

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

Parliament scuffle: Police file FIR against Rahul based on BJP complaint



NEW DELHI: Delhi police on Thursday registered an FIR against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after the Bharatiya Janata Party filed a police complaint against the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, accusing him of "physical assault and incitement" during a scuffle in Parliament premises earlier today. BJP leaders including Anurag Thakur, Bansuri Swaraj and Hemang Joshi visited the Parliament Street Police Station and filed the complaint after a face-off between NDA leaders and Congress. A confrontation

between opposition and NDA MPs took place at the Parliament entrance steps over the alleged insult to B R Ambedkar, resulting in injuries to ex-minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput. BJP MP Anurag Thakur demanded a thorough investigation and an FIR under sections 109 (attempt to murder), 115 (voluntary causing hurt), 117 (voluntary causing grievous hurt), 125 (act of endangering life or personal safety of others), 131 (use of criminal force), 351 (criminal intimidation) and 3(5) (common intention) of the

BNS in the matter. However, Delhi police have only removed section 109 (attempt to murder) of BNS in the FIR registered against the Congress leader and all other sections are the same as given in the complaint, according to the officials. In response, Congress rejected the claim and alleged that BJP MPs pushed its chief Mallikarjun Kharge and "physically manhandled" Rahul Gandhi. In addition to this, Congress also lodged a complaint in connection with the matter against BJP.

Rahul switch from white to blue t-shirt and the Ambedkar connection

NEW DELHI: A day of protest, scuffle and chaos is what Parliament witnessed on Thursday as the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress accused each other of "goondaism" and diversion tactics. Amid all this, Rahul Gandhi took centre stage, as the BJP accused him of pushing its MPs and "showing arrogance." Even with all the drama that unfolded throughout the day, Rahul Gandhi choice of clothes and the message were not lost. As the Congress leader started protesting against Amit Shah's recent "anti-Ambedkar" remark in Rajya Sabha.

Human error behind chopper crash that killed CDS Bipin Rawat: Report

NEW DELHI: Indian Air Force has confirmed that the helicopter crash which claimed the life of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat, and 11 others was caused by a "human error". According to a standing committee on defence report tabled in Lok Sabha, 34 aircraft accidents were recorded during the thirteenth defence plan period. Human error (aircrew) (HE(A)) was identified as the most frequent cause, responsible for 16 accidents, including



the Mi-17 V5 helicopter that was carrying General Bipin Rawat when it crashed. Other factors included technical defect with seven cases, foreign object damage and human error (servicing) with two cases each,

and bird strike and under investigation, each cited once. The IAF's MiG-21 aircraft was involved in 10 of the recorded accidents, making it the most frequent on the list, followed by aircraft such as the Jaguar and

Kiran.The tragic crash that led to CDS Rawat's death occurred on December 8, 2021, in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor region. General Rawat, his wife, and 11 others were aboard an IAF Mi-17 V5 helicopter en route to the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) in Wellington, where he was scheduled to address faculty and students. The helicopter departed from Sullur IAF station around 11:50 am but crashed at approximately 12:20 pm, just 10 kilometers away from its destina-

'Elon is a Russian agent' claims reportedly worry US Air Force chief; Elon Musk and SpaceX under probe

Elon Musk and his aerospace company, SpaceX, are reportedly currently under investigation by three separate US military branches for potential violations of reporting protocols. The New York Times reports that Musk has repeatedly



disregarded requirements to disclose meetings with foreign

leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The investigations are being conducted by the Defense Department's Inspector General, the Air Force, and the Pentagon's intelligence and security office. The Air Force has reportedly denied Musk's request for higher-level security clearance.

RS deputy chairman Harivansh dismisses opposition notice seeking removal of VP Dhankhar



NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh has dismissed the impeachment notice submitted by the opposition seeking the removal of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday. He ruled that it was an attempt of the opposition of impropriety, being severely flawed and drawn in haste to damage the reputation of Dhankhar. The ruling given by the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha today on the motion of no confidence in the Chairman submitted by INDIA parties contains a reference to some remarks made by me in a press conference held on Dec 12, 2024. This reference takes liberties with facts - to put it mildly. The ruling, presented to the House by Secretary General P C Mody, said that the notice was designed to undermine constitutional institutions and malign the incumbent the Vice President.The impeachment notice was signed by 60 opposition members seeking the removal of Dhankhar from his post on December 10. They alleged him of being "biased." The deputy chairman further said that the "personally targeted" notice lacked a factual basis and appeared to be aimed at securing publicity.He ruled that the notice was a "misadventure" in "deliberate trivialising and demeaning" of the high constitutional office of the Vice President of the largest democracy. According to sources, the deputy chairman's ruling emphasised that the notice contained unfounded.

Karnataka BJP MLC detained over alleged derogatory remarks against minister Laxmi

NEW DELHI: Karnataka BJP MLC CT Ravi was detained on Thursday after an FIR was lodged against him for allegedly using derogatory language towards the state's women and child development minister Laxmi Hebbalkar in the Legislative Council. However, the BJP MLC refuted the allegations and called t



"false."Authorities registered a case against the BJP leader under sections 75 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, following the Minister's complaint, according to a senior police offi-

cial. Congress alleges CT Ravi of using derogatory terms against Hebbalkar Congress leaders stated that during a heated exchange following the House

adjournment by Chairman Basavaraj Horatti amid chaos over Union home minister Amit Shah's comments about B R Ambedkar, Ravi allegedly repeatedly used inappropriate language towards Hebbalkar. Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah alleged that CT Ravi had used obscene language against Hebbalkar.

Ashwin quit because of 'humiliation': Father makes shock claim on retirement

NEW DELHI: In a shocking revelation, off-spinner Ashwin's father Ravichandran on Thursday claimed that one of the reasons behind his son's sudden retirement from international cricket was the 'humiliation' he faced in the team. According to Ravichandran,



Ashwin's retirement came as a shock to the family as he felt his son should have continued playing cricket at the highest level.

But the regular omissions from playing XI forced Ashwin to quit as it must have felt like humiliation. "I too came to know

last minute, actually," CNN News18 quoted Ravichandran as saying."What was going on in his mind I don't know. He just announced. I too accepted it with full pleasure. I did not have any feeling at all for that. But the way he gave his retirement.

'Irom was also under medical watch': SC asks Punjab to conduct Dallewal's health tests

NEW DELHI: Irom Sharmila also continued with her protest under medical supervision, the Supreme Court on Thursday said and asked the Punjab government to convince 70-year-old farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on an indefinite fast, to undergo a health examination. The top court pulled



up the Punjab government

for not conducting medical tests on Dallewal, who is on an indefinite fast at Punjab-Haryana Khanauri border. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said while no one was trying to uproot the farmers' protest, it only wanted to ensure Dallewal's safety, calling him a "mass leader".

Oman stops eggs import, hits Tamil Nadu poultry industry

NAMAKKAL: Oman on Tuesday stopped issuing new import permits for Indian table eggs, hitting the poultry industry in Namakkal in Tamil Nadu. The new restriction assumes significance in the wake of Qatar imposing weight restrictions on Indian eggs recently. KRN Rajeshkumar, DMK MP, raised the issue in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. He urged the Centre to discuss with Oman and Qatar officials to resume egg imports from India. "I have requested meetings with the ambassadors of Oman and Qatar in India to discuss the challenges faced by poultry farmers and egg exporters," he told .PV , an egg exporter from Namakkal and general secretary of Livestock and Agri-Farmers Trade Association, said a large worth at least Rs 15 crore.

In a bid to curb fraud, Canada is likely to stop awarding points for job-offers under Express



In the coming year, Canada's point-based immigration system is likely to undergo a significant change as the federal government aims to tighten rules to curb fraudulent practices tied to job offers. Those applying for permanent residency through the Express Entry system will no longer receive additional points for job offers supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), according to a recent statement made by Marc , immigration

minister."We are implementing further measures that will reinforce program integrity and reduce potential LMIA fraud, such as removing additional points that candidates receive . under Express Entry for having a job offer," Miller stated during a recent television appearance. The exact date of implementation has not been announced, nor is there any official statement from Canada's immigration agency.

40 students of HGDC visit industrial unit

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Prayagraj: The Commerce Department of Hamidia Girls' Degree College (HGDC), under the guidance of Principal, Prof Naseha Usmani, organized an industrial visit to the



Parle-G factory in Naini, Prayagraj, for B.Com students. Led by faculty members Dr. Amita Agarwal, Shahnaz Fatima Kazmi and Dr.Mahevash Mashooq, the visit offered 40 students a firsthand experience of biscuit manufacturing, including processes like mixing, baking, quality control, and packaging. Students also learned about the company's eco-friendly practices and marketing strategies through interactive sessions. The visit bridged the gap between academic concepts and real-world industrial operations, providing invaluable insights into production efficiency, supply chain management, and technological integration. The college extends its gratitude to Parle Products Pvt. Ltd. for their hospitality and support.

800 kg plastic seized in every shop knock campaign, fine of Rs 25k

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: In view of Mahakumbh, after the meeting with the traders board yesterday under the leadership of Zonal Officer of Municipal Corporation Prayagraj Zone 2, Shri Shyam Kumar Singh ji. Every shop knock campaign was conducted from Kothaparcha to Loknath Chowk. In



which Neelam Trades of Khoya Mandi was raided and 504 kg of single use plastic was seized and an challan of Rs 25,000 was issued. Along with this, dustbins were placed in front of all the shops during the campaign. During this, SFI Shri Mati Pooja Singh ji and SFI Sunil Prasad ji and colleagues from IEC team Shrishti Waste Management together made this campaign successful. IEC expert Krishna Kumar Maurya said that this campaign is being run in different parts of the city to make Mahakumbh clean, beautiful and plastic free.

Condolence meet held on demise of Kailash Narayan Mishra Bunty Guru

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: At 3 pm, a surprise meeting of the officials and members of Ramanya Mela Committee Prayagraj was held under the chairmanship of Swami Hari Chaitanya Brahmachari Tikar Mafi, in which condolence was expressed with grief over the sudden demise of Shri Kailash Narayan Mishra. Expressing condolences, it was described as an irreparable loss. On this occasion, Swamiji, while discussing his personality, praised the departed soul and wished for eternal peace. Dr. Shambhu Nath Tripathi Anshul, Rajendra Kumar Tiwari Dukan Ji, Ranjana Mishra, Shailendra Mishra, Durgesh Dubey, Satish Kumar Gupta, Sudhir Dwivedi, Tirtha Raj Pandey etc. were prominent among those who paid condolence.

From chronic disease to chronic health: A new strategy for a healthier India

PROFESSOR LUIGI FONTANA, MD, PhD, FRACP
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New Delhi: Abdominal obesity and type 2 diabetes have become critical health challenges worldwide, with India at the epicentre of this crisis. The rapid rise in obesity, particularly in urban areas, is straining the nation's healthcare system and threatening its long-term sustainability. Tackling this issue requires a multifaceted approach that considers individual behaviour alongside broader social, cultural, and healthcare factors. Visceral obesity, or excess fat stored around the abdomen, triggers insulin resistance, chronic inflammation, and hormonal changes that increase the risk of type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, fatty liver disease, dementia and certain cancers. Compensatory hyperinsulinemia, which often precedes type-2 diabetes, accelerates aging by activating the insulin-IGF1-mTOR cellular pathway linked to cellular age-related diseases.

Changing lifestyles are compounding India's obesity crisis. Urbanisation has led to increased sedentary behaviour and a shift toward highly processed diets. According to the ICMR-INDIAB study, between 16.9 and 36.3 percent of India's population suffers from central obesity, with urban areas experiencing higher rates. Alarming, even children and adolescents are becoming more vulnerable to obesity-related complications.

