



Inspiration: Late. Dr. L.C. Walla



## Terrorism will end, this is Modi's guarantee: Prime Minister

**Vatika Times Bhubaneswar**

PM Modi said in Bhubaneswar on Friday that people are getting double benefit from the double engine government in Odisha. Today, the BJP government has completed one year in Odisha. This is not just the anniversary of the government. This is the anniversary of an established government. It is the anniversary of good governance. Modi mentioned US President Donald Trump. He said- 2 days ago I went to Canada to participate in the G-7. President Trump called and invited me for dinner. I politely refused him and said that it is necessary for me to go to the land of Mahaprabhu. I came here in devotion to Mahaprabhu and love for you. Earlier, on the completion of one year of BJP government in Odisha, the PM



released vision documents for the creation of developed Odisha by 2036 and developed India by 2047. Earlier, he did a road show from the airport to Janata Maidan. Earlier, the farmers of Odisha were not able to get the full benefit of Kisan Samman Nidhi. When Odisha farmers have started getting double benefit from both the centre and state. A guarantee of higher price for paddy has been given, lakhs of farmers have benefited from it. Earlier, people were not able to get

full benefit of many schemes, today people are getting the benefit of schemes of both the centre and state governments. "A big achievement of our government has been the empowerment of the deprived. Tribal society lives in Odisha. In the past, it was constantly neglected. They had to face backwardness, poverty, and lack of resources. The party which ruled the country for a long time used the tribals for its politics. They neither gave development nor participation to the tribal

society. They pushed it into the fire of Naxalism and violence." The tribal area was in the grip of Naxalism. It was getting defamed in the name of Red Corridor. We have worked to take the tribal society out of violence and put it on the path of development. On one hand, we took strict action against those who spread violence, on the other hand, we brought the Ganga of development in tribal areas. Today, Naxalites are left in less than 20 districts in the country.

## 'Emergency is the darkest chapter of Indian democracy'

**Vatika Times New Delhi**

Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, while addressing the participants of the Rajya Sabha Internship Program at the Vice President Enclave on Friday, described the Emergency imposed on 25 June 1975 as the darkest day of Indian democracy. He said that this day should now be remembered as Constitution Hatya Diwas, so that the future generation can understand the importance of democratic values. The Vice President said that on the midnight of 25 June 1975, the then President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed had declared Emergency in the country at the behest of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. This was a clear violation of the Constitution because the President takes decisions in consultation with the Council



of Ministers, not just the Prime Minister. Dhankhar said that during the Emergency, more than one lakh citizens were arrested and put in jails in a few hours. Among them were many people who later became the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, Governor, scientist and administrative officers of the country. The Vice President criticized the Supreme Court for overturning the decision of nine High Courts and said that this was the darkest

decision in the history of the Indian judiciary. This decision legitimized dictatorship, totalitarianism and autocracy. He also reminded how the freedom of the press was attacked at that time and many reputed newspapers had to publish blank editorial pages. The Vice President informed that the present government has issued an official notification on July 11, 2024 and declared June 25 as Constitution Killing Day. This decision was

taken to commemorate the 75th year of India becoming a republic, so that the public can be made to realize the value of democracy. Dhankhar said that India is a country where every person has the right to follow his religion, but luring or tempting for conversion is a threat to our civilization. He said that if this is done, our foundation can be shaken. On the eve of International Yoga Day, the Vice President also highlighted.

## Today's era is the era of science and technology: President Draupadi Murmu

**Vatika Times Dehradun**

President Draupadi Murmu set an emotional and inspiring example by celebrating her birthday with children at the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Dehradun on Friday. On this occasion, she described science, technology and inclusiveness as essential for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. On this occasion, the President said that today's era is the era of science and technology. With the help of advanced technology, the disabled can also contribute to the mainstream. The President said that the progress of a country or society can be judged by how people in that society treat persons with disabilities. India's history is full of inspiring incidents of sensitivity and inclusiveness. Elements of human compassion and love have always been present in our culture and civilization. He said that the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan emphasizes on developing an accessible physical environment, transport, information and communication ecosystem, the government is making efforts for disabled empowerment and equal participation. The President praised the work being done by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on the all-round development of students through the inclusive education system and the latest technological resources. He said that society should make efforts to encourage differently abled persons in every sphere of life. During this, the President interacted with the students of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and visited the Model School Science Laboratory and Computer Laboratory as well as an exhibition. Inauguration of Presidential Niketan and Tapovan: Earlier, President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated Presidential Niketan, Presidential Tapovan, Cafeteria, Souvenir Shop and Visitor Facilitation Centre. She laid the

## Azamgarh has today become a stronghold of indomitable courage

**Vatika Times Lucknow/Azamgarh**

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Gorakhpur Link Expressway in Azamgarh on Friday. This link expressway, which has become a symbol of taking the state to new dimensions of development, is 91.352 km long and has been constructed at a cost of Rs 7,283 crore. CM Yogi dedicated the expressway to the general public by cutting the ribbon amid Vedic chanting and himself left for



Gorakhpur with his convoy. Earlier, while addressing the public meeting organized in Salarpur, Phulpur of Azamgarh, CM Yogi said that earlier Azamgarh used to struggle with the crisis of identity, but today it

has become a stronghold of indomitable courage. This achievement is the result of the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the efforts of the double engine government, which is establishing Uttar

Pradesh from a BIMARU state to an expressway state. He said that this expressway will provide world-class connectivity to Azamgarh as well as Ambedkar Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar and Gorakhpur. This connectivity will make the journey from Patna to Delhi easier - CM Yogi. CM Yogi said that this link expressway from Azamgarh to Gorakhpur is connecting eastern Uttar Pradesh to the mainstream of development.

## Commission launched UPSC Pratibha Setu

**Vatika Times New Delhi**

UPSC has launched the 'Pratibha Setu' scheme keeping in mind the interest of the candidates who missed out on making it to the final merit list. Through this, the commission will help in getting jobs to those candidates who appear in all the stages of the UPSC examination but are unable to make it to the final merit. The commission said in an official note that Pratibha Setu pro-



vides a platform to verified employers - ministries, public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and private organizations - to select non-recommended candidates who are as meritorious as the recommended candidates. It also provides a

second gateway for UPSC candidates to shine beyond the examination. Under the scheme, the government and private companies will get information about the talents who cleared all the stages of the UPSC examination but failed to make it to the final merit list. UPSC's Pratibha Setu was earlier known as the Public Earlier, UPSC had released the list of non-recommended candidates.

## English is not a shame but a power: Rahul

**Vatika Times New Delhi**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that English empowers. It is not shameful and it should be taught to every child. Rahul alleged that the BJP-RSS do not want poor children to learn this language because they do not want them to ask questions and achieve equality. Rahul's post came after Amit Shah's comment in which Shah had said that those who speak English in this country will soon be ashamed. Rahul Gandhi wrote on - English is not a dam, it is a bridge. English is not shame, it is power. English is not a chain, it is a tool to break chains. The BJP-RSS do not want the poor child of India to learn English because they do not want you to ask questions, move forward, achieve equality. In today's world,



English is as important as your mother tongue, because it will get employment, increase confidence. Every language of India has soul, culture, knowledge. We have to cherish them, and at the same time teach English to every child. This is the way to an India that competes with the world, which gives every child an opportunity to be equal. Shah had said - We are not Indians without the languages ?? of our country. On the 'future of Indian languages' including Hindi, Shah said, 'No

foreign language can be enough to understand our country, our culture, our history and our religion. Complete India cannot be imagined through incomplete foreign languages. I know very well how difficult this battle is, but I am confident that Indian society will win it. Once again with self-respect, we will run our country in our languages and also lead the world. Tumultuous leaders also jumped into the language controversy. Amid the debate on language, Trinamool Congress

leader Derek O'Brien said on Friday that India has 22 constitutionally recognized languages ?? and 19,500 languages ?? and dialects and this is the unity in diversity of our country. 97% of the people use one of the recognized languages ?? as their mother tongue. Amit Shah, PM Narendra Modi and his gang will never understand this. Sagarika Ghose, Rajya Sabha member of LTTE MC, also wrote on Twitter - Indians should not be ashamed of any language. What has been said in the Indian Constitution on language... The 22 languages ?? listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit.

## Modi returns home after successful visit to three countries

**Vatika Times New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned home on Thursday after completing his three-nation visit to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia. This visit was made with the aim of strengthening strategic partnership, giving a new dimension to bilateral relations and further strengthening India's role on the global stage. Cabinet members, senior officials and BJP workers were present at the Delhi airport to welcome the Prime Minister. In the first leg of the visit, Prime Minister Modi reached Cyprus, where he met President Nikos Christodoulides. Both the countries agreed to increase cooperation in the field of energy, IT and investment. Three agreements including avoidance of double taxation were signed between India and Cyprus.

## Rajnath Singh will go to China to attend the SCO meeting



**Vatika Times New Delhi**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting to be held in China's Qingdao city from 25 to 27 June. Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif will also participate in this meeting. This will be the visit of any Indian minister to China after 7 years. Earlier, the then Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj had gone in April 2018. This visit is taking place at a time when efforts are being made to normalise relations between India and China. Trade, travel and

dialogue have resumed. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is on and information about patrolling in Depsang and Demchok has also come to light. Rajnath Singh will also meet China's Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun as a bilateral meeting. During this time, issues like visa policy, Kailash Yatra, sharing of water data and restoration of air connectivity between the two countries can also be discussed. The last meeting of the two leaders took place at the Outer-Plus Summit in Laos, which was the first direct talks after the border dispute. An agreement was reached.

