



Inspiration: Late. Dr. L.C. Wallia



MEA issues latest statement on ensuring safety of Indians in Iran

Vatika Times

NEW DELHI: Amid intensifying hostilities between Israel and Iran, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) on Sunday said that India is closely monitoring the security situation to ensure the safety and welfare of its nationals in both countries.

In a statement, the MEA confirmed that the Indian Embassy in Tehran is "continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety." It also revealed that "in some cases, students are being relocated with the Embassy's facilitation to safer places within Iran," adding that "other feasible options are also under examination." The embassy is also in contact with community leaders across Iran regarding the welfare of Indian citizens, it said. The assurance comes



as airstrikes continue across Iran following Israel's "Operation Rising Lion," which targeted nuclear and military sites. Iran responded with a barrage of over 270 missiles, according to Israeli figures. As per the news agency AP, Israeli strikes have killed at least 406 people in Iran, while 14 people have died in Israel since Friday. The Indian Embassy in Iran earlier advised citizens to avoid all unnecessary movement and stay connected through an official Telegram

channel created specifically for Indians in Iran. "We request everyone in Iran to join the below given Telegram Link to receive updates... Kindly note that this Telegram Link is ONLY for those Indian Nationals who are currently in Iran," the embassy stated in a post on X. Additionally, several helpline numbers have been issued by Indian missions in both Iran and Israel. The Embassy in Israel said it is in constant touch with local authorities and monitoring devel-

opments closely. Explosions rocked Tehran as metro stations and mosques were turned into bomb shelters. Civilian casualties have mounted in Iran, while key infrastructure including oil refineries and nuclear research facilities have been damaged. The MEA is expected to continue issuing advisories as the situation unfolds. In the meantime, Indian nationals in the region have been urged to remain alert, follow official guidance, and limit outdoor movement.

Trump says US could get involved in Israel-Iran conflict, he's open to serve as a mediator

Vatika Times

Iran

President Donald Trump said Sunday the United States is not involved in Israel's military strikes against Iran at this moment, but "it's possible we could be involved". In an interview with ABC News, Trump declined to comment on whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked him to get the US more involved. "We're not involved in it. It's possible we could get involved. But we are not at this moment involved," the president said. Trump also shared that he had a lengthy call with Russian President Vladimir Putin Saturday to discuss, in large part, the conflict in the



Middle East. He said he would be open to Putin's idea to serve as a mediator between Israel and Iran. "I would be open to it. [Putin] is ready. He called me about it. We had a long talk about it. We talked about this more than his situation. This is something I believe is going to get resolved," Trump stated. The president, who stated he gave Iran a "60-day ultimatum" to "make a deal," told ABC

News he is not setting a new deadline. "No, there's no deadline. But they are talking. They'd like to make a deal. They're talking. They continue to talk," the president said. His special envoy Steve Witkoff was set to travel to Oman on Sunday for another round of nuclear talks with Iranian officials. "Something like this had to happen because I think even from both sides, but some-

thing like this had to happen. They want to talk, and they will be talking," Trump said. Meanwhile, reports claimed that Trump vetoed an Israeli plan in recent days to kill Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "Have the Iranians killed an American yet? No. Until they do, we're not even talking about going after the political leadership," a senior US administration official told Reuters.

Sonia Gandhi admitted to hospital; under observation for stomach-related issue



Vatika Times

NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on late Sunday was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi for a stomach-related issue. She is stable and currently under observation in the hospital's gastroenterology department. "Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi. She has been admitted to the gastro department due to stomach-related problem and is under observation," the statement read, as reported by news agency ANI. Last week the veteran Congress leader had undergone routine medical tests at a hospital in Shimla after experiencing high blood pressure. The CPP Chairperson was brought in for a routine medical check-up due to minor health concerns, according to Naresh Chauhan, Principal Advisor (Media) to the Himachal Pradesh chief minister. In February this year, the 78-year-old leader was admitted to Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital with stomach-related issues.

Pune bridge tragedy: Rust, overcrowding or neglect

Vatika Times

NEW DELHI:

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar has said that Sunday's tragic bridge collapse in Pune's Maval tehsil to structural failure caused by rust and excessive crowding. Speaking to reporters after the incident, Pawar said, "We have received various versions of the incident. As per the preliminary information, the bridge was old and rusted. Many people were standing on the



bridge when it collapsed." The incident occurred around 3.30 PM in the Kundamala area, a popular picnic spot on the Indrayani River, which had been swollen due to days

of heavy rainfall. While it wasn't raining at the time, at least 100 picnickers were reportedly present on the old iron bridge when it gave way. Four people have been killed and at

least 18 people were seriously injured in the collapse. Search teams are still looking for at least three individuals, including a child, believed to be trapped under the collapsed structure. Bridge condition, overcrowding and ignored warnings under scrutiny. The collapsed bridge, described as a pedestrian-only structure, had a warning board barring the entry of two-wheelers. Maharashtra Disaster Management.

'It was flying too low, wanted to show my friends': Teen who casually filmed Air India

Vatika Times

NEW

DELHI:

Seventeen-year-old Aryan Ansari was on the terrace of a building near Ahmedabad airport, casually filming planes to show his friends. What he ended up recording was the moment Air India's Dreamliner 787-8 crashed and burst into flames, footage that has since gone viral across the country. "I came here on June 12. The plane was



passing from very close, so I thought of shooting a video to show to my friends," Aryan recalled. "The plane went downwards, and I thought it was going to land as the airport was nearby. But then flames

started shooting up, I saw that it had exploded. I was scared. I showed the video to my sister. I also told my father about it." Aryan was attempting to capture a regular flight in action, unaware.

No longer Canadian: Gretzky's Canadian identity questioned after Trump friendship

Vatika Times

NEW DELHI

Wayne Gretzky, one of Canada's most beloved sports figures, has found himself at the center of a firestorm — not for anything he did on the ice, but because of who he's standing beside politically. The hockey legend's long-standing relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump has fueled nationalistic backlash, especially as Trump continues to make inflammatory remarks about Canada. Canadian fans claim Wayne Gretzky has 'lost' his Canadian identity. The controversy reached a boiling point earlier this year after Donald Trump proposed a 25% tariff on Canadian goods



and even joked about Canada becoming the 51st U.S. state. During this tension, Trump publicly referred to Wayne Gretzky as a "free agent" when it comes to choosing between the U.S. and Canada. That comment didn't sit well with many Canadians, who viewed it as both divisive and disrespectful. Matthew Iwanyk, Chief Operating Officer and host at Edmonton Sports Talk, voiced what many Canadians were feeling. "You were a great

Canadian, but now you are not," he said in March, according to the New York Times. "That is the majority sentiment you will get from Edmontonians. ... As much as we love hockey, we love our country more." This emotional reaction underscores how deep Gretzky's influence runs in Canadian culture — and how serious the fallout can be when that identity is questioned. Wayne Gretzky responds with diplomacy, but crit-

ics remain unswayed. Despite the uproar, Wayne Gretzky has made it clear he wants no part in political warfare. Speaking with Ben Mulroney on Toronto's AM-640, he said, "I don't worry about those kind of things because you can't make everybody happy... But, trust me, I have no political power with the prime minister or the president." Still, images of Gretzky in a MAGA hat and attending Trump events with FBI Director Kash Patel haven't helped his case in the eyes of critics. His wife, Janet Gretzky, even posted — and later deleted — a heartfelt thank-you to fellow hockey icon Bobby Orr for defending Wayne:

Lost in translation: statement sinks drug case in Tamil Nadu

Vatika Times

CHENNAI:

An important narcotics case here fell apart after the prosecution submitted a key witness's statement only in Hindi-without any Tamil or English translation-leaving the court unable to understand its contents. The city court acquitted the accused, Nag Narayan Prasad from Kolkata, citing a lack of admissible evidence. Besides, there were a host of other lapses in the case. The accused was arrested in connection with the seizure of 4.6 kg of hashish hidden inside 38 woollen sheep-like toys in a courier parcel intercepted in Ekkatuthangal near Chennai in March 2021. The parcel, booked under a Bengal sender's name, was flagged as suspicious during X-ray screening. NCB officers confirmed the contraband.

Pakistan power players keep Imran jailed, shrink political space



Vatika Times

ISLAMABAD:

The fate of incarcerated former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, languishing in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for nearly two years, seems more precarious than ever following a deadly clash with India, shifting international priorities, and a domestic power nexus bent on keeping him confined. Khan's detention, which began in Aug 2023 following his conviction in a graft case, has been widely described as a calculated move by Pakistan's powerful military establishment and its civilian allies. Observers argue that the troika of Chief of Army Staff Field

Marshal Asim Munir, the Sharif brothers of the governing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) view Khan's release as an existential threat to their grip on power. The military's centrality in managing the crisis during recent escalations of tensions with India has emboldened an already-unpopular coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and complicated the prospects of Khan's release. Analysts argue that external conflict often bolsters.



