

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

Operation Sindoor outreach: How government chose 25 countries for all-party delegation

NEW DELHI: In a major diplomatic initiative following Operation Sindoor, the central government has deployed seven all-party delegations of Members of Parliament to key global capitals starting May 23, with the objective of presenting a united national stance against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. 51 political leaders, including parliamentarians and former ministers from various parties, and 8 former ambassadors are set to tour 25 nations, including those that are a member of United Nations Security Council (UNSC), along with other influential nations. The 10-day outreach mission will be led by senior MPs such as Shashi Tharoor, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Sanjay Kumar Jha, Baijyant Panda, Kapimozhi Karunanidhi, Supriya Sule, and Shrikant Eknath Shinde. The initiative is being coordinated by Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju, who released the complete list of delegation members and their respective destinations shortly after the programme was announced. Beating Retreat Resumes At



Wagah-Attari Border After 12-Days | India-Pak | Op Sindoor
How were the countries selected?
The 25 countries include: 15 nations that are a member of UNSC 5 countries that will become members of UNSC in coming days 5 other influential nations This was confirmed at the all-party delegations briefing by foreign secretary Vikram Misri on Tuesday. "We are going to all countries that are members of the UNSC, they are about 15 in number. We are also going to five other countries that will become members of the

UNSC in the days to come. A few such countries have been selected, whose voice is heard on international level, these nations are very important. So, representatives are going to over 25 nations," BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi cited Misri saying. Why these countries were selected? As Pakistan will remain a UNSC member for next 17 months, it would use the platform to propagate its false narrative. Hence, the government chose these nations to present India's side of the story. The neighbouring nation, at several occasions in the past, has used the platform to make anti-India remarks to push

its narrative. "When meeting will be held at the UNSC, Pakistan, which would be a member of the UNSC for the next 17 months, will definitely try to present its position. It will make anti-India claims. So, it is essential now and our government rightly thought that MPs of different parties should visit these different countries together and present our narrative to the bureaucracy and political representatives there...and we condemn Pakistan's approach of promoting terrorism," Sarangi said. "This is our responsibility. We want to give a message that India stands united against terrorism. Under the leadership of PM Modi, government of India honours the security of 140 crore people of the country..There is zero tolerance to terrorism," she added. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26. The armed forces targeted nine terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir killing nearly 100 terrorists.



Talks are on between India and the US regarding the proposed trade deal. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held discussions with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick in Washington to expedite the talks on the first phase of the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) between the two countries.

RIL moves SC against Delhi HC order in \$1.7 billion gas dispute with govt

NEW DELHI: Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and its foreign partners have moved the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court's February ruling quashing an arbitral award in their favour in the dispute with the Centre's \$1.7 billion claim over alleged siphoning of gas from a Krishan=Godavari field off the Andhra coast. RIL filed the lead petition on May 14, while its partners BP Exploration (Alpha), a subsidiary of

UK's BP PLC, and Canadian firm Niko Ltd filed similar petitions separately. The high court had on February 14 ruled against RIL and its partners and upheld the government's claim on the ground of making "unjust enrichment" by extracting gas that migrated from state-run ONGC's block adjacent to the consortium's KG-D6 field. The case dates back to 2013 when ONGC claimed its IG and KG-DWN-98/2.

SC to hear Ashoka University professor's plea against arrest on May 21

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court would likely hear on Wednesday a plea of Ashoka University's faculty Ali Khan Mahmudabad against his arrest for his social media posts over Operation Sindoor. The top court's causelist shows a bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar will be hearing the matter.

When the World No. 1 chess player took on 143,000 people in a historic freestyle

NEW DELHI: Norwegian chess legend Magnus Carlsen faced an unprecedented challenge this month — playing a single freestyle chess game against over 143,000 people around the globe. Billed as "Magnus Carlsen vs The World," the match was hosted by Chess.com, and ran from April 4 to May 13. It was the first-ever online freestyle game to feature a reigning or former world champion. Unlike traditional games, this clash followed a "freestyle" format, where the non-pawn pieces are randomly arranged at the start, allowing for a greater emphasis on creativity over memorisation. Carlsen, playing with the white pieces, was pitted against a global team of players —



Team World — who collectively voted on each move, with both sides allotted 24 hours per turn. Despite Chess.com's predictive models favouring Carlsen, the game proved far more evenly matched than expected. By move 32, the world had checked Carlsen's king into a stalemate scenario known as "threefold repetition," ending the game. Reflecting on

the match, Carlsen praised the quality of play from his formidable opponent: "Overall, 'the world' has played very, very sound chess from the start. Maybe not going for the most enterprising options, but kind of keeping it more in vein with normal chess — which isn't always the best strategy, but it worked out well this time." Bombay Sport Exchange Ep

New Zealand

Neha Sharma and her husband Amandeep Sharma have pleaded guilty to multiple fraud charges in New Zealand after they conned a New Zealand government agency out of more than \$2 million. When their secret arrangement came in the public, they booked one-way tickets on Singapore Airlines to Chennai, in business class, the New Zealand Herald reported. **How did the Indian-origin couple defraud the government agency?** Neha Sharma was a manager at Oranga Tamariki, the ministry of children, in New Zealand. Her colleagues did not know that she was married to Amandeep Sharma, the director of Divine



Connection which was silently added to the ministry's list of contractors -- in a grave conflict of interest. "We have a robust plan in place ... and I will support you for becoming an entrepreneur. Celebrate retiring below 35! Not many get this opportunity," Neha messaged her husband when concerns were raised in the office about this par-

ticular contractor -- as the paperwork had some gaps. U.S. Embassy Threatens Indians With Permanent Travel Ban | 'If You Overstay...' The duo continued to dupe the agency for two years with Neha using her access to pass on favors to her husband's company. The police recovered their chats they exchanged whenever there was any

suspicion in the agency. In March 2023, the Serious Fraud Office raided the couple's property and it was found out that they obtained more than \$2 million from Oranga Tamariki. At that time, they both resigned from their respective positions. Within two weeks after the raid on their properties, the couple booked two one-way tickets to Chennai. They boarded the flight with 80 kg of luggage between them. Before leaving, they tried to liquidate their properties and cars and transferred under \$800,000 in cash from their bank accounts in New Zealand to accounts held in India. Neha shows no remorse,

'Police inactive and absent': What are key findings of HC-appointed panel on Murshidabad violence

NEW DELHI: A report by three-member committee set up by Calcutta high court to investigate the anti-Waqf protests in Murshidabad that turned violent has pointed to serious lapses by local authorities in West Bengal. The report noted that the "main attack" took place on April 11 and the "local police were completely inactive and absent". It further alleged that a local councillor played a



key role in orchestrating the attacks in Dhulian town. The high court on April 17 directed the formation of a committee to identify and reha-

bilitate those displaced by the violence. During the protests over the Waqf Act, a father and son — Harogobindo Das and Chandan Das —

were discovered brutally murdered with multiple stab wounds at their home in Shamsherganj's Jafrabad locality. The panel—comprising Joginder Singh (Registrar, Law, NHRC), Satya Arnab Ghosal (Member Secretary, WBLSA), and Saugata Chakraborty (Registrar, WBJS)—submitted its report to the Calcutta high court last week. Key findings of the : A local councillor directed the attacks at Dhulian

town in Murshidabad, it said. "Local police were completely inactive and absent," it said. The report said that victims in the affected areas required tailored rehabilitation packages, and engaging valuation experts to ensure appropriate support and compensation. Meanwhile, an earlier report submitted by the West Bengal government to the division bench outlined widespread mob violence.

Vaibhav , Dhruv Jurel and bowlers lead RR to dominant six-wicket win over CSK

NEW DELHI: For a moment, it seemed like a familiar script was unfolding for Rajasthan Royals (RR). At the end of 13 overs, they were cruising at 134 for 1, needing just 54 runs off 42 balls. However, Ravichandran Ashwin turned the tide with a double-wicket over, first removing the well-set Sanju Samson (41 off 31 balls; 3x4, 2x6) to break the 98-run second-wicket stand, and then, three balls later, dismissing



Vaibhav Suryavanshi (57 off 33 balls; 4x4, 4x6). A collapse looked imminent for the Royals. But Dhruv Jurel (31* off 12 balls; 2x4, 3x6) emerged as a man on a mission. Unlike two days ago in Jaipur, where he couldn't finish the job, Jurel signed

off Rajasthan's IPL 2025 season with a commanding victory, sealing it with a six. Rajasthan Royals ended their forgettable season on a high note, securing a thumping six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) with 17 balls to spare, thanks to a brilliant bowling performance followed by an assaulting batting display. This win helped them edge past CSK and finish ninth in the points table.

MUNPL Meja organizes Inaugural Ceremony of the Summer Workshop of the Girl Empowerment Mission 2025

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Meja: On 20-05-25, MUNPL organized the inaugural ceremony of the summer workshop of the Girls Empowerment Campaign 2025 under its Corporate Social Responsibility at the auditorium of St. Joseph School.

The Chief Guest of the program was Shri Asesh Kumar Chattopadhyay, CEO, MUNPL. He extended his best wishes on the occasion and encouraged the girls to study and progress in life. During the program, the Guest of Honour, Shrimati Krishna Chattopadhyay, President, Aparajita Mahila Samaj, also addressed the girls and gave them a warm welcome. The welcome speech for the event was delivered by Shri Vivek Chandra, Head of the Human Resources Department.

The event was attended by Shri Avijit



Chatterjee (Chief General Manager, Technical Services), Shri N. N. Sinha (General Manager, Operations & Maintenance), Shri Amit Rautela (Chief Financial Officer), Shrimati Dr. Manisha Pandey (Chief Medical Officer), Shri Aditya Kumar Mishra, AGM (Contracts & Materials), Shri Vivek Chandra

(Head of Human Resources), representatives of union and association, other senior officers, office bearers of the Aparajita Mahila Samaj, and 40 GEM girls.

During the program, Alka Mishra from the 2019 batch of the Girl Empowerment Campaign was felicitated for securing second

position in high school with 91.6% marks. Swagatika Singh was also felicitated for passing high school with a first division. Both girls shared their experiences with everyone.

School bags were distributed to all the participating girls during the event. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri

Manoj Kumar Verma, Deputy General Manager (Human Resources).

The objective of this one-month workshop is to boost the confidence of girls by developing their creative and artistic talents and to promote awareness about social equality. MUNPL launched the Girl Empowerment Campaign in 2019, inspired by the Government of India's "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative. The mission aims to raise awareness among girls about health, hygiene, self-defence, fitness, sports, and yoga.

Under this campaign, every year 40 girls from project-affected villages are provided one-month training as part of a residential summer workshop. After the training, four girls are selected and offered free, high-quality education at MUNPL's school.

District Magistrate Inspects Flood and Erosion Control Works, Orders Completion by June 15

PRADEEP KUMAR PANDEY



Ghazipur, Bureau: District Magistrate Avinash Kumar conducted an on-site inspection of ongoing construction projects aimed at preventing potential flood and erosion threats in the district. During the inspection, the District Magistrate reviewed various erosion control works and issued necessary instructions to the

concerned officials.