Editorial

The Warsaw Pact was to counter NATO

Ritu Walia

Post-World War II saw the emergence of two power blocks: the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), formed in 1949, and the Soviet Union-led Warsaw Pact, formed in 1955. NATO was meant to defend against the spread of Soviet-led communism. The Warsaw Pact was to counter NATO. The resultant Cold War saw huge military buildups and competition in the space and nuclear fields. At its peak between 1975 and 1985, the US and Soviet Union had a nuclear weapons stockpile of nearly 60,000 warheads. The collapse and breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 brought an end to the Cold War. The period saw arms control treaties and a significant reduction of nuclear weapons, and stockpiles between the two are now around 6,000 each. The period also saw the folding up of the Warsaw Pact, but a significant increase in NATO, which, as of date, has 32 members. The world became unipolar, with the US dominating the security scene. This was also the period when the world concentrated on the War against Terror. West Asia became the area of focus. By 2007, Russia had begun to consolidate its power under President Putin. China had started rising as an economic and military power. China unilaterally usurped nearly three million sq. km of the South China Sea (SCS), and became aggressive for Taiwan unification. The Quad was formed with the US, Japan, Australia and India to thwart China's expansionist designs in the Indo-Pacific. Meanwhile in Europe, Ukraine was showing interest in joining NATO. This would have brought the alliance on the Russian doorstep. This was unacceptable to Russia. Initially to secure its Black Sea fleet, Russia arranged to annex Crimea in 2014. With Ukraine still not relenting on NATO, Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Effectively that brought an end to the post-Cold War era.

Post-Cold War Era Begins  
Despite massive NATO support to Ukraine, Russia continues to hold nearly 20 percent Ukrainian territory. The American and European public opinion shows war fatigue, and are not keen to pump more money or weapons. Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen and several militias in Syria and Iraq are part of Iran funded and backed "Axis of Resistance". Now, they have a new backer: Russia. Developments in West Asia (Gaza war and Houthis) have also complicated the US' desire to focus more on the Indo-Pacific. Russia has secured lifelines for its economy and defence enterprises, while navigating to retain its military influence outside of Europe. In spite of economic sanctions, Russia has once again emerged as a power to contend with. Russia supports legacy multilateral institutions, along with China. It is strengthening BRICS, and is pushing for the de-dollarisation of international finance. Russia and China want to prevent the US and its allies from writing international rules. Russia has recalibrated its entire foreign policy to fit the needs of a long struggle. Russia has already expanded its trade and political relations with non-Western countries. The pillars of Russia's global foreign policy are self-preservation and global de-compartmentalisation. China has not only emerged as an economic power that is peddling influence around the world through Belt and Road and other economic initiatives, but has also become a significant military and Space power that wants to initially exert influence in Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, and later across the globe. China has also been modernising and expanding its nuclear arsenal. It is not willing to sit with the US and Russia to discuss arms control or evolve new treaties. The antagonism between Russia and the US has already put arms-control treaties.

Broaden the geopolitical concept of the Indo-Pacific to the Greater Indo-Pacific

Suman Singh

Looking at the complex geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges the Indo-Pacific region is currently grappling it is necessary that there is a need to broaden the geopolitical concept of the Indo-Pacific to the Greater Indo-Pacific. The Greater Indo-Pacific can rebalance the global geopolitics and geoeconomics while checkmating China's hegemonic role. India, being the Centre of Indo-Pacific geopolitics, can play a central role in the formation of Greater Indo-Pacific.

Introduction  
The recent war between Israel and Hamas, as well as Russia and Ukraine war along with the Red Sea crisis demonstrates that some of these crises are having an impact on the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific. Along with these wars, the rise of China is also posing a substantial challenge to the Greater Indo-Pacific encompassing major countries of the "Eurasian Heartland" in the phraseology of Halford Mackinder, like India, the US, Japan, South East Asian countries, South Korea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Israel, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Russia and Kazakhstan. Though the idea appears to be entirely imaginary, understanding the present geopolitical complexities is necessary to consider the Greater Indo-Pacific concept. Both the US and Russia should



learn from Israel's and Saudi Arabia's relations. Improved relations between Moscow and Washington can enhance peace and security in West Asia, the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific regions as well also in the post-Soviet space. Bringing these above-mentioned regions into a Greater Indo-Pacific framework can give impetus to peace and security in the region as well as enhance economic cooperation. A Greater Indo-Pacific can also provide a necessary challenge to China's hegemonic geopolitics. In this context, India can play a vital role in giving the necessary leadership to Greater Indo-Pacific. The prolonged crisis in the "heartland" in the form of a war between Russia and Ukraine, as well as the onset of the war between Israel and Hamas and its spiral impact in the form of the Red Sea crisis, is providing a new

kind of geopolitical equation in the global map. One thing is sure: phrases like alliances and block politics (though not in an ideological framework) and issues relating to armament and disarmament are currently gaining broader importance in geopolitical discourses. The two wars, as discussed above, demonstrate the significance of the metaphor of "Eurasia" as coined by British geopolitical thinker Halford J Mackinder in his classic work Democratic Ideals and Reality published in 1919, where he eulogised the concept of "World Island" and also "Heartland" in the lexicon of geopolitics. The reason for discussing the metaphor of "Eurasia" or "Heartland" in the present strategic polemics on the Indo-Pacific is to highlight how these two trajectories can be relevant in the context of the geopolitics of the region. Though Mackinder has not

talked about the concept of Indo-Pacific, his article titled Geographical Pivot of History, published in 1904, discussed the concept of "Inner Crescent" and "Outer Crescent", where much of the Indo-Pacific comes under the ambit. For instance, India is in the inner crescent of Eurasia and Japan and the United States are in the outer crescent as per Mackinder. Highlighting the strategic significance of both "Inner Crescent" and "Outer Crescent", Mackinder, in his book Democratic Ideals and Reality, suggested that "The actual balance of political power at any given time is, of course, the product, on the one hand, of geographical conditions, both economic and strategic, and, on the other hand, of the relative number, virility, equipment, and organization of the competing peoples" (p.192). Similarly, German geopolitical analyst Karl Haushofer in his seminal work Geopolitics of the Pacific Ocean, published in 1924, outlined the strategic significance of this region in the global geopolitics. Describing the strategic significance of this region, Haushofer describes this region as a "giant space is expanding before our eyes." He further highlights that this region "awaits the dawn of the Pacific age, the successor to the ageing Atlantic, the over-age Mediterranean and the

European era." (as quoted in Weigert, H. W. (1942). Reviewed work(s): geopolitik des pazifischen ozeans by Karl Haushofer (Review: Haushofer and the Pacific.). Foreign Affair., 20(4), 732-742). Similarly, Nocolas J Spykman in his classic work Geography of Peace, outlines the concept of Rimland where countries like Japan, India, South Korea and Saudi Arabia, located to adjacent Heartland can play a greater role. In this context, he highlights Rimland's logic, which contrasts the Mackinder approach. Spykman stated, "Whoever rules the Rimland commands Eurasia, and whoever rules Eurasia commands the world." The necessity for delving into some of the issues relating to theoretical polemics of Indo-Pacific, as highlighted in the above works of both Mackinder, Haushofer and Spykman is to trace out the significance of the concept of Indo-Pacific, which is gaining much importance in the present-day geopolitical analysis. One may recall here that Indian scholar Kalidas Nag, in his work Greater India, explains India's role in global geopolitics. In the same book, Nag highlights that "India, through the hands of Ashoka, showered her blessings of peace and progress over this symbolic union of Asia, Africa and Europe with the ties of Internationalism"(p.127). Nag's work.

How women are navigating challenges and taking centre stage?

Abhinav

Amid rapid digitization, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a buzzword but has emerged as a priority for businesses across industries. Whether it is voice assistants like Siri and Alexa fulfilling our wishes at a simple voice command, the ETA of cabs we book, or Natural language processing (NLP) and Machine learning (ML) algorithms-enabled chatbots resolving our queries instantly, AI is revolutionizing different aspects of our lives. However, to ensure its impactful development, equal and inclusive participation is essential. And women are rising to the occasion to explore prospective opportunities and break barriers with a vision to shape the future of AI.

In an industry historically dominated by men, women have defied bias to occupy a prominent position in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) sector. They have made significant strides in facilitating AI and ML advancements. In fact, women are credited with being one of the most prominent pioneers in the field of AI. Dating back to the mid-19th century, Ada Lovelace, known as the world's first computer programmer, worked collaboratively with Charles Babbage on the design of the Analytical Engine. Even in the mid-20th century, Katherine Johnson was instrumental in the success of the first manned space flights and went on to become a role model for women in the STEM field.

Closer home, several women are leading the AI revolution. India has the highest skill penetration rates, and women are contributing by being at the forefront of AI research and development. Take Aakanksha Chowdhery, for instance. She is a staff research scientist at Google DeepMind whose extensive research and contributions extend to fields like signal processing, ML, edge computing, etc. Additionally, strong-headed women like Tessy Thomas at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ishu Jain leading central analytics at Swiggy and Divya Mittal, Director of data science at American Express, among others, are shining examples.

Radhika Singh

Exciting things were happening in Nairobi at the end of February. Indian models for Global South cooperation were in focus over a few days. This was particularly evident at the 11th Sankalp Africa summit session on scaling agricultural innovation through South-South collaboration. As many as 1500 people with ideas for impacting the development of their communities gathered at this annual event from across Africa. Investors and impact financiers looked at them and interacted to find solutions. Many sessions focused on possible solutions using the success of models in different countries, particularly India. The agriculture and South-South cooperation session aimed at creating a deeper understanding of the challenges that agriculture value chains face in Africa. The role of agricultural innovations and how targeted interventions and sustainable development approaches could positively impact them and consequently benefit small farmers were emphasised. These have particular relevance for an enhanced understanding of the enabling aspects, barriers to technology transfers, and their adaptability. One of the areas that was focused on was South-South collaboration through innovative agricultural enterpris-



es, which could perhaps foster cross-border partnerships. This is relevant as the East African Community expands to include more countries and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area takes more steps towards implementation. A focused discussion brought together major stakeholders like development partners, policy-makers, representatives of farmers, innovative agricultural enterprises, and investors. The Indian model of a bustling innovative agricultural ecosystem, which has been impacted by innovative enterprises serving 15 million farmers, was in focus. The context was set by discussing how India-Africa cooperation has traditionally focused on the private sector and heavily on agriculture. Even bilateral cooperation at the government-to-government level and through the India-Africa summits has had agriculture at its core. Agriculture features in PM Modi's 10-point action plan for Africa, enunciated in Uganda in 2018. Yet, do government-to-government initiatives

always work? As per a recent book, The Harambee Factor, many of these initiatives, like seed demonstration centres, rural technology centres, farm science centres, and the like, were offered by India to African countries, but these were not easily absorbed by African governments. Wherever the private sector or civil society is involved, the absorption is better and more conducive to backward integration. This approach was then discussed with several partners at the session. There were two entrepreneurs: Giraffe Bioenergy and Everest Enterprises. They were complimented by investing companies, the Delta 40 and the Katapult VC. The World Bank and the Gates Foundation also participated, as did the CEO of the Cereal Growers Association of Kenya, which brings together half a million cereal growers for better marketing. Giraffe Bioenergy is developing a focus on three aspects of sustainable development: food security, renewable energy.