Editorial

It still lacks the operational capabilities

Ritu Walia

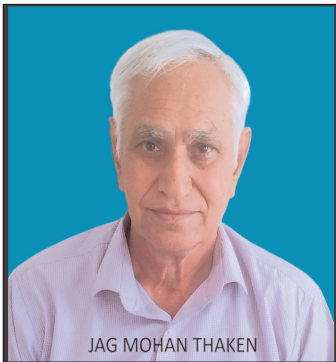
As India approaches its 75th Republic Day, the nation has achieved a significant milestone in strengthening its naval capabilities. In an exceptional move reflecting strategic foresight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently commissioned three advanced naval platforms in a single day: a destroyer, a frigate, and a submarine. However, in a fast-changing security environment in the Indo-Pacific, the developments in naval capabilities must be measured in a relative context—capabilities of arch rivals and a swiftly evolving security domain, that is. Now, five points need to be underscored in this context. The commissioning of advanced naval platforms highlights India's aspiration to establish itself as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Over the years, India's maritime security strategy has significantly evolved. The 2015 Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision reflects India's dedication to fostering regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. This vision is supported by initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Island Countries (IOIC), which emphasise coastal connectivity and sustainable development. PM Modi's address at the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue further reinforced India's strategic perspective for the Indo-Pacific. The SAGAR vision has gained traction through frameworks such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), aiming to tackle regional security issues and counter China's expanding influence. While China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has grown to become the world's largest by fleet size, it still lacks the operational capabilities and combat experience of the United States. India's navy, although the smallest of its armed forces, has consistently demonstrated efficiency and timely acquisitions. Compared to the Indian Air

Studios claim ownership of rights

It was since foreign companies entered the Indian film market that filmmakers in the country, especially in the Hindi film industry, took huge strides. Films with budgets in lakhs suddenly started costing crores. With projects being underwritten by big-time backers, the films with stars started costing over Rs 100 crore. Actors wanted to be paid in crores and so did the director. Soon, the stars started asking for Rs 100 crore or more and the ones with just a single success wanted Rs 10-15 crore. Female artistes started demanding in crores, even though their films, at best, collected Rs 5 crore or less in lifetime business. Somewhere along the line, the filmmaking happened with no sense of the economics. The prices the stars demanded were artificial, much against their draw or potential to recoup. This continued for a long time because the companies which backed these films opened their purse strings generously. The producer had nothing to lose and stood only to gain. Nobody cared for what a star charged or a director did. Ridiculous budgets were presented and sanctioned by the new corporate entrants who were under the impression that they were producing films when, in fact, they were actually outsourcing the film production activities.



What Forcing World Fame Sambhar Villagers to Display Posters- “House on Sale”?



Sambhar, a world fame name for its salty water lake and as India's largest saline wetland, also designated as Ramsar Site (recognized wetland of international importance), enticing not only the tourists, but also thousands of migratory birds from northern Asia and Siberia from November to February, came into hot news last week not for its beauty's attraction, but due to a strange step of its villagers to raise their grievances and attract the attention of the Rajasthan government towards the difficulty they face due to acute shortage of water not enough even to quench their thirst in this scorching heat days of May and June. The villagers allege that the water supply services are so bad that they get water for only about 25-30 minutes every 72 to 96 hours. On the other hand, the central government claims that under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – ‘Har Ghar Jal’, it is implementing the provision of potable water to every rural household of the country, through functional tap water connection i.e. at a service level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd).The finance minister of India, while replying a budgetary question on 17 march,2025 stated , “Since August 2019, Government of India in partnership with States is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – ‘Har Ghar Jal’ to make provision of potable water to every rural household of the country, through functional tap water connection i.e. at a service level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd), of prescribed quality (BIS:10500), on regular and long-term basis.”Why are the governments failing to supply potable water at level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd), as provisioned and that too why not on a daily basis? Facing the brunt of water scarcity, some Sambhar inhabitants have pasted posters on their houses as “House on Sale” and even on the entry points of the streets they displayed the banners showing – ‘Bhishan payjal sankat ke karan, is gali ke sabhi



makan bikau hain’ (Due to severe drinking water problem, all the houses in this street are for sale), as per media reports. Times Now on June 4, quoting a resident, writes- “The angry residents held a meeting at Charbhujia Mandir and Dadudwara and took a big decision—to sell their houses and leave Sambhar. ‘For sale’ posters have been pasted on the houses in the streets. Local people say that despite repeated complaints, the water supply department does not pay heed to them.” Quoting Gautam Singhania, local BJP councillor from the area who represents ward 23, NDTV on June 3, states-- “For the past 7 years now, we have no dedicated water tank that will supply water to our homes via pipelines. About 200 people from this ward got together and said it's better to migrate from here. If there will be no water, then what is the point of living here? The water works department is not worried, we have put up posters on every street and these have come up at 150 homes. In the last two years, people have been moving out but this water crisis has come to a head this summer.” There were about 3,500 people here, but that number now stands at 1700, said the councillor, adding that even those left behind plan to move out soon.Media reports state that Vidhyadhar Chaudhary, Congress MLA from the area, claimed that he had also raised this issue in the Vidhan Sabha on January 31st.Now the question arises -Despite Central government's ‘Har Ghar Jal Yojana’ (Water to every house scheme), which was to be implemented before the end of year 2024, why the residents of Sambhar and other areas are facing the acute shortage of even the potable water? Why the completion target of the scheme of supplying potable water as per

Jal Jeevan Mission was not fulfilled as it was promised to be completed upto 2024? Stating the Jal Jeevan Mission ‘A Milestone in India's Rural Water Revolution,’ a central government's PIB release on 14 AUG 2024 states- “The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, with the ambitious goal of providing tap water supply to every rural household by 2024. At the time of its inception, only 3.23 crore (17%) of rural households had tap water connections. The mission aims to bridge this gap by providing nearly 16 crore additional households with tap water by 2024, ensuring the functionality of existing water supply systems, and directly benefiting over 19 crore rural families. This initiative is intended to reduce the rural-urban divide and enhance public health.” Replying a question in Parliament on current status of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Finance Minister during her budget speech 2025- 26, presented the data as on 17 March 2025, which shows that the target of JJM was still lagging behind the target of 2024 and so she announced extension of Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028 with an enhanced total outlay. She added that at the start of the Mission, only 3.23 Crore (16.7%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 17.03.2025, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal around 12.30 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 17.03.2025, out of 19.36 Crore rural households in the country, more than 15.53 Crore (80.20%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes and works for the remaining 3.83 Crore households are at various stages of completion as per satura-

tion plan of the respective State/ UT. **Opposition raises questions** Rajasthan State Congress president and former minister, Govind Singh Dotasra @GovindDotasra on his x account on June 9, 2025 comments, “The BJP government could neither provide irrigation water to the farmers nor it is able to provide drinking water to the common people in this scorching heat. The entire state, including Sanganer, the constituency of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal ji, and Jodhpur, is facing severe water shortage. When people in cities are worried about every drop of water, what would be the situation in the desert and far-flung areas. That too when the condition of the dams of the state is not good.” Dotasra adds, “Out of the total 691 dams in the state, 368 dams are almost empty, there are 176 dams where some water is left and there are only 7 dams where there is full water. So far, only 46% water has been stored in these 691 dams of the state, which is almost half compared to this period last year.” Dotasra warns the government of the crisis to come, “Despite the water crisis, the BJP government of the state is completely inactive, if a concrete plan for water management is not made in time, the water crisis in many districts can deepen further.” Congress Member of Parliament, since 2014 continuously, from Churu, Rajasthan, Rahul Kaswan @RahulKaswanMP On June 7, challenging the figures of JJM in his Churu Lok Sabha constituency says, “Under Jal Jeevan Mission, the officials have uploaded false figures of 70 percent work completion in Churu district on the portal, whereas the situation on the ground is different. The works approved in 2019

under JJM in Churu, Sujangarh, Ratangarh and Sadulpur have not been completed yet. Due to delay and indifference, there has been a deviation in the budget, due to which the works of JJM in the above tehsils (like- in some places new tanks could not be built, in some places tanks have been built but are not being connected to the pipeline) are in limbo. Hence, we said that despite the work of approved tanks not being completed, action should be ensured by investigating against the officials who uploaded wrong data on the portal. Kaswan adds, “Many flaws have come to light in the preparation of DPR of the works to be done under JJM in the area. Hence, we have asked the officials to hold a meeting regarding JJM in Churu and ensure that the works are done with proper planning; so that the common people can get the benefits of the scheme properly.” **Will the Government succeed to achieve the JJM target even upto 2028?** After central government's failure to achieve the Jal Jeevan Mission target to be completed upto 2024, it has extended the span for the next four years upto 2028. But, if we analyse the progress of JJM in three months from 17 March, 2025 to 13 June 2025 the progress of this mission seems very slow and it will be impossible to achieve the target even upto 2028, if it runs at the same speed. As on 17 March the achievement was 15.53 crore and as on 13 June it is 15.65 crore as per JJM web portal. In this way only 12 lacs new taps with water supply were installed in these three months, giving an average figure of 4 lacs per month, whereas to achieve the target upto the end of 2028 the average of 8.83 lacs water supply taps will have to be installed within remaining 42 months from June 25 to December 2028. Why does the government fix such targets, which it cannot complete in time? Is the government lethargic or there is scarcity of funds? The voice and grievance of the inhabitants of Sambhar, who are ready to evacuate their ancestral village, should not only be heard with a soft heart, but also should be resolved. Rajasthan and the central government should take the potable water crisis on priority. Will they? (Ground Post).

Threatened to bring down the Netanyahu govt.

Radhika On January 20, 1981, on the day Ronald Reagan took over as the new US president, Iran freed 52 American hostages it had been holding for over a year. That projected Reagan as a strong leader sending a powerful signal to US allies and its foes. His predecessor, Jimmy Carter, did all the negotiations and tried his best to have the hostages released while he was still the president. But Tehran would not let him take the glory. Forty-four years on, Donald Trump is taking the credit for the Gaza ceasefire deal, which will come into effect a day before his inaugu-

ration, cementing his reputation as a tough leader. Biden can say that the deal happened under his watch. But there is no doubt that it was Trump whose pressure led to achieve the goal. He declared on his social media platform Truth Social: “This EPIC ceasefire agreement could have only happened as a result of our Historic Victory in November, as it signalled to the entire World that my Administration would seek Peace and negotiate deals to ensure the safety of all Americans, and our Allies.” Days after he threatened that there better be a Gaza deal by his January 20

inauguration or “all hell would break out”, his special envoy to the Middle East, Steven Witkoff, landed in Tel Aviv last Saturday. It was the Sabbath, the day of rest for Jews. But Witkoff insisted on meeting the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that day. At their meeting, he conveyed Trump's message that the incoming President of the United States wanted to end the Gaza war and demanded that a ceasefire agreement be signed immediately. The format of the three-stage deal announced on Wednesday was proposed by Biden in May last year and was later also

endorsed by the UN Security Council. But both Hamas and Israel kept dragging the negotiations over it. In Isreal, Netanyahu refused to give any concessions to Hamas and continued with his brute military operation in Gaza. The right-wing parties in Israel's ruling coalition also threatened to bring down the Netanyahu government if he agreed to a ceasefire deal. Indeed, one right-wing leader, Ben Gvir, has openly admitted to successfully blocking previous attempts. Trump's pressure to agree to the ceasefire has come as a shock to right-wing Israelis.