The inspection covered several areas under the Muhammadabad Tehsil, including the villages of Sherpur Jalalpur, Sherpur Maghi, and Sherpur Subhashpur (Project 61). The District Magistrate assessed the quality of the ongoing work at these locations and directed the executing agencies and contractors to in-

crease the number of laborers and equipment to ensure that all erosion control (boulder patching) work is completed by June 15, 2025, under all circumstances. He emphasized that negligence at any level would not be tolerated. Executive Engineer of the Irrigation Department and other officials were present during the inspection.

Will strengthen organization by forming booth committee: Ashfaq

Prayagraj: A meeting was organized in Karnaipur under the Congress Organization Creation Campaign in which the chief guest of the program Gangapar District President Ashfaq Ahmed said that the main objective of the campaign is to strengthen the organization from booth to district level and bring new energy to the workers. At the same time, booth committees have to be strengthened and empowering the organization, so the original ideology of the Congress is to be conveyed to the people and tell the policies of the Congress.



In view of the current situation, Ahmed said that the principle of the Congress party is to take all caste fraternity religion sect together and give justice and respect to all. There is an atmosphere of chaos in the country. The public is disturbed, upset due to the inflation, unemployment. The farmer is suffering due to the prices of increased diesel petrol. The BJP government is exploiting the public by entangling the public in the fight between the Hindu Muslim Mandir Masjid Dharma sect. The program was chaired by Rajesh Patel on this occasion Shiv Prasad Maurya, Suresh Patel, Mohammad Farooq, Mohammad Khalid, Jokhu Lal Bhartiya, Rambabu Patel, Jung Bahadur Patel, Mohib Shah, Ashok Gautam, Atal Bihari Patel, Ajit Patel, Akhilesh Patel etc. were present.

Glittering Decay: The Hidden Costs of Global Advancement: Dr. Ajai Kumar Sonkar

Prayagraj: Renowned scientist Dr. Ajai Kumar Sonkar, whose insights bridge the realms of biology and ecology, urges us to confront the inconvenient truth behind the modern idea of progress. When you look at the world's most developed and affluent nations-Australia, the United States, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland-you find countries celebrated for their technological prowess, high living standards, and economic strength. On the other end of the spectrum lie nations like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Niger, often described as underdeveloped due to their limited infrastructure, industrial output, or GDP per capita.

But herein lies a disturbing contradiction.

When you investigate which countries have the highest cancer incidence, a stark and unsettling pattern emerges. The very nations celebrated for their "development" consistently top the charts for cancer rates. Countries like Australia, the U.S., Belgium, and Denmark

often report cancer rates that are two to three times higher than those seen in many developing nations. For Example - Australia - Australia has one of the highest age-standardized cancer incidence rates globally. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the age-standardized incidence rate for all cancers combined was approximately 503 cases per 100,000 people in 2023. Other sources also report similar figures, with some indicating rates around 452 cases per 100,000 people.

South Asian Nations - Nepal - Data from the Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) indicates that the age-adjusted incidence rate in Nepal was approximately 65.6 cases per 100,000 people in 2019.

Bhutan - A study reviewing cancer incidence in Bhutan reported age-adjusted incidence rates of 76.4 per 100,000 population among males and 101.7 among females between 2014 and 2018.

Bangladesh - According

to data from the Global Burden of Disease Study, Bangladesh had an age-standardized cancer incidence rate of approximately 134.5 per 100,000 people in 2019.

This is not a statistical coincidence. It is a biological warning bell.



And this is not limited to cancer alone - the same story holds true for all deadly diseases. It signals that the environments we call "modern" may actually be biologically destabilizing. More alarmingly, even in developing countries, the majority of cancer cases are increasingly linked to the imitation of Western lifestyles-processed food consumption, sedentary

habits, chemical-laden environments, and exposure to synthetic pollutants.

Dr. Sonkar observes, "We've built systems that may appear successful on paper but are quietly sabotaging human biology and Earth's natural balance."

Yes, modern development has brought undeniable benefits-advanced hospitals, reliable infrastructure, longer lifespans, and instant connectivity. But beneath this glossy surface lies a health and ecological crisis. Industrialization has flooded our lives with chemicals, microplastics, artificial foods, and environmental toxins. Water, air, and soil are all compromised by synthetic substances.

As Dr. Sonkar explains, "We've strayed so far from nature that our bodies now struggle to heal themselves. Our immune systems are in constant battle with artificial environments they were never designed to endure."

Worse yet, modern life is not only physically toxic-it is scientifically proven to

be mentally and emotionally stressful. Today's so-called "successful life" is riddled with chronic deadlines, competition, digital fatigue, and social isolation. Dr. Sonkar calls stress "the silent poison," stating, "Stress is the mother of all deadly diseases. Heart disorders, diabetes, cancer, and mental illness-they all originate from prolonged stress."

This same development model is wreaking havoc on the planet. Deforestation, plastic-filled oceans, chemical-laced rivers, and greenhouse gas emissions are just the visible symptoms. According to Dr. Sonkar's environmental research, "The Earth has its own immune system. When we keep assaulting it, the consequences become global and irreversible."

Ironically, many underdeveloped countries-those we often look down upon-are, in fact, biologically more resilient. Their populations are still closely connected to nature. They consume fresh, local food, engage in physical labor, breathe

cleaner air, and live in tighter-knit communities. Traditional medicine and holistic health systems still prevail. Dr. Sonkar notes, "Their simplicity isn't backwardness-it's biological intelligence. It shields them from the lifestyle diseases that have become epidemics in the West."

The core message is clear: our current development model, while impressive on the surface, is dangerously flawed. It neither ensures human well-being nor safeguards ecological balance. As Dr. Sonkar rightly states, "If progress is making us sick and destroying the planet, then it's not progress-it's disguised decay."

He argues that we must redefine what progress means. Economic growth alone can no longer be the measure of development. If our bodies are breaking down, if our minds are fraying, and if our ecosystems are collapsing, we are building a world that looks advanced on the outside but is biologically broken on the inside.

Minister Narendra Kashyap reviewed Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University

Instructions to provide ample opportunities for higher education, employment and sports to Divyangjan students

Lucknow: State Minister (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes Welfare and Disabled Empowerment, Narendra Kashyap held a detailed review meeting with the core committee of the university at Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, Mohan Road, Lucknow on Tuesday. In the meeting, he reviewed the progress of financial, educational, administrative and physical development of the university point by point and gave necessary guidelines.

While reviewing the university's income and expenditure from government and internal sources for the last five years, the minister said that by increasing the income, the university can provide better facilities to Divyangjan students. He took information about all the pending vacancies in the university and instructed to speed up the recruitment process. He said that early filling of teaching

and non-teaching posts will speed up the academic activities and ensure quality education to the students.

While reviewing the construction work going on in the university campus, Minister Kashyap stressed on quality and adherence to



deadlines. Expressing satisfaction over the progress of centres like artificial limb manufacturing, Braille press and sports equipment manufacturing, he directed to make their utility accessible to as many disabled students as possible.

In the meeting, action taken on the facilities demanded earlier by handicapped students, strategy

prepared for increasing the number of students, status of faculty-wise examination results, coordination efforts between the university and handicapped students and the current status of land related disputes were also discussed in detail.

Minister Kashyap said

of the indoor stadium built in the university and directed that regular sports competitions should be organised. He said that Divyang students can perform better in sports if they are given the necessary resources, training and platform.

Minister Kashyap interacted with the Divyang students of the university and enquired about their well-being. He took feedback from the students and listened to their problems seriously and assured them of a solution. He told the students to focus fully on their education, become self-reliant and play a positive role in the society. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state government is running several schemes for education, skill development, employment and self-employment of Divyangjan. Universities should connect students with these schemes and lead them towards self-reliance.

that effective public relations, counselling and admission promotion programmes should be run to increase the number of Divyang students so that more and more students can join higher education. He also gave instructions to ensure regular and timely printing of textbooks through Braille press. He talked about maximum use

Tata Power Solarizes over 300+ Critical Public Institutions

Varanasi: In a significant step towards Uttar Pradesh's clean energy transition initiative, Tata Power has successfully solarized more than 300+ public sector institutions across the state, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and innovation. This initiative is aligned with the Government of Uttar Pradesh's ambitious objectives under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana to mainstream rooftop solar adoption. By promoting widespread adoption of solar energy, it not only supports the state's vision of empowering households with clean and affordable power but also contributes significantly to building a greener, more resilient, and energy-secure future for the nation. While traditional grid connectivity remains available for backup, solar energy now serves as the primary driver of day-to-day operations across these institutions. It marks a pivotal step in Uttar Pradesh's broader vision of achieving 4 GW of rooftop solar capacity by 2027 and 22,000 MW of overall solar energy capacity by 2026-27, transforming cities into models for sustainable urban development.

Bal Sanskar Shivir organized by Bharat Vikas Parishad



Prayagraj: Bal Sanskar Shivir (17-20 May) organized by Bharat Vikas Parishad Kalindi Branch at Saraswati Shishu Mandir concluded today. In this, children were taught national song, national anthem, Gayatri Mantra, Bhojan Mantra, Hanuman Chalisa, maternal and paternal worship and respect, good touch and bad touch, being cautious towards strangers, sewing, buttoning, public speech, our responsibility towards the environment, yoga activities and many other things. Children participated enthusiastically in many types of competitions like essay on Swami Vivekananda and Ahilyabai Holkar, poster making competition, debate competition, fancy dress competition, in which the best performers were given prizes by the provincial president R S Singh and all the participants were given certificates. The

school's principal Santosh Kumar Mishra was honored with a memento for his cooperation. The program was managed by secretary Mihir Singh and conducted by Rajesh Jaiswal. Provincial Finance Secretary RP Sharma, President Pradeep Chakraborty, Treasurer Kunwar Hanuman Singh, Sonali Mishra, Putul Banerjee, Mithilesh Jaiswal, Sachin Jaiswal and others supported the workshop.

Abhilash Kesarwani appointed city representative of Robin Hood Army

Prayagraj: Abhilash Kesarwani (Kranti) has been appointed as the city representative of Robin Hood Army Prayagraj; who will lead a dynamic team of 200+ dedicated members. Neelam Gupta, Rekha Prakash, Sarika Chaturvedi, Kusum Saxena, Maya Dwivedi, Beena Sharma, Nishita Singh, Surya Saxena, Aayushi Agarwal, Komal Kanaujia, Sonali Soni, Divyaabha Shukla, Gaurav Yadav, Sonu Yadav, Manish Gaur, Avnish Pandey, Saurabh Tiwari and Om Jaiswal, Ranjan Mishra were present on the appointment.



Municipal Commissioner heard complaints during possible hearing

Had a meeting with all the councilors of Zone 03 Katra

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Prayagraj: Municipal Commissioner, Shri Seelam Sai Teja heard the complaints during the possible hearing.

42 complaints were received regarding encroachment, renaming, birth certificate amendment, drain repair, road street repair, sewer, drinking water etc.

During the hearing, the Hon'ble Councilors also registered the problems of their respective areas.

