



Inspiration: Late. Dr. L.C. Wallia



## Not going to kill him ... for now,' Trump threatens Khamenei, demands Iran's unconditional surrender

Vatika Times  
NEW DELHI:

The long-simmering tensions between Israel and Iran have exploded into open warfare since Friday, June 13, 2025, marking an unprecedented period of direct military confrontation. Israel initiated a major campaign of fighter jet and drone strikes across Iran, targeting nuclear and military sites, including surface-to-surface missile production facilities, detection radar sites, and surface-to-air missile launchers. Reports indicate strikes on residential areas and fuel depots, with Iran's health ministry reporting at least 224 fatalities and over 1,200 injuries, mostly civilians. Israeli forces have also reportedly killed several top Iranian military commanders and atomic scientists. The IDF claims to have destroyed one-third of Iran's surface-to-sur-



face missile launchers and achieved "full air superiority" over Tehran," also striking an Iranian refueling aircraft 2,300 km away. In retaliation, Tehran has launched barrages of missiles and drones, hitting Israeli cities and towns, causing at least 24 deaths and 592 injuries, with a major oil refinery in Haifa among the targets. The IDF confirmed intercepting over 100 Iranian UAVs. The international community, including China, Turkey, and G7 leaders, has urgently

called for de-escalation, but both sides remain defiant. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asserts the offensive aims to thwart "existential" nuclear and missile threats and has not ruled out targeting Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, suggesting it would "end the conflict." The UN's IAEA reported physical damage to an above-ground component of Iran's Natanz uranium enrichment facility but normal external radiation levels, while warn-

ing of potential internal contamination. Amidst the crisis, planned nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington were called off. Sirens blared across parts of southern Israel as the military reported incoming missile threats from Iran, including in Dimona — the site of Israel's nuclear facility. The alerts come after multiple missile barrages earlier in the day, marking the fifth consecutive day of crossfire between Iran and Israel.

## DGCA: No major safety concerns found in Air India's Boeing 787 fleet after enhanced checks

Vatika Times  
NEW DELHI:

India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has completed a focused review of Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet, amid rising concerns over recurring technical issues and increasing international flight volumes post Ahmedabad crash. In a meeting held with key executives from Air India and Air India Express, the DGCA reviewed the operational robustness of the carriers, with particular attention to the Boeing 787 aircraft, which form the backbone of Air India's long-haul network. 2 Air India Flights Cancelled, One Mumbai-Bound Plane Grounded In Kolkata Over Engine Snag While recent weeks have seen a spate of long-haul cancellations and flight dis-



ruptions, many involving the Dreamliner, the DGCA clarified that enhanced surveillance checks conducted on the 787 fleet revealed no major safety concerns. "A total of 24 Boeing 787 aircraft underwent required safety inspections. All were found compliant with existing aviation safety standards," the regulator said in a statement. However, the DGCA flagged maintenance-

related issues, particularly around the availability of spare parts and internal coordination between engineering, ground handling, and operations teams. The regulator advised Air India to strengthen these areas to minimise flight delays and improve reliability. Despite confirming the fleet's airworthiness, the DGCA's review underscores the growing pressure on Air India to scale

up international operations without compromising operational consistency. The Boeing 787 Dreamliner is central to Air India's global ambitions, operating on key routes to Europe, North America, and Southeast Asia. As flight volumes surge post-Covid, ensuring the aircraft remain operationally sound is critical to the airline's turnaround strategy under the Tata Group.

## Raja Raghuvanshi's father claims Sonam believed in 'tantra-mantra', used black magic on husband

Vatika Times

INDORE: The father of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi, who was murdered during his honeymoon in Meghalaya alleged that his son's wife Sonam — the prime accused in the case — believed in "tantra-mantra" (black magic) and may have used it on Raja. Sonam (25), spouse of Raja, along with her suspected paramour Raj Kushwah (20) and three associates of Kushwah, were taken into custody for their suspected role in the killing. Raja disappeared on May 23 while on his honeymoon trip to Meghalaya, and his remains were discovered on June 2 in a steep ravine adjacent to a waterfall in Sohra (alternatively called Cherrapunji) situated in East Khasi Hills district. After the thirteenth day rituals at Raja Raghuvanshi's house in Indore, his father Ashok Raghuvanshi said, "On Sonam's behest, Raja hung a bundle-like thing on the main door of our house. Sonam had told Raja that by hanging it, the household will not be affected by any evil eye." "After Raja's murder, I feel Sonam believes in tantra mantra and she used it on my son. After the murder, this bundle was removed from the house. Those guilty of killing my son should be hanged," the distraught father said. Raja Raghuvanshi's mother, Uma, said both her son and Sonam "mangliks" (having Mars in their horoscopes), and their marriage was solemnised in a traditional ceremony at a "muhurat"(auspicious time) recommended by an astrologer from the bride's side. "Sonam stayed at our house for only four days after marriage and went to her maternal home as per tradition. We happily sent her off to her maternal home. If I ever meet her, the only thing I will ask is why did she get my son killed," Uma said. The couple tied the knot on May 11 and departed for their honeymoon to Meghalaya on May 20.

## Ahmedabad plane crash: Man collects 70 tolas of gold, cash

Vatika Times  
GANDHINAGAR:

When news broke of a plane crash at B J Medical College, 56-year-old construction businessman Raju Patel did not hesitate. Just minutes away, Patel rushed to the site with his associates and arrived within five minutes of the crash. What he witnessed was chaos: thick smoke, rising flames, and cries for help. Amid the fire and devastation, He helped move the injured and later took



on the task of sifting through the wreckage for gold jewellery, cash, and documents which he later handed over to the investigating authorities. Moment Air India Flight PLUNGES,

BURSTS Into Fireball; Ahmedabad Sky Turns Black "For the first 15 to 20 minutes, we could barely get close. The fire was too intense. But once the first fire brigade arrived, fol-

lowed by 108 ambulances, we jumped in to help," the 56-year-old recalled. With no stretchers in sight, they used sarees and bedsheets to carry the injured to ambulances. With immediate rescue work almost completed by about 4pm, Patel and his team turned to another critical task. They began sifting through the burnt bags strewn all over the place. "We found 70 tolas of gold jewellery in boxes apart from bangles.

## Air India plane crash: DNA match confirmed for 162 victims, 120 bodies handed over

Vatika Times  
NEW DELHI:

Authorities have confirmed that DNA samples of 162 victims from the tragic Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad have matched with their family members, and the mortal remains of 120 have been handed over, officials said Tuesday. Earlier on Monday, Gujarat minister Harsh Sanghavi had announced that DNA of 125 victims had



been successfully matched and families of 124 deceased had been contacted. He visited the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Gandhinagar, where the identification process is underway. The London-bound Boeing 787-8

Dreamliner crashed into a hostel complex minutes after taking off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on June 12, killing 241 passengers and crew, including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

## Bold move! Shastri snubs Kuldeep Yadav, makes big call on Shubman Gill's batting

Vatika Times  
NEW DELHI

Ravi Shastri has dropped his playing XI for the first game of the India-England Test series (Image via X/@BCCI & RCBTweets) Former India Head Coach Ravi Shastri has revealed his preferred playing XI for India's upcoming first Test match against England at Headingley, starting June 20. The series marks new captain Shubman Gill's first assignment following the Test retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, as India faces the world's second-ranked team in challenging conditions during the new World Test Championship cycle. For the opening combination, Shastri advocates for Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul to take the crease. He empha-



sized Rahul's experience and previous success in England as crucial factors. "It would be Jaiswal, and with him will be KL Rahul, because I think this is a big tour for him. He's the most experienced of the batsmen," Shastri stated. "He opened last time when India toured England, got a hundred, and had a good tour. So I would hope for him to open the innings." Shastri recommended young Sai Sudarshan for the number three position, citing his

impressive performances. "Three, I'll go with the youngster, Sai Sudarshan. Whatever I've seen of him, he's very impressive. This will be good exposure for him, this tour," he explained. The newly appointed Test captain Shubman Gill, who has played 32 matches in his red-ball international career, will bat at number four in Shastri's lineup. Kuldeep Yadav hints at spin-friendly wicket ahead of England Test series. For the crucial middle-order positions,

the former India coach backed Karun Nair at number five and Rishabh Pant at six. He particularly praised Nair's recent performances and determination to return to the national team. "In all probability, depending on what current form is, it'll be Karun Nair. He bats at five, it's a long time since he played for India. Six will be Pant," said the 63-year-old. He further elaborated on Nair's selection, saying, "I think he has worked really hard. He's just worked his way back into the side. The number of runs he's got in first-last cricket is incredible. And I met him during an IPL game. I said, 'don't just bang the door. Just kick it down and make your way in and walk into that side'. And I think he's done just that.

Tamil Nadu: Daily-wagers' girl dwarfs the odds, engineers path to IIT-Bombay

Vatika Times  
VIRUDHUNAGAR:

A few years ago, S Yogeshwari of Tamil Nadu had no idea what aerospace engineering was. Today, she is set to join IIT-Bombay to study aerospace engineering. For a rural Virudhunagar girl suffering from dwarfism, it's been a journey powered by hard work and perseverance, and a helping hand from her teachers and the government. Yogeshwari's mother, Kanagavalli, works as a daily wage labourer in a fireworks unit, while her father, Selvam, is employed at a tea shop. She did her class XII from a government school near Sattur. "I was drawn to science from class VII, initially leaning towards medical science. In class XII, I discovered aerospace engineering through programmes like the Naan Mudhalvan.

## India's first bullet train project gets a boost! Siemens consortium bags



Vatika Times

Tehran : India's first bullet train project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai is on track despite several delays. A Siemens consortium has now been awarded the contract for signalling and telecom systems on the high-speed rail corridor by National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited. The consortium comprising Dineshchandra R Agrawal (DRA) Infracon Private Limited, Siemens Limited and Siemens Mobility GmbH has secured the contract for implementing advanced signalling and telecommunication systems for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad

bullet train initiative. Modi Cabinet Clears Rs 6,405 Crore Railway Projects In Jharkhand, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh Siemens will deploy European Train Control System (ETCS) Level 2-based signalling and train control systems under the contract. These systems support train speeds up to 350 km/h, provide real-time monitoring, ensure continuous wireless connectivity and offer centralised traffic control capabilities. The ETCS Level 2 signalling standard has been successfully implemented across more than 50 nations worldwide.



