senior executive on administrative leave following allegations of molestation by a female passenger on a flight and a third-party investigation has been initiated. Meanwhile, Vulcan Green Steel, the steel arm of Vulcan Green, which is part of the Naveen Jindal-led Group of companies, expressed deep concern over the situation and pledged to address it with the utmost seriousness, care, integrity, and urgency. "We are deeply concerned about the recent allegations involving a senior executive in our company. We recognize the gravity of the situation and are committed to address-

ing it with utmost seriousness. care, integrity, and urgency," Vulcan Green Steel said in a statement. The company further said that in accordance with its zero-tolerance policy an independent and credible third party will lead the investigation, maintaining impartiality throughout the process. Additionally, Naveen Jindal, chairman of Jindal Steel and Power, assured that the allegations made by the female passenger, who claimed the executive showed her obscene videos under the guise of movie clips during a flight from Kolkata to Abu Dhabi, will be thoroughly investigated.

## BJP workers welcomed CM, Dy CM and State Prez on arrival

Prayagraj: BJP workers under the leadership of BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra welcomed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on his arrival at Prayagraj. Circuit House welcomed Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya at Bamrauli Airport and State President Bhupendra Chaudhary with a bouquet at Teliarganj in-



tersection. Prominent among those who welcomed him were Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, Regional Vice President Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, Ganga Par District President Kavita Patel, Yamuna Par District President Vinod Prajapati, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Devsh Singh, Rajesh Kesarwani, Dilip Chaturvedi, Varun Kesarwani Dharamraj Pal, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, Sanjay Srivastava, Pawan Mishra, Vijay Srivastava, Bhola Singh, Anil Bhatt, Brijesh Tripathi Anand Sudarshan Vaish, Chief District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, BJP State President Bhupendra Chaudhary, Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta, Nandi's son Abhishek Gupta arrived in Prayagraj for the banquet program, apart from this, Sikkim Governor Laxman Acharya, Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, and Ministers of State Brijesh Singh, Dr. Dayashankar Mishra Dayalu, Kapil Dev Aggarwal, Satish Chandra Sharma, Anil Kumar, Pratibha Shukla, Dinesh Pratap Singh etc. attended the funeral ceremony and blessed the bride and groom.

## Uthagi school teachers planted saplings

Prayagraj: Working towards environmental protection, a massive tree plantation program was organized by the Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday in the



state. Under which a target has been set to plant about 15 lakh saplings for the Basic Education Department. In the same sequence, trees were also planted under the 'Ek Tree Maa Naam' initiative. This expectation was made by the Uttar Pradesh government from the department. During the entire tree plantation program, high resolution as well as how many saplings were planted, by how many children "with their mother" In this program teachers Vineeta Devi Tripathi, Sarita Gupta, Anita Sonkar, Mridula Sonkar, instructors Sarita Singh, Dinesh Kumar including school teachers Participation was ensured by planting 26 saplings by the children.

## Case of indecency with principal came to light in Mary Lucas College

Prayagraj: The ruckus started at Mary Lucas School and College located in Kutchery on Saturday morning when the parent-teacher meeting was going on. Meanwhile, some teachers and employees of the school stood in front of the principal's office and started raising slogans demanding outstanding salaries. After which, within no time, the class IV employees of the school also gathered. Seeing this, the school principal Tanu John immediately proposed to talk among themselves and asked them to maintain peace, but Ritesh Kesarwani, a teacher of the school, crossed all limits and started abusing the school principal. A senior teacher of the same school tried to intervene but he was also pushed by teacher Ritesh Kesarwani. This entire episode was captured in CCTV. According to Principal Tanu John, this violent demonstration was carried out as part of a well-planned conspiracy by opponents in which a senior teacher of the school is also involved. Whereas Principal Tanu John has said that a case will be filed against him for molestation. The school management has termed the behaviour of the teacher as wrong and has assured to conduct an inquiry on Monday. Principal Tanu John's husband has alleged that there is a threat to the life and property of self and his wife from some unknown people and has demanded security. School manager Praveen Massey said that strict action will be taken against those who create mischief and indecency in the institution and those who protest violently will be dismissed.

# Demonstration held in compliance with orders of Chief Minister's Special Secretary for giving lease to landless

## Revenue Council and Special Secretary SDM not following CM orders

Prayagraj: Under the banner of Purvanchal Dalit Adhikar Manch (Padam), memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government by protesting in front of the office of Deputy District Magistrate, Karchana, regarding the lease of residential and agricultural work to the landless agricultural laborers of twenty-five villages of Karchana tehsil of Yamunapar, Deputy District Magistrate In Karchana's absence, Naib Tehsildar Sandhya Goswami was handed over.

Padam founder IP Rambrij told that landless agricultural laborers from twenty-five villages of Karchana tehsil have been sending applications for allotment of about five thousand lands in their names to the Chief Minister Uttar

Pradesh Government since last April. After reviewing the applications, the Commissioner and Secretary, Revenue Council, Uttar Pradesh Section-5, Lucknow, for granting lease for residential and agricultural work to the landless agricultural labourers, wrote to the Special Secretary, Honorable Chief Minister's Office, Lucknow, letter no. J-30/G-5 Hon. Chief Minister, with reference to 2022, dated 13 April 2023, wrote a letter regarding allotment of land to landless agricultural laborers under land reforms and for information, a copy should also be sent to the applicants, please take the trouble of taking reference of the letter dated 02-03-2023, through which land reforms will be done. Under



this, a request has been made for allotment of land among landless agricultural labourers.

Padam founder Rambrij Gautam told that the Revenue Council has written a letter to the Special Secretary to the Chief Minister and informed that the lease

of agricultural work under Section 125, 126 and 127 of the Revenue Code 2006 and Rules 119, 120, 121, 122 of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code Rules-2016. And there is a provision for granting residential lease under Section 61, 62, 63, 64 of Revenue Code-2006, Rules-2016

and Rules- 61, 62, 63 and 64. In this sequence, the work of allocation is done by the state government. According to Section 125, 126, 127 of Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code 2006 and Rules 119, 120, 121 and 122 of Revenue Code 2016, lease for agricultural work and Sec-

tion 63, 64 and 67 (a) of Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code 2006 (a) Residential lease is granted. In view of this, there is no justification in making any policy regarding allotment of land to landless agricultural laborers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under land reforms. In view of the above, the case deserves to be deposited. Despite the above order/instruction, neither agricultural work nor residential lease is being given to the landless agricultural laborers at the grassroots level. Hundreds of men and women from Tendui, Akodha, Sehra, Karma, Kapthua, Keshavpur, Karchana, Mungari, Isauta, Bhunda Bhuwalpur, Tikri, Diwan ka Pura, Pathan ka Pura, Benipur participated in the demonstration.

## GM North Central Railway inspected Prayagraj - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay section



Prayagraj: General Manager North Central Railway, Upendra Chandra Joshi inspected Prayagraj - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay section of Prayagraj Division. During the inspection, window trailing inspection of Prayagraj - Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay section was done by the General Manager. It may be noted that Window-Trailing Inspection is a special inspection in Indian Railways, in which the track and its surrounding establishments like signals, OHE, platforms etc. are inspected from the rear window of an inspection car from a moving train. During inspection, cleanliness and overall condition of stations en route, important parameters like train ride quality especially at points and crossings, improvement in Track Geometry Index (TGI), OHE condition, condition of level crossing gates etc. are

taken care of by the General Manager, Visited by North Central Railway. In the course of the inspection, the General Manager first inspected Prayagraj Chhivki, selected as Amrit station, after which he closely observed the ongoing development works at Prayagraj Chhivki station and took stock of the passenger facilities at the station.

Thereafter, Vindhyaachal, Mirzapur and Chunar railway stations selected as Amrit stations were also thoroughly inspected by the General Manager. During this, detailed information about the development works going on at these stations under Amrit Station Scheme was taken by the General Manager. During this, the General Manager instructed the concerned officers that the ongoing work should not cause any inconvenience

to the railway passengers and the highest quality of work should be taken care of. During the inspection, the General Manager also inspected the ticket distribution room while taking stock of the passenger facilities in Mirzapur. After inspection of the stations, the General Manager Pt. Inaugurated the running room at Deen Dayal Upadhyay and also planted trees. The inaugurated air conditioned running room has a total of 22 rooms and each room has two beds. 4 rooms in the running room are reserved for women employees. On this occasion, concerned head of department of North Central Railway Headquarters and Divisional Railway Manager Prayagraj Division Himanshu Badoni and his team along with other officers and employees were present on behalf of Prayagraj Division.

## Investiture ceremony held at Saint Joseph's College



Prayagraj: Investiture ceremony of students was organized in the auditorium of Saint Joseph's College. Rev. Bishop Luis Mascarenhas was the chief guest of the program. Along with him, the newly elected Principal of the school, Father Walter De Silva, Junior School Head Master Father M. Pius, Administrator A. Magavan, Chief Coordinator Jyoti Dubey, Middle School Deputy Administrator Deacon Rev. Gladwin Fernandes were present. At the beginning of the program, Bible reading was given by teacher Nandini Frank. After which the students sang a melodious prayer song. After this, the chief guest, Rev. Bishop Luis Mascarenhas, was greeted by the school principal, Rev. Father Walter de Silva and the newly elected college captain by giving him a flower bouquet. Continuing the series of the program, director Liam Terry addressed the newly selected college. Captain Mohd. Sultan, Vice Captain Nirakshan Gupta and other members of the Student Council were announced including Head Marshals Arush Singh and Sanjan Singh, Head Prefects Joshua Benjamin Masih and Kavya Rai, Athletics Captain Mayank Singh, Vice Athletics Captain Karthikeya Anand, Deputy Head Marshal Kevin Terry Veluthara

and Vihaan Katiyar and Deputy Head Prefects Vikhyat Mishra and Kshitij Vyas, Junior Cabinet comprising Captain Samnu Bhaskar Shukla, Vice Captain Vihaan Aggarwal, Head Prefect Manas Pandey, Head Marshal Sarthak Yadav, Sports Captain Arsh Arya and Sports Vice Captain Dhairya Srivastava. After which the chief guest made everyone wear badges. After this, the officials of other houses, sports council and various organizations of the school were given badges by their in-charge teacher.