The problem should be resolved immediately by the Municipal Commissioner.

Municipal Commissioner IAS Shri Seelam Sai Teja heard the complaints of the complainants who came with complaints during the public hearing today on Tuesday, 20 May 2025. During this public hearing, citizens came in large numbers and put forth their problems, out of which most of the complaints were related

to encroachment, name change, birth certificate amendment, drain repair, road-street repair, sewer, drinking water etc. During the public hearing, Shri Teja not only listened to the problems of the common citizens carefully, but also gave instructions for immediate solution.

The complaints received in the public hearing were related to drinking water and road-drain construction and encroachment etc. The Municipal Commissioner gave clear instructions that work should be done on priority on drinking water and cleaning of drains and lifting of silt coming out of them. The Municipal Commissioner took immediate action on the complaints of cleanliness and clogged drains and got the complaint resolved. A meeting was held by the Municipal Commissioner with all the Hon'ble



Councillors of the Zonal Office. During this, suggestions were taken on the arrangements of platforms, drinking water, toilets/urinals and sheds etc. for the daily wage labourers at vari-

ous places in the city, near Allahpur Kachehri District Magistrate Office, Nakhaskohna, Karaili, near Rajapur Hanuman Temple, Teliarganj, Rambagh Labour Chowkhara. A re-

quest was made to arrange for a QRT team in the VIP area of ??Prayagraj so that problems like cleanliness, street lighting, debris, encroachment could be resolved immediately. The

Hon'ble Councillors requested for the arrangement of installation/reboring of tube wells for drinking water in Shivkuti area and cleaning of Rambagh's drains etc. and for the demand of new lights for street lighting. Along with this, complaints were made about encroachment and filling up of drains during widening of main road from Mundera Chungi to Neem Sarai during Kumbh Mela, drinking water in Neem Sarai and sewer line choke and leveling in the streets and mohallas of the entire area. During the public hearing, Additional Municipal Commissioner Mr. Dipendra Yadav, Chief Tax Officer Mr. PK Dwivedi, Chief Engineer Civil and Electricity, Executive Engineer Electricity, General Manager Jalkal, all Zonal Officers, and other officers were also present in the meeting.

Kisan Chaupal organized

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Prayagraj: Kisan Chaupal was organized by IFFCO Phulpur unit for awareness on NANO fertilizer among farmers at Balipur, Sikandra and Variibhit, Handia. The program explained the method of using Nano Urea Plus

ers showed enthusiasm in Kisan Chaupal. Apart from this, a total of 40 farmers of Belhabandh and Harbhanpur villages of Phulpur region were given practical training to use of nano fertilizer, quantity and method of spraying at Moti



and Nano DAP on the upcoming Kharif crop. Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia said that to fulfil the aim of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote self-reliant agriculture and biological agricultural. He said that the use of nano fertilizers will reduce the cost and get more agricultural products as profit. PRO Swayam Prakash said that Nano fertilizer has no negative effect on water, environment and soil, so use it more and more. Farm-

Lal Nehru farmers Training Institute, CORDET. CORDET principle Dr. Harishchandra said that IFFCO CORDET will help farmers go from village to village to spray Nano fertilizers through drones. Unit Head Sanjay Kudesia said that all the farmers must use nano fertilizer and if there is any problem, then contact our team immediately. During this, senior managers training Anurag Tiwari, Mukesh Tiwari, Rajesh Singh were present.

One who worships Bada Mangal gets rid of all misfortunes in his future: Ranjit Singh

Prayagraj: Under the leadership of BJP leader Ranjeet Singh and Anurag Sant, after worshipping Lord Hanuman on Bade Mangal, chanting Jai Shri Hanuman Ji Maharaj near the Royal Hotel in Civil Lines, roasted gram and cold sherbet were distributed with full devotion.

Hanuman bhakti and prasad were distributed to the



passersby by chanting Jai Hanuman and the two BJP leaders said that Bade Mangal has a great significance in Sanatan culture. He further said that whoever worships Lord Hanuman with full faith and devotion on this day, all the evils in his life are destroyed.

On this occasion, councillor Neeraj Gupta, former councillor Pawan Srivastava, Shubhendu Srivastava, Akash Kumar, Sandeep Chauhan, Kushagra Srivastava, Pran Vijay Singh, Mukesh and other workers were present.

Secretary Pastor Manish Gunjan Zaidi absent from Pastor Conference

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

*** Bishop expressed concern over the condition of priests and said that provision of Pastor Welfare Fund will be made for all**
*** Pastor Dr. Vinita Esubius started the program by reciting the conference opening prayer**
*** Church priests expressed gratitude to Bishop Dan on getting salary hike**
*** Church pastors expressed displeasure over the interference of the church committee**

was that the current Secretary of Diocese of Lucknow, Manish Zaidi was missing from the entire Pastor Conference. The conference

Morris Edgar Dan of the Diocese of Lucknow listened to the problems of the priests and expressed his concern over them. He said



was conducted by Pastor Praveen Massey. During the conference, priests from different deaneries presented their problems before the committee. Bishop

that during the tenure of former Bishop Dr. Peter Baldev, no special plan was made for the priests and their families, rather the salaries of the priests were

stopped and that money was used to benefit a particular person. But now a Pastor Welfare Fund is being arranged for the priests through which the priests will get help and land will also be provided for their residence.

Bishop Morris Dan said that this is the second opportunity he has got from God to do something new for the servants of God. It was announced that Rs. 51,000 would be donated to the Pastor Welfare Fund by Bishop Morris Edgar, Rs. 21,000 by Dr. Vinita Esubius Lakh and Rs. 10,000 by Roshan Lal at the conference. Dr. Vineeta Esubius Pastor Kamala Singh Pastor Praveen Massey Pastor Roshan Lal Pastor Ajit Francis Media in-charge Sunil Kumar Verma were present.

New coordinator will strengthen organization with 100-day action plan

All frontal departments and cell organizations will be created

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Former Minister Ajay Rai state president of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee, has appointed former Mirzapur MLA and Rahul Tripathi of Sultanpur to strengthen the creation campaign of Gangapar Prayagraj to strengthen the creation campaign of Gangapar Prayagraj, which has an atmosphere of happiness among the workers. In the scheduled program, in which both the Coordinator



will have a main role in the selection of districts, blocks,

mandals, Nyaya Panchayats, Gram Panchayat, Booth Committee officials by migrating in their charge of 100 days program plan in their charge area in their charge area. Along with this, all the frontal departments and cell organizations of the Congress will also be created. Jagat Narayan Singh, Vinod Vishwakarma, Devraj Upadhyay, Prabhakar Kumar, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Kalim Altaf, Shamsul Qamar, Ram

Manorath Saroj, Rakesh Paswan, Afan Ashhar, Salim Tiger, Ram Abhilash Prajapati, Rajeshwari Patel, Balaram Bind, Vinod Tiwari, Tasleemuddin, Nishhata, Nishhata, Nishtima, Gulab Bharatiya, Gulab Bharatiya Shami Pradhan, Ansar Ali Sonu, Mohammad Farooq, Shiv Prasad Prajapati, Suman Gautam, Govind Singh, Mazhar Alam, etc. were present.

Anganwadi work disrupted due to lack of 5G mobile, data and allowance, strike threat

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Anganwadi workers have alleged a severe lack of basic facilities amid the state government's expectation of digital functioning at Anganwadi centers. The organizations have said that due to lack of 5G mobiles, data allowance and technical resources, execution of online

hacked by cyber thugs.

It has been demanded that until all Anganwadis are provided with 5G mobiles and necessary resources, the regional chief workers should be ordered to go to Anganwadi centres with their mobiles and complete the work. A 17-point charter of demands has been



tasks like nutrition tracker has become impossible. The workers alleged that the old 2G mobiles given by the government do not support the nutrition tracker, due to which online feeding, home visits, attendance of children, THR distribution, and registration of new beneficiaries are being disrupted. When some workers are working from their children's phones, their information is being

submitted in the memorandum, which includes demands such as mobile allowance, regular promotion, timely honorarium, retirement benefits, cyber security, TA/DA payment and work free from technical interference. The workers have warned that if a solution is not found soon, they will go on an indefinite strike, the responsibility of which will be of the government and administration.

Disabled Cell of Mahanagar distributed refreshments

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Jyeshtha Mangal, Metropolitan Co-convenor of BJP Disabled Cell, Raja Mehrotra, distributed water, biscuits and chips to labourers in Pajawa Ramliila and Kalyani Devi area in view of the scorching heat. Ansh Sahu, Rajesh Kesarwani etc were present on the occasion.



District seminar on Ahilyabai Holkar Tricentenary Year Memorial Campaign

Prayagraj: Mahanagar has organized a district seminar on 22nd May under Punyashlok Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Janm Trishatabdi Varsh Smriti Abhiyan. In a meeting with the district team of Ahilyabai Holkar Trishatabdi Varsh Smriti Abhiyan at the BJP office in Civil Lines on Tuesday, BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar President Sanjay Gupta discussed about the Smriti Abhiyan running from 21st May to 31st May. The Mahanagar President said that a district seminar will be organized on the topic "Life philosophy of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar and her contribution to Indian culture" in the District Panchayat Auditorium at 4 pm on 22nd May. BJP State Vice President and BJP MLA from Noida Pankaj Singh will attend the seminar as the chief speaker. Regarding the program, Mahanagar President Sanjay Gupta has appealed to the Mahila Morcha, Smriti Abhiyan team, and all the front cells of the party, public representatives, office bearers to make the program a success. State General Secretary Mahila Morcha Dr. Kirtika Aggarwal, District Coordinator of the campaign Vandana Singh, Dr. Shailesh Pandey, Mahila Morcha Metropolitan President Shikha Rastogi, Shikha Khanna, Kanchanalata Kushwaha, Chandra Ahluwalia, Vijay Patel, Vijay Srivastava, Sanjay Rajan, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra etc. BJP workers were present.



Airtel and Google partner to offer Google One subscription

Prayagraj: Bharti Airtel and Google, today, announced a partnership that brings a compelling Google One cloud storage subscription service for Airtel customers, helping address the mounting challenge of limited device storage. All postpaid and Wi-Fi customers will get access to six months of 100 GB Google One cloud storage at no extra cost. They will also be able to share this storage with up to five additional people. The partnership aims to address the issue of growing data storage constraints faced by users by ensuring that customers have ample space to store their cherished photos, videos, documents and other

digital content without the need to frequently delete files or resort to expensive physical storage expansions. Additionally, WhatsApp chats on Android are backed up to Google Account storage which will make device switching easier for customers. The cloud storage provision is compatible with both Android and iOS platforms, making it widely accessible to Airtel's diverse customer base.

Siddharth Sharma, Director Marketing and CEO - Connected Homes, Bharti Airtel, said, "With smartphones becoming the main device for managing both personal and professional information, storage

has become a significant concern for users. We are pleased to collaborate with Google to address this issue by providing our customers with dependable, secure and user-friendly storage solutions. This partnership will present an opportunity for millions of our postpaid, Wi-Fi customers allowing them access to a further 100 GB of storage."