The Nine Degree Channel separates the island of Minicoy from the Lakshadweep archipelago

Simran Singh

The small island nation, a long-standing Indian vassal, has now moved into Sinosphere, providing China with a long-desired foothold in the Indian Ocean. "This is unprecedented. It's the first time the Maldives has signed a defence agreement with Beijing to provide military assistance," Azim Zahir, a Maldivian political analyst, told the BBC. "We knew that Mr Muizzu would forge closer ties with China in terms of investment

and capital, but no one expected him to go to this extent," he said. In anticipation of China's move, India commissioned the INS Jatayu, an upgraded naval base in the Lakshadweep Islands, marking a significant development in India's maritime security strategy, particularly in the context of growing Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Additionally, the Indian Navy commissioned its first MH-60R multi-role helicopter squadron Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 334 at Kochi, a major capability boost for its

rotary fleet and its anti-submarine warfare capabilities. Situated in Minicoy, the southernmost atoll of the Lakshadweep archipelago, INS Jatayu strategically overlooks vital Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs). Minicoy Island, where INS Jatayu is located, sits at the intersection of crucial SLOCs like the Eight Degree Channel and the Nine Degree Channel. Eight Degree Channel separates Indian Minicoy Island from Maldives. The Nine Degree Channel separates the island of Minicoy from the

Lakshadweep archipelago. The growing tension in the Indian Ocean between the two Asian giants seems to be one of the reasons for the reorganisation of the Indian Army on the Indo-Tibetan border, one of the most treacherous and strategic battlefronts for both countries. The Indian move increases pressure on China which attaches great political, spiritual and strategic importance to Tibet. Tibet's Dalai Lama and its government in exile has sheltered in India, adding to tensions between the neighbours.

# Cantabil expands its retail presence with the opening of its New Men, Women & Accessories store in AMRITSAR

The new store offers an extensive selection of Menswear, Womenswear along with accessories

**Vatika Times**  
**AMRITSAR:** Cantabil Retail India Ltd., one of India's leading apparel manufacturer and retailer, has announced the opening of its new retail store in Amritsar. Spanning across 1347 sqft. area, the brand store is located at SCO-51, D BLOCK, RANJEET AVENUE, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB-143001, marks a significant milestone in the brand's expansion journey. Dedicated to offering a comprehensive selection of formal-wear, casuals, and party-wear clothing for Men, Women along with accessories, Cantabil redefine the retail experience. Cantabil has achieved a remarkable milestone of 600 stores nationwide, solidifying its position



as a leader in the fashion industry. Commenting on this exciting launch, Mr. Deepak Bansal, Director of Cantabil Retail India Ltd., expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We are thrilled to introduce our new Men & Women store in Amritsar. Cantabil has garnered immense appreciation in the mid-premium segment, resonating with customers. Our new store will showcase the trendy collection of fashion-forward apparel for Men & Women. With a strong presence

across India, we are committed to further expanding our retail footprint in the coming years." Cantabil has consistently delivered premium clothing with cutting-edge style, reflecting the evolving fashion landscape. As the brand continues to curate classic and stylish apparel assortments, it remains dedicated to providing customers with unparalleled fashion experiences. The Cantabil Story! Embark on a sartorial journey with Cantabil Retail India Ltd., shaping the fashion land-

scape since its inception in 2000. As pioneers in the industry, we've curated a comprehensive range of apparel under the iconic CANTABIL brand, spanning men's and women's wear, alongside a vibrant collection for kids. Over the past 25 illustrious years, we've evolved into India's foremost family-wear brand, introducing men's apparel in 2000, women's wear in 2007, and a delightful kids' line in 2018. Our commitment to innovation continued in 2023 with the

launch of athleisure wear and shoes, complementing our diverse portfolio that includes shirts, trousers, denim, suits, blazers, jackets, and more. Venturing beyond apparel, we've ventured into accessories, from perfumes to wallets, ensuring a holistic shopping experience. Find us on leading marketplaces like Myntra, Ajo, Flipkart, Amazon, Nykaa, and Tatacliq or explore our offerings firsthand at Cantabilshop.com. Join us as we redefine fashion, one stitch at a time!

## KU becomes First Haryana State University to Sign MOU for Apprenticeship-Embedded Degree Programme



**Jasbir Singh Duggal**  
**Kurukshetra:** Kurukshetra University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur on 20th June in the Committee Room under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, KUK, Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva. On behalf of Kurukshetra University, Registrar Dr. Virender Pal and Deputy Director of the Board of Apprenticeship Training, Mr. Sandeep Kumar, signed the MoU. During this MoU ceremony, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva congratulated both parties on the agreement and said that as a part of this agree-

ment, Kurukshetra University and the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur have agreed in principle to implement the apprenticeship component of the AEDP (Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program) for undergraduate programs such as BCA, B.Com (Professional), Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS), and B.Sc. LLT, in accordance with UGC guidelines. Prof. Sachdeva also highlighted the vital role of KU Technology Incubation Centre and Centre For Entrepreneurship and further said that internship programs aligned with NEP-2020 have been launched to empower learners with real-

world skills, making them self-reliant. Mr. Sandeep Kumar from BOAT explained that under the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS), students are offered apprenticeship training. Prof. Jasvinder Singh shed light on the objectives of the MoU. The event was graced by Dean, Academic Affairs Prof. Dinesh Kumar, Prof. Manjula Chaudhary, Prof. Neelam Dhandha, Prof. Sanjeev Arora, Prof. Jitendra Sharma, Prof. Sanjeev Sharma, Prof. Pradeep Kumar, Prof. Rakesh Kumar, Prof. Rita, Prof. Mahavir Narwal, Prof. Anita Dua, Prof. Mohinder Chand, Prof. Mahasingh Poonia, Prof. Ashwani, Prof. Neeraj and Dr. Ankeshwar Prakash.

## HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED 12,500 CRORE IPO TO OPEN ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

**Vatika Times**  
**GURUGRAM:** HDB Financial Services Limited ("HDB Financial" or "The Company") shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Wednesday, June 25, 2025. The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The Bid/Offer will close on Friday, June 27, 2025. Bids can be made for a minimum of 20 Equity Shares and in multiples of 20 Equity Shares thereafter. ("Bid Details") The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at 700 to 740 per Equity Share. The total offer size



of equity shares with face value 10 each aggregating up to 125,000 million [ 12,500 crore] comprises of fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to 25,000 million [ 2,500 crore] and Offer for sale of equity share aggregating up to 100,000 million [ 10,000 crore] . ("Total Offer Size") The Company

proposes to utilize the net proceeds from the fresh issue towards augmenting Company's Tier – I Capital base to meet Company's future capital requirements including onward lending under any of the Company's business verticals i.e. Enterprise Lending, Asset Finance and Consumer

Finance. Further, a portion of the proceeds from the Fresh Issue will be used towards meeting Offer Expenses. ("Objects of the Offer") The offer for sale of equity share capital comprises aggregating up to 1,00,000 million [ 10,000 crore] by HDFC Bank Limited ("Promoter Selling Shareholder"). ("Offer for sale") The Equity Shares will be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus of the Company dated June 19, 2025 filed with Registrar of Companies, Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli at Ahmedabad ("RoC").

## Adani Enterprises created a Kenyan firm to buy and administer

**Delhi :** Adani Enterprises created a Kenyan firm to buy and administer an airport as part of its global expansion. The newly founded A i r p o r t s Infrastructure plans to run Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Gautam Adani Adani establishes unit as co supports Kenyan airport runway despite objections Company I n e l i y a to oversee airport as part of global development. The newly founded A i r p o r t s Infrastructure plans to run Nairobi's Jomo

K e n y a t t a International Airport. I give solid counsel, not tips. Global Airports Operator, Adani's Abu Dhabi affiliate, is managing this initiative. The business plans to spend \$750 million by 2029 on a new terminal and taxiway system and \$92 million by 2035 on renovations. If successful, Adani will open its first airport outside India, where it operates six. Our Wealthline is 92345 Know More Kenya's transport workers protested the move, fearing job

## Sambhv Steel Tubes Limited 540 crore Initial Public Offering to open on June 25, 2025



**Vatika Times**  
**GURUGRAM:** Sambhv Steel Tubes Limited ("Sambhv" or the "Company") shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public offer of Equity Shares on Wednesday, June 25, 2025. The total offer size of Equity Shares aggregating up to 5400 million [ 540 crore] comprises of fresh issue aggregating up to 4,400 million [ 440 crore] and Offer for Sale aggregating up to 1,000 million [ 100 crore] by Selling Shareholders. ("The Total Offer Size"). The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The Bid/Offer will open on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 for subscription and will close on Friday, June 27, 2025. The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at 77 to 82 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 182 Equity Shares and in multiples of 182 Equity Shares thereafter. The Company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares towards Pre-payment or scheduled repayment of a portion of certain outstanding borrowings availed by Company; and balance amount towards general corporate purposes ("Object of Issue"). The offer for sale comprises of Equity shares aggregating up to 100.00 million [ 10 crore] by Shashank Goyal (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder"), aggregating up to 100.00 million [ 10 crore ] by Rohit Goyal (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder"), aggregating up to 350.00 million [ 35 crore ] by Kaushliya Goyal (the "Promoter Group Selling Shareholder"), aggregating up to 100.00 million [ 10 crore ] by Harshheet Goyal (the "Promoter Group Selling Shareholders") and Rinku Goyal aggregating up to 350.00 million [ 35 crore ] (the "Other Selling Shareholder"). (Combined, "The Selling Shareholders")

## Vi Scales up Indoor Network Experience and Data speeds for customers in Haryana

**Vatika Times**  
**GURUGRAM / HISAR :** Leading telecom operator Vi, today announced significant network enhancements across Haryana. The company has successfully deployed the most efficient 900 MHz spectrum in 1500+ sites and doubled capacity on 1200+ sites from 5MHz to 10 MHz across key locations like Panipat, Sonapat, Bhiwani, Rewari, Palwal, Jind, Sirsa, Hisar, Rohtak, Karnal, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Bahadurgarh and more.



