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## Saini Oath: CM Saini thanks PM Modi for opportunity to be 'Chief Servant of Haryana'

**NEW DELHI:** Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the second time, leading the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in the state. The oath-taking ceremony was held at Dussehra Ground in Sector 5, Panchkula, where Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office to Saini and his council of ministers. The BJP has secured its third consecutive term in Haryana after winning 48 of the 90 seats in the recent assembly elections, with the Congress securing 37 seats. The ceremony was attended by several prominent leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, and other key figures such as Union ministers Nitin Gadkari and Rajiv Ranjan Singh. Chief ministers from various BJP-ruled states, including Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Bhupendra Patel



### Saini expressed gratitude to the people for their mandate

In a post on X, Saini expressed gratitude to the people for their mandate. "First of all, my heartfelt gratitude to 2.80 crore of my family members for their mandate for Haryana's non-stop development," he said. Saini also thanked Modi for his "inspirational leadership". "For the third time with full majority, the BJP government will work with full energy for good governance, equality and welfare of the poor," he said.

Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Saini, who became the chief minister for a second time, at Dussehra ground here. A total of 13 MLAs also took oath as ministers. Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Chirag Paswan, and BJP president J P Nadda sat on the stage. Defence minister Rajnath Singh congratulates newly sworn in Haryana CM.

(Gujarat), and Yogi Prades), were also Adityanath (Uttar present. Leaders from

the broader National Democratic Alliance (NDA) were in attendance as well, including Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan, and Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde. Saini was chosen as the leader of the Haryana BJP Legislature Party in a meeting chaired by Amit Shah in Chandigarh on Wednesday. Following the swearing-in ceremony, a key NDA meeting is scheduled to take place in Chandigarh, from 3 PM to 5 PM, where Prime Minister Modi is expected to address the alliance members. Equality, good governance, and the poor's welfare will be at the top of his government's agenda, Nayab Singh Saini said on Thursday after swearing in for the second time as the chief minister of Haryana. Saini was administered the oath in Panchkula at a ceremony which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi several BJP bigwigs.

## RBI bans Flipkart founder Sachin Bansal's Navi from disbursing loans

**NEW DELHI** RBI bans Flipkart founder Sachin Bansal's Navi from disbursing loans, here's what the bank's statement reads. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has banned four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to cease and desist from sanction and disbursement of loans, effective October 21, 2024. The NBFCs include Asirvad Micro Finance, Arohan Financial Services, DMI Finance Private and Flipkart founder Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv. In a statement, the central bank said that the "action is based on material supervisory concerns observed in the Pricing Policy of these companies in terms of their Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) and the Interest Spread charged over their cost of funds, which are found to be excessive and not in adherence with the regulations". In its statement, the bank clarified that these business restrictions do not prevent the companies from servicing their



### 'Kashmir is ours and will remain ours': MEA Spokesperson

**NEW DELHI:** The ministry of external affairs on Thursday asserted that Kashmir will always be a part of India and the stand will never change regardless of any statement issued by anyone. This came in response to the joint statement issued by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, and Chinese Premier Li

Qiang, where they called for a resolution on the ongoing Kashmir issue under the UN Charter. "On Kashmir's issue, you know our stand. Kashmir is ours and will remain ours. This is our statement and this is our stand. If someone says something, it doesn't change anything," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal .

existing customers or conducting collection and recovery processes in compliance with current regulatory guidelines." Navi Finserv Limited is committed to conducting its business operations with the highest standards of

compliance, customer service, and transparency. The company is reviewing the directions received from the Hon'ble Reserve Bank of India and will work with them, and address all the concerns raised .

### Civil aviation minister says 'no conspiracy' but 'petty' pranks by minors

**NEW DELHI:** As hoax threat messages to Indian airlines continue to rise, the civil aviation minister on Thursday assured the public that necessary actions were being taken and ruled out any larger conspiracy behind these events, describing them as "petty" pranks by minors and pranksters. The minister's remarks come in the wake of approximately 40 flights receiving hoax calls since the start of this week. Today alone, Air India received threats to five of its domestic and international flights, while IndiGo and Vistara recorded threats to two flights each. AI Express is also reported to have received similar messages for six of its flights today. "Action is being taken on this. We can't comment on any kind of a conspiracy.