The sins of fathers shall be visited upon the sons

Suman

The sins of fathers shall be visited upon the sons—this ominous pronouncement in the Bible has now come true for Tulip Siddiq, a 42-year-old minister in the British government, but with a twist. In her case, it wasn't her father's sins that visited upon her but those allegedly committed by her aunt, the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed. And it cost Siddiq her job. Slapped with a range of corruption charges by Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC), which forced an internal government inquiry, Siddiq

has strenuously denied any wrongdoing—except that of ignorance about benefiting from dubious transactions. But she has paid the price and resigned as UK treasury minister on Tuesday, though she stressed that an independent review found she had “not breached the ministerial code”. If the sins of aunts can impact nieces, then can daughters escape their mothers'? Ever since Siddiq's case hit the headlines, the spotlight has slowly but surely turned to Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed, also known as Putul, who was elected regional director of the World.

Mamta Sood, Himshikha, and Ekjot Honored with Nari Shakti Samman

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: On the occasion of the martyrdom day of Rani Lakshmbai, the Manav Mitra Mandal organized a Nari Shakti Samman (Women Empowerment Honor) and Student Felicitation Ceremony at a private school. The event was organized with the blessings of the Mandal's founder, the late Prof. Ram Ratan Sharma. The program commenced with the chief guest Sadhvi Lakshmi Devi, program chairperson Mamta Sharma, and senior members of the Manav Mitar Mandal offering floral tributes and lighting a ceremonial lamp before the portrait of Rani Lakshmbai. During the event, the Manav Mitar Mandal, Kurukshetra, honored several women for their social service by presenting them with the Nari Shakti Samman and ceremo-



nialed shawls. The honorees included Mamta Sood, Himshikha, Ekjot Kaur, Sudesh Kumari, Nirmal Dahiya, Monika Sharma, Simmi Gupta, Divya, Vishakha, Rajbala, Gurjinder Kaur, Dr. Archana Sharma, and Sister Amar. Special honors were also bestowed upon Sahil Dhankhar, a resident of Kurukshetra, who secured the 245th rank in UPSC 2024, and Dr. Kanan Sharma. In addition, 11 meritorious students from government schools were encouraged and

awarded with incentive scholarships. Chief guest Sadhvi Lakshmi Devi emphasized the need for women to be aware of their rights. She stated that even after 75 years of independence, women continue to face atrocities and exploitation. She noted that such events help raise awareness among women and instill self-confidence. She added that the bravery and valor of the great warrior queen Rani Lakshmbai remain a symbol of pride and honor for women across the world.

NEET UG 2025: Rohtak's Sonali Secures AIR 255; 21 Other Students from Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) Also Among Top Achievers

Vatika Times Rohtak: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces that 22 of its students from Rohtak have become the top scorers in the highly competitive NEET UG 2025 examination. This exceptional performance is a result of the students' commitment, academic discipline, and the world-class coaching and mentorship provided by AESL. The results were declared yesterday by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Notable students are Sonali with AIR 255, Shubham with AIR 1762, Naman with AIR 1790, Saloni Lather with AIR 2721 and Hemang Nara with AIR 2895 amongst others. The students were enrolled in AESL's class-



room program, specifically designed to help aspirants tackle NEET – one of the most challenging medical entrance exams in the world. The student attributed their success to the strong academic foundation laid by AESL, their conceptual clarity, and a consistent and disciplined study routine. "We are extremely thankful to Aakash for guiding us throughout this journey. The structured content, expert teaching, and personal mentoring helped us master complex topics in a

short time. Without AESL, this success would not have been possible," the students shared. Dr. Surendra Chauhan, Regional Director at AESL, congratulated the achievers, saying, "We are immensely proud of our students' stellar performance in NEET UG 2025. Scoring such good marks is no small feat, especially in an exam that sees participation of students from nationwide. These results showcase not only the students' hard work and perseverance.



On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Free Health Camp Organized for the Dignity and Health Security of the Elderly



Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: On the occasion of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a free health camp was organized at the Community Center of village Dudhla with the support of DR Jain Neurocare and Multispeciality Hospital, Kurukshetra. On this occasion, villagers availed medical services provided by specialist doctors. Senior Brain and Spine Neurosurgeon Dr. Himanshu Jain, speaking at the health camp, said that elders are the roots of any society. Mistreatment of the elderly is not only a moral offense but also inflicts severe psychological and physical harm. Stress, depression, hypertension, insomnia, and neurological disorders can often result from such abuse.

'Meet and Greet' Program FII Briefed the IAS Principal Secretary of the Labour Department on Industry Issues

Journalist Jatni Gurugram: At the Caparo Maruti headquarters in Gurugram, a delegation from the Federation of Indian Industry (FII) met with Rajeev Ranjan, Principal Secretary of the Labour Department and Principal Secretary of the Department of Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship, Government of Haryana. The meeting took place as part of the "Meet and Greet Program", where the delegation informed Mr. Ranjan about several key issues faced by the

industrial sector. The FII delegation submitted a memorandum to Mr. Ranjan, highlighting demands such as: Simplified license approval processes, Establishment of skill development centers, Awareness programs about the wage code, Improvements in ESIC facilities, Appointment of conciliatory officers for swift grievance resolution. Speaking on the occasion, Vinod Bapna, State President of FII and CEO of Caparo Maruti, emphasized the need for



government support in auto-licensing under unchanged conditions, workshops on the practical implications of the

new wage code, and enhanced healthcare coverage through ESIC-listed hospitals, especially in industrial areas. He

also stressed the need for additional conciliation officers in Gurugram and Faridabad to ensure

faster resolution of industrial and labor disputes. Vinod Bapna pointed out that these ongoing issues are dis-

rupting production, and prompt resolution is essential for the smooth functioning of industries. Dr. Deepak Jain, Director General of FII, added that alongside industrial growth, there is a significant need for skill development in today's scenario. Principal Secretary Rajeev Ranjan listened carefully to the concerns of the delegation and assured them that the issues of the industry will be addressed on a priority basis. He said that the department would work

in collaboration with industry stakeholders and take concrete steps toward solutions. He also shared his views on current geopolitical developments with the attendees. Present at the event were: Dr. Deepak Jain, Director General of FII, Vinod Bapna, State President of FII, Hitendra Mehta, Chairman of FII's International Affairs Committee, Harbhajan Singh, Founding Member of FIIS, senior HR heads from Caparo, JBM, SKH, and other leading companies.

NEET UG 2025: Karnal's Arsh Gandhi Secures AIR 11; 50 Other Students from Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) Also Among Top Achievers

Vatika Times Karnal: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces that 51 of its students from Karnal have become the top scorers in the highly competitive NEET UG 2025 examination. This exceptional performance is a result of the students' commitment, academic discipline, and the world-class coaching and mentorship provided by AESL. The results were declared yesterday by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Notable students are Arsh Gandhi with AIR 11, Tarunay Bhadhana with AIR 2278, Tushar with AIR 2557, Pawni with AIR 9290 amongst others. The students



were enrolled in AESL's classroom program, specifically designed to help aspirants tackle NEET – one of the most challenging medical entrance exams in the world. The student attributed their success to the strong academic foundation laid by AESL, their conceptual clarity, and a consistent and disciplined study routine. "We are extremely thankful to Aakash for guiding us throughout this jour-

ney. The structured content, expert teaching, and personal mentoring helped us master complex topics in a short time. Without AESL, this success would not have been possible," the students shared. Dr. Surendra Chauhan, Regional Director at AESL, congratulated the achievers, saying, "We are immensely proud of our students' stellar performance in NEET UG 2025.

Sewa Trust UK (India) organized a program under the 'Green India, Green Earth' campaign

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Sewa Trust UK (India) organized a program under the 'Green India, Green Earth' campaign titled 'Remove Polythene, Save Environment' at Aggarwal Dharmshala. The event was held under the guidance of Pooja Agarwal, the National Coordinator of the "I Hate Polythene" campaign. The chief guests, Professor Vanita Dhingra and Professor Promila from Kurukshetra University, emphasized that 'Nature has provided us with all the resources and facilities necessary for a happy life. We have received countless invaluable gifts from nature without any cost. Therefore, it is our duty to stop using polythene and keep nature clean and safe. Everyone must unite



and contribute to this campaign to completely eliminate the use of polythene.' Sewa Trust UK (India) Trustee Vivek Sharma urged all women present to refrain from using polythene and to raise awareness among their neighbors about avoiding polythene in daily life. District Coordinator Pawan Mittal and volunteer

Jai Kumar administered a pledge to the attendees: 'We pledge that from today, we will not use polythene in our homes. We hope that by avoiding polythene in our daily routines, we will one day make our environment polythene-free.' Media In-charge Vijay Panghal and Organization Secretary Naresh Sharma from

Sewa Trust Kurukshetra shared that the trust has resolved to launch campaigns in ten districts of Haryana to promote environmental conservation and reduce polythene use, inspiring society to protect nature. Thanesar Coordinators Rajesh Sain and Sumant Saini thanked all attendees.

At the program's conclusion, Sewa Trust, with co-sponsor Dabur India Limited, distributed Dabur Real Juice and other items as gifts to the women present. Notable attendees included Tejas Mittal, Neeru Devi, Sunita Devi, Meena, Rekha, volunteer Akshay Jain, and other distinguished individuals.