Karen Teo, Vice President, Platforms & Devices Partnerships, APAC, Google, said, "We are excited to partner with Airtel to bring Google One to millions in India. Together, we will make it easier for our users to safely back up photos, videos and impor-

tant files on their phones with more storage across Google Photos, Drive, Gmail and more." As an introductory offer, the 100 GB cloud storage will be available at no extra cost for the first six months from the date of activation, enabling customers to back up their data and experience the convenience of cloud storage. To avail of this offer, customers will have to simply log on to the Airtel Thanks App and claim the benefit. After six months of 100 GB storage at no charge, a nominal fee of ₹125 per month will be added to the customer's monthly bill. If a customer chooses not to continue the subscription, they can cease to be a Google One member.

Editorial

India’s naval advancements will fuel its Indian Ocean ambitions

As India approaches, the nation has achieved a significant milestone in strengthening its naval capabilities. In an exceptional move reflecting strategic foresight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently commissioned three advanced naval platforms in a single day: a destroyer, a frigate, and a submarine. However, in a fast-changing security environment in the Indo-Pacific, the developments in naval capabilities must be measured in a relative context—capabilities of arch rivals and a swiftly evolving security domain, that is. Now, five points need to be underscored in this context. The commissioning of advanced naval platforms highlights India’s aspiration to establish itself as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Over the years, India’s maritime security strategy has significantly evolved. The 2015 Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision reflects India’s dedication to fostering regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. This vision is supported by initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Island Countries (IOIC), which emphasise coastal connectivity and sustainable development. PM Modi’s address at the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue further reinforced India’s strategic perspective for the Indo-Pacific. The SAGAR vision has gained traction through frameworks such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), aiming to tackle regional security issues and counter China’s expanding influence. While China’s People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has grown to become the world’s largest by fleet size, it still lacks the operational capabilities and combat experience of the United States. India’s navy, although the smallest of its armed forces, has consistently demonstrated efficiency and timely acquisitions. Compared to the Indian Air Force, which faces critical squadron shortages, the navy pragmatically acknowledges domestic limitations in engine development. It relies on foreign collaborations to fill gaps, ensuring progress. However, I’ll turn to that later. To establish itself as a net security provider, the Indian Navy must sustain the momentum it has recently achieved in naval defence exports. Although this initiative began in earnest only in 2011, it gained significant traction after 2016. India has transitioned from being a cautious supplier of naval equipment, primarily targeting countries such as Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, to a more prominent player in defence exports. For many years, India’s exports to nations such as Seychelles, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka were limited to refurbished ex-navy and coast guard vessels. However, this trend has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. Naval ships, as of 2024, account for over 61 per cent of India’s total defence exports. This shift highlights India’s growing capability to manufacture advanced platforms and its determination to emerge as a dependable supplier of defence equipment to neighbouring countries. This development is a critical component of India’s regional and maritime strategy, especially given China’s rapid ascent in modernising PLAN and expanding its influence in the Indian Ocean by providing naval assets to smaller nations. China has already established itself as the leading defence exporter to both Pakistan and Bangladesh. It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties when Germany refused to supply key propulsion components.



Tulip’s resignation in the UK is troublesome for Hasina. Spotlight on daughter Saima

Saariq

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

which forced an internal government inquiry, Siddiq has strenuously denied any wrongdoing—except that of ignorance about benefiting from dubious transactions. But she has paid the price and resigned as UK treasury minister on Tuesday, though she stressed that an independent review found she had “not breached the ministerial code”. If the sins of aunts can impact nieces, then can daughters escape their mothers’? Ever since Siddiq’s case hit the headlines, the spotlight has slowly but surely turned

to Sheikh Hasina’s daughter, Saima Wazed, also known as Putul, who was elected regional director of the World Health Organisation’s Southeast Asia branch amid considerable controversy in February 2024. An editorial in the eminent medical journal The Lancet had earlier questioned if she was fit for the job, as she only held a master’s degree in psychology while rival aspirants were doctors with years of public health experience. The ACC has now initiated a probe into how she got the job: on her

own merit or her mother’s intervention as prime minister. All eyes are now on Putul and whether she’ll be forced to follow in her cousin’s footsteps. What does it all mean for 77-year-old Sheikh Hasina, who has been sheltering in New Delhi since fleeing Dhaka on 5 August after a violent student uprising against her 15-year continuous tenure as Bangladesh’s prime minister? There is no doubt that the charges being hurled at her, her family, and her friends are coloured by political prejudice from those now in power.

Slowing capital expenditure is good. Don’t invest in BSNL, save for shortfall instead

Suman Singh

The Union government’s capital expenditure (capex) continues to be a cause for concern. Of course, the extent of its decline has reduced somewhat — from 35 per cent at the end of the first quarter of the current financial year to 15 per cent at the end of six months. But the latest number for the April-November 2024-25 period shows that the Union government’s capex was still 12 per cent lower than what it was in the same period of 2023-24. Instead of aiming for the targeted 17 per cent growth to ~11.11 trillion in capex for 2024-25, the government will have to strive hard to at least cross the figure of ~9.48 trillion reached last year. What has led to this decline? A widely held view is that the seven-phase general elections, which began on April 19 and ended on June 1 last year, caused a slowdown in capex. But if that indeed is the reason, the decline in capex in the first quarter should have been reversed in the second quarter of 2024-25. And certainly, the first two months of the third quarter should have raised the trajectory of capex growth to a higher level. There has been some improvement, but a 12 per cent decline in the April-November 2024-25 period is no comfort. Look at the slightly different trajectory seen in the Union government’s revenue expenditure growth during the same period. The Budget for 2024-25 had projected a rise of over 6 per cent to ~37.1



trillion in revenue expenditure. At the end of June 2024, the growth was just about 2 per cent, but it has been rising since then, reaching 4.2 per cent by the end of the first six months of 2024-25 and climbing even higher to 7.8 per cent during April-November 2024-25. So, if revenue expenditure has gained momentum, why has capex failed to follow suit? A close analysis of the government’s capex numbers presents an interesting picture. Over 90 per cent of the Centre’s total capex during 2024-25 was accounted for by just six sectors — roads, railways, defence, telecom, transfer to states and new schemes. Their share in total capex in 2023-24 was a little less at 87 per cent. But the 12 per cent decline in the first eight months of 2024-25 is primarily the result of a marked slowdown in only two of these six areas — roads and defence, which accounted for over 40 per cent of the total capex outlay for 2024-25. Capex on the construction of roads and highways fell by 16 per cent, while defence saw a decline of 15 per cent. This is serious and

has worrying implications for both infrastructure and defence. The problem of slowing expenditure in these two areas should not have been difficult to fix. Either effective monitoring of spending is lacking, or there are serious problems with project execution, reflecting the poor expenditure-absorbing capacity of these two sectors. This is borne out by a relatively good performance of the Indian Railways, which accounts for over 22 per cent of this year’s capex. At ~1.68 trillion, the Indian Railways’ capex is just about 1 per cent lower than its spending during April-November 2023. With regard to the transfer of special assistance as loans to states for their capex and additional central assistance for their externally aided projects, the Union government’s performance was slightly better. In the April-November 2024-25 period, these transfers rose by about 5 per cent, although much lower than the budgeted increase of 41 per cent.

In contrast, such transfers during the entire

2023-24 had risen sharply by about 24 per cent to ~1.15 trillion. It appears that these transfers will take a hit in the current year and for the first time since this initiative to help states boost their capex was undertaken a couple of years ago. Significantly, this has not yet adversely impacted the states in a big way. The capex of 25 states (accounting for 95 per cent of all the states’ and Union territories’ total capex budget) has risen by just about 1 per cent in the April-November 2024-25 period, although states like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal saw their capex fall by varying margins. Eventually, however, this will have an adverse impact on the states’ capex programme and its growth-enhancing effect. There are two more sectors that account for another 13 per cent of the Centre’s capital expenditure budget. But they bring out an intriguing aspect of why the government’s capex has been slowing. They suffer from a peculiar problem, which has nothing to do with either the relevant sectors’ expenditure-absorbing capacity or the absence of effective expenditure monitoring. The bulk of the capex under telecommunications was meant for infusing equity into state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd, or BSNL. Of the total capex of ~0.84 trillion, the proposed amount for BSNL’s equity

infusion accounted for as much as ~0.83 trillion. But the total expenditure under this head in the first eight months of 2024-25 is only 6 per cent of what has been budgeted. In other words, a decision to transfer the equity amount promised to BSNL would increase the government’s capex by a significant margin. Why this money has not been transferred is puzzling. Last year, against a budgeted BSNL equity infusion of ~0.53 trillion, the actual infusion was higher at ~0.65 trillion. This year, no action on this front even after eight months is a puzzle as this failure also contributes significantly to the decline in the Centre’s capex. More importantly, the Budget for 2024-25 had allocated a significant amount of ~0.66 trillion for capex on central sector schemes and projects. Of this, a large chunk, estimated at ~0.62 trillion, was earmarked for new schemes that the government would announce during the year. However, in the first eight months of the current year, only 4 per cent of that total outlay has been used up, leaving ~0.63 trillion yet to be spent. It is likely that the government may not need this amount or it may have kept its powder dry to meet any new schemes that it might announce later in the year, for which such capital allocations will be useful. For the Union finance ministry, currently busy preparing the Budget for 2025-26, such a state of play with regard to slowing capital expenditure .

Will Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Really Lead To Peace?

Deepanshu Singh

On January 20, 1981, on the day Ronald Reagan took over as the new US president, Iran freed 52 American hostages it had been holding for over a year. That projected Reagan as a strong leader sending a powerful signal to US allies and its foes. His predecessor, Jimmy Carter, did all the negotiations and tried his best to have the hostages released while he was still the president. But Tehran would not let him take the glory. Forty-four years on, Donald Trump is taking the credit for the Gaza ceasefire deal, which will come into effect a day before his inauguration, cementing his reputation as a tough leader. Biden can say that the deal happened under his watch. But there is no doubt that it was Trump whose pressure led to achieve the goal. He declared on his social media platform Truth Social: “This EPIC ceasefire agreement could have only happened as a result of our Historic Victory in November, as it signalled to

the entire World that my Administration would seek Peace and negotiate deals to ensure the safety of all Americans, and our Allies.” Days after he threatened that there better be a Gaza deal by his January 20 inauguration or “all hell would break out”, his special envoy to the Middle East, Steven Witkoff, landed in Tel Aviv last Saturday. It was the Sabbath, the day of rest for Jews. But Witkoff insisted on meeting the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that day. At their meeting, he conveyed Trump’s message that the incoming President of the United States wanted to end the Gaza war and demanded that a ceasefire agreement be signed immediately. The format of the three-stage deal announced on Wednesday was proposed by Biden in May last year and was later also endorsed by the UN Security Council. But both Hamas and Israel kept dragging the negotiations over it. In Israel, Netanyahu refused to give any concessions to Hamas and continued.

