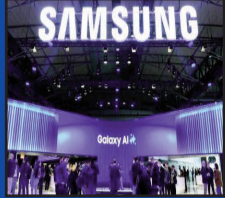




**The wind is changing in Afghanistan, 'Let's Study' campaign started for girls**



**India slaps Samsung with tax demand of \$601 million for telecom imports**

**Aamir Khan wasn't satisfied with PK until the end, had to change story after Inception released:...**

## Prime Minister Modi's Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan will now become a mass movement in Madhya Pradesh: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

**Bhopal (Agency):** With the visionary thinking of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Jal Ganga Sanrakshan Maha Abhiyan is going to start from March 30 on the day of Gudi Padwa. Give water, give Gurubani. All is empty without water. What gives life to everyone is water. Water is life. We are safe today with this, our tomorrow is also safe with this. Saving water is the responsibility of all of us. Not only the government, but the society too will have to come forward for water conservation. With this intention, the Madhya Pradesh government is going



- **Jal Ganga Sanrakshan Abhiyan will start from March 30 and will run till June 30**
- **More than 12 departments including Panchayat and Rural Development, Water Resources will participate in the campaign**
- **The heartland of the country is moving towards becoming a water-rich state**
- **Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will start the state-wide water conservation campaign from the Kshipra bank of Ujjain**
- **1 lakh Jaldoots will be prepared in the campaign**
- **The Chief Minister will inaugurate one water structure every day**
- **The campaign will run continuously for three months**

to start the Jal Ganga Jal Sanvardhan Maha Abhiyan. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will formally launch the Jal

Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan with Varun (water god) worship and Jalabhishek on the banks of Kshipra in

Ujjain, the city of Baba Mahakal. This state-wide campaign will run continuously for more than

90 days in the summer season till June 30. During this period, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will inaugurate one small and big water structure every day. He has said that this water conservation campaign will improve the groundwater level in the state. Save every drop of water, only then will our breath be saved. The Madhya Pradesh government is committed to the conservation of people, water, forest, land and wild animals. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Jal Sanrakshan Abhiyan has become a massive public movement across the country. The state

government is also running a campaign towards water conservation on the principle of farm water in the farm and village water in the village. Only a small part of the total water on our earth is available as clean drinking water. About 97 percent of the total water on earth is salty water in the oceans, which is not drinkable. The remaining 3 percent is fresh water, but most of it is also stored in icebergs and snow peaks. Only less than 0.5 percent of water is available in the form of lakes, rivers and groundwater, which we can use. The amount of clean and drinkable water on earth is very limited and it is very

### The campaign will prove to be a milestone to save water

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that in the Jal Ganga Samvardhan Abhiyan, special emphasis is being laid on rainwater harvesting, revival of water sources and adoption of water conservation techniques to encourage water conservation. This campaign of the state government will play an important role in increasing awareness towards water conservation. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has instructed all the concerned departments to give priority to the schemes related to water conservation and connect as many people as possible to the campaign. He said that the Jal Ganga Samvardhan Abhiyan will prove to be a milestone in eliminating the water crisis in the state and ensuring water security for future generations. In the state-wide water conservation campaign of the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, more than 12 other departments and authorities including Water Resources, Narmada Valley Development Authority, Environment Department, Urban Development and Housing, Public Health Engineering, School Education, Horticulture and Agriculture will work together to renovate water structures.

important to conserve it. That is why the Madhya Pradesh

government has taken steps to save water.

### Crucial READ

**J&K govt staffer dismissed for possessing over 9 kg poppy straw**

**Srinagar (Agency):** The government terminated an employee of the Jammu & Kashmir Jal Shakti department from his service on Monday after his involvement in drug trade came to light. Gulzar Ahmad Dar, posted in the Irrigation Division at Shopian, remains under arrest since April, 2023 for possession of over nine kilograms of poppy straw. He was placed under suspension a month later. Dar was terminated from service on Monday under Article 311 (2) of the Constitution of India.

**Madras HC directs police not to harass Rippling co-founder**

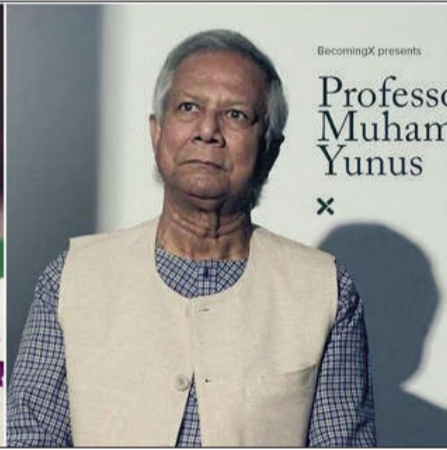
**New Delhi (Agency):** The Madras high court on Thursday directed Chennai Police not to harass software firm Rippling's co-founder Prasanna Sankaranarayanan, who is embroiled in a bitter divorce battle with his estranged wife. In an X thread this week, Sankaranarayanan accused his wife of filing false cases to abduct their son and making false allegations of him being a sexual predator and being charged in a prostitution case in the United States.

**UP man, out on bail for 15-year-old's rape, abducts the girl again**

**Bhadohi (Agency):** The police have launched a fresh investigation into the case after the kidnapping. A man, released on bail in a case related to the kidnapping and rape of a minor girl last year, has allegedly kidnapped the same girl again in Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi. According to the report, police have launched a manhunt to nab the accused as well as to rescue the 15-year-old girl. It is believed that the man carried out the latest crime with the help of his parents and a relative. According to a complaint filed by the girl's mother at Bhadohi Kotwali Police Station on Wednesday, the accused, identified as 23-year-old Ashish Saroj, kidnapped the girl on March 22 with the help of his

### Bangladesh National Day

## PM Modi writes to Mohammad Yunus, calls for 'mutual sensitivity' to concerns



**New Delhi (Agency):** Amid the chill in Delhi-Dhaka ties over violence against minorities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote to Bangladesh Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus on March 26, the country's National Day, and called for taking forward bilateral ties based on sensitivity to each others' concerns. Greeting the people of Bangladesh, Modi wrote: "This day stands as a testament to our shared history and sacrifices that have laid the foundation of our bilateral partnership. The spirit of the Liberation War of Bangladesh continues to remain a guiding light for our relationship, which has flourished across multiple domains, bringing tangible benefits to our people." "We remain committed to advancing this partnership, driven by our common aspirations for peace, stability, and prosperity, and based on mutual sensitivity

to each other's interests and concerns," he said in his note sent Wednesday. India's relations with Bangladesh have taken a hit after violence against Hindu minorities under the Yunus-led interim government after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August last year. The Ministry of External Affairs has repeatedly condemned the violence while urging Bangladesh to protect them and religious institutions. Modi's outreach comes after the Bangladesh interim government sought a meeting between Yunus and the Indian Prime Minister on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit, to be held early April in Bangkok. The meeting is not confirmed yet, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had told a consultative panel of MPs last week. The Ministry of External Affairs has said that

over 2,374 incidents of violence against minorities were reported in the neighbouring country between August 5, 2024, and February 16, 2025, but police verified only 1,254 of them. It said Dhaka had deemed 98% of these incidents "political in nature". In August last year, Modi and Yunus spoke over the phone for the first time in the backdrop of the dramatic removal of Hasina and the subsequent internal political turbulence. The two leaders discussed the safety of minorities during the call. Modi then had posted on X: "Received a telephone call from Professor Muhammad Yunus. Exchanged views on the prevailing situation. Reiterated India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful and progressive Bangladesh. He assured the protection, safety and security of Hindus and all minorities in Bangladesh."

**CJI Khanna assures bar leaders to consider demand against Justice Varma's transfer**

**New Delhi (Agency):** The representatives of six bar associations of different high courts met Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and other Collegium members, Justices B R Gavai, Surya Kant, Abhay S Oka and Vikram Nath, on Thursday and sought withdrawal of the recommendation to transfer Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma to the Allahabad High Court.



### PRAYAGRAJ MAHAKUMBH STAMPEDE

## Not 30 but 37 devotees died in Maha Kumbh; 35 families got compensation of Rs 25 lakh each, 2 not identified

- **Efforts are on to identify 2 of those who lost their lives**
- **30 deaths were confirmed on the day of the stampede**
- **People also died at other places due to crowd**
- **UP police went to the house of West Bengal's Sharmila Ruidas and gave her Rs 5 lakh**

**Prayagraj (Agency):** Not 30 but 37 devotees died in the stampede on January 29 on Mauni Amavasya in Maha Kumbh 2025. Of these, 30 devotees died at Sangam Nose, while 7 people died at



other places in the Sangam area. Of these, compensation amount of Rs 25 lakh each has been transferred to the bank accounts of the dependents of 35 deceased. At the same time, 2 devotees who lost their lives in the accident have not been identified yet. This information was shared on March 26 on the X handle

created by Prayagraj Mela Vikas Pradhikaran for official and authentic information about Maha Kumbh. However, the administration has still not shared the list of the dead. DIG Mahakumbh Vaibhav Krishna told ETV Bharat that a total of 37 people died in the stampede. 30 devotees died at Sangam Nose.

## Violence rocks area around Odisha assembly as Congress workers, police clash during protest

**Congress has been trying to corner the state government over an alleged rise in crimes against women.**



**Bhubaneswar (Agency):** The Odisha police Thursday resorted to lathi charge, used water canons and fired tear gas shells as Congress workers broke barricades and proceeded towards the state assembly as part of their 'Vidhan Sabha gherao' programme over "rising

crimes against women" under the BJP rule. Several Congress workers and personnel sustained injuries during a confrontation at the lower PMG square in Bhubaneswar. Heavy police

deployment was made in view of the protest, with over 80 platoons of forces mobilised and multi-level barricades erected around roads connecting the state assembly. Police said they resorted to lathi charge and

used other tactics to disperse the agitators, who pelted stones and chairs at the personnel guarding the barricades. The police also alleged that the Congress workers tried to torch a police vehicle, which was averted. Hundreds of Congress workers took out a rally from the Ram Mandir square towards the protest venue, slamming the BJP government for "failing to protect the dignity of women in Odisha". Many senior Congress leaders, including state PCC president Bhakta Charan Das, were detained by the police.

### Immigration bill passed in Lok Sabha

## Shah said- India is not Dharamshala, we will deal strictly with Bangladeshis; Mamata is not giving land for fencing

**New Delhi (Agency):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday lashed out at the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government, accusing it of obstructing border security efforts and aiding illegal immigrants. Speaking during the discussion on the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha, Shah said that minority groups were the safest in India and that the government had always provided refuge to persecuted communities. Shah criticised the Bengal government for not cooperating with border

fencing efforts, stating that 450 km of fencing work remained incomplete due to the state's refusal to provide



land. "Whenever fencing work begins, ruling party workers create disruptions through hooliganism and

religious sloganeering," he alleged. He also claimed that Bangladeshi infiltrators and Rohingyas were now

entering India through West Bengal instead of Assam. "The TMC government is showing mercy to

infiltrators, issuing them Aadhaar and voter cards," Shah said, adding that many illegal immigrants caught had Aadhaar cards from 24 Parganas district. He asserted that once the BJP forms the government in Bengal in 2026, such activities would be halted. The Lok Sabha later passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, which aims to streamline immigration policies and strengthen border security measures. Replying to the discussion on the bill, Shah emphasised that immigration was closely linked to national security and that

monitoring those entering the country's borders was crucial. "Immigration is not a separate issue. Many issues of the country are linked to it. From the point of view of national security, it is very important to know who enters the nation's borders. We will also keep a close watch on those who endanger the security of the country," he said. Highlighting India's historical role in sheltering persecuted communities, Shah stated, "India is a geo-cultural nation, not a geo-political nation. Persians came to India and are safe in the country today.