Jannayak Janta Party Launches Membership Drive in Kurukshetra



Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) launched its membership drive in Kurukshetra. The event was graced by Hajj Committee Chairman Mohsin Chaudhary and former Kharkhoda MLA Ramesh Khatak as chief guests, with the meeting presided over by District President Kuldeep Jakhwala. Party in-charge Mohsin Chaudhary and Ramesh Khatak informed that the membership drive was launched simultaneously across the entire state of Haryana, laying the foundation for

the party's organizational structure. They emphasized that the strength of any party lies in its members. The district in-charge, in his address, referred to the party workers as the backbone of the organization. Kuldeep Jakhwala urged all constituency heads to reach out to every worker and enroll them as members to strengthen the party. On this occasion, event organizer and Thanesar constituency president Yogesh Sharma welcomed former Vice Chancellor Ajmer Singh Malik on his

appointment as Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee. He also assured the leadership that new members and associates would be inducted into the party at the earliest. Present at the event were Youth District President Jaswinder Singh Khehra, District Spokesperson Shekhar Dogra, Rajesh Pilot, Sarath Tiwari, Ashok Sharma, President of the Sainik Cell Rajendra Sharma, Ladwa Constituency President Vinod Sharma, Pradeep Jai, Gulshan Prajapat, and other party workers.

International Gita Jayanti Festival to be Celebrated in Collaboration with England : CM

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that this year, the International Gita Jayanti Festival will be celebrated in collaboration with England. He stated that every year, the International Gita Jayanti is organized in different countries, and this time, Gita scholar Swami Gyananand Maharaj has traveled to England to hold discussions on the same theme. Each year, a different country is included in the international celebrations. He emphasized that lakhs of people gather at Kurukshetra's sacred Brahma Sarovar during the national-level Gita Jayanti program. He also acknowledged that Swami Gyananand Maharaj's efforts in spreading the message of the holy scripture Gita across the globe are unforgettable. Chief Minister Saini was addressing the media on Sunday at Brahma Sarovar following the grand and historic state-level Yoga Marathon organized under the joint aegis of the



Haryana Sports Department, AYUSH Department, and the District Administration. Speaking on political developments, the CM said that the people of Punjab were once fed up with the Congress party and are now extremely disappointed with the Aam Aadmi Party. After being let down by both, the public is now inclined toward bringing the BJP to power in Punjab. He alleged that both parties only made hollow promises and worked solely for their personal gains. "They never cared for the people, nor did they ever think of doing any good for them," he said. Responding to a question, CM Saini said that the pub-

lic is well aware of the law and order situation during the Congress regime. He claimed that the law and order situation in the state has significantly improved. "Whenever a violation of the law takes place, the police immediately investigate and take strict action against the culprits," he added. The Chief Minister also expressed his condolences regarding the recent plane crash in Ahmedabad and prayed for peace to the departed souls. He said that such incidents are beyond human control and termed the loss of a daughter from Kurukshetra district in the crash as a deeply saddening event. He assured that the government stand.



Gunmen kidnap Manipur fashion designer, shoot him in leg

IMPHAL: Popular fashion designer of Manipur, Kumarjit Laishram, was shot in the leg by unidentified gunmen in Imphal West district's Khumbong area, police said. The Koireng group of the proscribed UNLF claimed responsibility for the shooting, saying Kumarjit was punished for his involvement in unethical activity of "supplying women to high-profile people" in the state. Kumarjit, 30, a resident of Takyel Khonbal Maning Leikai, also runs a beauty salon and spa close to his house. Sources said he was kidnapped by the assailants on Friday night and was found with a bullet wound in his left calf near the Khumbong community health centre around 8.40am on Saturday. He is undergoing treatment at a hospital here. Police registered a case in the matter and have begun an investigation. With Saturday's shooting, four people, including two women, have so far been shot, all in their leg, in the Valley districts by unknown armed men since the beginning of this month. This poses a challenge to the law and order situation in the state which is already embroiled in a simmering communal conflict.

Maoist with 1.1L bounty killed in Bastar

RAIPUR: Dudhi Hunga, a hardcore Maoist carrying a bounty of Rs 1.1 lakh on his head, was killed in an encounter in the forests near Banjarapara in the tribal belt of Bastar in Sukma district on Saturday, Chhattisgarh Police said. Dudhi Hunga, a resident of Arlampalli in Sukma.

Telugu actor kills self week after partner dies in car crash

HYDERABAD: Popular Telugu TV actor Chandrakanth alias Chandu died by suicide at his apartment in Hyderabad's Manikonda area on Friday night, police said. He died after Pavithra Jayaram, also an actor, with whom he was in a live-in relationship, died in a road accident at Kurnool on May 12. Pavithra and Chandu acted together in "Trinayani serial", which was one of the most watched serials on TV.



Chandu acted in TV serials like "Karthika Deepam" and "Radhamma Pelli", apart from "Trinayani". His wife, from whom he sepa-

rated recently, said he took the extreme step as he was depressed after Pavithra's death. Police said Chandu's family was concerned

about his well-being after he stopped responding to phone calls. They went to do a welfare check on him at his apartment only to find him dead. Although he did not leave behind a suicide note, police found WhatsApp messages he sent to friends stating he did not wish to live any longer. He is survived by his wife and two children. Police registered a case of suspicious death in the matter.

Five of family axed to death in Chhattisgarh village

Chhattisgarh's Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district, a tragic incident occurred where five family members were hacked to death. The victims were Hemlal Sahu, Jagmoti Sahu, Meera Sahu, Mamta Sahu, and Ayush. Another villager, Manoj Sahu, was found hanging in the same house. Police, with local support and TNN assistance, are investigating the crime scene and collecting evi-

dence. Five of family axed to death in Chhattisgarh village Five members of a family were hacked to death in Thargaon village of Chhattisgarh's Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district. While all five succumbed to injuries caused by an axe, another villager was found hanging in the same house. Police suspect he may be the assailant and possibly hanged himself after he commit-

ted the crime. The five victims were identified as Hemlal Sahu, 55, his wife Jagmoti Sahu, 50, their daughters Meera Sahu, 30, and Mamta Sahu, 35, and grandson Ayush, 5. The other villager, who was found hanging in the house, was identified as Manoj Sahu, police added. A police team went to the scene after locals informed them about the incident. The team took bodies of

the victims for post-mortem. "Evidence on the crime scene suggests Manoj may have hacked to death the five family members before hanging himself. We will investigate the case thoroughly and ascertain facts," police said. A forensic team was at the crime spot to collect all possible evidence and help with the investigation, police said.

Low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal around May 22

PUNE: A weather conundrum is gathering steam over Bay of Bengal ahead of monsoon arrival. India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast formation of a low-pressure area over southwest Bay of Bengal around May 22, while some independent forecasters sounded alarm about potential for an intense cyclone in the making that could impact O d i s h a , Maharashtra, and Gujarat. M r u t y u n j a y Mohapatra, director general of meteorology, IMD, told TOI: "Low-pressure area will help monsoon advance over Andaman sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal, but it may not have an impact on onset of monsoon

in Kerala. However, we have not so far ruled out the possibility of the system turning into a cyclone later because May is known for cyclone formation. It is too early to confirm whether or not it will transform into a cyclone. If at all a cyclone forms, its impact on monsoon progress cannot be gauged as of now because it will depend on its path and intensity." GP Sharma, president of Skymet Weather Services, however, said the system did have a significant potential to become a cyclone, but is unlikely to hinder monsoon's progress. "There are ample chances that the Bay of Bengal system

could gradually turn into a cyclone. It is unlikely to disrupt the monsoon progress when it forms, rather only help in its progress," Sharma said. Roxy Mathew Koll, senior climate scientist at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, told TOI: "A low pressure system will definitely develop over the south Bay of Bengal next week. Sea surface temperatures there are quite warm, so the ocean conditions are favourable. Madden-Julian Oscillation is reaching there soon, making the winds also favourable, providing rotational trigger for a cyclone to form. The restricting factor could be early monsoon development."

Grant citizenship to daughter of OCI card-holders: HC

NEW DELHI: Delhi high court has asked the Centre to grant citizenship to a 17-year-old girl, raised in India to parents who held Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards and US citizenship at the time of her birth. "The petitioner, despite having been born in India to two OCI card holders, educated in India and lived in India with her family, is unable to obtain a passport. These are clearly special circumstances as contemplated under Section 5(4) of the Act," Justice Prathiba M Singh noted while referring to provisions of the Citizenship Act of 1955 and the Passports Act of 1967. Petitioner Rachita Francis Xavier had



moved court challenging rejection of her plea for a passport. She informed the court that both her parents were earlier Indian citizens. However, they acquired US citizenship by 2005 and hence her parents were not Indian citizens on the date she was born. The petitioner submitted that she is not an illegal migrant and qualified as a person of

Indian origin entitling her to citizenship by registration. HC saw merit in the plea and noted that her circumstances would be covered under Explanation 2, as both parents of the petitioner were Indian citizens who had later obtained US citizenship. The court pointed out that even OCI card holders are free to stay in India and can also rear their families,

noting that in Xavier's case the parents were OCI card holders when she was born and she has continuously stayed in India since birth. She has been educated in India and now sought a passport, HC said. It allowed the plea and permitted the girl to apply for registration as a citizen under Section 5 of the Citizenship Act.

Founder of Naturals Ice Cream passes away at 70

MANGALURU : Raghunandan Srinivas Kamath, the man behind Naturals Ice Cream, passed away in Mumbai on Friday. He was 70. Natural Ice Cream wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "Our thoughts on the sad demise of our patron and founder of Naturals Ice Cream, Late (Shri) Raghunandan Kamath. Indeed, a very sad and unfortunate day for us." They shared a poster that read: A smile that will forever melt our hearts. A smile that will never be forgotten. A smile that will keep inspiring us and reminding us that his era will never end. To the Ice Cream Man of India who will forever stay in our hearts".