“One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution”

Ravi Sharma

Extension of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar energy value chain, increased allocation towards PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, and greater thrust to distribution and transmission infrastructure are likely to be the key features of the upcoming Budget, as far as the energy sector is concerned. Sources said these proposals figured not only in the budget wish lists of the industry, but also in the respective recommendations from the ministries of power and renewable energy to the finance ministry, ahead of the Budget. “Given the success of PM Suryaghar scheme with almost 600,000 installations in just nine months since its launch, one could probably see additional allocation to target more households,” said Ashwin Jacob, partner at Deloitte India. “As far as evacuation of power from offshore wind projects is concerned, we would want to see the VGF or budgetary support to continue or get enhanced,” he added. “We hope to see a decisive increase in funding to accelerate the green energy transition. Priorities must include scaling renewable energy by addressing grid and transmission challenges, advancing Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for grid stability and reliable power, doubling energy efficiency and digitalizing the energy sector through AI, smart meters, and data-driven solutions. Streamlining rooftop solar programs with simplified approvals, financing, and monitoring is equally vital,” said Saurabh Kumar, Vice President – India, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). Sharat Goyal, CEO of Impact Infracap also expects the government to remove restrictions on state wise caps on roof top capacity for net-metering for industrial establishments. “Further, adoption of batteries to substitute use of diesel generators for back-up power should

receive incentives and policy support given their role in reducing dependence on imports,” he said. While the government is increasingly working towards enhancing the country’s RE capacity, the distribution and transmission infrastructure for its evacuation still needs to be strengthened. With the peak demand for power growing at a rate of 8-9% annually, the industry is looking forward to strengthening of climate resilient infrastructure augmentation. “One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution infrastructure, especially in high density/ urban load centres, in view of the sharp rise in peak demand over the last few years,” said Anujesh Dwivedi, Partner at Deloitte India. He noted that there may be some allocation towards supporting the preparatory work especially on the listing of power utilities, or some incentive mechanism for promoting initiatives on private sector participation or listing of utilities at the state level because they are increasingly being seen as the much needed structural reforms the sector needs. The industry is optimistic of a wider coverage of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by including smart metering in infrastructure definition.

“This would direct more financing for a sector which seeks to bring down India’s transmission and distribution losses to 12% and improve recovery for state utilities,” Goyal said. Goyal also noted that power transmission despite significant potential has not seen any notable monetisation events which could address the latent investor demand. “Government should announce a time-bound privatisation programme for assets owned by PGCIL,” he said. The sector also sees the PLI scheme for solar value chain to continue with possible reduction in the duty structures for solar equipment.

Jaipur LPG tanker crash: Investigation finds fault on part of NHAI



NEW DELHI: An investigation into the Jaipur LPG tanker crash that claimed 21 lives has pointed out faults on the part of NHAI and its agencies, and the owner and consigner of the tanker for non-compliance of safety standards as well as negligence of the deceased driver of the goods truck that hit the tanker. The findings of the crash investigation conducted by the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) with support from the Jaipur Police was presented at a

mock court, chaired by former IPS Kiran Bedi, on Wednesday at the College of Traffic Management in Faridabad. The probe report mentions that the tanker driver can be absolved of the offence of dangerous or negligent driving as he took the U-turn on the highway "cautiously". However, the FIR by the Jaipur Police, registered hours after the fatal crash, has accused the drivers of the LPG tanker and the goods truck of speeding and negligence, which, according to

police, resulted in the accident. The FIR has not mentioned any other entity for the crash. Police are yet to file a chargesheet in the case. The crash happened on the Jaipur-Kishangarh highway in Rajasthan on Dec 20 last year. The goods-carrier truck collided with the BPCL tanker carrying LPG when the tanker was making the U-turn. There was an explosion due to gas leak from the tanker as its inlet-outlet nozzle had broken in the accident.

Display 'be kind to animals' message on public transport, Centre suggests

NEW DELHI: In the first such move in the country to sensitise people about animal safety, the Centre has suggested all states/UTs to display the slogan "Be kind to Animals" in English, Hindi, or regional languages on all public transport vehicles with effect from April 1. Sending an advisory on the proposal, the road transport and highways ministry on Tuesday (Feb 25) said the slogan can be painted or can be put in the form of a sticker. The ministry noted that the move to display such slogans was taken based on the receipt of submissions with respect to "promoting compassion



towards animals and to promote safety of animals on roads". It advised that the colour of the font may be selected to enhance the readability depending on the colour of the public transport vehicle used in the respective state. "This will help drivers be mindful of animals/birds on the

streets and make roads safer for all," said animal welfare activist Gauri Maulekhi while applauding the move. Underlining that the slogan resonates with India's cultural ethos, she said the ministry's initiative will not only enhance road safety but also advance animal welfare.

War for deposits continues. Top banks are modifying rates through special tenures

Delhi: War for deposits continues. Top banks are modifying rates through special tenures, senior citizen privileges, and bulk deposit plans as the financial industry faces a liquidity constraint. IDBI Bank is the latest to raise super senior rates, while Bank of

Baroda unveiled a liquid fixed deposit product. IDBI Bank announced the 'IDBI Chiranjeevi Super Senior Citizen FD' for 80-year-olds. The initiative offers 65bps over the bank's ordinary fixed deposit rates and 15bps over senior citizen rates. An 8.05% interest rate is offered

for 555 days, 7.9% for 375 days, 8% for 444 days, and 7.85% for 700 days. From January 13, 2025, the program will apply. Customers can withdraw Rs 1,000 after depositing Rs 5,000 in Bank of Baroda's liquid fixed deposits. Deposits over Rs 5,000 must be multi-

In a 1st in India, bird flu detected in domestic cats

PUNE: The first cases of avian influenza virus (H5N1) in domestic cats in India were reported from Chhindwara district in Madhya Pradesh, raising concerns about the bird flu pathogen mutating and infecting humans. "H5N1 is classically an avian virus, but certain mutations allow it to replicate in mammalian hosts. This adaptability raises concerns because influenza viruses have the potential to trigger pandemics, as seen in past outbreaks like Covid-19," a scientist said. Scientists from ICAR-NIHSAD and Union govt's animal husbandry department have documented the cases this Jan in Chhindwara, which borders Nagpur - where several big cats died of bird flu in Dec last year.



The scientific team identified the virus as belonging to the 2.3.2.1a lineage, a variant of H5N1 that has caused outbreaks in poultry across India. "These cases represent the first documented instances of this particular strain infecting domestic cats in India," the study says.

It found that all infected cats exhibited symptoms such as high fever, loss of appetite, and lethargy before succumbing to the illness within one to three days after sample collection. The study identified 27 mutations in the virus found in cats. Scientists called for enhanced surveillance in domestic poul-

try, wild birds, and mammals, including pets and humans, given the virus's ability to jump between species. "Although human infections have been rare, we must anticipate the virus adapting to efficient transmission to and between humans. Human-to-human transmission is still not efficient, but ongoing changes in the virus signal to us to stay vigilant and prepared even for a pandemic," virologist Jacob John said. On the virus's potential to cause a global outbreak, John cautioned: "H5N1 is new for humans. We do not have immunity against it. If human-to-human transmission becomes efficient, as an extension of the present pattern of mammalian transmission, it is going to be a concern.

Fleeing perverts, event management firm owner dies in road crash

PANAGARH/CHANDERNAGORE:

A high-speed car chase on national highway 2 early Monday ended in tragedy as 27-year-old dancer and event manager Sutandra Chatterjee lost her life when her vehicle overturned. Chatterjee, a resident of Chandernagore in Bengal, was traveling to Gaya in Bihar for work when the accident occurred around 12.30am. While Chatterjee, seated in

the front passenger seat, bled to death, at least two of her colleagues suffered injuries. Police have seized both vehicles involved in the chase, but have yet to make any arrests. Durgapur-Asansol police commissioner Sunil Kumar Choudhary said the crash resulted from an overtaking attempt gone wrong. "We have studied CCTV footage and have found that trouble arose when a white car, while over-

taking the woman's car, grazed it. As per CCTV footage, the woman's car was chasing the other vehicle and met with the accident leading to the woman's death. We have started a case based on a complaint by one of the occupants of the car in which the woman was traveling," he said. Chatterjee's colleagues, including Mintu Mondal - who later lodged an FIR - and driver Rajdeo Sharma, gave a different account.

To make space for car park, part of Nek Chand's garden to be razed

CHANDIGARH: The iconic Rock Garden in Chandigarh is facing the UT administration's bulldozers, and citizens are up in arms to stop them. A portion of the outer wall of the Rock Garden is being demolished and trees on either side of it being cut following a directive by Punjab and Haryana high court. It is part of a road widening project for creation of additional parking space and traffic decongestion on the road near the high court abutting the Rock Garden. Outraged by the administration's move, citizens have started campaigns to save the legacy of Nek Chand - whose waste-to-art project has been part of the city's identity for decades. "So sorry, Nek Chand Saini; your precious creation is being demolished in part to



make way for a road and parking of polluting vehicles. We, the people of Chandigarh and the administration, have let you down, that too in your birth centenary year," wrote Manmohan Sarin, a lawyer and member of Chandigarh Heritage Conservation Committee, in a post on X on Feb 22. The wall that is being razed is near the 'high court gate' or 'VIP gate' of the Rock Garden. "It is the same gate from which Nek Chand ji used to enter the Rock Garden when he lived in it for around three years," said Nek

Chand's son Anuj Saini, adding, "The wall can be rebuilt, but the heritage value of the area will be lost." Citizens have been holding protests, and have initiated online petitions - 'Save Rock Garden, Save Chandigarh' and 'Saving Chandigarh' - to halt the demolition. The UT administration, however, said it is mandated to address the traffic bottleneck. It added that the compound was "not integral to the Rock Garden", but was originally built to enclose the adjacent forested land.

Groom's kin complains of poor food for 'baraatis', killed by bride's uncle

Kasganj

DSP (Sahawar) Shahida Nasrin said, "A case of murder has been registered against the bride's uncle, Vijay Kumar. He has been arrested." The incident took place in Roshan Nagar village in Sahawar area of Kasganj district. Arun Kumar, 37, was part of the



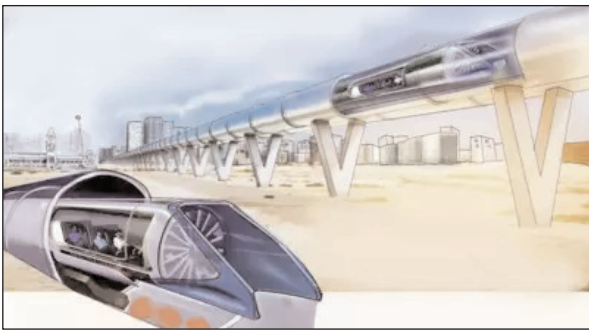
wedding procession which Hathras. His brother Lalit said had come from Sikandrarao in that Arun, while having food

after the wedding ceremony, had remarked that it wasn't cooked properly and quality was not good either. "Hearing the complaint, the bride's uncle (in his early 50s) had a heated argument with him and in a fit of rage, pulled out an illegal 315-bore firearm and shot him in the head.