Poor dietary habits are a primary driver. The traditional Indian diet, once rich in vegetables, fruits, and legumes, has been replaced by refined grains and flours, vegetable oils, sugary drinks, and calorie-laden snacks.

Martyr Prabhat Pandey paid humble tribute by lighting candle

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Prayagraj: On 18 December 2024, Uttar Pradesh Congress organized a massive gherao of the assembly in Lucknow in protest against the misgovernance of BJP, during which a tragic incident took place, Shri Prabhat, former secretary of Uttar Pradesh Youth Congress. Kumar Pandey died due to suffocation due to police harassment. Congress party will not let the sacrifice of Late Prabhat Kumar Pandey go in vain. On Thursday, a condolence meeting and candle lighting ceremony was held under



the chairmanship of Metropolitan President Pradeep Mishra Anshuman at the camp office of the Metropolitan Congress in Naini. The second tragic incident took place in Prayagraj

where the metropolitan secretary of the Metropolitan Congress Committee, Prayagraj, Pandit Virendra Sharma died due to cardiac arrest. He passed away due to stay. For the peace of his

soul, a condolence meeting was held at Naini's camp office. Tributes were paid mainly to Pradeep Kumar Mishra. Anshuman, Nayan Kushwaha, Jitendra Tiwari, Vivek Pandey, Rakesh Srivastava, Anjum Naz, Vinay Pandey, Praveen Singh Bhole, Ajendra Gaur, Jamal Akhtar, Shiv Shankar Mishra, Rajendra Srivastava, Munna Jafri, Pradeep Verma, Sarfaraz Khan, Ravi Tiwari, Pranjal Kesarwani, Abhishek Sharma, Shahzad ul Haq, Priyam Mishra, Rishabh Shukla etc.

Harimohan Malviya passes away

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Prayagraj: Prayagraj's well-known President-winning senior litterateur Hari Mohan Malviya, former president of the Hindustani Academy, was ill for several days due to age-related problems. He came to his son Gaurav Malviya based in Lucknow. He was living there for the past few days and was hospitalized due to age related problems as well as pneumonia and chest infection. 91 year old senior Hindi litterateur Hari Mohan Malviya passed away today at 2:18 am due to chest infection. His cremation rites were performed by his son Gaurav Malviya at Kakarha Ghat in Meerapur on the Kalindi coast in Prayagraj. A large number of people associated with the literary field, intellectual class of the city and BJP workers along with his family participated in his funeral procession.

Prayagraj's well-known President's awardee senior litterateur, former president of Hindustani Academy and former president of Vrindavan Research Institute, Shri Hari Mohan Malviya passed away at 2:18 pm today at the age



of 91. Let it be known that his health was deteriorating for several days due to age related problems. He was living for some time at the residence of his son Gaurav Malviya in Lucknow. There he was admitted to the hospital due to age-related complications as well as pneumonia and respiratory infection. Shri Hari Mohan Malviya was a close friend of former National President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and his election in-charge. He was one of the oldest volunteers of Prayagraj who had joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh even before independence. Under the above restrictions, during the Sangh Satyagraha that took place in 1949, he was imprisoned in Naini Central Jail for about 4 months. Shri Hari Mohan Malviya has also been the editor of Bharatiya Janata Party's monthly magazine Prakash Kamal Jyoti for many years. Senior socialist leader and former Union Minister Late Satya Prakash Malviya was his wife's brother.

Condolences for dead Congressmen

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Prayagraj: A condolence meeting of prominent Congressmen of the district and city was held at Civil Lines under the chairmanship of former UP Congress Committee spokesperson Kishore Varshney. It was said in the condolence meeting that the tragic death of Prabhat Pandey of Gorakhpur due to police brutality during the protest in Lucknow on Wednesday has shocked everyone. It was said that this heart-wrenching incident is the result of the repressive policies of BJP. Suppressing

peaceful democratic protests through police brutality is shameful and completely unacceptable in a democracy. There is no end to the cruelty of the BJP government. Resorting to violence to suppress the voice of dissent shows this regime's grave disregard for democratic values. Congressmen expressed condolences to the family of the deceased. He also said that his sacrifice will not go in vain. We will continue to fight for justice for them. There has been a demand for a judicial inquiry into the

incident and action against the culprits.

In another resolution, expressing deep sorrow over the sudden demise of senior Congress leader and former party candidate of Allahabad Lok Sabha, Dadadal Bahadur Singh, he said that he was a fighting, honest and dedicated leader. Expressed deep grief over the demise of former Sonrao candidate Manoj Pasi's father Shivmurti Pasi and City Congress Committee Secretary Pandit Virendra Sharma. Congressmen also observed two min-

utes silence for the peace of the departed souls. State Congress Committee General Secretary Mukund Tiwari, State Working Committee members Fuzail Hashmi, Harikesh Tripathi, Khushnaveda Farooqui, Ajay Srivastava, Omprakash Tripathi, Parvez Siddiqui, Gopal Krishna Dwivedi alias Raja Babu, Arshad Ali, Indresh Mishra, Arun Chaurasia, Vijay Yadav, Rakesh. Patel, Sartaj Mohammed, Kameshwar Sonkar, Keshav Pasi, Kailash Nishad etc. were present.

Gujarat Handicrafts Utsav kicking off today at NCZCC

Prayagraj: People of Prayagraj will have the opportunity to experience the vibrant culture of Gujarat as more than 80 master craftsmen from Gujarat will participate, showcasing diverse crafts like patola weaving, tangaliya weaving, shawl weaving, Kutchi-embroidery, and many others. Visitors will also have an opportunity to witness live demonstrations.

On the Occasion of the Mahakumbh, once again in Prayagraj, the Industrial Extension Cottage (Indext-C), Government of Gujarat, is organizing the "Gujarat Handicrafts Utsav" at Shilp

Haat, NCZCC, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, from 20th to 29th December, 2024. The event aims to showcase and sell handloom and handicraft products crafted by artisans from Gujarat.

Indext-C operates under the Department of Cottage and Rural Industries of Government of Gujarat, with the primary objective of supporting the livelihoods of artisans. Its focus is to provide multiple platforms for marketing of varied crafts of handloom and handicrafts created by artisans from distant villages of Gujarat and pursuing traditional artwork within the

realms of cottage and rural industries.

This event is organized to empower artisans engaged in handicrafts by Government of Gujarat and their commitment to encourage self-reliance among artisans. The objective is to enable them to achieve self-sufficiency, expand their market presence, and ultimately boost their income.

This event will be hosted by Indext-C, and it is scheduled to take place from 20th to 29th December, 2024, at Shilp Haat, NCZCC, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm.

The parking and entry for the event are free.

During the Event, collaboration with the Department of Youth and Cultural Activities, Government of Gujarat, on 20, 21 and 22 December 2024, Shri Kanya Vidyalaya Asthan, Surat, Gujarat - Artwork: Ancient Gujarati Traditional Garba and Modern Garba and Shri Rathwa Adivasi Janjati, Chhotaudpur, Gujarat - Artwork: Rathwa Tribal Dance, "Gujarati Raas-Garba Programs" have been organized. The citizens of Prayagraj along with the children can enjoy the entertainment.

Awardee and languishing crafts artisans will give live demonstrations at the event. Over 70 master craftsmen from Gujarat will showcase and trade traditional arts like shawl weaving, Kutchi embroidery, Ajrakh block print, leather work, Zari-zardosi work, bead work, Chaniya choli, appliqué work, wooden and metalwork, jewellery, accessories, and home décor etc.

The event inaugurated at Shilp Haat, NCZCC by Shri Manoj Kumar Goutam, Hon. Commandant, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. On this occasion officers from NCZCC, Prayagraj and

Index-C, Gujarat were present. The entire event is organised under guidance of Shri Pravin Solanki IAS Chairmen, Indext-C and Commissioner and Secretary, Cottage & Rural Industries, Govt. of Gujarat. Shri N.D. Parmar GAS, Executive Director, Indext-C has encouraged craft admirers of Prayagraj to come forward to cherish the legacy of rich heritage of master craftsmen from Gujarat and buy the handicraft-handloom artefacts directly from them at "Gujarat Handicrafts Utsav" being organised at Shilp Haat, NCZCC, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.



Sadhu or Hindu holy man smokes a 'chillum', a traditional clay pipe ahead of the upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela festival 2025 in Prayagraj,

Kiran Jaiswal flags discrepancies in Kumbh work, demands action from CM

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The contractor was laying interlocking without GSB ballast in the track from Shankar Lal Bhargava Police Booth intersection to Vishwakarma Temple due to which angry BJP councillor Kiran Jaiswal, Rudrasen Jaiswal, Mukesh Lara and others had forced them to stop the work on Wednesday. Due to turning a blind eye to the corruption of PDA officials, the contractor left this place and again started installing interlocking near Ram Janaki temple by pouring debris without ballast due to which the angry people alongwith councilors Kiran Jaiswal, Rudra Sen Jaiswal, Mukesh Lara voiced their ire. On the spot, Kiran Jaiswal called the executive engineer of PDA and asked him to come but he did not listened to her saying he was busy.

Councilor said that incomplete drains should be completed in between, cut stones should be placed nearby and interlockings should be laid by laying ballast in the track with proper arrangements for drainage of water. The drain of the road has also been left incomplete in between and it seems that Interlocking also seemed to have a lot of gap. Councilors said that the road to be built at a cost of Rs. 6 crores was being used by PDA engineers in distributing the budget of Kumbh. It is being said that the work will not be allowed to be done without completing the drain and laying the ballast. Regional Councilor Kiran Jaiswal said that the road built two days ago has settled at many places and the work is not being done as per the tender. Today again she complaint to the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji through his portal and e-mail and action has been demanded against the corrupt officials.



Dominic Tomalin outlines key shifts in int'l learning models

Lucknow: Not too long ago, education was considered to be a preparation for a lifelong career but today it must equip the young

with the knowledge to also deal with a climate-changed world, be conversant with new technologies and be ahead of the learning curve as informed, socially responsible global citizens. As 2024 comes to an end, Mr. Dominic Tomalin, Founding Headmaster, Shrewsbury International School, India holds forth on

the key trends he observed this year in global learning models.

An overview - Emphasis on 'whole-person' education: Even before the pandemic revealed the inadequacies of the chalk-and-talk model, leading international institutions were focusing on immersive, learner-centred education focused on the intellectual, spiritual and ethical growth of students. This year as well, modern pedagogies emphasised the importance

of active, lifelong learning rather than just academic milestones. In the coming year too, there will be an even sharper focus on cultivating a value-based education model that prepares students for not just professional success but also personal fulfillment by nurturing their emotional intelligence.

Technology in a seminal role: The pandemic underscored the importance of remote learning. Today, apart from hybrid learning

modules that are making education more accessible and democratised, we are also witnessing an increasing reliance on technologies like Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) in learning environments. Simulation technologies are being increasingly used to give students an immersive experience of their syllabi. Technology is also changing the way students process and imbibe knowledge. EdTech innovations, gamification, interac-

tive and experiential learning are decisively replacing rote learning in Indian classrooms. Technological tools are also helping educators to tailor syllabi and personalise modules with ease to cater to the needs of different students.

Soft skills and micro-credentials: The global job market today is marked with massive technological shifts and demands diverse, updated skills including in areas like data analysis, cyber security, coding and

user experience (UX) design among others. Education institutions are hence increasingly paying attention to micro-credentials and short courses to prepare students for future forward careers. Skill development in this context however also encompasses soft skills such as effective communication, time management, the ability to collaborate, creativity, problem-solving, leadership, adaptability in diverse milieus and empathy.