Editorial

Chirag enters poll fray

Ritu Walia

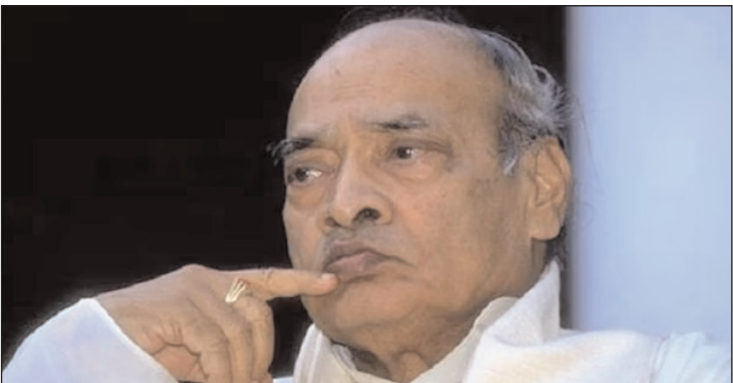
Why would a Union Cabinet minister contest an Assembly election in which his party is a marginal player and the chief ministerial chair is seemingly out of bounds? Many in Bihar political circles are looking for an answer after food processing industries minister Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) declared on Sunday that he would contest the upcoming Assembly election. It's not casual political bravado, for sure. Look at the way he bounced back from a hopeless political situation after the death of his father, Ram Vilas Paswan, and desertion by his uncle and other party MPs. The 42-year-old leader has a wise head on young shoulders. So, what is he up to? He was evasive when I asked him a couple of weeks back about the speculation around him contesting the Assembly poll. His party colleagues were thinking that it would bolster the party's prospects, he said. Plausible but not very convincing. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is crowded in Bihar. Given that the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (United) are likely to contest around a hundred seats each, barely 35-40 remaining seats in the 243-member Assembly would be available for the other NDA constituents. This includes Paswan's LJP, Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha. Paswan would, of course, get a lion's share of these remaining seats, but that's still not big enough for him to harbour large ambitions and enter the poll fray. The LJP has said that Paswan will contest from a general, not a reserved seat. He is looking to expand his party's support base beyond the six per cent Paswan votebank. But there is more to it than meets the eye. One must go back 20 years to understand why Nitish Kumar would be wary of Paswan's moves in Bihar. In the February 2005 Assembly elections, Ram Vilas Paswan ended the Lalu Yadav family's 15-year rule. Three constituents of then ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) contested separately—the LJP, the Congress and Lalu Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal. Paswan senior fielded candidates against the RJD, but not against the Congress. The RJD emerged as the single largest party with 75 seats, the LJP with 29 seats, and the Congress with 10. If they came together, Lalu-Rabri's 15-year reign could have continued with the support of smaller parties. The NDA secured 92 seats. With 122 being the majority mark, Ram Vilas Paswan emerged as the kingmaker. He declared that he would join hands "neither with the communal BJP nor with the corrupt and casteist RJD". He said he would support a Muslim chief minister. He knew Lalu wouldn't agree. Ram Vilas forced a fresh election that brought Nitish Kumar as the CM, ending Lalu Yadav's reign. Cut to 2020. Declaring himself as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hanuman, Chirag Paswan went after Nitish Kumar in the Assembly election, fielding candidates in constituencies where the JD(U) was contesting. Paswan didn't field candidates against the BJP, just as his father had stayed away from constituencies contested by the Congress 20 years ago. His party won only one seat in 2020 but was instrumental in the defeat of the JD(U) candidates in three dozen seats. Nitish Kumar was smarting as the JD(U) ended up with a mere 43 seats and the BJP emerged as the big brother with 74 seats. Nitish managed to become the CM, though. Now, in 2025, Prime Minister Modi's self-proclaimed Hanuman is in his Cabinet at the Centre. Paswan and Kumar are both part of the NDA.



Narasimha Rao was a Batman of Indian politics, Bharat urgently needed to acknowledge

Suman Singh

Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, in a true sense of the word, was a Batman of Indian politics. He became Prime Minister at a time when India's chips were badly down. In 1991, the country had to pledge its gold to pull the economy from the brink. He reoriented India's pro-Soviet Union foreign policy to bring it closer to the Western order. He reached out to Israel without leaving the Palestinian cause — an axis on which the Indian foreign policy still revolves around. And all this he delivered with a minority government. Still, Narasimha Rao remains largely forgotten and uncredited — Batman-like. Sanjaya Baru, in his book 1991: How PV Narasimha Rao Made History, emphasised at this phenomenon, with a tinge of sadness, when he recalled how "at an interaction with students at a university near Delhi, in the winter of 2015", he asked the audience "what the year 1991 meant to them". One student readily stood up to say he was born that year — and the entire audience burst into laughter. When Baru insisted on thinking more, there was silence. PV Narasimha Rao, Charan Singh, MS Swaminathan: Why they deserve Bharat Ratna Later, the same year, Baru addressed "a meeting of the



Hyderabad Management Association" and he repeated the same question. Many were quick to reply this time: The government that year had "introduced new economic policies that opened up the Indian economy", Baru was told. And who was responsible for this? "Manmohan Singh," pat came the reply! Some even credited P Chidambaram and Kamal Nath! Later, in an interaction with this author, Baru expressed his surprise at the height of Indian ignorance: "No one mentioned PV Narasimha Rao. Ironically, this incident took place in Hyderabad, which was Rao's own city." When I asked Baru why Rao had been forgotten, he cited two reasons. "One, he faced several corruption cases, especially towards the fag end of his rule. But most importantly, the Congress decided to erase the memory of Narasimha Rao, to make the point that no person from outside the family can ever be

a successful PM. After all, what did Rao prove? He proved that someone doesn't need to be related to the Nehru-Gandhi family to be a successful prime minister. By becoming the first PM outside the family to run the country for a full term, he effectively challenged this notion." It's ironic to see the Congress disowning one of its own prime ministers, especially the one "whose impact on the nation's fortune went way beyond the economy", as Baru wrote in 1991. But then it was an obvious outcome for a non-Gandhi leader in the Congress. It had happened in the past with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and it took place after Narasimha Rao, as was the case with Pranab Mukherjee. Anyone seen to be eclipsing the halo of the Gandhi-Nehru family was systematically targeted to be pushed to the footnotes of the party's — and by extension, the nation's — history. This explains Sonia Gandhi's hostility for Rao, to the extent

that the former Prime Minister was denied a well-deserved memorial in Delhi, even when lesser worthies could find space in the national capital. Author Vinay Sitapati, in Half Lion: How PV Narasimha Rao Transformed India, gives a graphic detail on how the late Prime Minister was denied a rightful place and space in Delhi after his death. "The home minister, Shivraj Patil, suggested to Rao's youngest son, Prabhakara, that 'the body should be cremated in Hyderabad'. But the family preferred Delhi. After all, Rao had last been chief minister of Andhra Pradesh more than thirty years ago, and had since worked as Congress general secretary, Union minister, and finally prime minister — all in Delhi. On hearing this, the usually decorous Shivraj Patil snapped, 'No one will come'," Sitapati writes. Thereafter, Ghulam Nabi Azad and YS Rajasekhara Reddy reached out to Rao's family — Reddy, being the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, promised a grand memorial for Rao in Hyderabad! Later in the day, prime minister Manmohan Singh entered the room and asked Prabhakara: "What do you want to do with the body?" To this, Rao's son replied, "These people say it should be in Hyderabad... This (Delhi) is his karmabhoomi. You should convince your colleagues."

Manmohan nodded. Sonia Gandhi was standing near, but mostly kept quiet. When Sanjaya Baru arrived, Ahmed Patel sought his intervention. Baru's bureaucrat father knew Rao from the 1960s — and he was close to the family. "Sonia's political secretary tapped him on the shoulder. 'You know the family,' Patel said. 'The body should be taken to Hyderabad. Can you convince them?'" Sitapati quotes Prabhakara as saying, "We sensed even then that Sonia-ji did not want Father's funeral in Delhi. She did not want a memorial (in Delhi)... She did not want him (to be seen) as an all-India leader." The next morning, when Rao's body, draped in the national flag, was being taken to the airport, it was planned to stop at 24 Akbar Road, the Congress headquarters. "As the body approached 24 Akbar Road, located adjacent to Sonia Gandhi's residence, the funeral procession slowed. The entrance gate to the compound looked firmly shut. There were several senior Congressmen present, but hardly any cadres had been rustled up. No slogans filled the air, just deathly silence. The carriage stopped on the pavement outside, as Sonia Gandhi and others came out to pay their respects." "It was customary for the bodies of past Congress presidents to be taken inside the party headquarters.

Why India's \$100 bn proposed trade deal with Europe is different

Ramit Yadav

In the pursuit of economic growth, the Maldives seems to have missed a crucial lesson: relying solely on a handful of major players isn't a sustainable strategy. The key to sustainable growth lies in opening up to broader economic participation. India is a case in point India stands on the brink of sealing a significant trade deal that could have far-reaching implications. Negotiations with Europe are nearing completion, with the potential for India to attract a staggering \$100 billion in investment. This proposed agreement with Europe is noteworthy for several reasons. Unlike conventional trade deals focused on tariff reduction, India is poised to open up its markets in

exchange for substantial investment, a move that could inject significant capital into its economy over the next 15 years. The pact, unlike typical free trade agreements, comes with binding investment guarantees, a rare feature that could set a precedent for future trade negotiations. The investment is slated to originate from a special bloc of European nations known as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. While negotiations involve this bloc rather than the entire European Union, the agreement could serve as a model for broader regional trade engagements. The potential investments are earmarked for both new and existing

manufacturing projects, promising to create over a million jobs and bolster India's industrial landscape. Beyond the economic windfall, the deal offers additional perks for India, including enhanced visa provisions for Indian professionals seeking access to the EFTA countries. In return, the EFTA nations seek expanded market access for their goods in India, spanning processed foods, beverages, electrical machinery, engineering products, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. While the deal holds immense promise, its fruition has been a long time coming, with negotiations spanning back to 2008. However, recent reports indicate that key issues have been resolved, paving the way for a potential agreement.