Thereafter, all the students were administered the oath by the Chief Guest to discharge their duties and responsibilities faithfully, after which the school anthem was played. College Captain Md. Sultan in his speech congratulated all the newly elected officials. Addressing all the badge holders, he said that we all have got this opportunity to take our school to the highest peak of success. Describing his past experiences, he said that the credit for all these achievements goes to all our teachers. Later, for the book launch, the chief guest and the Principal awarded the prize to class 9 student Aditya Nandan whose book Hereafter which is a journey of life, mystery and the victory of good over evil. Chief guest Rev. Bishop Luis

Mascarenhas while addressing everyone said that the school This program has great importance for He expressed happiness for his presence in this program. Through this ceremony, a culture is created in the children which benefits them personally and socially. Congratulating all the elected students, he said that this responsibility is not just symbolic but is related to duty. He further said that to maintain the dignity of the school, the school family will have to follow the principles of sympathy, humility and humanity, only then the school can reach its highest peak.

After this, the Principal of the school presented a gift to the Chief Guest, Rev. Bishop Luis Mascarenhas and thanked him for his presence. The Principal of the school, Father Walter de Silva, welcomed everyone and while addressing the newly elected office bearers, said that the student organization is full of great hopes and It is done with expectations. All of you should fulfill your responsibilities sincerely while respecting your respective posts. In the last part of the program, College Head Prefect Joshua Benjamin Masih first thanked God and then the school principal and everyone for making this program a success. The program ended with the national anthem.

## Rotary Prayagraj Platinum's special program for environmental protection today

Prayagraj: An important program is being organized by Rotary Prayagraj Platinum under environmental protection. On the occasion of "Project Each one Plant one", this program will be organized on 21 July 2024 at 9:00 am at Subhash Square, Civil Lines. The objective of this program is to make the general public aware about environmental protection and to distribute free saplings along with an affidavit for tree plantation. President of Rotary Prayagraj Platinum, Mr. Shashank Jain said that the main objective of

this program is to protect the environment. Under this, the aim is to spread awareness about tree plantation and to increase awareness about the role of everyone. On this occasion, various administrative officers and dignitaries have also been invited, so that they can participate in this awareness campaign and make it successful. Media in-charge Manish Garg said that many administrative officers and dignitaries have been invited to this program with the aim of spreading awareness.

## Minister Kapil Dev Agarwal planted saplings in Kanpur

Lucknow/Kanpur Nagar: State Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Kapil Dev Agarwal on Saturday participated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mega campaign "A tree in the name of mother". He participated in a massive tree plantation program under the Jan Abhiyan 2024. As per the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he participated in this program as the Minister in-charge of Kanpur city. Minister Kapil Dev Agarwal, while planting saplings on this occasion, said, "Environmental protection is very important for us. Planting trees not only maintains the balance of the environment. But it also has a positive impact on our



lives." He called upon all citizens to actively participate in this campaign and plant as many trees as possible.

Local administration, school children, and members of various organizations also participated in the program and planted saplings. During this, Minister Agarwal made people aware about the importance of trees and expressed his commitment towards environmental protection. The objective of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Jan Abhiyan 2024 is to make the environment green by planting more and more trees and to make people aware about this. Minister Agarwal said that this type of campaign will increase awareness in the society and will help in dealing with environmental crises in future.

# CM Yogi, Keshav Maurya, Baba Ramdev blessed Minister Nandi's son and daughter-in-law

Prayagraj: A grand blessing ceremony was organized in Prayagraj on Saturday after the completion of the marriage ceremony of Abhishek-Krishnika, son of Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, amid the natural beauty and mountains in the new Kashmir of New India. Attending which, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, Bharatiya Janata Party Uttar Pradesh State President Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, spiritual yoga guru Swami Ramdev went to Minister Nandi's house and blessed the new couple. There was movement of important political personalities of the state throughout the day on Saturday in Bahadurganj area of Southern Assembly constituency of Prayagraj city. Due to which the entire area was transformed into a cantonment. Minister

Nandi as well as former Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi welcomed and greeted all the guests. Sikkim Governor Laxman Acharya and Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan attended the grand blessing ceremony organized at Bharat Scout Guide Ground in Mumfordganj and blessed the newlywed couple.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the house of Cabinet Minister Nandgopal Gupta Nandi and former Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi and blessed the newly married couple. On reaching the residence of Cabinet Minister Nandgopal Gupta, former Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi welcomed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath by performing the aarti. After this, Nandgopal Gupta touched the feet of his wife Yogi Adityanath. After that, Nandi's newly married son and daughter-in-law also took blessings by touching



his feet. Yogi Adityanath inquired about the well-being of the cabinet minister and his family members. Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Keshav Prasad Maurya reached Minister Nandi's

Bahadurganj residence and blessed Minister Nandi's son and daughter-in-law. Spiritual and yoga guru Swami Ramdev, the propagator of the Swadeshi campaign that took Ayurveda and Yoga to the world

stage, also visited Minister Nandi's house. Reached Prayagraj airport by charter plane to bless his son and daughter-in-law. From the airport, he went to Minister Nandi's Bahadurganj residence and congratulated

## Massive tree plantation performed in IFFCO

A total of 3500 saplings were planted

Prayagraj: Under the Mega Tree Plantation Campaign of Uttar Pradesh Government, massive tree plantation was performed in IFFCO Ghiyanagar Phulpur Campus. In the program Chief guest was Dr. S.C. Shukla, Regional Officer, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Prayagraj. Various fruit and medicinal plants including Neem, Mango, Jamun were planted in the IFFCO campus and saplings were given



for plantation in the border villages. A total of 3500 saplings were planted in IFFCO Colony, IFFCO Cordet and IFFCO Plant, 8500 more saplings will be planted in the next two days and 5000 saplings will also be distributed for plantation in the border villages. Everyone took a pledge to save the environment and plant at least one tree. The program was coordinated by Senior Manager E.P.C. Umesh Kumar Shukla. In the program, General Manager A.P. Rajendran, JGMs Dr. Anita Mishra, Arun Kumar, Arvendra Kumar, HOD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, IFFCO Officers Association President Anurag Tiwari and General Secretary Swayam Prakash, IFFCO Employees Union President Pankaj Pandey and General Secretary Vinay Kumar Yadav, Cordet Principle Harishchandra, Manoj Tiwari, Salik Ram and a large number of IFFCO officers and employees planted trees.

## CM Yogi blessed newly married son and daughter-in-law of Minister Nandi

Abhilasha Gupta Nandi performed the aarti of CM

Prayagraj: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached Prayagraj on Saturday. In view of this, extensive security arrangements were made here. After landing the helicopter at the Police Line ground, the Chief Minister directly reached the Circuit House. He planted saplings in the Circuit House premises. After this, a meeting was held with the officials and the work of Mahakumbh was reviewed. The Chief Minister saw the progress of various works and directed

to complete the work on time. After this, CM Yogi reached Bahadurganj, the residence of Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi. Here he blessed his newly married son and daughter-in-law. On CM's arrival, Minister Nandi's wife and former mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi performed the aarti of CM Yogi. After this, Nandi and Abhilasha touched his feet and welcomed him. Besides, his newly married son and daughter-in-law also touched the feet of CM Yogi and took blessings.

## Guru Purnima Mahotsav to be celebrated today at Kriyayoga Ashram



Prayagraj. Guru Purnima Mahotsav will be organized today in the presence of International Kriya Yoga Guru Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Ji Maharaj. On this occasion, a large number of devotees from India and abroad have reached Kriyayoga Ashram and Research Institute to seek the blessings of the Guru. Let

us tell you that like every year, Guru Purnima Mahotsav is being celebrated in the Ashram premises this year too, which will also be telecast live through YouTube. In the program, seekers from many countries of the world will participate in the Guru Purnima Mahotsav through live broadcast.

However, live telecast is being done every morning and evening from the Kriyayoga Ashram premises. Those seekers who are unable to reach the Ashram campus can easily experience the messages and thoughts of Kriya Yoga by connecting through the live broadcast of Kriya Yoga Ashram on YouTube. On

the eve of Guru Purnima Mahotsav, International Kriya Yoga Guru Swami Shri Yogi Satyam Ji Maharaj told all the seekers that by joining Kriya Yoga, all types of problems go away forever. And Swami Ji also told that the true meaning of Kriya Yoga is Sadhana: Man has been searching for eternal secu-

rency, health, prosperity, knowledge, peace and bliss for many lives. Complete devotion in Kriya Yoga fulfills all these desires. With the true practice and devotion of Kriya Yoga, eternal security, health, prosperity, knowledge, peace and bliss are automatically experienced and the seeker does not have to search for them again.

## On demand of ABVP, decision of Univ to extend last date of CUET registration is welcome

Prayagraj: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Allahabad University unit welcomes the decision to extend the last date of CUET registration till 30th July. On Thursday, Allahabad University unit of ABVP, Director of Entrance Examination, Prof. J.K. Pati and submitted a memorandum demanding extension of the last date of CUET registration by Allahabad University. Today Allahabad University has issued a notification extending the last date of registration till 30th July, ABVP Allahabad University unit is in support of this decision.