Vajpayee's versatile talent played historic role in making India strong and self-relian: Higher Education Minister

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh threw light on the life of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee in detail. He said that Bharat Ratna Late Atal ji made the nation proud during his lifetime. He was the first Foreign Minister who gave a speech in Hindi at the United Nations. The work he did for the development of the nation during his tenure can never be forgotten. The Tourism Minister was addressing as a special guest on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He said that the Modi government of the country and the Yogi government of the state are achieving the heights to which the former Prime Minister had pledged to take India. Continuous work is being done in accordance

with the spirit of One India, Best India. Shri Jaiveer Singh said that every citizen needs to move forward with the resolve of nation first. The Central and State



Governments are working to give India the honor of Vishwa Guru again by the year 2047. Continuous efforts are being made to strengthen the country strategically and economically. He said that we have full confidence that by the cen-

tenary of independence, India will become a developed nation of the world.

State Higher Education Minister Shri Yogendra Upadhyay said in his ad-

done in Lucknow. On this occasion, Shri Upadhyay bowed at the feet of Atal ji and remembered his great personality and ideals. Shri Upadhyay said that the life of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji is a symbol of inspiration and service. He was a skilled politician, sensitive poet, profound thinker and excellent orator. His unique personality played a historic role in making India strong and self-reliant. He said that Atal ji set a standard of good governance, which is inspiring even today. His personality and work will always provide guidance to the coming generations. The Higher Education Minister said that under the leadership of Honorable Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Good Governance Week (December 19-25, 2024) will be inaugurated today at Sangeet Natak Academy, Gomti Nagar. ,

dress that on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Good Governance Week (December 19-25, 2024) will be inaugurated today at Sangeet Natak Academy, Gomti Nagar. ,

During this week, various programs and public welfare schemes related to good governance will be implemented across the state.

The Higher Education Minister said that this effort is a medium to spread the cultural consciousness of Atal ji to the people. Before this, Shri Jaiveer Singh and Shri Yogendra Upadhyay paid emotional tribute to respected Atal Vajpayee ji and also visited the exhibition based on his life. Before this, Honorable Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji presented Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister respected Atal Vajpayee as the chief guest. Inaugurated the birth centenary celebrations of Bihari Vajpayee ji. He paid tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee and visited the exhibition based on different stages of his life.

100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh establishes Guinness World Record

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Prayagraj: The 100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, a grand celebration of Hindustani classical music, etched its name in history today by creating a Guinness World Record for the Largest Hindustani Classical Band with 546 musicians Held at the iconic Gwalior Fort, the event witnessed an awe-inspiring performance by the musicians, who played three of Tansen's iconic ragas: Rag Malhar, Rag Maa ki Todi and Rag Darbari. Organised by the Cultural Department of Madhya Pradesh government, this milestone event also celebrated Gwalior's recent recognition as a UNESCO City of Music, highlighting its global significance in the world of classical music.

The record-setting performance was presided over by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, and attended by dignitaries, music lovers and international guests. The performance left the audience mesmerised. The record-setting performance was meticulously executed by Guinness World Record consultant Nischal Barot, marking his 53rd successful Guinness record execution.

Commenting on the achievement, Nischal Barot said, "This Guinness World Record reflects the enduring spirit of In-

dian classical music and flawless teamwork. The incredible talent of the participating musicians and the Madhya Pradesh government's vision has truly put Gwalior on the world map as a hub for cultural and musical excellence. I am deeply honoured to be part of such a historic event."

The Tansen Samaroh, a festival that has been celebrated for the last 99 years, is a tribute to the legendary musician Tansen, whose contributions to Hindustani classical music remain unparalleled. Today's achievement not only honoured his legacy but also brought global attention to the beauty and depth of Indian classical music. A spokesperson for the Cultural Department hailed the event as a moment of pride for the nation, saying, "This achievement reflects not only the artistic excellence of our musicians but also their unity in celebrating Tansen's timeless legacy. It is a proud day for Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh and the entire nation, and will be remembered in the annals of India's cultural history." The celebration concluded with resounding applause from the participants and music aficionados, leaving an indelible mark on the centenary of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh.



Inauguration of 3-day workshop in Physiotherapy Dept at SHUATS

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: A three-day workshop was started on 19th December in the Physiotherapy Department of Health Sciences Faculty of SHUATS, Naini. The convener of this program and Head of the Department of

problems related to joints of the body. The keynote speaker of the workshop is Dr. JB Mishra, who is a movement scientist and is well known for his important research and contribution to the field of physio-



Physiotherapy, Dr. Sanjay Kumar welcomed all the guests and participants. The chief guest of the program was Prof. Jonathan Lal, Pro Vice Chancellor SHUATS. Prof Lal described physiotherapy as an emerging profession and shared his experiences. This workshop's main aim is to provide information about modern physiotherapy techniques for

therapy for 20 years. Dr. Surabhi Srivastava, Dr. Ashita Tiwari, Dr. Rajneesh Tomar, Dr. Ashish Pandey, Mr. Shaheed Ajaz and Mr. Gladwin Masih helped in the smooth conduct of this program. All the students of the department participated enthusiastically in this workshop. Dean Faculty of Health Sciences Dr. Shekhar extended his best wishes for organizing the workshop.

Special lecture held at Hamidia Girls' Degree College on occasion of World Arabic Language Day

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: A special lecture was organized by the Department of Arabic, Hamidia Girls' Degree College, on the occasion of World Arabic Language Day. The event aimed to highlight the importance of the Arabic language and promote its rich literary heritage. The program was themed "Romanticism in Indo-Arabic Poetry" and featured Professor Masood Anwar Alavi, Principal of Women's College, Aligarh Muslim University, and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, as the keynote speaker.

The event began with an introductory address by Dr. Siddeeqa Jabir, Assistant Professor in the Department of Arabic, who also compered the program. She shed light on the significance of World Arabic Language Day and the objectives behind celebrating it. She praised the cultural and literary value of Arabic, emphasizing its role in fostering a strong civilizational

bond globally.

The program opened with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Ayesha Shamim, an MA Arabic second-year student, followed by a floral welcome for the guests. Professor Naseha Usmani, Principal of the College, extended greetings and felicitations on World Arabic Language Day. In her speech, she highlighted the literary and cultural importance of the Arabic language, emphasizing its integral role in spirituality and civilization.

The keynote speaker, Professor Masood Anwar Alavi, delivered a detailed and eloquent lecture on the themes of romanticism and love in Indo-Arabic poetry. He remarked that love and romanticism have always been pivotal aspects of poetry, influencing poetic traditions worldwide. Using captivating examples and meaningful verses, he explored the various dimensions of romanticism in Arabic and Persian poetry. Pro-

fessor Alavi also underscored the Sufi elements in

and Persian poetry through translated verses, highlight-



Indian Arabic poetry, discussing the works of eminent poets like Syed Ghulam Ali Azad Bilgrami.

In addition, he explained the relationship and influences between Arabic

ing the significant progress made by Arabic poetry in India during the 12th and 13th centuries, particularly in the themes of love and romance.

On this occasion, the

annual college journal, Naqsh-e-Nau, was unveiled by Professor Alavi.

Dr. Nudrat Mahmood, Associate Professor in the Department of Arabic, read a message from the college manager, Mrs. Tazeen Ahsanulla, who could not attend the event due to illness. In her message, Mrs. Tazeen emphasized the importance of learning the Arabic language and its vast scope in the modern world. She highlighted that Arabic not only connects individuals to a rich cultural and spiritual heritage but also opens up diverse academic and professional opportunities. Professor Saleha Rasheed, in her concluding remarks, emphasized the unique aspects of Arabic literature, noting that its romantic verses and musicality have had a profound impact on global culture and civilization. She described Arabic literature as not only fascinating but also an artistic expression that enriches life's aesthetic

dimensions.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from dignitaries, including Dr. Hafiz Mahmood Abdul Rab Mirza, Assistant Professor, Department of Arabic, Allahabad University; Professor Saleha Rasheed, former Head of the Department of Arabic and Persian, University of Allahabad; Hamidia Inter College Principal Hamida Bano; teachers from Islamia Inter College; and a large number of students.

Dr. Nudrat Mahmood delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the participants, dignitaries, and organizers for making the event a success. This program successfully highlighted the significance of World Arabic Language Day and celebrated the cultural and literary magnificence of the Arabic language. It marked an important milestone in promoting not only the Arabic language but also Indo-Arabic poetry.

CAC COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE HELD

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force visited Headquarters Central Air Command (CAC) from 18 to 19 Dec 24 for the CAC Commanders' Conference 2024. He was received by Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command. A ceremonial Guard of Honour was presented to the CAS on arrival.

During the conference, the CAS interacted with the Commanders of the CAC AoR and highlighted the importance of being conversant with one's role in enhancing the operational capability of the Indian Air Force. He apprised them about prevailing security

scenario, significant role of the Indian Air Force and stressed on the need for

ness, focus on maintenance practices and ensure robust physical and cyber security.

innovation and self-reliance. The CAS, in his address, appreciated the role



maintaining a high state of readiness and alertness to take on emerging contingencies.

He emphasised the need for critical analysis to enhance operational prepared-

He urged the Commanders to continue their efforts in ensuring a safe operational flying environment and stressed on the need to augment the combat capability of the IAF through

of CAC in conduct of IAF level exercises, HADR operations and aid to the civil administration and for keeping IAF core values of Mission, Integrity and Excellence uppermost.

Ranjan & Arif led DRT Bar members in according grand bid adieu to RM Kushwaha

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: RM Kushwaha, Presiding Officer, Debt Recovery Tribunal, Allahabad, was honored on Wednesday by the Debt Recovery Tribunal Bar Association in a simple ceremony. His tenure was greatly remembered by the advocates, while Ranjan Srivastava, President of the Debt Recovery Tribunal Bar Association, honored Kushwaha. Speaking from the post, he said that there has been a very good relationship between the Bar and the Bench,

work has also been done to promote Barkaris and junior advocates, which has further judicial implications. I am very good and on behalf of my team, I wish long life and health of Kushwahaji. Speaking at the function as the



Secretary of the Bar, Arif Iqbal Advocate honored Kushwaha and bid farewell. Speaking at the function, Arif Iqbal said that Kushwaha ji is a noble and good person. He never made any discrimination among the advocates and I understand that. Neither did he give any opportunity to any advocate to complain. Today Kushwaha ji will be known and recognized for his honest image. Kushwaha ji will always be missed by us. At the end, he thanked all the visitors who

had come to the function and RM Kushwaha ji was given a warm welcome by garlanding him with flowers and he was also presented with a memento, after which everyone bid farewell with wet eyes.

Hindi workshop organized in CORE

Prayagraj: Hindi workshop organized in the Central Railway Electrification Organisation. Hindi workshop on the subject of e-office was organized in the Central Railway Electrification Organisation, Prayagraj on Wednesday in compliance with the guidelines of the Railway Board to train the officers and employees with the aim of moving the organization towards complete digitalization. Addressing the officers and employees in the workshop, the speaker, Tathira, Field Engineer, Rail-Tail Office, Prayagraj, said that through e-office we can easily do government work in both Hindi and English languages in less time and without paper. During the practice



session, all the doubts of the officers and employees related to e-office were resolved. Workshop Deputy Chief Official Language Officer Kalyan Singh, who was presiding over the meeting, inspired people to work on e-office and emphasized on paper less working style. He also said that if there is a need, a workshop will be organized on this topic again. The workshop was attended by Jagat Narayan, Deputy Chief Material Management, Sandeep Narayan Srivastava, Sr. A large number of employees from all the departments including Law Officer, Mridul Srivastava, Assistant Material Manager were present. The workshop was conducted and the vote of thanks was given by Office Superintendent Brijendra Singh.