Anchored in Shivaji's spirit, India's naval operations get a desi touch in international waters

Radhika Singh

By carrying out back-to-back rescue operations in the past month, the Indian Navy has emerged as the bright spot in the otherwise unstable waters of the Red Sea. The Israel-Hamas war has not only thrown the Middle East into a flux but its effects are now also spilling over to South Asia and the wider expanse of the Indian Ocean Region. The worsening security concerns in the Red Sea due to constant attacks from the Yemen-based Houthis on cargo ships have further been exacerbated with Somali pirates also targeting the ships passing through this region. As the security situation in the Red Sea and also in the Arabian Sea has deteriorated, the Indian Navy has now emerged as the net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Navy has always been exemplary in its duty and in particular, has always been proactive in benign causes like Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. However, with the spill-over effects of the war in the Middle East threatening the security of the Indian Ocean Region, India is asserting its position as the resident power and as the primary stakeholder in the security architecture of the



region. India's rescue operations and in particular the role of the Indian Navy not only correspond to the existing global order. The current security concerns may have pronounced the role of the Indian Navy. But there is also a strong civilisational undertone to India's naval operations. This undertone could be considered from decolonisation and indigenisation perspectives. The decolonisation narrative has been a major issue in the Indian political discourse for a long time. However, in the past few months, there has been a tangible and accelerated effort towards decolonisation and indigenisation across different spheres. Some important steps in this direction include the use of the name Bharat instead of India. This was the highlight when India hosted the G20 Summit in September as the placard in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi displayed the name Bharat. Besides,

three criminal justice laws, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, the Bharatiya Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act, recently passed by the Indian parliament also seek to replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. The recent consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is projected as one of the most prominent steps towards decolonisation. Also, the scope of the decolonisation narrative has now expanded. For decades, only the 200-year British rule in India was earmarked as the colonial period in the collective memory of the Indian people. Now the 200-year period is being replaced by a period of about 1,000 years which includes the Islamic invasions in India. This indigenisation process which is becoming visible in the political, legal and cultural domains is gradually gaining emphasis in the security domain as well. Just as the decolonisation debate had been restricted to British rule, the same principle was evident in Indian strategic thought as well for a long time. As one of the relics of British rule, the continental mindset had remained a norm in Indian strategic thought.

Haldwani to Bareilly, seven decades of pseudo secularism has come home to roost

Abhinav

Haldwani, a small but bustling town in Uttarakhand, is the gateway to the Himalayas and ascent to tourist spots like Nainital and Bhimtal. Today, it is a far more dramatic dot on Bharat's map. On February 9, the town with an 18.55 percent Muslim population erupted with violence which left two dead and 250 injured. Islamist mobs attacked a demolition squad with accompanying cops and mediapersons when it went to demolish an illegally built mosque and madrasa. The mob hurled petrol bombs and stones, nearly set policemen on

fire, and used women and children as human shields. Uniform Civil Code Bill tabled in Uttarakhand Assembly: How was the draft prepared? Drone shots later revealed that the violence was unprovoked and planned. Images showed heaps of stones stored on rooftops. The very next day, 100 km away in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly, another Islamist mob attacked the police with stones after Muslim cleric Tauqeer Raza was detained for giving a 'jail bharo' over the Gyanvapi mosque issue. Raza did not forget to mention the Haldwani mosque demolition as ghee on

fire. Earlier in the week, a mob surrounded a police station in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh after a dispute between a tailor, his customer, and a cleric who intervened. A man in the crowd, Akram Khan, took a loudspeaker and threatened violence. The Left-Islamist ecosystem has been shaken by the Pran Prathistha at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. The legal challenge to the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, built after demolishing a part of Kashi Viswanath temple, has created further flutter. The mood of the nation after the Ram temple opening and a fast-

crumbling Opposition alliance point to another election victory for Narendra Modi. One takes to the streets, of course, and with wanton violence, tries to overturn court orders or people's verdict. For seven decades since Independence, a perverted secularism actively supported by political parties have signalled to Muslims that they should never peacefully coexist with the majority, must always be in victimhood mode, and heed the law of the land only if it suits them. The community has been told that its power lies in existing as an impoverished .



# India’s largest automobile in-plant rail- way siding at Maruti Suzuki’s Manesar facility starts operation

**Vatika Times GURUGRAM :** Hon’ble Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and Hon’ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini, today inaugurated India’s largest automobile in-plant railway siding at Maruti Suzuki India Limited’s (“MSIL”) Manesar facility. The Manesar railway siding, registered under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, has been developed as part of the 126 Km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC) running from Sonipat to Palwal in the state of Haryana. The project has been executed by a joint venture company called Haryana Orbital Rail Corporation Ltd (HORCL).

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO,



Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, “We are very happy that India’s largest automobile in-plant railway siding is inaugurated today at Maruti Suzuki’s Manesar facility. We are deeply grateful to the visionary leadership of the Hon’ble Union Minister for Railways and the Government of India’s focused implementation of seamless multi-modal connectivity promoting green logistics. Aligned to the PM’s GatiShakti National Master Plan,

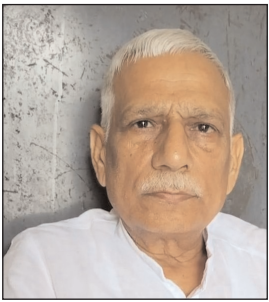
the company’s second in-plant railway siding facility signifies a landmark achievement in its green logistics journey. We are also highly thankful to Government of Haryana and Hon’ble Chief Minister for their timely support and guidance on this project.” He added, “The project underscores our strong commitment to India’s Net Zero emissions target 2070. It will contribute to avoiding 175,000 tonne\* of CO2e emissions, sav-

ing 60 million litre of fuel annually at full capacity, and reducing road congestion. Lowering carbon emissions remains a top priority at Maruti Suzuki and we aim to achieve this, by increasing the share of vehicle dispatches through railways to 35% by FY 2030-31.” Under the joint venture, MSIL has committed to invest INR 3,250 million (325 crore) in developing HORC. Additionally, MSIL has invested about INR 1,270 million (127

crore) towards internal yard development. Overall, MSIL’s total investment is about INR 4,520 million (452 crore). Spread over 46 acres inside the MSIL Manesar facility, the railway siding features a fully electrified corridor having 4 full length tracks for rakes and 1 track for engine escape, totaling to 8.2 kms of track length. The siding also includes a two-floor station building, dedicated pathway for guards and drivers along the tracks, advanced electronic train interlocking and more. Models manufactured at MSIL’s Gurugram and Manesar facilities will be dispatched to 17 hubs from this railway siding serving 380 cities across India. Port locations of Mundra and Pipavav, used by the Company for exports, will also be served. The railway siding will have a dispatch capability of 450,000 vehicles at full capacity.

## Subhash Chand Ramgarh Road Elected Director of The Kurukshetra Central Cooperative Bank

**Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra:** Subhash Chand from Ramgarh Road has been elected as the Director of Zone No. 5 of The Kurukshetra Central Cooperative Bank. He secured victory by defeating his opponent with a margin of four votes, receiving a total of eight votes. His win has sparked a wave of celebration among his supporters. Expressing gratitude towards all voters of Zone No.5, Subhash Chand assured them that he would fulfill the responsibilities entrusted



to him with utmost honesty. He emphasized his commitment to working in the interest of both the bank and the farming community. His primary objective is to develop and implement farmer-friendly schemes through the bank to directly benefit the agricultural sector.

Pehowa MLA Mandeep Chatha congratulated Subhash Chand on his victory, praising him as a grassroots leader who is not only a farmer himself but also a dedicated social worker. Chatha added that Subhash Chand has always prioritized the welfare of farmers and the underprivileged. It is worth mentioning that Subhash Chand Ramgarh Road has previously served as the Chairman of the Kurukshetra Central Cooperative Bank. During his tenure, his work was widely appre-

ciated. He collaborated with fellow directors to develop numerous schemes for farmers' welfare. He also worked extensively for the employees, addressing their demands and ensuring their concerns were resolved alongside the bank's progress. With his re-election as Director, both employees and farmers have expressed joy and hope, believing that Subhash Chand will continue to safeguard their interests and bring positive changes to the cooperative banking system.

## Cash-strapped Punjab raises fuel prices, partially cuts power subsidies

**Delhi :** The Punjab cabinet raised petrol and diesel prices by 61 and 92 paise per liter and ended the subsidy for household consumers with up to 7KW loads. A council of ministers meeting chaired by chief minister Bhagwant Mann in Chandigarh made the choices as part of the government’s approach to handle state finances. State employee pay and pensions for August were delayed four days. During the March budget, finance minister Harpal Cheema predicted Punjab’s

debt to reach ₹3.74 lakh crore by 2024-25, accounting for about 46% of the state's GDP of over ₹8 lakh crore. Punjab requested a rescue package of ₹1.32 lakh crore from the 16th Finance Commission in July to address its financial crisis and promote growth. Freebies are blamed for draining the AAP's coffers. The government is raising petrol and diesel VAT. The cabinet also repealed the Charanjit Singh Channi-led Congress power subsidy scheme from 2021 and raised.

## Structured and Disciplined Yoga Practice Essential for a Healthy Body: Kanwaljeet

**Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra:** Zila Parishad Chairperson Kanwaljeet Kaur stated that a structured and systematic approach to yoga, known as the Yoga Protocol, is essential for maintaining a healthy body. The Yoga Protocol involves a combination of yoga postures (asanas), breathing exercises (pranayama), meditation, and relaxation techniques designed to promote physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Kanwaljeet Kaur was speaking as the chief guest at a Yoga Protocol event held on Tuesday at



the Meditation Hall near Brahma Sarovar. The event was presided over by District Program Officer Baljeet Kaur. Women and Child Development Project Officers, supervisors, Anganwadi workers, and helpers also participated

in the event. A total of 780 participants attended the program, where yoga training was provided by the AYUSH Department. Various health-focused yoga exercises were conducted during the session. The District

Program Officer honored Anganwadi workers and helpers to encourage and appreciate their efforts. The AYUSH Department also honored District Program Officer Baljeet Kaur with a plant as a token of respect and welcome. Kanwaljeet Kaur also shared that a grand celebration of International Yoga Day will take place in Kurukshetra on June 21, where one lakh people are expected to participate in a mass yoga session. She urged city residents to join the program with their families and contribute to its success.

## NEET UG 2025: Narnaul’s Paras Yadav secured Secures AIR 381; 26 Other Students from Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) Among Top Achievers



**Vatika Times Narnaul :** Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces that 27 of its students from Narnaul 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 from Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), Narnaul Branch, have shown exceptional per-

formance in NEET UG 2025. Paras Yadav secured AIR 381, followed by Gopesh Sharma (AIR 872), Muskan Garg (AIR 1457), Deepesh (AIR 2402), Deepanshu (AIR 2459), Karan (AIR 3221), Kunal Sanghi (AIR 4365), and Anjali (AIR 5265), reflecting the branch's strong academic support and student dedication. 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 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. Surender 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.