A reorganization of the billing system is in the works

New taxi fleet should exclusively include CNG and EVs

Delhi : The government is planning to launch a water bill waiver scheme shortly to address the increasing number of complaints about high water bills, according to PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh, who made the announcement . Multiple complaints have been received by the Delhi Jal Board over erroneous pricing, prompting this notice. In the near future, we intend to implement a bill waiver program that will handle all domestic bills and cut them by almost 90%. A reorganization of the billing system is in the works. At a news conference, Mr. Singh explained that the necessary software is now in development and that some technical challenges are being resolved. Additionally, the Minister has promised that all of the city's unapproved colonies will be linked to the sewer system by the year 2027 and has unveiled a sewerage master plan. "The current problems of sewerage infrastructure and future needs of the city" will be addressed by the "DJB is planning a sewerage master plan," according to the



The role of farm credit societies is being advocated

Delhi : Amit Shah, minister of home and cooperation in the Union, has argued that Primary Agricultural Credit Societies' (PACS) continued financial viability and social significance depend on their increased participation in the government's foodgrain storage program. Shah ordered the food and public distribution ministry and the Food Corporation of India to

do national-level warehouse mapping in order to match infrastructure with regional demands during a review meeting of the world's largest cooperative foodgrain storage scheme. In his request, he pushed states to include more PACS in the program and asked FCI, NCCF, NAFED, and state warehousing organizations to connect PACS. with additional warehouse infrastructure

Delhi : The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has declared that beginning January 1, 2026, all new fleets of taxi aggregators, delivery services, and e-commerce operators operating in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) will be required to use only compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric vehicles. In an effort to lower regional emissions, the action is a component of a larger crackdown on polluting automobiles. All N1 two-wheelers, light commercial vehicles (LCVs), and light goods vehicles (LGVs) (weighing up to 3.5 tons) are now in violation of the new



guideline, which forbids the addition of new petrol and diesel vehicles to service fleets. The current fleet of cars, nevertheless, will be permitted to keep running. One of the main causes of air pollution in cities in the NCR is emissions from vehicles, according to instruction number 94, which was issued on June 4 by the CAQM. Cities like

Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Noida, Greater Noida, and Ghaziabad—which see a lot of vehicles and commuters—are the focus of this approach. Also requested were regional policies for mobility and logistics platforms from the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana. Buses entering Delhi with other permissions.

Delhi's 25-point strategy to reduce air pollution

Delhi : The government of Delhi has presented a 25-point plan to reduce air pollution by the year 2025. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta made an announcement regarding the state government's plans to tackle pollution in the city when it was released. To this end, the government of Delhi will sign memorandums of

understanding (MoUs) with esteemed scientific organizations and technological institutions including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Thousand sprinklers, 140 anti-smog cannons, and the possibility of cloud seeding to induce precipitation are all part of the proposal. The chief minister of Delhi has announced

plans to put cameras at the city's borders to detect aging vehicles, add 5,000 electric buses to the public transportation system, and conduct audits of vehicle pollution certification centers every six months. Waste management, green space enhancement, transportation measures.



27K drivers fined for using non-standard vehicle plates



Delhi : In response to a directive from the Commissioner of Police in Delhi to crack down on vehicles having number plates that are either decorative or displayed incorrectly, the traffic police have begun a massive crackdown. The number of drivers booked for offenses has surpassed 27,000 as of May 2025. Police are cracking down on licence plates that don't follow the rules, such as those with unique typefaces, colors, religious symbols, or community or caste statements. In 2024, a total of 17,795 infractions were documented, with 3,171 notifications and 14,624 challans. May 2025 alone saw 27,202 instances, a significant increase from the previous year's total of 23,417 challans and 3,785 notifications. Criminals frequently use this loophole to avoid being caught and prosecuted, according to the police. They can make it more difficult for the authorities to follow their whereabouts by using non-standard number plates to conceal their vehicles.

A letter from the Bar Association exempts attorneys from wearing black coats during summer

Delhi : A letter from the Delhi Bar Association exempts attorneys from wearing black coats in district courts during summer. Members can appear in Delhi High Court-subordinate courts without black jackets. However, they must follow the other obligatory dress code regulations "The association's May 24 notification, signed by Members can appear in Delhi High Court-subordinate courts without black jackets. They must follow the other obligatory dress code regulations "Vikas Goyal, the association's secretary, signed the May 24 message. Advocate Sanjay Sharma said the



group provided an advisory to exempt black jackets in summer, but the dress code's other rules—white shirt, black trousers, and band—must be followed. "This dress code relaxation aims to protect advocates

from heat strokes and discomfort in non-air-conditioned courtrooms and excessive temperatures. This decision ensures advocates of all ages work efficiently "Said Mohit N Bharrdwaj Senior Advocate.

Delhi Medical Council informs HC on public awareness campaign

Delhi: In response to rising fears of quack medicine and unlicensed practitioners in the nation's capital, the Delhi Medical Council (DMC) has notified the Delhi high court of various methods by which residents can confirm the legitimacy of their physicians. These include scanning QR codes on displayed certificates and making use of the online verification tools that the DMC provides on its website. In December 2023, counsel Sachin Jain petitioned the court, bringing up the issue .

Delhi Police rolls out e-Zero FIR protocol for cyber frauds

Delhi: Ten days after Union home minister Amit Shah announced the launch of an e-Zero FIR initiative to expedite action against cybercrime, Delhi Police commissioner Sanjay Arora issued a formal order detailing the protocol to be followed by field officers. The initiative, launched as a pilot in Delhi on May 17, aims to fast-track investigations, improve fund recovery, and crack down on cyber fraud. Shah had said in a May 19 post on X that financial cyber complaints lodged on the National



Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or via helpline 1930 would automatically be converted into FIRs — initially for frauds above 10 lakh. The system will later be expanded nationwide. In an order dated May

29, Arora instructed that investigations must begin without waiting for the complainant's signature. Officers are required to issue notices asking the complainant to sign the FIR at the local cyber police station within 72 hours.

Delhi police app to accept complaints beyond theft and burglary

Delhi : Delhi Police will release a smartphone app that allows residents to report crimes from home with a few clicks to modernize and expedite the procedure. Development is underway on the app. Police said its user-friendly interface will allow individuals to download the app, complete a one-time registration, and register complaints from serious crimes to small street offenses without visiting a police station. They promised timely follow-up and action with the feedback mechanism and status alert system. Burglary, theft, and pickpocketing complaints are filed online. They prefer the cops for other things. Aslam Khan, joint commissioner of police (vigilance), said

the app simplified complaint registration and investigation to make it more efficient and transparent. Citizens will no longer have to attend police stations or follow up on complaints. "The innovative app will streamline justice delivery," he continued. Delhi Police's plan is a major step toward using technology to improve public services and community involvement, insiders said. Many manual complaint registration and investigation processes will be automated by the app, benefiting residents and police. Deputy commissioner of police (vigilance) Anyesh Roy said inquiry officers can upload papers to the app for their superiors to review.

A refurbishment around 1.84 crore is planned for Talkatora indoor stadium

Delhi : Officials announced that a ₹1.84 crore project will see the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, the oldest indoor athletic arena in the capital, undergo a complete renovation by the Municipal Council (NDMC). The project will include upgrading the audio-visual systems and replacing the seating. Built in 1974 and recently renovated in preparation for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Delhi : On Environment Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 200 electric buses in Delhi. The Delhi government launched the e-buses to promote sustainable growth and clean urban mobility. The PM said the program will make Delhi greener. He added that this will increase Delhi residents' "Ease of Living." The PM wrote on X, "Building a clean and green Delhi! Flagged electric buses under a Delhi government program to promote sustainable development



and clean urban mobility. Additionally, Delhi residents' 'Ease of Living' would improve." For World Environment Day, CM Rekha Gupta stated that 280 electric buses will be added to

the city's fleet by 2027 under a new electric vehicle policy. Gupta said Delhi will add 280 electric buses by 2027. Delhi will receive 280 electric buses. By 2027, all Delhi government

PM Modi launches 200 e-buses in Delhi to boost green mobility

AI Centre for Healthcare Innovation to be Launched by IIT Delhi and AIIMS

Delhi : The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and the All India Institute of Medical Science, Delhi have joined forces to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare. The new center, which has received a grant of 330 crore, will use artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to tackle some of the most serious public health issues in India. Cancer, TB, eye disorders, and other complicated health issues can be better detected and treated with the use of AI-based tools and solutions that the CoE will develop and implement to bolster important national health programs.

buses will be electric. A new EV policy is also coming, she said. CM Gupta called the new

buses a huge asset for Delhi, praising their comfort and security.

2.5 crore 'bogus' IDs solve IRCTC ticket disappearances

Delhi: If you're wondering why some train tickets disappear within minutes of the booking window opening even 60 days before the trip, IRCTC has found the culprits. Only in the past five months did it find 2.9 lakh dubious PNRs in general and Tatkal ticket sales made within five minutes of booking.



Top railway officials claimed

they banned 2.5 crore suspected ticket-booking user IDs and revalidated 20 lakh in a special effort between Jan and May. The national cyber crime portal has received 134 complaints and disabled over 6,800 disposal email domains. A spokesperson claimed this push will intensify. Disposable

email addressing entails utilizing a distinct email address for each contact or entity or limiting its use. Fraudsters use these methods to book tickets and charge naïve travelers extra. Sources indicated only specific routes and trains have an issue with all tickets selling quickly.

Yogi govt digitises National Family Benefit Scheme for transparency and ease

Lucknow Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the National Family Benefit Scheme—designed to provide relief to poor and vulnerable families—has been made more transparent, efficient, and people-friendly. Now, eligible families no longer have to make repeated visits for financial assistance. The entire process from application to payment is now digital and accountable at every stage. As per the new framework, the government will ensure that beneficiaries receive their financial aid within 75 days of applying. In case of any delays, rather than dragging the case through lengthy procedures, approval will be obtained directly from the district-level committee to facilitate immediate payment. This means that needy families will no longer have to wait for state-level approvals—

bringing timely relief to those who have long awaited assistance. To ensure effective implementation, district social welfare officers have been given key responsibilities. They must ensure that the applicant has not already received aid under the scheme. Upon verification, the final list of eligible beneficiaries will be prepared and submitted before the approval committee within seven days. The approved list will then be uploaded to the portal with digital signatures. Funds will be transferred to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). In case of budgetary constraints, District Magistrates can authorize payments as per treasury rules to prevent any delays in benefit disbursement. Special provisions have been made for emergency circumstances. In such

cases, the District Magistrate and Social Welfare Officer will verify applications using digital signatures, enabling instant payments upon approval. A helpline number (14568) has been launched at the command centre for grievance redressal, where beneficiaries can register their complaints. The Yogi government has also prioritized widespread promotion of the scheme. Lists of beneficiaries and eligibility criteria will be publicly displayed during tehsil-level meetings. Additionally, hoardings, posters, and handbills will be used to ensure maximum outreach so more people can benefit. On the technology front, improvements are also underway. Similar to scholarship schemes that require Aadhaar seeding confirmation, the family benefit scheme will soon feature Aadhaar-based live verification to instantly.

