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

'Operation Sindoor under way, no third party mediation in PoK issue': BJP

Government sources have dismissed these claims, stating that no trade-related discussions took place with US officials since the launch of Operation Sindoor. Despite addressing the nation twice since the ceasefire



NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party pulled up Congress over its recent comments on India-Pakistan issue asking them to refrain from calling it a "ceasefire". The saffron party categorically said that there was "no possibility of third party mediation" in PoK issue after the grand old party announced "Jai Hind" rallies across country demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak up on US President Donald Trump's role in India-Pakistan truce. "On the issue of mediation, which the Opposition tried to raise, it is being very unequivocally expressed by the Government of India that the issue of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir is a bilateral issue. It is to be settled on the bilateral terms

between India and Pakistan. There is no scope for any mediation from any other country," BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi said, adding: "The government has not used the word 'ceasefire' with Pakistan anywhere, opposition should refrain from making unnecessary, unwarranted comments." "With due respect to all the countries of the world which have a positive outlook for India, we want to say that this issue of PoK is just a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. There is no scope for any mediation by any country, including those countries which were said to be the guardians of democracy and were asked to interfere in the democratic

process of India. The Opposition should show its true spirit and shed the politics at least until the Operation Sindoor finishes. Still, if they want to go ahead, this poses a serious question on their intent and commitment on the issue of national security in the eyes of the public," he added. On the opposition's demands of a special Parliament session to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26, Trivedi suggested that it should wait for Operation Sindoor to get over. "This is now India's new established policy—a new normal. If the Opposition, including the Congress Party, claims to stand with the government, that commitment must be visible not just in words, but

also in actions. Unity in mind, speech, and deed is essential. Hollow words, contradicted by actions, only breed mistrust. I say this because Operation Sindoor is still underway. Raising questions during an ongoing operation casts doubt on one's intent. At a time when the nation must speak in one voice, such actions are not just inappropriate, they are irresponsible," he said.

Trump announcing the truce before the India and Pakistan confirmed it has raised several eyebrows over a third party intervention into the matter. Moreover, the US president has repeatedly asserted that the States played a key role in brokering peace between the two nations following their military escalation, even claiming he threatened to halt trade with both nations to prevent further conflict. However, government sources have dismissed these claims, stating that no trade-related discussions took place with US officials since the launch of Operation Sindoor. Despite addressing the nation twice since the ceasefire, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remained silent on Trump's assertions.



Army chiefs met the President and gave information about Operation Sindoor.

Shah hails elimination of 31 maoists on Chhattisgarh-Telangana border

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday hailed the elimination of 31 maoists in a counter-insurgency operation at Kurruguttalu Hill, a site he described as "once a stronghold of red terror," marking a major step in the Centre's push for a "Naxal-free Bharat." Taking to X, Shah said the joint security forces' action on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border was a major operation against maoists forces, and a his-

toric moment in India's fight against it. "In a historic triumph towards the resolve of Naxal-free Bharat, security forces have achieved unprecedented success against naxalism, neutralising 31 notorious Naxalites in the largest operation to date at Kurruguttalu Hill (KGH)... The hill, once a stronghold of red terror, now proudly flies the tricolour," Shah wrote. Kurruguttalu Hill, according to Shah, served as a central base for various maoist outfits.

Bar council clears path for foreign lawyers, firms to practice in India

NEW DELHI: The Bar Council of India (BCI) has announced revised regulations permitting foreign lawyers and law firms to practice foreign and international law within India, under clearly defined conditions. Under the amended rules, foreign legal professionals may advise on foreign law and participate in international commercial arbitration conducted in India, provided such matters involve foreign.

'New normal' for Congress? Shashi Tharoor's praise for PM Modi's policies

NEW DELHI: Has Shashi Tharoor set a "new normal" for the Congress post India's "Operation Sindoor"? Well, it seems so. The Thiruvananthapuram MP has been unequivocal and unwavering in his praise of the steps taken by the Narendra Modi government against Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack. So much so, the BJP leaders have cited Tharoor's strong defence of the government to school and shame the opposition, including the Congress. While the Congress has heaped praise on the armed forces over the success of "Operation Sindoor", it has questioned the Modi government's decision to announce sudden ceasefire, which, ironically, was first announced by US President Donald Trump.



While making the ceasefire announcement, Trump also claimed that India and Pakistan had agreed to talks at a neutral venue. Later, Trump went on to claim, not once but twice, that he used trade deal as a leverage to force India and Pakistan to agree to the ceasefire. While India did not react to Trump's claim publicly, the external affairs ministry made it clear that trade was never a part of any discussions with the US. India also

categorically declared that it was Islamabad that had approached us for ceasefire after the May 10 strike by our armed forces which destroyed many air bases in Pakistan. The Congress raised tough questions for Prime Minister Modi in the light of these US claims. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said: "The Prime Minister did not speak one word on the claims made by President Trump.

Why Qatar's jet gift to Trump is a nightmare for intelligence officials

Qatar

US president Donald Trump's acceptance of a luxury Boeing 747 from Qatar has triggered alarm within the intelligence and diplomatic circles, with experts warning of major security and ethical risks. The lavish 89-seater aircraft, once used by senior Qatari royal Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, features opulent interiors designed by Parisian firm cabinet Alberto Pinto, including Tai Ping rugs, rare wood fixtures, and original artwork. But behind its elegance lies a growing concern among intelligence veterans and lawmakers: potential foreign surveillance and compromised communications systems.



"If we had built the plane, knowing it was going to a foreign government, we would probably have bugged it," former CIA station chief Thad Troy told Bloomberg, recalling Cold War-era espionage tactics used by adversaries. Troy said any aircraft provided by a foreign power could easily be embedded

with covert tracking or listening devices, an intelligence threat that's difficult to neutralise. The concern is not hypothetical. He cited how the American embassy in Moscow was once dismantled brick by brick to remove hidden surveillance tools. US senator Mark Warner, chairman of the Senate Intelligence

Committee, echoed those fears, calling Trump's acceptance of the jet "incredibly reckless." "A foreign-provided aircraft presents a host of potential security risks, from surveillance equipment to compromised communications systems," Warner said in a statement to Bloomberg. "Thoroughly inspecting a plane like that for espionage tools or safety concerns would be nearly impossible," he added. The plane, built in 2012, would need to undergo extensive retrofitting to meet Air Force One standards, including explosion-resistant surfaces, secure communications, and aerial refueling capabilities.

US shuts down Pakistani reporter who accused PM of 'not welcoming' ceasefire

NEW DELHI: A Pakistani journalist faced a sharp rebuff from the US state department official after attempting to question Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stance on de-escalation talks between India and Pakistan. During a briefing on Wednesday, the Pakistani journalist portrayed former US President Donald Trump as a peace broker in the India-Pakistan standoff and



claimed that India, particularly PM Modi, did not welcome Trump's supposed ceasefire efforts. "Pakistan welcomed President

Trump's efforts for bringing the ceasefire between Pakistan and India, and they believe that President Trump could win a Nobel

Peace Prize if he were to bring peace between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue. But Prime Minister Modi did not welcome this effort... Does that disappoint this building at all, the attitude of Narendra Modi of not welcoming this peace deal," the reporter asked Tommy Pigott, principal deputy spokesperson at the US department of state. Sidestepping the pointed query, Pigott

emphasised that the US was focused on maintaining the ceasefire. "That is what we are happy to see. That's where our focus remains. And we want to see a ceasefire be maintained, and we want to encourage direct communication. That is our focus here. Our focus is the ceasefire," he said. Pigott reiterated that both India and Pakistan should maintain direct communication.

Kohli retires not just as a central force but India's greatest Test captain

New Delhi: Virat Kohli's retirement announcement created quite the stir on Monday, even if it did feel like coming to some. Over the past few days, as TimesofIndia.com had reported, the right-hander had hinted at stepping away in Australia. Yet, he harboured hopes of leading in England with Rohit Sharma stepping down a couple of days ago. When that bid was turned down, with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)



opting for Shubman Gill, the writing was on the wall. "As I step away from this format, it's not easy — but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for," wrote 36-year-old Kohli on Instagram.

With Kohli retiring, India lost not just a mainstay at No. 4 spot — a position that had Sachin Tendulkar first and Kohli next for over three decades — but one of the batting forces. Sure, his powers were on the decline in the last couple of years, but his overall tally of 9,230 runs puts him in fourth place among India's highest Test scorers. The list is by Tendulkar (15,921 runs), Rahul Dravid (13,265 runs) and Gavaskar (10,122 runs).

Late Kamla Devi donates her eyes & body

Prayagraj: Under the body donation campaign, the Anatomy Department of the Medical College received the 103rd body donation. Late Kamla Devi ji breathed her last Tuesday morning at around 11:00 am at her residence 18/33 EWS Pritam Nagar, Prayagraj at the age of 80. Her son-in-law Mr. Naresh ji informed Dr. Badal Singh of the



Anatomy Department about her death, on whose instructions a team of doctors was sent to her residence and the dead body was brought to the Medical College with full respect. Where the Head of the Department Dr. Krishna Pandey, Dr. Badal Singh, Dr. Aditya, Dr. Shailendra along with all the junior doctors and students accepted the body donation with due respect. The team of the Eye Bank also went to the Anatomy Department and completed the eye donation process.

Late Kamla Devi ji, following her husband late Babulal ji, had registered for body donation in the medical college in 2020 and also completed the body donation of her husband on 25-08-2023. After her death yesterday, his son-in-law Naresh ji completed the donation of his eyes and body and also made the last sacrifice of the deceased in social service fruitful. The entire medical college family will be grateful for this great donation of yours.

Ashutosh Memorial School securing 100% exam results

Prayagraj: The result of Class 10th of Ashutosh Memorial School located in Dhanicha Malkhanpur Hanumanganj was 100%. Despite being located in the rural area of the region, the educational facilities of the school



are very attractive and the teachers are competent and hardworking. The result of this is that despite being from completely rural area and financially weak, all the children displayed commendable talent and all the children passed with good marks. The director of the school welcomed and congratulated all the passed children and their parents. The parents expressed their happiness on the result of their children.

Woman and daughters beaten up, video goes viral, 5 booked

Tharwai, Prayagraj: A woman and her two minor daughters were beaten up by goons in Mahua village. After the video of the incident went viral, the police have registered a case against five people on the complaint of the victim and started investigating the incident. The victim Sangeeta Yadav, wife of Balwant Yadav, told in the complaint given to Tharwai police station that she was taking bath in her courtyard, when neighbors Rahul and Devendra (sons of Virendra) started peeping. On protesting, both the accused entered Sangeeta's house with bricks, stones and sticks from their house and attacked her. It is alleged that Rahul and Devendra along with their mother Kusum Devi, sister Preeti and other accused Ram Murat beat Sangeeta badly. Sangeeta's daughters Swati and Sunena, who came to intervene after hearing the noise, were also beaten with sticks. As soon as the video of the incident went viral on social media, the police took the matter seriously. Based on the victim's complaint, a case has been registered against Rahul, Devendra, Kusum, Preeti and Ram Murti under various sections of BNS and IPC, including attempt to murder, and the police is investigating the incident.