DU to expand PhD admission slots by 20-25 pc

Delhi: Delhi University's executive council (EC) resolved to boost PhD admission seats by 20-25% from the last round of admission. The EC also allowed a university representation on St. Stephen's College's governing body to connect DU and the college. DU also updated donation rules to fund scholarships, honors, and capital assets. Under this, the government, trusts, and corporations may set up scholarships.

After hyperloop breakthrough, government eyes 50km commercial link



NEW DELHI: After the breakthrough in developing a hyperloop test track (422m) by IIT Madras with support from Indian Railways, the government is now planning development of a 50km corridor for commercial transport, said minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. It may be the longest hyperloop track in the world. "The first tube will go a long way in developing technologies. The time has come when after the first two grants of \$1million each (nearly \$9cr), the third grant of \$1million will be given to IIT Madras for fur-

ther developing the hyperloop project in a nice way. And once we see the commercial or rather pre-commercial where the product is ready, then within the railway set-up we will start the first commercial project. We will decide a site, which can be used for good com-

mercial transportation of 40km-50km and then we will go for it," Vaishnaw said while addressing the closing ceremony of Asia's first Global Hyperloop Competition by IIT Madras. Sources said the test track for commercial operation will help railways assess

viability of the technology. The hyperloop track can allow speeds of up to 1,200kmph. The successful development of the first test track, which was completed in Dec last year, will be the base for future development. There are 8 hyperloop projects around world. Hyperloop systems are expected to dramatically reduce travel times between cities, offering an alternative to traditional rail and air travel. The hyperloop concept envisions high-speed, low-pressure pods travelling at speeds of up to 1,200 kmph.

More than 50% of 30.68 crore e-Shram beneficiaries are women

Delhi: More than half of the 30.68 crore unorganised workers enrolled for social welfare benefits on the government's e-Shram platform are women (53.68%), Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje told the Lok Sabha. The Ministry of Labour and Employment unveiled the e-Shram—"One-Stop-Solution"—to fulfill the budget announcement's aim of a one-stop solution for unorganized workers to access social security systems. The "e-Shram—"One-Stop-Solution" integrates multiple social security schemes into one portal. This allows unorganized workers registered on e-Shram to access social security systems and view their benefits. The e-Shram has integrated 13 Central Ministry/Department schemes, including PM-SVANidhi, PMSBY, PMJJBY, NFBS, MGN-REGA, PMAY-G, and Ayushman Bharat. The Ministry of Labour and Employment imple-



mented multilingual capability on the e-Shram portal utilizing Bhashini to improve accessibility. In a written reply, the minister said this upgrade allows workers to interact with e-Shram portals in 22 Indian languages, boosting accessibility and inclusivity. The Ministry launched the e-Shram mobile app to make e-Shram and related services accessible to unorganized workers. This software makes welfare schemes integrated with e-Shram more accessible and convenient in real time. The Ministry has periodic review meetings with states and the Services Centre to raise awareness.

Gold's relevance as asset class to rise: CEA

NEW DELHI: Gold will remain relevant for investors as a portfolio diversification mechanism with a likely ascending importance as an asset class in the coming years, CEA V Anantha Nageswaran. He said that gold will remain relevant not only as a store of value, as an ornament for cultural and religious purposes, but also as an important portfolio diversification mechanism "until such a time the world is able to arrive at an international monetary system from the current international monetary non-system".

Jefferies: India capex boom, state-level infra projects increase

Delhi: According to Jefferies, capital spending in India has increased significantly and is projected to continue in the coming months as various sectors see robust increases. Jefferies Head of Research and Managing Director Mahesh Nandurkar predicts strong capital expenditure growth in February and March. According to the government's revised budget predictions, infrastructural and industrial growth will continue. Nandurkar remarked, "These are on expected lines, but the fact that it's happening gives confidence." In January 2025, the central gov-



ernment's capital expenditure jumped 51%, demonstrating its commitment to infrastructure development. The government's concentration on trains and road projects has helped complete 83–87% of the financial year 2025 revised forecasts for these sectors. Nandurkar advised a cal-

ibrated approach. The market remains wary about private capex. "I believe private capex is already happening in cement, steel, hospital and real estate," Capital expenditure remains a priority, with state transfers climbing by 60%. This funding should advance state infrastructure projects and encourage economic growth. Key sectors have great growth potential, according to Jefferies. One was metal stocks, indicating strong sector momentum. The brokerage also noted that the Asian steel differential is 20% below its long-term average, allowing for expansion.

Price pressure caps senior citizen health premium hikes at 10%

As medicare policy rates skyrocket for seniors over 60, Irdai has ordered insurers not to raise senior people's health premiums by more than 10% without approval. Before cancelling senior health coverage, insurers must get regulator clearance. As

healthcare prices rise, insurers are advised to standardize hospital empanelment and negotiate package rates like the government's PM Jan Arogya Yojana. Irdai reported a large increase in prices for various health insurance policies for subscribers over 60.

Premium rates depend on projected claims, administrative expenditures, and acquisition costs, the regulator said. Private insurance doesn't standardize hospitalization expenses, unlike PMJAY, which negotiates consistent package rates.

First-ever 'e-Toycathon' boosts domestic electronic toy industry

Delhi: Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore, placed first, Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida, second, and National Institute of Technology, Durgapur third. The engaging and elegant 'Play Mat Toy' won first prize for its piano functional keys, animal graphics and noises, drums, music and rhymes, etc. Soft substance makes the mat foldable. Playing the piano and dancing lets kids appreciate music while boosting their music intelligence and visual training. 'Robo-Mentor AI', a revolutionary educational toy that empowers youngsters through robotics and generative AI, won the second prize. The Ministry stated that the main goal is to give students the chance to build and program robots while receiving dynamic, tailored instruction that boosts their confidence and agency. National Institute of Technology, Durgapur placed third for Interactive Educational Chart.

This chart encourages kids to learn about India through activities. The language is English with a regional language option. The chart is interactive; youngsters can press a picture for sounds and light. National Institute of Technology, Srinagar and Indian Institute of Information Technology, Senapati, Manipur won consolation prizes for Compact Mini Drone and Electronic Cashier Machine Toys. India's fast-growing toy business could increase its proportion of the \$179.4 billion global toy market by 2032. India's toy imports fell 79% from \$304 million in FY2018-19 to \$65 million in FY2023-24.

Sebi strengthens SME IPO rules to protect investors

Delhi: Sebi has tightened SME regulation by requiring profitability and capping offer-for-sale at 20%. The measures aim to allow proven SMEs to raise public money while protecting investor interests. SME concerns have increased investor participation, prompting this shift. Sebi requires SMEs contemplating an IPO to have a minimum operational profit of 1 crore for two out of the three previous financial years. The OFS component by selling shareholders in SME IPOs is limited to 20% of the issue size. Sebi announced on March 4 that selling stockholders cannot sell more than 50% of their interests. Promoters' shares beyond the Minimum Promoter Contribution would be locked in progressively. One year



would release half of the surplus holding, while two years would release the other 50%. To guarantee uniformity, SME IPO non-institutional investor allocation would match mainboard IPOs. Sebi has upped the minimum application size for SME IPO to two lots to reduce speculation. This would protect foolish investors who buy based on rising share prices, "Makarand

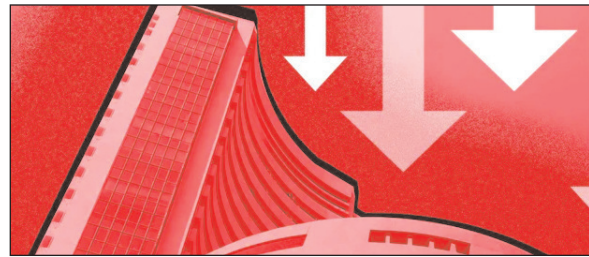
M Joshi, founder and partner of corporate compliance consultancy MMJC and Associates, said. The general corporate purpose allocation in SME IPOs is limited to 15% of the entire issue size or ₹10 crore, whichever is less. SME issues cannot use IPO proceeds to repay loans from promoters, promoter groups, or related parties, directly or indirectly.

Manufacturing activity slows to a 14-month low in February

NEW DELHI: Activity in the country's manufacturing sector grew at its slowest pace in 14 months as production and new orders moderated but it still remained robust, a survey showed. The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered a reading of 56.3 in Feb, down from 57.7 in Jan, but still indicative of further improvement in the health of the sector. The 50-point mark separates from contraction in the survey, which is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to 400 manufacturing firms.

Indian stocks plummet as investors worry about US tariffs

Delhi: Indian equities and the overall market fell sharply as investors worried about U.S. tariffs and the market downturn. Nifty 50 decreased 0.41% to 22,460.3, Sensex fell 0.29% to 74,115.17. The key indexes surged roughly 2% last week on bargain buying after the market sell-off erased \$1 trillion from India's market value and made large cap valuations more attractive for investors. Large cap indices are approaching a stage where moderate equity investment is warranted,



diluting the conservative posture values indicated for a while. The midcap and smallcap indexes fell 1.5% and 2%. The asset manager said valuation comfort is coming for larger markets. Mid- and smallcaps are 20.5% and 23% below their record highs, while the Nifty is 14.5% below. India's volatility

gauge rose the most since February 28 to 13.99, indicating near-term uncertainty. India is seeking a bilateral trade pact with the U.S. after President Donald Trump repeatedly criticized its high tariffs. Higher tariffs can increase inflation, slow growth in the world's largest economy, and reduce foreign

Employment for Indian women is rising, but 89 million urban women are unemployed

Delhi: A recent report shows a 10% increase in women's employment in India's metropolitan areas, reaching 28% among working-age women in 2023-24. However, 89 million urban women were unemployed that year, more than Germany, France, the UK, and Australia combined. Analysis of how "visible gains and leadership wins mask systemic and hidden barriers" shows that deep-seated systemic barriers limit female labor participation, demonstrating the gender employment paradox. Spousal abuse, relocation after marriage, and poor transportation limit urban women's employment. Education reduces the incidence of domestic violence for employed



NGT requests DPCC report after plea says unlawful dyeing units continue.

Delhi: The applicant, an environmental activist, told the National Green Tribunal that more illegal dyeing facilities were operating in Khyala and Meethapur village in Delhi after the authorities alerted them of their actions. The tribunal ordered the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to act and report in four weeks. In another matter related to such units, a joint committee recommended a campaign to sensitize the public about illegal industrial activity.

women, finds a private business school. The last statistics from 2019-2020 showed that 20% of highly educated

urban working women and 42% of those with only primary education experienced such abuse.

Omaxe to Upgrade 6 UP Bus Terminals for Rs 2,700 Cr

Delhi: Omaxe will modernize bus terminals with its new wholly-owned subsidiary 'BeTogether'. These initiatives attempt to improve Uttar Pradesh's public transport and add modern commercial space. These projects are estimated to generate around Rs 4,700 crore in income with a



total investment of roughly Rs 2,700 crore, Omaxe stated.