## Rain will fall where there is a tree: Keshav Prasad Maurya Prayagraj is creating history by planting 85 lakh trees

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya planted a sapling in Prayagraj Chandrashekhar Azad Park complex in the name of 'Ek Tree Maa' under the 'Plant Trees, Save Trees Jan Abhiyan 2024'. Later, while addressing the gathering, he said that 36 crore 50 lakh saplings should be planted in the state today. Prayagraj is creating history by planting 85 lakh trees. Tree plantation is not just a ceremony but will also provide life, water and air to the coming generations. He said that if rains are not happening on time then it is the human society that is responsible for it. There should be no less social goal than this goal. Public representatives and party officials should plant trees exten-

sively. One should understand the responsibility by planting Neem, Peepal, Mahuva, Shisham etc. during the rainy season. Last time 24 crore people had come to Kumbh to take bath in the uninterrupted Ganga, the Nirmal Ganga. This time 50 crore people are expected to come. He said that if there is water then there will be Kumbh. If there are trees there will be rain. Therefore, if even one tree is cut, ten trees should be planted. Anyways, Neem trees which make us healthy have been planted. He said that if we celebrate children's birthday, we should also celebrate their birthday by planting saplings. Due to this, children become attached to trees. He described planting a tree in the



name of Mother Goddess and getting it planted as an act of virtue and said that one and a half times the population should fulfill their duty by planting a tree in the name of Mother Ganga, Mother Yamuna Saraswati or anyone else.

On this occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that Kanwar Yatra is about to start. Kanwariya will go by taking water from Prayagraj

Dashasumedh Ghat. If any proprietor writes SIP then it is synonymous with purity for the person carrying water. No one should have any objection to this. And the opposition is only spreading propaganda on this issue. BJP District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that on this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya planted trees of Peepal, Teak, Mango etc.

and paid tribute to the immortal revolutionary Chandrashekhar Azad ji. The program was conducted at GIC Inter College. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, MLC Surendra Chaudhary, KP Trust President Sushil Sinha, BJP State Minister Anamika Chaudhary, BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Yamuna Par District President Vinod Prajapati, Regional Vice President Awadhesh Chandra, Dr. Prabhakar Tripathi. Gupta, media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani, Dilip Chaturvedi, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Devesh Singh, Varun Kesarwani, Ankush, Anil Bhatt, Vijay Srivastava etc. and hundreds of BJP workers were present.

## National flag being insulted in Civil Lines?

Prayagraj: The national flag is being insulted in Civil Lines area near the city. But those responsible are not paying attention to this. It was told that the tricolour has been installed by a department at the Fire Brigade intersection of Civil Lines. The tricolour has been installed here for a long time due to which it has got torn in the wind and has also become dirty. The torn flag is irritating the system here. But the responsibility is that they have nothing to do with it. Whereas dozens of officers posted in the city pass through this intersection every day. Local people have demanded the flag to be buried in the national interest.



## Where there is greenery, nature smiles: Governor Acharya Laxman

Prayagraj: Today, His Excellency of Sikkim Governor Laxman Acharya ji in the massive tree plantation program organized by the Municipal Corporation in Kanihar area of Jhansi. Inaugurated the program by planting saplings. On this occasion, while planting trees, he said that trees are precious heritage of nature because nature has been green for years and where there is greenery, nature smiles. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, after interacting with the mothers and sisters present, appealed to him to plant more trees for the protection of nature and environment. During the program, Environmental Engineer Uttam Kumar Verma and Additional Municipal Commissioner Arvind Rai welcomed His Excellency the Governor. Councillor Sujata Saroj Siyaram Maurya, Rajesh Kesarwani Anil Yadav Dhunnu ji, Shivnarayan Yadav Sumit Nishad Gul Firoz Khan, Umesh Mishra ji, Mr. Raju Shukla ji, Mr. Mukesh Lara, Amar Singh, Manoj Jigina, all the party officials and workers, locals of the right area. People were present.



## Oppn doing politics of Muslim appeasement: Keshav Maurya He will also launch a plantation campaign in Kaushambi

Prayagraj: State Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya fiercely targeted SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Prayagraj on Saturday. Keshav said that the opposition is purely doing politics of Muslim appeasement. "They have no vision and mission. Their only objective is to affect the sanctity of Kanwar Yatra," he claimed. Deputy CM had reached the program organized at Azad Park to launch the plantation campaign. He was answering media queries after launching the plantation campaign. He said that 36 crore 50 lakh saplings will be planted in the entire state. 85 lakh saplings

will be planted in Prayagraj. Everyone should participate in this. Along with Prayagraj, he will also launch a plantation campaign in Kaushambi. When asked questions on Akhilesh Yadav's statement, he said that the opposition should first take Kanwar and offer water to Lord Shiva. This will eliminate the deformity. The holy month of Saavan is starting from Monday. Crores of devotees go on Kanwar Yatra to offer water to various temples and Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Those who are raising questions on this are doing politics of Muslim appeasement.

## Editorial

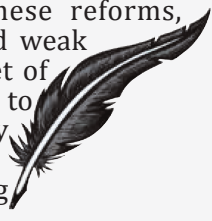
### Climate Policy Initiative

It was only in 2022 that developed countries provided and mobilised \$115.9 billion in climate finance for developing countries. By the end of COP29, all parties must agree on a "new collective quantified goal" (NCQG) to guide the provision of climate finance, intended to replace the \$100 billion target after 2025. Progress on negotiating the NCQG has been slow. Disagreements persist on almost every aspect of the new target, including the amount of money to be provided, the sources of these funds, the recipients, and the specific forms of financial assistance. Current climate finance is grossly inadequate for the scale of action required. The \$100 billion target for climate finance is laughably insufficient. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2021 estimates that the costs of adapting to climate change in developing countries could reach \$140-300 billion per year by 2030, escalating to \$280-500 billion per year by 2050. Furthermore, the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2021 report highlights that global climate finance flows reached a record \$632 billion in 2019/2020. Despite this record, the funding falls significantly short of the \$4.13 trillion annual investment required by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement targets, as estimated by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its Net Zero by 2050 report. Now even these estimates are seen as low. As highlighted by the Independent High-Level

Expert Group on Climate Finance in their November 2022 report, emerging markets and developing countries (excluding China) are staring at a financial chasm. These nations must mobilise approximately \$1 trillion annually by 2025, amounting to 4.1 per cent of their GDP—double the 2.2 per cent spent in 2019. Fast forward to 2030, and the figure balloons to a staggering \$2.4 trillion per year, or 6.5 per cent of GDP. This glaring disparity underscores the urgent need to recalibrate climate finance targets.

if we are to meet the colossal demands of climate adaptation and mitigation. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's AR6 Synthesis Report on Climate Change 2023, the 2018 UNFCCC biennial assessments and the IPCC 1.5°C report estimated that global financial needs for achieving a 2°C warming target are \$1.7 trillion annually from 2020 to 2030-2035, and \$2.4 trillion annually for the 1.5°C target, specifically for the energy sector. The report concludes that global climate finance flows must increase by three to six times the current levels to meet the average annual financial requirements until 2030. This cannot happen in the absence of reforms in multilateral development banks (MDBs). A high-level expert group established by the G20 under India's presidency has proposed a 30-point roadmap to reform multilateral development banks (MDBs) and triple their lending by 2030. The Independent Expert Group, led by former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and India's 15th Finance Commission Chairman NK Singh, emphasized urgent action to scale MDBs to be "fit for purpose" by 2030. Their report, 'The Triple Agenda: A Roadmap for Bigger, Bolder and Better MDBs', advocates for tripling MDBs' sustainable lending limits, introducing new financial instruments like pooled portfolio guarantees and hybrid capital, and attracting private investors. The report underscores the urgency of these reforms, warning against delays and weak responses, and sets a target of increasing MDB financing to \$390 billion annually by 2030.

It also suggests establishing a pilot Global Challenges Funding Mechanism (GCFM).



**Hypersonic** weapons can be launched from airborne aircraft, ships at sea, and land-based mobile launchers. Long-range air-launched hypersonic missiles with scramjet engines could also be launched by the enemy's bombers from under the cover of air defences in their own airspace. Such weapons could be deployed as part of a fractional orbital bombardment system. The variety of launch options means hypersonic weapons might not create an IR signature intense enough to be detected. Today, most of China's and Russia's deployed long-range missiles can carry one or more weapons that can manoeuvre in space, in the atmosphere, or both. Both China and Russia now consider US space-based assets as high-value targets that can be threatened to coerce the United States in a crisis or attacked to achieve space superiority in a conflict. They have developed kinetic ASATs and other space weapons to hold these "difficult to defend, easy to attack".

Long-range ballistic missiles typically have flight trajectories that take them over 300 km into space before they re-enter the atmosphere.



The highly predictable flight paths and high altitudes of non-maneuvring ballistic missiles make them much easier to detect and track. In contrast, hypersonic missiles can fly as little as 30 to 50 km above the Earth's surface or even lower, which means that, because of the curvature of the earth, they may be below areas that are effectively covered by today's radar warning architecture.

Our northern neighbour China has developed and deployed what it refers to as a "multi-layered attack architecture" with weapons systems that span the counterspace threat continuum. Used in combination, these weapons can degrade, deny, or destroy adversarial space systems in all orbital regimes. As a spacefaring nation, India must develop a wholesome space warfighting

doctrine and an inter-service space force that would allow it a ready response mechanism to space threats and also support ground, maritime, and air operations. The mandate for the space force should be to: Develop SDA (Space Domain Awareness) to determine, mitigate, and respond to threats from and within space. Build sufficient resilient and military-grade capability, including the Line of Defence, for communications, ISR, and PNT to support and execute space-based integrated military operations. Specifications and capacities must be spelled out unambiguously to the industry with at least a 5-year lead time. Develop and deploy cross functional technologies (Information Communication Technology, and cyber) to optimise the EM spec-

trum in space warfare. Maintain a high degree of operational readiness and generate meshed intelligence to enhance warning periods.

Build secure international space collaboration for enhanced regional and global space cover and to respond to surge requirements during external exigencies.

Train and equip a sufficient and dedicated skilled space force that would support higher leadership, military theatres, and tactical battle areas during war, and participate in R&D, collaborative manufacturing, and cross-training activities during peacetime. Own, lease, and maintain sufficient space assets and infrastructure that are necessary to discharge its functions.