HM's comment on Baba Saheb, an insult: Ashfaq

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Indian National Congress member Ashfaq Ahmed said that the use of insulting words by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament against the Constitution maker Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar reflects the anti-constitution mentality of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The Home Minister's above comment insulted the Constitution of India while the Constitution is the basis of running the country. He said that this statement of the Home Minister exposes the Manuwadi socially divisive thinking of BJP and RSS. Who use Ambedkar's legacy for politics. Ambedkar ji is revered by the country; Amit Shah should apologize to the people of the country and resign on moral grounds.



Editorial

Brief History of Recent Attacks on Hindu Festivals

A day after Dussehra, a Durga immersion procession was winding through the narrow, busy streets of Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich city. Music played loudly from the DJ system, a common feature of many religious and social processions today. Reports and eyewitnesses say that this irked local Muslims gathered near a mosque enough to attack the rally. Stones rained down on the Hindu procession from the mosque. The Durga idol got damaged. This enraged the Hindus. One of them, Ram Gopal Mishra, aged just 22, uprooted a green flag flying at Abdul Hamid's home and replaced it with a saffron one. What followed was one of the most macabre Islamist murders of recent times in India. Mishra's body was found with seven bullets in it, said the post-mortem report. He had injuries on his face, neck and arm. His body had 40 entry and two exit wounds. The report mentions 29 entry wounds on his upper chest extending to the neck, two entry wounds on the right upper arm, three entry wounds on the left upper arm and six entry wounds on the face. There were two exit wounds in the back of the neck. The brutality in Bahraich has rocked into dawning shock the sleeping psyche of a nation that has largely failed to notice a pattern etched bright red and clear in the past few months. Hindu festivals have been under continuous and relentless attack by Islamists. The instances are too frequent and too templatised to be dismissed as sporadic or unrelated. There have been at least 10 reported attacks on Ram Mandir Shobha Yatras on 22 January, the day of the Ayodhya temple's pran pratistha. Hindu rallies were attacked with stones and weapons in locations ranging from Sambhaji Nagar in Maharashtra to Vadodara in Gujarat, Kushinagar and Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh to Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur in Bihar, and Shivamogga and Belagavi in Karnataka to Giridih in Jharkhand. In Kolkata, unsurprisingly, Marxist students took the baton from the jihadis. The CPI(M)'s student wing, SFI, stopped a screening of the temple ceremony organised by Hindu youth at Jadavpur University. There have been 27 recorded attacks against Hindus on Ram Navami between 2016 and 2024. This year, rallies were attacked in Medinipur and Murshidabad in West Bengal, Bengaluru in Karnataka, and Bokaro in Jharkhand. Hanuman Jayanti celebrations witnessed 27 recorded attacks between 2015 and 2023 across Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. Twelve attacks were recorded on Kanwar Yatra in 2018, 2022, and 2024, most of which occurred in Uttar Pradesh, with one each in Rajasthan and Jharkhand. Just this year, Islamists raided Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations 15 times, mainly in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, UP, and Madhya Pradesh, with one incident in Chittagong, Bangladesh in which hot water and stones were hurled from a mosque at Hindu revellers. Bangladesh, of course, led the attacks on Durga Puja, with 30 recorded incidents from Dhaka to Barishal, Cumilla to Khulna. Pandals were set on fire, idols were smashed, and Hindus were killed or maimed. The Indian side of Bengal saw at least two such attacks, giving us a glimpse of what lies in store if the demographic takeover continues unabated. There were nine incidents of violence over Durga Puja celebrations in the rest of India, spanning Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, and Jharkhand. There have been 14 attacks on Deepavali between 2005 and 2023, ranging from Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat, Kashmir to Kerala.

Holi has experienced the highest number of attacks, with 35 incidents recorded between 2014 and 2024. Surprisingly, Telangana saw a number of violent incidents during the festival of colours.



Why America Should Shun Trudeau's 'Juvenile Diplomacy' and Embrace India Tighter

In 1899, eminent novelist and writer Rudyard Kipling made an appeal to the United States, calling it to shoulder its imperial responsibilities: About 125 years later, one doesn't expect a country to believe in the phenomenon of the "White Man's Burden". But, if Niall Ferguson is to be believed, as he writes in *Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World*, the United States has "taken up some kind of global burden, just as Kipling urged". As one ponders over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 'juvenile diplomacy' with India, tearing apart the relations between two demo-

cratic countries, it becomes obvious that the United States has indeed taken up the task of the "White Man's Burden", as Kipling desired. One can still understand Trudeau's domestic vote-bank compulsions—as per a latest survey, the Prime Minister's wipe-out in the 2025 elections seems imminent as only 15 per cent Canadians believe that the current Liberal dispensation deserves to be re-elected—but for the United States to come out in support of Canada on this issue defies logic.

One, the person whose assassination is at the centre of

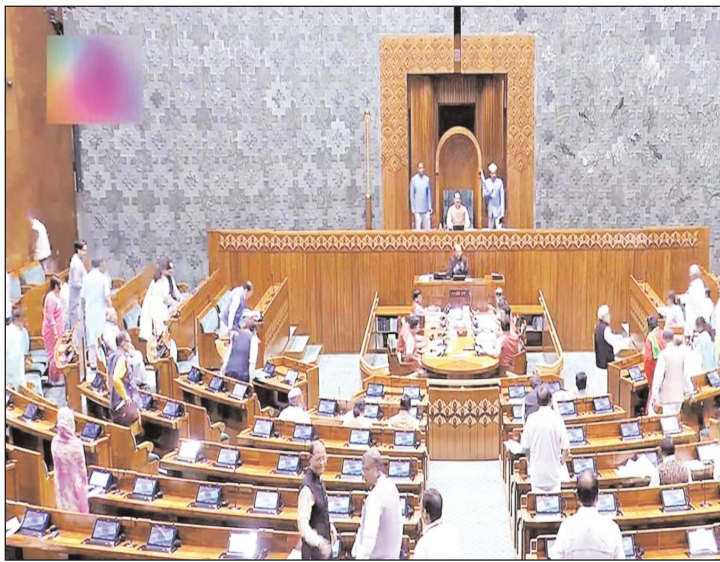
the geopolitical storm is a dreaded Khalistani terrorist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who in the first place entered Canada illegally and got its citizenship in a dubious manner. The hurried transformation of a terrorist into a plumber-cum-Sikh activist suggests Nijjar was a deep state asset, which further got vindicated when reports appeared about the Canadian agencies being in touch with his family soon after his death. There has been a flourishing Khalistani ecosystem in Canada since the 1980s, when incidentally Justin Trudeau's own father, Pierre, first gave it a

booster shot. In fact, the Indira Gandhi government had sought the extradition of a dreaded Khalistani terrorist, Talwinder Singh Parmar, who had warned three years before the 1985 Kanishka bombing.

that "Indian planes will fall from the sky", but the Canadian government refused to entertain the Indian demand, saying the extradition protocols between Commonwealth countries would not apply with India as it had not been deferential enough to the British Queen, the Head of the Commonwealth!

The Waqf is in dire need of reform

The Waqf is in dire need of reform. It needs both a conceptual update and a structural overhaul—a far more fundamental reform than what is proposed in the Wakf Amendment Bill 2024. The Bill has been referred to the Joint Committee of Parliament, which invited and received a voluminous number of suggestions from interested citizens. In this article, after an overview and necessary contextualisation, I am going to propose some reforms which may enable the Waqf to reinvent itself as a truly charitable institution. If it fails to do so, it will inevitably have to wind up. The Muslim leadership—the traditional elite who make the narratives for ordinary Muslims—have a litany of objections to the proposed amendments. They don't, however, have any substantive suggestions to improve the functioning of Waqf so that it might fulfil its declared objective of charity or public welfare. They would rather that the amendments of 2013 remain untouched. After all, the UPA government enacted this law to give them inordinate powers to run the Waqf as they wished, allowing them to act as judge, jury, and executioner in their own case. What seems to have rattled them most is the proposed inclusion of two non-Muslim members in the reconstituted Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards. The stock language of their protest is as communal as clichéd. To question the inclusion of non-Muslims is graceless, to say the least. More so, because under Islamic law, non-Muslims can make a Waqf, and many Hindus have



indeed done so. Moreover, to oppose this on the grounds that even Muslims are not included in temple bodies is to draw a misplaced parallel. A temple is a place of worship which may have some property attached to it, while a Waqf is a property endowment that may or may not include a mosque. Furthermore, in most cases, Hindu religious and charitable endowments are under the strict control of state governments, and their money is spent on public welfare. Most importantly, the trusts belonging to temples and mutts run high-quality schools, colleges, universities, speciality hospitals, and other public charities. What does the Waqf run, and, so, where is the comparison? Their more serious objection, however, lies in the proposal to entrust the Collector with the power to decide if a particular property is Waqf or not. At present, this power vests in the Waqf Board. Therefore, the Muslim elite sees the proposed amendment as an overweening interference in a domain they consider

exclusively theirs, and therefore, beyond the jurisdiction of the Indian State. The Muslim elite's objection to reforming Waqf law is the same as their stance on reform in Muslim personal law. Even as they admit to the need for reform, they don't agree to it as they don't regard the Indian State as their own. In their view, only an Islamic state is eligible to legislate on matters governed by the Sharia. Thus, the Indian State is barred from legislating for its Muslim citizens. And so, we are faced with a bizarre situation where most Muslim countries—formally orthodox and even theocratic—have been legislating progressive laws to address the gender injustice inherent in the Sharia, but Indian ulema and "modern" Muslim intellectuals continue to stall reforms on the plea that they would breach their Identity Fortress.

Likewise for the Waqf. Even though most Muslim countries keep their Waqf under strict governmental control, and many have altogether abolished it

(so much for its 'irrevocability'!), the Muslim elite of India won't let the State have a say in the matter. That's unless it is for making the Waqf a state within the State, and giving them untrammelled and virtually non-justiciable powers to lay claim to a property. The Muslim narrative-makers belong to the same class that built the Waqf estates, and have kept them under their control. Being the descendants of Muslim rulers, they consider the Waqf a legacy of conquest. Surely, they didn't bring these vast swathes of land from Arabia, Iran, or Central Asia. This elite, the Ashraaf, is instinctively hostile to any reform that could erode their power legacy—whether it's the Juristic Enclave of Personal Law; the Estate of Waqf; their 'Vatican' at Aligarh, or the Vote Bank. The Waqf is a concern of the elite, not of the ordinary Muslim.

Hardly any life has ever been touched by this much-vaunted Empire of Charity. A case in point: in the Shah Bano case, the Supreme Court granted maintenance to a divorced Muslim woman. But the Muslim leadership saw this as an attack on Islam, since according to them, Sharia has no provision for alimony. Therefore, the Muslims couldn't take the highest court's judgement lying down. They bullied the government into submission. And such was the awe of their vote bank that the government readily capitulated, passing a law to subvert the said judgement. It had the most ironic title, the Muslim Women (Protection of Divorce) Act 1986. However,

a valid question still needed to be answered — what about the divorced woman falling into destitution? Maulana Syed Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, then president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, gave a solemn undertaking that maintenance for divorced destitute women would be paid by Waqf Board. So far, in nearly four decades, not a single woman has been paid the promised pittance. So much for charity! The near total absence of any visible charity by Waqf should bring us to its real character and organisational structure. In my previous article on the subject, it was irrefutably established that Waqf is neither religious nor charitable. It has no scriptural basis in the Quran or the Sunnat, and has actually been used as a juristic subterfuge to circumvent Islamic laws of inheritance and property distribution. It was also demonstrated that the legal fiction of vesting ownership in Allah and making Waqf irrevocable, inalienable, and unalterable were clever contrivances for the consolidation of property, formation of estates, and building of political power. There are different types of Waqf, yet it's strange that there is no systematic classification of them. As for the existing technical distinction between the Waqf-e Aulad (family Waqf) and Waqf-e Aam (public Waqf), there is hardly any awareness even among the highly educated Muslims, let alone ordinary Muslims and Hindus. The reform of the Waqf has to begin with its rational classification. Since it's about property and proceeds.