**Jammu (Agency):** Three policemen and two militants were killed during an encounter in Jammu's Kathua district on Thursday. While there has been no official confirmation from either the police or the security forces, sources said that both the deceased policemen including a selection grade constable were PSOs of the SDPO Border. Nearly half a dozen militants, who are believed to be a fresh group having crossed the international border from Pakistan side, were first spotted by a local couple in the forests at Saniyal village near the



international border on Sunday evening. A group of nearly half a dozen militants were first spotted by a local couple, Ganesh and his wife Jyoti, who were collecting firewood. As the village is situated near the International Border, the militants are believed to be a fresh group that has come from across the border.

# Uttar Pradesh has deteriorated under Yogi government: Pradeep Jain Aditya

**Staff Reporter**  
**Banda.** On Thursday, senior Congress leader and former Union Minister of State, Government of India, Pradeep Jain Aditya said in a press conference that 8 years of Yogi government's misrule have been completed in Uttar Pradesh. The state is in a bad state, the public is in distress and the government is patting its own back in its narcissism. Yogi ji is trying to hide the truth by juggling figures. But the anarchy, misrule, jungle raj prevailing in the state is exposing every lie of his. We ask this Yogi government 8 questions whose answers the people of the state want to know. In the last 8 years, question papers of almost all government examinations have been leaked. There have been many such examinations whose results the government has not been able to declare till date. For the last several years, this government has not been able to recruit new teachers. The functioning of Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission has become completely autocratic. Overall, this government does not want to

give government jobs to the youth of the state. Due to lack of new investment in the private sector, jobs are not being available for the youth. According to the International Labor Organization, Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of unemployed youth. Wages of more than 100 crores of NREGA workers are pending since 07 December 2024. Holī has passed and Eid is about to come and in this insensitive government, the workers have no right to celebrate any festival. It is common that wages are not paid on time in the state and often the workers reach the brink of starvation. The income of the farmers has not doubled, but their cost has definitely increased due to which they are not earning as much as they were earning. In October 2024, there was black marketing of DAP and DAP was not available even after paying more money than the market. So many people are engaged in the free electricity waiver scheme that hardly any farmer is able to get his electricity bill waived. The sugarcane support price

has increased only three times in the last eight years and that was a total of 55 rupees while inflation has reached great heights. IAS Abhishek Prakash, the captain of the Chief Minister's dream project



Invest UP, was caught in commission taking. The truth is that there is no department in the entire state where work is being done without bribery/commission. From Kumbh to Corona, Rampath to Invest UP, there is corruption everywhere. Every day pictures of sinking roads are going viral on social media, forget humans, their government has not missed a chance to cheat Lord Shri Ram. Rampath is a direct example of this. The plight of the recently held Kumbh indicated a scam on a very wide scale. Even during the

horrific Corona epidemic when there were piles of dead bodies everywhere, this government committed tremendous corruption in everything from thermometers to oximeters, medicines to oxygen

cylinders. At the same time, it was said that the role of the administration and police during the riots in Bahraich is suspicious. Be it the case of Sambhal or the case of demolishing the mosque in Kushinagar without completing the legal process or the case of creating controversy in Mathura. This government wants to do vote politics by tearing apart the social fabric. Yogi ji, who talks of zero tolerance, will have to explain how this state has turned into a crime state. Yogi ji claims that crime has ended in the state but if we

look at the newspapers and channels, every day there is a story of some heinous crime. NCRB figures say that 15 percent of the crimes against women are happening in UP alone. Every day some incident of rape is happening due to which it has become difficult for our sisters and daughters to leave the house. Crimes against Dalits are increasing. The social crimes which had stopped like stopping the marriage procession of Dalits, attacking them, not allowing them to ride a horse have started happening again under this government. In the 69 thousand teacher recruitment case, first a single bench of the High Court and then a double bench gave the decision that the rules of Reservation Rules 1994 were not followed in these recruitments. Such shamelessness that even after that this government did not obey the court's order. By ending permanent government jobs, this government wants to bring the entire state on contractual basis so that it can end

reservation. Yogi ji himself and all his ministers give anti-constitutional statements every now and then. In the investigation of the National Anti-Fraud Unit of the National Health Authority in the Ayushman Yojana, fake claims of more than Rs 139 crore were found in Uttar Pradesh, which is the highest in the entire country. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi claims to have the biggest budget in the country but allocates only 6 percent to the health department. According to a survey conducted by Niti Aayog on health services in 19 states, UP is at number 18 in terms of health services. A huge scam is happening in the name of 112 ambulance services. Every day on social media, people carrying dead bodies on their shoulders due to lack of this system, people pushing ambulances, two patients getting treatment on the same bed due to lack of beds are seen. Just for show, district hospitals of many districts have been converted into medical colleges but they have not been given any additional facilities.

## Sadhna Mathur became the station incharge for a day



**Staff Reporter**  
**Hamirpur.** Under Mission Shakti Abhiyan Phase 05, with the aim of promoting women empowerment and self-reliance, a special program was organized in the police station by the Inspector-in-Charge of Kurara Police Station under the direction of the Superintendent of Police, in which Sadhna Mathur, daughter of Phool Singh resident of village Bindpuri, Police Station Kurara, a class 10 student of Government Inter College Kurara, was made the station head for a day. On this occasion, the Inspector-in-Charge of Kurara Police Station made the student aware of the functioning of the police department and shared information about the role of police in maintaining law and order. The student was told about the process of redressal of complaints coming to the police station, the functioning of the women's help desk, emergency services, cyber security, women safety measures and various aspects of the functioning of the police. The purpose was to instill confidence in the girl students, give them information about administrative processes and motivate them to develop leadership skills in the future. Sharing her experience on becoming the station head for a day, student Sadhna Mathur said that this occasion was not only inspirational for her, but she also understood the nuances of policing through it.

# State Employees Joint Council congratulated Chief Minister on completion of 8 years of "service, safety, good governance"

**Staff Reporter**  
**Mirzapur.** The State Employees Joint Council issued the guidelines issued to the employees to ensure participation in the government programs in all the headquarters of the state. 27 in Mirzapur in compliance with seminar and press conference On March 2025, Narayan Ji Dubey, Provincial Senior Vice President/ District President Mirzapur, while holding a council work reference press conference, said that JN Tiwari, Chairman of Jinnary Council, Lucknow 27 March 2025 The state government has completed 08 years on the policy of "service safety and good governance". On the instructions of JN Tiwari, President of Employees Joint Council, Senior Vice President of Mirzapur Joint Council/District The Speaker has informed that the Uttar Pradesh government has run a lot of welfare schemes for the welfare of the people of the state. Chief Minister Entrepreneur Development Campaign is becoming the most successful and popular in public interest and welfare schemes. Under this, every youth is being given interest

free money of up to 05 lakh rupees so that he can establish his employment, EMI of this loan will not be recovered for 06 months. For the 'Vishwakarma Shram Samman' scheme old age pension, destitute women's pension, widow pension, PM Surya Ghar Free State Government Service Security On completion of 08 years of good governance, Provincial President J. N. Tiwari congratulated the Chief Minister. Employee council officials will have to comply with the seminar and press conference in Mirzapur, on 27 March 2025, Narayan Ji Dubey has completed 8 years on the policy of press and good governance by the provincial senior vice-president District President Mirzapur, for the success of these 8 years, through the State Employees Joint Council, lakhs of employees have congratulated the Chief Minister. State employee Joint Council President JN Tiwari gave a conference of all the schemes run by the the Chief Minister to spread publicity at the district level by the Chief Minister, all the welfare schemes of the Central Government which

are going on in the state government, to provide the benefit of the beneficiaries to the beneficiaries, the honorarium of ASHA work workers to get the honorarium of the workers to the public with all the welfare schemes of the Uttar Pradesh



Senior Vice President of Joint Council Narayanji Dubey holding a meeting on completion of 08-year term of Chief Minister

government in their work area. Instructions have been given to be made aware by the Joint Council, on March 27, on the provincial direction, a seminar on the district headquarters Mirzapur was organized by the Joint Council in which 8 years of service safety and good governance of the state government and the role of employees is organized in Lucknow. Council's Provincial Senior Vice

President District President Mirzapur Narayan Ji Dubey, Anju Lata Pandey, Kamal Kunj Choubey, Paritosh Dubey, Manish Yadav, Surendra Yadav, Satish Mishra, Girish Mishra, Nishant Dubey, including hundreds of officials

including the power scheme PM Ajay Pradhan Kit Kit Scheme tool Kit Scheme tool Kit Yojana tool Kit Yojana tool Kit Scheme Divyang people for Divyang Mantri Startup Scheme Pradhan Mantri startup scheme Scheme Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Yojana Mukhyamantri Group Marriage Scheme Ambedkar Special State Employment Scheme Samagra Vikas Yojana Krishak Welfare

Scheme Paddy and Other Purchase and Sri Annan Scheme, hundreds of welfare schemes are going on in Uttar Pradesh. For this, the Joint Council President JN Tiwari is organizing a conference at various divisions and district headquarters of the state by organizing conferences and taking information about all the welfare schemes through employees, the government has also taken several steps for the welfare of employees in the last 08 years. Payment of dearness allowance from time to time, promotion campaign from time to time, Even during the Covid Sankatakal, the payment of salary to employees and pensioners uninterrupted has been possible in Uttar Pradesh as the Chief Minister of Yogi ji. It is a big step of the Uttar Pradesh government to be given the benefit of the seventh pay commission to the contract employees and to fix the minimum wage for more than 05 lakh outsourced personnel by fixing the minimum salary. State employee Joint Council President JN Tiwari gave a conference of all the schemes run by the Chief Minister by the organizing a conference at the district level, all the

welfare schemes of the central government which are running in the state government, to provide the beneficiaries to the beneficiaries, increase the honorarium of ASHA work workers and the public with all the welfare schemes of the Uttar Pradesh government in their work sector Instructions have been given by the Joint Council to be made aware. On March 27, a seminar at the district headquarters Mirzapur was organized by the Joint Council on the provincial direction by the Joint Council in which 08 years of "Service Safety and Good Governance" of the state government and the role of the employees is organized and a seminar on the role of employees. In the meeting, District President of Joint Council, District President Mirzapur Narayan Ji Dubey, Hundreds of officials including Anjulata Pandey, Kamal Kunj Choubey, Paritosh Dubey, Manish Yadav, Surendra Yadav, Satish Mishra, Girish Mishra, Nishant Dubey, Shalini Sharma, Manoj Yadav, Surendra Pal, Mohan, Mohan, Mohan, Mohan, Mohan, Mohan, JP Yadav, Shweta Pandey attended.

## BRIEFS

### NSDC, IIT Mandi and NCU Gurugram collaborate to offer B.Tech course



**Staff Reporter**  
**Varanasi:** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), IIT Mandi and the NorthCap University (NCU), Gurugram have today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to launch a B.Tech. ECE in Semiconductor Design and Technology programme. The agreement was formally signed today at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi.

Talking about the collaboration and the programme, Shri Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC and MD of NSDC International, said, "At NSDC, we are committed to transforming education and skilling in alignment with NEP 2020, ensuring that students, especially from small towns and cities, have access to world-class learning opportunities. Our collaboration with IIT Mandi and NorthCap University is a step towards democratizing quality education and integrating industry-relevant skills into higher education. By embedding globally recognized skill courses within degree programs through the National Credit Framework, we are bridging the gap between academia and industry, making our youth future-ready. This initiative not only enhances employability but also empowers students to lead, innovate, and excel in the semiconductor industry, a critical sector for India's technological growth."

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tushar Jain, Head, CCE, IIT Mandi, said, "This collaboration is a step towards creating a future-ready workforce in the semiconductor domain. By combining IIT Mandi's research expertise, NCU's academic infrastructure, and NSDC's skill development initiatives, we are ensuring a transformative learning experience for students." The NCU will manage candidate enrolments and scheduling, and will provide necessary infrastructure, including classrooms, labs, and online learning platforms, for the smooth delivery of IIT Mandi courses. It will provide final degree while incorporating credits and certificates earned from IIT Mandi courses. Prof. Nupur Prakash, Vice Chancellor at NCU, expressed her thoughts on the occasion and said, "This initiative marks a significant step towards bridging the skill gap in India's semiconductor industry by equipping students with cutting-edge knowledge and hands-on experience. The pioneering B.Tech ECE in Semiconductor Design and Technology programme, offered by The NorthCap University, Gurugram, in collaboration with IIT Mandi and NSDC, will provide a unique blend of academic excellence and practical exposure. Students will gain hands-on experience in clean rooms and advanced labs at IIT Mandi, ensuring they are well-prepared to contribute to the country's rapidly growing semiconductor ecosystem." This partnership aims to address the growing demand for skilled professionals in semiconductor industry in India and across the globe by equipping students with industry-relevant knowledge and hands-on training.