Undertake incremental space and technological development activities that enable achieving space dominance and space superiority.

While building a space cadre, it must be ensured that personnel selected are on permanent secondment to the force and/or are drawn from space and scientific institutions. Building any non-permanent enlisted force would be counterproductive. In the last five years, outer space has emerged

as a source of concern, primarily the threat from long-range ballistic and hypersonic missiles. Many Direct Ascent Anti-Satellites (ASAT) experimental missile strikes have been tested, including by India (mission Shakti). Counter-missions are being developed for both offensive and defensive forms of space warfare. Even though the Outer Space Treaty debar nations from weaponising space, the writing on the wall makes it clear that a threat from space is lurking. All the major powers, such as the US, Russia, China, India, France, the European Union, and Japan, are building space military organisations. The US Space Force organises, trains, and equips personnel in order to protect US and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint forces. The US Space Force, headquartered at the Pentagon, employs 8,600 military personnel and 77 spacecraft. The Russian space forces are mandated to inform the higher political leaders and military commanders of missile attacks as soon as possible, ballistic missile defence, and the creation, deployment, maintenance.

# Fractional orbital bombardment system

## Women in Indian Politics

**India's progress vis-à-vis women's representation in leadership positions** has remained rather slow and rarely linear, often pushing them to the margins of politics. UN Women/Ruhani Kaur. India recently concluded its 2024 general elections, which took place in seven phases—from April 19 to June 1—to elect all 543 members of the Lok Sabha (lower house). While the results have taken many by surprise, what has been even more astonishing is the fact that for a country that has rigorously been trying to establish a more progressive front on women's rights and gender equality over the past few years, the new Indian parliament has failed to showcase a notable

uptick in the representation of women after the latest elections. Making just 13.63 per cent of the elected strength, the 18th Lok Sabha will comprise only 74 women compared to 469 men. This share is not only abysmally skewed but also lower than the 14.4 per cent share of female representation during the 2019 election, where 78 women were elected as MPs. The irony here is that just last year, India—during its G20 presidency—brought about a paradigm shift in gender-based policymaking by challenging the status quo and with the innovative idea of women-led development in order to ensure women's inclusion and representation at all levels of decision-making. Even at the domestic level,

India—after many deliberations—finally passed the historic Women's Reservation Bill in 2023, which seeks to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women. While it is true that the bill has not yet come into effect, the journey from 13.63 per cent to 33 per cent (for the next elections) still seems rather long, especially given that, despite being the central agents of the 2024 elections and forming an important core of party manifestos as well as campaign speeches, only a handful of them were able to achieve the final victory.

It is, however, important to note here that the gender gap in elected representatives—in a lot of ways—begins with

## India took centre stage during the summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th G7 summit on June 14, 2024, in the city of Fasano in Apulia, Italy. The region of Apulia, throughout its history, has been inhabited by Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Normans, and Spanish. The region has also served as a bridge between the West and the East, thanks to its geography. Apulia's rich history as a cultural crossroads underscores the significance of this year's G7 summit, which brings together diverse global leaders. In this summit, along with the G7 countries, the other invitees were India, the African Union, Brazil, the UAE, Argentina, and others, making the location and the purpose of the summit significant. India took centre stage during the summit, and the family photograph taken post-summit is a testament to it. Two years ago, India was invited to the 48th G7 summit in 2022, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The primary narrative at that time was to punish India for keeping the ties intact with Moscow. The Western 'experts', who are habituated to see things in binary, refused to believe that India can have ties with the G7 without harming

relations with Russia. As per the Financial Times, the reason behind the invitation to India at the summit was "to woo New Delhi away from its longstanding alliance with Russia". Two years down the line, India's relations are not majorly harmed, neither with Russia nor with the G7 countries! Freshly re-elected, PM Modi's attendance at the G7 summit signals a robust continuation of his administration's foreign policy initiatives, particularly his advocacy for the Global South. In 2023, New Delhi organised the two Voice of Global South Summits, first in January and next in November, to understand the concerns of the developing countries. The words and advocacy of Modi in Apulia should be taken as a continuation of this. Modi exploited the opportunities provided to put forward these concerns. "India has considered it its responsibility to place the priorities and concerns of the countries of the Global South on the world stage," he said. At the same time, while putting forward his vision of a developed India in 2047, he emphasised that "no section of society should be left behind in the country's development journey," followed by

applying this "in the context of international relations. The countries of the Global South are bearing the brunt of global uncertainties and tensions". Then, Modi put forward the concern of ending monopolies in technology, one of the points of action at the end of the second Voice of the Global South Summit. On the sidelines of the G7 meeting, PM Modi also met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. However, Modi skipped the Ukraine Peace Summit, organised just after the G7 meeting, by sending a secretary-level delegation. The Indian delegation visited the summit but didn't sign the Joint Communiqué. This reflects a nuanced stance on the conflict, aligning with the broader Global South's cautious approach. India's significant presence at the G7 summit.

coupled with PM Modi's diplomacy, marks a pivotal moment in its global engagement. By advocating for the Global South in the G7, India continued efforts to emerge as a leader of developing nations in a China-fearing world. India took centre stage during the summit, and the family photograph taken post-summit is a testament to it. Image: Narendra Modi/X.

## Promise made for assistance in the space sector

Since during Kim Jong Un's September 2023 visit to Russia, there was a promise made for assistance in the space sector, there is a possibility that for the November 2023 launch, some Russian assistance was there. Unfortunately for North Korea, its recent launch (on May 27, 2024) to put up a military reconnaissance satellite (Malligyong-1-1) ended in failure. For a nuclear weapon state like North Korea, it is a necessity to have a mechanism for gathering real-time intelligence. Hence, it has interests in spy satellites. It is keen to establish a space-based architec-

ture that offers intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. For this purpose, it wants to have increasing assistance from Russia in the space domain. The potency of North Korea's nuclear deterrence structure would depend not only on the number of nuclear weapons in its kitty but also on various factors, like having capable missile systems to deliver the weapons correctly to the target. At the same time, it needs to guard its state from any attack by its adversaries. Hence, space-based ISR systems are important both for defence and offence purposes.

There are reports indicating that North Korea has developed several types of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for ISR purposes. However, there are limitations in regards to the types of sensors in use. Also, endurance and communications restraints limit its utility. North Korea is keen to expand its space program. It understands that there is a 'global' watch on its space and missile programs. The South Korean and US investigators have analysed the recently failed (2023) two launches by North Korea. In its estimation carried out by analysing the recovered

parts from these launches (fallen in the ocean), the North Korea payloads had 'no military use'. This indicates that North Korea needs to improve on sensor technologies, satellite design and development capabilities, and rocket launch capabilities. Today, various activities undertaken by North Korea are being continuously monitored by the US with the assistance of Japan and South Korea. The US has the Combat Sent and the Cobra Ball systems for gathering electronic intelligence. It is known to carry out 'air espionage' of the area from which North Korea.

## As hundreds of Chinese items lose tax exclusions, the US-China trade battle escalates



**Delhi:** Recently, the US has banned, restricted, or imposed high taxes on hundreds of Chinese imports to stimulate domestic production and reduce dependence on Chinese commodities. The USTR has already added tariffs to half of 429 items. The USTR excluded further duties from the "Section 301" probe of China's technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation measures in previous announcements. The current 429 product-specific exclusions (352 reinstated and 77 COVID-related) expire

on May 31, 2024. The US trade agency declared a 14-day transition period for all current exclusions until June 14, 2024, and to "extend certain exclusions through May 31, 2025" in a new notice. "To allow for a transition period, the US Trade Representative is extending all currently expiring exclusions through June 14, 2024," it stated. Chinese motors and medical equipment are excluded until May 2025. The USTR ruled that "extending these exclusions will support efforts to shift sour-

ing out of China, or provide additional time where, despite efforts to source products from alternative sources, availability of the product outside of China remains limited". Last March, the USTR reinstated some "Section 301" tariff exceptions for Chinese goods. Former President Donald Trump began a trade war with China and imposed tariffs on nearly \$300 billion in Chinese goods, invoking Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Trump granted product tariff exclusions for select businesses

## UPI connection boosts RuPay credit cards

**Delhi:** UPI (Unified Payments Interface) integration has boosted RuPay credit cards, with 75% of 'Credit Cards (CC) on UPI' transactions happening at small businesses, according to a Thursday report. Kiwi found that 'Credit Cards on UPI' was most popular among young folks under 40. CC on UPI is the main payment method, with consumers spending over Rs 22,000 monthly. UPI CCs average 21 transactions each month, four times more than real credit cards. "RuPay Credit Cards' market share rose from 3% in FY23 to 10% in FY24. "UPI's success is



largely responsible," stated Kiwi Co-founder Mohit Bedi. Virtual credit cards are growing rapidly. He stated that about 20% of credit cards issued in the country are virtual. The survey found that UPI CC transactions average

Rs 1,125, compared to Rs 4,000 for standard credit cards. The survey also found that supermarket and Kirana stores used CC on UPI the most (33%), followed by clothes and electronics (15%) and food and dining (7%).

## The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine on Hero FinCorp for violating regulatory standards

**Delhi:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fined Hero FinCorp Limited Rs 3,10,000 for violating the fair practices policy for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). An RBI assessment has uncovered that Hero FinCorp failed



to communicate the terms and conditions of loans in written form to

borrowers in a language that they understand. RBI conducted a statutory inspection of the company, specifically focusing on its financial situation as of March 31, 2023.



## Key portfolio firms' stock surge as investors ignore Adani Group toolkit

**Delhi:** The flagship Adani Enterprises (NS:ADEL) Ltd. (AEL) recovered losses of over \$30 billion from the short-seller firm Hindenburg's report. The Adani Enterprises stock has risen 12% in five trading sessions. Financial giant Cantor Fitzgerald has set a Rs 4,338 target price. In addition, investors have received 53% gains on the stock in the past six months. The stock soared from its February 2023 low. AEL shares were practically unchanged at Rs 3,381 on BSE. While Adani Green Energy (NS:ADNA) shares jumped 1.8%, Adani Total Gas (NS: ADAG) rose 2.5%, and Adani Energy Solutions rose 0.5%. Investors rejected The Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and Financial Times (FT) investigation targeting the world's largest domestic corporate empire "all in the name of investigative journalism".