This network upgrade will enable Vi users to enjoy a superior indoor network experience, especially in urban areas and densely populated locations. In addition, Vi has upgraded its spectrum in the 2100 MHz band from 10 MHz to 15 MHz across 1900+ sites in Haryana, enabling customers to experience faster data speeds on Vi GIGAnet.

## CM felicitated Arsh Gandhi, a student of Genesis who secured Haryana top-per first position and All India Rank 11

**DILPREET WALIA**  
**Karnal :** Today at the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh, the Honorable Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. Naib Singh Saini Ji, felicitated Genesis' student Arsh Gandhi, who secured Haryana topper first position and All India Rank 11. He was accompanied by Genesis' Managing Director Mr. Jitendra Singh, Arsh Gandhi's father Dr. Arun Gandhi, mother Dr. Meenu Gandhi. Let us tell you that in



this year's NEET result, 4 children of Genesis were in the top 200 and every third student of Genesis scored more than 500 marks. Arsh Gandhi, a brilliant

student of the institute, secured All India Rank-11 and Haryana State Rank-1 by scoring 674 marks. This is a proud moment not only for the institute but for the

entire state. Along with this great achievement, other students of Genesis Classes also performed excellently. 7 students scored 600+ marks, and more than 84 students scored 525+ marks, making Genesis once again the leader in NEET preparation. The institute's directors Jitendra Ahlawat and Navneet Kalhan described this success as a result of the hard work of the children, the dedication of the teachers and the faith of the parents.



# Now It’s Time to Set a World Record in Yoga Under CM Nayab Singh Saini’s Leadership : Subhash

**Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra:** Former Minister of State Subhash Sudha stated that the state-level yoga program being organized in Kurukshetra on the occasion of the International Yoga Festival will set a new milestone. More than 1 lakh participants will take part in the event and create a new world record under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. The program is being organized with the joint efforts of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haryana Yoga Commission, and various institutions of the district, with over 1 lakh participants



expected to join. He said all high-level preparations have been completed to ensure the success of the program. Former Minister Subhash Sudha was addressing a press conference on Friday in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat regarding the preparations for the state-level yoga program.

Before this, Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh gave a detailed briefing to Former Minister Sudha and CM Office In-charge Kailash Saini about all the preparations made for the event. Subhash Sudha emphasized that the ancient Indian practice of yoga is now recognized globally. Many countries have

adopted yoga along with India. Continuing this legacy, a grand state-level yoga event is being organized in Kurukshetra on the occasion of International Yoga Day. More than 1 lakh participants will take part to promote yoga. He added that it is a matter of pride for everyone that there is growing global curiosity to learn about India's yoga and traditional medical systems. All preparations for the state-level yoga program are in the final stage. CM Office In-charge Kailash Saini said that the dream of achiev-

ing global recognition through CM Nayab Singh Saini's state-level yoga program is set to be realized on June 21. All party workers, local institutions, schools, educational institutions, officials, and employees will participate in the event. He added that comprehensive traffic arrangements have been made for attendees. Adequate parking zones have been identified. Responsibilities have been assigned to all volunteers to ensure a successful event. He also mentioned that at the end of the program, school students will be the first to be dispersed.

# Young learners, big achievement: Uttar Pradesh surpasses national average in PARAKH survey

**Lucknow** Uttar Pradesh has once again marked its growing prominence in the field of education across the country. According to the recently released data from the PARAKH National Survey 2024, for the first time ever, Class 3 students from Uttar Pradesh have outperformed the national average in both Language and Mathematics. The

extensive survey was conducted on 4th December 2024, with participation from all 75 districts of the state. Historic improvement in Class 3In this year's survey, Class 3 students from Uttar Pradesh scored an average of 68 in Language and 64 in Mathematics, compared to the national averages of 64 and 60 respectively. These results indicate a significant leap in the

quality of primary education in the state. Districts like Kasganj, Shamli, Auraiya, Ambedkar Nagar, and Mahoba emerged as top performers in Class 3. It's worth noting that in the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021, Uttar Pradesh had scored below the national average at this level. Progress seen in Class 6 and 9 as well. Class 6 students.

# Mumbai Cars Enter Without Toll

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

free. The state government cabinet meeting in Mumbai announced the measure weeks before the Maharashtra election. This will cut traffic, pollution, and commuter time. The decision is historic "Mr. Shinde told reporters. CM Ekanth Shinde states "The toll plaza at Mumbai's entry point used to delay traffic. People have demanded this for years. I'm also pleased that lakhs

of light motor vehicles have been released during my term as CM. Maharashtra minister Dadaji Dagadu Bhuse said light cars could enter freely from 2002-commissioned tolls at Dahisar, Anand Nagar, Vaishali, Airoli, and Mulund."Rs 45-75 was levied at these tolls until 2026. He added 3.5 lakh cars, including 2.80 lakh light vehicles, used to cross these toll plazas.

# Chief Minister inaugurates 91.35 km long Gorakhpur Link

Gorakhpur Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that when the pace of infrastructure development accelerates, progress follows, and with it comes prosperity. For holistic development, it is crucial to ensure rapid growth in infrastructure. Addressing a public gathering at the Bhagwanpur Toll Plaza during the inauguration of the 91.35 km-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway—built at a cost of ₹7,283.28 crore—on Friday, the Chief Minister said, "The secret behind the development of advanced nations lies in their robust infrastructure." He added, "Since 2017, Uttar Pradesh has

focused on strengthening its infrastructure. As a result, the state has shed its image as a BIMARU state and is now being recognised as an 'Emerging' state, playing a key role as the growth engine of the nation's economy." Recalling the situation prior to 2017, the Chief Minister stated, "Uttar Pradesh then lacked both a developmental agenda and basic amenities. Welfare schemes failed to reach their rightful beneficiaries. Traditional industries were on the brink of extinction, and a culture of 'One District, One Mafia' thrived under previous governments.

# UP Cabinet approves Urban Green Policy to transform cities into climate-resilient green hubs

**Lucknow** In a landmark decision under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the Urban Green Policy proposed by the Urban Development Department. This initiative aims to drive sustainable and eco-friendly growth in urban local bodies. The primary goal of the UP Urban Green Policy is to encourage and support green initiatives, making cities more sustainable and resilient. Under this policy, a 'Green City Monitoring System' will be developed to evaluate and award 'Green

Star' ratings to cities based on their environmental efforts and green infrastructure. To reduce the impact of climate change in urban areas, the policy promotes the development of vertical gardens, rooftop gardens, and Miyawaki forests. The new policy will take important steps to reduce the effects of climate change and protect the environment. It will be implemented through a three-level approach — focusing on the city, neighbourhood, and building levels. At the city level, dense mini-forests will be created using the Miyawaki method,

making green spaces grow quickly. Cities will also have green belts, low-emission zones, 'sponge' parks, and host special green fairs. At the neighbourhood level, there will be efforts to build pocket parks, community gardens, and adopt-a-park programs. At the building level, new constructions will be required to meet green building standards, focusing on eco-friendly materials, energy-saving technologies, and green roofs. The state will fund the Urban Green Policy through various central and state government programs such as AMRUT 2.0, the

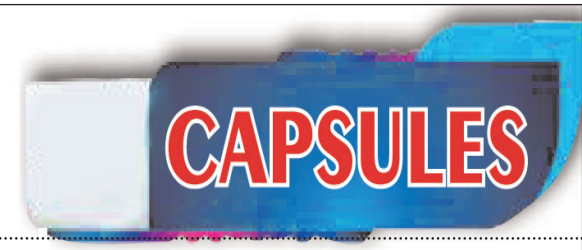
# State-Level Felicitation Ceremony to be Held on the 45th Foundation Day of Kashyap Rajput Bhavan : Rajbir

**Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra:** On the occasion of the 45th foundation day of Kashyap Rajput Bhavan, a grand state-level felicitation ceremony will be organized on June 22 at the Kashyap Rajput Dharamshala in Kurukshetra. The chief guest for this prestigious event will be Haryana's Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Krishan Bedi. Ram Kumar Kashyap, MLA from Indri, will grace the event as the special guest. The ceremony will be presided over by Advocate Rajbir Singh, State President of the Kashyap Rajput Sabha, Haryana. Members of the state executive committee, district presidents, youth wing representatives, and senior community members will also take part in the program.



Prominent officials, youth representatives, and senior members of the Kashyap community from across the state will participate in the event. Rajbir Kashyap, President of the Kashyap Rajput Sabha, shared that over 200 meritorious students will be honored during this state-level annual felicitation ceremony marking the 45th foundation day of the Kashyap Rajput Bhavan. He further stated that individuals from the community who have made significant contributions in social, educational, political, administrative, and

service sectors will also be recognized during the event. Thousands of people from the community are expected to attend the program. Invitations are being personally extended across various regions to ensure a large turnout. There is visible excitement and enthusiasm among the community members for the upcoming celebration. On this occasion, Vice President Ramlal Kashyap, General Secretary Sanjeev Kashyap, Davinder Dev Kashyap, Pradeep Upali, Vikram Singh Kashyap, and others were present.