## Airtel launches IPTV services across UP

**Staff Reporter**  
**Lucknow:** Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, launched its IPTV services across Uttar Pradesh offering customers the best large screen viewing experience. Customers will get access to an extensive library of on-demand content from 29 prominent Streaming Apps including Sony Liv, Netflix, Apple TV+, Amazon Prime, Zee5, 600 popular television channels, and Wi-Fi service at plans starting Rs. 599. As an introductory offer, all Airtel customers will get upto 30 days of free service on the purchase of IPTV plans which can be availed through the Airtel Thanks App. Commenting on the launch, Amit Gupta, CEO, Bharti Airtel, Uttar Pradesh (East), said, "Entertainment has long been a cherished and integral part of the vibrant culture of Uttar Pradesh. Today, we are delighted to announce the launch of our cutting-edge IPTV service in Uttar Pradesh. This service will usher in a new era of immersive experiences for our customers. With this launch, we are confident of setting a new standard for entertainment solutions that will resonate with the aspirations and desires of the people of Uttar Pradesh."

## The department woke up after the news was published, the pipeline is being laid

**Staff Reporter**  
**Sumerpur.** After the news of non-supply of Namami Gange Yojana to 200 houses of Gram Panchayat Patyora Danda, the officials of Namami Gange Project woke up from their slumber and started the work of laying new pipeline to supply

water. This has given a sigh of relief to the villagers. It is expected that soon the villagers will get clean water. Under the Namami Gange Project, supply is being done in Patyora Danda. But about 200 houses of Shivrampur Dera, Maliha Tala along with Prajapati Mohalla of the village were not getting water. This news was published prominently in the issue of 25th March. After the news was published, the officials of Namami Gange Project woke up from their slumber and started the work of laying new pipeline in place of the old pipeline to supply water to the houses of the people deprived of water. The villagers felt relieved when the work started. It is expected that soon people will get clean water in their homes. Village head representative Arvind Nishad told that water is not reaching the areas where it is not reaching. After the news was published, work has been started to supply water to those areas.



BRIEFS

L&T gets big contract from Qatar Energy LNG

**Mumbai (Agency).** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has got a big contract from Qatar Energy LNG for its offshore hydrocarbon business. Larsen & Toubro said, "Qatar Energy LNG, the world's leading LNG (liquefied natural gas) company, has given a very big contract to Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)'s hydrocarbon business (L&T Energy Hydrocarbon-LTEH) for the 'North Field Production Sustainability Offshore Compression Project.' L&T Chairman and Managing Director S.N. Subrahmanyam said, "We are looking forward to setting new standards in project implementation. This will further strengthen Qatar's leading position in the liquefied natural gas (LLG) sector.

Air India has made a new travel policy for its employees

**Mumbai (Agency).** Indian aviation company Air India has announced a new travel policy for its employees, under which the company's CEO, top officials and senior commanders will travel in economy class. This policy will be implemented in a phased manner from next month. According to this policy, this detail will be applicable for top management from April 1, while for senior commanders it will be effective from June 1. An Air India spokesperson said that the purpose of this policy is to keep the company's premium seats available so that customers get convenience. This new Air India is a challenging opportunity not only for the employees but also for the customers, which reflects the company's progressive thinking and customer-centric culture. Along with this, the policy also includes an upgrade option which provides better convenience to the customers.

Indian economy set to overtake Japan this financial year

**New Delhi (Agency).** According to data released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is on its way to become the fourth largest economy in the world by overtaking Japan by the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25. India is now the fifth largest economy in terms of GDP, closing in on Japan. The Indian economy has more than doubled in the last decade, growing from \$2.1 trillion in 2015 to an estimated \$4.3 trillion in 2025. India's economy has grown by 105 percent in the last ten years, while Japan's GDP has remained stagnant. If India continues to grow at this rate, Japan could overtake Germany, the world's third largest economy, with a GDP of \$4.9 trillion by the second quarter of 2027.

Retail credit growth moderates further as loans by new customers decline 21%: Cibil



**New Delhi (Agency):** India's retail credit growth continued to lose steam in the quarter ended December 2024, with a significant decline in credit uptake among new-to-credit (NTC) consumers. Consumption-led credit products originated by NTC consumers witnessed a sharp 21 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in loan originations, according to a report by TransUnion Cibil. This slowdown in credit growth is not an encouraging trend, particularly among first-time borrowers who are critical to driving economic expansion. The decline in loan originations suggests that NTC consumers are becoming increasingly cautious in taking on debt, which could impact consumption. Consumption-led products are defined as credit cards, personal loans and consumer durables loans. On the other hand, consumers with existing credit showed a decline of only two per cent. Cibil said home loan and credit card originations declined YoY in the three-month period ending December 2024, while the growth rate for other retail loan products, while positive in the most recent quarter, was at a slower rate than in the same quarter in 2023. "In the quarter ended December 2024, the share of total loan originations by NTC consumers decreased to 17 per cent from 21 per cent in December 2023. The decline in the share of NTC consumers in loan originations is consistent across key product segments," it said. According to Cibil, younger generations formed the largest cohort of NTC consumers, with Gen Z (born in 1995 or later) comprising 41 per cent. "The share of women borrowers stood at 37 per cent of NTC originations, which was higher than the share of women among existing to credit (ETC) borrowers at 27 per cent. Of new-to-credit consumers, 32 per cent were from rural geographies, while 23 per cent of ETC consumers were from rural geographies.

Removing black spots on national highways: Parliamentary panel flags ‘governance failure’, lays down 3-tier action plan

**New Delhi (Agency):** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has criticised the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) for the persistent existence of accident-prone "black spots" on national highways (NHs), calling it a "significant governance failure that directly translates to preventable deaths." A black spot or hazardous location on a national highway is identified based on the occurrence of a certain number of accidents resulting in fatalities and grievous injuries in three consecutive calendar years. In a report released recently on the Demands for Grants for financial year 2025-26,

the parliamentary panel said there is an urgent need to implement a three-tier prioritisation framework for the rectification of black spots on the basis of severity (frequency and impact of accidents), complexity of intervention required, and population exposure, i.e., the number of people potentially affected. "For immediate action, the Ministry should adopt a rapid-response protocol for Category A (highest risk) black spots, with mandatory intervention within 30 days of identification. This should include deployment of temporary safety measures while permanent solutions are designed. For Category B and C black spots, the Ministry should establish 90-

day and 180-day rectification deadlines respectively, with penalties for non-compliance



by implementing agencies," said the committee, which is headed by Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha. The committee further emphasised the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of the implemented solutions and recommended that each rectified black spot should

undergo mandatory post-implementation safety audits at 3- and 12-month intervals

process," the panel said in its report. It also noted that during the course of the meeting held to discuss the Demands for Grants (2025-26), the Ministry reiterated its ambitious target to reduce road fatalities by 95 per cent by 2028. The Ministry said that a key focus area would be the rectification of 1,000 accident-prone black spots in FY26, with a view to eliminate all identified black spots by FY28 through scientific road design, improved signage, and enhanced junction management. However, despite the Ministry's commitment to reducing road fatalities, the continued existence of these identified danger zones remains a major concern.

practices or standards in order to achieve their sole motive of maximising their profit by defrauding the government exchequer," Bajaj added. Samsung was ordered to pay 44.6 billion rupees (\$520 million),



public but was reviewed by Reuters. Samsung "violated" Indian laws and "knowingly and intentionally presented false documents before the customs authority for clearance", Sonal Bajaj, a commissioner of customs, said in the order. Investigators found that Samsung "transgressed all business ethics and industry

consisting of unpaid taxes and a penalty of 100%. Seven India executives face fines of \$81 million, among them the network division's vice president, Sung Beam Hong, Chief Financial Officer Dong Won Chu and Sheetal Jain, a general manager for finance, as well as Nikhil Aggarwal, Samsung's general manager for indirect taxes, the order

showed. "The issue involves the interpretation of classification of goods by customs," Samsung said in a statement, adding that it complied with Indian laws. "We are assessing legal options to ensure our rights are fully protected." India's customs authority and the finance ministry did not respond to Reuters' queries. Reliance also did not respond. The incident comes as India toughens oversight of foreign companies and their imports. Volkswagen and New Delhi are locked in a legal battle in which the automaker is challenging a record demand of \$1.4 billion in import back taxes on grounds of misclassifying car parts. The German company denies any wrongdoing in what it called a "matter of life and death" for its India business, but the dispute has rekindled foreign investors' fears over tax tussles.

**Mumbai (Agency):** Indira IVF Hospital Ltd, one of the country's largest chains of fertility clinics, has withdrawn its draft red herring prospectus for its planned Rs 3,500 crore initial public offering (IPO) in the wake of objections raised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) over a Bollywood movie — Tumko Meri Kasam — which was allegedly promoting the company. The markets regulator's reservation is over the timing of the release of the movie when the company,

which is backed by private equity firm BPEA EQT, is in the process of raising money



through IPO, merchant banker sources said. Founded in Udaipur in 2011, Indira

IVF Hospital Ltd withdrew the draft offer document on March 19, according to an

update by SEBI. The company had filed the draft paper last month. When

Safe harbour rules threshold raised; to include lithium ion batteries for EVs



**New Delhi (Agency):** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified amendments to Income-tax Rules on Tuesday to expand the scope of safe harbour rules by including lithium-ion batteries for use in electric or hybrid electric vehicles and increasing the threshold for availing safe harbour to Rs 300 crore.

Experts said this will help reduce transfer pricing disputes for imported EV components. The CBDT said it will provide tax certainty to the assesseees opting for safe harbour and the amendments will apply for two assessment years 2025-26 and 2026-27. As per the CBDT statement, the threshold for safe harbour

has been raised to Rs 300 crore from Rs 200 crore. Also, 'Lithium ion batteries for use in electric or hybrid electric vehicles' have been included in the definition of core auto components. Safe harbour rules are defined under Section 92CB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the determination of arm's length price under section 92C or section 92CA. Safe harbour means circumstances in which the income-tax authorities accept the transfer price as declared by the assessee. Transfer Price is the actual price charged in a transaction between related entities which are part of the same multi national enterprises (MNE) group.

contacted, Indira IVF Hospital's spokesperson said, "The company had decided to withdraw the pre filed DRHP pursuant to evaluation of various factors and commercial considerations." Media reports that suggest any direction from SEBI in this regard are incorrect, the spokesperson said in a statement. A mail sent to SEBI seeking clarification on the withdrawal of the company's IPO did not elicit any response. The movie, directed by Vikram Bhatt, is based on the life of Dr Ajay

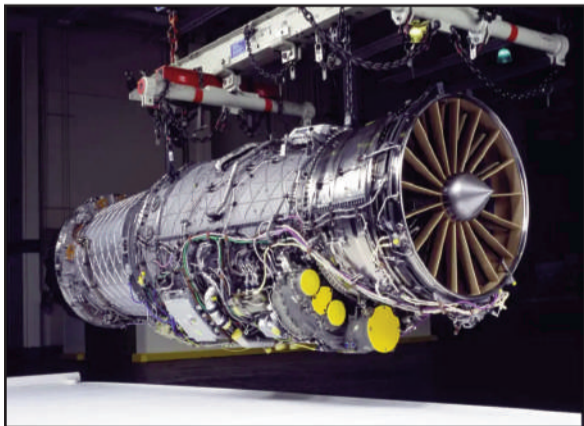
Murdia, the founder of Indira IVF, who is credited with building one of the leading chains of fertility clinics. Anupam Kher, Adah Sharma, Ishwak Singh and Esha Deol are the lead actors of the movie. Kher played the role of Dr Ajay Murdia. The other founders of the company are Kshitiz Murdia and Nitiz Murdia. The company, which started operations in 1998, has a network of over 150 centres across the country, and offers fertility consultations and treatment.