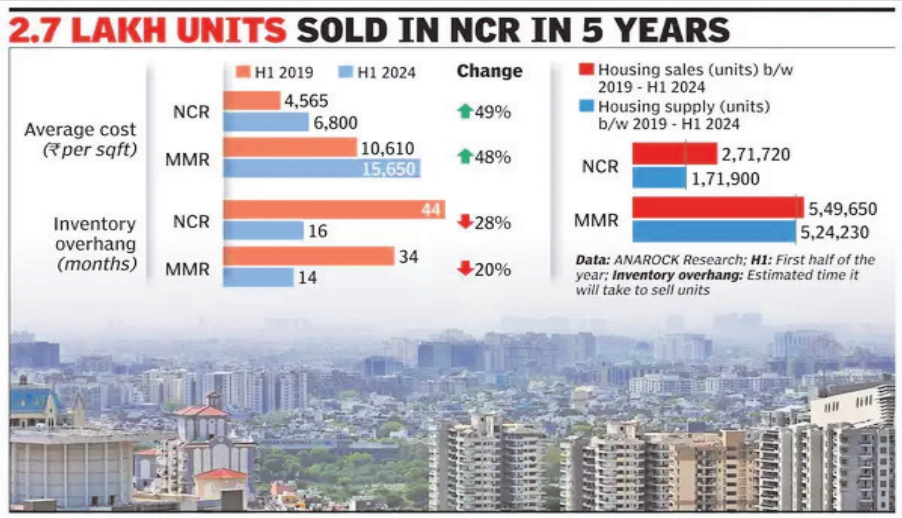
## Grand Yoga and Rajyoga Meditation Program Held at Brahma Kumaris on International Yoga Day



**Jasbir Singh Duggal Shahabad Markanda:** On the occasion of International Yoga Day, a grand Yoga and Rajyoga meditation program was organized by the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya. Hundreds of devotees, students, and residents from the city participated in the event. Embracing this year’s theme, “Yoga: Harmony of Body, Mind, and Soul,” the participants engaged in physical yoga practice as well as deeply immersive Rajyoga meditation. The program commenced with a lamp-lighting ceremony and a welcome address by senior Rajyoga teacher, Rajyogini Sister Neeti. She highlighted the spiritual essence of yoga, stating that yoga is not merely a method for physical wellness, but a sacred experience of connection between the soul and the Supreme Soul. Through Rajyoga, one attains inner strength, peace, and a positive outlook on life. Participants in this special event were guided through simple Rajyoga meditation techniques, practices for positive thinking, and the significance of yoga in daily life. The event featured live yoga demonstrations, inspiring videos, and a pictorial exhibition that deeply moved the attendees. Notable attendees and active participants included Jagdish Sabharwal, Surender Arora, Pawan Poorti, Sister Sushma, Sister Sheela, Sister Rajni, Ram, Sister Rachna, Sister Gayatri, and other devoted individuals. The program concluded with collective peace resolutions, a meditation connection with the Supreme Soul, and divine thoughts focused on the welfare of the world.

# NCR housing rates up 49% in 5 years, unsold inventory down 50%

Delhi: Anarock, real estate consultants, report a 49% increase in average home prices in the NCR over the past five years. This sharp increase is due to rising building costs and robust sales, according to the research. "The five-yearly jump in average residential prices between H1 2019 and H1 2024 from Rs 4,565 per sq ft to Rs 6,800 per sq ft is a clear indicator of the market's strength," stated Anuj Puri, Anarock Group CEO. The survey also indicated that NCR residential property demand remained high despite the pandemic. After attracting consumers with offers and incentives, developers



raised average prices as demand grew. Sales have increased, reducing unsold inventories by 52% from 182,000 units in H1 2019 to 86,900 units in H1 2024. The inventory overhang dropped from 44 months in H1

2019 to 16 months in H1 2024. "Developers have launched around 172,000 units in NCR between H1 2019 and H1 2024, and 272,000 units were sold during this period," the study said. "The market's growth is supported by

lower unsold inventory and higher absorption. This rise shows the region's real estate potential and post-pandemic economic rebound and GDP growth." "Despite the higher costs, sales continue to surge, driven

by a combination of improved infrastructure, robust economic growth, and a desire for modern living spaces". The survey noted that the NCR housing market revived before the pandemic after price stagnation from late 2016 to 2019. Covid-19 increased sales of larger homes. In prime real estate, the study shows strong demand and growth. The interest is broad, drawing first and second-generation buyers seeking a more luxurious lifestyle. "Latent demand has increased since the pandemic, spurring new project launches. He noted that around 3,000 pre-launch units sold out in days.

## As Karnataka exploits SC/ST cash for "guarantees," BJP, Congress object



Delhi: The Karnataka government's intention to use SCPTSP funding for the five guarantee projects announced before the 2023 assembly elections is expected to cause a stir. Congress ally Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (DSS) will protest while BJP appeals to the judiciary. Senior government sources said "diversion" of SCPTSP funds is not new and has been done by past governments, but BJP's court case and DSS' "uprising" threat could hurt Congress in upcoming zilla and taluk panchayat elections. Last

week, CM Siddaramaiah said his government has allocated Rs 39,121 crore for SCPTSP, Rs 3,900 crore more than in the previous year due to a rise in budget size and a decision to allocate 24.1% of the budget to SC and ST communities. However, using Rs 14,283 crore of the budget for the five guarantee schemes has caused political unrest. BJP calls it "misappropriation." "BJP is contemplating approaching the court since the decision to re-route SCPTSP funds meant exclusively for the welfare of these

underprivileged communities is being misappropriated," said the MLC. "Redirecting funds by claiming they're being used on SC and ST communities implies that they're getting money while other communities get extra benefits. Giving with one hand and taking with the other." DSS is upset. DSS factions that supported Congress in the assembly and Lok Sabha polls withdrew their support on Saturday, saying Congress is not working "wholeheartedly" for SC & ST populations.

## Electronic papers acceptable as court evidence

Delhi: Text, voice, and video messages contain what? Post July 1, "digital documents" are admissible as primary evidence, not simply emojis, PPTs, PDFs, group conversations, forwards, or tete-a-tete. The last one is a rewrite of the 1872 Indian Evidence Act and an acknowledgment of digital information's importance today. The 2023 Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam defines and interprets evidence. It states that "an electronic or digital record" can be "admissible" in a case under certain conditions, taking into account technical



improvements and the widespread use of digital communication. Senior counsel Amit Manchanda said protections must be addressed first to prevent misuse given the uncharted field of artificial intelligence and new software to manipulate words, photos, and digital content on a recipient's device. Advocate Mohit

Bhardwaj called Section 57 BSA's "singularly significant" inclusion because it makes digital data, including messages, primary evidence "without much ado," until disputed. For digital records, the new rule mandates a certificate proving authenticity from a specific computer or device. Thus, under Section 61

## The Andhra government expects an 11k crore deficit this year



Delhi: Andhra Pradesh's request for Centre financial assistance, including debt restructuring, is expected to cover a projected Rs 11,000 crore deficit this year and leave a meager surplus for development next year. According to sources familiar with the discussions with the Centre, the Chandrababu Naidu government has prepared a blueprint to revisit almost two dozen direct benefit transfer schemes started by the Jaganmohan Reddy administration and start a series of steps to boost revenue, start capital works, and help the needy. Naidu met with finance, defence, and health ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajnath Singh, and JP Nadda. "The treasury needs

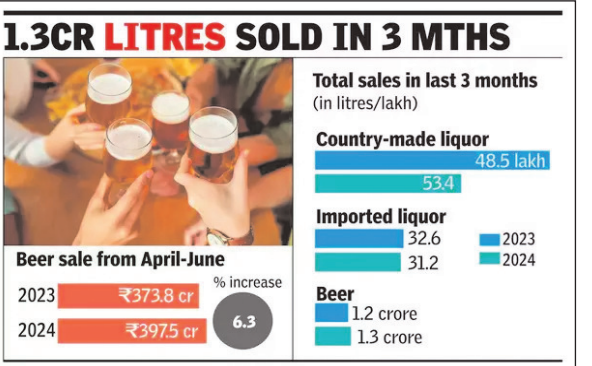
income growth and capital funding. The previous government discontinued vital payments, causing a huge loan burden. We'll need five to six months to fix it and resume the cycle "A source said Andhra will pursue central initiatives and TDP focus areas. Through a series of initiatives, the Naidu administration hopes to raise Rs 37,000 crore by the fifth year of its term for state development. The TDP plans to develop industrial hubs in Visakhapatnam, near Odisha, and Karnataka, with the proposed port in Dugarajapatnam as a key aspect. Central aid for the port was promised a decade ago when Andhra and Telangana split, but nothing has happened.

## BJP gathering in Bengaluru causes political dispute over liquor

Delhi: A BJP public rally to celebrate former minister K Sudhakar's election as Chikballapur MP was criticized as footage showed booze being given. Nelamangala hosted the event. Sudhakar, Opposition Leader R Ashoka, and JD(S) leaders attended. Sideline videos showed cops giving out booze packages and bottles to people in a long line. Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar criticized BJP. In Nelamangala, liquor was distributed publicly. BJP National President JP Nadda must explain for registering a case. How could the MP distribute alcohol?" Said Shivakumar. "More than local leaders, it is important for the BJP's national leaders to tell citizens how their party is upholding culture by distributing liquor at public meetings," he said.



## Ghaziabad Residents Drink Nearly Rs 400 Crore in Beer During Heatwave



Delhi: The excise agency reports that Ghaziabad residents have consumed approximately Rs 400 crore in beer due to the past three months' scorching. Officials credit high heat and consistent prices for this record sales result. People in Ghaziabad and the National Capital Region sought ways to cool themselves due to extreme heat. In addition to lemonade, lassi, and butter-milk, many Ghaziabad inhabitants chose alcoholic beverages, especially beer, which generated large excise money. Ghaziabad beer drinkers spent Rs 397.16 crore during April to June 2024, up 106% from the previous year. Even more, beer can sales rose 116%. Over 13.3 million cans were sold this year, up from 11.5 million last year. Beer helps many cope with soaring temperatures. Due to this tendency, the excise department saw significant income growth throughout these three months. District excise inspector Rakesh Kumar said the severe heat and stable beer pricing drove record sales. said, "The data clearly shows that the intense heat and no price hike were the primary reasons for the exceptional revenue of Rs 397 crore." Beer sales during the heatwave generated significant excise department money, showing how extreme weather can affect consumer behaviour and local economies.