## Paytm will grow payment services with UPI, card processing, and EMI

**Delhi:** Paytm said it is optimistic on UPI, card processing, and EMI payments to expand its payment services business. These business segments could help Paytm revive and sustain its payments leadership in India. UPI, which earlier generated 70% of Gross Merchandise Value (GMV), now accounts for almost 80-85%, highlighting its importance in the business strategy. Paytm also stressed merchant GMV recovery during an earnings call on Wednesday after reporting Q4 FY24 and FY24 results.

## Gaming company Nazara earns Rs 17 crore in Q4, revenue falls 8%

**Delhi:** Gaming and sports media platform Nazara Technologies reported net profit from its sustained operations at Rs 17.1 crore in the January-March quarter of FY24, up 43.6% from Rs 11.9 crore the year before. Operating revenue down 8% to Rs 266.2 crore from Rs 289.3 crore in FY23. The company reported a 21.8% increase in net profit to Rs 74.8 crore from Rs 61.4 crore in FY23. FY24 revenue rose 4.3% to Rs 1,138.3 crore from Rs 1,091 crore.

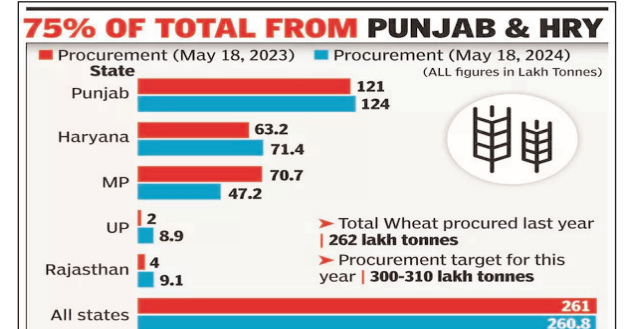


laying the groundwork for rapid scaling. Nitish Mittersain, Nazara Technologies' founder, CEO, and joint MD, reported 4.3% revenue and 16.5% EBITDA increase. The company's running cash flow

rose to Rs 131.4 crore, indicating great performance. He said, "We raised Rs 950 crore at Nazara and subsidiaries, our largest fundraise to date, resulting in a net cash balance of Rs 1,450 crores. Nazara works in gaming, esports, and advertising. Mittersain said he expects revenue and EBITDA growth to accelerate in FY25. The company has acquired 100% of Nextwave Multimedia Private Limited, producers of the popular "World Cricket Championship" mobile cricket games.

## Fully procured wheat by centre exceeds last year's mark

**Delhi:** This Rabi selling season, the Food Ministry announced that the Central government had purchased 262.48 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in various states, beating previous year's 262.02 lakh. The Rabi marketing season 2024-25 MSP outflow was Rs. 59,715 crores, benefiting 22.31 lakh farmers. Five states dominated procurement. Punjab procured 124.26 lakh metric tons (LMT), followed by Haryana with 71.49 LMT and Madhya Pradesh with 47.78 LMT. Rajasthan and



Uttar Pradesh followed with 9.66 and 9.07 LMT. According to the Ministry, 728.42 LMT paddy equivalent to 489.15 LMT of rice has been acquired directly from 98.26 lakh farmers during the Kharif marketing scheme 2023-24, with a total

MSP outflow of Rs. 1,60,472 crores. The Food Ministry said the Central Pool's wheat and rice stock had topped 600 LMT, allowing the country to meet its food grain needs under PMGKAY, other welfare initiatives, and market interventions.

## Musk accuses WhatsApp of misusing user data every night



**Delhi:** Today, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk accused Meta-owned WhatsApp of exporting user data every night. An X user said WhatsApp exports user data every night for "analysed and used for targeted advertising, making users the product, not the customer". Musk said "WhatsApp exports your user data every night". "Some people still think it is secure," stated the tech billionaire. Elon Musk's claim was not

addressed by Meta or WhatsApp. John Carmack, a computer programmer and video game developer, asked Elon Musk if communications are ever scanned or forwarded. "I assume usage patterns and routing metadata is collected, and if you invoke a bot in a conversation you are obviously opening it up, but I am still under the impression that the message contents are secure by default," John wrote on X. X has

also attacked Mark Zuckerberg's Meta Platform. The billionaire said Meta is greedy at grabbing credit for advertisers who execute campaigns on its platform earlier this month.

Well-known rivalry between Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg They were supposed to engage in a "cage fight" called the fight of the century. The tech leaders never clashed.

## Google makes a minority investment of \$350 million in Flipkart

**Delhi:** According to reports, Google contributed roughly \$350 million to Flipkart's almost \$1 billion fundraising round, which was spearheaded by parent company Walmart. Flipkart declined to comment on the funding's details, but sources informed that the internet giant has contributed roughly \$350 million for a minority interest in the company. The investment round has concluded with Google joining, increasing Flipkart's worth to much beyond \$35 billion, according to sources. Walmart contributed approximately \$600 million to Flipkart during the investment round that concluded in December of last year. In 2021, Flipkart completed its largest funding round, raising \$3.6 billion at a valuation of \$37.6 billion from

### Boost For Quick Commerce Foray

Google has been ramping up its India investments and may look at extending its partnership with Flipkart to other areas as well, according to market advisors

With Google on board, the \$1bn investment round has been closed, taking Flipkart's valuation to over \$35bn. The funding comes in handy for

Flipkart as it looks to enter the quick commerce space

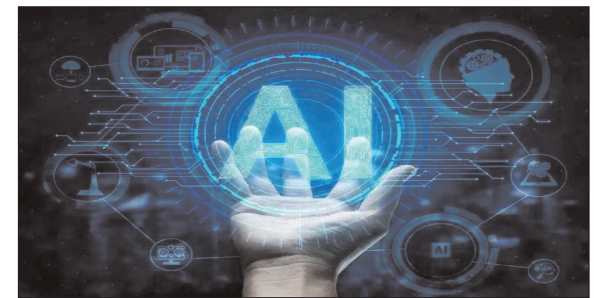
Flipkart has been in a partnership with Google Cloud since 2022

The co, which competes with players like Amazon and Meesho to cater to customers who are increasingly going digital, has been leveraging Google's cloud stack to widen tech capabilities and reach more users

investors in a deal co-led by Walmart. It is believed that the company's valuation was modified to \$33 billion following the 2022 separation of fintech PhonePe from the group. Flipkart stated that regulatory permissions are a prerequisite for the investment. "Google's proposed investment and its cloud collaboration will help Flipkart expand its business and advance the modernisation of its digital infrastructure to serve customers across the country,"

the company said in a statement. Google Cloud and Flipkart have been partnered since 2022. Flipkart has been using Google's cloud stack to expand its IT capabilities and reach more consumers. Flipkart competes with players like Amazon and Meesho, which is sponsored by SoftBank, to cater to clients who are increasingly turning digital. In a \$1.4 billion investment round in 2017, Flipkart received backing from Tencent, Microsoft, and other competitors of Google.

## DD Kisan launches 50-language AI anchors Krish and Bhoomi

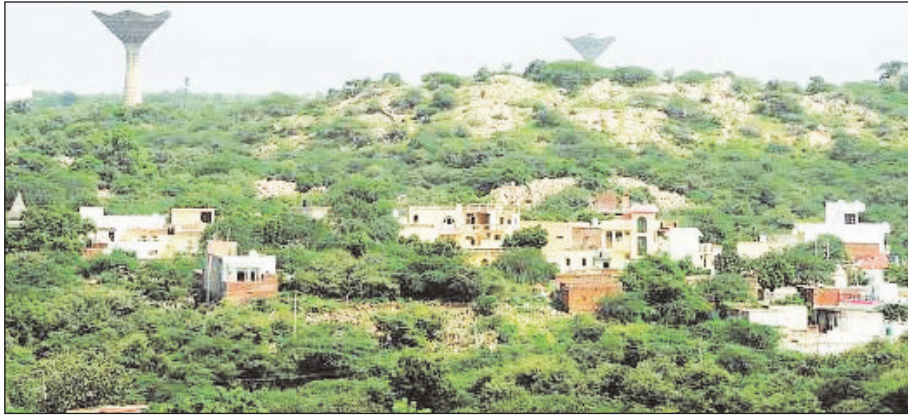


**Delhi:** Doordarshan Kisan will be the first government TV channel to introduce AI anchors, ushering in the 'Artificial Intelligence' age in agriculture. Krish and Bhoomi, the AI anchors, are advanced computer algorithms that behave and perform like humans. Once unthinkable, they can deliver news 24/7, 365 days a year without tiring or taking breaks. Farmers in all states will see AI anchors, from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to Arunachal. These anchors will provide national and global agriculture research, farm market trends,

weather updates, and government scheme updates. The anchors' fluency in 50 domestic and international languages is remarkable. Only DD Kisan broadcasts nationwide. It serves farmers exclusively and was founded by the Indian government. DD Kisan Channel has met these standards for nine years. The DD Kisan channel promotes innovative farmers. To support the country's agricultural and rural populations, it promotes comprehensive education. The DD Kisan channel focuses on sustainable farming, animal husbandry, and plantation.

## Illegal Farmhouses Threaten Aravalli Hills Ecosystem: Sohna, Gurgaon

**Delhi:** Illegal farmhouses are destroying trees in the Aravalli Hills, particularly near Sohna's Gair Mumkin Pahar. Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) makes the Aravalli Hills uncultivable and needs government authorization to chop trees. A rise in illegal farmhouses threatens the national treasure of Aravalli trees and the delicate ecological balance of the surrounding area. Illegal farmhouses have long colonized the Aravalli Hills, but the situation has grown. Stakeholders and environmentalists are concerned about landowners blatantly felling trees.