Total saleable area is 45.59 lakh sq ft, while the six projects' built-up area is 70.80 lakh sq ft. Six bus terminals were modernised with heritage-inspired design and modern infrastructure to improve passenger convenience and economic possibilities. Automatic ticketing, digi-

tal schedule displays, AC waiting lounges, comfortable seating with charging stations, escalators, lifts, and improved security are available at each terminal. Large commercial developments featuring retail, food courts, conference rooms, studio apartments, offices, and adequate parking.

Ola's Concerns Proceed: Shops Targeted for Trade Certificate Infractions

Delhi: The brand is facing even more difficulties as a result of a new study on the showrooms built by OLA. According to a recent report, the firm has been attempting to switch from digital to traditional showrooms as its sales approach. The company had made investments in four thousand physical showrooms. It has come to light that the brand only has data for 3,400 showrooms, according to a Bloomberg investigation. Under the Motor Vehicle Act, trade certi-



cations are required in little over 100 sites. The Bloomberg investigation also explained that 95% of the establishments where the data was viewed by Bloomberg News did not have the bare minimum of certification required to exhibit cars.

On transport unregistered two-wheelers,

they are sold and test rides are provided. Constabulary in several Indian states have carried out raids, closed showrooms, seized cars, and issued show-cause orders to the company managed by Bhavish Aggarwal in response to complaints made by users and concerned authorities.

Government to double digital banking units

Delhi: Within a year, the Union government plans to virtually double the number of digital banking units (DBU) nationwide to 200. Two sources said DBU may be able to offer more financial goods, including insurance and government financial-inclusion programs. DBUs are fixed-point business units or hubs with

minimum digital infrastructure to supply digital banking goods and services and serve existing financial products and services digitally in a convenient and cost-effective manner. Since 2022, DBUs have been. Expanded nationwide, notably in semi-urban, rural, and isolated locations without banking or digital services.

White House confirms 'Politico' received \$8 million USAID funds

White House said Politico received more than \$8million in subsidy for subscription which DOGE will cancel. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt Wednesday confirmed that many media outlets including Politico received funds from the US Agency for International Development -- the agency that would be shut down soon on the advice of Elon Musk's Department of Government Agency. "I was made aware that USAID has funded media outlets like Politico who I know has a seat in this room. I can confirm that more than \$8M taxpayers' dollars that have gone to essentially subsidizing subscriptions on the American taxpayers' dime will no longer be happening. The DOGE team is working on canceling those payments now." "This is a whole-of-government effort to ensure that We are going line by line when



it comes to the Federal Government's books. This president and his team are making decisions across the board on: Do these receipts serve the interests of the American people? Is this a good use of the American taxpayer's money? If it is not, that funding will no longer be sent abroad and American taxpayers will see significant savings because of that effort," Leavitt said.MAGA commentators made the claims against Politico on X and cited an unusual delay in payment for the first time at the news organization. This, according to them, happened because of DOGE's action on USAID.

Politico has not issued any statement yet but it sent a mail to its employees blaming the delay in payment on a technical error. "Due to what we believe to be a technical error, employees did not receive their paychecks as scheduled. We understand the urgency of this matter and sincerely apologize for the inconvenience. Our team is working diligently with our systems vendors and the bank to identify the root cause and implement a solution as quickly as possible. We will keep you updated as we learn more and work to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

Trump orders advisers to destroy Iran if it assassinates him

US President Trump on Tuesday said that he has directed his advisers to destroy Iran if it attempts to take his life. "If they did that they would be obliterated. I've left instructions if they do it, they get obliterated, there won't be anything left," Trump said to reporters while signing an executive order calling for the US government to impose maximum pressure on Tehran.For years, American authorities have been monitoring Iranian threats targeting Trump and other administration officials. In 2020, Trump authorised the elimination of Qassem



Soleimani, the commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force. A credible Iranian threat to Trump's safety prompted increased security measures before a July campaign rally in Pennsylvania where Trump sustained an ear wound. However, officials indicated that Iran was not believed to be involved in that

attack.In November, the Justice Department revealed they had prevented an Iranian scheme to assassinate Trump prior to the presidential election. According to the department, Iranian officials instructed Farhad Shakeri, aged 51, in September to conduct surveillance and plan Trump's assassination.

MAGA Civil War: Why Indian-Americans, the new Jews, are irking Donald Trump supporters

There's a theory out there—wild, audacious, but surprisingly hard to dismiss—that just about everything worth celebrating in Western civilization was dreamed up, built, or perfected by Jews. From splitting the atom to decoding life itself, from rewriting the

rules of music to redefining what it means to be human, Jewish brilliance turned the world into their intellectual playground.Let's take a stroll down the hall of fame: J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb," quite literally blew the lid off 20th-

century science. Albert Einstein, the cosmic poet, bent time and space to his will. Jonas Salk saved millions from polio, and Rosalind Franklin cracked the code of life itself with her DNA discoveries. And that's just the lab coats.

Karim commanded respect globally for his modern out

Prince Karim Al-Hussaini who, at 20, became the 49th hereditary Imam or spiritual leader of Shia Ismaili Muslims, and led the community with a blend of modernity and entrepreneurial flair, died Tuesday in Lisbon. He was 88.

As founder-chairman of Aga Khan Development Network, the Aga Khan IV, as he is known, will also be remembered for endowments that helped restore the iconic Humayun's Tomb and Sunder Nursery in Delhi along with the Qutub Shah Tombs near Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, writes Mohammed Wajihuddin. The restoration of the gardens at Humayun's Tomb, in fact, was a gift on the 50th anniversary of India's Independence. The Aga Khan himself visited India in Sept 2013 to inaugurate the



restored Tomb. Suave and soft-spoken, Prince Karim commanded respect globally for his modern outlook and interpretation of Islam as a thinking faith that teaches compassion and tolerance.Late Wednesday, Prince Karim's son Rahim Al-Hussaini was named the new Aga Khan. Unlike most Muslim spiritual

leaders who are bearded, Prince Karim was clean shaven and donned contemporary attire.The jet-setting spiritual leader was also counted among the world's wealthiest people. According to The New York Times, the Aga Khan's fortune was variously estimated at \$1 billion to \$13 billion, with a substantial family

inheritance as well as private investments in luxury hotels, airlines and racehorses. He had a global following of approximately 15 million. The projects he supported ranged from health initiatives in developing countries to upscale development on the island of Sardinia in the Mediterranean Sea. The Aga Khans have a strong connection with India. Hasan Ali Shah, the 46th Imam of the Shia Ismailis who was bestowed the title of the Aga Khan (commanding chief) after heCops take deported immigrants for questioning after their arrival in Amritsar married the then Shah of Iran Fatehali Shah Kachar's daughter, emigrated to India in the early 1840s and settled in Mumbai (then Bombay).

Pregnant teenager among five Ukrainians killed by Russian missile

IZYUM: A Russian ballistic missile strike on Tuesday killed five people including a pregnant teenager and wounded more than four dozen others in the east Ukrainian town of Izyum, officials said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after the attack that it was "impossible to reconcile with this cruelty" and urged allies to pile pressure on Moscow to end its nearly three-year invasion. Oleg Synegubov, governor of the wider Kharkiv region, said 55 people had been wounded in the Russian strike, and that two young women



were among the dead. "They were 18 and 19 years old and one of them was pregnant," he wrote on social media. An AFP journalist at the scene saw tearful women consoling each other after identifying one of the victims laid out in a body bag lined up by police. Larysa Chygrynets was at work in the local tax office

when she heard the air raid siren sound and then the missile strike seconds later. "Everything was covered in blood and the windows were smashed," the 51-year-old told AFP of the scenes in her office. She said that life in Izyum some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the front line had been relatively calm and that residents had been returning."Everything was calm, nothing indicated trouble. We thought everything would be fine by now. But you can see what they have done," she said.

Rice shipment from India, first for Yunus government, to arrive today

DHAKA: Bangladesh is set to receive its first consignment of rice imported from India since the formation of the new interim govt even as it looks to be drawing closer to Pakistan than to its immediate neighbour India, which stood beside Bangladesh in 1971 through shared sacrifices. Bangladesh had witnessed ships coming from Karachi twice in recent days. On Nov 13, for the first time since independence, a container-carrying ship sailing directly from Karachi had docked at Chhatogram (Chittagong). This time the ship "MV Tanais Dream", carrying 24,690 metric tonnes of parboiled rice imported from India under the open tender agreement, will arrive at Chaudhagram port at 5.30am on Thursday. This is also the first consignment



of parboiled rice imported from India under the Nov 11 agreement. The unloading of the rice will start soon after samples of the rice are collected and after physical examination, said a senior Bangladesh food ministry official. Talking to diplomatic correspondents in Dhaka recently, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma had said he was optimistic about Dhaka-Delhi relationship. despite changes happening around. "This is how we look at the relationship.

Ramaswamy-critic Ann says H-1B workers are indentured servants

Author and Conservative commentator Ann Coulter, who once said she would not vote for Vivek Ramaswamy only because he is of Indian origin, has commented on the ongoing H-1B row and said that H1B workers can't leave a company, unlike American workers. And that's what tech like Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy, Sriram Krishnan want -- she implied. "American workers can leave a company.

Japan Airlines plane collides with parked Delta Airlines aircraft at Seattle-Tacoma

A Japan Airlines aircraft collided with a parked Delta Airlines plane while taxiing at Seattle-Tacoma Airport on Wednesday morning, causing damage to both planes but no injuries were reported. The incident took place at 10:17 am when the moving aircraft's wing struck the tail section of the parked Delta aircraft. Travellers at the airport shared photographs on social media platforms showing the Japan Airlines wing sliced halfway through the Delta aircraft's tail section. The airport authorities said that the incident caused minimal disruption to regular operations. "There are no injuries reported at this time. SEA is working with both airlines to safely deplane passengers and bring them to the terminal," the airport's said. The collision happened when the the aviation



sector is facing heightened concerns in the US. A collision between a US Army helicopter and an American Airlines aircraft at Reagan National Airport claimed 67 lives just a week ago. Later, in Philadelphia, a medical transport aircraft crashed onto a crowded street and burst into flames, resulting in seven fatalities - six aboard the aircraft and one pedestrian. Adding to these incidents, the Federal Aviation Administration's Notice to Air Missions system (NOTAM), crucial for communicating

flight safety information, experienced a failure on Saturday night. Although the system was restored by Sunday, the disruption had already caused hundreds of flight delays across the network. A Japan Airlines aircraft collided with a parked Delta Airlines plane at Seattle-Tacoma Airport, causing damage but no injuries. The incident led to minimal disruption. This collision adds to recent aviation accidents, heightening concerns in the sector. The Federal Aviation Administration's NOTAM system also experienced .