### Gap in action and words': India slams Canada for inaction against Lawrence Bishnoi gang

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of External Affairs criticizes Canada for inaction against anti-India elements, despite Prime Minister Trudeau's support for the 'One India' policy. There are 26 pending Indian extradition requests, including members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Trudeau admitted lacking solid evidence in the alleged Indian involvement in Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder. Ministry of external affairs has expressed deep concerns over the Canadian government's failure to take action against anti-India elements operating within its borders. Despite Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claims of support for the 'One India' policy, the Ministry argues that there is a significant gap between his statements and the actions taken against those promoting separatism and disunity. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal today said, "We have seen those comments from Prime Minister Trudeau asserting his belief in the One India policy. However, so far, the actions we have requested against anti-India elements—who undermine One India, call for dismemberment of the nation, and espouse separatist ideologies—have not been taken." He highlighted that over the last two decades, there have been 26 pending Indian extradition requests with Canada, including individuals associated with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police previously accused Indian government agents of being linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar near Vancouver. This case has intensified the strain in diplomatic relations between India and Canada. During a weekly press conference, Jaiswal said, "We have shared security-related information with the Canadian government regarding gang members, including those of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

## Citizenship under Assam accord: 4:1 SC verdict upholds validity of Section 6A

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act which grants Indian citizenship to immigrants who came to Assam between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the Assam Accord was a political solution to the problem of illegal migration. Section 6A



was inserted into the Citizenship Act in 1985 as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord. It formed the basis of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam in

2019. In 1985, the Rajiv Gandhi government and the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) negotiated and drafted the Assam Accord and created categories of

immigrants. AASU and AAGSP were groups that agitated against the influx of Bangladeshi-immigrants after Bangladesh separated from West Pakistan on 26 March 1971. The CJI, writing for himself, upheld the validity of the provision and said the magnitude of influx of migrants in Assam is higher as compared to other states the land size and the detection of foreigner is an elaborate process.

## Farmer groups gear up for yet another round of protests, warning rallies in 500 districts

**Vatika Times/ Agency NEW DELHI:** The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), umbrella body of farmer organisations that spearheaded the year-long protest during 2020-21, on Thursday announced to campaign among farmers of poll-bound Maharashtra and Jharkhand against BJP, and to hold 'chetavani' (warning) rallies in 500 districts across the country on Nov 26 to pitch for their six key demands including legal guarantee to procurement of all crops at minimum support price (MSP). The rallies on Nov 26 will mark the fourth anniversary of their protests along Delhi borders that eventually ended with repeal of three farm laws in December, 2021. The SKM lead-



ers said they will hold a mass campaign in 50,000 villages (100 villages in each 500 districts) during Nov 7-25 to mobilise farmers for their 'chetavani' rallies on Nov 26. They also issued a three months ultimatum to the central government, saying if their key demands are not met within that time then the SKM would be forced to undertake massive indefinite country-wide struggle in coordination with the trade unions, unions of farm workers and tenant farmers. The Central Trade Unions (CTUs), repre-

senting industrial and agricultural workers, will also join the SKM during their mass mobilisation programme and rallies next month. The SKM took its decision of a fresh round of protest and rallies at its general body meeting here on Wednesday. Besides demanding legal guarantees for procurement of all crops at MSP based on 'comprehensive cost' (C2) formula, the protesting farmers' other five demands include comprehensive loan waivers; no privatisation of electricity and no prepaid smart meters; free

power for agricultural pumps and 300 units of free power to domestic users and shops; comprehensive insurance policy in the public sector for crops and animal husbandry; and Rs 10,000 monthly pension to farmers at the age of 60 years. Currently, the central govt approves MSP which factors in the A2+FL cost calculation formula. It refers to cost which includes all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital.

## 'You won only the toss and lost everything else': Ajay Jadeja reflects on India's 'worst day'

**NEW DELHI:** India's abject surrender with the bat in the first innings of the first Test against New Zealand left former captain Ajay Jadeja deeply disappointed. He emphasized that, aside from winning the toss, everything seemed to go against the hosts. India's batting lineup crumbled after captain Rohit Sharma decided to bat first, as they were skittled out for a paltry 46 runs.