# Working Journalists of India Demanded for immediate formation of New Media Commission and Media Council at Chandigarh meeting



**Vatika Times** **CHANDIGARH:** Working Journalists of India has demanded the formation of the third media commission immediately from the central government. It was also demanded to dissolve the Press Council of India and make a Media Council. The union leaders also urged journalists of digital media and online media to give government recognition and give government advertisements to their portals. Today the meeting of Chandigarh Unit of Working Journalists of India was held in Arya Samaj Sector 7B Chandigarh while the meeting of journalists of Punjab and Himanchal Pradesh was held at Chandigarh Press Club Sector 27. In both these meetings, the journalists of Chandigarh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh raised the problems of their respective states with the union. Working Journalists of India assured to solve their problems. Advisor to Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, Surendra Verma introduced journalists from different states. National President Sanjay Upadhyay said in his address that Working Journalists of India is the voice of journalists. This union is the protector of their rights. The union has been raising the demands of journalists well with the governments for the last several years. He is trying to get their demands resolved completely. Describing in detail about the upcoming programs, General Secretary Narendra Bhandari said that now the union has reached many states. This is a nationalist union. His main goal is to solve the problems being faced by the journalists of every state of the country. Every journalist can put his problems before the union without any hesitation. Dr Vinod Kumar Sharma was elected as the President of Chandigarh Unit and Sunil Kumar as General Secretary. Ravindra Talvad, Prem Vij, and KK Sharda were appointed patterns. Prakash Chandra Sharma and Pradeep Shukla have been appointed as Senior Vice Presidents, Parson Burman as Vice President, Pradeep Sharma as Media Secretary, Vinay Sharma and Rakhi as Secretary. Advocates Davesh Modgil and Karan Shukla have been appointed as legal advisors. On this occasion Nikhil Kalra, Pravesh Chauhan, Tripti Kiranjit Kaur, Shiv Gautam, Rakesh Wallia, JS Sodhi, Rajkumar Verma, Sudhir Sood, Tinku Bhatia Nitin Garg Nikhil Kalra, Harjinder Singh Rakesh Rakesh Pahwa, Vichitra Singh, Shanti Gautam, Umesh Dhiman, Kavita Sharma, Mohit Mahajan, Anil Kumar etc.



## A woman's rape case against a man was dismissed by the Supreme Court

**Delhi:** A woman's rape case against a man was dismissed by the Supreme Court because the court determined that a married woman cannot accuse a guy of rape on promise of marriage if her own marriage is still going strong. In this instance, we have a Muslim mother of a four-year-old boy who lived with her parents in Satara, Maharashtra. She became close with her 23-year-old neighbor, who was a biology major. Assuring her again and again that he would marry her following her divorce, the guy allegedly had a physical contact with her from June 8, 2022, to July 8, 2023, according to her police complaint, which accused him of rape on the promise of marriage. It wasn't until December 29, 2022, that she was able to secure a "khumana," or divorce, from her husband, Dhananjay Mahapatra. Following the filing of FIRS, the guy sought to have the case dismissed by the HC, but was unsuccessful. He



### Jagannath temple body to apply for patents on names

**Delhi:** Amid the tussle between Odisha and West Bengal over naming of the Jagannath temple in Digha as Jagannath dham, the Jagannath temple management committee of Puri on Monday said it would apply for patent for expressions such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', and 'Mahaprasad'. The temple management committee

took the matter to the Supreme Court, where Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish C Sharma determined that the woman's story and actions were inconsis-

which met in Puri said. The Sri Jagannath Temple Administration would apply for patents of terms such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', 'Mahaprasad', 'logo of Srimandir', 'Shrikshetra', and 'Purushottam Dham'. It has been approved in a high-level meeting today," said SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee.

Unauthorized physical contact between the appellant and the plaintiff was asserted by the complainant. But she did more than

## The OBC reservation policy in West Bengal has been finalized

**Delhi:** The OBC reservation policy in West Bengal has been finalized by the state administration, which is a major achievement. The judgment, which is significant because it follows the High Court's Division Bench's order, has been approved by the state cabinet. According to the source, the new policy will be unveiled during the next State Assembly session, which is set to begin on the 9th of the month. The existing 7% OBC reservation quota will be significantly increased to 17% as part of this new strate-



gy. This is a major improvement with the potential to change the state's economic and social climate. The updated framework expands the OBC reservation list to include 140 more castes. As part of this growth, a

thorough statewide survey has uncovered 76 new castes. Only 64 of the original 66 castes have been kept. In anticipation of a new survey, two castes have been temporarily removed from the present roster.

### 'Secularism must be two-way street': Pawan

**Delhi :** Actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan condemned the arrest of a Symbiosis law student, who was booked for allegedly hurting 'religious sentiments' through a viral video posted during 'Operation Sindoor'. The student, arrested by West Bengal Police from Gurgaon following a court warrant, had earli-

er deleted the video and issued an apology after it drew criticism online. Taking to X, Kalyan questioned the silence over repeated instances of alleged blasphemy by TMC leaders and MPs, accusing them of mocking Sanatana Dharma by calling it "Gandha Dharm". "Blasphemy must be condemned, always! Secularism isn't a

shield for some and a sword for others. It must be a two-way street. West Bengal Police, the nation is watching. Act justly for all," he said, urging equal condemnation of all such acts and impartial police action. The student was produced before Alipore court and remanded to judicial custody till June 13.

## NCLT ordered the company to keep all \$200 million rights issue funds in a separate escrow account

**Delhi:** The National Company Law Tribunal advised Byju's to have its finances reviewed to determine if it can pay its employees. The court ruled that Byju's is still operating and must generate revenue to pay salaries while hearing a group of employees' request for unpaid wages. The court ordered the firm to establish its incapacity to pay or face an audit. The remarks were part of the arguments, and no decision has been made. Byju's didn't comment. Several Byju employees haven't been paid for February and March. In an earlier letter



to staff, founder and CEO Byju Raveendran stated a few investors' decision to prevent the company from using rights issue funds had delayed salary payments. Byju's laid off 500 workers and closed most of its offices in April. In an interim order in late

February, the NCLT ordered the company to keep all \$200 million rights issue funds in a separate escrow account and not withdraw them until the mismanagement and oppression suit filed by a section of investors against the company's management was

resolved. Since the start, Byju's investors Prosus, Peak XV Partners, Sofina, and General Atlantic have opposed the rights offer and are believed to have appealed the Karnataka high court's recent decision to lift the NCLT stay on its second rights sale.

## CM Nitish Kumar strengthened his relationship 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 special 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 legislators. 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. This demonstrates how hard we strive to bolster Bihar's economy and finance," the CM remarked.

## A step towards "inclusive development and gender equity

**Delhi :** The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC-Leh), which is run by the BJP, has approved a draft that aims to provide 33% of its seats to women. A step towards "inclusive development and gender equity in one of the remotest and most strategic regions" of India was declared by Tashi Gyalson, chief executive councillor of LAHDC-Leh, following bill passing. The most out-of-the-way parts of our nation are prepared to set an example in Passage of the women's reservation law that represents more than simply a policy choice for Ladakh, an area renowned for its breathtaking scenery but also plagued by physical isolation and inadequate infrastructure. "It represents a change in perspective and a strong move-



### Waqf property portal launched by government

**Delhi:** Delhi high court has upheld the 2017 termination of an Army officer who refused to participate in regimental weekly religious parades on the grounds that he belonged to the Christian faith. Samuel had challenged his dismissal without pension and gratuity, and sought reinstatement in service. In a May 30 order, a division bench of Justice Navin Chawla and Justice said: "Our armed forces comprise personnel of all religions, castes, creeds, regions and faiths, whose sole motto is to safeguard the country .

ment towards inclusive governance," Gyalson remarked. We have two hill councils in the Ladakh region: LAHDC-Leh and LAHDC-Kargil. During

the long period of central authority over (formerly a state that included Ladakh) in 1995, the Leh hill council was established.

## E interstate buses will soon be available in Delhi, linking religious sites

**Delhi :** A hundred electric inter-state buses will link the nation's capital with significant religious and regional sites, such as Ayodhya, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Meerut, and Baghpat, as part of a huge

green mobility initiative. According to TNN, this project was greenlit at Friday's board meeting of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). It's all part of the government's larger "Viksit Sankalp

Patra" plan. Senior DTC officials have stated that routes between 250 and 300 kilometers from Delhi will be covered by the new electric bus fleet. As a result of the project, bus routes that once connect-

ed Delhi to cities like Shimla, Jaipur, Aligarh, and Lucknow would once again be available. "These electric buses will strengthen Delhi's connectivity to neighbouring states .

### Yeida approves Film City layout

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

## 375 million subscribers' details are reportedly for sale, however Bharti Airtel disputes any data breach

**Delhi:** In the midst of accusations of a significant consumer data leak, telecom giant Bharti Airtel has denied any security system compromise. A claim has surfaced suggesting that there has been a compromise of Airtel customer data. This is nothing more than vested interests' desperate attempt to damage Airtel's brand. An Airtel representative clarified the rumors of a data breach that have been circulating since yesterday,

Moneycontrol, "We have done a thorough investigation and can confirm that there has been no breach whatsoever from Airtel systems." Unverified claims claimed that the Aadhaar number, phone number, email address, and address of 375 million Airtel subscribers were out for grabs on the dark web. Moneycontrol was unable to confirm the veracity of the report on the data leak. A database was purportedly offered for sale on a dark web

forum by a threat actor going by the handle "xenZen," who apparently demanded \$50,000 for the material.

### Ola leaves Google Maps and relocates to its own Maps Ola

**Delhi :** The ride-hailing company Ola has replaced its Google Maps integration in its app with its own internal map system, Ola Maps, according to a

statement made by CEO and founder Bhavish Aggarwal. Aggarwal claimed in a post on X that the action had allowed the business to save Rs 100 crore a year. "We have completely moved away from Google Maps after leaving Azure last month. Would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit given the current high interest rate environment? We used to spend Rs 100 crore a year on this, but now we spend nil," he said.