Delhi: The newly implemented Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand lists 37 "prohibited relationships" for men and women. The relationships under Schedule 1 of the Act are mostly blood relatives, extended family, and three-generation links, many of which are unattainable owing to age gaps. Some strange men's forbidden partnerships. Historically, young people married young. Such cases may still occur, therefore we included them. "The Act requires religious authorities to certify that these relationships are allowed under their conventions before

Uttarakhand has 37 UCC 'prohibited' relationships



marrying or living together. UCC sees clergy as "any person who conducts marriage ceremonies in accordance with customs and practices of the community concerned." Gaur said the registrar may refuse petitions that contravene public policy and morality even with a religious certificate. He said UCC rules explicitly state that a registrar can refuse to register a relationship if the applicants are closely related by blood or family ties and their marriage is either not permitted by their customs or, even if allowed, contradicts public policy and moral standards.

Zydus to buy 50% stake in Sterling Biotech

Delhi : Zydus Lifesciences and Perfect Day Inc, a Temasek portfolio company, have signed an agreement to buy the latter's 50% stake in Sterling Biotech in a Rs 550 crore deal. Post the transaction, Sterling Biotech will become a 50:50 joint venture, a company statement said.



Biotech is one of the leading producers of Gelatine, Di-Calcium Phosphate. pharmaceutical



Govt to establish 8th staff pay commission



Delhi: The Union government stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had established the Eighth Central Pay Commission to recommend compensation modifications for five million central government employees and 6.5 million retirees, including defence personnel. As national pay modifications affect state employees' salaries and emoluments, the economically and politically crucial move may boost the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in approaching assembly elections, notably in Delhi. In a briefing, information and media minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the prime minister approved a central pay commission for all central government employees. "The government will soon appoint its chairman and two members," he said. He said the panel is designed to receive its recommendations well before the seventh commission's 10-year term ends in 2026, giving the government enough time to execute them. Several states and agencies follow commission recommendations. These commissions consider inflation, exchequer

Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena to form Sanatana Dharma protection wing

Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president Pawan Kalyan announced the formation of the Narasimha Varahi Brigade to safeguard Sanatana Dharma in Telugu states Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. I speak for the Jana Sena Party, not the NDA. "Several people have asked us to keep a youth wing, cultural wing, etc., but with Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy's blessing, we will set up a wing to protect Sanatana Dharma," Pawan Kalyan added. Pawan Kalyan stressed the significance of respecting religion, especial-



ly when visiting Hindu temples and practicing Sanatana Dharma. Sanatana Dharma guides India and the world, he said. Visiting Hindu temples and adopting Sanatana Dharma requires some ideals. The country can not survive without Sanatana Dharma, a guiding light for the globe,

he said. The JanaSena president stressed religious tolerance but defended Sanatana Dharma. "We respect churches and mosques, but we will punish any act that hurts Hindus. He stated social media posts mocking Hinduism or Sanatana Dharma are prohibited. Kalyan added that the

Karnataka govt pressured to restore 4% Muslim quota

Delhi: Since last year's assembly elections and this month's bypolls to three assembly seats showed the Muslim community had consolidated behind the Congress party, they are pressuring the government to restore their 4% reservation. The previous BJP government eliminated the quota, but the Supreme Court delayed the decision. In 2023, the Supreme Court deemed the quota abolishment "prima facie shaky and flawed", making it a difficult matter. It is unclear whether and

Delhi: According to Election Commission audited reports, political parties spent 2023-24 on ads, helicopter flights, and media consultants. Offering insights into their spending during a year of many state elections. The reports may only cover part of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections' spending patterns, announced on March 16. Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Mizoram had assembly elections during this time. With a budget of



₹1,754 crore, the BJP prioritized media presence, spending roughly 58% on commercials and electronic media. Party advertising and publicity costs were ₹91.39 crore and electronic media 434.84 crore. Press conference expenses increased to ₹90.99 lakh from

₹71.60 lakh last year. From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, the party won three state assembly elections and lost Karnataka. With 240 Lok Sabha seats, it returned to power as part of the National Democratic Alliance coalition without a majority.

Consumer initiatives launched by telecom minister Scindia

Delhi: Telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia introduced three projects, including the National Broadband Mission 2.0 and Sanchar Saathi mobile app, to improve connection and consumer convenience. The Sanchar Saathi software lets users report suspicious calls and SMS from phone logs. To prevent unauthorized use, users can identify and manage all mobile connections granted in their name. Other functions include blocking, tracing, and recovering lost or stolen mobile phones and verifying their legitimacy to ensure users buy legitimate gadgets. As an extension of the DoT's 2023 Sanchar Saathi platform, the app has disconnected 2.75 crore fraudulent mobile connections and secured over 25 lakh lost or stolen



devices. The National Mission (NBM) 2.0 seeks to position India at the forefront of digital transformation with high-speed internet and meaningful connectivity for everybody. The plan extends operational optical fibre cable (OFC) connectivity to 270,000 villages by 2030 with 95% uptime from 50,000, improves fixed broadband download speeds, and provides broadband connectivity to 90% of anchor institutions (such as schools and Panchayat offices). Other goals

include providing 100 Mbps download speed nationwide, reducing Right of Way application average disposal time to 30 days by 2030 from 60 days, increasing rural internet subscribers per 100 people to 60 from 45, and powering 30% of mobile towers with sustainable energy by 2030. We want 60 out of 100 rural households to have broadband. To strengthen rural India's digital infrastructure, we aim for a minimum fixed broadband download speed of 100 mbps "Scindia remarked.

PMJDY marks decade of success, UP leads in the country

Lucknow The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, an ambitious financial inclusion initiative launched by the Central Government, completed ten years on Wednesday, with Uttar Pradesh emerging as the leading state, with over 9.46 crore

Jan Dhan accounts—18 per cent of the more than 53 crore opened across the country during this period. A notable achievement in Uttar Pradesh is the significant participation of women, with approximately 5 crore of these accounts belonging to female account

holders. The state also leads in the distribution of Rupay cards through the Jan Dhan accounts. The success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in Uttar Pradesh is a testament to the Yogi government's commitment to prioritizing and effectively imple-

menting central schemes. Over the past decade, Uttar Pradesh has made remarkable strides in financial inclusion by prioritizing the opening of Jan Dhan accounts for the poor. As of August 21, 2024, the state has successfully opened a total of 9,46,62,464 .

Ensure a dependable and uninterrupted power supply

Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision to ensure a dependable and uninterrupted power supply in Uttar Pradesh is now visibly taking shape. The UP Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) has recorded a significant drop in transformer damage, thanks to continuous monitoring, strategic interventions, and a strict accountability framework. Compared to previous years, 3,233 fewer transformers were damaged in April and May.

Delhi: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) approved the layout design for the projected Film City in Sector 21, allowing filmmaker Boney Kapoor-led Bayview Bhutani Film City Private Limited to begin building. On December 24, 2024, Bayview Bhutani submitted the layout plan for clearance because work cannot begin without it. Yeida officials approved the layout plan following a thorough planning and high-level committee assessment. The concessionaire must get authorization for spe-



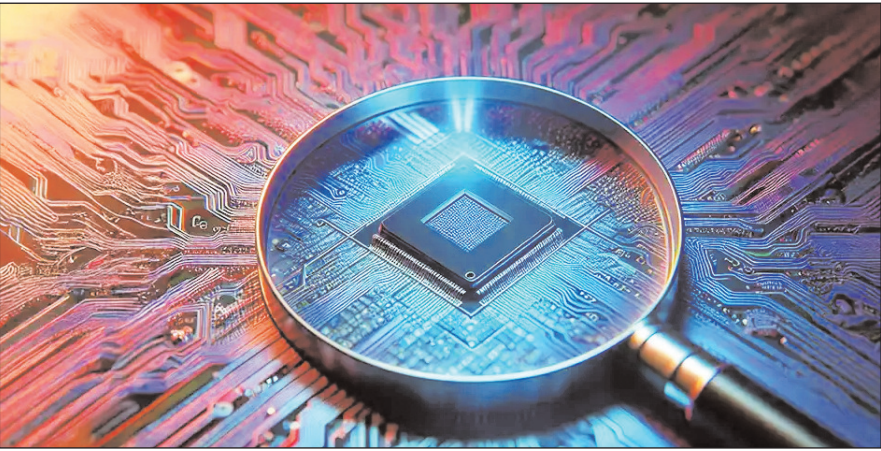
cific parking, landscaping, and horticulture work and phase the project, according to the authorities. Officials said the developer must establish a film institute and get GRIHA 4-Star/IGBC Gold accreditation for green buildings to minimize environmental damage and carbon footprint during con-

struction. "We authorized the layout plan, allowing site building. The concessionaire will now schedule site work. The concessionaire must build according to the terms and conditions "Yeida CEO Arun Vir Singh remarked. Construction of the 1,000-acre Film City project, with the first

phase encompassing 230 acres, is estimated to cost ₹1,510 crore over eight years. The project also builds a film institute with excellent technology to teach filmmaking, acting, music, and cinematography. According to officials, Kapoor said centralizing such facilities will save production costs by giving filmmakers access to crucial equipment and services. Film City will have air-conditioned indoor shooting locations for harsh weather. The new studio floors will be 40,000–60,000 square feet to accommodate huge setups and various backdrops.



India-made Micron Tech semiconductor chips to launch globally in 2025



Delhi: Micron India Managing Director Anand Ramamoorthy said that Micron Technology's packaging operation in Gujarat's Sanand will produce the first Indian semiconductor chips in the first half of 2025. "We expect to have products roll-out early next year, in the first half, which is a very good turnaround given that we had announced this whole engagement in the middle of last year," he said. Sanand may become a worldwide semiconductor powerhouse since Ramamoorthy predicted most of its chips will be exported. The chips will be utilized in data centers, smartphones, notebooks, and IoT devices, said Ramamoorthy. Demand, cost, and customer needs will dictate chip allocation closer to manufacturing. Micron also wants to explore two-wheeler electric vehicles and Indian government contracts. Micron's semiconductor supply chain is moving to India, with Simmtech opening

operations in Gujarat. Ramamoorthy said the company is working with the government and suppliers to capitalize on India's semiconductor ecosystem. Micron is building an ATMP plant in India under the government's \$10 billion semiconductor production and assembly incentive program. The initiative, funded by central and state governments, will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, boosting India's semiconductor industry.