The New Zealand bowlers were relentless in their pursuit of wickets, exploiting the favorable conditions. India batters embarrass in Bengaluru | What's happening at Delhi Capitals? | Beyond the Boundary

"If we see today's day, you won only the toss and lost everything else. The batting was probably the most disappointing. The team did what they could from their side in bowling. However, the fielding support was also missing. So the chances that came also slipped out of their hands," Jadeja said on Colors Cineplex. He also mentioned that if India were to consider their worst day.

### Mass murderer Yahya Sinwar eliminated by IDF: Israeli

**Israeli** foreign minister Israel Katz on Thursday announced the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who Israel has accused of masterminding the group's attack on October 7 last year. "The mass murderer Yahya Sinwar, responsible for the massacre and atrocities of October 7, was eliminated today by IDF (Israeli military) soldiers," Katz said in a statement sent to several foreign ministers. The IDF spokesman and the Shin Bet spokeswoman also confirmed that at the "end of a hunt that was held for about a year, last night, October 16, 2024, IDF forces from the Southern Command killed Yahya Sinwar, the leader of the Hamas terrorise.

### India extends first-ever rupee denominated line of credit; Mauritius gets Rs 487cr

**NEW DELHI:** India extends Rs 487.60 crore rupee-denominated credit line to Mauritius for a water pipeline replacement project under IDEAS scheme. This initiative, marking the first of its kind, aims to enhance the outdated water infrastructure, ensuring reliable clean water access for Mauritian residents. India extends first-ever rupee denominated line of credit; Mauritius gets Rs 487cr for water pipeline project. **Representative photo** India has extended its first-ever rupee-denominated line of credit (LoC) to the Mauritius government, amounting to Rs 487.60 crores, to fund a water pipeline replacement project. This marks the first time India has offered a rupee-based credit line for project financing



under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS). The project will involve the replacement of approximately 100 kilometers of aging water pipelines in Mauritius. The line of credit, provided by the government of India, will be financed by the State Bank of India on concessional terms. External affairs minister, Dr S Jaishankar, formally presented the offer to Mauritian attorney general and minister of agro-industry and food security, Maneesh Gobin. The Mauritius government has accepted the offer.



## Airport seeks approval for international flights ahead Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: Prayagraj airport authorities have appealed to the Prayagraj administration and the director of civil aviation for approval to start international flights from the airport in view of the upcoming Mahakumbh. The letter sent by the airport authorities states that a large number of pilgrims from foreign countries will benefit from the initiation of international flights from Prayagraj Airport. Moreover, with the completion of the new terminal building, the airport will be equipped with the necessary requirements for operating international flights, the letter mentions.

In the letter forwarded on October 11, airport director Farrukh Ahsan cited the additional facilities and arrangements at the civil airport for the upcoming Mahakumbh. The airport will have facilities comparable to international airports after the completion of the new terminal. In light of the new arrangements and facilities, the airport is fully prepared to start international flights. In the letter forwarded on October 11, airport director Farrukh Ahsan cited the additional facilities and arrangements at the civil airport for the upcoming Mahakumbh. The airport will have facilities comparable to international airports after the completion of the new terminal. In light of the new arrangements and facilities, the airport is fully prepared to start international flights.

Airport authorities believe that a large number of people from Prayagraj and adjoining districts will benefit from the initiation of international flights from Prayagraj Civil Airport. Currently, they have to travel to Varanasi and Lucknow to take flights to other countries, including the Gulf countries, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. With the availability of international flights at Prayagraj, passengers' time and money will be saved. The director mentioned that the airport is undergoing an extension ahead of the Mahakumbh. Furthermore, the facilities at the airport are also being improved. If the airport receives approval for international flights, flights to many countries can be initiated from Prayagraj Airport, he added.