## Shankaracharya Backs Rahul Gandhi After "Hindus Are Violent" Row

Delhi: Swami Avimukteshwarananda, the 46th Shankaracharya of Jyotir Math, defended Rahul Gandhi days after his Lok Sabha speech. Rahul Gandhi accused BJP leaders of communally dividing people during the debate on the President's address Motion of Thanks. Narendra Modi denounced the speech, saying Rahul Gandhi called the "entire Hindu community violent." Parliament heatedly debated this claim, and the Speaker removed some disputed statements from the records. Hindu revered Shankaracharya provided a different view. Our attention was on Rahul Gandhi's entire address. Shankaracharya stressed that Hinduism opposes violence. The pontiff blasted the selective spread.

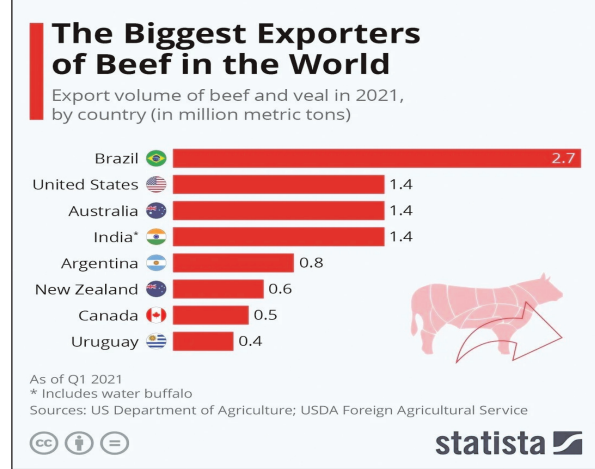
## Rising Drunk Driving, \$12k Fine in 6 Months

Delhi: Delhi Traffic Police reported that more than 12,000 people were penalized for DUI from January 1 to June 30, up 27% from last year. Rajouri Garden had the most drunk driving violations in the past six months, 770. Samaypur Badli had 514 instances, Rohini 441. Traffic police released data on Saturday showing that police penalized 12,468 intoxicated drivers through June 30 compared to 9,837 last year. Punjabi Bagh (387), Mehrauli (367), Mayur Vihar (364), Narela (364), Kalkaji (344), Karol Bagh (342) and Sadar Bazar (342) also had high drunk

driving rates in the first half of the year. The traffic police also examined the top 10 traffic circles with the most drunk driving challans. This research identifies areas with the highest traffic offenses, enabling focused enforcement to improve road safety and traffic law compliance, an officer stated. "Drunk driving endangers the driver, passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers. It impairs judgment, lowers reaction times, and increases accident risk leading to injuries or deaths. The officer cautioned that careless behavior can have dire consequences.

## Muslim groups want India to stop exporting beef

Delhi: Minority organization Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IMC) held a seminar to condemn cow vigilante attacks and seek a ban on beef export from India and illicit slaughter to end cattle suffering. They also sought to clarify that "beef"—associated with cows—was being misused to characterize buffalo meat export, thus the government should clarify. At a full Mavalankar Hall in Constitution Club, Muslim and dalit representatives approved the memorandum to Union home minister Rajnath Singh. There were also threats that demonstrators would go to the streets and Ramlila Grounds if the administration did not meet



these demands. "We are concerned about Muslim minority atrocities, suppression, and discrimination under the guise of cow protection, beef eating, terrorism, national security, etc. The IMC said vigilante cow defender groups had grown since a Dadri man was beaten

to death for consuming meat last September. "After a long silence, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, finally joined the fray, condemning attacks by Hindu cow protection squads and vowing to investigate those engaged in violence," the report added.

"There have been several instances of religious violence against Muslims in the recent past, frequently in the form of violent attacks on Muslims by Hindu mobs that form a pattern of sporadic sectarian violence between Hindu and Muslim communities," it said. IMC demands "India should abolish cow and calves slaughter. The Supreme Court of India upheld state-enacted anti-cow slaughter regulations in a landmark ruling. 24 of 29 Indian states ban cow slaughter and sale. Cow slaughter is legal in Kerala, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim." Additionally,

# Charges of criminal conspiracy between the sarpanch of Basai Meo village

**Delhi :** The State Vigilance Department of Haryana is investigating charges of criminal conspiracy between the sarpanch of Basai Meo village, government officials, and major mining cartels in Nuh district's Aravalli area. Yes, the sarpanch was suspended for trying to resurrect a district administration-demolished illicit mining route. Officials said the department has 90 days to finish its investigation and report to the state. The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) and Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change will receive the findings.



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After the district administration bulldozed an illegal mining route in Basai Meo, police arrested one individual and booked another for attempting to restore it. Other CEC reports have suspended six mining officials and the Basai Meo sarpanch for identical claims.

## Nirmala Sitharaman's daughter might enter politics

**Delhi** Surprisingly enough, Nirmala Sitharaman's daughter, the Union Finance Minister, might enter politics and involve her entire family. Parakala Prabhakar, a founding member of the Praja Rajyam Party, is married to Sitharaman, who is seen as a harsh critic of the NDA government's economic policies. His wife

is a significant member of the party. Although many are surprised by their daughter's decision to enter politics, it is unclear if she will side with her father or not. Parkala Vangmayi, the daughter of Sitharaman, is said to have married Pratik Doshi, the OSD for research and strategy in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

# The Shani Shingnapur shrine trust in Ahilyanagari, Maharashtra, fired 167 employees

**Delhi:** The Shani Shingnapur shrine trust in Ahilyanagari, Maharashtra, fired 167 employees on "disciplinary grounds". Temple sources say 114 (68%) are Muslims. The trust, Shri Shaneswar Devasthan, blamed "non-performance and long absenteeism" for the firings. Two rounds of layoffs of 2-10-year employees occurred on June 8 and 13. Sakal Hindu Samaj threatened a June 14 rally to remove non-Hindus from Shani Shingnapur shrine. This followed a viral video of a non-



Hindu painting the shrine in May. Devasthan CEO Gorakshanath Darandale denied prejudice and justified the removals. "The action is not discriminatory. Faiths vary among those eliminated. The action was disciplinary only. More than 2,400 Devasthan employees. Many

skip work. Devasthan withheld salary and served show-cause notices. Darandale stated this is the first batch punished. Another official stated those fired "were engaged in agriculture, waste management and education departments of the temple trust". "Some have been absent from work for five months."

## Nitish aims to strengthen ties with BJP

**Delhi:** Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar strengthened his relationship with BJP ally by utilizing the state executive committee meeting of his party. Nitish, the national president of JDU, spoke at the meeting and complimented PM Narendra Modi, Union minister Amit Shah, and BJP president JP Nadda for the financial support Bihar received in the Union Budget. He also stated that the Centre should keep giving the state more financial aid if it encounters difficulties in granting Bihar spe-



cial category status. About five hundred senior officials attended the meeting intended to revitalize the state and district-level leadership for the next Bihar assembly polls, which are scheduled for 2025. Among them were all of the JDU ministers in Bihar, party MPs and lawmakers, as well as past ministers and leg-

islators. As Nitish turned to face the state executive members, "I know you people were very happy when we again became a part of the National Democratic Alliance," Nitish further mentioned that the Bihar government's yearly budget was only Rs 24,000 crore when he initially took office in November 2005, while referring to the development projects carried out during his lengthy time as chief minister. The state government's yearly budget is currently about Rs 3 lakh crore.

## Assam launches financial aid to end child marriage



**Delhi:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the government's Nijut Moina economic support scheme for girl students has taken a huge step toward ending child marriage. The current government plan would cover 10 lakh girl students with Rs 1,500cr and give over 1.6 lakh girls Rs 240 crore in the first year. Chief Minister Sarma: "Nijut Moina is a major initiative launched today in Assam. This plan gives female graduates a monthly grant of over Rs 1,000 and post-graduation students Rs 2,500 to cover tuition costs. Thus, we want female students to avoid parental support for higher education." The Chief Minister said this effort will reduce child marriage in Assam. "We are anticipating that Nijut Moina will be able to eradicate the evil of

child marriage from the state," remarked. Chief Minister Sarma further stated that female students must remain unmarried until post-graduation to qualify for this initiative. "To end child marriage, graduate female students must remain unmarried until they finish their undergraduate studies. Unmarried post-graduates can use the Nijut Moina scheme. "They will reach their minimum marriage age, and we want the girls to marry and live happily," he stated. This financial support plan cannot benefit the daughters of MPs, MLAs, or Ministers, the Chief Minister added. Studies show that Assam's child marriage ban has reduced maternal and newborn mortality. He said that #NijutMoina will end this social evil.

## India hands over first consignment of emergency relief materials to Nepal

**Delhi:** The Indian Embassy here handed over the first consignment of emergency relief materials, including sleeping bags, blankets and tarpaulin sheets, to authorities in flood-struck Nepal, according to an official statement. The 4.2 tonnes of aid supplies handed over on Monday were for families affected by the recent inundation in Nepal, the Indian Embassy said in a press release. Days of relentless downpours late last month triggered widespread floods and landslides, leaving more than 240 people dead across the Himalayan nation. Transported to Nepalgunj from India, the consignment was handed over by Second Secretary Narayan Singh on behalf of the Indian government to the Chief District Officer of Banke, Khagendra Prasad Rijal.



## Uttarakhand UCC panel finalizes draft, to submit it for Dhama gov't's nod

**Delhi:** A committee on the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code on Monday put a final seal on the draft report, which now only awaits thumps up from the CM Pushkar Singh Dhama-led state government. "In the final meeting of the five-member draft committee today, the committee has put its final seal on the draft report of the UCC. After printing the UCC draft report, the committee will submit this report to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama," said Shatrughan Singh, chairman of the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code Draft committee told news agency ANI. In March this year, President Droupadi Murmu approved the Uniform Civil Code Uttarakhand Bill, 2024, which allowed the Uttarakhand government to issue a notification to make the UCC a law in the Himalayan state. Uttarakhand could become the first state in the country to implement the UCC Act. The Uttarakhand UCC contains laws relating to marriage, divorce, succession, live-in relationships, and related matters. The Uniform Civil Code in the state will make it compulsory for live-in relationships to be registered under the law. In July, during BJP's extended state working committee meeting in Dehradun, CM Dhama announced the goal to implement the Uniform Civil Code by November 9, coinciding with the State Foundation Day. "The UCC is a very big thing for our state. The people of the state had elected us for the same reason. I congratulate all the people of Uttarakhand on the implementation of the UCC. After the implementation, several complexities would be made easier," CM Dhama had said.