Donald Trump signals softening stance on reciprocal tariffs; talks in Delhi today



**New Delhi (Agency):** As US President Donald Trump hinted at a softening of stance on reciprocal tariffs, stating that a "lot of countries" would be given a break on April 2, officials in the Commerce Ministry began bracing for US demands for increased market access, primarily in automobiles, whisky and some agricultural products. While uncertainty over the White House trade policy continues — especially as Trump said he would impose tariffs on automobiles before the April 2 reciprocal tariffs — the possibility of concessions to certain countries lifted market sentiment globally, including in India, Tuesday. Formal talks, initially expected to begin Tuesday, were deferred to Wednesday, with the Ministry engaged in drafting "terms of reference" (ToR) based on input from all ministries. In trade parlance, the ToR is a document that outlines the scope, objectives of the negotiations. "Formal talks will begin Wednesday, focusing on the first tranche of the bilateral investment agreement, which involves market access and digital trade. The US has key demands, particularly in the automobile, whisky and agriculture sectors, including genetically modified (GM) products. Labour, environment and government procurement will be part of the second tranche," the official said. While both countries have been engaged in discussions, the terms of reference are yet to be exchanged. However, India will primarily push for "concessions on reciprocal tariffs" alongside the removal of certain "labelling-related" non-tariff barriers and demands in the services sector, such as "more visas for working professionals" in the US. On digital trade, India expects the US to push for greater access to data, challenging India's strict data localisation norms, which require Indian data to be stored within the country's borders. During Trump's first term, disagreements over data localisation were a major source of friction between India and the US. While India has resisted altering its stance on data localisation under any plurilateral agreements at the WTO, it further tightened its regulations in April 2018, when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandated that payment system providers such as Mastercard and Visa store payment data for Indian residents within India.

GE Aerospace handed over 99 F404-in20 engines to HAL



together for several years to develop the engine according to the needs of the Indian Air Force. The company said that the F404 engine proved its capabilities in 2008 when the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft successfully flew various mission altitudes and reached a speed of Mach 1.1 in its first test flight. GE Aerospace said that it is pleased to hand over the first of 99 F404-IN20 engines to a valued customer like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft MK 1A fighter jet. This is an

important milestone in our 40-year-old relationship with HAL and our efforts to give a strong future to India's military power. Our goal is to develop next-generation fighter jets as well as enhance the country's defense manufacturing capabilities. GE Aerospace's association with India dates back to the 1980s, when it collaborated with the Aeronautical Development Agency. In 2004, the F404-IN20 engine was selected for the single-engine Tejas fighter jet, marking a major milestone for both India and GE Aerospace.

EDITORIAL

Elusive Truce

The recent talks between the United States and Russia in Saudi Arabia signal a shift in diplomatic efforts to find a resolution to the war in Ukraine. The focus on a potential naval ceasefire in the Black Sea reflects an attempt to de-escalate hostilities, but it also raises concerns about the broader implications of such a deal. While Washington presents these negotiations as a step toward ending the conflict, Ukraine and its European allies remain wary of any arrangement that could compromise their long-term security. The absence of Ukrainian representatives from the US-Russia talks further underscores the unease surrounding these discussions. The Trump



administration's approach appears to prioritise a phased resolution, starting with a maritime truce. The logic behind this strategy is clear: securing safe passage for ships in the Black Sea could serve as a confidence-building measure that leads to a more comprehensive ceasefire. However, the exclusion of Ukraine from the initial phase of negotiations raises legitimate questions about whose interests are being served. A naval truce, while beneficial in reducing immediate tensions, does little to address Ukraine's fundamental concerns regarding sovereignty and territorial integrity. If this approach is meant to test the waters for a broader peace agreement, its effectiveness depends on transparency and trust. Without clear assurances that Ukraine's interests will not be side-lined, the risk of diplomatic missteps remains high.

Any perception that Washington is negotiating over Ukraine's future without its full involvement could damage alliances and weaken international support. Russia's insistence on Ukraine withdrawing from the four regions it claims, along with abandoning Nato aspirations, remains a non-starter for Kyiv. Any agreement that concedes these demands would be seen as a capitulation rather than a peace settlement. At the same time, continued fighting on the ground, as seen in the latest attacks on both Ukrainian and Russian positions, highlights the fragility of any diplomatic overtures. The war is not confined to maritime zones, and efforts to carve out a limited truce while hostilities persist elsewhere may only provide Russia with breathing room rather than serve as a genuine step toward ending the war. The broader context of these negotiations also raises questions about the credibility of US commitments to Ukraine. If the maritime truce is part of a larger strategy to push for territorial concessions, it would confirm the fears of those who see this as an effort to prioritise stability over justice. While ending the war is a crucial goal, any peace deal that undermines Ukraine's sovereignty will have long-term repercussions for European security. As reports suggest a "positive announcement" may be forthcoming, scepticism remains warranted. Moscow's reluctance to agree to a full ceasefire while continuing attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure suggests that its strategic objectives remain unchanged. The US may believe that incremental diplomacy is the best path forward, but without Ukraine at the centre of negotiations, the risk of a flawed outcome looms large.

Romania's Choice

The unfolding political crisis in Romania reflects a deeper reckoning with the nation's democratic identity. Once hailed as an Eastern European democratic success story, Romania now finds itself teetering on the edge of a dangerous shift. At the heart of this struggle is the rise of far-right populism, amplified by economic frustration, disillusionment with political elites, and external interference that preys on domestic grievances. In many ways, Romania's challenges are not unique. Across Europe, nationalist movements have gained traction by exploiting fears over sovereignty, economic security, and cultural identity. What sets Romania apart is the intensity of its current political upheaval. The cancellation of its presidential election, following allegations of foreign meddling, has only deepened public mistrust in the political system. For many Romanians, it is not simply a legal or constitutional debate ~ it feels like a betrayal of their democratic aspirations. Voters in rural areas, especially those left behind by economic modernisation, have turned to candidates who offer simplistic solutions to complex problems. Promises to cut taxes, restore national pride, and reject outside influence resonate in villages where young people leave in search of work and public services crumble. These communities feel forgotten by mainstream politicians, and their support for far-right figures is often less about ideology and more about desperation. However, the danger lies in how easily economic discontent can be manipulated into extremist rhetoric. When political leaders evoke nostalgia for a mythical past or promote exclusionary policies in the name of national renewal, they risk undermining the democratic foundations a country has worked so hard to build. The demonisation of minorities, calls for restrictions on free speech, and attacks on judicial independence are clear warning signs of democratic backsliding. What complicates matters further is the shifting international context. Traditional alliances are no longer as stable or predictable.

External actors, including global powers with authoritarian leanings, find common cause with far-right movements in Europe, including Romania. This convergence of interests creates an environment where misinformation spreads quickly and democratic norms are challenged from within and without. Romania now stands at a crossroads. The country's history offers painful reminders of what can happen when democratic principles are abandoned. Yet its future is not predetermined. Civil society activists, independent institutions, and engaged citizens continue to push back against extremism. Their efforts highlight the resilience that still exists within Romanian democracy. But this is not a battle that can be left to a few voices. It requires a collective commitment to the difficult work of addressing economic inequality, restoring trust in public institutions, and reaffirming the values of inclusion and pluralism. The stakes are high ~ not just for Romania, but for the broader European project. The defense of democracy here will signal whether Europe can withstand the growing tide of illiberalism or if it will falter at one of its most vulnerable points.

'Don't listen to external sources', outraged Bangladeshi media tells Tulsi Gabbard: View from the neighbourhood

*In Pakistan, meanwhile, the media discusses tense relationship with Afghanistan, in the aftermath of a train hijacking by Baloch militants and an expulsion order against Afghan Citizen Card holders*

US intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard's comments on Bangladesh have sparked outrage in the country, she said that the persecution, killing, and abuse of minorities in Bangladesh have been longstanding issues and that the "threat of Islamic terrorists" in the country is "rooted" in the "ideology and objective" of establishing an Islamic caliphate. The interim government swiftly condemned her remarks which evoked strong reactions in the Bangladeshi media as well. Meanwhile, following the hijacking of the Jaffar Express in Balochistan 11 days ago, much is being written about the situation in the beleaguered province, Af-Pak relations at large, and the state of Afghan Citizen Card holders in Pakistan. The Dhaka Tribune, in its March 19 editorial, argues that Gabbard's statements are a gross mischaracterisation of a country that has been working hard to repel extremism. "Such statements, devoid of any concrete evidence, not only misrepresent Bangladesh but

also undermine the efforts that have been made to combat extremism and bring peace... and can exacerbate sectarian tensions." The editorial also says that Gabbard's words, "whether intentional or not, only add fuel to this fire. By making sweeping generalisations without factual basis, she risks aligning with those who seek to destabilise Bangladesh through misinformation." The Daily Star, in its March 18 editorial, expressed disappointment in Gabbard's comments, arguing that the exact opposite of what she said is true. It writes, "After years of authoritarian rule, Bangladesh has reembarbed on the path to restoring democracy." Claiming that the people of Bangladesh unequivocally expressed their desire for democracy by ousting Sheikh Hasina last year, the editorial goes on to say, "If anything, Bangladesh has been one of the least communalistic countries in the region, particularly compared to its neighbours." Finally, admitting that Bangladesh seeks to build a stronger relationship with the

US, the editorial concludes by urging the US administration to "rely on first-hand information gathered through

breeding ground for extremism, she indirectly strengthens India's long-held geopolitical ambitions in the



its local embassy rather than external sources." Political analyst HM Nazmul Alam, in a March 20 article for the Daily Star, categorically writes that Gabbard's comments matter. This is because, "Gabbard's statements, if left unchallenged, could create an international perception that justifies unwarranted interventions, sanctions or diplomatic hostilities against Bangladesh." Invoking Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci, Alam further argues that by making these assertions, Gabbard is trying to aid India's strategic ambitions: "By painting Bangladesh as a

region. This aligns with what Italian philosopher Antonio Gramsci called 'cultural hegemony', where dominant forces manipulate discourse to maintain control over the international order."

In a March 21 article for The Express Tribune, strategic affairs analyst Shahzad Chaudhry writes that Balochistan needs a "3-D" solution: Deterrence, dialogue and development. Arguing that widespread development is the key to building common stakes between the state and its people, Chaudhry says that a new type of leadership needs to be cultivated among the

Balochs to win the long game: "We need to let more germane leadership, away from the Sardars, emerge and assume stewardship of a province where the state has been guilty for far too long of cultivating the chieftains only. Perhaps that could be the first step in restoring order in Balochistan." It has been reported that Pakistan's Foreign Office has issued yet another warning for all Afghan Citizen Card holders and undocumented migrants to leave by the end of March. Reacting to this, Dawn, in its March 21 editorial, writes that while the state's weariness and wariness are understandable, "It can still show patience". Pointing out that many of these people are transit refugees currently in Pakistan who fled after the return of the Taliban regime and have been awaiting visas for various other countries, the editorial emphasises, "These individuals and families could face real harm if sent back to Afghanistan, and there is a moral responsibility to ensure that they get passage to safer countries in time."

Putin: A legacy cemented

History has shown that the Russian people can overcome any challenge if they are united. We are not afraid of difficulties; we will face them with strength and determination." – Vladimir Putin.

Ramvilas Sharma

History has shown that the Russian people can overcome any challenge if they are united. We are not afraid of difficulties; we will face them with strength and determination." – Vladimir Putin. On 26 March 2000, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin rose to power, marking the beginning of a new chapter in Russia's history. Twenty-five years later, Putin remains the unchallenged ruler of Russia, shaping the nation's political, military, and geopolitical destiny with an iron grip reminiscent of the Soviet era. As Russia stands on the global stage, locked in conflict with Ukraine and challenging Western dominance, Putin's rule evokes comparisons with another towering figure from Russian history — Joseph Stalin.