## Advocates celebrated d'anniv of Dr. Sonelal Patel in HC

Prayagraj: Vidhi Manch, an organization of advocates of Apna Dal (Sonelal), organized a tribute meeting on the occasion of the death anniversary of the founder of Apna Dal, the brilliant Dr. Sonelal Patel. In which National President of Vidhi Manch Abhishek Chaubey was present as the chief guest and State Secretary of Vidhi Manch Chaudhary Virendra Singh as special guest, former Administrative Secretary of High Court Bar Association Santosh Kumar Mishra, former Treasurer Durgesh Chand Tiwari, former Secretary Press Ashutosh Tripathi, joined in. The meeting was presided over by State Vice President of Vidhi Manch, Pritam Patel and conducted by State Media Secretary Pradeep Tiwari. During the tribute meeting, the guests told about the life of Dr. Sonelal Patel and the work done by him for the exploited and deprived society. Chief guest Abhishek Chaubey said



that Dr. Saheb lived his entire life as a mission for the farmers, workers and the exploited and deprived society. Dr. Sonelal Patel was a gold medalist in Physics during his education and had a

doctorate in Physics. Dr. Saheb left the job of an army officer and spent his life becoming the voice of the exploited deprived class, whereas if he wanted, he could have lived his life with respect as an officer. While conducting the function, Pradeep Tiwari said that Dr. Sonelal Patel ji spent his entire life as a revolutionary for the establishment of an egalitarian society. Today the government is working on Dr. Saheb's ideas like establishment of Farmers Commission and linking of rivers and Apna Dal's national president and Union Minister sister Anupriya Patel is playing an important role in fulfilling Dr. Saheb's thinking and vision. Tribute meeting Hundreds of advocates paid their tribute to Dr. Saheb through their tributes. Among those who paid tribute, along with the guests, state executive members of Vidhi Manch, Brijesh Singh Patel, Sanjay Tripathi, Vivek Pal Tiger, Anjani Mishra, Ashutosh Patel, Deepak Kesarwani, Devendra Patel, Mayapati Mishra, Chandramani Patel, Hansraj Patel, Shivanand Pandey, Pramod Tripathi, Sunil Patel, Rahul Vishwakarma, Sandeep Singh, Jitendra Singh Patel etc. were his fellow advocates. The above information was given by State Media Secretary of Vidhi Manch, Pradeep Tiwari.

## Revolutionizing Wealth Management HDFC Securities unveils HDFC TRU

Varanasi: HDFC Securities is pleased to announce the launch of its new Wealth Advisory offering, marking a significant milestone in the company's journey as a trusted name in equity research, broking, and financial distribution. With over 20 years as a stockbroker and a wide-reaching presence of over 5.7 million clients digitally and across 250+ branches spread throughout the country, HDFC Securities is now expanding its service portfolio to provide comprehensive wealth advisory solutions for High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs), Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals (UHNIs), Family Offices, and Corporate Treasuries. With this new offering, HDFC Securities aims to provide personalized, sophisticated financial solutions, meeting the growing demand for wealth advisory services in India.

Dhiraj Relli, MD & CEO, HDFC Securities, stated, "As we launch our Wealth Advisory Business, we reiterate our dedication to empowering our clients with personalized financial solutions. Our core values of 'Honesty & Expertise' will guide our efforts to help clients achieve their financial objectives."

# Traders ready for agitation against dictatorship of PDA: Lokesh

Prayagraj: State President of Industrial Trade Delegation Uttar Pradesh Regd, Lokesh Kumar Aggarwal arrived in Prayagraj on Thursday on a one-day visit. During this time, a delegation of traders under the leadership of business leader Qadir Bhai met State President Lokesh Aggarwal and informed him about the problems of the traders of Prayagraj. On which State President Lokesh Aggarwal said that Prayagraj Development Authority is giving notice of collapse of buildings to the businessmen working from their homes. Some officials of PDA are pressurizing all the buildings in Prayagraj to be painted in the same color according to different areas. The Industry Trade Delegation of Uttar Pradesh opposes

such illegitimate harassing action against the businessmen. Traders work from their homes to earn a living for their families. They provide revenue to



the government and do social service by becoming the hub of distribution of essential commodities in the society. If the government and the officials sitting in the government try to harass the traders, if an attempt is made to vandalize

the house of even one trader, then the Industry Trade Delegation Uttar Pradesh will strongly oppose it. This Tughlaqi order of PDA with the traders of Prayagraj is passed. There will be a protest against the PDA officials doing so and the market will be closed and such officials will be gheraoed.