## 'Remarks against any religion will be punished': UP CM Yogi

**Delhi:** Amid the ongoing controversy over priest Yati Narsinghanand's remark against the Prophet, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said derogatory remarks against deities, great men, or saints of any religion or sect will not be tolerated, and those engaging in such behavior will face severe



consequences. Yati, a Ghaziabad-based priest, had sparked a massive row after he made some objectionable remarks against Prophet Muhammad. "Every citizen should

have a sense of gratitude towards great men, but this cannot be forced and cannot be imposed on anyone," Adityanath said in a statement. "If any person tampers with faith, makes derogatory remarks against the faith of great men, deities, sect etc., then he will be brought under the purview of law and punished rigorously.

## Owaisi hits out at RSS chief's call for 'Hindu unity'



**Delhi:** AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday reacted to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's call for 'Hindus to unite for their security,' alleging that it is Prime Minister Modi and his ideological mentor who pose a real danger to Hindus, Muslims, and others in the country. However, shortly after his remark, Union minister Giriraj Singh came to the defence

of the RSS chief and PM Modi, accusing the Hyderabad MP of harboring "anti-India sentiments in his DNA". Earlier on Saturday, the RSS chief addressing Swayamsevaks (volunteers) had affirmed that India is a "Hindu nation". "We have resided here since time immemorial, even though the appellation 'Hindu' emerged later".

## 'Toolkit used to open trunk, paper scanned'

**Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation on provided a detailed information of how the NEET UG paper leak scam unfolded. It said that nearly 144 candidates had paid "huge amounts" to get access to the leaked question papers which were unlocked using "sophisticated tool kit." "The CBI has also identified 144 candidates present in these locations who were beneficiaries of this paper leak and necessary legal action is being initiated against them; 21 mobile phones used by the main accused in this case have also been recovered from various water bodies with



## "The probe agency has arrested 49 individuals, including the main conspirators and those involved in solving the exam"

the help of the divers by the CBI," the agency said. In its third chargesheet filed on Monday, the CBI had named Pankaj Kumar as another accused who allegedly stole the question papers from Hazaribagh school in collusion with its principal

Ahsanul Haque and vice-principal Md Imtiyaz Alam. "Pankaj used a sophisticated tool kit to open and seal the trunk. This tool kit was seized by CBI from the residence of Pankaj Kumar," a CBI spokesperson said. "Only those candidates who paid money

in advance were allowed to enter these locations. The candidates were subsequently allowed to leave for their examination centres after 12.15pm, but were prohibited from carrying the printed copies with them," the spokesperson added. The crime reportedly took place after trunks containing the exam papers arrived at the school from the bank vault shortly after 8am on May 5, the day of the examination, according to sources. The probe agency has arrested 49 individuals, including the main conspirators and those involved in solving the exam.

## UP Govt. Blocks Urs Events in Ayodhya, Barabanki, Citing 'Law and Order'

**Delhi :** Authorities in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya and Barabanki have denied permission for two annual Urs festivities citing law and order concerns. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) complained and prevented the Urs from being held at Dada Miya's temple in Khanpur Masodha, Ayodhya, Times of India reported. Barabanki's Urs of Syed Shakeel Baba event in Phoolpur was denied permission owing to violence, according to the report. In Ayodhya, the VHP complainant claimed that "Ghazi Baba"—Syed Salar Masood, a semi-legendary 11th-century military warrior believed to be a nephew of Ghaznavid ruler Mahmud of Ghazni—was organizing the gathering. After discovering that the event was being organized under the name of Ghazi baba, Ayodhya circle officer Ashutosh Tiwari canceled the authorization provided under the name of "Urs Dada Miya". The Neja Mela, a Muslim fair honoring Saiyad Ghazi, was banned by Sambhal police in March. Even if it had been held annually, police denied authorization for an event.

# Yogi govt launches new scheme to boost medical device manufacturing in Greater Noida

**Lucknow** Reinforcing its commitment to making Uttar Pradesh a hub for world-class healthcare services, the Yogi government has launched a new initiative to promote medical device manufacturing in Greater Noida. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has rolled out a scheme for the allotment of 21 industrial plots in Sector-28, inviting manufacturers from the medical device sector to set up units. Notably, the Medical Device Park under development in Greater Noida is set to become the largest of its kind in the country. Through this scheme, manufacturers will have the opportunity to establish units within this emerging hub, which is expected to significantly boost economic growth in both Greater Noida and Uttar Pradesh as a whole. A key feature of the scheme is its focus on high-potential sectors, such as cancer care, radiology, imaging, IVD, implants, electronic medical devices, cardio-respiratory equipment, and renal devices, including catheters and related tools. Of the 21 plots available, 16 are 1,000 square meters in size and 5 are 2,100 square meters in size. For the 1,000 square meter plots, the total premium is Rs 77.30 lakh, with a registration amount of Rs 7.73 lakh. For the 2,100 square meter plots, the premium is Rs 1.62 crore, and the registration amount is Rs 16.23 lakh. Applications for the scheme are now open, and the last date for submission is July 7. Interested applicants can access detailed information and apply through the official websites of YEIDA and Nivesh Mitra. This initiative by YEIDA is unique in several aspects. Strategically located in Sector 28, the plots offer excellent connectivity via the Yamuna Expressway. They are near key infrastructure projects, including the Noida International Airport in Jewar, the upcoming International Film City, the F1 MotoGP Track, the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster, the MSME Hub, and the Apparel-Handicraft, and Toy Park. The region will also benefit from future linkage to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, enhancing logistics, freight movement, and overall business operations. This strategic move is expected to attract significant investments, create job opportunities, and further position Uttar Pradesh as a key player in India's medical technology manufacturing ecosystem.

# Gorakhpur Link Expressway to feature robust road and commuter safety systems

**Gorakhpur** The Gorakhpur Link Expressway, one of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's flagship projects, is set to offer more than just speed and connectivity. It will also ensure comprehensive road and commuter safety. On the day of inauguration, June 20, CM Yogi will flag off a specially designated safety fleet. Plans are also underway to implement an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), similar to the one on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway, for continuous surveillance and enforcement. Developed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the safety fleet will include 5 Innovas, 5 Campers, 4 ambulances, 2 cranes and 1 hydra vehicle. According to UPEIDA's nodal security officer Rajesh Pandey, the Innovas will patrol the expressway round-the-clock in 8-hour shifts, with each vehicle manned by four ex-servicemen. The camper vehicles, open at the rear, will be equipped with traffic cones, ropes, and radiom strips. In case of accidents or breakdowns, these vehicles will be deployed immediately to secure the area, preventing inconvenience or danger to other commuters. Along the 91-km expressway, ambulances will be stationed every 45 km—on both sides of the road—to ensure quick medical response. Cranes will also be positioned every 45 km, along with one hydra vehicle to cover the entire stretch. In case of vehicle failure, small and medium vehicles will be moved using cranes, and large vehicles will be shifted via the nearest chainage point. As per NHAI guidelines, no broken-down vehicle is allowed to remain on the expressway. In the coming days, ATMS will be implemented to strengthen road safety. The system includes the installation of CCTV cameras every 5 km, monitored from a central control room. It will also involve speed cameras and number plate readers (NPRs) to detect and report violations. Any instance of speeding will be automatically flagged to the respective district's ARTO for swift action.

# Yogi govt launches moong procurement in 75 and groundnut in 15 districts

**Lucknow** On the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government has begun preparations to procure moong and groundnut at Minimum Support Price (MSP) during the Zaid season to boost farmers' income. Moong will be procured in all 75 districts, while groundnut procurement will take place in 15 districts, benefiting lakhs of farmers. The government will continue purchasing moong until September 2 and groundnut until August 29. The MSP has been set at Rs 8,682 per quintal for moong and Rs 6,783 per quintal for groundnut. The Uttar Pradesh government has set a procurement target of 34,720 metric tonnes of moong and 50,750 metric tonnes of groundnut for the Zaid season. Farmers will receive MSP benefits by bringing their produce to designated purchase centres. NAFED and NCCF have been tasked.

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

**Delhi:** The flagship Adani Enterprises (NS:ADEL) Ltd. (AEL) recovered losses of over \$30 billion from the short-seller firm Hindenburg's report. The Adani Enterprises stock has risen 12% in five trading sessions. Financial giant Cantor Fitzgerald has set a Rs 4,338 target price. In addition, investors have received 53% gains on the stock in the past six months. The stock soared from its February 2023 low. AEL shares were practically unchanged at Rs 3,381 on BSE. While Adani Green Energy (NS:ADNA) shares jumped 1.8%, Adani Total Gas (NS: ADAG) rose 2.5%, and Adani Energy Solutions.

# ED slaps fine of Rs 908 crore on DMK MP

**Delhi:** DMK MP S Jagathratchakan on was slapped with a penalty of Rs 908 crore in a case related to the violation of foreign exchange rules. The Enforcement Directorate statement said that properties worth Rs 89.19 crore seized in September 2020, have been confiscated following an adjudication order under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (Fema) issued on August 26. The federal agency acted on a complaint initiated by a business Tamil Nadu. The investigation led to a seizure order dated September 11, 2020, under Section 37A of Fema, for various movable and immovable properties belonging to DMK MP S and his family members. These properties are valued at Rs 89.19 crore.

# Assam CM Himanta suggests sharper identification of 'illegal foreigners'

**Sarma raised concerns over Aadhaar card issuance, stating that more cards have been issued than the population**



**Delhi:** Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced additional measures to detect and prevent illegal immigration through the state's international borders. Sarma raised concerns over Aadhaar card issuance, stating that more cards have been issued than the population in Dhubri district, suggesting that questionable individuals received them. Sarma expressed reservations over Aadhaar card issuance, saying, "More people have them than Dhubri's population. Sarma added, "The detection process of foreigners was almost halted after the NRC update." He added "We've arrested or deported 20-30 Bangladeshis in recent months. We ordered Assam to boost illegal immigrant detection. We issued extensive guidelines to improve this procedure."