The Third Eye: Intelligence is a prime security weapon

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime, aided by a brilliant National Security Advisor, has boosted the confidence of national Intelligence agencies about doing their job of protecting the security and integrity of India on a proactive, apolitical and professional note. Intelligence Bureau (IB), the 'mother' organisation that fostered the family of Intelligence entities including SSB, ARC and R&AW, traced its origins in the Central CID established by the British some 135 years ago and the fact that it saw an essential continuity of its functioning after Independence, is an affirmation of its belief that by and large its goal had been to safeguard the country against the doings of its perceived 'adversaries' at any point of time. IB's charter multiplied a great deal with the emergence of India as a sovereign nation and as the largest democracy that happened also to inherit the destabilising legacy of a religion-based Partition accompanying its freedom. The Bureau derives

strength from three basic principles of its working. First is the freedom it exercises in the matter of covering an activity or an entity that - in its 'own judgement' - amounted to a threat to national security. Secondly, the government at the Centre can task the IB which is only appropriate but it never influences its findings - IB may be the only reliable agency to tell the government what is adverse in the public environment disproving the notions that Intelligence only reported what the political masters 'liked to hear'. Thirdly, the IB's communications with the government are not only confidential but are marked as 'unofficial' notes meant only for the benefit of the recipients and not available for scrutiny by an outsider. Working of India's Intelligence agencies is in line with the principle that they are not police organisations. The IB is led by IPS officers who join the organisation giving up on the 'glamour' of uniform and accepting 'anonymity' by choice in lieu of the rare satisfaction.

The meaning of the Sangh chief's message of Hindu-Muslim unity?

In India, people of more castes and religions live together than in any other country in the world. If we look at history, we will find that people from all over the world came to India and most of them stayed here. But today, Manipur has been burning for many months due to the hatred and bitterness that is prevalent among people of different religions in India. The leaders of the ruling party, especially the Prime Minister, are silent about this violence. Meanwhile, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (Sangh) chief Mohan Bhagwat, expressing concern over the Manipur violence, has taught the country to live with unity and love. But the Sangh chief's statement about living in unity in the country is being interpreted in different ways. The reason for this is that apart from the Manipur violence, Mohan Bhagwat has said many other things which need to be considered at this time. In fact, the Sangh chief gave a big message of unity in the Nagpur parade on the day of Vijayadashami regarding the increasing tension between Hindus and Muslims. The way the Sangh chief said in a questioning tone, how did people living in the same country become so alien? Political people, intellectuals, journalists and political analysts are trying to find out the meaning of everything Mohan Bhagwat says from this question. No one is able to understand its true meaning? The simple meaning of this question of Bhagwat is that hatred towards the people of one's own country is not a good thing. But the question is arising for whom did Mohan Bhagwat say this? But before this it is important to understand that the Sangh chief also said that there should not be indiscretion and imbalance. There is a need to take

our mind seriously and bind the country in the threads of unity. Because I believe that by expressing concern over the violence in Manipur, the Sangh chief has also hinted at Prime Minister Narendra Modi not speaking on Manipur. However, Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat also said that we have to be cautious in elections and we have to accept everyone as our own and keep everyone's influence cool. This is the call of belonging, whoever listens to it will be benefited. It will not be known what will happen to those who still do not listen. Many analysts have their own views on this statement of the Sangh chief, some are saying that he is threatening the government, some are saying that he is warning the opposition, some are saying that he is giving advice to Muslims. So some are saying that they are giving advice to Hindus. At the same time, some are saying that Mohan Bhagwat is calling extremist people, no matter which religion they belong to. At the same time, some people are also saying that this statement of Mohan Bhagwat is just politics, which is for vote bank politics under the guise of religion. Its Indian meaning is also that Mohan Bhagwat has been accused of supporting the Janata Party. Is. However, I believe that Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has been talking about unity in the country for the last several years. He is the first Sangh chief who went to mosques as well as madrassas and gave a big message of unity and brotherhood to the country. Before this, no Sangh chief had shown the courage to take such an initiative.

In such a situation, instead of doing politics on the statement of the Sangh chief, do not come and vote for his statement.

AAP promise: Free medical treatment for 60+ in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Eyeing the upcoming assembly polls, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal promised to provide free treatment to all Delhiites aged above 60 years at both state-run and private health facilities if re-elected in polls due in Feb next year.

Announcing the proposed 'Sanjeevani' scheme, Kejriwal said AAP volunteers would start visiting every household within two-three weeks to complete the "registration" and provide every eligible person with a card. "Keep the card issued by AAP volunteers safe. The scheme will be approved as soon as AAP forms the govt after the elections," Kejriwal said. Sources said the scheme was announced as a counter to the Centre's Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana, which was expanded in Sept this year to cover all senior citizens aged 70 and above. **Valid voter I-card of Delhi sole criterion:**



Troubles every elderly person as they age is the rising cost of treatment

She added that the health department was directed to devise a mechanism to incorporate the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat scheme without withdrawing the benefits of the Delhi govt's free health-care facilities for the

people. Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal said the biggest issue that troubles every elderly person as they age is the rising cost of treatment. He added that there would be no other criteria to be eligible for the Sanjeevani scheme.

Kejriwal

The AB PM-JAY provides free health insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh, regardless of the beneficiary's income. Delhi and West Bengal are the only two states in the country that have not implemented the AB PM-JAY scheme so far.

After the Delhi HC issued a notice to the Delhi govt regarding implementation of the Ayushman Bharat scheme last month, CM Atishi said that her govt was ready to implement it, but there were contradictions between the facilities offered by the GNCTD.

Dehat panchayats seek quick action on masterplan

New Delhi: Delhi Dehat Vikas Manch (DDVM), a federation of village panchayats, held a press conference on Wednesday in Central Delhi to address concerns about the Centre's approach towards implementing the Draft Master Plan of Delhi 2041.

Representatives from villages in the north-west and west districts urged the government to prioritise the notification of the Green Development Area (GDA) and land pooling policy (LPP) to provide relief to villagers and prevent unauthorised developments.

"We are holding



demonstrations at Kanjhawala and Daulatpur demanding swift implementation of LPP and GDA policies, which were stalled since their inception in 2007. At various platforms, we also shared a petition for approving amendments to the Delhi Development Act, 1957, to address broader issues related to urban development, land rights, and beneficiary schemes for Delhi's vil-

lages," said Bhupender Bazad, president, Delhi Master Plan Committee, DDVM. With no results achieved so far, the body has now announced a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar on December 22. "Ideally, the Draft Master Plan should have been implemented three years ago but DDA submitted the draft to the central government in April 2023, which remains unapproved.

Umar gets 7-day bail for family wedding

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Wednesday granted seven days interim bail to former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid, who is an accused in the conspiracy case related to the Feb 2020 riots in northeast Delhi. Khalid had applied for bail to attend a wedding in the family. He has been in jail since Sept



2020. The court of additional sessions judge Sameer Bajpai, while granting bail, restrained

Khalid from using social media, meeting anyone except his friends, relatives and family members, and visiting any place not mentioned in his petition. "The applicant (Khalid) wishes to attend the marriage of his first cousin and meet his relatives and the court deems it just and appropriate to grant him the desired relief.

Major shuffle in Delhi's anti-terror unit on the cards

New Delhi: Special Cell Delhi Police's anti-terror unit, is set for a major reshuffle, with four positions at the deputy commissioner-rank opening up this week. A hunt has also begun for the next officer on special duty (OSD) to the Delhi Police commissioner, with the existing officer in charge being posted out of Delhi and being relieved on Wednesday. In the special cell, the three DCPs — Pratiksha Godara, Pranav Tayal and Manoj C — are set to be promoted this week and will become additional commissioners, sources said. Three officers in this rank are not required in a small unit like the cell, a source said, adding that this will prompt some exits. Existing additional CP Pramod Kushwaha and two others may be moved out of the unit, according to sources.



The fourth DCP is Manishi Chandra, who has been posted to Mizoram upon his induction to IPS last week. However, uncertainty hangs over his fate as the police headquarters might request govt for keeping his order in abeyance till the elections. In case he is relieved, the police chief may select to-be additional CP Godara or another officer named Anyesh Roy as his suc-

cessor, an officer said, terming the two as frontrunners. The selection of the next DCP/s of the special cell would be crucial given the dismal performance of the unit this year. Not only did they fare poorly in cracking down on killings and firing incidents by organised crime gangs, there wasn't a single anti-terror operation of their own in 2024.

Man kills 23-yr-old wife over suspected affair

New Delhi: A 23-year-old woman was strangled to death allegedly by her husband in outer Delhi's Bawana. Police arrested the husband, who suspected her of having an extramarital relationship. The incident came to light on Tuesday when police received a call from the woman's 18-year-old brother who told them that his brother-in-law killed his sister. A team from the local police station reached the spot near D-block JJ Colony, Bawana and found the body of Sabina Parveen with visible signs of assault, particularly around her mouth.

HC seeks virtual presence of two accused in Balyan case

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the virtual presence from jail of two accused persons in a case under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) involving AAP's Uttam Nagar MLA Naresh Balyan.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri directed the jail superintendent to ensure the presence of Rohit and Sachin Chikara through video-conferencing on Dec 19, as it wants to hear their stand on the plea filed by police seeking the clubbing of cases.



HC was dealing with Delhi Police's plea to transfer the case of all the accused persons from a trial court in Dwarka to the special MP/MLA court in Rouse Avenue. "The jail superintendent shall ensure their presence through VC tomorrow (Thursday)," HC ordered. According to

police, while applications seeking remand for Balyan were being heard by a special MP/MLA court in Rouse Avenue, similar applications relating to the others were being listed before the MCOCA court in Dwarka, creating logistical challenges. It was submitted the special court dealing with MPs/MLAs should deal with all the accused. Justice Ohri said though a notice on the transfer plea was stated to be served on the two accused, no one appeared on their behalf.

NDMC to introduce intelligent parking system, rates may go up

New Delhi:

On Wednesday, New Delhi Municipal Council agreed to engage an expert agency for implementing an intelligent integrated parking system. This decision comes approximately four months after the contracts of the previous concessionaires of the 152 parking facilities lapsed. NDMC has been experiencing significant operational challenges, with no concessionaire for 99 for four months. In fact, 39 parking lots have remained unmanaged for five years. To maintain operations, the civic body even deployed staff from the sanitation, water supply, electricity and some other departments. These temporary arrangements, however, resulted in financial losses and operational inefficiencies because the personnel lacked the expertise in park-



ing management and vehicle placement, as TOI reported in Aug. "We have approved inviting an agency to design, develop, supply, implement, operate and maintain the intelligent integrated parking system," said NDMC vice-chairman Kuljeet Chahal. "The proposal will cover all 152 parking sites for a term of 10 years, including three months needed for logistics. The proposal will also see a revision in the parking charges. Last week, after presenting the budget for 2025-26, chairman

IIT-D launches PhD prog in Abu Dhabi

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has launched a PhD programme in energy and sustainability at its new international campus in Abu Dhabi. The last date for online applications is Dec 31, 2024, after which interviews will be conducted. Selected candidates are expected to join by the last week of January 2025. "The programme in energy and sustainability.

Keshav Chandra said.