Kumbh Mela is a question related to the faith of Hindus. By taking illegitimate advantage of faith, efforts are being made to destroy the business of traders and expand multinational companies, online shopping and shopping malls, which will not be tolerated. The traders of Prayagraj are ready for the strategy of agitation against this order of Tughlaqi and the industry trade delegation will work

shoulder to shoulder with the traders of Prayagraj to end the oppression of the traders by raising the flame of this movement in the entire state and Kumbh. The traders whose shops and houses were demolished in the name of widening and beautification have not received proper compensation. Industry Trade Delegation Uttar Pradesh demands from the Chief Minister that all the traders whose business has been affected should be given proper compensation and those whose business has been destroyed, a compensation of Rs 1 crore each should be given as compensation for restoration. Let it be given. Traders who do not have space left to do business should be given shops by making a market in sufficient space to do business.

## Meeting of North Central Railway Employees Union held

Prayagraj: The meeting of North Central Railway Employees Union held at the headquarters Subedarganj. Joint General Secretary Rupam Pandey conducted the meeting; Ajay Singh presided over the meeting. National Women Coordinator of National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) and former divisional officer of North Center Railway Employees Association (NCRES), Mrs. Bina Singh and former branch officer of North Center Railway Employees Association (NCRES), Shri K. N. Jha, the above two people along with all their female and male employee supporters took membership of North Central Railway Employees Union (UMRKS) under the leadership of Joint General

Secretary Shri Rupam Pandey. Joint General Secretary Mr. Rupam Pandey ji made everyone wear organ clothes and accepted the membership of the Sangh and announced that Mrs.



Beena Singh has been made the working president of the headquarters board and also said that women are mother power, hence they should be appointed as the executive president of the headquarters board. Also

declared election in-charge. Mr. Rupam Pandey also told that in the past and in the coming days, a large number of people from North Center Railway Employees Union (NCRES),

option, it is the only organization in India which does not have any retired person and it is under the leadership of youth/NPS employees. The first is organization. Mrs. Bina Singh told in the meeting that both the recognized organizations have brutalized women and they have been exploited a lot. Due to which the condition of women in railways has become much worse. In the meeting, Mr. Rupam Pandey, Mr. Ajay Singh, Mr. Nirbhay Singh, Mrs. Bina Singh, Mrs. Anupama Srivastava, Mr. N. Jha., Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Mr. Bipin Shukla, Mr. Anubhav Gaur, Mr. Sushil Dhujia, Mr. Anubhav Gaur, Mr. Ambuj Tripathi, Mr. Harish Kumar, Mr. Dilkes Meena, Mr. Birbal Thakur, Mr. Vipul Pandey, etc. were present.

## Festival Favourites Made With Fortune Ingredients: Sonia Shah

Varanasi: Adani Wilmar, Fortune Foods Said This creamy and comforting kheer made with Fortune Sugar is a delightful twist on the traditional dessert, featuring crunchy fox nuts. Ingredients: 1 cup Makhana (Fox Nuts), 4 cups full cream milk, ¼ - ½ cup Fortune sugar (adjust according to taste), 1 tablespoon Ghee, ½ teaspoon Cardamom powder, 8-10 strands Saffron strands (optional), 2 tablespoons Chopped nuts

(almonds, cashews, pistachios), 1 tablespoon Raisins (optional), 1 teaspoon Rose water (optional)

Method: First, roast the makhanas. Heat ghee in a pan over medium heat. Add the makhanas and roast, stirring continuously for 6-8 minutes until they become crisp. Let them cool, then roughly crush half of the makhanas and keep the other half whole for texture. Next, boil the milk in a heavy-bottomed pan. Bring

it to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat and let it simmer, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, until the milk thickens.