AI reduces the lowest-fare luggage limit to 15kg

Delhi: Air India economy class domestic fliers on reduced fares can now check in 15kg of baggage instead of 25kg. AI's substantial allowance for economy fliers within India was its USP, and it would help make up for the long-awaited enhanced cabin product on the airline's outdated planes. All major Indian airlines give 15kg check-in for free. AI spokesperson: "Last year, we adopted a menu-based pricing strategy for branded fare families to comply with worldwide airline industry standards. Air India's 'comfort', 'comfort plus', and 'flex' fare families offer distinct features and limits at varying prices. We offer tariff families to help guests choose the finest meal and services for them." "Bundled fares provide passengers more value and choice for less. On a domestic sector like Delhi-Mumbai, the price difference between 'comfort plus' and 'flex' fares is typically about Rs 1,000,



with the 'flex' fare offering nearly Rs 9,000, including 10kg extra baggage, zero change or cancellation fees, more loyalty points, and more free seats." On domestic economy class routes, 'comfort' and 'comfort plus' price families allow 15kg baggage, while 'flex' allows 25kg. Domestic business

Apple may employ 5 lakh Indians

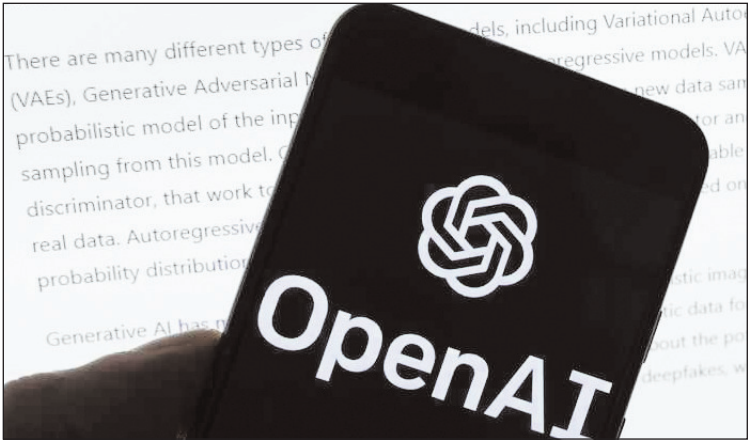
Delhi: Government sources that Apple will significantly increase its vendor workforce in India. In the next three years, Apple's suppliers and component makers might employ nearly 5 lakh people, up from 1.5 lakh. Apple's Indian vendor with the most jobs is Tata Electronics,

which runs two factories. A senior government official "Apple is hiring faster in India. They may employ five lakh people through vendors and component suppliers in the next three years, conservatively." Apple has not commented on this forecast. Apple's ambitions

to boost Indian manufacturing coincide with this announcement. The corporation aspires to surpass five-fold manufacturing production in India, aiming for USD 40 billion (3.32 lakh crore) in the next four to five years. This surge aligns with Apple's Indian success.

Eight US publications sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement

Delhi: OpenAI and Microsoft are being sued by eight US newspapers for "purloining millions" of copyrighted news stories to train its artificial intelligence chatbots. New York federal court received the lawsuit from the Daily News, Chicago Tribune, Denver Post, and others. The MediaNews Group and Tribune Publishing executive editor Frank Pine wrote, "We've spent billions of dollars gathering information and reporting news at our publications, and we can't allow OpenAI and Microsoft to expand the Big Tech playbook of stealing our work to build their own businesses at our expense." The lawsuit also



names MediaNews Group's Mercury News, Denver Post, Orange County Register, St. Paul Pioneer-Press, and Tribune Publishing's Orlando Sentinel and South Florida Sun Sentinel. Alden Global Capital

owns all publications. Microsoft declined comment. A request for comment from OpenAI was delayed. The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft in December for Copyright infringement in ChatGPT's con-

struction and training. Teams of wealthy lawyers seeking to stop us from publicizing their stories. Lobby groups with unclear funding that debunk climate emergency and other science. Authoritarian regimes that disregard press freedom. Bad actors propagating online falsehoods to subvert democracy. Something powerful is on our side. We got you. The Guardian is funded by Indian readers like you, and our editor selects what we publish. This week is the 31st World Press Freedom Day, a time to reflect on free expression as the foundation of all rights. It's also a chance to assist independent media worldwide.

Jio Financial Services will hire the head of consumer banking at Standard Chartered Bank

Delhi: Kusal Roy, the head of Standard Chartered Bank's consumer banking division in India, has tendered his resignation and is anticipated to join Jio Financial Services. The news of upcoming consumer-focused initiatives that Jio Financial Services would soon offer coincides with the development. Roy is a seasoned banker who joined StanChart Bank in 2020 after heading Tata Capital. He had previously worked for Citibank and ICICI Bank.



Roy's departure was verified by StanChart in response to an email inquiry. Following the release of the company's most recent financial results on April 19,

Jio Financial Services announced a number of initiatives, which were unveiled concurrently with the announcement of Roy's resignation.

Godrej & Boyce to own Godrej land bank exclusive construction

Delhi: According to sources and regulatory filings, Jamshyd Naoroji Godrej and his sister Smita Crishna Godrej-controlled Godrej & Boyce will have exclusive construction rights over a vast land bank, including a prime 3,000-acre property in Mumbai, they received as part of the family agreement that split the Godrej empire. Deal splits the 127-year-old organization into two groups commanded by Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir and their cousins Jamshyd and Smita. The former would oversee Godrej Industries Group, which includes listed firms Godrej Industries Ltd, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd, Godrej Properties Ltd, Godrej Agroviet Ltd, and Astec Lifesciences Ltd. Jamshyd Godrej, 75, will manage Godrej



Enterprises, which includes Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co., which operates in aerospace, aviation, defense, energy, construction, IT, and software. His niece Nyrika Holkar will be executive director. Both groups will use the Godrej brand, but they have a six-year non-compete arrangement to avoid each other. According to sources and the regulatory filing, they can enter other domains after the non-compete period, but not use the Godrej name.

Sources indicated the separation was done through share transfers, not value. Adi and Nadir Godrej will sell their Godrej & Boyce shares to the other branch. Jamshyd Godrej and his family will pass GCPL and Godrej Properties to their cousins through a family agreement. A separate agreement will regulate ownership rights for thousands of millions of rupees of real estate in affluent Mumbai areas under Godrej & Boyce (G&B).

Bandhan Life hires 1,000 avatars

"Most of our partner distribution operations are tech-enabled, so once a consumer knows what they want to buy, it's quick "said"

Delhi: After acquiring Aegon Life Insurance, Bandhan Financial Holdings rebranded it Bandhan Life. The new company plans to become a multi-channel life insurance in five years as part of its expansion strategy. It will hire 1,000 people soon. After buying BCCL and Aegon Indian Holding's shareholding in February 2024, BFHL became the promoter."Our vision for

the next five years is set," stated Bandhan Life MD and CEO Satishwar B. We will grow into all important product areas to improve our offerings." He continued, "To support our technology approach, we have extensively invested in technology and data-driven operations. This combination will enable us to develop with the new Bharat." Given their size and scale, Bandhan Bank may be the largest distribution partner initially. Satishwar said it serves mass and conventional banking customers. We sell offline too, even though we're mostly on the internet. Most of our partner distribution operations are tech-enabled, so once a consumer knows what they want to buy, it's quick "said.

Currently, Australia is monitoring Indian spices

Delhi: In order to determine whether a food recall is necessary, Australia's food safety regulator is gathering data on potential contamination of spice mixes produced by Indian businesses MDH and Everest. Three MDH spice blends and one Everest mix were taken off the market in Hong Kong earlier this month. The same Everest mix was recalled by Singapore as well due to excessive quantities of ethylene oxide, which is dangerous for ingestion by humans and can cause cancer if exposed to high levels over time. "We are working with international counterparts to understand the issue and with federal, state and territory food enforcement agencies to determine if further action is required," stated Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

Children under 12 must sit with parents on flights without charge



Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered airlines to seat children under 12 with a parent or guardian. This change follows many complaints from consumers, particularly group travelers, who were seated separated from their children after opting out of extra seat selection expenses. Under the new rule, airlines must seat children under 12 with their parents or guardians on the same booking reference. The DGCA stressed the need of recording seating arrangements for compliance. "Airline shall ensure that children upto 12 years are allocated seats with at least one of their parents/guardians, who are travelling on the same PNR and a record of the same shall be maintained," a revised DGCA rule stated. Passengers can opt out of opt-in services including premium seating and meals. Airlines may automatically assign seats before departure if passengers do not pick seats during web check-in."Airline 'opt-in' unbundled services are optional. Auto seat assignment is available to passengers who have not selected a seat for web check-in before departure.



NC is unlikely to revoke J&K Pahari 10% ST quota

Delhi: National Conference insiders warned taking back the 10% ST reservation for Paharis in J&K could cause agitations that would hurt the future party-led government. The quota issue still bothers youth and non-reserved classes in J&K, where total reservation has climbed to 70%, reducing open merit space. Protesters asked that the incoming government rescind the policy, arguing that the 10% quota is disproportionate to the recipients' population. BJP won only Kalakot out of eight Poonch and Rajouri seats, while NC won four, Independents two, and Congress one. BJP wanted to expand in these areas. Before



the elections, the UT administration proposed a 10% reservation for Paharis and three additional communities in addition to the 10% ST reservation for Gujjars/Bakarwals. NC sources said quota is a delicate topic and revoking it could spark riots that would hurt the next leadership. Their biggest concern was that it would assist BJP win Muslim Poonch and Rajouri at the expense of "secular" parties. BJP was limited

to 29 MLAS. We were worried. Only Budhal in Rajouri has a Gujar majority, while the other seven seats have Paharis in large numbers "The NC functionary suggested that BJP could have won up to seven seats in Nowshera, Poonch, Mendhar, Rajouri, Thanamandi, and Surankote if Paharis voted for it in large People on social media are criticizing the BJP's blunder, saying it was duped by its thirst.