Vietnam's restrictive internet law comes into force

A new internet law in Vietnam, Decree 147, gives the government increased control over internet access and content in the name of national security and social order. It mandates tech companies to store user data, verify accounts, and remove deemed illegal content within 24 hours. Critics argue this suppresses free speech and impacts livelihoods. A new internet law that gives the Vietnamese government expanded powers over internet services and people using them is set to officially take effect Wednesday. Decree 147 expands government control over access to information on the internet for reasons of "national security" and "social order."The law requires social media platforms providing services to users in Vietnam to store user data and provide it to authorities on demand.The government issued the decree this November, and it requires organizations to take down anything the authorities consider "illegal content" within 24 hours. Decree 147 has sparked concerns, with researchers and experts tracking the country saying that the law is part of a growing crackdown on civil society. "Because the Vietnamese police treat any criticism of the Communist Party of Vietnam as a national security matter, this decree will provide them with yet another tool to suppress dissent," said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. The decree requires tech giants like Facebook and TikTok among other organizations., to verify user accounts using people's phone numbers or personal identification numbers. It requires companies to store that data. Decree 147 also requires organizations to provide search and content-scanning tools to government authorities upon request. It limits certain functions, like live video streaming, to only verified accounts.

Kapil Launches ISSO Swimming At Adani International School

Delhi: Kapil Dev inaugurated the International Schools Sports Organization (ISSO) Swimming Regional Championships at Adani International School. Adani International School hosted the first ISSO regional event in Gujarat, hosting 115 U9 and U11 swimmers from seven international schools. "I loved inaugurating the ISSO Swimming Regional Championships at Adani International School. It's encouraging to see Adani International School promote a strong sports culture in the city through programs like this, given its excellent sports facilities. Such efforts will shape India's future sports stars. "I congratulate the Adani family and wish them well for their invaluable contribution to Indian sports," said the 1983 World Cup-winning captain. Students can compete in sports at ISSO, encouraging



Ponting says Vyshak was an impact sub against GT because 'Shreyas said, just bring him out here'

Delhi: After Punjab Kings beat Gujarat Titans by 11 runs in a high-scoring match, head coach Ricky Ponting said captain Shreyas Iyer asked him to bring on Vyshak to bowl a couple of yorkers and close the game. After Iyer led from the front, scoring an unbeaten 97 in 42 balls at 230.95 to help his side reach 243/5 in 20 overs, Vijaykumar Vyshak's important middle-over spells reduced GT to 232/5 to seal a tight win. While sitting in the dugout, I stated they need 13 or 14 runs per over and asked Shreyas what he wanted to do. He urged Vyshak out.

sportsmanship and teamwork. ISSO helps grassroots sports in India grow through nationwide events. Adani International School brought the first ISSO regional event to Gujarat on Saturday and won the overall

title with 106 medals (19 gold, 36 relay, 22 silver, 8 relay, and 21 bronze) and 284 points. Sergio Pawel, Adani International School Head of School, thanked Kapil Dev, "We were honored to host him. It was amazing to

Mandaviya, Kerala CM Lead Nationwide Fit India Cycle Event

Delhi: Junagadh, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centre in Gandhinagar hosted around 500 bikers from the Girnar Gate to the Bhavnath Mahadev temple. The SAI Lakshmi Bai National College of Physical Education organized the demonstration in Trivandrum, which ran 7km from the Cliff House to the Central Stadium. This week's Cycle highlighted school-children nationwide who cycled with their parents and teachers. "You can make a lifelong friendship with cycling, so make this exercise your best friend," Mandaviya told Junagadh festival



attendees. The enormous number of school-children participating in Sundays on Cycle shows that Fit India is becoming a nationwide festival. Health is vital to national progress. Khelo India Centres (KICs) held active cycling drives in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh areas including Shivtarai, Janjgir Champa, Darbhanga, and Orai. Over 500 fitness enthusiasts, cycling groups, and organizations from Kerala, including Indian Army CRPF, BSF, NCC, Kerala Police (SAP), Kerala Police (Traffic), Crime Branch, Collectorate, FCI, RBI, Department of Sports, Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, KRCC, KSSC, , Golf Club, Kerala Olympic , and Kerala Cycling Association, participated in The Fit India Sundays on Cycle event.

Rajasthan Royals and Mirchi and Gaana ink pact IPL deal

Delhi: As the Official Entertainment Partners for IPL 2025, Mirchi a radio and digital entertainment station and Gaana an audio streaming platform have signed an exclusive collaboration with Rajasthan Royals (RR). Rajasthan Royals announced in a statement that listeners



to Mirchi's radio network will be able to connect with the team through match updates, expert analysis, and

interviews with RR players. The CEO of the Rajasthan Royals, Jake Lush McCrum, stated that the team's partnership with Mirchi and Gaana presents a chance to increase fan involvement and a sense of connection to the game all season long, not only on game days.

Rayudu believes CSK's blunders were tough to witness in IPL

Delhi: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) lost their second straight India Premier League game, 50 runs to Royal Challengers Bengaluru and six runs to Rajasthan Royals on Sunday evening at Guwahati. Analysts praised the RR players' fielding and noted how the CSK versus RR game showed both teams' fielding differences. Ambati Rayudu stressed the significance of fielding in a close match like the CSK vs RR game, highlighting Rajasthan Royals' outstanding fielding. Chennai Super Kings' fielding has never been good, but their first two matches this season have been awful. Dropping easy chances and laboring in the outfield must be addressed immediately.



After the loss, Rayudu noted on JioStar that CSK's blunders were unpleasant. These one-percenters matter in close games.

We saw many amazing catches in this match—rare! Chennai Super Kings didn't field well, except for a few

infield stops. Rajasthan Royals were ready, proving that fielding is about anticipation and knowledge, not just youth. ' Riyan Parag's catch, during Shivam Dube's excellent performance, was a game-changer.

Pakistan will be led by Fatima Sana in ICC World Cup qualifiers

Delhi: Host Pakistan named a 15-member lineup for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup qualifiers, with pace all-rounder Fatima Sana leading the team in the 50-over event. Pakistan will host the six-team competition from April 9-19 at the Gaddafi Stadium and LCCA stadium in Lahore. The six teams are competing for two slots at the 13th 50-over World Cup in India later this year. returns to the national team following a shoulder injury in December 2023's tour. The squad lacks bowling all-rounder Nida Dar, who was one of 19 players called to the qualifying.

India won 10 medals in the Amman Senior Asian Wrestling Championship

Delhi: The 2025 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship ended with an outstanding Indian Free Style performance. On the penultimate day of the event, Indian wrestlers competed in the remaining five Freestyle weight divisions, showing their strength and resilience. Two of the five divisions proceeded to the finals, while two wrestled for bronze. Udit (61 kg) and Deepak Punia (92 kg) made the finals, while Mukul Dahiya (86 kg) and Dinesh (125 kg) chased bronze. In the 61 kg event, Udit won his sec-



ond straight Senior Asian Championship silver. He earned 57 kg silver last year. He defeated Kyrgyz wrestler Bekbolat Myrzanazar Ullu 9-6 in the quarterfinals and Chinese wrestler Wanhao Zou 2-0 in the semifinals with exceptional technique. In the final, he fought hard but lost 6-4 to Takara Suda of Japan for silver. Deepak Punia

excelled at 92 kg. He defeated Kyrgyz wrestler Bekzat Rakhimov 12-7 in the quarterfinals and Takashi Ishiguro 8-1 in the semifinals. Despite losing 10-0 against Iranian wrestler Amirhossein Biglar in the final, he won silver. Dinesh Kumar (125 kg) fought hard against Turkmenistani Z y y a m u h a m m e t Saparov. Technical advantage gave him a hard-fought 12-12 bronze medal win. Tatsuya Shirai of Japan defeated Mukul Dahiya (86 kg) 4-2 to win bronze.

Jhandu Kumar, Bihar's vegetable vendor son, eyes 2028 Paralympics

Delhi: After dominating the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG), Jhandu Kumar has set a new goal: qualifying for the 2028 Paralympics, KIPG said. Jhandu, son of a vegetable vendor from Nitish Kumar's former assembly constituency Harnaut, won gold at the KIPG.



The announcement said that the powerlifter broke his national record on March 23 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium weightlifting hall with a 206 kg lift to win the men's 72kg category. Jhandu beat Sudhir Kumar's 192 kg national record with a 205 kg lift in the Para National Championship in Noida on March 17-18. The 28-year-old has had polio-affected legs since birth. His paraspots career

began in 2017. First, he competed in shot-put and discus. He didn't know about para-powerlifting. Jhandu won multiple shot put and discus throw contests in the F-55 category, but fate took him elsewhere. He reached the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Gandhinagar after an intriguing but difficult voyage. Famous para-coach Rajinder Singh Rahelu helped him

Kapil advises balancing family travel during long cricket tours

Delhi: Kapil Dev, former India captain, said that while family presence is crucial, it should not overwhelm the team's focus on extended cricket trips. The BCCI limited family stays on tours over 45 days after India's 1-3 Test series loss to Australia and sparked debate over family

travel. The new rule allows family members to join players for up to 14 days for series or tournaments over 45 days, but only seven days for shorter tours. In our day, we told ourselves, not the cricket board, that in the first half, we played cricket and the family should enjoy the second half.

PGTI press conference sideline reporter Kapil said it should be a blend. At the RCB Innovation Lab Summit in Bengaluru, star batter Virat stressed the importance of having family on extended tours to help players cope with the tough days on the field.

The importance of family is hard to define, yet it is a grounding factor . when facing strong external events. Instead of isolating himself after tough matches, he spends time with family to detach and reset. "I don't want to withdraw to my room and pout.

Fatima Sana in ICC Women's World Cup quali-

Delhi: Host Pakistan named a 15-member lineup for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup qualifiers, with pace all-rounder Fatima Sana leading the team in the 50-over event. Pakistan will host the six-team competition from April 9-19 at the Gaddafi Stadium and LCCA stadium in Lahore. The six teams are competing for two slots at the 13th 50-over World Cup in India later this year. Shawaal Zulfiqar returns to the national team following a shoulder injury .

Gulveer Singh Beats National 10,000m Record In California



Delhi: Gulveer Singh set a new 10,000m national record in The Ten 2025 athletics competition with 27:00.22s. The 26-year-old beat his national record of 27:14.88 at the Hachioji Long Distance 2024 in Japan by 14.66 seconds. Gulveer Singh breaks his national 10,000m record with 27:00.22. The Indian Athletics Federation tweeted on X that he placed 6th at The Ten in the US on Saturday. Gulveer set a new 10000m national record at The Ten last year with a 27:41.81 performance. This perform-

ance broke Surendra Singh's 2008 record of 28:02.89. Gulveer increased his record at Japan's Hachioji Long Distance. At The Ten, a World Athletics Continental Tour silver-level meet, the Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medalist came within 0.22 seconds of

the automatic qualification requirement for the World Athletics Championships 2025, 27:00.00. However, he exceeded the Athletics Federation of India's 29.33.26s Asian Athletics Championships 2025 entry criteria. He ranks third in Asian 10000m

best times with Gulveer's new personal best. Only Qatar's Ahmad Hassan Abdullah and Nicholas Kemboi are ahead. A sports tournament in Boston gave Gulveer Singh the men's 3000m indoor national record and the Asian 5000m short track record earlier this year. Gulveer finished fourth at the Terrier DMR Challenge indoor competition in Boston last month, improving the Asian Indoor 5,000m record and qualifying for the 2025 World Athletics Championships.