Row over Maharashtra min- ister's '100% Hindu' meat initiative explained

NEW DELHI: A political row has erupted in Maharashtra over the government's new meat certification initiative. The controversy began when Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane launched 'Malhar Certification' for Hindu meat traders to ensure "100% Hindu-owned mutton shops, free from adulteration." Rane stated that Hindu shopkeepers selling 'jhatka' mutton would be granted this certification and urged Hindu consumers to purchase mutton exclusively from certified vendors.Soon after Rane's announcement, the opposition criticised the move, alleging it would divide society. Also read: 'Eating halal not written in Hindu religion': Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane proposes 'Malhar certification' Congress MLA Nana Patole condemned Rane's remarks, stating that a minister should not make such

divisive statements. "A minister cannot talk like this. It sends a message that the Chief Minister has no control over his ministers. If any minister is inciting conflict between two religions, the CM should take action," Patole told ANI. Congress leader Aslam Shaikh termed the move unconstitutional. "If this government or Nitesh Rane wants to enter the meat business, then it's good. Our Constitution gives us the freedom to do anything, eat anything, but saying that only one person will do a type of job does not align with our Constitution," he said. Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Chandra Pawar faction) MLA Jitendra Awhad also criticised the comments, particularly during the holy month of Ramzan. "When everything is running smoothly in the state, the BJP government tries to stoke Hindu-Muslim issues," he

said. He also questioned the political motive behind the debate on illegal loud-speakers, stating, "Action should be taken where necessary, but why make it a political issue?" BJP MLA backs Rane Despite the backlash, BJP MLA Sanjay Upadhyay defended Rane's certification initiative, arguing that 'Halal' meat poses health risks. "I have no issue with what people choose to eat, but if someone is being misled, it should be objected to. The chemicals produced during the 'halal' process are harmful to the body. I support Nitesh Rane in this case — chicken and mutton shops should have proper licensing," Upadhyay said. Meanwhile, Rane, justifying his initiative, claimed that the certification would help Hindus identify "rightful mutton shops" run by members of the Hindu community. and

'It is saffron policy': Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin blasts NEP

NEW DELHI: Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin on Wednesday criticized the National Education Policy (NEP), calling it a "saffron policy" and alleging that it is aimed at promoting Hindi rather than the country's overall development."National Education Policy is not education policy; it is saffron policy. The policy is not created to develop India but to develop Hindi. We are opposing the policy as it would destroy the Tamil Nadu education system completely," Stalin said while addressing a rally at Thiruvallur.He also claimed that NEP does not recognize reservation, which he described



as social justice. "NEP denies assistance amount to SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes," he alleged during the public meeting. Stalin further accused the central government of withholding Tamil Nadu's share of funds because the state did not adopt NEP. "We are asking for your tax share, which we paid with our efforts. What is the problem with this? Is it fair to threaten without releasing funds

for the welfare of 43 lakh schools? As we didn't accept NEP, they are refusing to release funds that belong to Tamil Nadu. We would have welcomed the scheme if it brought everyone into education. But is NEP like that? NEP has all the factors that remove people from education. This is how this policy is, and that's why we are opposing it," he said. The point of contention in the debate over NEP is its three-language formula, which Tamil Nadu fears could lead to the imposition of Hindi in the state. Stalin earlier argued that the policy gives preference to Hindi over regional languages.

Maharashtra mantri's close aide named in Beed sarpanch murder chargesheet

Sambhajinagar Maharashtra CID has filed a chargesheet against former Parli council chief Valmik Karad and his aides in three cases — murder of Massajog sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh on Dec 9, 2024; attempt to extort Rs 2 crore from arenewable energy

firm; and assault on the firm's staffers. Karad is a close aide of NCP minister Dhananjay Munde. CID concluded that Deshmukh's murder was the result of a bigger conspiracy by Karad, who wanted "to create a reign of terror" and eliminate whoso-

ever came in way of his Rs 2 crore extortion attempt. Besides Karad, chargesheets were filed Feb 27 before a MCOCA court against Vishnu Chate, Sudarshan Ghule, Pratik Ghule, Sudhir Sangle, Mahesh Kedar, Jairam Chate and Krishna Andhale.

Delhi-Katra e-way to take one more year to be completed: Govt

NEW DELHI: People will have to wait for at least one more year to travel non-stop from Delhi to Katra using a new expressway. The road transport and highways ministry has informed Lok Sabha that two sections of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway in Punjab are scheduled for completion by March 2026 and two more links from the main expressway in Punjab would be ready by April 2027.The 667-km greenfield expressway is being built at a cost of Rs 40,000 crore. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had bid out five out of 21 packages of the expressway in March 2021. Initially, the government had targeted to complete the entire stretch by the end of 2023 to reduce the travel time between Delhi and Katra to less than eight hours. As per the government, the entire 158 km falling in Haryana will be complete by April. Officials said the project has been delayed due to several reasons, including the non-availability of land and contractual issues in Punjab. In the case of one package (30 km) in Punjab, the NHAI has terminated the contract due to land acquisition issues. The ministry has informed Parliament that "work will be taken after resolving the land acquisition issues". The four-lane expressway starts from Kundli Manesar Palwal (KMP) near Bahadurgarh.

How contemporary art is pushing boundaries in the modern era

Contemporary art continues to evolve, challenging traditional notions of creativity and expression. Artists worldwide are experimenting with new materials, digital platforms, and social themes to redefine the artistic landscape. Speaking about the changing dynamics, New York-based artist Ava Richardson said, "Art today is about dialogue—whether it's political, environmental, or deeply personal.

'Case has reached doorstep of Karnataka CM': BJP shares Ranya Rao's picture with CM Siddaramaiah

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party leader Amit Malviya on Wednesday shared an image of Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah in the same frame with actress Ranya Rao who was arrested in the alleged gold smuggling case. This comes after deputy CM DK Shivakumar dismissed the reports of any political link with the case. "The Ranya Rao gold smuggling case in Karnataka has now reached the doorstep of chief minister Siddaramaiah. This dated photo also features the current home minister, G Parmeshwara," he said. Taking a swipe at DKS, Malviya said, "Ironically, the man dismissing any political links is none other than Congress's



CM-in-waiting, DK Shivakumar." The state ministers have repeatedly denied having any links with the case. "No minister is involved, we don't know anything. It is all political gossip. Investigating officers will pro-

ceed as per the law. We have nothing to do with it," Shivakumar told reporters on Monday. Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad reiterated this claim and said, "It is being investigated by CBI, which is not under the control

of the state government but the central government. They have all the freedom to investigate, and if there is anything and anybody involved, let it come out. But we are very clear: nobody from the state government is involved in any kind of small criminal activity." Rao was arrested on March 3 by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD) in Bengaluru for allegedly smuggling 14.8 kilograms of gold from Dubai. The stepdaughter of DGP K Ramachandra Rao, she was produced before a special court for financial offences on March 4, where she was initially remanded to judicial custody until March 18.

62-year-old arrested for sexual assault on minor

New Delhi: A 62-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly repeatedly sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl in southwest Delhi's Sarojini Nagar. The inquiry revealed that the accused had threatened to kill the minor. Police said the crime came to light after the girl's pregnancy was discovered. On Feb 6, police received information from a hospital about the admission of a minor girl who was found to be pregnant. A team from the local police station visited the hospital and spoke to the doctor. The investigating officer met the survivor, who initially claimed she was in a consensual rela-

tionship with a boy for a year. However, her statement was later found to be false. During her statement, the girl told police that she lives with her mother and brother in Sarojini Nagar. "Her mother works as a maid, and her brother works as a security guard. Her mother took her to Safdarjung Hospital for a medical checkup, where she was found to be two months pregnant. She stated that, four months ago, her neighbour lured her with requests to fetch items from the shop, then called her to his room and forcibly engaged in sexual relations with her, also threatening her,"

police said.Out of fear of the accused, the girl initially gave a false statement to doctors. A case under relevant sections of the BNS and the Pocso Act was registered at Sarojini Nagar police station. Deputy commissioner of police (Southwest) Surendra Choudhary formed a team under SHO (Sarojini Nagar) Atul Tyagi, which apprehended the accused from his house. During inquiry, the girl told police that the accused had threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed the incident to anyone. The accused works as a security guard.

Siddaramaiah, DK not on same page as delimitation row escalates

BENGALURU: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah backed his Tamil Nadu counterpart MK Stalin's campaign against the proposed population-based delimitation exercise with a call to action on Wednesday, contrasting with his deputy DK Shivakumar calling for a nuanced approach based on the party high command's "final call". A Tamil Nadu delegation met Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru and Stalin reached out to him over phone, proposing a joint action committee consisting of representatives of several states to collectively oppose the delimitation move.A statement from the CMO confirmed Karnataka's alignment with the protest against what the southern states call "an undemocratic stance" to carry out delimitation without everyone on board. Stalin requested Karnataka to nominate

a senior Congress representative to coordinate a unified strategy. A preliminary meeting is scheduled for March 22 in Chennai. The delegation led by TN forest minister K Ponmudy and Rajya Sabha member Mohammad Abdullah Ismail discussed with Siddaramaiah the need to challenge the alleged bias against southern states, the CMO said. Siddaramaiah said Congress "unequivocally condemns all actions of the Union govt that are against Karnataka's interest, weaken democracy and go against the federal principles of the Constitution". The proposed joint action committee could have members from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Odisha and Punjab.DMK has been reaching out to functionaries across party lines, including NDA

allies like Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu. Shivakumar said DMK being Congress's ally, the party appreciated its stance. "However, as a national party, we must consult our high command and proceed based on their guidance."Delimitation will penalise progressive states: DMK DMK member D M Kathir Anand in Lok Sabha on Wednesday said the impending delimitation exercise penalises progressive states like Tamil Nadu which have controlled population growth and asked the govt to ensure equitable representation of all states in Parliament and state assemblies. Flagging the issue during Zero Hour, he said, "Govt should consider economic performance and vital indices like GSDP, per capita income, infrastructure improvement.