# Rajasthan Cabinet approves 33% police women quota

**Delhi :** The Rajasthan Cabinet approved 33% police reservation for women and 5% pensioner allowance . The Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma-chaired meeting also authorized land allocation for a 3,150 MW solar power project. Wealthline 92345 92345 Know More Indian Economy Grow Cancel Global Trends I don't tip, Motif OSWAL The Rajasthan Cabinet approved 33% police reservation for women and 5% pensioner allowance . The Chief Minister Bhajanlal



Sharma-chaired meeting also authorized land allocation for a 3,150 MW solar power project. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa said the cabinet meeting approved an amendment to the Rajasthan Police Subordinate Services Rules, 1989, allowing women to make up one-third of the police.

# Yogi govt to develop Nature Walk Pathway from Vrindavan to Gokul under Mathura Vision-2030

**Lucknow** As part of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Mathura Vision 2030, a 17-kilometre Nature Walk Pathway will be developed from Vrindavan to Gokul along the Yamuna River at an estimated cost of Rs 50 crore. The project, to be executed by the Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad in collaboration with the State Forest and Wildlife Department, aims to promote eco-tourism, support environmental conservation, and offer pilgrims and tourists a peaceful and accessible walking route along the sacred river. Under this multipurpose initiative, a 17-km long and 2-meter wide Nature Walk Pathway will be constructed along the Yamuna river from Vrindavan to Gokul. The Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, in partnership with the Forest Department, will oversee the project's execution at a cost of approximately Rs 50 crore. In a review meeting with the Chief Minister, officials shared that the pathway will highlight the natural beauty between Vrindavan and Gokul. Indigenous plant species will be planted on both sides of the walkway to enhance greenery and support local biodiversity. Additionally, the route will be equipped with fencing, lighting, and toilet facilities to ensure comfort and safety for both tourists and residents. The core aim of developing the Vrindavan-Gokul Nature Walk Pathway is to promote eco-tourism in the region. This initiative is part of a broader development effort under the Mathura Vision 2030, which includes 195 projects worth Rs 30,080 crore, out of which 23 projects totaling Rs 2,300 crore have already been approved. Among these, the nature walk is a flagship project that will offer pilgrims and tourists an opportunity to experience the natural serenity of Lord Krishna's land on foot, amidst the greenery and calm of the Yamuna's banks. It will also serve as a leisure and health-oriented space for local residents, who will be able to use it for morning and evening walks.

# Cash-strapped Punjab raises fuel prices, partially cuts power subsidies

**Delhi :** The Punjab cabinet raised petrol and diesel prices by 61 and 92 paise per liter and ended the subsidy for household consumers with up to 7KW loads. A council of ministers meeting chaired by chief minister Bhagwant Mann in Chandigarh made the choices as part of the government's approach to handle state finances. State employee pay and pensions for August were delayed four days. During the March budget, finance minister Harpal Cheema predicted Punjab's debt to reach ₹3.74 lakh crore by 2024-25, accounting for about 46% of the state's GDP of over ₹8 lakh crore. Punjab requested a rescue package of ₹1.32 lakh crore from the 16th Finance Commission in July to address its financial crisis and promote growth. Freebies are blamed for draining the AAP's coffers. The government is raising petrol and diesel VAT. The cabinet also repealed the Charanjit Singh Channi-led Congress power subsidy scheme from 2021 and raised.

# Connectivity through expressway to transform southern Gorakhpur

**Gorakhpur** Once considered one of the most backward regions of the district, southern Gorakhpur is now set to shine with development and industrial growth in the coming years. The foundation for this transformation is the Gorakhpur Link Expressway, scheduled to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on June 20. With enhanced road connectivity, the Yogi government is realising its vision of developing a new industrial township in Dhuriyapar. Land acquisition is progressing rapidly, and

many reputed companies have begun expressing interest in setting up industries in the region. Several industrial groups, including Adani, are ready to invest here. The Gorakhpur Link Expressway is emerging as a golden chapter in eastern Uttar Pradesh's industrial journey, with Gorakhpur at the centre—particularly benefiting its southern part. Dhuriyapar, located in southern Gorakhpur, was once barren and unsuitable for farming, but the Yogi government is now preparing to cultivate industries on this very land. The Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) is developing an industrial township over 5,500 acres in Dhuriyapar. So far, 600 acres have already been acquired, covering nearly a dozen and a half villages. This will be the largest industrial land bank in Purvanchal. The Yogi government aims to establish a network of major industries here and develop it as an electronic manufacturing cluster. The Gorakhpur Link Expressway will serve as the backbone of this

township. With the objective of turning barren land into hubs of employment through industry, the Yogi government is developing Dhuriyapar Industrial Township as 'Greater GIDA'. Once operational, this township is expected to be a game changer for all of southern Gorakhpur. Once known as an extremely backward region, Dhuriyapar will soon emerge as the gateway to a new industrial zone in Gorakhpur. In the past eight years, the interest of national and international investors in Gorakhpur.



## Ekmi-Shobhan Bypass Construction Set to Begin Soon After Centre Approval

**Delhi :** Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha announced that the construction of AIIMS Darbhanga at Ekmi-Sobhan Bypass in Bihar had been approved by the central government. According to the law-maker, the project is about to get underway soon after the Union Health Ministry informed the Bihar Health Department's Additional Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit of this decision in a letter dated July 25. The planned location at the Shobhan-Ekmi by-pass was inspected by a Central Government technical team on March 18 and 19, 2024, and they found it to be suitable for building. A major milestone in the pro-



ject's realization has been reached with the clearance of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, according to Sanjay Kumar Jha's post on X.As an example of their meticulous approach to implementing AIIMS Darbhanga, the Bihar government has promised to give the Centre more than 150 acres of land for free, as well as to provide water and power and to construct a four-lane road to ensure easy connection.We

are of the belief that the construction of AIIMS close to the Shobhan by-pass on the fringes of the city will cause a surge in development there and the creation of jobs," Jha commented.Jha also brought attention to the fact that Darbhanga Medical College Hospital

is now undergoing renovations. A 2,750-bed hospital with an estimated cost of Rs 27,42.04 crore is being planned by the state government.

## Minorities of Bangladesh assembled in borders along Tripura seeking entry; Right bodies seek action from India

**AGARTALA:** The BSF has intensified the vigil along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura following the report of the gathering of a large number of minorities in Bangladesh across other sides of wire fencing in several places in two days.

According to the report, hundreds of non-Muslim families and Awami League supporters have been facing atrocities and attacks allegedly by the miscreants in and around Dhaka, Patuakhali, Syllet, Srimangal, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Noakhali, Feni and Chittagrame soon after Sheikh Hasina resigned and left the country on Monday. The report claimed houses, properties, and belongings of more than 17000 families in Bangladesh have been destroyed while about a lakh people ran away from their localities seeking shelter in safe places. Allegedly, the protesters issued an open threat to the minorities to leave Bangladesh as it is soon to be declared an Islamic country.



Not only minority communities but even Muslims who supported Hasina and believers in democracy have also allegedly been targeted by the demonstrators and were facing the atrocities, said a businessman of Brahmanbaria belonging to the majority community adding, "We have been identified as India's sympathizer."During Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, a similar situation was created but there was no fencing in those days between India and Bangladesh.

As a result, about 16 lakh

people especially Hindus and Buddhists from then East Pakistan sheltered only in Tripura. Assam, Meghalaya, and West Bengal also witnessed a huge influx and settlement subsequently because the Indian government allowed refugees.

The BSF sources said that villagers assembled other sides of the fencing in the isolated pockets in Kailashahar, Kamalpur, Khowai, Simna, Narshinghar, Belabar, Kamalasagar, Sonamura, and Sabroom seeking entry into Indian Territory.

### 'I am a woman like any woman': Imane Khelif

**Algerian** boxer Imane Khelif secured a historic gold medal at the Paris Olympics on Friday, winning the women's welterweight final against China's Yang Liu, amidst intense scrutiny over her eligibility.The 25-year-old became the first Algerian woman to win an Olympic boxing gold medal, addressing the gender controversy that shadowed her victory with determination and poise. "I am a woman like any woman," declared Khelif during a post-fight press conference. "I was born a woman and I have lived as a woman, but there are enemies to success who can't digest my success. That also gives my success a special taste," Reuters quoted Khelif, as she emphasized her identity and resilience in the face of detractors.The controversy began when Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting were disqualified .

## But for my recurring groin injury, I could've thrown 4m further: Neeraj

**PARIS:** When Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem cleared 92.97 metres with his effortless second throw in the javelin final Thursday night, the pressure was on Neeraj Chopra to better it. The Indian believed he could do it, but in his desperation to go past his Pakistani rival's mark, he ended up with four

foul throws. Trying to come to terms with his first loss to Nadeem since 2016, Neeraj, who threw 89.45m and bagged silver, said a nagging groin injury has been bothering him. "When I get ready for my throws, 70-80% of my focus is on my injury as I don't want to aggravate it. My speed drops

and so I start pushing myself. Before the last World Championships, the doctor had advised me to go for surgery. But I didn't have the time. I couldn't do it before Olympics either. But (now) I will have to make a big decision," the current world champion said here after the event, adding that the same throw

could have been four metres further had he been in perfect shape.But for my recurring groin injury, I could've thrown 4m further: NeerajDespite the disappointment of not winning back-to-back Olympic gold, many consider Neeraj the greatest-ever Indian athlete. He, though, remains humble.

### Maharashtra CM Shinde defends 'Ladki-Bahin' scheme

**NEW DELHI:** Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde has criticised the opposition parties for spreading rumours about his government's 'Ladki-Bahin' scheme, which offers Rs 1,500 monthly assistance to eligible women. Attacking opposition, Shinde, addressing in Thane, asked people to be cautious of "step brothers," and said his government's focus is on public welfare, not elections, and pledged to ensure the scheme's longevity, reported PTI.

### No personal coaches, media embargo under NRAI's Olympic shooting guidelines

**Delhi:** To prepare its players for the quadrennial spectacle, the National Rifle Association of India has imposed severe conditions on Paris Olympic shooters, including a "media blackout" and no personal coaches at the national camp. In its "national team protocol", the federation informs shooters that

parents cannot "stay" or "visit" their wards at camps and that Pierre Beauchamp, the High Performance Director (HPD), must make an exception. According to the NRAI's "NRAI Olympic Team Undertaking and SOP for Paris Olympic Games - Pistol/Rifle Teams" letter to Olympic-bound shooters.