Despite PK's 'clean' guarantee, 3 of his 4 picks are 'tainted'

Delhi: Three of poll strategist Prashant Kishor's four candidates for state assembly byelections face serious criminal charges, including kidnapping, attempt to murder, extortion, theft, and assault, contradicting his claims to give only "clean image" politicians a chance. This was revealed after candidates running on Jan Suraj's new tickets filed their affidavits to the Election Commission. Jan Suraj candidates are running in

byelections in Belaganj, Imamganj, Ramgarh, and Tarari. Incredibly, 75% of the newly established party's candidates have a "tainted image," confusing political analysts. His self-attested poll affidavit filed with the EC shows that the party's Imamganj candidate, Jitendra Paswan, has been charged with kidnapping, deceit, theft, and violence. Mohammad Amjad, Belaganj contestant, disclosed criminal charges in his poll affidavit.

Tourism in Uttar Pradesh is poised for significant growth

Lucknow Tourism in Uttar Pradesh is poised for significant growth, thanks to the concerted efforts of the Yogi government. The latest projections by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) regarding India's tourism landscape provide strong indicators of this potential. The state government is strategically and proactively working to convert these promising signals into tangible outcomes. As the influx of domestic and international tourists continues to rise, it will not only boost the local economy through spending on travel, accommodation, food, and souvenirs but also contribute to the growth of local businesses. Still, it will also

generate employment across related sectors, including transportation, hospitality, homestays, and tour guiding. According to the WTTC report, India's tourism figures for 2024 have already surpassed the pre-pandemic benchmarks of 2019. The Council's forecasts for 2030 are equally encouraging. Uttar Pradesh holds a unique and unmatched position in the national tourism landscape—being home to sacred destinations like Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram; Brijbhoomi, associated with the life and teachings of Radha and Krishna; Tirthraj Prayagraj; Kashi, the eternal city of Lord Shiva; and key Buddhist sites such as Kushinagar, Sarnath, and Kapilvastu. As

national tourism grows. , Uttar Pradesh naturally benefits from this momentum, a trend reflected in official data as well. The Yogi government is fully committed to developing world-class infrastructure focused on tourist safety and convenience, especially at sites with high tourism potential. This development is being carried out in a phased and mission-mode approach. The central government is also playing a pivotal role in this transformation through various flagship schemes. WTTC estimates that 2025 could be a record-breaking year for India's tourism sector, with the potential to contribute ₹22 lakh crore to the national economy.

‘CM-YUVA’ scheme emerging as model initiative

Lucknow The Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (CM-YUVA) is no longer just a government scheme, it is fast emerging as a movement for self-employment across Uttar Pradesh. In line with the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state government is now proactively identifying educated and skilled youth and empowering them with financial support of up to ₹5 lakh to help them become self-reliant entrepreneurs. To connect

more youth with the benefits of the scheme, a dedicated campaign is being launched across all 75 districts. Special teams of officials will visit universities, engineering colleges, and other higher education institutions to identify students in their final year, as well as those who remain unemployed despite completing their studies. Once identified, eligible youth will be offered interest-free, collateral-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh to help them start their own

ventures and become job creators. According to Sarveshwar Shukla, Joint Commissioner of Industries and nodal officer of the scheme, the primary goal of the Yogi government is to empower every eligible, educated, and progressive-thinking youth by helping them launch their businesses. The vision is to transition youth from "seeking jobs" to "creating jobs." Along with financial support, technical guidance will also be provided to ensure the success of these entrepreneurial i.

Supreme Court on RG Kar case: CBI report indicates probe into role of 'others'



Delhi: The Supreme Court reviewed the CBI's progress in the rape and murder case of a doctor in Kolkata. It instructed the CBI to submit a further status report within three weeks. The court also criticized the West Bengal government for delays in installing CCTVs and other security measures in medical colleges. Supreme Court on Tuesday, during a hearing on the suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, stated that the fifth status report of the probe filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) indicates agency's probe into the role of "others" in the case. Taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed on October 7 against accused Sanjay Roy and a Seal dah court,

the court directed the CBI to file further status report on probe in the case within three weeks. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of the CBI, had submitted the latest status report to the bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The court also stated that the National Task Force meetings should be held periodically and directed it to formulate recommendations on safety of Kolkata doctors within three weeks. On September 30, the Supreme Court expressed dissatisfaction regarding the slow progress made by the West Bengal government in installing CCTVs and constructing toilets and separate resting rooms in government medical colleges.

GGM forbids the use of firecrackers; only "green" ones are permitted

Delhi: According to officials, the Chief Minister's Flying Squad raided two godowns in Gurgaon's Daboda that were holding non-green firecrackers. Three people were taken into custody after two warehouses with almost three tonnes of non-green crackers were found. In an effort to reduce pollution, the Gurgaon Deputy Commissioner banned the sale and usage of firecrackers prior to the festival season. DC Green firecrackers would only be permitted on specified occasions throughout a specific time period, according to Nishant Kumar Yadav. Inspector Dharamvir Singh of the Gurgaon Police has stated that two males are the subject of formal complaints under Section 9B of the Explosive Act 1884 and IPC section 188. Additionally, samples



Safety upgrades included electronic interlocking at 3,576 stations

Delhi: The 2024-25 Economic Survey delivered to Parliament found that India still struggles with infrastructure development despite government efforts. The union government's capital investment on major infrastructure sectors grew 38.8% from FY20 to FY24, although private sector participation in core areas remained low, according to the survey. "India needs a continued step-up of infrastructure investment over the next two decades to sustain a high rate of growth," the research says. The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) program has met its FY22-24 objective of 4.30 lakh crore with transactions totaling 3.86 lakh crore. In Q1 FY25, average monthly capital spending dropped to 0.60 lakh crore from 0.66 lakh crore in July-November 2024. Railway network expansion remained constant at 2,000 kilometers, with 17 Vande Bharat train pairs and 228 carriages added. Safety upgrades included electronic interlocking at 3,576 stations, 227 added in FY25, and automatic block signalling across 720 route km. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project completed 47.17% with ₹67,486 crore spent, and 96.4% of 2,843 km of Dedicated Freight Corridors commissioned by November 2024. By 2036, housing demand will reach 93 million. Indian real estate transparency ranks 31st, while residential sales are at an 11-year high across different metropolitan tiers. PMAY-U 2.0 approved 600,000 dwellings in FY25, and 118 million since 2015, 89 million of which are finished. Metro rail networks extended by 62.7 km to 1,010 kilometres nationally, with 980 kilometres under construction. The Smart Cities Mission has completed 7,479 projects worth ₹1.50 lakh crore out of 8,058 scheduled projects. In April-December FY25, highway building fell to 5,853 km from 6,215 in FY24. High-speed corridors climbed from 93 kilometers in 2014 to 2,474 in 2024, while 4-lane and above National Highways increased from 18,300 to 45,900. Between FY24 and FY25 (April-November), port capacity increased from 3 million tonnes to 21 million tonnes, reducing container turnaround time from 48.1 to 30.4 hours. Installed power sector capacity rose 7.2% to 456.7 gigawatts, adding 15,008 MW between April and November. Transformation capacity rose from 32,961 to 38,805 MVA. Transmission line additions fell to 5,117 kilometers from 7,844 km due to monsoons. Renewable energy capacity rose to 209.4 gigawatts from 180.8 gigawatts in December 2023, accounting for 47% of installed capacity. Jal Jeevan Mission covered 100% of piped drinking water in eight states and three union territories by. From 32.3 million (17%) in August 2019 to 153 million.

Mumbai Cars Enter Without Toll

Delhi **Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde declared that cars entering Mumbai will no longer pay tolls. The opposition immediately denounced the toll waiver as an election sop that would worsen traffic in India's financial capital, effective midnight today. According to Eknath Shinde, all light motor vehicles entering Mumbai at the five toll booths will be toll-free.



The state government cabinet meeting in Mumbai announced the measure weeks before the Maharashtra election. This will cut traffic, pollution, and commuter time. The decision is historic "Mr.

Shinde told reporters. CM Ekanth Shinde states "The toll plaza at Mumbai's entry point used to delay traffic. People have demanded this for years. I'm also pleased that lakhs of light motor vehicles have been released during my term as CM. Maharashtra minister Dadaji Dagadu Bhuse said light cars could enter freely from 2002-commissioned tolls at Dahisar, Anand Nagar, Vaishali, Airoli.

Govt. sets benchmark, completes 76 bridge projects

Lucknow With a strong commitment to transforming Uttar Pradesh into a state with world-class connectivity, the Yogi government is setting unprecedented benchmarks for development. Reflecting the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, an impressive 76 bridge projects were completed within a single financial year—2024-25—by the Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation Limited

under the Public Works Department. These projects were executed with uncompromising quality standards and include 43 river bridges, 28 Road Over Bridges (ROBs), and 5 flyovers—marking a record achievement in infrastructure development. Beyond this year's achievements, CM Yogi's tenure has been marked by continued infrastructure progress. Over the last eight years, a total of 471 bridge.

Fortified rice plan for marine heritage complex approved by cabinet

"The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) fortified rice scheme will cost 17,082 crore"

Delhi: The Union cabinet approved extending the free fortified rice policy from July 2024 to December 2028, building the National



Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat, and building 2,280km of highways in Rajasthan and Punjab border districts. After the meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, Union minister for information and broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw briefed reporters that the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) fortified rice scheme will cost 17,082

crore. The initiative will remain a central sector scheme, completely sponsored by the Indian government under PMGKAY's food subsidy program, Vaishnaw said. The extension supports the government's Anaemia Mukh Bharat campaign to tackle anaemia and nutritional deficiencies in India. Fortified rice will be distributed through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated. Child Development Service.