Add the roasted makhanas (both crushed and whole) to the simmering milk. Cook on low heat for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the makhanas soften and absorb the milk. Once the makhanas are soft, add Fortune sugar and stir until dissolved. Add cardamom

powder and saffron (if using) for flavour. Stir in the chopped nuts and raisins, and cook for 5-7 minutes. Remove the kheer from the heat when it reaches your desired consistency. Stir in rose water.

Finally, garnish with extra nuts and saffron strands. Serve warm or chilled. This way, you can enjoy the richness of Makhana Kheer with the sweetness of Fortune Sugar!

## Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti: Cultural progs organized in various temples

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti, programs like Ramayana recitation/bhajan/kirtan etc. were organized by the Regional Archives, Culture Department and District Administration, Prayagraj of the district. Organized in 05 major temples like Shri Ram-Janaki/Hanuman and Valmiki temples. As per the orders of Uttar Pradesh Government, under the responsibilities assigned to various departments by the District Magistrate Prayagraj, Shri Hanumat Niketan Civil Lines located in the district, Bade Hanuman Ji Temple Triveni Sangam, Mata Shanta-Shringarishi Ashram Shringverpurdham, Bhardwaj Ashram Balsan Square and Maharishi Valmiki Temple (Laktaha) Panasa. In the temples located at Karchana, as per the scheduled time, programs like Ramayana recitation/bhajan/kirtan etc. were conducted by selected

bhajan groups. Under the responsibilities assigned by the District Magistrate, the program was organized by the Manuscript Officer at Hanumat Niketan Temple Civil Lines, Prayagraj and on the request of Deputy Director Information by Rakesh Kumar Verma, in-charge of cultural programs, at Balsan Square,



the site of the statue of Bhardwaj Muni. First of all, the program started at 8 am as per the decision of the temple management in the presence of Additional City Magistrate II Prem Narayan Prajapati, the supervisor appointed in the temple located at Hanumat Niketan Civil Lines. The puja of Valmiki Ramayana was conducted by Harishchandra Dubey, after which the devotional hymns of Lord Shri

Ram were sung by the bhajan group. Ramayana recitation was started with presentation. Similarly, under the leadership of Dinesh Singh District Program Officer, Bade Lete Hanuman Ji Temple at Sangam and Aparajita Singh, Regional Tourism Officer, Ramayana recitation was organized by the

bhajan group provided by the Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh, with the active co-operation of the National Ramayana Fair Committee, at the temple located at Shregverpurdham, under the leadership of Aparajita Singh, Regional Tourism Officer. The Kirtan-Bhajan program was completed safely.

Programs were presented by the troupe of Awadh Narayan Singh at Hanumat Niketan Civil Lines, Achhe Lal Vishwakarma at Bade Hanuman Mandir, Shiv

Balak Patel at Bhardwaj Muni Statue, Raj Narayan Patel at Shreegaur Dham and Surendra Prasad Singh at Laktaha Karchana. The entire program in the temples was coordinated by Rakesh Kumar Verma and Harishchandra Dubey, Technical Assistant, Culture Department. Ghulam Sarwar Manuscript Officer/Incharge Regional Archives, Prayagraj was present at Hanumat Niketan Civil Lines and Bhardwaj Muni Statue site and the scheduled programs were completed safely. On this occasion, Center Incharge, Mission Shakti Phase-5 Neelisha Yadav, Yagya Narayan Patel, Dr. Kulbhushan Patel, Scout Guide, Umesh Dwivedi, Vikas Yadav from Culture Department, Ajay Kumar Maurya, Mohd. Apart from Shafiq, Shubham Kumar etc., there was a dignified presence of many dignitaries and devotees who had come to the temple for darshan and worship.

## SP Vyapar Sabha State Sec Praveen Kesarwani becomes in-charge of Phulpur bypoll

Prayagraj: As soon as the election bugle sounds, Samajwadi Party plans to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party, increase its penetration in every class and every religion, and make efforts to reach out to the business class along with the entire society. In view of this, business leader and state secretary of Samajwadi Party, Praveen Kumar Kesarwani, who has good influence in the business community, has been nominated by the state president of Samajwadi Party Business Sabha, Pradeep Jaiswal, with the permission of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. He has been entrusted with the responsibility of election in-charge for review of Samajwadi Party's election campaign action plan, policies of the organization and cooperation in election management. He expressed the hope that K Praveen Kesarwani will be involved in the election management of Samajwadi Party candidate Mujtaba Siddiqui from Phulpur and the coordination of senior leaders. Will play an important role in coming and winning the elections and will try to achieve success in hoisting the socialist flag in Phulpur by mobilizing the business class.