Unchecked deforestation is destroying Raisina Hills' beauty, a worrying trend. Villagers say that illegal farmhouse owners take down trees, add stones, and install iron gates. These activities involve clearing forested areas to build approach roads to their farmhouses. Gates restrict

locals' access and the government's action. Recent forest department and local government operations have destroyed several illegal farmhouses, but a worrying analysis found that more than 500 new farmhouses were built in 2022. Even the Forest Department doesn't grasp the latest farm-

house development boom. The causes of this unlawful activity surge are unclear, making regulatory work difficult. The lack of a unified plan to combat this problem makes illegal farmhouses thrive. A concerted effort by local communities, government institutions, and environmental groups

is essential. Waking up is important to solve this problem and address its causes. There is an urgent need to address the proliferation of illegal farmhouses in the Aravalli Hills, particularly in Gair Mumkin Pahar. These constructions' unrestrained development and environmental violations will threaten the Aravalli ecosystem. Local communities' rights and well-being will be violated. Governments, environmentalists, and local stakeholders must work together to solve this problem. They should enforce laws and adopt sustainable methods to protect the Aravalli Hills' natural heritage.

## India rice stocks three times target, alleviating supply concerns

**Delhi:** Two government sources in India, the world's second-largest rice producer, reported that rice stocks were nearly three times their target at the start of August. The surplus will boost market hopes of fresh Delhi lifting a recent export prohibition, along with the fresh season crop expected in October. Last month, the world's top rice exporter abruptly halted non-Basmati white rice exports, sending prices to multi-year highs. On August 1, state warehouses had 37.6 million metric tons of Indian rice, including unmilled husk varieties, sources told Reuters. Rice suits us "unidentified source said. Our supplies are sufficient as we near the end of the 2022-23 rice marketing year. Next crop is around the corner. "Sources reported



24.6 million metric tons of rice and 13 million metric tons of unmilled rice on Aug. 1.

Local government regulations require state-run warehouses to have 13.5 million metric tons of rice, including Strategic Reserves of 2 million for the quarter starting July 1. Rice is planted in June and July in India, and harvesting begins in October. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), India's primary grain importer, would increase state granary rice inventories with new season purchas-

es. FCI purchased 84.6 million metric tons of rice paddy from domestic farmers in 2022-23, yielding 57 million tons. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Indian farmers harvested a record 135.5 million metric tons of rice in 2022-23. According to the weather service, eastern Indian rice-growing states may receive excess rainfall in August. A good crop will require FCI to acquire lots of rice from farmers, strengthening government granary inventories.

## Publicize child begging helpline

**Delhi:** In a PIL against child begging, a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan was informed by the Delhi government that anyone can report an event on the hotline, and a mechanism has been built to counsel and transmit the situation. After hearing the authorities, the court closed the PIL and ordered Delhi to provide an affidavit of compliance after eight weeks. The writ petition was dismissed, and the court, including Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, ordered respondents to promote the child hotline number 1098. Standing coun-



sel Santosh Kumar Tripathi represented the Delhi government, which assured the court that a framework is in place to respond to child beggars.

He also said out-of-school youngsters are being identified and admitted to schools. Residents can now record sightings

and help relocate animals for safer routes. Road accidents must be prevented, says the chief minister.

Discover how scoliosis affects child development. Discover the value of early diagnosis and treatment. How to help scoliosis-afflicted kids live better.

## Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

USED TRUCK PRICES ON THE UPSWING			
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT (TONNE)	Jun-24	Jun-23	YOY Change
1.5 to 2	₹3,29,727	₹2,39,490	38%
2 to 3.5	₹5,82,400	₹4,76,462	22%
3.5 to 7.5	₹6,39,000	₹5,29,000	21%
7.5 to 16	₹8,10,000	₹7,55,833	7%
16 to 19	₹9,63,000	₹8,83,500	9%
25 to 28.5	₹13,60,000	₹12,88,000	6%
31 to 36	₹15,77,000	₹11,00,000	43%
37 to 43.5	₹16,00,000	₹13,50,750	18%

All vehicles are five years old. Source: Shriram Mobility Bulletin July 2024

**Delhi:** Used truck prices rose double-digits year-over-year for light commercial vehicles. A 38% increase in used vehicle costs for 1.5- to 2-tonne vehicles. The 2 to 3.5 tonne category rose 22% and the 3.5 to 7.5 section 21%. The only other segment with bigger price hikes was 31 to 36 tonnes, but truck marketers said this was a distortion because few higher GVW trucks are repossessed. The smaller tonnage unorganized fleet for inter and intra city logistics has been switching from new to old trucks in the recent year. Price hikes and logistics market stress due to inconsistent freight rate increases are to blame. Ashutosh Pandey, CEO, Mahindra First Choice Wheels, said smaller unorganized

fleet owners must cut costs and utilize 40% cheaper trucks. Marketers say the move toward used trucks has been obvious for about two years. Shriram Finance spokesman: "Over the past two years, prices for all types of used commercial vehicles, BS IV or BS VI, have increased 25-30%." "The subdued sales during 2019-22 have resulted in a shortage of supply in the used truck market." The used truck industry is booming, and prices are projected to stay high as new vehicle prices rise. The current batch of new trucks (one or two years old) will be available pre-owned after a few years. "This could potentially drive sustained growth in the used vehicle segment," he said.

## Cruel to crush the snouts of dogs such as pugs

**Delhi:** PETA India announced that it would be conducting an appeal in advance of World Plastic Surgery Day to remind people that, although humans may have a choice in the form of their nose, pet dog breeds like pugs and other flat-faced dogs do not. According to PETA, those who are kind hearted should never purchase them since they are purposefully and cruelly bred to have a nose so compressed it makes it impossible for them to even breathe. According to PETA, a number of cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, will host the awareness campaign at the same time. Marine Lines in Mumbai will have a massive billboard up. Pugs and other breathing-impaired breeds (BIB)—such as shih tzus, boxers, Boston terriers, French and English bulldogs, Pekingese, and Cavalier King Charles spaniels—suffer from brachycephalic syndrome.



## Government bans pro-Khalistan SFJ for 5 years, citing anti-India actions

**Delhi:** The Centre has declared pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) a 'unlawful association' for another five years, citing its continued anti-India and subversive activities and support for violent extremism in Punjab and elsewhere to create a sovereign Khalistan. On July 10, 2019, UAPA banned SFJ as a 'unlawful association' for its aggressive 'Referendum 2020' campaign for a Khalistan state on social media and in countries with large Sikh diasporas. In notification, MHA warned that SFJ, without immediate curbs on its unlawful activities, may escalate its attempts to carve out a Khalistan nation from Indian territory by destabilizing the lawful government; continue advocating secession of Punjab from the Union of India and formation of Khalistan; propagate anti-national and separatist sentiments prejudicial to territorial integrity and security; and escalate secessionist movements.



## Delhi raised pollution certificate prices

**Delhi:** The Delhi administration has immediately changed two-, three-, and four-wheeler pollution-checking rates. Rates for petrol, CNG, and LPG two-wheelers and three-wheelers have been revised to ₹80. New pricing for fuel, CNG, and LPG four-wheelers are now ₹110. Diesel owners will pay ₹140 extra. The national capital's PUC rates were updated after 13 years. In response to increased pollution checking costs, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot told PTI that PUC charges were revised. Gahlot stated, "We revised the charges to meet the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association's long-standing demands and escalating pollution inspection costs. We are committed to safeguarding Delhi's air quality and ensuring all vehicles fulfill pollution limits." Two- and three-wheeler pollution-checking fees for petrol, CNG, or LPG have increased from ₹60 to ₹80. However, the price of four-wheelers has risen by ₹30 from ₹80 to ₹110. The maximum PUC certificate increment for diesel automobiles is ₹100 to ₹140. Vehicle requirements limit PUC certificate validity. Car and two-wheeler owners must renew their PUC certificate every six months after a year for a new vehicle.



## Government will sell wheat

**Delhi:** In order to sell FCI's wheat stock, the food ministry has set a minimum sale price of Rs 2,325/quintal for private bulk buyers like millers, below the market price of Rs 2,400/quintal. The minimum rice price for bulk buyers is Rs 2,800/quintal. Prices do not include FCI depot transportation. The ministry stated in an official notification that FCI will discuss



with the ministry to determine the quantity of grain inventories to be offloaded after considering PDS stock,

buffer norms, and 20 lakh tons. FCI has 289 lakh tonnes of wheat. Government may lift rice export prohibition and resume wheat sales. Minimum sale prices for FCI wheat and rice holdings.

A group of ministers will decide on export ban removal. Pre-registering farmers for urad procurement by government cooperatives.

## Central armed police chiefs promise a 10% quota for ex-Agnives

**Delhi:** Heads of various central armed police forces (CAPFs) reiterated their commitment to implement a 10% quota for ex-Engineers in all constable-level posts, saying the forces will benefit from trained and disciplined manpower.

After the Union cabinet approved the Agnipath scheme in June 2022, the home ministry announced a 10% CAPF job quota for ex-Agniveers with four years of service. X tweeted recordings of the director-generals of CRPF, BSF, CISF, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Railway

Protection Force (RPF) stating that ex-Agniveers will receive 10% CAPF quotas. The DGs in these videos mention the recruitment rules amendments for each CAPF that relaxed ex-Agniveers. These include exemption from the physical efficiency exam and age relaxation of five years for the first cohort of ex-Agniveers and three years for succeeding batches.

"All CRPF ex-Agniveer recruitment arrangements are complete. Due to their Army discipline, Agniveers will be valuable.