38% of U-6 kids stunted, 17% underweight: Govt

NEW DELHI: Govt's 'Poshan Tracker' data shows that as of Feb, 8.8 crore children (0-6 years) were enrolled in Anganwadis with 8.5 crore measured on growth parameters of height and weight. Of these children, 37.7% were found to be stunted and 17.1% children were underweight. The ministry of women and child development shared this data as part of the response to a written question in Rajya Sabha on addressing the challenge of malnutrition. Citing the data from the Tracker and drawing from National Family Health Surveys 1 (1992-93) to 5 (2019-21), the WCD ministry said that the numbers show "improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India". The minister of state for women and child development Savitri Thakur in a written reply also shared that the project-



ed population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.7 crore approximately and 16.1 crore for children in the 0-6 years age group.Of the 7.4 crore children upto 5 years enrolled in Anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker as of February, around 7.2 crore were measured on growth parameters of height and weight. The results show that 39% of them have been found to be stunted, 16.6% have been found to be underweight and 5.3% wasted," the minister said in

her response. As per National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) stunting among under 5 children was 35.5%, underweight children accounted for 32.1% and 19.3% were affected by wasting.The ministry highlights that "as compared to NFHS (sample size of approx 6.1 lakh households and survey done after every 5 or 6 years only), Poshan Tracker consistently measures approx 8.5 crore children approximately each month revealing the real time nutritional status of beneficiaries.

Post election crackdown: CBI arrests 6 Delhi Transport officials in corruption case

NEW DELHI: In a significant post-election crackdown, the CBI has arrested six officials from the Delhi Transport Department on charges of corruption and bribery, marking the first major action in the capital after the Aam Aadmi Party's recent electoral defeat, officials said on Wednesday. The agency had been receiving multiple complaints about rampant corruption within the department, prompting an extensive surveillance operation to verify the allegations before making the arrests, they said. Following the verification process, investigators found prima facie evidence indicating corruption at various levels, leading to the officials' arrest, they added.

Delhi set to host 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance

Delhi will host the 11th edition of the 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance from February 21 to 23, 2025, featuring 125 vintage cars and 50 heritage motorcycles. Highlights include rare cars like the 1939 Delahaye and cultural performances. This event cements Delhi NCR's status as a hub for vintage car enthusiasts and showcases India's automotive heritage globally. Delhi set to host 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance Delhi is set to reaffirm its status as India's vintage car capital as it hosts the highly anticipated 11th edition of the 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance, one of the country's most prestigious vintage and classic car showcases. The three-day extravaganza, scheduled from February 21 to 23, 2025, will take automotive enthusiasts on a historic journey.



## Unveiling Hyundai India Couture Week 2025

**New Delhi :** Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated edition of Hyundai India Couture Week in association with Reliance Brands, set to grace the heart of the capital from July 24 to July 31, 2024, at the iconic Taj Palace, New Delhi. This year marks the continuation of the exciting partnership with Hyundai Motor India Limited and Reliance Brands, promising a fusion of innovation and tradition as India's foremost designers come together to unveil their exclusive collections, celebrating the enchanting realm of artisanal finesse and enduring narratives, each piece lovingly crafted by hand. This year's Hyundai India Couture Week is a celebration of master artisans who bring Indian fashion to life. Through their unique collections, designers will share stories that pay homage to the rich cultural tapestry of our nation,

while highlighting the traditional and hand-crafted elements that make each piece truly special. With a lineup of 14 esteemed Indian couturiers - Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla, Amit Aggarwal, Dolly J, Falguni Shane Peacock, Gaurav Gupta Couture, Jayanti Reddy, JJ Valaya, Kunal Rawal, Rahul Mishra, Rimzim Dadu, Roseroom by Isha Jajodia, Siddhartha Tytler, Suneet Varma, and Tarun Tahiliani - this edition of Hyundai India Couture Week promises a mesmerizing display spread over 8 days. Commenting on the event, Mr. Tarun Garg, COO, Hyundai Motor India Limited, said, "We are thrilled to continue our association with the Indian Couture Week for the second year in a row. Aligned with our parent company, Hyundai Motor Company's vision of 'Progress for Humanity', we aim to create newer and unique experiences for our customers in India. This partnership with

ICW is a testament to our commitment of supporting artisans and the diverse cultural heritage of India. With ICW, we aim to integrate the essence of creativity and fashion and demonstrate the amalgamation of Hyundai's magnificent product design and outstanding engineering. We are excited to witness the collection of extraordinary designers at the show." Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCI commented "We are honored to partner once again with Hyundai and Reliance Brands for the 17th edition of Hyundai India Couture Week. This event is a testament to the rich heritage and extraordinary craftsmanship of Indian fashion. Through this edition of Couture Week, we aim to not only celebrate the visionary artistry of our designers but also spotlight the timeless beauty and cultural significance of handcrafted couture.

## EC publishes a "rate list" for enticing competitions

**Delhi:** you can get a buffet or a packed lunch that includes two curries, rice, achaar, roti, and sweets for Rs 80. You can also get a mini meal of chhole bhature or poori aalu for Rs 37. You can also get a small cup of tea or coffee for Rs 6. These prices do not include the cost of a roadside eatery or canteen. Every cup of tea or coffee, packed lunch, or small meal provided to a political worker conducting a campaign during the capital election will be tracked and contributed to the candidate's overall poll expenditure. Not only will food costs be important, but so will the price of the



chairs and tables that will be used at candidate polling places or during election gatherings. The candidates' election expenses also include the cost of renting vehicles for campaigning, posting posters, banners, and hoardings, hiring a man to beat a drum, hiring horses and elephants for a road show, and hiring videographers, photographers, and drones to record the events.

Every penny spent by the candidates is tracked from the time of nomination filing to the casting of ballots, with the total amount not to exceed the Rs 75 lakh cap on election expenses set by the Election Commission of India. The tariff list of services and materials utilized by the candidates is prepared by each returning official, according to the officials.

## Bournvita and Other Drinks Will No Longer Be Listed as "Health Drinks"

**Delhi ;** The Central Government ordered all e-commerce sites to remove all so-called drinks and beverages, including the well-known milk supplement Bournvita, from the 'healthy drinks' category, dealing a severe blow to fitness drink businesses. The National Commission

for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) undertook an investigation and came to the conclusion that the FSS Act of 2006 did not specify a health drink, thus the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued the order. "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a

statutory body constituted under Section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no 'health drink' defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI.

## CAPSULES

### Walking dead: Pedestrians were 54% of hit-&-run victims in 2023

**Mumbai:** More than a year ago, Sadiq Sayyed, a 38-year-old pedestrian, was fatally struck by a dumper in a hit-and-run incident on the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road at Govandi. Sayyed, like many others, had to walk through a stretch unsafe for pedestrians as he had no other alternative. The road crash, which occurred on Jan 3, , is not an isolated case.

Pedestrians re disproportionately affected in hit-and-run incidents, data with the Mumbai Traffic Police shows. Between 2021 and 2023, pedestrians were the most impacted in hit-and-runs compared to any other road user. The figure was a staggering 54% in 2023 alone, up from 48% the previous year (see graphic). Forty per cent of all fatal road crash victims in the same year were pedestrians, with men aged 35-39 being most vulnerable.

For Sayyed's family, the pain was compounded by the slow progress in the investigation. "We had to keep following up with the police to access CCTV footage of the area. I had dashed off a complaint to senior officers," recounted Sadiq's brother, Imtiyaz. He added that Sadiq was looking after their aged mother and his untimely death has left her shattered. Beyond fatalities, countless pedestrians endure life-altering injuries and disabilities from road accidents. These individuals face immense burdens, including exorbitant medical expenses and the struggle to get back to normal life. In Dec.

## Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

**Delhi:** To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2025, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. "We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the



government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request. MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to

reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road

maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites.

## One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

**Delhi:** Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered



agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until

RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated

to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets.

## DPCC issues SOP to seize, dispose of plastic

**Delhi:** The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has a regular operating system for seizing and disposing of unlawful plastic items sold or used in the city. According to the amended plastic waste management laws, illegal plastic will be defined and DPCC staff will investigate various locations. It said that only a waste-to-energy plant would dispose of seized plastic products including polyethylene, earphones, silverware, etc. The DPCC seizure procedure requires a team of authorities to take samples of plastic carry bags and sheets from the unit during inspection of all producers, importers, and brand owners and include them in the report. Teams must seize, transport, and store non-authorized plastic objects at the



DPCC lab until disposal. "The unit owner/occupier must pay for seizure, loading/unloading, transportation, storage, waste-to-energy plant disposal, etc. A recent DPCC portal document indicated that the team would take geotagged photos and video of the seized samples and the full seizure procedure of banned/non-permissible stuff. It said that "all the seized non-permissible plastic carry bags/sheets/

banned SUP items shall be disposed of through a waste-to-energy plant." The Centre banned 19 single-use plastics manufactured, imported, stocked, distributed, sold, and used in July 2022. From December 2022, 120-micron carry bags were forbidden. Earbuds with plastic sticks, balloon sticks, flag sticks, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, and more were among the 19 items.

## Leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space

**Delhi:** A month after opening its first engineered landfill in Tehkhand, Municipal Corporation of Delhi assigned its operation and maintenance to an experienced agency. The civic authority noted that managing the leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space, and most significantly, leveling ash from two waste-to-energy plants—Okhla and Tehkhand—requires competence. The site can hold 10 lakh tonnes of ash, and 12,000 tonnes have been dumped. "While the horticulture department has planted a 30-meter strip around the designed landfill, the weighing bridge, roads, and drains need a dedicated system for maintenance. Leachate treatment plant operation will



also be monitored by the agency "official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of conduct is lifted.

MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five

layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully.

Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash "Source: official. The

landfill's operating and maintenance terms require MCD to deploy a liner every time ash is added to reduce dust pollution. "An constructed landfill cost Rs 42.3 crore and was inaugurated last month. The urban local body contributes 53.3%, the Centre 35%, and the state 11.7% to this budget. MCD gets Rs 300 per tonne for ash dumping. Here, 400 tonnes of ash are deposited everyday.

## Currency circulation increases despite 2k note ban

**Delhi:** Despite the elimination of Rs 2,000 banknotes, the currency in circulation increased by Rs 1.3 lakh crore in FY24 from Rs 33.5 lakh crore at the end of March 2023 to Rs 34.8 lakh crore. Growth has slowed the most since 2018. In FY24, currency in circulation as a proportion of GDP fell since 4% i is slower than GDP growth. CIC grew 7% last year and over 10% the year before due to a pandemic cash rush. Currency in circulation grew 0.5% to Rs 35.3 lakh crore in the week ended April 5. RBI data shows that the increased issue of Rs 500 notes has more than offset the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes. ON May 19, 2023, RBI announced their withdrawal. In March 2024, Rs 2,000 notes were worth Rs 8,202 crore, down from Rs 3.6 lakh crore a year earlier. The value of Rs 500 notes rose to Rs 30.1 lakh crore from 25.8 lakh crore a year before.

Invest Rs 5,500 crore in a 1,000-megawatt solar power project

**Delhi:** NHPC Ltd.'s chairman and managing director Raj Kumar Chaudhary announced that the country's largest hydropower company will invest Rs 5,500 crore in a 1,000-megawatt solar power project in Bihar. At the Bihar Business Connect 2024 investor forum, the business and state government signed an investment MoU. "We have proposed to invest Rs 5,500 crore in setting up a 1,000 MW solar power project," stated. The project might be launched in 1.5-2 years after land purchase. Land is essential for solar projects. He urged the state government to help acquire land so we could finish the project on schedule. The company's website says it has roughly 7 gigawatts of active hydropower proj-



ects and 9.3 under construction. Chaudhary said NHPC plans to build a modest solar plant to create green hydrogen. "The green hydrogen produced will be used to power passenger buses," stated. When burned, green hydrogen creates no carbon and just water. making it the cleanest energy source. He stated NHPC will fund the green hydrogen bus. The state government will administer it as part of the government's sustainable energy plan.

Hindu University establishes public policy institute

**Delhi:** Hindu College at Delhi University has set itself apart from other Indian universities by creating a public policy lab. Officials have stated that the goal is to include real-world policymaking into both undergraduate and graduate programs. With the goal of democratizing and decentralizing the process of knowledge generation, the lab is designed to serve as a hub for policy simulations, applied research, and field-based insights. This will bring

School rules protected kids from the heat

**Delhi:** As Delhi temperatures rise, schools have released new heat rules to safeguard pupils. New heat-reduction measures at schools have been added by the DOE. DOE requires "no classes be conducted in open-air environments" and no afternoon assemblies to protect kids. It ordered schools to cancel outside activities until the weather improves. Schools must always provide clean drinking water to emphasize hydration. The DOE requires planned water breaks and RO system and water cooler maintenance. Schools are required to ventilate



and have working fans in classrooms for comfort. According to the DOE directive, all corridors must have fire extinguishers for fire safety. It has also advised schools to teach children to cover their heads in the sun, especially while commuting. It further states that "no student, parent, or

staff member shall stay or sit in open or exposed areas under direct sunlight." Health readiness is paramount. Any heat-related disease must be treated immediately. First aid packs should include oral rehydration for sick pupils. It requires reporting all heat-related illnesses to the nearest hospital.

NEET-UG on May 4 amid malpractice prevention measures

**Delhi:** The National Testing Agency will hold NEET (Undergraduate) 2025 at 5,500 exam centres in India and abroad, up from 4,750 in 571 cities last year. The test will be held in 552 Indian and 14 overseas cities this year. The education ministry has tasked 180 central entities with checking center readiness. Assam's CM Himanta Biswa Sarma requested that all centers be at government-run institutions. Several cities have expanded due to candidates' first-choice center allocations. NTA officials say 90% of the centers are at government-run Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, and state schools. The datesheet for CUET-UG 2025, starting May 8, is still pending. After paperleak claims and widespread complaints about NEET-UG 2024, NTA organized state- and district-level logistics and security committees. The NTA consulted district magistrates (DMS), superintendents of police (SPs), and senior local officials before choosing exam centers. They and district coordinators will oversee operations to ensure smoothness.

A survey on cybersecurity activities for curriculum design and education

**Delhi:** As our technological era progresses, cyber attacks have emerged as a major issue. Cybersecurity experts who can identify, stop, react to, or lessen the impact of cyberattacks are in great demand as a result of this problem. Nevertheless, there is a severe lack of trained cybersecurity experts around the globe. Many new cybersecurity education programs have emerged to meet this challenge; for example, computer science graduate programs. now offer cybersecurity as a concentration. High schools, universities with computer science and information systems programs, and even some government agencies are offering cybersecurity courses in response to rising demand.

Capital sees the debut of Dola and Rahul's archery academy.

**Delhi:** The archery ground of the Sports Authority of India, which is part of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium complex, was inaugurated by the Banerjee brothers, Dola and Rahul, who are Indian Olympians. The siblings intend to continue their fight to overcome India's Olympic medal drought in recurve archery even when they retire, and their academy will be the first of its type in the nation's capital. Archers Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari are moving forward with their goals. As the Indian team prepares to depart for Shanghai for the second stage of the World Cup, which will take place from May 6 to 11, the pair was in attendance for the inauguration. After the Paris Olympics, Deepika and Atanu began training at



Rahul's academy in Kolkata, he announced. No other archery academy here is headed by former Olympians. Learning from their experience is the nicest part of this academy, and it's one of a kind. Their insights, both conceptual and practical, have proven invaluable. Atanu and

Deepika are getting ready for the World Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, from September 5 to 12, and Deepika mentioned that both Dola didi and Rahul are up-to-date on the newest news and bring a fresh perspective to solving technical problems.

NTA offers a paper leak reporting portal

**Delhi:** The NTA launched an internet website to report dubious NEET (UG) 2025 medical entrance exam allegations. This campaign follows the 2024 NEET-UG exam fiasco, which included question paper leaks and cheating in various states. NTA advised candidates to avoid fake claims in its publication. The organization cautioned candidates not to be deceived by unscrupulous elements who commit malpractice and make false claims. NTA Director General Pradeep Singh Kharola said candidates can report suspicious activities in three categories unauthorised websites or social media accounts claiming access to NEET question paper.

**Delhi:** The Directorate of Education has ordered all schools, including government, aided, private, and those under local bodies like the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Municipal Council, to screen every student for 21 types of disabilities as defined by the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Prashast mobile app and checklist instruct teachers to look for overt and subtle symptoms of difficul-



ties in pupils, such as bad handwriting, trouble making eye contact, lack of direction, and being lost in an imaginary world. Early disability identification, support, and inclusive education are the main goals. Teachers will learn how to utilize the app and record observations. Parents must

give a no-objection certificate before screening a youngster. Screening-identified disabilities will be evaluated by experts. School-level screening must end by July 25 and district coordinators must receive final reports including class-wise and consolidated data by July 31.

Implications for management education in the creation and validation of a scale measuring student well-being in higher education

**Delhi:** In the increasingly stressful world of higher education, students' physical, mental, and social health are all part of what is known as student well-being (SWB). The higher education sector is confronted with the increasing difficulty of preserving and improving SWB in the face of excessive workloads, unmet expectations, and uncertainty around degree completion and employment. The current tools for evaluating SWB are too narrow in scope to adequately represent its complex character. Our research fills this need by creating and vali-



dating a multi-dimensional scale that accurately measures SWB's subtleties using a rigorous multi-study, multi-method, and multi-sample strategy. Generation, purification, refinement, validation, and generalizability were the five systematic steps that made up this process.

The outcome is a five-factor SWB scale that offers a comprehensive instrument for assessing and enhancing SWB in academic settings. These dimensions include academic, financial, physical, psychological resilience, and relational well-being.

Doctors want standardization and oppose service bond policy after course completion

The Delhi government has adopted a one-year bond program for doctors

**Delhi:** Long regarded as a suitable area for doctors to practice in medical institutions and hospitals after MBBS/MS/MD courses, it gave service-bond-free status and other benefits. The Delhi government has adopted a one-year bond program for doctors, who will face significant financial penalties if they fail. Doctors are angry about the government bond notification. Delhi doctors want the policy revoked or regularized. An anonymous



senior health ministry official states, "Health services like bond policy, working hours, and salary come under the state administration. Doctor bond measures have been strongly opposed by the NMC advisory. State governments make the final decision." Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Pradesh, Uttar

Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Goa, West Bengal, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, and others have implemented service bond policies with different bond tenures. Dr. BN Gangadhar, Bengaluru NMC chairman, said the NMC can only advise states on bond policy.

In order to incorporate AI across all academic streams, the AICTE has formed an expert group

**Delhi:** The formation of an expert committee by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is a major development in the field of technical education in India. The committee's mandate is to help various academic programs, not limited to computer science degrees, incorporate AI and applied AI. Leading AI professionals from IITs and NITs are part of the committee, which is chaired by Anand Deshpande, managing director of Persistent Systems. The goal of the move is to encourage the lateral expansion of AI in several streams, including BBA, BCA, electrical engineering, and others. "We are forming a committee to introduce AI laterally across all programs, especially Applied AI," stated AICTE Chairman Prof. TG Sitharam. "The goal is to integrate AI and related courses into all academic programs so that students from all walks of life can learn the basics of AI and data analytics."

A professor from IIT Delhi to head up IIM Lucknow

**Delhi:** The directorship of the Indian Institute of Management in Lucknow is anticipated to be assumed by a professor from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi (IIT-D). (Department of IIM-L). The esteemed management school will likely be led by an IIT professor for the first time.