UP Minister Narendra Kashyap order immediate filling of vacant posts in Divyang universities

Ensuring quality education to Divyang students

Lucknow: State Minister (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes Welfare and Disabled Empowerment Narendra Kashyap held a review meeting with departmental officials in his office in Lucknow on Wednesday. First of all, while reviewing the Department of Disabled Empowerment, he directed to fill the vacant posts in Jagatguru Rambhadracharya Divyang Rajya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot and Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow soon. He said that the Yogi government is fully committed to the interests of the disabled. It should be ensured that the disabled students studying in these two special universities get quality education and all the necessary facilities. He also directed the officials of Dr. Shakuntala Mishra University to submit a complete account of the last five years. While reviewing the major schemes being run for the disabled, the minister said that a proposal should be prepared to increase the amount of assistance given in the disabled pension, marriage incentive scheme and shop construction scheme according to the actual needs. He laid special emphasis on wide publicity of these schemes, effective implementation under the monthly action plan and providing benefits to all the eligible beneficiaries. He told the departmental officers that the requisition letters sent for filling up the vacant posts in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities should be followed up regularly so that the appointments can be completed in a timely manner.

GM NC Rly inspects Railway Track Machine Training Centre

Prayagraj: On his arrival at the premises, the General Manager was welcomed by Chief Engineer, Track Machine, North Central Railway, Shri Gaurav Verma. After the welcome, he highlighted the importance of the training center in modern track maintenance along with the map of IRCTC. Along with this, he also highlighted the training capacity here and apprised the General Manager of the increasing demand for training on the arrival of new machines in future. The General Manager also inspected the simulator of the modern tamping machine Tamping Express present in this institute, which is equipped with

modern techniques of training. With the help of this simulator, new trainees are made aware of the various operations of the machine used for maintaining the railway track, which helps the trainees in operating the machines efficiently.

It should be noted that IRTMTC is only the third such training center in the world where technical training of track machines is given. On the basis of training capacity, it is the world's largest track machine training institute.

Moving forward in this sequence, Principal of IRTMTC Mr. Sanjay Asthana along with Chief Engineer Mr. Gaurav Verma informed about the modern



equipment present in various laboratories present in the institute. During the inspection of the laboratories, in the technical discussion, the General Manager understood the challenges of the track machine and gave

many of his suggestions and necessary guidance.

Being the only training centre in India, the head of North Central Railway was also apprised of the 'Photo and Archive Gallery' present here, in which vari-

ous heritage and legacy parts of Indian Railway track machines kept there were appreciated by the General Manager.

The General Manager and the officials accompanying him also inspected the auditorium under construction at the Training Centre and took several important decisions in the presence of the General Manager to ensure the availability of state-of-the-art infrastructure in it. Indian Railways is rapidly moving towards full-mechanized maintenance of railway tracks by track machines to ensure the gift of high speed to passengers, for this the number of track machines is being increased

rapidly. In IRCTC, various supervisors, trainees of Indian Railway track machines, trainees from other railway PSUs as well as foreign railways are also trained. In such a situation, this training center has emerged as a heritage of Indian Railways with training experience of more than 40 years, whose importance is going to prove many times more in the coming times as compared to the past. The General Manager was accompanied by Chief Engineer Shri SC Jain, Chief Electrical Engineer, Chief Signal Engineer, Senior Deputy General Manager and other officials of North Central Railway during the inspection.

Instructions issued to re-examine detected dark patches, submit reports by May 25

Curtains draw over Road Safety Committee meet

Prayagraj: The meeting of the District Road Safety Committee was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate. In the district, there were 117 accidents in April 2025 as compared to 116 in the month of April 2024. In order to reduce road accidents by 50 percent in the coming month, instructions were given to run an awareness campaign related to road safety rules for a week. It was directed in the meeting that 46 black spots have been found in the district, a joint team of Public Works Department, Police Department and Transport Department has been constituted to re-examine them. The constituted team will submit the report by 25.05.2025. Executive Engineer, National Highways Division, PWD, was directed to prepare and send a proposal for widening and strengthening of Mirzapur Road. The Police Department was directed to investigate those roads on which there are excessive road accidents. Action should be taken for license cancellation in compliance with the instructions of the

Supreme Court. Challans should be issued through ITMS in the district. The Transport Department was directed to hold a meeting of the Transport Union to ensure that trucks or other



vehicles are not parked illegally beside the road. If the drivers of the Union do not obey the instructions, then challan related action should be taken. A place should be identified near the sugar mill for proper maintenance of the challaned vehicles and appropriate action should be taken. The Chief Medical Officer was directed that in view of major accidents, the trauma should be kept active near the various na-

tional highways going from the city and physical health tests of school vehicle drivers and transport drivers should be conducted. Extensive publicity should be done to get the injured per-

sons released in the golden hour. The Traffic Police was directed to take action against the vehicles parked on the road/illegal parking/encroachment. Checking of over-loaded vehicles should be done on other district roads and district roads of the district and state highways and highways and challan action should be taken against them.

The following officers / members participated in the

meeting of District Road Safety Committee Satya Mishra, Additional District Magistrate (City), Kuldeep Singh, Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Alka Shukla, Assistant Divisional Transport Officer, (Enforcement) First, Ravindra Pal Singh, Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, PWD, Mohammad Arshad, Assistant Engineer / Representative Member, District Road Safety Committee, Shailendra Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Chandrakant Ghar Dwivedi, Assistant Engineer, Block-4 (Min.), PWD, Nazmi Muzaffar, Executive Engineer Municipal Corporation, J.P. Sonkar, Assistant Engineer, Block-2 (P.P.), PWD, Saurabh Singh, Traffic Inspector, Sujet Kumar Soni, NHAI, PIU, Ram Sagar, PTO, Transport Department, Prabhakar Singh, Deputy Project Manager, NHAI, Nikunj Kumar, Assistant Engineer, PIU North, Dr. Sanjay Baranwal, Assistant Medical Officer, senior social worker Raghunath Dwivedi, Vice President Tempo Taxi Union etc. were present.

CBSE Board: Arsalan Ansari of Chanakya Int'l School became topper

Result of true dedication, hard work and discipline: Akhilesh Mishra

Meja, Prayagraj: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the results of high school and intermediate examinations on Tuesday. As soon as the results were released, the faces of the bright students lit up with joy. The students of Chanakya International School Meja have set a



record by performing brilliantly in the high school examination. The school's student Arsalan Ansari has topped by securing 92.8 percent marks. Ananya Kesari has been the second topper by securing 92 percent marks. Similarly, Prince Yadav secured third position by securing 90.2 percent marks. Radha Patel and Mayank Gupta have secured 89.6, Fiza Ansari 89.4, Atharva Mishra 85.5, Shreyas Kesari 84.6, Krishnakant Mishra 84.4,

Shivansh Singh 84.4 and Bhoomi Agrawal have hoisted the flag of success by securing 84.4 percent marks.

It is noteworthy that most of the students of the school have passed the examination with honors. School administrator Sudashru Mishra and teachers including Principal Antonio Kumar congratulated all the students who achieved success from best to best and wished them a bright future.

School director Akhilesh Mishra said, "My heartiest congratulations to all the exam warriors. This is the result of your true dedication, hard work and discipline. On this special occasion, the important contribution of parents, teachers and other people should not be forgotten. I hope that all the exam warriors get such success at every stage of life." Mr. Mishra said that the Chanakya International School family is committed to hone the regional children and take them to the highest levels of success.

IFFCO Kisan Chaupal's spreading awareness on latest agricultural techniques

Phulpur, Prayagraj: The IFFCO Phulpur unit organized the Kisan Chaupal program in Village Devnhari on the date -13/05/2025 and in Village Navbazar, Utarav on 14/05/2025 to make farmers aware of the latest agricultural techniques. On this occasion, Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia while addressing the farmers said that Nano



DAP should use liquid for seed treatment. Seeds get 5 ml. After treatment at the rate of Nano DAP at the rate of seed, it should be dried in the shade for 30-35 minutes, then sow. He also informed that spraying of Nano DAP and Nano urea plus is beneficial for crop growth and nutrition.

PRO Swayam Prakash said that the use of nano fertilizers is an important step towards sustainable farming and environmental protection. He informed that the purpose of this program is to make farmers aware of the need for new agricultural technology, benefits of nano fertilizers, soil conservation, and soil testing. Farmers were motivated to

conduct soil testing. It was also informed that this investigation will be done free of cost by IFFCO.

Cordet Principal Dr. Harishchandra highlighted the importance of soil testing and informed about the use of crop-wise nano fertilizers. The farmers also explained in detail about the correct method of taking soil sample. He said that in which crop should be used in which amount, and when should the farmers be used, so that farmers can get more production and benefits. He also explained the method of spraying from drone technology.

During this time, the unit chief announced to provide free drones to the farmers this year and It was informed that the team of Cordet will provide training to farmers in drone operation and spraying method.

Farmers actively participated in the program and showed deep interest in Nano technology-based farming. On this occasion, Senior Manager (Training) Anurag Tiwari, D.K. Singh, Vijay Kumar Yadav, Rajesh Singh, Mukesh Tiwari and village heads of the respective villages were also present.

Rosetta Hospitality: Vision of Elegance, Sustainability & Local Soul

New Delhi: In the dynamic world of Indian luxury hospitality, Rosetta Hospitality has emerged as a trailblazer, seamlessly blending elegance with authenticity. Under the visionary leadership of Mr. Jai Sreedhar, Joint Managing Director & CEO, the brand is charting a course toward sustainable growth, immersive guest experiences, and deep-rooted cultural integration-all while staying true to the timeless principles of hospitality.

Expanding Horizons: The Road Ahead for Rosetta

"We're building more than just resorts-we're building experiences," says Mr. Sreedhar, outlining Rosetta Hospitality's focused expansion strategy. Anchored by three core pillars-prime location, accessibility, and consistent luxury-the brand's vision is clear: bring Rosetta's signature experiences to hand-picked leisure destinations across South India.

Having recently unveiled Elements by Rosetta - Varca, Goa, the brand is already laying the groundwork for Phase II, which will introduce 70 new luxurious suites. Simultaneously, exciting new properties are taking shape in Kalyapura

(near Bengaluru), Kochi, Mahabalipuram, Munnar, and even Udaipur-each promising a regional flavor wrapped in Rosetta's signature finesse. Central to this growth is an asset-light strategy. "For every resort we own, we aim to open four leased ones," Mr. Sreedhar explains, a model that offers agility and scale in a rapidly evolving domestic tourism landscape.

Sustainability with Substance: The Farm-to-Fork Ethos - Rosetta's luxury isn't just skin-deep-it's rooted in sustainability. The "Farm to Fork" philosophy is more than a buzzword; it's a daily practice. From growing jackfruit and Brahmichillies in Sakleshpur to sourcing native ingredients across regions, the brand crafts menus that nourish both guests and local communities. Their eco-conscious operations extend beyond cuisine. Solar energy, rainwater harvesting, and wastewater recycling are just some of the systems in place to reduce environmental impact. "We are designing for tomorrow," says Mr. Sreedhar, "because luxury today must include responsibility."