**Delhi:** Congress sources claimed a two-member fact-finding committee sent by the party's central leadership to investigate its capital loss met with all candidates and top officials in recent days. Every candidate and Delhi official said AAP's elected officials and staffers didn't molest them. Anonymity claims AAP's support for Congress did not convert on any of the three seats. top party official, requesting "The fact-finding committee will soon hand over the report to the central leadership for its consideration," he said. Congress and



AAP, the two parties of opposition's INDIA alliance, shared seats in the capital and contested the Lok Sabha election to avoid splitting anti-BJP support. AAP won four seats and Congress three after winning two straight assembly polls by a big mandate and the recent MCD polls. BJP won 54.3%, AAP 24.1%, and Congress 19.1%. AAP

national convener and Delhi CM They worried that if their supporters voted for Congress today, they wouldn't vote for AAP in Delhi assembly elections in Jan-Feb next year "said a senior party official. Several days before the nomination process, we announced our candidacy. In places where its candidates ran, AAP has sent

activists from all constituencies. Senior AAP leaders refused to send personnel to our districts, another Congress official claimed. Senior Congress officials told the committee that many party workers were unhappy with the AAP collaboration. "Some party members also disliked the nomination of two outsiders. Meanwhile, AAP and Congress have stated that their cooperation is restricted to Lok Sabha elections and that they will compete in the Delhi assembly elections separately.

## Congress candidates blame Delhi Lok Sabha loss on AAP

## Four Naxalites killed in encounter with security forces in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli

**NEW DELHI:** Four Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Tuesday. The superintendent of police in Gadchiroli, Nilotpal, said that the security teams encountered gunfire from the Naxals during an early morning search operation in the Kolamarka mountains.

"A credible intelligence was received on Monday afternoon that some members of Telangana state committee have crossed Pranhita river from Telangana into Gadchiroli with an aim to carry out subversive activities during the Model code of conduct period of upcoming Lok Sabha elections," Gadchiroli SP said. In response, multiple teams including C60 and CRPF QAT were dispatched from Aheri Sub Police headquarters led by Additional SP Ops Yatish Deshmukh for area searches.



"One of the teams comprising of 4 C60 parties while searching today early morning in Kolamarka mountains 5 km SE of SPS Repanpalli were fired indiscriminately by Naxals, which was retaliated strongly by our C60 teams. After the firing stopped and the area was searched, 4 male naxal dead bodies have been recovered," Gadchiroli SP added. The recovered items included weapons and personal belongings.

Among the deceased were high-ranking Naxal leaders DVCM Vargeesh and DVCM Magtu. The operation also targeted platoon members Kursang Raju and Kudimetta Venkatesh, all of whom carried a combined cash reward of 36 Lakhs as declared by the Maharashtra government, SP said. Following the encounter, search and anti-naxal operations are underway in the region.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Kolhapur-Gaganbawda h'way work to hit trees

**Kolhapur:** Over 1,250 trees on the Kolhapur-Kale stretch will be felled for the first phase of the ongoing road widening works of the Kolhapur-Gaganbawda national highway (166-B). Many important medicinal and rare trees like terminalia, pinnata, bur-flower, shalmali, jamun, fig, banyan, peepal, baheda will be cut for this activity. The Kolhapur to Gaganbawda route was recently transferred from the Public Works Department (PWD) to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the four-laning of the highway. Large scale passenger traffic from Kolhapur to Konkan-Goa occurs on this route. Shubham Patil, junior engi-



neer of NHAI said, "More than 1,250 trees between Shingnapur phata till Kale section of Kolhapur-Gaganbawda NH will be cut in the first phase of road widening works in the district. The forest department has also approved of the same.

The assigned contractor for the works has shortlisted reserved forest land at Bazarbhogaon village where he will be planting saplings. The contract will not complete unless the plantation is done. We will look to it that the trees get planted accordingly."

The assigned contractor for the works has shortlisted reserved forest land at Bazarbhogaon village where he will be planting saplings. The contract will not complete unless the plantation is done. We will look to it that the trees get planted accordingly."

A villager from Kale, Sachin Patil said, "It is said that five trees will be planted in place of one tree getting cut during the highway works. But in reality, the authorities plant saplings which does not grow. This road stretch offers a canopy of trees that should be preserved."

Anil Chougale from Nisarg Mitra, an NGO for the environment said, "The banyan trees on this stretch are nearly a 100 years old. Plantation should be done from the seeds of different tree varieties. The social forestry department should consider this on priority. Mass plantation of various Indian native trees should be carried ahead of the monsoon."

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

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

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

I 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

## Dissent within Mahayuti over likelihood of ticket for Mandlik

**Kolhapur:** The likelihood Kolhapur sitting MP Sanjay Mandlik's candidature has caused dissenting voices to emerge within the Mahayuti parties. This time, the local BJP functionaries are opposing Mandlik, who is expected to contest on a Shiv Sena ticket once again. Sangram Kupekar from Gadhinglaj tehsil, who is a member of BJP state executive council, told his supporters to request local BJP leaders to call deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, and urge him not to give the ticket to Mandlik again.



Kupekar was with the Shiv Sena (UBT) before joining BJP last year. Speaking to his supporters Kupekar said, "All the local politicians should dial our state leaders. Request them not to let the sitting MP get a ticket once again. Last time, in 2019, we made a big mistake by supporting him against Dhananjay Mahadik. The sitting MP never visited many of the villages even once after the 2019 polls." Recently, district BJP leaders claimed they have sought one of the two seats — either Kolhapur or Hatkanangle — for BJP in Mahayuti's seat sharing arrangement. They said BJP has never contested from any of these seats before, and if it does contest this time, it would help

expand the party's base. The name of district BJP president Samarjitsinha Ghatge was also doing rounds for some time as a possible Mahayuti candidate against Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaj, who is likely to contest on a Congress ticket. Dhananjay Mahadik, BJP Rajya Sabha MP, told the media: "All Mahayuti parties should refrain from making such statements. The Mahayuti parties have decided to contest the polls together and everyone must think before issuing any statement. There is no need to panic. There is still some time to go for the Kolhapur polls as the voting will take place in May. There is adequate time to think about seat distribution and candidate selection." Mahadik said that as per his knowledge, both seats.

## Unlock the Magic with Croma's Summer Campaign 2024 - Spectacular Offers on Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Room Coolers, and more!

**Gurugram: Croma** has announced its Summer Campaign, till May 2024. With the onset of summer, the most awaited Summer Sale presents the perfect opportunity for customers to prepare their homes to combat the rising temperatures with the latest gadgets with irresistible deals and ease of payment. Consumers will find 1.5 Ton Split ACs starting at just Rs 1,500 across stores and croma.com. Customers can bring any electronics and take home a new AC. Enjoy the benefits up to INR 45,000 and other benefits on an extensive range of 250+ air conditioners, 300+ refrigerators, room coolers, and fans with attractive exchange and upgrade options, cashback offers, and flexible EMI plans of up to 24

months. The offers include Inverter Split ACs starting from just INR 24,990, providing an affordable way to keep your home cool and comfortable, and also has exchange benefits of up to INR 6,500 on ACs. Room Coolers are available from Rs.4,500 ideal for those looking for cost-effective cooling solutions. For those interested in premium cooling, the LG INV/AC 1.5 Ton 5-star AC, originally priced at INR 91,990, is now available for just INR 53,490, delivering savings up to INR 45,000. Additionally, the Bajaj PMH 18 DLX Room Cooler is now offered starting at INR4,500, making high-quality cooling more accessible, convenient, and affordable. Customers can also take advantage of up to 24 months of Easy EMI on refrigerators, making

it easier than ever to upgrade your kitchen appliances. Croma Own Label offers mega deals on its host of cooling appliances. Get a Croma BLDC Fan complimentary with every Croma Inverter AC for efficient cooling. With a Croma Side-by-Side Refrigerator, get Croma Coffee Maker at no extra cost. Choose a Croma Water Purifier and get a Croma Air Fryer complimentary, for healthier cooking. Buy a Croma Cooler and get a complimentary Croma 750W Mixer Grinder. Additionally, enjoy No Cost EMI for up to 18 months on purchases over INR 5,000. This is a perfect chance to enrich your home with Croma Branded products with advanced technology with ease of payments and complimentary products.

## Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi

**Jaleel to contest from Aurangabad, says Owaisi** Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Putting an end to speculations of Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday announced Jaleel's candidature from Aurangabad again. Owaisi took to X and announced that his party's Bihar president Akhtarul Iman would be the party's candidate from Kishanganj (Bihar) and Imtiaz Jaleel would contest from Aurangabad. Owaisi himself will contest from Hyderabad. During a media interaction in Hyderabad, Owaisi said: "In addition to these three candidates, party's state presidents in Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are working on finalising the number of seats to be contested. We will make an official announcement." When contacted, Jaleel said: "I thank the people of my constituency for letting me represent them in Parliament for five years. I did my best to raise the voice of the common people and fought hard against the wrong govt policies. Now, I will again approach people and if they feel I have done good work, then they would definitely stand with me. My initial two years as MP were lost because of Covid. Hope people will give me an opportunity to continue serving them." Jaleel, after winning the MLA elections in 2014, contested and won the LS elections against Shiv Sena's Chandrakant Khaire with a narrow margin in 2019 elections. He had openly expressed desire to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai (North Central). Jaleel had cited communal violence on Thane's Mira Road during the Ram temple consecration, followed by civic body's action of demolishing several encroachments.