PWD to take up drainage repair work in S Delhi

New Delhi: Public Works Department (PWD) plans to undertake drainage repair work on five main roads in south Delhi — CV Raman Marg, Sukhdev Vihar Road, Aurobindo Marg, Ashram underpass and MP Road. According to officials, although preparations have started, the work is likely to commence after GRAP restrictions are lifted. "The work will involve remodeling and, wherever possible, widening the roadside drain. New, wider pipes will be fitted, as the old ones have faced deterioration over time. The interconnect points of the drain with larger drains will also be examined, and if required, changes will be made," said a PWD official. This year, roads across the city were in poor condition because of faulty drains, as water accu-



"The stretches are notorious for getting waterlogged every monsoon, causing inconvenience to commuters. During the rainy season, waste from the temporary drains built nearby clogs"

mulation damaged the upper layer. PWD is trying to address these issues by carrying out road resurfacing work. The stretches are notorious for getting waterlogged every monsoon, causing inconvenience to commuters. During the rainy season, waste from the temporary drains built nearby clogs the drains along

these roads, forcing the department to deploy temporary pumps. The Ashram underpass, which opened to the public two years ago in 2022, will also have its drainage system repaired. Several underpasses in the city are prone to waterlogging. During the monsoon, PWD had come out with a standard

Ammonia up in river, hits water supply



New Delhi: For the past two days, several north Delhi areas are receiving dirty water due to an increase in ammonia level in the Yamuna, which has affected the functioning of the Wazirabad water treatment plant. Some areas received either less or no supply, local residents claimed. This is the second time this month that the ammonia level has increased in the Yamuna and affected the water supply. Earlier, on Dec 2, the problem occurred, but the level reduced within a day. "Very little water is coming. Our water supply time was 6 am to 8 am, but now, even that is not fixed. We have been told that there is less production in the Wazirabad plant. Many residents complained on the helpline number 1916 but in vain. Our area is at the tail end of the supply line. Whenever anything happens in the supply chain, we suffer the most. If this is the condition in winter, one can only imagine the situation in summer," said Sanjay Gupta, president of Model Town Resident Welfare Association. According to sources, 16% of the supply from the Wazirabad plant's total capacity of 131 million gallons per day has been reduced, as the ammonia level is around 2.5 ppm in the river.

13 killed after Navy speedboat rams Mumbai ferry with over 100 onboard,

NEW DELHI: 13 people died, 101 others were rescued after a ferry capsized while en route to Elephanta Island from Mumbai's iconic Gateway of India, Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis informed on .

The Neelkamal ferry, was on way to Elephanta Islands, a popular tourist destination near Mumbai, when the speed boat circled it before crashing into it.

The incident happened when a naval speed-craft undergoing trials in the sea went out of control and rammed into the ferry. The naval boat's engine had



According to the reports, the ferry had over 110 people on board including 20 children while the naval boat had six including two Navy personnel and four staff members.

been recently changed and the new engine was being tested.

The engine got stuck in full throttle and the boat went out of control and rammed

into the ferry Neelkamal. The naval boat had 6 persons on board including 2 naval personnel and 4 members from the firm which had supplied the engine.

Tamil Nadu netas attack Shah over Bhim; Uddhav slams 'arrogance'

CHENNAI/MUMBAI:

Tamil Nadu politicians, including CM MK Stalin, his deputy Udhayanidhi Stalin, AIADMK spokesperson D Jayakumar, Congress chief

K Selvaperunthagai, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, and actor Vijay of TVK, on Tuesday criticised Union home minister Amit Shah for his remarks on BR Ambedkar in Parliament.

"Only those who commit sins should worry about virtue (pun-niya). Those who care



about the country, the people, and the Constitution will only mention the name of revolutionary Ambedkar; it must be mentioned," Stalin wrote on X.

Thirumavalavan said: "How can the descendants of Savarkar bear the fact that the entire

country is hailing Ambedkar?"

Vijay said, "Some people may be allergic to the name 'Ambedkar'. He was an incomparable political and intellectual figure."

In Mumbai, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said Shah's remarks showed BJP's "arrogance" and demanded that PM Modi take action against him. Thackeray said Shah would not have dared to make remarks about the chief architect of the Constitution without the backing of BJP .

With India in focus at Louvre Abu Dhabi, desis among its top visitors

ABU DHABI: Indian art has taken centre stage at Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Arab world's largest art museum, with highlights such as a Chola-era bronze idol of Jina and Sayed Haider Raza's Bindu. Since its opening in 2017, the museum has showcased how trade and artistic exchanges connected India with the rest of the world.

Ann Sasidharan, operations team leader at the museum, said India's influence spans centuries. "During the 1500s, trade routes through India shaped global navigation and art. Even under East



India Company rule, Indian artists preserved their originality," she told TOI. She said the collection illustrates India's role in the diffusion of religious art, particularly between 5th and 15th centuries. Sculptures like Buddha heads from Kushan Empire (100-300 CE), which included parts of present-day Pakistan, and copper tribhanga.

Rebuffed, Eknath Shinde skips BJP neta's filing of nomination for council chair's post



NAGPUR: BJP MLC Ram Shinde filed his nomination for the election to the chairperson of the legislative council on Wednesday. While chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and deputy CM Ajit Pawar accompanied Ram Shinde, deputy CM Eknath Shinde didn't join them.

Ram's nomination is being seen as a setback for Shiv Sena led by Eknath, which was seeking the council chairperson's post. Sena's Neelam Gorhe, who is currently deputy chairperson, was said to be in the race. Ram said, "Congress also said that it will not be filing any nominations, so this election will be unopposed. That has sent a good message. I

thank CM Fadnavis and the deputy CMs. Some discussion could have happened at the senior level between BJP and Sena." Elections to the prestigious post were not held as Shiv Sena and NCP were split in 2022 and 2023 respectively. BJP has a majority in the council, but Sena was keen to get the post since BJP has the speaker's post in the legislative assembly. Now BJP will have presiding officers in both Houses of the legislature.

Party sources said BJP has picked Ram for the post as he is from the Dhargar community.

He was MLA from Karjat-Jamkhed but was defeated by NCP's (SP) Rohit Pawar in 2019 and in 2024.

Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra to resume soon? India-China reach 6 big decisions

NEW DELHI: In a major boost to bilateral relations, India and China on Wednesday agreed to strengthen cross-border exchanges and take concrete steps towards resumption of the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra.

The Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra has been suspended since 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Chinese side's non-renewal of arrangements. The Centre has been diplomatically engaging with the Chinese authorities to resume the yatra.

The Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra is a challenging pilgrimage that winds its way through the majestic Tibetan plateau. Considered one of the most sacred journeys in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, it centres around Mount Kailash, believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva. Mount Kailash is located in Tibet Autonomous Region, China. To visit this peak,



Positively evaluate the solution

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi agreed to "positively evaluate the solution reached between the two countries on border issues" and reiterated that the "implementation work should con-

tinue". "The SRs met in accordance with the decision taken during the recent meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping in Kazan for them to meet at an early date to oversee the management of peace & tranquillity.

travellers can choose from multiple routes: Kathmandu in Nepal, Simikot in Nepal and Lhasa in Tibet. On the India side, there are two routes to visit the peak: a route through Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and another route through Nathu La Pass (Sikkim). Nathula border trade

During the 23rd meeting of the Special Representatives (SRs) on the China-India boundary question, it was decided that both sides would also promote cross-border river cooperation and Nathula border trade. In the meeting, which took place after five years.

2 jawans killed in tank explosion during drill

JAIPUR/JAISALMER:

Two army jawans were killed, and one critically injured when an explosive charger attached to a tank detonated during a field firing exercise at Mahajan Field Firing Range in Bikaner on Wednesday. The incident occurred at the range's North Camp during standard military training operations. An explosive charger is a device that loads and detonates explosives.

The mishap raised serious concerns about safety protocols being followed, as it was the second such incident in past three days. On Dec 15, a 31-year-old havildar lost his life at the same firing range during a similar exercise. Lunkaransar circle officer Narendra Kumar identified the soldiers killed on Wednesday as Havildar Ashutosh Mishra and Havildar Jitendra Kumar.



Support community forest initiatives, Supreme Court urges Centre

NEW DELHI: The environment protection model implemented through community efforts the people of a small village, Piplantri, in Rajasthan's Rajsamand, was projected by the SC on Wednesday as the ideal way to protect environment, promote gender equality, and foster economic growth. While asking environment ministry, as well as state govts, to encourage implementation of similar models across country by rendering financial help, a bench of Justices B R Gavai, S V N Bhatti and Sandeep Mehta narrated the inspiring story of the small village that provided green cover in Rajasthan, known for its unforgiving conditions, especially in the Thar desert. Writing the judgment, Justice Mehta, who hails from Rajasthan, said when Piplantri sarpanch Shyam Sundar Paliwal's daughter died tragically, he introduced the practice of planting 111 trees for the birth of every girl child in the village, a practice that got replicated in surrounding areas. The result - over 40 lakh trees were plants, which helped raise the water table, cooled the climate by 3-4 degrees, improved local biodiversity, and protected land from erosion and desertification. Planting of indigenous trees provided economic benefit to people and significantly increased female to male ratio as villagers celebrated the birth of every girl child, which was resented earlier. Directing Rajasthan govt to identify 25,000 'sacred groves' in the state and take steps for their protection, SC said, "These groves are rapidly vanishing due to increasing demand for timber, urban expansion, deforestation for agriculture, and the pressure to extract natural resources."

SC suggested to Centre and states to "support these (Piplantri) models (of community forests) by providing financial assistance, creating enabling policies, and offering technical guidance to communities".

Sambhal MP in HC for shield against arrest

MEERUT: Samajwadi MP Ziara Rahman Barq has moved Allahabad HC seeking protection from arrest after being named in a case related to violence in Sambhal on Nov 24 during a court-ordered ASI survey of Jama Masjid, which left five people dead and 20 cops injured. Barq filed a petition to quash the FIR, which alleges his involvement in the violence. His lawyer said, "At the time of incident, the MP was in Bengaluru. Despite this, an FIR was filed linking him to the violence, which is baseless." The violence erupted when surveyors arrived to conduct a second inspection of the mosque. Barq was subsequently accused of making inflammatory statements against the temple claims. Barq denied the accusations and said, "Charges are politically engineered by the BJP govt in Uttar Pradesh to target me unfairly."

HC: Find new school for 3 kids expelled over non-veg food

PRAYAGRAJ:

Allahabad high court has come to the rescue of three siblings from a Muslim family, who were expelled from a private school in Amroha district for allegedly bringing non-vegetarian food in their tiffin box, reports Rajesh Kumar Pandey. Hearing a writ petition filed by a woman and her three



children, a division bench of Justice Siddhartha and Justice Subhash Chandra Sharma, in the order dated Dec 17, directed Amroha district magistrate to ensure the

three children are admitted to another CBSE-affiliated school within two weeks, and file an affidavit. Failure to comply will require the DM to be present before the court on the next date of hearing on Jan 6, the court directed. According to the petition, the three siblings were expelled by the principal.

EAM, Israel min hold talks amid Gaza truce bid

NEW DELHI: Amid renewed efforts for a ceasefire in Gaza, foreign minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday spoke to his Israeli counterpart Gideon Sa'ar who briefed him about the latest development in West Asia. They also discussed the possibility of an in-person meeting soon.

"Appreciate his briefing on the ongoing developments in the region. Also discussed our bilateral relations and efforts to strengthen them. Look forward to meeting in person," said Jaishankar on X. Reports suggested there might be a breakthrough soon in talks



for the release of hostages, accompanied by a temporary ceasefire.

"India is a giant country, one of the most important in the world, and friendly to Israel. We agreed to meet soon and work together to strengthen our bilateral relations," Sa'ar said on X.