India's Rising Travel Tide: A Sea of Opportunity - India's luxury hotel seg-

ment is poised to hit USD 4.39 billion by 2029, with domestic tourism leading the charge. Rosetta sees this as more than just a statistic-it's an invitation. "As more Indians explore their own backyard in search of quality and comfort, Rosetta is perfectly placed to meet that demand," Mr. Sreedhar shares. With a keen eye on evolving preferences, Rosetta is investing heavily in food & beverage experiences, like Ouzo by Fire in Bangalore-a Mediterranean Goan fusion restaurant that has become a gastronomic landmark in its own right.

Staying Ahead by Sticking to the Basics: Luxury hospitality is an ever-changing canvas. From wellness tourism to experiential travel, trends abound. But for Rosetta, the fundamentals remain paramount. "Great showers, perfect bedding, exceptional service-these are non-negotiables," says Mr. Sreedhar. Think 3-bar water pressure, 400-thread count linens, and team members trained to anticipate a guest's unspoken needs.

To tackle the looming talent crunch in hospitality, Rosetta is investing in people, not just properties. The upcoming Rosetta

Academy of Excellence in Sakleshpur will serve as a training ground for the next generation of hospitality professionals, instilling the values and precision that define the Rosetta brand.

Celebrating Local, Creating Global Memories: At its heart, Rosetta Hospitality believes luxury should celebrate the land it inhabits. Every resort is a canvas for local art, cuisine, and stories. From showcasing Malnad flavors in Sakleshpur to celebrating Goan culinary heritage in Varca, Rosetta ensures guests experience a sense of place.

Even the architecture and amenities echo this philosophy-outdoor showers that connect guests to nature, or culinary experiences that take them on a journey of regional discovery. Crafting Moments That Matter: "At Rosetta, we believe we're not just offering a stay-we're helping guests create memories," says Mr. Sreedhar. Whether it's an immersive farm tour, a sunset by the infinity pool, or the simple joy of a flawlessly prepared meal, every moment is designed to linger. By marrying thoughtful design with emotional resonance, Rosetta Hospitality is not just following trends-it's setting them.

TODAY'S EVENT

- At 5 pm BJP Mahanagar Prayagraj will take out a huge Tiranga Yatra from Lal Patthar Church Civil Lines
- At 3 pm, Anant Rice Mill launching procession will be taken out by DN Agro Food Industries Pvt. Ltd. from Lalita Devi Temple, Mirapur, which will end at Kydganj Punjabi Dharamshala

Ford School & College excels in CBSE exams result

FORD SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
Kazipur, Naini, Prayagraj

CBSE BOARD TOPPERS 2024-25

CLASS X

DIVYA SINGH
92.2 %NAINJO YADAV
92 %AARAV VERMA
88.4 %

CLASS XII

SAKSHI MISHRA
85.4 %PRAVEEN KUMAR
79 %CHANDRAMOHAN SHUKLA
88.4 %

Prayagraj: Students of Ford School & College made exceptional performance of in the recently declared Class X and Class XII of CBSE exam results. The school has achieved a remarkable 100 % pass result in Class X, showcasing the hard work and dedication of the Management, Teachers and the students. The high school toppers were Divya Singh (92.3%), Nainjo Yadav (92.0%) Aarav Verma (88.4%)

Similarly, the students of Class XII have also per-

formed admirably, achieving a 99% pass result. The top achievers were Sakshi Mishra (84.4%), Praveen Kumar (79.0%) and Chandramohan Shukla (78.2%). The School Chairman Prof. (Dr.) S. B. Lal, Manager Prof. (Dr.) Ritu Prakash Dubey, Principal Mrs. Rajni Singh congratulated all the students, teachers, and parents on this proud achievement. They commended the students' dedication and appreciated the efforts of the entire academic team in making this success possible.

Bharat Vikas Parishad Kalindi holds havan for martyred jawans

Prayagraj: On the occasion of its foundation day, Bharat Vikas Parishad Kalindi branch organised a puja and havan at Sri Kailash Mandapam temple (Rajruppur) for the defence

president of Kalindi branch R S Singh guided everyone with his blessings. Branch president Pradeep Chakraborty, secretary Mihir Singh, treasurer Kunwar Hanumant Singh, Santosh



and security of the country and for the peace of the souls of the brave soldiers who were martyred.

On this occasion, founder and provincial

Kumar Srivastava, Rajesh Jaiswal, Mithilesh Jaiswal, Krishnavati, Sonali Mishra, Sachin Jaiswal, S R Kesarwani, Akanksha Srivastava etc. were present.

Qureshi community celebrated in honor of Colonel Sofia Qureshi

Prayagraj: Members of the Qureshi community gathered at Bahadurganj Hatia Bakra Mandi in Prayagraj to express their happiness in honour of the remarkable work done by Colonel Sofia Qureshi for the country. In this programme organised at

Zindabad". Along with distribution of sweets, the event became a live demonstration of the community's unwavering support and deep admiration for Col. Sofia Qureshi. Those present on the occasion appreciated the courage and dedication of Col. Sofia



5:00 pm, the people of the community enthusiastically raised slogans and distributed sweets to express their deep respect for Colonel Sofia Qureshi.

Excited members of the Qureshi community raised slogans full of patriotism and admiration, prominent among them being - "Sophia Qureshi humko tum par naaz hai", "Indian Army Zindabad" and "Sophia Qureshi

Qureshi and expressed their unwavering loyalty to the Indian Army. The event became a symbol of unity and patriotic spirit within the community. On this happy occasion, eminent personalities like Congress leader Irshad Ullah, Naushad Qureshi, Mohammad Farid, Hasnain Qureshi, Noorul Qureshi, Dilawar Qureshi, Chand Qureshi, Nisar Qureshi, Ajay Sharma, Mallu Yadav etc were present.

TRINITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCE
Statues of Bhagwan Dhanvantari, Acharya Sushrut and Acharya Charak installed at Motilal Nehru Medical College

Three gates - named after three rivers of Prayag

Prayagraj: On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, the grand statue unveiling ceremony of the trinity of medical science - Bhagwan Dhanvantari, Acharya Sushrut and Acharya Charak - was held in the premises of Motilal Nehru Medical College, Prayagraj. This historic event was organized to commemorate the foundation day of the college, in which tribute was paid to the ancient medical tradition of India.

On this occasion, former Head of Department, Department of Pediatrics, Prof. Rajiv Sharan was present as the chief guest. He duly unveiled all the three statues and offered prayers. In

the program, Principal Prof. Vatsala Mishra welcomed the chief guest by presenting a flower bouquet and expressed gratitude for his arrival.

Triveni of medical knowledge - an inspiring symbol: Program coordinator and Pharmacology Department Head Prof. Rakesh Chandra Chaurasia said that this is the only government medical college in Uttar Pradesh, where the statues of the three greatest medical acharyas have been installed together. Just like the Triveni of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati exists in Prayagraj, similarly this campus has also become a symbol of the Triveni of medical knowledge.

Dhanvantri, Sushruta and Charak - pillars of Indian medical tradition: The statue of Lord Dhanvantri installed in the central gar-

mudra respectively. Lord Dhanvantri, born from the churning of the ocean, is considered the originator of Ayurveda. His birth anni-

versary is celebrated every year as 'Dhanteras'. The statue of Acharya Sushrut, who is considered the father of plastic surgery in the world, has also become the pride of the campus. He gave a new perspective to the medical world by successfully reconstructing the organs of injured soldiers during wars. In honor of his scholarship, his statues have been installed in many prestigious institutions of the world. The third statue is of Acharya Charak, who is considered the father of Indian medicine. He linked medical science with ethics and code of conduct. The "Charak oath" propounded by him is given to every medical student even today, so that they can perform their duties faithfully.

Three gates - named af-

ter the three rivers of Prayag: Prof. Rakesh Chaurasia said that in view of Maha Kumbh 2025, the three main gates of the medical college have been named Ganga Dwar, Yamuna Dwar and Saraswati Dwar respectively. This naming is also being seen as a symbol of environmental consciousness, cultural pride and women's respect.

A cultural and educational heritage: The installation of these trinity statues of medicine is not just a religious or symbolic act but a source of inspiration and value education for future doctors. This initiative gives Motilal Nehru Medical College a unique identity across the country.



den of the college has four arms, which hold Amrit Kalash, Ayurveda Shastra, herbs, conch and blessing

versary is celebrated every year as 'Dhanteras'. The statue of Acharya Sushrut, who is considered

Special event organized in CORE HQ to commemorate success of "Op Sindoor"

GM CORE Sanjay Kumar Srivastava hoisted Indian flag

Prayagraj: To commemorate the success of Operation Sindoor, on Wednesday, in the premises of Central Railway Electrification Organization (CORE), General Manager, Sanjay Kumar Srivastava hoisted the Indian flag and addressed the officers and employees. In his address, the General Manager said that all of you are aware that 'Operation Sindoor' was a bold operation launched by the Indian Armed Forces on 7 May 2025 against terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

"This operation was a befitting reply to the terrorist attack in Pahalgal in the month of April, in which many of our innocent citizens lost their lives. A total of 9 locations were targeted under this operation, from

where terrorist attacks against India were planned and directed. This action of India was focused and measured. India showed great



restraint in selecting and targeting its targets. The purpose of this operation was to give a clear message to those who sponsor cross-border terrorism that India will not compromise in any way with its sovereignty and the safety of its

citizens. Our armed forces displayed unparalleled courage and valor in this operation, for which we all salute them," he said.

"Operation Sindoor also reminded us that the security of the nation is not just the responsibility of the soldiers posted at the borders, but also of all of us citizens. As an organisation, we are involved in the electrification of the country's critical

infrastructure, especially railways. Our work is not only important for the economic development of the country, but it is also essential for the security of the nation. Let us all take a pledge that we will give our best in building a strong and secure India. We will build an India where every citizen feels safe and where the pace of development continues unabated," he added.

In the program, Chief Electrical Engineer of the Headquarters- Sanjay Singh Negi, Chief Electrical Engineer- Upendra Kumar, Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer- R.N. Singh along with other officers and employees were present. The program was conducted by Deputy General Manager Kalyan Singh.

Bablu Kumar won gold and silver medals in Khelo India Youth Games

Prayagraj: Bablu Kumar, a student of Saraswati Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar Sadiapur, has won laurels in Khelo India Youth Games 2025. In the two sports disciplines of athletics, 1500 and 3000 meters race organized by the Sports Ministry of the Government of India at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, the school student Bablu Kumar made us proud by winning gold and silver medals respectively. On this occasion, Jewelers Association President Dinesh Singh, Regional Co-Organization Minister Dr. Ram Manohar, Principal Dinesh Kumar Dubey, Regional Sports Head Jagdish Singh, School Management Committee and Sports Trainer Deependra Kumar Mishra congratulated student Bablu Kumar and wished him a bright future.



Singh, Regional Co-Organization Minister Dr. Ram Manohar, Principal Dinesh Kumar Dubey, Regional Sports Head Jagdish Singh, School Management Committee and Sports Trainer Deependra Kumar Mishra congratulated student Bablu Kumar and wished him a bright future.