## Jigar Saraiya & Aditya Gadhvi Collaborate on 'Diamond Ni'

**Karnal:** Hold onto your headphones, music lovers! The dynamic duo Sachin-Jigar are back with a bang, bringing you their latest masterpiece, "Diamond Ni". Featuring the incredible vocals by Jigar Saraiya and the phenomenal Aditya Gadhvi, who rocked the charts last year with Khalasi, the track is set to become your new favourite jam. If you remember, Orry recently posted a reel from the Ambani wedding on the song that went viral. Netizens kept asking about where they could find the song! Well, the good news is it's here now! Masterfully blending the rich textures of Gujarati folk music with modern pop, 'Diamond Ni' is all about appreciating the simple, natural beauty around us, wrapped in lively beats and an infectious melody. Composed by the musical gems Sachin-Jigar, the track opens with a catchy hook that sets the tone for a toe-tapping and head-bobbing experience. The heartfelt lyrics, penned by the talented Priya Saraiya, speak directly to the soul, and are a poetic ode to natural beauty, painting a picture of simplicity and admiration, making you see the world through a lens of unfiltered joy. With the impeccable voices of Jigar Saraiya and Aditya Gadhvi bringing the composition to life, this fusion of traditional Gujarati folk music with



modern pop beats are sure to get the listeners dancing and singing along. Jigar Saraiya, adding charm to the melody with his voice and composition, adds, "From the first time we heard the melody we knew 'Diamond Ni' was special. We're always committed to making Gujarati (music) global, and this fusion allowed us to experiment and create something truly unique. From the moment you press play, it grabs you by the soul and doesn't let go."

We hope it brings as much joy to listeners as it did to us while creating it." Sharing his excitement Aditya Gadhvi, known for his powerful vocals, said, "Being part of 'Diamond Ni' and working alongside the maestro's Sachin-Jigar has been an absolute thrill for me."

## Congress government will be formed in Haryana with a clear majority under the leadership of Hooda: Shyam Sundar Kaul

**Kaithal:** Senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupinder Singh Hooda's close supporter former Sarpanch Shyam Sundar Kaul said that Congress is fully prepared to hoist the flag of victory under the leadership of former Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupinder Singh Hooda in the assembly elections to be held in Haryana after three months. With the blessings of the people, Congress government will be formed with a clear majority in Haryana and Hooda will become the Chief Minister of the state for the third time. Congress leader Shyam Sundar Kaul was talking to journalists in the town of Dhand after meeting former Chief Minister Chaudhary Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Former Sarpanch Shyam Sundar Kaul said that the BJP government is in a state of panic due to the immense success of the 'Haryana Maange Hisaab Abhiyan' started by the



Congress in the state under the leadership of MP Deepender Singh Hooda. The public has announced to form a Congress government by ousting the BJP from power. Hooda is fighting day and night for the interests of the people and as soon as the Hooda government is formed, all the announcements of the Congress will be implemented with the first pen. Congress leader Shyam Sundar Kaul said that under the able leadership of Congress state president Udaybhan, the Congress party is getting stronger day by day at the grassroots level in every district of the state and people of every section are joining the party

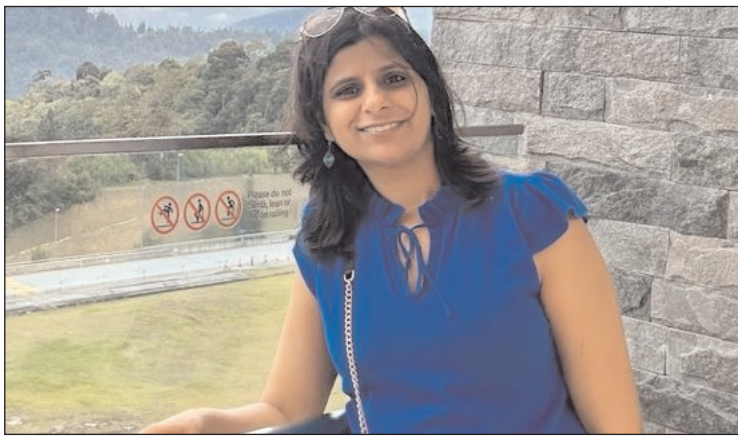
expressing faith in the policies of Congress. Congress state president Udaybhan is taking every section along and exposing the anti-people policies of the BJP government. Congress leader Shyam Sundar Kaul said that under the Haryana Maange Hisaab program, every Congress worker is going door-to-door to make the public aware of the failures of the BJP government in the last 10 years along with making them familiar with the announcements of the Congress. There is no such thing as a government in the state. The days of BJP's rule are over. BJP will be completely wiped out in the assembly elections..

## 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". Addressing an election rally in Lalitpur, Shah said, "If Pakistan makes any mistake", shells made in Bundelkhand will be used to "destroy" that country. At a rally in Jhansi, 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 Rs 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.

## Sakshi Malik: Redefining Operational Excellence for Amazon Flex Partners

**GURUGRAM :** Amazon India returns with its much-awaited Prime Day on July 20 & 21, 2024 bringing immense joy not only to its customers through great deals, new launches, and blockbuster entertainment, but also to Amazon employees dedicated to delighting customers across the country. Meet Sakshi Malik, Country Leader for Amazon Flex Delivery Channel at Amazon India, whose leadership drives customer satisfaction and operational efficiency. Since joining Amazon in early 2022, Sakshi has shown unwavering dedication to her role as the head of Amazon Flex, a



program that enables part-time work opportunities for individuals to further their earning potential by delivering Amazon packages to customers in their free time. This program plays a pivotal

role in Amazon India's last-mile delivery strategy. Celebrating her third Prime Day, Sakshi expresses her excitement for the event, emphasizing the intensity and collaborative spirit

around it. In her own words, she shares, "The energy during Prime Day is exhilarating. There's a palpable energy as we strive to meet customer demands. Our teams are deeply motivated, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie to ensure a successful event."

Throughout her tenure with Amazon, Sakshi has thrived amidst the company's dynamic environment, embracing change and progress. Reflecting on her role, she emphasizes, "Leading the Amazon Flex program allows me to drive proactive planning and alignment across teams."

## Vidya Dham USA honoured writers Rannvijay Rao and Soni Laxmi Rao

**Chandigarh:** During a special programme at Chandigarh Press Club, popular Hindi poet and story writer Rannvijay Rao and Poetess Soni Laxmi Rao were honoured with 'Sahitya Ratna Award' by Vidya Dham USA founder and president Dr. Sarita Mehta for their literary contribution. They were presented with a memento and a shawl. This award was given to them for their literary activities. Senior writer Prem Vij, poet Dr. Vinod Sharma, writer Bahadur Singh,



Raj Vij, Anju Moudgil and Urmil Sakhi were also present on this occasion. Dr. Sarita Mehta said that Shri Rao has done extensive work on various subjects of literature. So far, many of his books have been pub-

lished. Prem Vij said that Rannvijay Rao's writings are mainly in poetry, stories and satire. Dr. Vinod Sharma said that Rao has recited poetry on D o o r d a r s h a n , Akashvani as well as on other platforms.

## Yogi govt gears up for the makeover of Khanta picnic spot of Sonbhadra

**Lucknow/Sonbhadra,** The Yogi government is placing special emphasis on tourism development across the state. In this sequence, the proposed development of the Khanta Picnic Spot

in the Myorpur block of Sonbhadra district assumes special significance. Notably, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to develop this area as a prime picnic destination a few months ago. Subsequently, in alignment with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, a comprehensive action plan was meticulously prepared for the development of Khanta Picnic Spot. The implementation of this plan is now underway, aiming to transform the area into a major tourist attraction. The Yogi government's initiative has already led to a significant increase in footfall at various major pilgrimage

sites across the state with the development of comprehensive tourism facilities. Simultaneously, destinations endowed with natural beauty of the state are also being enhanced. Construction and development works will be completed at the cost of Rs 3.65 crore. The Yogi government has entrusted the Uttar Pradesh Project Corporation with the task of developing the Khanta Picnic Spot area, including the main building and various other facilities. Moving forward with this process, UP Project Corporation Limited has invited applications through a short-term tender. Through this process, a contractor agency will be selected.

## CM Yogi fulfills dreams, youth employment gets a boost with Mission Rozgar

**Lucknow**

The Yogi government has successfully provided more than 650,000 youths with government jobs over the past seven years, ensuring transparency in the recruitment process. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath personally distributed appointment letters in February and March ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Even after the elections, on July 10, appointment letters were handed out to 7,720 youths for the post of Lekhpal. The distribution of appointment letters will continue, with the Chief Minister set to provide letters to selected youths in various departments soon. Under the Yogi government's Mission Rozgar, these youths have committed to delivering their best in their new

roles, confident in the transparency and impartiality of the process. Since assuming power for a second term in 2022, CM Yogi has distributed appointment letters at various programs, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to employment generation. He has also urged public representatives to encourage the newly appointed youths in their districts, in order to motivate other aspiring candidates. Providing students with job-oriented courses along with the regular curriculum. CM Yogi had mentioned in his programs that the National Education Policy 2020 has been implemented. Along with the regular curriculum, various types of job-oriented courses are now being offered in parallel. The

state government has extended this initiative in secondary education as well, trying to integrate students with certificate courses related to paramedical, drone technology, data analysis, 3D printing, and more while continuing with the regular curriculum. For this, extensive changes are being made to vocational education courses. On the path to realizing the dream of a healthy UP, on June 9 last year, the CM handed out appointment letters to 7,182. ANM health workers. On June 10, he gave appointment letters to 1,442 newly selected staff nurses at SGP. On July 18, appointment letter was also given to 1573 ANMs newly elected by Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission.

## Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal

**PUNE:** A weather conundrum is gathering steam over Bay of Bengal ahead of monsoon arrival. India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast formation of a low-pressure area over southwest Bay of Bengal around , while some independent forecasters sounded alarm about potential for an intense cyclone in the making that could impact Odisha, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of meteorology, IMD, told: "Low-pressure area will help monsoon advance over Andaman sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal, but it may not have an impact on onset of monsoon in Kerala. However, we have not so far ruled out the possibility of the system turning into a cyclone later because known for cyclone formation. It is too early to confirm whether or not it will transform into a cyclone. If at all a cyclone forms, its impact on monsoon progress cannot be gauged as of now because it will depend on its path and intensity." GP Sharma, president of Skymet Weather Services, however, said the system did have a significant potential to become a cyclone, but is unlikely to hinder monsoon's progress. "There are ample chances that the Bay of Bengal system could gradually turn into a cyclone. It is unlikely to disrupt the monsoon progress when it forms, rather only help in its progress," Sharma said.