6 months later, smooth ride for NDA, INDIA bloc in disarray

NEW DELHI: Six months is a long time in politics, and it is evident during the current session of Parliament. While the INDIA bloc was mounting pressure on the BJP-headed govt in June after the saffron party bagged 240 seats and fell short of securing majority on its own, during the winter session it is seen to be in disarray over multiple issues, from EVMs to Adani and V D Savarkar. In contrast, the coordination among NDA partners has appeared rather smooth, partic-



After its loss in the two elections and underwhelming show in J&K and Jharkhand, allies are seeking to reframe the power equations

ularly during the debate on Constitution with each ally, whether it is BJP or Shiv Sena (Shinde), acting in sync.

Even on the one nation one election (ONOE) bills, BJP man-

aged to get TDP to back the move, with Chandrababu Naidu arguing that it will not impact Andhra Pradesh, which has been having simultaneous LS and assembly elections since

2004. TDP and JD(U), both with Muslim constituents, have resisted taking the bait from "secular" parties to oppose the legislation.

The strong chemistry may have to do with the improved arithmetic in states after BJP's emphatic victories in Haryana and Maharashtra. The poll setbacks seem to have severely hit Congress, which was celebrating its 99 seats in Lok Sabha, the best show in a decade, undermining its credentials to head an anti-BJP front.

Ashwin's off-break: Legend's spin cycle comes to an abrupt end

BRISBANE: India's campaign in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy was jolted by the shock retirement of spin stalwart Ravichandran Ashwin in the middle of the series here on Wednesday. With a couple of senior players in the sunset of their careers, the team has been staring at the difficult issue of transition for a while now. The process was eventually kickstarted in surprising manner here on a bleak day, even as rain pelted the ground and the third Test against Australia was drawn on the last day. The off-spinning allrounder walked in alongside captain Rohit Sharma after the game to announce his immediate retirement from all forms of international cricket at the age of 38. Ashwin will leave the team and depart for home on Thursday, captain Rohit Sharma said, with many left wondering at the manner of his retirement and the reasons behind announcing the decision now. "This will be



my last day as an Indian cricketer in all formats at international level," Ashwin said, "I do feel there is a bit of a punch left in me as a cricketer, but I'd like to showcase that in club-level cricket. I've had a lot of fun and created a lot of memories alongside Rohit and several of my other teammates. Even though I lost some of them over the last few years, we're the last bunch of OGs, if you can say that, left in the dressing room. I'll be marking this as my date of having played at this level." It is understood that Ashwin has been contemplating retirement for well over a year now. A dodgy knee hasn't helped matters.

The aches and pains and a deteriorating shoulder have been there for a while but India's 0-3 loss to New Zealand - and his own inability to prise out wickets on home turns - may have contributed to the decision. Washington Sundar getting the nod in Perth too may have been a red flag. Ashwin, the only Indian allrounder to score 3000 runs and take 500 wickets, did not take any questions after a brief statement, leaving Rohit to explain what had transpired. "I heard this when I came to Perth," Rohit explained. "I was not there for the first three or four days of that Test.

'A software that continuously needed upgrades', Ashwin thrived on reinvention

Did rejection hurt him so bad that he couldn't take it anymore? This question has left the Indian cricket world in a tizzy as R Ashwin - India's second highest Test wicket-taker - announced his shock retirement from international cricket on a rain-soaked Tuesday afternoon in Brisbane. This wasn't in the script for the 537-wicket man. It wasn't too long ago that Ashwin had said he would retire the day he goes past Anil Kumble's record of 619 Test wickets. Over the years, he had accepted the fact that Ravindra Jadeja would play ahead of him



in overseas Tests because of the latter's spunk with the bat. But was being downgraded to the No. 2 off-spinner in a touring party behind Washington Sundar the last straw? Rejections are something Ashwin had learnt to live with as

a young cricketer. He was still learning the ropes when he was rejected midway through a trial match at the India Pistons ground in Chennai. The coach told him he need not turn up for the second day of the game.

'True OG & legend': Rohit Sharma's heartfelt note for 'retired' Ashwin

NEW DELHI: India skipper Rohit Sharma on Wednesday penned an emotional tribute to Ravichandran Ashwin following the veteran spinner's retirement, calling him a 'true OG and legend' of the game. In his heartfelt note on social media platform

Instagram, Rohit praised Ashwin's remarkable career, highlighting his ability to turn games around with his skill and intelligence. "We've played together for so many years and created so many memories which I'll cherish forever. You've been a match winner

since match 1 & left a lasting impression on all the young bowlers coming through the ranks. I'm sure we'll have a lot of upcoming young bowlers with the classic Ashwin action," Rohit wrote. Rohit concluded by wishing Ashwin the best for his next chapter.



'Ashwin started his career as a batsman...': Muralitharan hails India off-spinner

NEW DELHI: Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka, the most successful bowler in cricket history, hailed fellow off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin of India on Wednesday for declaring his retirement from international cricket and referred to him as an inspiration for future players. After the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series between Australia and India ended in a draw in Brisbane on Wednesday, Ashwin announced his retirement from international cricket with 537 wickets in 106 Test matches. R Ashwin announces retirement from Test cricket Ashwin hung up his boots as India's second-highest wicket-taker, after Anil Kumble (619), and Murali admitted it's no little accomplishment. "You must remember that Ashwin started his career as a batsman, dabbling in spin as a part-time option. He soon realised the writing was on the wall for his batting aspirations and shifted his focus to bowling. Hats off to him for making that bold pivot and achieving what he has. Reaching 500 Test wickets is no walk in the park," Muralitharan told Telecom Asia Sport (telecomasia.net) in an exclusive interview on Wednesday. Muralitharan, who retired from Test cricket after taking 800 wickets in 133 games, had seen Ashwin as a bright young player who was always willing to learn. **Ashwin retires-**"I was at the tail end of my career when he came onto the scene, but he struck me as an astute young man eager to learn. He sought advice, asked thoughtful questions, and put in hard work to better himself. That drive and hunger are what set him apart," Murali was quoted as saying by Telecom Asia Sport.

How can India still qualify for 2025 WTC Final

NEW DELHI: The Indian team still has a realistic chance of making it into the 2025 World Test Championship (WTC) Final despite the Gabba Test against Australia ending in a draw on Wednesday. Following the Brisbane draw, Team India, currently at third spot in WTC standings, must secure victories in both the remaining Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy to guarantee their qualification into the Finale at Lord's irrespective of other outcomes. In the ongoing World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, four teams still maintain realistic chances of reaching the final, with one additional team holding a slim possibility. No team has yet secured their position in the top two spots, with eight Test matches remaining.



Two wins in the remaining Border-Gavaskar Trophy Tests would elevate India to 60.53 percent, while with Australia's two losses (vs India) and two potential wins against Sri Lanka would take them to 57.02. If India attain one win and one draw, they would reach 57.02, allowing Australia to surpass them (58.77) with a 2-0 triumph in Sri Lanka. The qualification scenarios for India are as follows:

1. If India win the series 2-1, they would need Australia to defeat Sri Lanka by at least 1-0 margin, or for South Africa to lose at least 1-0 to Pakistan.
2. If the series ends in a 2-2 draw, India will finish with a percentage points of 55.26. In this case, for India to qualify for the WTC Final, Australia would need to lose to Sri Lanka by at least a 1-0 margin, or South Africa would need to lose 2-0 to Pakistan.

If the series ends in a 1-1 draw...

If the series ends in a 1-1 draw, India will finish with a percentage points of 53.51. To qualify for the WTC Final, South Africa would need to lose both Tests to Pakistan, or Australia would need to lose 1-0 to Sri Lanka or draw the series 0-0. A 0-0 draw between Australia and Sri Lanka would leave both teams and India tied at 53.51%, but India would finish ahead due to having more series wins in this cycle (three compared to Australia's two). However, if Sri Lanka win 2-0, they will surpass India and secure a spot in the final. 4. If India lose the series 1-2, they will finish with a percentage points of 51.75, effectively.

Manchester United coach emphasises need for 'big talents' like Marcus

Manchester United's head coach, Ruben Amorim, addressed Marcus Rashford's recent comments about seeking a new challenge. Amorim spoke to the press on Wednesday. Rashford's absence from the squad during United's 2-1 victory over Manchester City on Sunday fueled speculation about his future with the club. Rashford's interview on Tuesday added to the conjecture. "For me, personally, I think I'm ready for a new challenge and the next steps. When I leave it's going to be 'no hard



feelings." Amorim responded diplomatically when questioned about Rashford's potential departure. He acknowledged the importance of retaining talented players. "Of course, because this kind of club needs big talents and he's a big talent. So, he just needs to perform at the highest level and that is my

focus. I just want to help Marcus." Rashford, 27, is committed to Manchester United until 2028. He is a product of Manchester United's esteemed academy. This academy has nurtured legendary players including Bobby Charlton, George Best, Ryan Giggs, and David Beckham.

Maresca insists Chelsea 'trust' Mykhailo Mudryk despite failed drugs test

NEW DELHI: Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca has expressed his support for Mykhailo Mudryk following the revelation of an adverse finding in the player's urine sample. The FA notified Chelsea about the finding, prompting the 23-year-old Ukrainian winger to respond via Instagram, stating the 'A' sample results were a "complete shock" whilst maintaining his innocence regarding intentional use of prohibited substances. "We trust Misha," Maresca stated on Wednesday. "When this kind of thing happens you need to support your player in all aspects. Misha is a Chelsea player, it's my duty to be in contact with him. Me, the club, his team-mates, we are all there. Trust means we believe Misha." The UK Anti-Doping website indicates that



athletes face a four-year ban for intentional use of banned substances. However, for specified substances or contaminated products, where athletes can prove no significant fault, penalties may range from a reprimand to two years, based on fault level. This season, Mudryk has participated in 15 matches for Chelsea, with his last appearance being a 2-0 victory against Heidenheim in the Conference.

League on November 28, where he scored his third goal of the

Aryna Sabalenka crowned WTA Player of the Year 2024
Aryna Sabalenka secured the prestigious WTA Player of the Year award for the first time. This recognition comes after a remarkable season where she clinched two Grand Slam titles and finished 2024 as the world's number one ranked player. Emma Navarro earned the Most Improved Player accolade. Paula Badosa was named Comeback Player of the Year.