Ahilya Bai Holkar Birth Tricentenary Memorial Campaign Workshop concludes

Prayagraj: Ahilya Bai Holkar Birth Tricentenary Memorial Campaign State Workshop was organized by BJP on Wednesday at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan Lucknow. In which Prayagraj Yamunapar, Gangapar, Mahanagar District President, District Incharge, District Coordinator, District Media Incharge, Mahila Morcha District President and IT Head etc. participated from all over the state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, State President Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, Organization General Secretary Dharampal Singh etc. addressed the workers and gave guidance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had installed the statue of Punyashlok Rani Ahilyabai Holkar in Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. Many temples from Rani Ahilyabai Vishwanath to Somnath were renovated. The

300th birth anniversary of Punyashlok Rani Ahilyabai on a large scale in all the districts of the country from 21 to 31 May 2025. Whose national workshop was held on 9 May in New Delhi and the state



confluence of antiquity and modernity which was in her life. Today the country is considering it as an ideal. BJP District Media Incharge Dilip Kumar Chaturvedi said that as per the instructions of National President JP Nadda, it has been decided to celebrate

workshop on 14 May in Lucknow. A big district level planning meeting will be organized on 17-18 May. Under the campaign, district seminar, race for women empowerment, cleanliness on river ghats, light will be thrown on the life of Ahilyabai Holkar

along with tribute to her. In which there will be participation of women public representatives along with various programs and exhibitions at block and district level. Kashi region vice president Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, district vice president Yamunapar Ashok Pandey, Mahila Morcha district president Savita Mishra, district media in-charge Dilip Kumar Chaturvedi, district media in-charge Prayagraj Mahanagar Rajesh Kesarwani Vivek Mishra, IT district coordinator Satish Vishwakarma etc. along with officials and workers associated with the campaign of Mahanagar, Gangapar, Yamunapar were present in the state workshop.

Workshop on unlocking power of activity based learning and storytelling held

Prayagraj: The Patanjali Nursery School conducted a comprehensive workshop on Activity Based Learning and Storytelling on Wednesday, Tuesday for Pre-primary and class 1 and 2 teachers, focusing on innovative teaching methodologies to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. In a bid to revolutionise early childhood education, renowned educator, Rashmi Srivastava's workshop on Activity

Based Learning (ABL) and Storytelling, empowered teachers with innovative strategies to engage young learners.

With more than 25 years of experience in education, Rashmi Srivastava has established herself as a trailblazer in the field. Her extensive background in teaching, coordination and leadership, has equipped her with a unique understanding of the needs of young learners. As a Seasoned storyteller and puppeteer,

Rashmi Srivastava, has a proven track record of making complex concepts, accessible and enjoyable for children.

The workshop focused on the transformative potential of activity based learning and storytelling in early childhood education. Teachers learn how to design interactive hands-on activities that foster critical thinking, creativity and problem solving skills in young learners through engaging storytelling session and

puppetry show. Teachers discovered how to weave narratives that captivate young mind imaginations, promoting language development, empathy and social skills.

The workshop marked a significant milestone in the pursuit of innovative education. By empowering teachers with cutting-edge methodologies, Srivastava has paved the way for a new generation of young learners to thrive in an evolving world. As educators continue to

implement these strategies, we can expect to see a profound impact on the educational landscape with young minds being nurtured to reach their full potential. As the workshop came to a close the headmistress, Vibha Srivastava took a moment to express her sincere gratitude to the esteemed resource person, Rashmi Srivastava and praised her for her exceptional expertise in innovative education, highlighting her ability to engage and

inspire the teachers and her passion for creating engaging learning experiences. The workshop concluded successfully with participants praising Srivastava's interactive and engaging approach to teaching and her contribution was widely appreciated. We are grateful for Srivastava's expertise and look forward to implementing the strategies she shared with us and continuing our journey towards excellence in education.

Editorial

How Caste Census Question Tested Both Congress And BJP?

It's unclear yet whether this is a masterstroke or something done under political compulsion. But one thing is true: the time for a caste census has come. Definitely, credit should be given to Rahul Gandhi for consistently and vociferously raising the issue and bringing it to the centre of India's discourse despite being mocked, ridiculed, humiliated and abused by the forces inimical to the politics of social justice. Of course, in the recent past, the idea was first floated by Nitish Kumar. But the demand for a caste census is as old as the formation of the Kaka Kalelkar commission, and it was subsequently supported by the Mandal commission, too. Now, the big question is, how will the announcement change the politics of the country? And, will it prove to be an antidote to the religion-centric politics of the day? In this writer's opinion - shared by his friend Dr Laxman Yadav - the announcement for conducting a caste census is arguably the third-most momentous event in the direction of making India an equitable society. The first was the adoption of the Constitution, which, with one stroke of the pen, planted the seeds of equality in a society hitherto based on civilisational hierarchy. Within the four walls of the Constitution, every citizen became equal in the eyes of the law irrespective of caste; whether Brahmin or Shudra, everyone was ordained the same rights and duties. However, outside the pages of the Constitution, India was still a deeply caste-ridden and prejudiced society. The Constitution gave us Indians legal equality and liberty, but fraternity was a far cry for those who were born in OBC (Other Backward Classes) groups or as Dalits. They were routinely discriminated against despite the Constitution. Reservations for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) groups were deeply resented by those who, for thousands of years, enjoyed the fruits of privileges by the accident of their birth. The Constitution did succeed in breaking the shackles of caste prejudice to some extent. What it also did was spawn a revolution from below, creating a new consciousness among the discriminated class and making them realise that since they are more in number, they should also have a greater share in the country's power structure, and more respect in society. It was this consciousness that pushed for change aggressively and ultimately led former Prime Minister V.P. Singh to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, providing 27% reservation to OBCs, too, in 1990. This, then, was the second-most momentous event in India's social justice movement. The Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tried to counter this with their Hindutva project. The Ram Mandir movement was an exercise to create a bigger religious consciousness and make every member of Hindu society realise that they are Hindu first, and a Brahmin-Kshatriya-Vaishya-Shudra later. The BJP did succeed at achieving this, but only partly, primarily because this movement was driven by the upper caste as a revolt against subaltern or Mandal politics. In a state like Uttar Pradesh, more than 80% of upper caste voters have backed the BJP since 2014. But the wheels of social justice were moving fast. Mandal politics ignited a fiery discourse amongst the downtrodden, on questions like why power should be concentrated only among a few. This gave birth to many caste-based parties. Leaders like Mulayam Singh Yadav, Lalu Yadav, Sharad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Kanshiram, Mayawati and Ram Vilas Paswan, among others, emerged as the champions of this new political landscape overnight, while Uttar Pradesh and Bihar became battlegrounds for power politics. And, since Congress had no strategy to counter this change, it eventually was reduced to just a fringe player in these states. The BJP, on the other hand, tried its best to navigate .



Will Canada Finally Make Nice With India?

Sikha Sharma

The Canadian election may have been somewhat eclipsed by US President Donald Trump's trade war, but within the country, Canada turned a political corner. In many ways, the Canadian election results have depicted how the grounds have shifted considerably since the last election in 2021. First, the Liberal party has made a rather expected comeback with just a few seats shy of the majority needed to form the government. In its fourth successive mandate, the Liberal Party has shown a remarkable resilience in sustaining popularity. However, this time, the external factor in Donald Trump was more consequential in galvanising sentiments inside Canada than the Liberal party's own steps towards political revival. Second, the change of face of the Liberal party from Justin Trudeau to Mark Carney was a prominent factor in shaping the party's consolidation in just a few months. Third, except the two leading parties - Liberal and Conservative - the vote share of all other parties, most profoundly, the Jagmeet Singh-led New Democratic Party (NDP), shrank compared to the last election in 2021. These changes have translated to a face change of Canadian politics as both Jagmeet Singh and Pierre Poilievre have been unable to retain their respective seats. With the Canadian election now behind us, the task ahead for incoming Prime



Minister Mark Carney is formidable. The Liberal Party secured 168 seats - just short of a majority in the House of Commons - necessitating outside support. The most likely partner is the New Democratic Party (NDP), though its diminished strength in this election makes it a junior ally. The NDP, which saw a significant drop in its vote share - down by 11.6% - suffered its most symbolic blow with the loss of its leader Jagmeet Singh, who failed to retain his own seat. For India, this is notable as the NDP supported elements of the Khalistan movement, straining India-Canada ties. With Singh's departure and the party's weakened mandate, this aspect of Canadian politics may now fade. Carney's Liberals, meanwhile, require support from only four to five additional

MPs, meaning the NDP's influence on policy - especially foreign affairs - will be tempered. This gives Carney room to chart his own path, particularly on economic and international matters. Carney's credentials as a central banker with global standing - having previously led both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England - lend him credibility at a time when economic issues dominate. Canada's economy has struggled in recent years, and with the United States being both its largest trading partner and closest geographical neighbour, much of Ottawa's foreign policy will continue to be driven by economic realities. For the Conservative Party, this election was a major setback. Leader Pierre Poilievre lost his seat in rural Ottawa, which he had

held since 2004. His Trump-style rhetoric - mirroring conservative populism in the United States - ultimately failed to resonate. In fact, Donald Trump's repeated attacks on Canada, including calling it the "51st state" and ridiculing Justin Trudeau as a mere "ask governor", triggered a nationalist backlash among Canadians. Instead of weakening the Liberals, Trump's comments created a unifying moment for the country, with Carney benefiting from a wave of patriotic sentiment. What followed was a widespread symbolic protest: Canadians cancelled trips to the US, pulled American wines from store shelves, and even sold properties in American cities. Carney largely stood above the fray during the campaign, letting the public mood

shift in his favour. But now, he faces the difficult task of governing amid a still-tense relationship with Washington. Though there have been signs of Trump moderating his tone - especially after pre-election and post-election calls with Carney, the real test will come on issues like trade, tariffs, and resource sharing. Should Trump resume his hard-line stance, Carney's political capital could begin to erode. For Canada, which remains heavily reliant on US markets, diversification may be a necessity now. Yet, relations with the two largest economies in Asia - China and India - are currently at a low point. The diplomatic standoff with India over the past year, exacerbated by Trudeau's handling of the Hardeep Singh Nijjar case and repeated references to alleged Indian interference, has left bilateral ties strained and stagnant. However, Carney's emergence offers a possible reset. As a fresh face without the political baggage of Trudeau, and as someone who is widely seen as pragmatic rather than ideological, he has an opportunity to recalibrate Canada's foreign policy. For New Delhi, this could be a window to re-engage, cautiously but constructively. While a dramatic upgrade in bilateral relations may be premature, the fundamental underpinnings - strong economic ties, growing Indian diaspora in Canada, and resilient people-to-people connections. -

Indus Waters Treaty was always unfair to India. Its suspension will choke Pakistan

Suman Singh

In the aftermath of the dastardly Pahalgam attack on vulnerable tourists who were enjoying a holiday in the serene and spectacularly beautiful environs of the Baisaran Valley, there is loud and strident clamour for revenge. The massacre of Hindu tourists vacationing in the 'mini Switzerland' after being singled out on their inability to recite an Islamic invocation is nothing short of a cowardly act, and it must be condemned in no uncertain terms. The visual of a Hindu man lying dead, his trousers pooled at his feet, and his newly-wed wife sitting on the ground next to his dead body will haunt Indians forever. It is nothing less than a Hindu genocide and must be unequivocally and unambiguously designated as such. Some people are drawing parallels between this attack in the valley and the 7 October 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel. There are also eerie echoes of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the Sikh massacre of Chattisinghpura during former US President Bill Clinton's visit, the Kaliachak

carnage, and the Delhi riots during Donald Trump's visit. Now, with the latest attack during US Vice President JD Vance's visit, the pattern is hard to miss. The attack in Kashmir is part of a broader plan to battle the economic development and prosperity that has brought the valley to life post the abrogation of Article 370. The integration of Greater Kashmir into mainland India—via road, air and soon-to-be-launched train services—has brought out the stark contrast and juxtaposed the economic backwardness of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. A ploy to create a diversion during Vance's visit, this attack has generated much ill will and animosity toward Kashmiri Muslims. However, baying for the blood of our brethren will only be counterproductive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exercise in restraint during his "Mann ki Baat", requesting the people of India to have faith in his core team, led by Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and the Armed Forces of India—was a reminder that India is ready to counter.