## HC overturns JNV's admittance denial

**Delhi:** The Delhi High Court has ordered the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) to admit students from districts other than their own. Justice C Hari Shankar overturned the order to not admit a pupil to JNV, Mungeshpur, and said the child can be admitted in Class 6 of the 2024-25 academic year and remain there. A youngster who attended Navyug School at Peshwa Road in the national capital until Class 5 petitioned the high court for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6. The school denied admission to the girl because she was educated in New Delhi, not Mungeshpur, North West. While the matter is pending with a division bench, the student in the previous petition was allowed to con-



tinue studying at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, as an interim measure. The high court overturned the petitioner's exclusion from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur. "The petitioner is entitled to Class 6 admission to the JNVM (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur) in 2024-25 and continues education there.



## SC stays ban on hijab by Mumbai college, but says no burqa or niqab

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on stayed till Nov 18 a Mumbai college's circular banning students from wearing hijab, cap or badge but allowed the educational institution to continue enforcing its circular banning wearing of burqa, niqab or stole in its premises. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar issued notice to the college on a petition jointly filed by three students — Zainab Abdul Qayyum Choudhary, Nasreen Bano Mohd Tanzim Shaikh and Nazneen Mazhar Ansari — appealing against a Bombay HC order upholding the college circular. It said, "In the meanwhile, we stay clause 2 of the circular to the extent that it directs that no hijab, cap or badge will be permitted." **Should it not be left to girls to decide what they want to wear? asks SC** Clause 2 of the Mumbai college circular reads, "You (students) shall follow the dress code of college of formal and decent dress which shall not reveal anyone's religion such as 'no burkha, no niqab, no hijab, no cap, no badge, no stole, etc. Only full or half-shirt and normal trousers for boys and any Indian/western non-revealing dress for girls on the college campus. Changing rooms available for girls."The Justice Sanjiv Khanna-led bench, however, orally clarified that no burqa can be worn by anyone inside the college or classrooms. The interim stay was confined to the ban on wearing hijab, cap or badge. Appearing for 'Chembur Trombay Educational Society', under which the college in question functioned, senior advocate Madhavi Divan said there were 441 Muslim women students pursuing various courses in the college and none of them, except the three petitioners, had any objection to the circular.

## Cabinet counters SC, rejects creamy layer in Dalit quota

**NEW DELHI:** Modi govt has rejected the recent Supreme Court ruling asking for exclusion of 'creamy layer' among Dalits from the purview of quotas, saying that doing so would be unconstitutional."Recently, the Supreme Court gave a judgment on the issue of reservation. The SC has made some suggestions about SC/ST

reservation in it. Today, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, wide discussions were held on this issue. And the well-thought-through opinion of the cabinet is that NDA govt is committed and dedicated towards the provisions of the Constitution of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

And as per provisions of Babasaheb Ambedkar, there is no provision of creamy layer in SC/ST reservation. Cabinet's decision is that SC/ST reservation should be according to Babasaheb's Constitution," I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnav said in what marked a swift rebuttal of the SC's land-

mark verdict. **Quota case** Significantly, Modi had signalled his govt's intent hours before the cabinet got down to discuss the issue by telling SC/ST MPs belonging to BJP that the apex court's verdict was only recommendatory and that govt was alive to their "genuine" concerns about it.

## How Does Widespread NCERT Textbook Adoption Benefit Indian Students?

**Delhi:** NCERT textbooks dominate Indian education. These texts have underpinned Indian education for decades. The extensive use of NCERT textbooks has benefited pupils across. In this post, we will discuss the benefits of NCERT textbooks, their broad use, and how NCERT Solutions for Class 6 and other courses improve learning. One

reason NCERT textbooks are so popular is their dedication to quality education for all pupils. These textbooks are accessible and inclusive for various pupils. Experts curate the information to ensure accuracy and relevancy, meeting current educational requirements. NCERT textbooks guarantee national curriculum uniformity.

India is diverse, and different states have distinct educational systems and standards, therefore uniformity is essential. NCERT textbooks help create a level playing field, ensuring that students have a consistent educational experience regardless of their geographical location NCERT textbooks follow the

National Curriculum Framework, which is modified to reflect educational changes. This keeps the curriculum current and prepares students for a continually changing world. The textbook exercises and problems are explained in depth and solved step-by-step. This improves pupils' comprehension and subject knowledge.

# 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-

## Contending just 11 of 36 Mumbai seats, down from 30 in 2019

**Delhi:** The Congress will fight 11 seats in Mumbai's assembly elections, down from 30 in 2019. The party's lowest seat share in years. After extensive negotiations with Shiv Sena (UBT), led by Mumbai Congress President MP Varsha Gaikwad and MLA Aslam Shaikh, the party battled to secure a better MVA arrangement. Four of the 11 seats are held by Congress, which traded Bandra East for Chandivli with Sena. The party also declined to contest Byculla and Versova, which it want-

ed. A political observer observed, "Congress has its fewest seats in decades. Fighting only 11 seats reveals it failed to negotiate with Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP. Even though NCP (SP) has no MLAs and did not run in Mumbai, it is contesting three seats." Congress is running only Mulund in North East Mumbai for the first time. Sangita Waze of NCP (SP) and Rakesh Shetty of Congress have run for this seat. Without the Congress candidate, the party will have no representation.

# Govt. is now proactively identifying educated and skilled youth and empowering them

**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 insti-

tutions 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 initiatives. To ensure effective implementation, specialized training is being imparted to officials. A two-day capacity-building workshop was recently held at Niryat Bhawan in Lucknow, focusing on improving the rollout of the scheme and enhancing the functionality of the CM Yuva Portal. These trained officials will soon begin visiting campuses to implement the scheme at the grassroots level. Under this visionary initiative, over 2.5 lakh youth have already applied for loans. Of these, more than 1.10 lakh applications have been forwarded to banks, and loans have been sanctioned to over 53,000 applicants.

# It will also generate employment across related sectors

**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 interna-

tional 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.

## 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. Jan Suraj Ramgarh candidate Sushil Kushwaha is like his party mates. According to his affidavit, Ramgarh candidate faces attempted murder charges. "All our candidates have a 'clean image', and the cases were part of attempts to damage their reputation," Sadaf Iqbal, Jan Suraj's national spokesperson, said.

## Karnataka govt. halts Waqf Act eviction letters to farmers amid protests

**Karnataka's** home minister, G Parameshwara, ordered district deputy commissioners to stop issuing Waqf Act eviction letters to farmers and use revenue records to determine land ownership. "The chief minister ordered all deputy commissioners to withdraw such notices and letters. Parameshwara stated the situation is addressed, but future events are unpredictable. Reports that the Waqf Board claimed lands registered 50 years ago sparked the issue. Parameshwara stated that Waqf claims must match revenue records to be valid. D K Shivakumar, deputy chief minister, accused the BJP of modifying Waqf Act Records of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC).



## CM reviews preparations at Hotel Taj ahead of Central Zonal Council Meet in Kashi on June 24

**Varanasi** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached Varanasi on a two-day visit on Tuesday morning to review preparations for the upcoming Central Zonal Council meeting, scheduled for June 24, at Hotel Taj. The high-level meeting will see the participation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand. CM Yogi reviewed the arrangements on site, received a briefing from Divisional Commissioner S. Rajalingam, and directed officials to ensure seamless execution. Apart from hosting the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be joined by his counterparts, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu dev Sai, and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, at the high-level council session. Accompanying the Chief Minister during the inspection were Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh, Labour and Employment Minister Anil Rajbhar, Ministers of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal and Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', District Panchayat President Poonam Maurya, MLAs Saurabh Srivastava, Dr. Awadhesh Singh, Sushil Singh, MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, Police Commissioner Mohit Agarwal, and District Magistrate Satyendra Kumar.

# CM Yogi orders construction of integrated govt office complex-

**Lucknow** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasised the need to bring all district and divisional-level government offices under one roof in Mathura and Kanpur. He directed the construction of integrated complexes in both cities, equipped with suitable chambers for advocates, proper

parking, food courts, and other civic facilities. The CM noted that such complexes will not only ease administrative functions, but also save citizens from making multiple visits to various offices. On Thursday, the Chief Minister reviewed the 'Vision 2030' plans prepared for Mathura-Vrindavan and Kanpur.

## Yogi govt unveils 'Yoga Unplugged' and 'Harit Yoga'

**Lucknow** Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh government is celebrating the 11th International Yoga Day (June 21, 2025) not just as a one-day event, but as a week-long festival of social and environmental consciousness. The campaign is anchored on two pillars — youth participation and environmental sustainability — and is being led by two innovative initiatives: 'Yoga

Unplugged' and 'Harit Y o g a'. 'Y o g a Unplugged': A digital and youth-centric movement 'Y o g a Unplugged' is a state-level initiative designed to actively engage youth in yoga through creative, competitive, and social media-driven formats. The campaign is being run across government AYUSH colleges, vocational training , , and degree colleges — with the goal of connecting lakhs of students to the cause.

# Maize cultivation sees surge in popularity among UP farmers

**Lucknow** Farmers in Uttar Pradesh are increasingly turning to maize cultivation, impressed by its economic viability, minimal water requirement, and nutritional value. In Barabanki, many progressive farmers have even shifted from water-intensive crops like mentha to maize, with its acreage expanding consistently in the district. The growing interest in maize is not incidental—it is backed by strong support from

the double-engine government. Key drivers include assured procurement at the minimum support price (MSP) and benefits under the Quick Maize Development Programme. For the 2024–25 marketing season, the Yogi government has announced an MSP of Rs 2,225 per quintal for maize. Procurement began on June 15 and will continue until July 31 in several districts including Bulandshahr, Badaun, Aligarh, Etah,

Kasganj, Firozabad, Hathras, Mainpuri, Hardoi, Unnao, Kanpur Nagar, Auraiya, Kannauj, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Bahraich, Ballia, Gonda, Sambhal, Rampur, Ayodhya, and Mirzapur. At a recent event in Auraiya, CM Yogi Adityanath applauded farmers engaged in maize cultivation, noting that in around 20–25 districts, farmers are earning nearly Rs 2.5 lakh per hectare (₹1 lakh per acre). He highlighted maize as a versatile

crop, useful in producing sweet corn, baby corn, biofuels, and bioplastics. Why Barabanki farmers are shifting from mentha to maize is a notable shift, Barabanki—traditionally known for mentha cultivation—is seeing a steady rise in maize farming. Progressive farmers, including Padma Shri awardee Ram Saran Verma, are opting for maize due to its low water requirement and suitability for the zaid season. With quality seed support.