Hayden honours Ashwin's legacy with heartfelt praise post-retirement

In an exclusive interview with Star Sports, Hayden praised Ashwin's strategic thinking and sharp mind. He highlighted Ashwin's dedication and ability to formulate clever plans. "Yeah, I think Sunny described him really well—a very smart cricketer. And you know, he's a cricketer who just stays on task, always working out a cunning plan. He's got great belief in his own ability. He's quite polarising in many ways when it comes to the cricketing public, and even to his own team—he's a very strong-minded person. But I personally want to wish Ashwin a wonderful retirement," Hayden said in a statement released by Star Sports. Ashwin began his Test career in 2011 against the West Indies. He quickly established himself in



" He achieved this feat with 29 dismissals in the 2020-21 series. Ashwin holds several impressive records. He is the fastest bowler to reach 350 Test wickets."

red-ball cricket, which became his specialization. Ashwin participated in 106 Test matches, capturing an impressive 537 wickets. This includes 37 five-wicket hauls. He also scored 3,503 runs. Against Australia, Ashwin's record stands at 115 wickets in 23 matches, with an economy rate of 2.71. The 38-year-old also established a record for the

most wickets taken in a single Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. He achieved this feat with 29 dismissals in the 2020-21 series. Ashwin holds several impressive records. He is the fastest bowler to reach 350 Test wickets. He is also India's second-highest Test wicket-taker, with 537 wickets at an economy rate of 2.83. His accomplishments are likely to

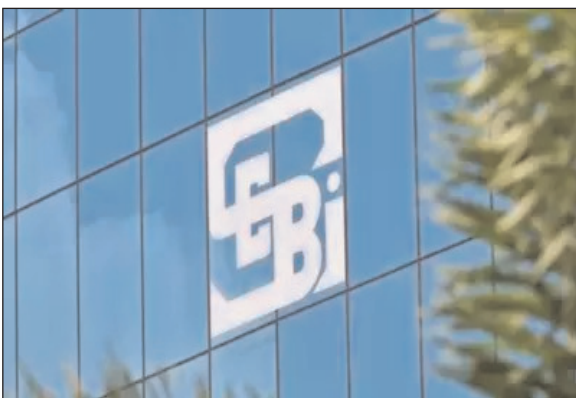
Arsenal cup glory could be springboard for more trophies, says Arteta

Coach Mikel Arteta emphasised on Tuesday that clinching the League Cup could serve as a foundation for additional trophies as he marks his fifth year at Arsenal's helm. The Arsenal manager secured the FA Cup during his inaugural season in 2020, though subsequent success has proved elusive despite coming close on several occasions. Currently, Arsenal hold third position in the Premier League, trailing leaders Liverpool by six points with one additional match played. They are set to face Crystal Palace in the League Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday, followed by another encounter against the same team in the league three days later. Arteta expressed his desire for additional trophies, including major honours, noting how cup competitions help build positive momentum. "I fully believe in that, the fact you are winning, you get into the next round of the competition, it builds, it creates something different around the team, that's why these kind of games are really, really important," he said. The 42-year-old manager stressed that securing the League Cup would significantly boost the club, which hasn't claimed a Premier League title since 2004. "It brings belief, trust, positive energy," he said. "Touching a cup, beating someone in the semi-final, beating someone in the final.



Sebi tightens rules for SME IPOs, merchant banking biz

MUMBAI: Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday tightened rules for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) aiming to tap the public market through listing. It also tightened rules for merchant bankers, specified a time period for mutual fund managers to deploy funds raised through new fund offers (NFOs), and expanded the list of events which will be considered as price sensitive events. It also made all Sebi regulated entities like fund houses, exchanges, depositories, custodians using artificial intelligence responsible for its fair use, including for rules that govern investor protection and usage of data. Sebi tightens rules for SME IPOs, merchant banking biz. Sebi board said that an SME company can go for an IPO only if it had an operating profit (earnings before interest, depreciation and tax) of at least Rs 1 crore



from operations for any two of the three previous financial years at the time of filing the prospectus for fund raising. It also said that in case of an offer for sale (OFS) in an IPO, the OFS size shall not exceed 20% of the total issue size. In addition, the selling shareholders cannot sell more than 50% of their holding through that offer. Sebi also said that lock-in of promoters' holding that is in excess of minimum promoter contribution (MPC) could be released only in a phased manner. The regulator has allowed 50% of promoters' holdings in excess of MPC.

Amazon's cloud unit bets on new models

LAS VEGAS: Amazon's cloud unit AWS unveiled new AI models and chips to take on rivals like Microsoft, which has had an edge due to its ties with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI. Exactly two years ago, the launch of ChatGPT forced tech giants to redraw plans, wiping out billions from market caps of companies that were slow to adapt. AWS, which pioneered renting out data infrastructure, was seen to be losing grip on its cloud dominance.

Razorpay plans to go public in 2026, eyes \$1 billion in revenue by 2030

Bengaluru-based fintech unicorn Razorpay began the process of relocating its headquarters from the US to India, amidst a growing trend of start-ups moving back to the country. This transition aligns with the govt's accelerated efforts to facilitate reverse flipping for Indian companies currently based overseas. This move paves the way for Razorpay to go public by 2026. Razorpay has initiated reversing its corporate structure despite significant tax implications, which industry observers say could be to the tune of \$300 million. "There's no chal-



lenge per se, it just takes time. The process is straightforward. We filed it through the fast checkout route. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) process takes a while. The benches have a lot of cases to handle.

The rules came

out six months ago. We are testing waters, but this is expected to be faster," its cofounder and CEO Harshil Mathur told TOI on Tuesday. Currently, the company is seeking approval from the RBI, which helps reduce the workload on the NCLT.

US Federal Reserve cuts interest rate by 25 basis points in key FOMC meet

The US Federal Reserve cut the interest rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday, according to an official statement following the key FOMC meeting. This 25 basis points cut has led to the central banks benchmark policy rate being in the 4.25% to 4.50% range. This rep-

resents a decrease of one full percentage point from its September level, when the Fed initiated the relaxation of stringent monetary measures implemented to address the inflation spike that commenced in 2021. The US central bank modified a crucial

component of its interest rate management system on Wednesday by reducing the reverse repo facility rate more significantly than the federal funds rate reduction. The reverse repo rate has been decreased by 30 basis points to 4.25% from its previous 4.55%.

Telangana govt teams up with ITServe Alliance to drive IT sector growth in smaller towns

HYDERABAD: The Telangana govt has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ITServe Alliance, one of the largest associations of IT companies in the United States, with an eye on creating 30,000 new jobs in Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns of the state as part of the govt's bid to decentralise IT sector growth.



As part of the agreement, Telangana govt will facilitate the development of the necessary infrastructure, including office spaces and modern facilities, in cities such as Mahbubnagar, Warangal, Karimnagar, Khammam, Nizamabad, among others, and ITServe Alliance member companies in setting up IT and related operations there. As part of the collaboration, Telangana Government has also agreed to allocate land in Hyderabad's Financial District for the construction of office buildings to be occupied by ITServe member companies. This will ensure a strong synergy between the IT companies' regional and urban operations, positioning Telangana as a comprehensive hub for IT growth, Telangana govt said. On its part, ITServe Alliance will leverage its extensive network of member companies to drive growth and create a robust IT ecosystem in these smaller towns by creating IT jobs. The MoU was signed in the presence of IT & industries minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and ITServe national president Jagadeesh Mosali. The agreement also includes workforce development by fostering upskilling and reskilling initiatives to build a strong pool of industry-ready talent.

Times Internet, ICICI Bank unveil super-premium metal credit card "With mantra of fitness"

MUMBAI: Times Internet, the digital arm of The Times of India Group, in partnership with ICICI Bank and Visa, on Wednesday launched the Times Black ICICI Bank Credit Card, a super-premium co-branded metal credit card to cater to affluent Indians and the growing base of high net-worth individuals (HNIs). The card offers experiences, travel benefits, luxury lifestyle services, and curated privileges designed for HNIs seeking differentiated premium experiences and services hitherto not offered by any card. Cardholders will enjoy welcome privileges of complimentary doorstep visa services, lounge access, and concierge support through



"Cardholders will enjoy welcome privileges of complimentary doorstep visa services, lounge access, and concierge support through OneVasco with visa fee waivers via Atlys, a luxury stay gift card via EaseMyTrip, discounts and event access through The Quorum Club"

OneVasco with visa fee counts and event access waivers via Atlys, a luxury stay through The Quorum Club, gift card via EaseMyTrip, unlimited co-working access.

Private Equity and Venture Capital investments surge

NEW DELHI: Private Equity and Venture Capitalist funds invested \$4 billion in November, according to a joint report by IVCA and EY released on Wednesday. This shows a 156 per cent year-on-year increase while a 15 per cent decline from the previous month. The month recorded 87 transactions, up 47 per cent from 59 deals in November 2023. "While 2024 had started off on a strong note, geopolitical tensions, uncertainty over US elections outcome, and inflation weighed on the markets.

Wall Street: US stocks fall sharply, Dow tumbles 1,100 points

Lingering inflationary pressures and the transition to the Trump administration have introduced additional variables into the Fed's calculus. US stock markets endured one of their most severe declines of the year on Wednesday after the Federal Reserve signalled a shift in its monetary policy trajectory. The S&P 500 fell 2.9%, narrowly missing its largest loss of 2024, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted by 1,123 points, or 2.6%. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite suffered the worst drop, declining



3.6%. The central bank announced its third rate cut of the year, lowering its main interest rate to a range of 4.25% to 4.50%. However, it was the Fed's updated projections for 2025 that rattled investors: Policymakers now anticipate only two additional cuts next year, down from four pro-

jected just three months ago. "We are in a new phase of the process," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said, explaining the tempered outlook as a response to robust job market performance, rising inflation readings, and economic uncertainties, including the upcoming Trump administration's policies.

Govt reviews November gold import data, error suspected

NEW DELHI: The commerce department and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs are reviewing the gold import numbers for Nov, amid concerns that some error may have crept in to push up the overall figure. Latest data released by the commerce department earlier this week pegged gold imports at



\$14.9 billion, an over four-fold jump from \$3.5 billion reported a year ago. As a result, total imports soared to a record \$37.9 billion, while the trade deficit widened to an all-time high of almost \$70 billion. The problem seems to be the way of data release by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), which is part of the commerce department. "On noticing unusual surge, DGCIS has taken up detailed examination of the gold import data and reconciliation would

Bitcoin rises to record after longest weekly winning run since 2021

Bitcoin climbed to a record high, extending a rally sparked by President-elect Donald Trump's support for digital assets and his plan to turn the US into the dominant force in the sector. The largest token rose more than 3 per cent at one point on Monday in Asia to an unprecedented \$106,493, exceeding its previous peak from December 5.

be done with the data received by CBIC.

Alumni of IIT Delhi lead list of top startup founders

MUMBAI: About one-third of the 388 founders of India's 200 most valuable companies that started on or after year 2000 are IITians, says a joint study by Hurun India and IDFC First Bank. IIT Delhi, alma mater to startup poster boys Sachin and Binny Bansal, leads the pack with 36 founders having graduated from there.

Twenty of these entrepreneurs graduated from IIT Bombay and another 19 from IIT Kharagpur. The start-ups founded by IITians that feature in the list of 200 top companies have a combined valuation of about Rs 20 lakh crore, analysts at Hurun India said. Zomato co-founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal, another alumnus of IIT Delhi, ranks second on the list.

'1 of 3 top desi self-made entrepreneurs



" IITs are churning out a large number of new age entrepreneurs. About a third of the 388 founders from the 200 most valuable companies (founded since the year 2000) are IITians, a joint study published by Hurun India "

from IITs'b

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boys Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal, leads the pack with 36 founders having graduated from the institution. Twenty entrepreneurs graduated from IIT Bombay and another 19 from IIT Kharagpur.

Startups (those in the list of 200 companies) founded by IITians collectively have a combined valuation of about Rs 20 lakh crore, analysts at Hurun India

Ahead of IPO, DAM Capital Advisors collects Rs 251 crore from anchor investors

NEW DELHI: Investment bank DAM Capital Advisors on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 251 crore from anchor investors, a day before opening of its initial share-sale for public subscription.

Nomura, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Societe Generale, Nippon India Mutual Fund (MF), HDFC MF, Kotak MF, and Aditya Birla Sun Life MF are among the anchor investors, according

to a circular uploaded on the BSE website. As per the circular, DAM Capital has allotted 88.86 lakh shares to 33 funds at Rs 283 apiece, which is also the upper end of the price band. This aggregates the transaction size to Rs 251.48 crore. The initial share-sale, with a price band of Rs 269-283 per share, will open for public subscription on December 19 and conclude on December 23. The IPO is solely an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 2.97 crore equity shares worth Rs 840.25 crore, by a promoter and investors at the upper end of the price band, with no fresh issue component.

Those selling shares in the OFS are promoter Dharmesh Anil Mehta, investors Multiples Alternate Asset Management, RBL Bank, Easyaccess Financial Services, and Narotam Satyanarayan Sekhsaria. Since the entire issue is an OFS, all the proceeds from the IPO will go directly to the selling shareholder R./.