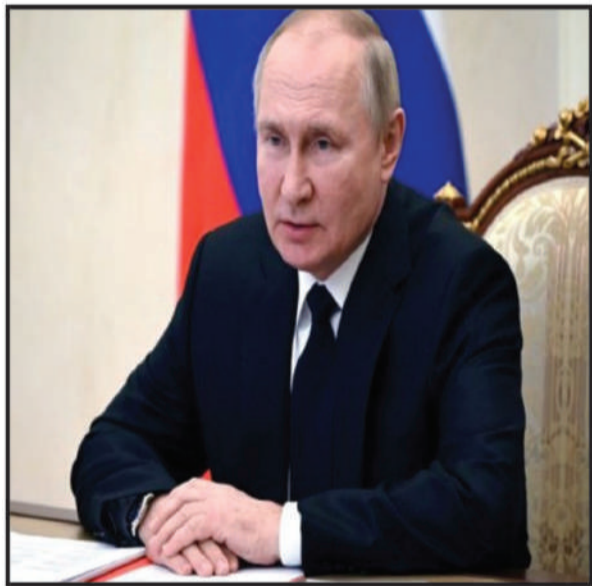
Like Stalin, Putin has not only consolidated power domestically but also revived Russia's position as a formidable force in global politics. After Lenin and Stalin, Russian glory seems to have reached its highest point under Putin's regime. Stalin ruled the Soviet Union from 1924 to 1953, for nearly three decades, transforming it into a superpower through ruthless political purges, military expansion, and industrialization. Putin, whose rise to power was forged in the shadow of the collapsing Soviet Union, has followed a strikingly similar path. Both leaders emerged from periods of national turmoil, restored military strength, centralized political control, and challenged Western hegemony.

Stalin used the Red Army to expand Soviet influence across Eastern Europe; Putin, through the annexation of Crimea and the war in Ukraine, has reasserted Russia's territorial ambitions. Stalin crushed internal dissent through brutal purges; Putin has silenced the opposition with calculated precision, imprisoning critics and consolidating media control. Putin's journey to power began long before he entered the Kremlin. Born in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) in 1952, he grew up in the harsh environment of post-war Soviet Russia. His career as a KGB officer in East Germany during the Cold War gave him the strategic and tactical acumen that would define his political style.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union left Russia in a state of political and economic chaos. Putin's entry into politics in the 1990s was swift and cal-

culated. From deputy mayor of St. Petersburg to head of the Federal Security Service (FSB) — the successor to the KGB — Putin positioned himself as a stabilizing force amid the post-Soviet chaos. In 1999, Boris Yeltsin, weakened by political scandals and health issues, appointed Putin as Prime Minister and then unexpectedly resigned, naming Putin as acting President. On 26 March 2000, Putin was elected as Russia's President — and the course of Russian history was altered forever.

From the outset, Putin projected strength and control, vowing to restore Russia's status as a global power. His first major test came with the Second Chechen War. The brutal campaign to crush separatist forces in Chechnya ended in a decisive Russian victory, solidifying Putin's reputation as a strong



and unyielding leader. The Russian military, which had suffered humiliating defeats in the 1990s, was back — and so was Russian pride. Perhaps Putin's most defining moment came in 2014 with the annexation of Crimea. After the pro-Western government in Ukraine came to power following the ouster of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich, Putin acted swiftly.

Russian troops, operating under the guise of local self-defense forces, occupied Crimea and held a controversial referendum that resulted in the region's annexation into the Russian Federation. The West reacted with outrage, imposing sanctions and isolating Russia diplomatically. Yet, within Russia, Putin's popularity soared. Crimea was seen as a historical Russian territory reclaimed — a modern-day geopolitical masterstroke. The Ukraine war,

which began in February 2022, stands as the ultimate test of Putin's strategic vision. What was initially projected as a swift military operation has evolved into a prolonged and bloody conflict.

Western nations have armed Ukraine and imposed unprecedented sanctions on Russia, aiming to cripple its economy and military strength. But Putin remains defiant. Russian troops have made significant advances in eastern Ukraine, and Putin's control over state media has ensured that his narrative remains dominant at home. Despite international backlash, Putin's grip on power remains unchallenged. For his supporters, Putin's actions in Ukraine are not aggression but a defense of Russian sovereignty and influence. In many ways, Putin's leadership mirrors that of Stalin's wartime strategy — decisive, ruthless,

with India has been a cornerstone of his foreign policy success. Strategic defense deals, energy partnerships, and shared geopolitical interests have strengthened the Russia-India alliance. Despite pressure from the West, India has maintained a balanced stance on the Ukraine conflict, continuing to engage with Russia economically and militarily.

Similarly, Putin's alignment with China has created a strategic counterweight to American dominance. The Russia-China axis, based on mutual economic and military cooperation, has reshaped global power dynamics. Yet, Putin's reign is not without controversy. He is simultaneously the most hated and most admired leader on the global stage. Western nations view him as a dangerous autocrat who seeks to destabilize democratic institutions and expand Russian influence through cyber warfare, military aggression, and political manipulation.

The accusations of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and Putin's support for far-right populist movements in Europe have only deepened Western mistrust. However, in parts of the Global South and within Russia, Putin is seen as a leader who stood up to Western dominance and restored Russia's global stature. As he marks 25 years in power, Putin has cemented his place alongside Lenin and Stalin in Russian history. The constitutional amendment that allows him to remain in power until 2036 means that he could potentially surpass Stalin's record as the longest-serving Russian leader. At 71, Putin shows no signs of stepping down. His ability to navigate the complex terrain of global politics, military conflicts, and domestic challenges has made him one of the most consequential leaders of the 21st century.

Russia's modern tsar has not only restored the country's military strength and political stability but also redefined its global identity. Just as Stalin rebuilt the Soviet Union from the devastation of World War II, Putin has guided Russia through the postSoviet collapse and positioned it as a dominant force in global affairs. Whether history remembers him as a war hero or a ruthless autocrat, one thing remains certain — Putin's legacy is etched in the annals of Russian history, and his reign is far from over.

'Made in Bihar' boots now part of Russian military gear

New Delhi (Agency): Once notorious for its high crime rates, Bihar is now making global headlines for a positive reason. The rugged boots manufactured in the state have been officially included in the Russian Army's military gear, marking a significant milestone in India's growing defence manu-



ing remarkable growth and self-reliance in its military industry," the report added.

In a significant move, the Cabinet Committee on Security recently approved the procurement of the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS). This acquisition includes 307 units of 155mm/52 caliber guns, along with 327 High Mobility 6x6 Gun Towing Vehicles, designed to equip 15 Artillery Regiments under the Buy Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed, and Manufactured (IDDM) category, at an estimated cost of Rs 7,000 crore.

Jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with Bharat Forge and Tata Advanced Systems, ATAGS represents cutting-edge artillery technology. With a range exceeding 40 km, advanced fire control, precision targeting, automated loading, and recoil management, it has undergone extensive testing by the Indian Army in varied terrains.

The MoD underscored India's expanding defence prowess, stating that the country is now a key player in the global military-industrial complex. The 'Make in India' initiative has facilitated the development of advanced military platforms, including Dhanush Artillery Gun System, Main Battle Tank Arjun, Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter, Akash Missile System, Weapon Locating Radar, Indigenous naval assets such as destroyers, aircraft carriers, submarines, and offshore patrol vessels

India's robust defence industrial base includes 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), over 430 licensed companies, and approximately 16,000 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), strengthening indigenous production capabilities.

With modern warships, fighter jets, artillery systems, and advanced weaponry being developed domestically, India has firmly positioned itself as a leading force in global defence manufacturing. The success of 'Made in Bihar' boots on an international stage further reinforces the country's rising influence in the defence sector.

facturing sector. According to a recently released fact sheet by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the inclusion of 'Made in Bihar' boots highlights India's superior manufacturing standards. "Notably, the 'Made in Bihar' boots are now part of the Russian Army's gear, underscoring India's high-quality production capabilities," the report stated.

This development is a testament to India's shifting defence landscape. Once heavily reliant on foreign suppliers, the country now produces approximately 65% of its defence equipment domestically. India's export portfolio has also expanded to include bulletproof jackets, Dornier (Do-228) aircraft, Chetak helicopters, fast interceptor boats, and lightweight torpedoes, among other military assets.

The MoD emphasized the significant progress made under the 'Make in India' initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Initially dependent on imports for 65-70% of its defence equipment, India has rapidly bolstered its indigenous manufacturing capabilities.

The fact sheet detailed India's defence production setting a record of Rs 1.27 lakh crore in 2023-24, with a target of Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029. "India is now a global defence manufacturing hub, showcas-

# Molly Maloney's statue in Dublin fell prey to superstition, people used to wish by touching her breasts

**Dublin (Agency).** The famous Molly Maloney statue located in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, has been damaged due to superstition. This bronze statue had been a center of attraction for tourists for the last several decades, but now its condition has deteriorated so much that the demand for its conservation has started rising. Actually, due to a popular belief, people hoped to brighten their luck by touching the breasts of this statue. The effect of this bad practice was that the color of



that part of the statue started fading and the beauty of the statue has been affected. The problem started when people started believing that if someone touches the breast

of this statue, his luck will be good. This superstition was further promoted by tourists and many tour companies also promoted this belief. As a result, thousands of people

started touching this statue every day, due to which that part of the statue got damaged. Now the Dublin administration is taking this matter seriously and is considering taking necessary steps for the conservation of the statue. However, the question arises whether just preserving the statue will be enough or will we also have to stop such superstition and insensitive behavior towards women in the society? According to reports, 23-year-old campaigner Tilly

Cripwell has appealed to the Dublin administration to protect this statue. She says that this act of the people cannot be dismissed as mere superstition, because it also reflects indecent behavior towards the statue of a woman. Tilly believes that even though it is just a statue, it is not right to publicly insult the image of a woman in this way. She has demanded from the Dublin City Council to place this statue on a high platform and repaint it, so that people cannot touch it.



Police officers in Chile trying to stop violence with protective shields. Violence started here after the industrial fishing quota was increased.

## Model will find boyfriend only after taking IQ test



**San Francisco (Agency).** 24-year-old model Candice Kloss adopted a unique method in love, which surprised people. Candice's IQ is 136 and she is a member of Mensa Society, where only people with high IQ can join. For this reason, she wanted her partner to match her intelligence. That is why, she decided that she will first take the IQ test of her dating partner and only then will she make him her boyfriend. Whenever Candice went on a date, she used to take a test paper prepared by herself. This paper had questions related to IQ and the boy had to solve this test. Her rule was that if a boy scores 120 or more, then only she will date him. But the surprising thing was that most of the boys used to fail in this test. Due to this, she did not find any Mr. Right for three years and she remained single. Not only this, Candice also had a lot of emphasis on the correctness of language. She used to look not only at the intelligence of her partner but also at his command over the language. If a boy mispronounced the words, she would immediately interrupt him. Due to this habit of hers, her dating life also became difficult. However, now Candice realized that she was on the wrong path. She said that now she regrets that she used to ask everyone to take a test. She has given up this method and now her dating life has become better than before. She says that sometimes people are very good at a subject, but they may not be able to perform well in the IQ test. Now Candice is being a little lenient in her choice and making dating more interesting.

# The wind is changing in Afghanistan, 'Let's Study' campaign started for girls

**Kabul (Agency).** After four years of ban on girls' education in Afghanistan, several women activists have launched a campaign called 'Let's Study' on the occasion of the start of the new academic year, condemning the Taliban rules. In an online statement, activists said that with the start of the new school year, 4 lakh other girls have been deprived of education, as the Taliban have prevented Afghan girls

from accessing secondary and higher education. The campaign of women's rights protesters in the South Asian nation also urged the international community to support Afghan women in their struggle for access to education against the ban of the 'ignorant terrorist group' Taliban. Activists said that women no longer have any hope from the real authorities, who are involved in systematic oppression of



women and violation of human rights. The statement comes after

the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) urged that all girls in the

Islamic country should be allowed to return to school with the start of the new school year in the country. The agency said that if the ban continues until 2030, more than four million girls will be deprived of their right to education beyond primary school. "The consequences for these girls and for Afghanistan are catastrophic. The ban has a negative impact on the health system, the economy and the

future of the nation. With fewer girls receiving education, girls are at greater risk of child marriage, which has a negative impact on their health and well-being," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. Ensuring the European Union's (EU) support for Afghan women's right to education, EU representatives in Afghanistan on Sunday emphasised the crucial role

women and girls play in shaping the country's future. The EU Delegation to Afghanistan posted on social media platform X, "Education for all is crucial to Afghanistan's long-term resilience and prosperity. Educated women, with their vital skills and knowledge, are the builders of a stronger, more stable and economically independent country. The EU supports their right to education."