Farmers getting stuck in religious pomp and hypocrisy

KK

Till date, farmers and especially the Jat community used to be engaged in agriculture, the main natural source of their economic and food supply. Today, most of the people of the Jat community are leaving farming and getting involved in religious hypocrisy and ostentation. Not only this, nowadays some people of the Jat community have drowned neck deep in religious hypocrisy, leaving behind even the pompous Pandits and Pujaris. Actually, the main reason for drowning neck deep in hypocrisy is that after getting into business and job, most of the Jats followed the mantra given by the Pandits that commit sins and get free from religious hypocrisy. Other upper castes have imbibed its direct and successful philosophy. It has become attractive for them to protect themselves from the wrath of the powers by doing economic and religious pomp in the courts of the so-called self-proclaimed babas, sadhus, saints, storytellers, Shankaracharyas, heads of religious institutions and the courts of power and to see their status increasing socially and politically. So most of the Jats

doing business and jobs have started accumulating immense wealth by adopting this religious trick. They have started doing more and more religious and social pomp to become MPs, MLAs, councillors and ministers etc. Social activist and thinker Jitendra Singh Sahrawat says that seeing the pomp and hypocritical philosophy of successful and powerful Jats, common Jats have started doing courtiers of these successful and powerful Jats and other wealthy dignitaries by indulging in religious hypocrisy and pomp to fulfill their dream of following their path. That is, our educated, successful and strong Jats have achieved all this by killing the basic power of daily discretion, self-respect, self-esteem and moral strength. They have not achieved it by the hypocrisy and ostentation done in the name of religious powers. They did not tell this truth to their society. If they had told, their courtiers would not have become ordinary Jats. Rather, in order to decorate and increase their status and court, they have misled the society by giving the credit of increasing our shine, shine and status to the hypocrisy and ostentation of reli-

gious powers and by pushing the society into this darkness, they have only strengthened the business of Brahmins and traders by making them buy religious material and are still doing it. Anyway, the focus is on the progress of the Jat society and their political, economic and social empowerment. This underlines the importance of unity and cooperation of the society, especially when they are highly educated and established in various fields. Education and awareness are important for the development of any society. People of the Jat community need to acquire higher education and be aware of their rights and duties. Political participation is necessary for the protection of the interests of the community and their development. People of the community should actively participate in the political process and select their representatives who can protect their interests. Economic empowerment is important for the development of society. People of the Jat community should work to promote their business and industries and become economically strong. Social unity and cooperation is necessary.

Goa didn't choose to become a casino city—now it's a state-sponsored moral gamble

Shradha

Never has a site of battle glittered as much as Panjim's Mandovi riverfront. The promenade is busiest past midnight, when drunk, depleted patrons filter out of the "offshore" casino vessels anchored in the middle of the river, like beached whales wrapped in fairy lights. Will they end up in a spontaneous karaoke competition, a full-blown argument, or simply continue their "car-o-bar" from their docked taxis? Who knows — the night is still young, and Goa a permissive mistress for the holidaying, honeymooning

lot. What unfolds nightly in Goa's capital is a microcosm of the state's uneasy relationship with its casino industry. And the only people who feel unwelcome at this unwarranted party are the residents of this tiny city, trapped in a geography transformed against their will, victims of a state-sanctioned gamble. The latest flashpoint in this ongoing struggle? A public parking facility near the Ferry Wharf — built with Rs 20-22 crore of taxpayer funds — allegedly transferred to a casino operator without transparency or due process. A few

days ago, a PIL was filed in the High Court of Bombay at Goa, contending that the Captain of Ports and the North Goa District Magistrate collaborated to hand over this 627-square-metre public space to M/s Golden Peace Infrastructure Pvt Ltd for the exclusive benefit of their casino patrons. The area, originally upgraded to enhance state revenue and improve traffic management in the capital, was formally designated as a pay parking zone for public use in 2017. But the vital community space was quietly repurposed for private com-

mercial gain through de-notification orders issued in December 2023 and March 2024, neither of which were publicised nor published in the Official Gazette. The petition seeks the nullification of these orders, restoration of public access, removal of structures erected by the casino, and accountability for officials involved in what the PIL characterises as an illegal transfer of public land. This alleged misuse of public land represents one more win for the other side in a city sighing under the weight of unabated

80 German institutions visit India to improve Education Collaboration

Delhi: The German academic exchange program, announced that India is hosting more than 80 German universities and research organizations to strengthen academic and scientific collaborations. The APAIE Conference 2025, the Indo-German Forum on Research, Innovation, and Transfer in New Delhi, high-level visits to Indian universities, and the opening of the German School of Technology at PSG College of Technology in Coimbatore are major events. The 65th anniversary in India and 100th year of promoting international academic partnership are also celebrated. Indo-German science and education cooperation is a cornerstone of our relations. In the press release, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan Dr. Philipp Ackermann said he was pleased to see this exchange increase year after year. Nearly



50,000 Indian students study in Germany, the greatest group of any country, according to Ackermann. The 16-22 March Higher Education Policy Information tour will bring together 20 heads of top German universities and academic leaders in Hyderabad and New Delhi. This visit seeks academic and institutional interactions. Also in Coimbatore, delegates from German Universities of Applied Sciences will inaugurate the German School of Technology. Both nations' higher education and research institutes will send 250 representatives to the Indo-German Forum on Research.

Telangana govt resolute in raising reservation

HYDERABAD:

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao announced on Monday that the Congress government is determined to increase reservation for backward classes in education, employment, and political representation from 23% to 42%. In a post on the social media platform 'X,' he highlighted that the population of backward classes in the state stands at 56.36%, based on the recent caste survey conducted in Telangana.

Physics Wallah raises 4,600 cr with a confidential IPO

Delhi: Physics Wallah (PW), a domestic edtech business, sent its draft red herring prospectus DRHP to SEBI confidentially in a new primary market development. This is the ninth business to list its shares on public exchanges via secret pre-filing, after Tata Play, Oyo, Swiggy, Vishal Mega Mart, Credila Financial Services, and Indira IVF. The creator and CEO Alakh Pandey-led edtech unicorn hopes to raise 4,600 crore through an IPO that will blend new equity shares and an OFS by current shareholders. The newest tracxn data values it at \$3.7 billion. PW secured \$210 million



in Series B fundraising in September 2024 from Hornbill Capital, Lightspeed Venture Partners, GSV Ventures, and WestBridge Capital at a valuation of \$2.8 billion. It raised \$312 million in two stages, starting with \$102 million in June 2022. WestBridge Capital, Hornbill Capital, and Lightspeed Venture Partners are among 8 institutional Physics

investors. WestBridge Capital is Physics Wallah's largest institutional investor. Tracxn shows Rajat Pandey is Physics Wallah's single Angel Investor. According to the latest shareholding pattern, Physics Wallah founders Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari own 77.40%, funds own 20.47%, and ESOP pool is 8.60%.

NTA returns to pre-Covid NEET UG format

Delhi: To do well on the NEET UG 2025 exam, candidates must answer 180 questions in 180 minutes. The NTA has reverted to its pre-Covid exam design, which is expected to increase competition in the May 2025 exam. As per the modified pattern, section B which consisted of optional questions have been removed which has

decreased the exam time from 200 minutes to 180 minutes. The NTA declaration made candidates and experts anxious, as it may reduce the overall competition. Health Ministry officials say question paper difficulty will determine competition levels. The NTA cut the extra 20 minutes and optional questions to restore reg-

ularity in the exam schedule. Because the pandemic is finished, candidates must return to the original exam format. The adjustment isn't frightening as the syllabus is unchanged. Additionally, we need to enhance our time management abilities to complete the exam within 180 minutes. , which is already chal-

61.6% of Indian schools provide 3-language clubs. TN and Arunachal are lowest, Gujarat and Punjab lead

Delhi: The Union Education Ministry presented data in Parliament showing that 61.6 percent of Indian schools offer three languages to 74.7 percent of students, despite the ongoing dispute between Tamil Nadu and the Centre over the three-language formula. The research shows that Gujarat and Punjab have the most three-language schools, while Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Tamil Nadu have the fewest. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Lok Sabha member Kanimozhi Karunanidhi of Tamil Nadu requested a state-by-state breakdown of the three-language formula languages and the number of students studying each language. DMK-led



Tamil Nadu has fought the Centre over the three-language formula in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, calling it "Hindi imposition". This method requires pupils to learn three languages, at least two of which are Indian, up to Class 8 or 10, preferably Class 10. After presenting the data, Union Minister of State in the

Ministry of Education Jayant Chaudhary wrote. Demand from students is pushing private schools to offer foreign languages as a third option. The Ministry reports that 906,225 (61.6%) of 1,471,891 Indian schools offer the three-language strategy. Compared to 149,065 schools (10.1%), 416,601 schools (28.3%)

Irish education minister invites Indians for education, research

NEW DELHI: James Lawless, Ireland's Education Minister, on Monday said his country is "very welcoming" for students and has a supportive post-study employment visa arrangement. "Ireland is a very welcoming country. We have a very cosmopolitan culture. We have many nationalities now in Ireland, and many people have made their home, including many, many Indians," the Irish minister said, when asked whether his government is considering any changes in post-study work or immigration policies to retain skilled talents.

Delhi: A day after the Supreme Court banned domicile-based reservation in specialized and higher education including PG medical courses, MK Stalin's Tamil Nadu government declared it would file a review petition to vindicate its rights and uphold social justice. Health minister Ma Subramanian said the SC order would affect the state's 69% reservation and quotas for in-service applicants in government medical colleges and minorities in self-financing medical colleges. He



gave government doctors a quota for super speciality courses after a court battle," he told reporters. He stated the Centre takes seats unfilled due to a lack of candidates. He said states invest fully in PG and super speciality medical education but share 50% of all-India quota seats. "Now, the judgment deprives us of all seats," Subramanian told reporters. According to him, the verdict will have a major impact on 2025-26 admissions but not 2024. "All super speciality seats were lost. "TN

The House panel says Centre withholding funding for states not implementing PM

Delhi: A parliamentary panel report tabled called withholding funds over non-adoption of the flagship PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme "unjustifiable" and recommended that Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal receive pending funds immediately.



Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal have declined to sign an MoU with the Centre to implement the PM-SHRI project, which intends to modernize 14,500 schools and make them NEP 2020 model institutions. The Centre withheld funds from these states under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme (SSA), a flagship Indian government initiative to ensure universal elementary education (UEE) for children aged 6 to 14,

making free and compulsory education a fundamental right. In its 2025-26 demand for grants report for the Department of School Education & Literacy, chaired by Congress Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports expressed serious concern over the non-release of SSA funds to states that have not signed MoUs for PM SHRI implementation. The audit states that West Bengal, Kerala,

Hospital visits decreased, learning metrics improved. Meal program passes test

Delhi: The State Planning Commission SPC found that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's breakfast policy had improved health and education in government schools. which shows that hospital visits among government primary school pupils reduced by 68.4% in rural areas and 29.4% in urban areas throughout this period, illustrating the program's impact on nutritionally challenged regions. In addition to health metrics, the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission reported to Stalin on 13 March that the plan has increased student involvement in class. Nearly 5,300 urban and rural children showed improvements in attention and comprehension. Students' attention without urging grew from 85.8



"The ability to learn new content increased from 88.1 percent to 92.5 percent, while lesson recall increased from 71.4 percent to 77 percent. Nearly 5,300 urban and rural children showed improvements in attention and comprehension. Students' attention without urging grew from 85.8 percent to 93.7 percent"

percent to 93.7 percent, and their ability to follow teachers' instructions increased from 91.3 percent to 95.5 percent. Students are also completing more written work, rising from 89.6% to 95.4%. The ability to learn new content increased from 88.1 percent to 92.5 percent, while lesson recall increased from 71.4 percent to

77 percent. Nearly 5,300 urban and rural children showed improvements in attention and comprehension. Students' attention without urging grew from 85.8 percent to 93.7 percent, and their ability to follow teachers' instructions increased from 91.3 percent to 95.5 percent. Students are also completing more written work.

Government wants to cut 6% of online ad tax, so US giants may benefit

Delhi: Go recommends eliminating the 6% equalisation fee or digital tax on online ads in April, benefiting Google and Meta advertisers. The adjustments recommended by FM Nirmala Sitharaman come as India and the US work to strengthen relations. Last year, the government eliminated the 2% e-commerce equalisation charge. The US criticized the 2% levy, but the government is trying to appear more accommodative in anticipation of more tariff retaliation, and removing the 6% equalisation levy on online advertising is a step in that direction "Amit Maheshwari, tax partner at AKM Global. Sumit Singhania of Deloitte India said the action supports legal simplification. "From an international tax policy perspective, most of the unilateral measures taken by governments around the world in recent years to deal with tax challenges of digitalization of economies must be gradually wound back to make way for OECD's two-pillar tax rules. Given the setting before the equalisation levy, this would be a progressive policy measure to give taxpayers more assurance "said. Government has also suggested tax cuts for offshore fund investments and sought Parliamentary approval for tax assessments under search and seizure rules and I-T return reconciliation. "The key change is replacing 'total revenue' with 'total undeclared income'.

Row over Maharashtra minister's '100% Hindu' meat initiative explained

NEW DELHI: A political row has erupted in Maharashtra over the government's new meat certification initiative. The controversy began when Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane launched 'Malhar Certification' for Hindu meat traders to ensure "100% Hindu-owned mutton shops, free from adulteration."

Rane stated that Hindu shopkeepers selling 'jhatka' mutton would be granted this certification and urged Hindu consumers to purchase mutton exclusively from certified vendors. Soon after Rane's announcement, the opposition criticised the move, alleging it would divide society.

Also read: 'Eating halal not written in Hindu religion': Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane proposes 'Malhar certification'

Congress MLA Nana Patole condemned Rane's remarks, stating that a minister should not make such

divisive statements. "A minister cannot talk like this. It sends a message that the Chief Minister has no control over his ministers. If any minister is inciting conflict between two religions, the CM should take action," Patole told ANI.

Congress leader Aslam Shaikh termed the move unconstitutional. "If this government or Nitesh Rane wants to enter the meat business, then it's good. Our Constitution gives us the freedom to do anything, eat anything, but saying that only one person will do a type of job does not align with our Constitution," he said.

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Chandra Pawar faction) MLA Jitendra Awhad also criticised the comments, particularly during the holy month of Ramzan. "When everything is running smoothly in the state, the BJP government tries to stoke Hindu-Muslim issues," he

said. He also questioned the political motive behind the debate on illegal loudspeakers, stating, "Action should be taken where necessary, but why make it a political issue?"

BJP MLA backs Rane Despite the backlash, BJP MLA Sanjay Upadhyay defended Rane's certification initiative, arguing that 'Halal' meat poses health risks. "I have no issue with what people choose to eat, but if someone is being misled, it should be objected to."

The chemicals produced during the 'halal' process are harmful to the body. I support Nitesh Rane in this case — chicken and mutton shops should have proper licensing," Upadhyay said.

Meanwhile, Rane, justifying his initiative, claimed that the certification would help Hindus identify "rightful mutton shops" run by members of the Hindu community. and

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

NEW DELHI: Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin on Wednesday criticized the National Education Policy (NEP), calling it a "saffron policy" and alleging that it is aimed at promoting Hindi rather than the country's overall development.

"National Education Policy is not education policy; it is saffron policy. The policy is not created to develop India but to develop Hindi. We are opposing the policy as it would destroy the Tamil Nadu education system completely," Stalin said while addressing a rally at Thiruvallur. He also claimed that NEP does not recognize reservation, which he described



as social justice. "NEP denies assistance amount to SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes," he alleged during the public meeting.

Stalin further accused the central government of withholding Tamil Nadu's share of funds because the state did not adopt NEP. "We are asking for your tax share, which we paid with our efforts. What is the problem with this? Is it fair to threaten without releasing funds

for the welfare of 43 lakh schools? As we didn't accept NEP, they are refusing to release funds that belong to Tamil Nadu. We would have welcomed the scheme if it brought everyone into education. But is NEP like that? NEP has all the factors that remove people from education. This is how this policy is, and that's why we are opposing it," he said.

The point of contention in the debate over NEP is its three-language formula, which Tamil Nadu fears could lead to the imposition of Hindi in the state. Stalin earlier argued that the policy gives preference to Hindi over regional languages.

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

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

firm; and assault on the firm's staffers. Karad is a close aide of NCP minister Dhananjay Munde.

CID concluded that Deshmukh's murder was the result of a bigger conspiracy by Karad, who wanted "to create a reign of terror" and eliminate whoso-

ever came in way of his Rs 2 crore extortion attempt.

Besides Karad, chargesheets were filed Feb 27 before a MCOCA court against Vishnu Chate, Sudarshan Ghule, Pratik Ghule, Sudhir Sangle, Mahesh Kedar, Jai Ram Chate and Krishna Andhale.

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

NEW DELHI: People will have to wait for at least one more year to travel non-stop from Delhi to Katra using a new expressway. The road transport and highways ministry has informed Lok Sabha that two sections of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway in Punjab are scheduled for completion by March 2026 and two more links from the main expressway in Punjab would be ready by April 2027.

The 667-km greenfield expressway is being built at a cost of Rs 40,000 crore. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had bid out five out of 21 packages of the expressway in March 2021. Initially, the government had targeted to complete the entire stretch by the end of 2023 to reduce the travel time between Delhi and Katra to less than eight hours. As per the government, the entire 158 km falling in Haryana will be complete by April. Officials said the project has been delayed due to several reasons, including the non-availability of land and contractual issues in Punjab. In the case of one package (30 km) in Punjab, the NHAI has terminated the contract due to land acquisition issues. The ministry has informed Parliament that "work will be taken after resolving the land acquisition issues". The four-lane expressway starts from Kundli Manesar Palwal (KMP) near Bahadurgarh.

How contemporary art is pushing boundaries in the modern era

Contemporary art continues to evolve, challenging traditional notions of creativity and expression. Artists worldwide are experimenting with new materials, digital platforms, and social themes to redefine the artistic landscape.

Speaking about the changing dynamics, New York-based artist Ava Richardson said, "Art today is about dialogue—whether it's political, environmental, or deeply personal."

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

NEW DELHI: Bharatiya Janata Party leader Amit Malviya on Wednesday shared an image of Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah in the same frame with actress Ranya Rao who was arrested in the alleged gold smuggling case. This comes after deputy CM DK Shivakumar dismissed the reports of any political link with the case.

"The Ranya Rao gold smuggling case in Karnataka has now reached the doorstep of chief minister Siddaramaiah. This dated photo also features the current home minister, G Parmeshwara," he said.

Taking a swipe at DKS, Malviya said, "Ironically, the man dismissing any political links is none other than Congress's



CM-in-waiting, DK Shivakumar." The state ministers have repeatedly denied having any links with the case. "No minister is involved, we don't know anything. It is all political gossip. Investigating officers will proceed as per the law. We have nothing to do with it," Shivakumar told reporters on Monday.

Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad reiterated this claim and said, "It is being investigated by CBI, which is not under the control

of the state government but the central government. They have all the freedom to investigate, and if there is anything and anybody involved, let it come out. But we are very clear: nobody from the state government is involved in any kind of small criminal activity."

Rao was arrested on March 3 by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD) in Bengaluru for allegedly smuggling 14.8 kilograms of gold from Dubai. The stepdaughter of DGP K Ramachandra Rao, she was produced before a special court for financial offences on March 4, where she was initially remanded to judicial custody until March 18.

62-year-old arrested for sexual assault on minor

New Delhi: A 62-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly repeatedly sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl in southwest Delhi's Sarojini Nagar. The inquiry revealed that the accused had threatened to kill the minor. Police said the crime came to light after the girl's pregnancy was discovered.

On Feb 6, police received information from a hospital about the admission of a minor girl who was found to be pregnant. A team from the local police station visited the hospital and spoke to the doctor. The investigating officer met the survivor, who initially claimed she was in a consensual rela-

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

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

Siddaramaiah, DK not on same page as delimitation row escalates

BENGALURU: Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah backed his Tamil Nadu counterpart MK Stalin's campaign against the proposed population-based delimitation exercise with a call to action on Wednesday, contrasting with his deputy DK Shivakumar calling for a nuanced approach based on the party high command's "final call".

A Tamil Nadu delegation met Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru and Stalin reached out to him over phone, proposing a joint action committee consisting of representatives of several states to collectively oppose the delimitation move. A statement from the CMO confirmed Karnataka's alignment with the protest against what the southern states call "an undemocratic stance" to carry out delimitation without everyone on board.

Stalin requested Karnataka to nominate

a senior Congress representative to coordinate a unified strategy. A preliminary meeting is scheduled for March 22 in Chennai.

The delegation led by TN forest minister K Ponmudy and Rajya Sabha member Mohammad Abdullah Ismail discussed with Siddaramaiah the need to challenge the alleged bias against southern states, the CMO said.

Siddaramaiah said Congress "unequivocally condemns all actions of the Union govt that are against Karnataka's interest, weaken democracy and go against the federal principles of the Constitution". The proposed joint action committee could have members from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Odisha and Punjab. DMK has been reaching out to functionaries across party lines, including NDA

allies like Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu. Shivakumar said DMK being Congress's ally, the party appreciated its stance. "However, as a national party, we must consult our high command and proceed based on their guidance." Delimitation will penalise progressive states: DMK

DMK member D M Kathir Anand in Lok Sabha on Wednesday said the impending delimitation exercise penalises progressive states like Tamil Nadu which have controlled population growth and asked the govt to ensure equitable representation of all states in Parliament and state assemblies.

Flagging the issue during Zero Hour, he said, "Govt should consider economic performance and vital indices like GSDP, per capita income, infrastructure improvement

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

NEW DELHI: Govt's 'Poshan Tracker' data shows that as of Feb, 8.8 crore children (0-6 years) were enrolled in Anganwadis with 8.5 crore measured on growth parameters of height and weight. Of these children, 37.7% were found to be stunted and 17.1% children were underweight.

The ministry of women and child development shared this data as part of the response to a written question in Rajya Sabha on addressing the challenge of malnutrition. Citing the data from the Tracker and drawing from National Family Health Surveys 1 (1992-93) to 5 (2019-21), the WCD ministry said that the numbers show "improvement in malnutrition indicators in children across India".

The minister of state for women and child development Savitri Thakur in a written reply also shared that the project-



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

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

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

Delhi set to host 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance

Delhi will host the 11th edition of the 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance from February 21 to 23, 2025, featuring 125 vintage cars and 50 heritage motorcycles. Highlights include rare cars like the 1939 Delahaye and cultural performances. This event cements Delhi NCR's status as a hub for vintage car enthusiasts and showcases India's automotive heritage globally.

Delhi set to host 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance Delhi is set to reaffirm its status as India's vintage car capital as it hosts the highly anticipated 11th edition of the 21 Gun Salute Concours d'Elegance, one of the country's most prestigious vintage and classic car showcases. The three-day extravaganza, scheduled from February 21 to 23, 2025, will take automotive enthusiasts on a historic journey.

Industrial output grows 5.8% in, slows a tad in

New Delhi: The country's industrial output growth slowed marginally in March but manufacturing and electricity sectors remained robust, offsetting the slowdown in mining, while growth for the full fiscal year remained stable, data showed.

Numbers released by the National Statistical Office on Friday showed the index of industrial production (IIP) rose an annual 4.9% in March, slightly lower than the downwardly revised 5.6% in Feb but above the 1.9% posted in last year. For the 2023-24 fiscal year, industrial output growth rose to 5.8% from 5.2% in the previous year. Industrial output grows 5.8% in FY24, slows a tad in March. The manufacturing sector rose 5.2% in March, higher than the 1.5% posted in last year, while the electricity sector grew 8.6% compared with a 1.6% contraction in the same month a year earlier. The mining sector grew 1.2%



in March, slower than the 6.8% recorded in last year. The manufacturing sector expansion was consistent with other data such as the PMI for manufacturing, which had predicted stable expansion for the sector on the back of robust domestic demand. The consumer durables sector grew 9.5% in compared with a contraction of 8% in the year earlier period, while consumer non-durables grew 4.9% during the month compared with a contraction of 1.9% in the year earlier period. The capital goods sector, which is seen as a gauge for investment

activity, rose 6.1% in March, slower than the 10% recorded in last year, while the infrastructure/construction goods sector rose 6.9% during the month, slightly slower than the 7.2% in last year. "On the consumption front, output of consumer durables grew by 9.5% whereas non-durables output growth turned positive, rising by 4.9% following two consecutive months of contraction. However, the sustenance of this trend remains to be monitored in the upcoming months," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist at ratings agency CareEdge.

ED attaches 53cr assets of Navi Mum developer

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 53 crore located in Navi Mumbai in the case of Monarch Universal Group. The ED initiated an investigation based on multiple FIRs registered by the police under various sections against Monarch Universal Group, Gopal Amarlal Thakur, Hasmukh Amarlal Thakur, and others for allegedly cheating flat buyers by



collecting money from them for flats and not registering the same in their names. ED investigation showed that Gopal Amarlal Thakur diverted and siphoned off a huge amount of investors' money to various sister entities

and, through a complex web of money trails, parked substantial proceeds of crime with various builders in Navi Mumbai. Gopal Thakur of the group was arrested in July 2021. He is currently in judicial custody.

Zomato's renaming's impact on biz, investors

Delhi: Industry experts say Zomato Ltd's plan to create a separate identity for its parent business will let it pursue its goals without risking everything and give investors more detailed information about the company. Four years after Facebook changed to

Meta Platforms Inc. and a decade after Google's parent became Alphabet Inc., Zomato announced that its board had approved the changing of its corporate identity as Eternal Ltd. The name change needs shareholder approval. Zomato's renaming reflects a long-

term growth ambition, focusing on Blinkit (rapid commerce), Hyperpure (restaurant supplies), and District (events platform), industry executives stated. Anupriya Saxena, a partner at JMJA & Associates LLP, a corporate consultancy, said.

No bail to DHFL promoters seeking relief for spending half of term in jail

MUMBAI: Refusing to grant bail to DHFL promoters Dheeraj and Rakesh Wadhawan, who sought the relief on the grounds that they had already spent more than half the maximum sentence of seven years in jail, a special PMLA court said the one year that the duo consumed in stalling their bail pleas had to be deducted from the computation of the time they had spent as undertrials. The brothers were arrested in 2020 in a money laundering



case in which Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor and others are also accused. In Dec last year, Kapoor was granted bail in the case after the judge pointed out

that he had spent more than the minimum punishment period of three years, without the framing of charges and a trial. In an 83-page order, the judge had cited a

table chronicling 207 dates in the case, emphasising that Kapoor was not responsible for the delays. Section 436A of the Criminal Procedure Code allows the release of undertrial prisoners upon completion of half of the maximum jail sentence. In the case of the Wadhawans, the judge, though, said the section does not provide an absolute right of bail and it may be denied where the trial is delayed because of the accused.

Centre plans pension scheme for gig workers, employers to contribute

Delhi: The labor and employment ministry is creating a transaction-based pension strategy to improve gig workers' social security, requiring aggregators to contribute 1-2% of their yearly turnover. The effort is targeted at almost one crore platform workers across India, a govt source stated. Each gig worker will get a global account number, allowing deductions based on wage transactions across platforms. Employers will pay per bill. The insider said, "State govern-



ments are being consulted, and the plan will soon go to the cabinet. "The effort tackles the issue of employer accountability owing to gig workers' use of numerous platforms. This policy matches the e-Shram platform, which was introduced

in Aug 2021 to register unorganised sector workers. As of January 27, 30.6 crore workers have signed up for the platform, which has 12 social security plans. India had 77 lakh gig workers in 2020-21, and today has over 1 crore, says a 2022 NITI Aayog

report. Currently, 47% of gig jobs are medium-skilled, 22% high-skilled, and 31% low-skilled. The 2020 Social Security Code suggested a National Social Security Board to advise gig workers. Aggregators may give 1-2% of their yearly turnover, limited at 5% of gig workers' total remuneration. Also, the government aims to extend PMJAY health insurance to gig workers. The plan should give gig workers the financial stability they need.

TISS student moves HC against suspension for attending protest

MUMBAI: Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) research scholar, Ramadas KS, has moved the Bombay High Court against the institute's suspension order. He was suspended for two years from the institute and debarred from entering all the four campuses, in an order passed last month. In his petition, Ramadas has appealed to the court to set aside the inquiry report of the institute's empowered committee and the revocation of the suspension order and restore his entitlements as a student. He said that he was 'unlawfully, arbitrarily and unfairly suspended by the institute'. Ramadas has also asked for the withdrawal of the public notice issued by the institute on April 20, two days after the suspension order was

passed. The public notice, stated the petition, was 'malicious' and 'defamatory' in nature and 'puts his life and academic pursuits under grave threat'. He also pointed out that his legitimate participation in student life and exercise of his constitutional rights has been deemed as 'anti-national' by the institute. The petition also seeks directions to the union ministry of social justice and empowerment to ensure the continuation and monthly disbursement of the national fellowship he was entitled to. In his petition, Ramadas mentioned that he did not receive the fellowship amount for April 2024, in pursuance of the suspension order. Ramadas has also set an interim stay on the suspension order and the continuation of the fellowship pending the hearing.

and the final disposal of the petition. UGC is also one of the respondents in the petition, as the guidelines for students' entitlements allows him freedom of thought and expression. The petition mentioned that he moved the court as the students' handbook of the institute does not provide details on the internal appeal process against an empowered committee's order. It also added that the public notice was issued by the highest authority and therefore, he would not get an independent or fair hearing in the appeal. The research scholar was suspended on April 18 based on the recommendations of the empowered committee. He was accused of participating in a protest march in New Delhi in January and also for urging people.

With the help of silicone models and photoshop, ma comes to life again

Glittering lehengas, elaborate rituals, and sumptuous food. The wedding of Gujarat-based real estate developer Piyush Patel's twin daughters in February last year had it all. Yet, one absence loomed large: that of their mother Daxaben, who passed away months before the event due to a brain stroke. The void was hard to fill, but Patel was determined to plug it a little. He decided to commission an artist and give his daughters a surprise they'd remember the rest of their lives: a life-size hyper-realistic silicone model of their mother, adorned in a bright turquoise saree, real gold jewellery, and a warm smile. Seeing it, not just the daughters, but many other guests present cried, he recalls. "It was like she was really there, blessing our daughters," he

adds. From photographs to pooja rituals, Daxaben's model marked her presence at the wedding ceremony. It sits in their home even today, with fresh clothes and makeup, for occasions like birthdays, festivals, and more. **MODEL MOM** Vadodara-based artist Vibha Patel, who made the statue, says she gets many requests to make silicone models for people who've lost near and dear ones, but they often back out after getting to know the cost. Such models typically cost around Rs 3-5 lakhs to make. While not everyone can afford a silicone model, people are finding different ways of keeping the memory of their late mothers alive. From rings made from strands of their hair that were preserved for years, to using

technology to photoshop them into wedding albums, the modes adopted are many. **FRAMED IN** Noida-based digital artist Divyanshu Garg, who goes by the name @ind_cyborg on Instagram, has received multiple such photoshop requests over the last few months. Earlier this year, he received one such request from Ami Kaur, who is from a Sikh family living in Thailand. Kaur's younger brother got married two years ago, but their mother was alive to only attend the engagement, and then succumbed to cancer. As his second marriage anniversary was approaching, Kaur decided to approach Garg to recreate a photograph of the wedding: one with their mother present in it. It was a surprise

not only for her brother, but also their father, she adds. In the 'reaction' video uploaded on Garg's channel, there are plenty of tears and long hugs, as they hold the photo. "For a person who has lost their mother, the grieving period is never over. But this really helps. We got many copies made," Kaur says. While photoshop technology helped Kaur and her family make their mother a part of a big day, some opt for live paintings of their late moms. Instead, in a reel that went viral in February, a California-based painter Kim-Vi Tran captured her journey of painting an Indian American bride's late mother into the surroundings. She also added a rainbow behind the late mother, "to remind the couple.