## Afghans in Peshawar shut down businesses ahead of March 31 deadline to leave Pakistan voluntarily

**Peshawar (Agency):** Afghan nationals in Pakistan's Peshawar have started shutting down their businesses with only five days left until the March 31 deadline for illegally residing individuals and Afghan Citizen Card holders to leave the country voluntarily. Mass deporta-



tions will commence after the deadline, according to an official warning from the Ministry of Interior. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province's Peshawar, Afghan nationals have started closing down their educational institutions, medical clinics and other businesses. They have also been issued notices by provincial authorities to shut their businesses before the deadline. According to sources, many Afghan nationals have returned to their homeland, while some are still present in other areas. Over a dozen schools and colleges in the district's Nasir Bagh Road, Board Bazaar, Umar, Phandu Road, Afghan Colony and Chamkani have been closed as Afghan students returned to Afghanistan. Pakistan has been home to millions of Afghans, most of whom moved across the porous border in the 1980s when the former USSR forces were in Afghanistan. The deportation campaign was first launched in October 2023 against undocumented Afghans but the government has extended it to all Afghans irrespective of their legal status.

# Columbia student protester can't be detained for now as she fights deportation, rules judge

The students say the government is targeting them for advocating for Palestinian rights

**New York (Agency):** A Columbia University student from South Korea facing potential deportation after being at a protest. In Chung's case, US district judge Naomi Reice Buchwald said government lawyers have not yet laid out enough facts about their claims to detain the student while her case plays out. Chung, 21, came to the US at age 7 and later attained legal permanent residency, known colloquially as a green card. In a statement issued on Monday, the Department of Homeland Security said Chung had "engaged in concerning conduct", including being arrested at a protest. But Buchwald said the government hadn't filed anything that indicated the student was dangerous or communicated with terrorists. "Nor was it clear why Ms Chung would pose potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences," the judge said,

citing a rationale that President Donald Trump's administration has invoked in Chung's case and those of other student protesters it's seeking to deport. "What is the issue with



ing Chung, "but I take your point". Chung wasn't present at the hearing even as about a dozen supporters watched quietly from the court audience. In a lawsuit on Mon-

date, and Columbia suspended her, according to the suit. Days later, officials told her lawyer that her permanent resident status was being revoked and that the government was seeking to arrest her. Agents came looking for her at her parents' home and searched her Columbia dorm, according to the suit. She evidently wasn't there. TaaL, the Cornell student, got a notice last week to surrender before immigration authorities after he sued on March 15 to try to preempt deportation efforts. The 31-year-old, who's pursuing a doctorate in Africana studies, is a British and Gambian citizen. In a court filing, the justice department said TaaL's student visa was revoked for his alleged involvement in "disruptive protests" that disregarded university policies and created a hostile environment for Jewish students. Cornell has suspended TaaL twice, most recently in the fall after a group of pro-Palestinian activists disrupted a campus career fair.

# HIV soars after a deadly war in Ethiopia's Tigray; Trump's aid cuts aren't helping

**Shire, Ethiopia (Agency):** A woman survived two brutal attacks in the dying days of the war in Ethiopia's Tigray region. First, she said, she was dragged to a military encampment and gang-raped by Eritrean soldiers who held dozens of other women. Two days later, she was raped again by a group of militiamen. Her attackers broke her collarbone and her wrist. They also infected her with HIV. More than two years later, she can sometimes buy antiretroviral drugs by selling part of the wheat she gets as a displaced person, but it's not enough. "I am strong, but my disease is getting worse and worse," the woman told The Associated Press at a clinic in Shire, a town in northwestern Tigray. Tigray was once considered a model in the fight

against HIV. Years of awareness-raising efforts had brought the region's HIV prevalence rate to 1.4 per cent, one of the lowest in Ethiopia. Then, in 2020, war began between Ethiopia's government, backed by neighbouring Eritrea, and Tigray fighters. Sexual violence was widespread in the two-year conflict, which also had mass killings, hunger and disease. As many as 10 per cent of women and girls aged between 15 and 49 in the region of 6 million people were subject to sexual abuse, mostly rape and gang rape, according to a study published by BMJ Global Health in 2023. At the same time, Tigray's health system was systematically looted and destroyed, leaving only 17 per cent of health centres functional, according to another study in the same

journal. As a result, 90 per cent of sexual violence survivors did not get timely medical support. The woman told the AP she did not get medication for nearly eight months. The window for receiving prophylaxis to prevent HIV is 72 hours. Today the HIV prevalence rate in Tigray is 3 per cent, more than double the pre-war average, according to local health authorities and the United Nations. The rate among the region's roughly 1 million displaced people is 5.5 per cent. Among sexual violence survivors, it is 8.6 per cent. "It was a horrific conflict," said Amanuel Haile, the head of Tigray's health bureau. "War was everywhere. Crops failed. Rape was widespread. Hospitals were vandalised. Drugs were interrupted." The "complete breakdown" of

Tigray's health services also meant existing HIV patients did not receive antiretrovirals during the war, increasing their risk of transmitting the virus through pregnancy or unprotected sex, Amanuel said. Few condoms were available during the war, which saw Tigray cut off from the rest of Ethiopia. Today, some destitute displaced people engage in sex work to survive, another factor that health workers believe is contributing to the spike in HIV cases. The Trump

administration's decision to kill 83 per cent of US Agency for International Development programs globally is worsening the situation. Ethiopia has already laid off 5,000 health workers who were hired with US funds to combat HIV. Meanwhile, charities helping HIV patients receive treatment have received stop-work orders. They include the Organisation for Social Services, Health and Development, a national agency whose Tigray branch was

testing people for HIV and giving HIV patients food and financial support. "Since the end of the war, things were slowly improving," said Yirga Gebregziabher, OSSHD's manager in Tigray. "Now so many services have stopped again." Like the rest of Ethiopia, Tigray is also grappling with sharp rises in other infectious diseases because of the effects of conflict, climate change and funding cuts. Nationally, malaria cases have soared from 900,000 in 2019 to over 10 million last year. The war interrupted efforts to distribute nets and spray high-risk areas with insecticides to prevent the mosquito-borne disease. Measles rose from 1,941 cases in 2021 to 28,129 in 2024. Cholera and tuberculosis are also making come-

backs. Health workers say Tigray is particularly ill-equipped to deal with these outbreaks. It has few ambulances after most of its emergency vehicles were destroyed in the war. Some doctors have not been paid for 17 months. And its biggest health facility, Ayder Referral Hospital, only has 50 per cent of the drugs it needs. "These outbreaks are extremely damaging," said Amanuel with the regional health bureau. "We have a lot to rebuild, and outbreaks take up whatever meagre resources we have." Meanwhile millions in Tigray still rely on humanitarian aid and 18 per cent of children are malnourished, leaving them vulnerable to diseases. "We are attempting to rebuild, but still in a state of crisis," said Abraha

Gebregeziabher, the clinical director of Ayder Referral Hospital. Abraha's institution is grappling with severe budget cuts and debts that mean it cannot afford basic drugs or items like tubes and syringes. The hospital requires patients to pay for services that were previously free. Crucially, the war also destroyed Tigray's system of community-based health insurance, a low-cost program that underpinned the region's health system. Restarting this scheme is the health bureau's top priority, Amanuel said. But Tigray's political leaders have become locked in a power struggle that escalated this month when a faction took over several government offices. That threatens to deter donors who have memories of the recent war.





### Warner will be seen captaining Karachi Kings in PSL



**Lahore (Agency).** Former Australian cricketer David Warner will be seen captaining Karachi Kings in the 10th season of Pakistan Super League (PSL) starting from 11th April next month. Karachi Kings have made Warner their new captain. Warner has been made the captain in place of Shan Masood. Warner will be seen playing in Pakistan Super League for the first time. Warner was not associated with any team in IPL before this. In such a situation, he turned to Pakistan to play in PSL. Karachi added Warner in this. Karachi Kings owner Salman Iqbal expressed happiness over handing over the captaincy to Warne and said, we welcome David Warner to the Karachi Kings family as the new captain. His track record as a leader and match winner has been excellent. We also appreciate the contribution of Shan Masood, who was the captain last season. His efforts were important in laying a strong foundation. We have high expectations from him as a key player in the team. It is worth noting that Warner has special experience of T20 cricket. He has captained many leagues including IPL, Big Bash League.

## Some experienced cricketers who are out of IPL will play against England Lions

**Mumbai (Agency).** Some players of the Indian cricket team who are out of IPL can play in the matches against England Lions for practice in view of the series against England in June. India A team has to play two four-day matches against England Lions in May-June. The Indian team has to play a five-match Test series in England tour after IPL. The first match of this tour will start from June 20 at Headingley. The Indian team will go to win its first series here since 2007. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said,

'The first four-day match will be played from May 30 at the Spitfire ground of St. Lawrence in Canterbury. The second match will be held a



week later from June 6 at the County Ground in Northampton. Most of the players of the Indian team are

currently playing with IPL teams. The knockout matches of which will be played on May 20, 21 and 23, after which the final will be

held on May 25. The Indian selectors have got enough time to announce the India 'A' team before the England

tour and in such a situation, Karun Nair, who has been performing consistently well in domestic cricket for some time, can get a place in the team. Karun has performed very impressively in the 2024-25 domestic season, he was the highest run scorer in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and in the Ranji Trophy too, he has 863 runs in nine matches with four centuries and two half-centuries at an average of 54. Rohit Sharma will captain the Indian team in this tour. At the same time, the playing of fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah will depend on his fitness.

## Rohit will remain captain on England tour too: Report



**Mumbai (Agency).** Rohit Sharma is sure to remain the captain of the Indian team in the upcoming England tour as well. According to a report, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is not in favor of any change in captaincy for this tour. The Indian team will go on this tour with the intention of winning the Test series in England for the first time since 2007. This five-Test series between India and England will start from June 20 at Headingley. Earlier, the Indian team failed in the home series against New Zealand and the Australia tour. After which it was believed that Rohit could be removed from the captaincy, but after the victory of the Indian team in the Champions Trophy, the board wants to give Rohit more opportunities. Rohit had also said recently that he

has no intention of retiring right now. The selection committee is expected to announce the Indian team for the England tour before the IPL final. The committee headed by chief selector Ajit Agarkar will also select the India A team for the four-day matches. These matches will be played before the Test series. Some players from the national team will also play in this team. Due to Rohit's poor form, questions were raised recently on giving him a place in the team. He scored only 164 runs in 10 Test matches between September 2024 and January 2025. His performance on the Australia tour was very poor. He scored only 31 runs at an average of 6.2. This was the worst performance of any captain on any tour. He could not perform well in the Ranji Trophy in January as well.

# SRH vs LSG: Shardul Thakur shines with ball and Nicholas Pooran closes out with bat

**Delhi (Agency):** Lucknow Super Giants breached Sunrisers Hyderabad's fortress on Thursday as their bowling plans worked to curtail the power-packed SRH batting order. SRH's bowling issues, which surfaced last season, continued to persist. "You have a great bat speed; is it natural or you worked on it?" Nicolas Pooran's answer to the commentator WV Raman's query was quite something. "I have never worked on my bat speed, just a natural incredible talent!" He said with the same nonchalance with which he pummelled the SRH bowling. The left-hander is in Don Bradmanesque form in the T20 format. Regardless of the league he plays for, he has been piling runs at an unrealistic strike rate. With his ability to stay still and by virtue of his fast hand-speed he got into positions as late as possible, making a mockery of the SRH bowling attack. Out of his 70 runs, 60 came in boundaries with six fours and six gigantic sixes. His knock at a strike rate of 269.23 made the 191-run target easily attainable for the rest

of the batting order. Mitchell Marsh who slammed 72 in the game against Delhi Capitals back played second fiddle to Pooran as he strolled to his half-century. Pat Cummins picked up both



Pooran and Marsh in consecutive overs in the middle-passages but it was too late by then. Though LSG's middle order lost a few more wickets down the line, the former SRH player Abdul Samad smashed a 8-ball 22 to ensure Delhi won with 23 balls to spare. SRH didn't get a flying start, which they are accustomed to at the Uppal stadium. Shardul Thakur, who went unpicked in the auction and was drafted in late by Lucknow Super Giants, grabbed a four-wicket haul and the Purple Cap. First, it was a well-disguised short

ball from Shardul which Abhishek Sharma pulled straight to Nicholas Pooran at square-leg, placed there for exactly that shot. Next ball, Shardul got a bit lucky when Ishan Kishan – fresh and the full ball was used as a variation. Once LSG did their job in the Powerplay, Prince Yadav put the breaks in the middle overs with immaculate execution of deliveries to the field set. His spell ensured SRH didn't accelerate after a 62-run Powerplay. He bowled one fast and straight to get rid of Travis Head, and also played a key role in Heinrich Klaasen's unfortunate runout at the non-striker end. Nitish Kumar Reddy smacked one straight back at Prince, who attempted to take the catch but the ball ricocheted off his hands and hit the stumps at the bowler's end with the South African out of the crease. Music director S Thaman set the mood at the stadium with his thunderous beats ahead of the game but Sunrisers Hyderabad struggled to put in a similar performance with the bat. It was not a complete combustion from the SRH batting order. The all-guns blazing approach of SRH was there to see but it was one of those nights when cameos didn't go on to become scores of substance, as they fell short of a par

score at the batting-friendly venue. Abhishek and Ishan fell quite early but Head and Nitish held the fort for a bit. Head's play through the covers was majestic on the night. An inside-out six over cover off Avesh Khan was a particular highlight. Nitish, who started his boundary count with an exquisite cover drive, struggled to maintain the same fluency as the innings progressed as he had to build some partnerships, and eventually perished for a 28-ball 32. Klaasen, too, blitzed for a while before getting out in an unfortunate manner. When it seemed that SRH's power-hitting was done for the night, young Aniket Sharma stepped up with a 13-ball 36 to provide that thunderous kick the innings lacked. He hit five sixes and though it was just a cameo, it gave a glimpse of another talented power-hitting prospect SRH have in their hands for the remainder of the season. Skipper Pat Cummins hit three sixes off the first three balls he faced, but once he got out on the fourth, Sunrisers fell short of the tall total they are accustomed to on their home turf.

Legendary drag flicker Taike Taikema is testing the team

## Indian women's hockey team is preparing for the Los Angeles Olympics

**New Delhi (Agency).** The Indian women's hockey team is already preparing for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Hockey India has also signed a contract with Netherlands' legendary drag flicker Taike Taikema for the team's preparations. Under this, Taikema is also trying to overcome this weakness of the team. Taikema also trained the Indian players in a seven-day camp before the Pro League in Bhubaneswar last month. India performed well against England, Germany, Netherlands and Spain in the home leg of the Pro League. The main objective of the camp under the guidance of Taikema was to improve the accuracy of drag flick along with refining technical skills.

Indian women's team chief coach Harendra Singh said that the camp was very beneficial for the players and Taikema will continue to work with the team on a short-term basis till the Los Angeles Games. He said, "Taekema is



one of the greatest legends in terms of drag flick. He is working with the team to improve the technique and make the process of drag flick easier." Harendra said, "Drag flick is a unique skill and Taekema will continue to work with us in future camps as well." Harendra said that this has improved the skills of all the players of our team

including Deepika. This 45-year-old former player was known for his penalty-corner accuracy during his playing days. Taekema scored 170 goals in 94 matches for the Netherlands men's team in his international career spanning 11 years. He is considered one of the most dangerous penalty corner specialists in the world.

## The Gaba ground will be removed from international cricket after the Ashes series



**Brisbane (Agency).** Fans will no longer be able to watch cricket matches at the Brisbane Stadium in Australia. This ground will bid farewell to international cricket after the upcoming Ashes series against England. Cricket and Australian Football League (AFL) matches have been held on this ground for decades. It will be demolished after the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Gaba Stadium is considered to be the stronghold of cricket and football, but now the Queensland government has announced to build a new, state-of-the-art stadium in Victoria Park in place of this

historic ground. This stadium will have a capacity of about 63,000 spectators and will be used to host major international tournaments in the future. The Gaba Stadium is considered to be one such ground of Australia in the world of cricket where it has always won, although in the year 2021, the Indian cricket team broke the undefeated record of the host team by winning on this ground. The Indian team defeated Australia on this ground for the first time since 1988 during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The Gaba Stadium had long been on the radar due to its old structure and limited

facilities. There was a plan to rebuild the ground earlier but it was canceled in view of the huge expenditure. People were also against spending a huge amount on this stadium, which Cricket Australia was under pressure. At the same time, the government has now decided that a new state-of-the-art stadium will be built in place of Gaba, which will be equipped with modern sports facilities and will provide better opportunities to the players of Queensland. The construction of the new stadium will cost around 3.8 billion Australian dollars. It will be designed keeping in mind the needs of cricket, AFL football and other international sporting events. Announcing the project, Queensland Premier David Crisafulli said that this new stadium will become a great platform for cricket and other sports. ICC tournaments, Big Bash League and other international competitions will be organized on this ground in future.

### Fan reached Riyan Parag by breaking the security cordon

**Guwahati (Agency).** There was a stir in the match between Kolkata Knight Riders and KKR in IPL on Wednesday when a person was seen running towards the pitch suddenly after breaking the security cordon. This person is said to be a fan of Riyan Parag, who is captaining Rajasthan Royals. Before this person could reach Riyan or any player, he was caught by the security personnel. When this happened, the Rajasthan Royals team was fielding. While Riyan was bowling his fourth over, a fan ran to him, touched his feet and hugged him. Ryan was shocked to see all this. Then the security personnel reached there and caught this person and took him out of the field. Ryan had scored 25 runs in 15 balls. He also bowled four overs. It may be noted that this is not the first time this has happened in this season of IPL. This is the second time in the last 5 days that a person has entered the field by defying the security. Earlier on March 22, during the match between RCB vs KKR, a person had reached Virat. He was also caught by the security personnel and handed over to the police.

### Parag trolled for fan entering the field

**Guwahati (Agency).** In the IPL match against Kolkata Knight Riders, a fan of Riyan Parag, who is captaining Rajasthan Royals, broke the security cordon to reach close to him. This person was somehow caught by the security personnel and taken out. This fan had touched the feet of Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag. Parag was bowling when this incident happened during KKR's innings. This fan reached Parag, touched his feet and hugged him. After this, the security personnel took him out of the field. Guwahati is also Riyan's home ground as he plays domestic cricket for Assam. Parag started getting trolled for the fan entering the field and touching his feet. Many memes have also come on social media making fun of him, in which it is said that Rirag must have given money to this person so that he could break the security cordon and reach him. That person must have also expressed his gratitude to Parag by reaching the field. People expressed sympathy for this person and said that he has taken the risk of being banned and even going to jail for Parag. This is the second time a fan has come to the field like this. Earlier, a person had also reached Virat in the match between KKR and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

# State President and MP Vishnudutt Sharma raised the issue of Pradhan Mantri Awas in Lok Sabha

**25,730 Pradhan Mantri Awas approved in Panna, Katni, Khajuraho, Union Minister gave information**

**Bhopal (Agency):** State President of Bharatiya Janata Party and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma on Thursday raised the issue of pucca houses being given to the poor by the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha. State President Sharma said that the Central Government is concerned about the housing of the poor across the country. Earlier, there was only distribution in the name of schemes, but since 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is giving the poor their rights. BJP State President

and MP Vishnudutt Sharma wanted to know how many Pradhan Mantri Awas have been approved in the districts falling under Madhya Pradesh and Khajuraho Lok Sabha constituency. Responding to the question of BJP State President and MP Vishnudutt Sharma, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said that 9,61,147 houses have been approved under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in Madhya Pradesh. Whereas 25,730 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have been approved in Panna and Katni districts and Khajuraho city. BJP state president Vishnudutt Sharma had asked through a starred question in the Lok Sabha on Thursday that how many houses have been approved under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in

Panna, Katni districts and Khajuraho city of Chhatarpur district and for how many houses central assistance has been approved. He had also asked whether efforts are being made to provide the benefits

Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said that this scheme is demand based. This means that houses are approved according to the demand coming from different states or union territories. 9,61,147 houses

district, out of which 10607 houses have been completed. He informed that Rs 214.04 crore has been sanctioned as central assistance for these houses, out of which Rs 188.87 crore has been released. Similarly, 10,413 Pradhan Mantri Awas have been sanctioned for Katni district, out of which 9519 are ready. A total central assistance of Rs 162.41 crore was sanctioned under the scheme in Katni district, out of which Rs 150.53 crore has been released. Union Minister Sahu informed that 1088 houses have been sanctioned under this scheme in Khajuraho city, out of which 982 have been constructed. Central assistance of Rs 16.33 crore was sanctioned under the scheme, out of which Rs 15.35 crore has been released.



of this scheme to the deprived and remaining EWS, urban poor in Panna, Katni districts and Khajuraho city? Responding to the question of BJP state president and MP Vishnudutt Sharma, Union Minister of State for

have been approved under this scheme in Madhya Pradesh, out of which the construction work of 8,52,134 has been completed. Union Minister Tokhan Sahu informed that a total of 14229 houses have been sanctioned in Panna

## Inauguration of anesthesia work station and X-ray machine

**Airport Authority Cargo gave machines to Red Cross from CSR fund**



**Bhopal (Agency):** Indian Red Cross Society Madhya Pradesh branch today provided anesthesia work station and X-ray machine from CSR fund by Airport Authority Cargo Logistics and Allied Service Company Limited at Red Cross Hospital. The inauguration program was done in the presence of Chief Guest Kaushalendra Vikram Singh Collector / District Red Cross President and Ramji Awasthi, Director, Airport, Atul Bhanotra Commandant CISF, Alok Tripathi Joint General Manager (CNS) Shri Dadan, Assistant Manager, Airport Authority. On this occasion, Red Cross Society State Branch Chairman Dr. Gagan Kolhe, General Secretary Ramendra Singh and Hospital Superintendent Dr. D.P. Agarwal along with Red Cross staff and Airport

Authority officers / employees were present. Addressing the program, Red Cross Chairman Dr. Gagan Kolhe said that the anesthesia work station and X-ray machine provided by Airport Authority Cargo Logistics and Allied Service Company Limited today from CSR funds will definitely benefit the public and the patients coming to Red Cross will be X-rayed with good technical facilities. On this occasion, while thanking Airport Authority Cargo Logistics and Allied Service Company Limited, he said that Red Cross is grateful for the help you have given to Red Cross. Dr. Kolhe also announced that the officers and employees of Airport Authority Cargo Logistics and Allied Service Company Limited will be consulted and treated at the lowest rate in Red Cross Hospital.