Spending on online gaming increased 16 times

Delhi: According to a Visa white paper on payments, spending on online gaming increased 16 times in smaller areas between 2019 and 2024. The pattern indicates that digital consumption is becoming more and more prevalent in India's non-metropolitan regions. Spending on digital services, such as gaming, online education, and entertainment, has increased ninefold and sixteen fold since 2019, respectively, among consumers in smaller towns. In smaller towns, the number of consumers spending more than Rs 2 lakh a year with a single card has increased by over four times, while in category A cities, the figure has increased by 1.4 times. This change has led to a 175% increase in total card expenditure in category C+ cities since 2019 and suggests that affluence is spreading outside of metropolitan areas. According to Niko Partners' India Market Report, the country's video game market.

Delhi govt intends to deploy 900 electric buses

Delhi: transit minister Dr. Pankaj Singh stated thousands of new buses have been purchased for public transit. We met with merchants who assured me there would be no shortage. He said depot charging infrastructure is being updated. As of buses will be plentiful. 900 new electric buses will increase weekly based on demand "Singh said. The minister said 2,000 cluster and 3,000 DTC buses will be phased off this year. Electric buses would replace them. The DTC fleet has 1,231 AC CNG, 1,878 non-AC CNG, and 1,250 electric low-floor buses. Cluster bus service has 750 AC CNG, 1,997 non-AC CNG, and 379 electric buses. Some new buses are 12- and 9-meter long. The government informed the top court in 2018 the city needs 11,000 buses. Since then, population has grown. The government will struggle to replace CNG buses with electric ones since they



Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

Delhi: In 2019, the National Green Tribunal NGT order Delhi's transport department to pay ₹95.05 lakh for cutting 495 trees for bus depots in Burari without afforestation. The tribunal ruled that the forest department's license to transplant 168 trees

take time to build and must pass various tests, according to transport department insiders.

He added the companies want to sell buses but are afraid to sign annual maintenance con-

and plant 4,950 saplings was violated, making the practice "illegal." A panel of judge and expert Dr. Afroz Ahmed computed environmental compensation using U t t a r a k h a n d Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) rules and asked all states, including Delhi.

tracts because government buses are used in harsh conditions and wear out faster. Singh claimed he talked with manufacturers and operators and ordered buses ASAP.

At Vatika Park, DDA proposes a former CNG bus mobile kitchen

Delhi: Development Authority visited a solution to employ an out-of-service CNG bus. It wants to turn the 2010 model bus into a mobile kitchen for catering at Vatika Park on the Yamuna floodplain opposite Rajghat power station. DDA will turn the decommissioned bus into a mobile kitchen, like Delhi's food trucks. Recently, it published an expression of interest, seeking private organizations and entrepreneurs to submit a feasibility analysis, layout drawings, and creatives on how to convert CNG-powered, air-conditioned low-floor buses into working kitchens. It



also requested transformation cost and material information. Submit the application by the deadline to demonstrate how end-of-life vehicles can be reused to build a mobile kitchen at Vatika Park. Officials said the conversion concept might be reproduced at other locations or future recreational areas if it works. Baansera. The project bus is obsolete. The 2010-built DTC bus

is 12 meters long, 2.7 meters wide, and seats 36 people. Officials said DDA lacked expertise in this field and had asked agencies to provide detailed information about the conversion process, structural changes needed for the flooring, walls, ceiling, exterior, and installation of professional kitchen equipment like stoves, refrigerators, storage units, sinks.

Take helmet violations more seriously

Delhi: Senior officers informed that the Delhi Traffic Police have been directed to take harsher action against helmet-related offenses, including disqualification and revocation of driving licenses and challans. Late last month, assistant commissioner of police traffic headquarters Satya Vir Katara sent a circular to all traffic

prosecuting staff directing them to enhance action against two-wheeler riders. Officers reported 611 two-wheeler riders killed and 2,233 injured in crashes around the national capital last year, roughly 40% of road crash deaths. According to Delhi Traffic Police, 1,551 individuals died in road crashes last year.

An investigation of two-wheeler rider deaths found that many were either without helmets or had not correctly attached their headgear, causing severe head injuries.

The deaths were also caused by poor helmets. Riding against traffic, high-speed, and red light jumping also killed and injured such riders.



Delhi's health minister promotes mobile dentistry vans to expand oral care

Delhi: Health minister Pankaj Singh launched six National Health Mission mobile dental vans at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. The kickoff ceremony on World Oral Health Day aimed to expand dental

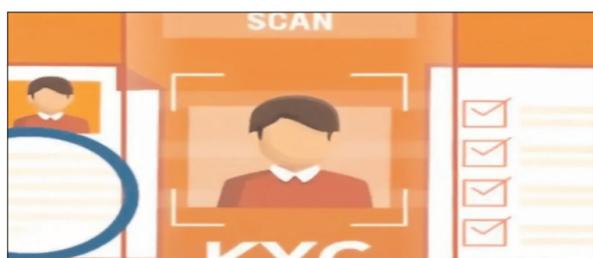
services across the state. Minister Pankaj Singh remarked, "We will deliver the promised services to Delhi. This pilot project provides



important dental treatment to children in government hospitals, senior individuals, and residents of slums and poor communities where such services are scarce." Singh said the mobile dental vans will deliver fillings, scaling, and general care. Our six-month plan includes adding vehicles after the state budget to broaden our reach. Our website will include all necessary information, and each van has GPS tracking so the public may track their locations across Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The vans will be available 24/7 to help the needy "said. Mobile dental vans will work with Delhi government dispensaries to improve primary care. They will also work with education, Delhi government schools, social welfare, and social justice ministries. On April 10, the Delhi government will sign an MoU with the Centre to execute the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the national capital and enroll one lakh people.

1.3 crore mutual fund accounts on hold owing to insufficient KYC

Delhi: KYC registration entities report 1.3 crore mutual accounts 'in hold' due to incomplete KYC. This is because people gave non-Aadhaar and non-OVDs during KYC registration. From April 1, 2024, SEBI will prohibit mutual fund transactions for investors having 'on hold' KYC status. This involves buying or redeeming mutual fund units. "After many investors' KYCs were still unupdated with PAN and Aadhar and the linkages were missing, KYCs had to be reclassified. Several of these KYCs used utility bills (electricity, telephone), bank account statements, etc., which Sebi no longer



accepts." The report added, "7.9 crore investors (73%), have valid KYC. About 1.6 crore registered investors have limited investment access, and 12% can't manage their demat accounts and MF folios." KYC-verified status:

It signifies the issuing source

verifies investment documentation. Mutual fund investors can invest in any plan if the paperwork remains unchanged. CAMS FAQs state that only PAN and Aadhaar can be confirmed from the issuing source. PAN and Aadhaar KYC holders will likely have their status verified.

MPs Get 24% Salary, Pension Increase; New Allowances

Delhi: MPs' wages would rise 24%, along with pensions and allowances for former MPs, according to the Indian government. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs notified these adjustments, matching them with the 1961 Income Tax Act Cost Inflation Index. This national revision follows the Karnataka government's large wage boost for the Chief Minister, ministers, and MLAs.

Old cars without pollution certificates will be banned

Delhi: Old cars without pollution certificates will be banned from Delhi roadways. Officials stated fuel outlets won't fill such autos. Several fuel stations in the national capital feature government-authorized testing chambers that give PUC certificates. Car owners must have their vehicles inspected annually to renew PUC certificates. A new technology at every Delhi fuel station will identify automobiles with expired PUC certifications to make this system foolproof. Any vehicle with an expired PUC certificate



will be denied gasoline. The new approach is being introduced at all 500 Delhi fuel stations. If a car that violates emission laws is refueled, the system will flag it as a defaulter and the fuel station workers will not serve it. A central database retrieves registration numbers from the government database to check for violators. Environment Minister

Manjinder Singh Sirsa said a team will identify such vehicles. "We are installing gadgets at petrol pumps which will identify vehicles older than 15 years and no fuel will be provided to them," Mr Sirsa said after meeting with officials to discuss air pollution in Delhi and the NCR, which bans diesel and petrol vehicles older than 10 and 15 years, respectively.

No maintenance for educated wife

Delhi: A well-educated, working wife must not stay idle to get husband support. The court denied relief to an estranged wife who earned a master's in international business from Australia and worked in Dubai but preferred not to work, saying legislation doesn't encourage idleness. A well-educated lady with experience in a



good lucrative work should not stay inactive to receive maintenance from her husband. Thus, interim support is discouraged because the petitioner has the opportunity to earn and benefit from her schooling "Justice CD Singh noted. The court stated wives with earning capacity and qualification but idle should not demand interim maintenance. "Section 125 of CrPC carries the legislative intent to maintain equality among the spouses, provide protection to wives, chil-

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

The BJP government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, presented its maiden budget on Tuesday, March 25. Gupta presented 1 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, a 31.56% increase from last year. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system. It has allocated 1,000 crore to improve the connectivity of Delhi with the NCR region.

Air pollution may increase Type 2 diabetes risk

Delhi: Air pollution may increase Type 2 diabetes risk. Air pollution, especially PM2.5, is known to cause chronic lung ailments, heart attack, stroke, and cancer, but the diabetes argument is gaining ground. Several research from the US, Europe, and China have shown the association, but a new two-city study from India found that even a 10 g/m3 increase in PM2.5 exposure raises blood sugar. Mumbai-based JAPI (Journal of Association of Physicians of India) published an editorial headlined, 'Air Pollution: A New Cause of Type 2 Diabetes?' this



month. Diabetes specialist Dr. V Mohan from Chennai wrote, "We now know that PM2.5 is an endocrine disruptor that affects insulin secretion and also leads to insulin resistant." Due

to summer, the air quality index has been low in recent weeks, but air pollution is becoming one of urban India's largest problems, killing 20,000 in Mumbai and 50,000 in Delhi annually.

Dr. Mohan and Public Health Foundation of India researchers published the first PM2.5-diabetes study a few months ago. 'BMJ Open Diabetes Research & Care' found links

between short-, medium-, and long-term PM2.5 exposure. "A 10 g/m3 increase in monthly average exposure to PM2.5 was associated with a 0.4 mg/dL increase in finger pick blood test and a 0.021 unit increase in HbA1c test," claimed the study. The HbA1c blood test measures blood sugar over three months. The study followed 12,064 Delhi and Chennai people for seven years. A hybrid satellite-based exposure model and ground data were used to track PM2.5 concentrations daily. At follow-up visits, participants' blood sugar was measured.

Nap and go! In-transit pod hotel at New Delhi metro station

Delhi: A new pod hotel at New Delhi metro station gives travelers a space to rest while waiting for their trains. This service serves transit travelers who require a place to stay near New Delhi Railway Station. To generate non-fare revenue, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is devel-

oping retail, entertainment, and office spaces at metro stations. At New Delhi metro station, which connects the Yellow and Airport Express Lines, the vendor has built a pod hotel for overnight passengers. The Pod hotel is open. The hotel occupies part of the 3,000-square-metre

space, while the rest is used for business purposes "DMRC official. DMRC recently built retail, dining, and office spaces at Malviya Nagar, Punjabi Bagh, Azadpur, and Faridabad Sector 20B metro stations, in addition to the pod hotel. A banquet facility is also at Noida Electronic City

metro station. According to DMRC, these property development activities are similar to worldwide metro systems, which are capital-intensive and rely on non-operational revenue sources like retail, real estate, and advertising to survive without government subsidies.