## BRIEF NEWS

### AAP allocated funds in schemes but did not spend even half

**Delhi (Agency):** The funds allocated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Delhi were used very little. After this revelation, political tussle has started once again between AAP and BJP. The official expenditure report released in response to a question by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Veer Singh Dhinghan has exposed clear discrepancies in the consistent use of funds by Delhi governments. From 2015 to 2025, the AAP-led Delhi government continuously announced ambitious projects for SC/ST welfare in its budget. Delhi Minister Praveesh Verma said in the Delhi Assembly that the highest allocation under this category was made in the financial year 2022-23. Then the government had allocated more than Rs 582 crore. Similarly, in 2020-21 and 2021-22, more than Rs 400 crore was allocated each year for the welfare of SC/ST and backward classes. However, a very small amount was actually spent. Delhi has more than 80 schemes for the upliftment of Dalits and other backward classes (OBCs), yet many of these schemes have seen very little money being used. For example, the SC Basti Sudhar Yojana received Rs 75 crore in 2019-20, but less than Rs 35 crore was used. The next year, only Rs 50 lakh was spent out of the Rs 65 crore allocated. The Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana, created to help SC/ST students, was neglected even worse. Not a single rupee was spent despite a budget provision of Rs 60 crore in 2020-21.

### Ruckus in the House after BJP leader's statement

**Delhi (Agency):** Discussion on the budget started on the fourth day in the Delhi Assembly. There was a lot of ruckus between the ruling party and the opposition. Let us tell you, on March 25, the members started the discussion on the budget of the year 2025-26 presented by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta after the permission of the Assembly Speaker. The MLAs of the ruling party are calling the budget historic, while the opposition members are interrupting in between. Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta is in a strict mood today. He has given clear instructions that those who create disturbance in the House will not be tolerated and they will be thrown out. In the discussion on the budget, ruling party members Om Prakash Sharma, Mohan Singh Bisht, Ashok Goyal while opposition members Gopal Rai, Jamail Singh also put forth their views. The opposition tried to create a ruckus when Om Prakash Sharma said that earlier people used to come to the House after smoking ganja from Sheesh Mahal and create ruckus here.

### The problem of covering the roots of trees with concrete in Delhi

**Delhi (Agency):** In many places including Dwarka, Rajouri Garden, Uttam Nagar, Janakpuri, Mianwali Nagar, you will easily see trees whose roots have been completely or partially covered with concrete or tar. Where they are partially open, the situation is such that air and water cannot reach the roots. In the order of NGT of the year 2013, it has been said that concrete has to be removed within a radius of one meter of the trees. The Forest Department had informed all the departments and civic agencies regarding this rule that laying a layer of concrete or tar around the roots of trees is a crime under the Delhi Tree Protection Act, 1994.

### The DCP stopped seeing the crowd when his breath had stopped

**Delhi (Agency):** People standing nearby were standing as spectators. At the same time, DCP Narby (Head Quarter) Shashank Jaiswal, who was passing by, stopped seeing the crowd. When the injured was checked, he was found to be breathing. He immediately started giving CPR to Nitin Tyagi (45) along with Faizan, a person present there. Within a minute of the DCP giving CPR, the person moved his hand. Then what, the person stood on his feet in a short time. However, he had suffered severe injuries on his head and leg. After this, the injured was sent to the hospital for first aid. From where he was sent home after some time. According to the information, DCP Jaiswal was returning home from a party at around 11 pm on March 26. He saw a crowd gathered on Narayana Road near Delhi Cantt. When he stopped there, he saw that a person was lying unconscious on the ground. Blood was flowing from the head.

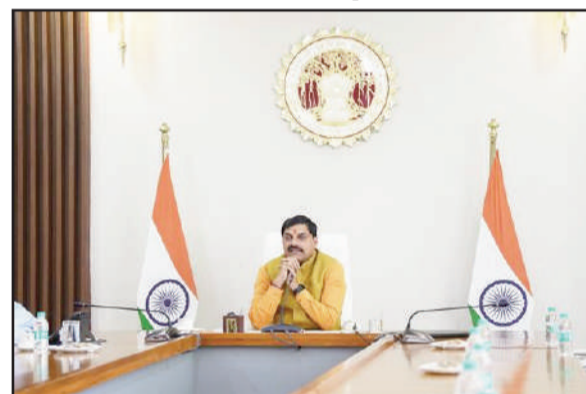
## Efforts will be made for the creation of space policy and ISRO center in the state: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

**Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is leading in the field of science and technology**

**Bhopal (Agency):** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that science has the ability to solve many mysteries of nature. Today, big changes are taking place in many areas due to the application of science and technology. From farming to finance, from manufacturing to medicine and from education to communication, the form of every sector is changing. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has made rapid progress in the field of science and technology in the last decade. A new energy and power has been infused in the nation. It is the result of the visionary policy of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat that India is continuously moving forward in the field of defense and space. India is becoming a global leader in this field. Space policy will be made soon by the Madhya Pradesh government. Brainstorming has also been started for starting ISRO center in the state. Recently, the initiative to implement 4 policies focused on the use of science and technology during GIS is an important step in this direction. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said this while virtually inaugurating the National Scientific Conference / Science

Festival and the 40th Madhya Pradesh Youth Scientific Conference being held in Ujjain on Thursday from Samatva Bhavan (Chief Minister's residence). This conference is being held at Kalidas Academy Campus Ujjain. Minister of State for Skill Development and Employment, Independent Charge, Gautam Tetwal also participated virtually in the program. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the use of science will be increased in various fields in Madhya Pradesh. The state will be made a technology and innovation hub. Recently, ISRO has created history by successfully launching the Space Docking Experiment i.e. Spadex Satellite. For this, the ISRO team deserves congratulations. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that with the cooperation of scientific society and institutions related to science and technology, the development of a center like ISRO in Madhya Pradesh will also be considered. At present, South India is the main center of such activities. There is a lack of such centers in North and Central India. The use of science is increasing in the state in medical and other fields as well. Drones are being used especially in the

agricultural sector. In Madhya Pradesh, the process of making maps in the field of revenue has also been started through drones. A pilot project of land survey of urban settlements started at



the national level from Raisen. An initiative has been taken to make digital maps of land, plots and settlements in other cities of the state as well. This will make it easier to keep records of property ownership. The use of science in many fields is making work easier. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that our Sanatan culture is also science based. We start many auspicious works with Navgrah Pujan. Vikram Samvat 2082 is coming. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, while mentioning Ujjain's history, art, culture and spirituality as well as science from the time of Emperor

Vikramaditya till now, said that we all know Ujjain as the center of time calculation. Continuous research is also being done in this regard. We welcome the new and also keep the ancient traditions

together. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the theme of the Youth Scientific Conference and National Scientific Conference, Vikas Ki Baat, Science, Technology and Innovation together is relevant. Organizing various sessions based on ancient Indian science tradition is commendable, in which about 300 researchers and young scientists are presenting research papers on 17 subjects. Technology and innovation are the need of the hour. In the recently concluded Global Investors Summit, 4 important policies have been announced

through the IT Department, Madhya Pradesh Drone Promotion and Industry Policy-2025, Madhya Pradesh Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) Policy-2025, Madhya Pradesh Semi Conductor Policy-2025 and Madhya Pradesh Global Competence Center (GCC) Policy-2025. A suggestion has come in the scientific conference to make a space policy. Therefore, the space policy of Madhya Pradesh will be prepared. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav congratulated all the participants of the conference for their participation. Director of National Remote Sensing Centre Hyderabad, Dr. Prakash Chauhan said that Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has a scientific thinking, just as the country is moving ahead in the field of defense production, space and biotechnology, Madhya Pradesh is also making efforts in these areas. Prime Minister Modi has worked to bring Space Policy-2023. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav is among the few Chief Ministers who are enthusiastic about innovation in this field. Soon a contract will be signed with the help of Mapcast for skill training of youth. Works like Agricultural Insurance

Scheme are being done through space technology. Director General of Science and Technology Council, Dr. Anil Kothari said that such scientific conferences will be held at other places in the state as well. Vice Chancellor of Devi Ahilya University Rakesh Singhai, Director of Vikramaditya Research Centre and Cultural Advisor to the Chief Minister Shriram Tiwari, Vice Chancellor of Vikram University Prof. Arpan Bhardwaj, National General Secretary of Vignyan Bharati Vivekanand Pai, Emeritus Scientist of Defense Research and Development Organization, Ministry of Defense, Government of India, Sudhir Mishra and Director General, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal Prof. Govardhan Das, Director National Innovation Foundation Dr. Arvind Ranade, Head Center for Creative Learning, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar Prof. Manish Jain also attended the conference. Director of Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Academy Ashok Kadel and Additional Chief Secretary Information Technology Sanjay Dubey from Samat Bhawan also attended this session of the conference.

## Hindu New Year will be celebrated in Delhi like 15 August-26 January

**Delhi (Agency):** The Bharatiya Janata Party government of Delhi will celebrate Hindu New Year with great pomp this year. According to tradition, Chaitra Shukla Pratipada marks the beginning of the Indian New Year i.e. Vikram Samvat. This day is also celebrated as Gudi Padwa. Now the Delhi government will celebrate this day like national festivals i.e. Independence Day and Republic Day. Giving information about this, the Art and Culture Minister of the State Government, Kapil Mishra said that the government will also celebrate Hindu New Year with great pomp and on this occasion programs will also be organized in the Delhi Assembly. On this occasion, the government has also planned to make the Dalits happy. Because the series of these programs starting from the New Year will end on

Ambedkar Jayanti after Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti. When all the departments of the government will organize



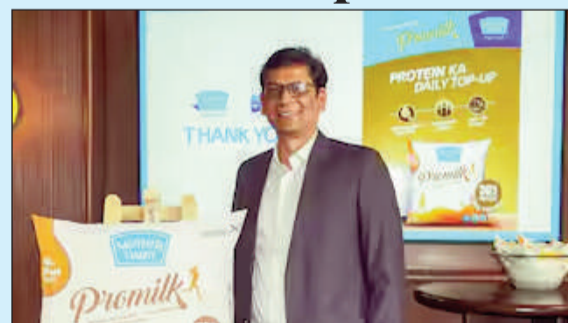
programs on this occasion. Giving information about this, Art and Culture Minister Kapil Mishra said that we are going to organize big programs on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada i.e. Hindu New Year. These programs will start from the Delhi Assembly, this was also the wish of the Chief Minister and the Speaker of the Assembly also wants the

same. Therefore, the Ministry of Art and Culture is organizing a big program on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada in the Delhi Assembly. He

further said, for this we have invited Kailash Kher ji. There will be a big celebration among thousands of citizens of Delhi, and just like the Assembly is decorated on Diwali, 15 August and 26 January, in the same way, by decorating the Assembly, we (by the Delhi government) will celebrate a good festival of Hindu New Year in the

Delhi Assembly. Along with this, the celebrations of Ramnavami and Hanuman Jayanti will also be organized by the Ministry of Art and Culture. And this series of programs will be completed on Ambedkar Jayanti. When all the departments of the Delhi government will organize programs of Ambedkar Jayanti. Apart from this, Kapil Mishra said, we will also organize programs of fruit diet. Just as many people work by fasting from Chaitra Shukla Pratipada to Ramnavami, the program of fruit diet will also be organized by the government for them. Regarding the Iftar program organized by the opposition, he said, they have organized the program of only one particular community, but we all believe and the Chief Minister has decided that the government will celebrate all these festivals with full pomp and show.

## Delhiites will get milk with more protein



**Delhi (Agency):** Popular dairy brand Mother Dairy has launched Promilk, which will have more protein. Its price has been kept at Rs 70 per liter. With its new milk product, Mother Dairy is targeting the protein-deficient population in Delhi-NCR. Cow milk Promilk has 40 grams of protein, 4 percent fat and 11.5 percent solid-not-fat (SNF) per liter. This product will also be fortified with Vitamin A and Vitamin D and will be available in 500 ml to 1 liter packets. Promilk will go on sale from Thursday (March 27). The company's managing director Manish Bandlish said that the aim of this milk product is to solve nutritional challenges, as 70-80 percent of Indians are not able to meet their daily protein needs. At the same time, 93 percent of people do not even know what their nutritional needs are. At the launch event of Promilk, managing director Manish Bandlish said that protein is an important part of a balanced diet. Along with the old taste, Promilk will have 30 percent more protein than normal milk. Mother Dairy plans to produce 50 thousand liters of Promilk daily and after some time, bring it to the market outside Delhi-NCR. Apart from this, the company plans to launch products like curd, cheese etc. in the Pro range within three months.