## Humble tribute given to voiceless cat posthumously

Prayagraj: There used to be a cat living in the premises of Child Welfare Committee, Noorullah Road, Khuldabad, which had captivated the minds of all the members working in their short life. Being a living being, she got mixed with humans due to which people felt sad, due to this initiative of hers, humans should have affection and love towards every living being. Whereas people often keep animals but when they die, they throw them in the dustbin, which leads to spread of dirt and diseases. Doing so is a message to the society. This morning, suddenly due to



deteriorating health, it died, which was informed to CWC. As soon as the members met, the Samadhi was laid on the ground under the banyan tree in the premises and a condolence meeting was organized and floral tributes were offered at the Samadhi site. In this condolence meeting, CWC President Akhilesh Mishra, members Arvind Kumar, Suman Pandey, Sushma Shukla, Akanksha Sonkar, Priyanka Sen, Child Line Coordinator Anjali Shukla, Supervisor Syed Mohammad Anas, Smriti Jaiswar, Vimal Kumar, Nitish Shukla, Jyoti Singh, Vinod Yadav, Neetu Shukla, members of the children's home, security personnel etc. participated.

## Celebrating love: COLORS' actors embrace spirit of Karva Chauth

Varanasi: Neil Bhatt, who plays Arjun in COLORS' 'Megha Barsenge' says, "For Aishwarya and me, Karva Chauth is more than just a ritual-it's a celebration of our love and what we mean to each other. Each year, as we both observe the fast, we're reminded of the strength we draw from one another. On Megha Barsenge's set, we're creating our own little festival of love. With all the bustle of filming, we're doing our best to showcase devotion, laughter, and the magic that Karva Chauth brings to relationships. To all those celebrating this day, I wish you a day filled with love and togetherness."

Naman Shaw who plays Adit in COLORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi' says, "Karva Chauth is such a beautiful celebration of love, devotion, and the bond shared between a husband and wife. Every year, when Neha fasts for me, it's



a deeply humbling experience, and I feel truly blessed to have her by my side. It's a reminder of the love, sacrifice, and strength that women bring into our lives as ardhanganis-our life partners, our equal halves. Indian women, especially homemakers, are truly the life force that holds everything together. This is why I'm so proud of a show like 'Mangal Lakshmi,' which beautifully captures the journey, struggles, and triumphs of an Indian homemaker. There is a drama-packed track in store for the audiences as the show captures the celebration of the festival."

Deepika Singh, who plays Mangal in COLORS' 'Mangal Lakshmi,' says, "Karva Chauth is such a meaningful celebration for me and my husband, Rohit. It's a beautiful way to honor our love for each other. I'm really looking forward to keeping fast as always and making his day special. Even though I'll be busy filming, I'll make sure to keep our traditions alive. For him, it's a big thing that I follow all the traditional rituals which my mother-in-law follows. He loves that and appreciates that. I'm also excited to share the festive spirit with my co-stars on the set of Mangal Lakshmi. May this Karva Chauth be full of love for everyone celebrating it!"



# Maha Kumbh Mela: Emphasis on coordination between police and digital volunteers

Prayagraj: In view of the safe and smooth organization of Maha Kumbh Mela-2024-25, today on 17-10-2024, Triveni Auditorium, Reserve Police Lines Prayagraj, a seminar was held by Police Commissioner Prayagraj with Civil Defense Prayagraj and Digital Volunteers. In which detailed discussions were held with Civil Defense officials regarding crowd control and traffic arrangements for smooth movement of pilgrims, devotees and visitors in the fair area, deployment of Civil Defense volunteers at key places along with the police force and

security of devotees. Necessary instructions were given to Civil Defense officials regarding preparation of action plan to contribute to the arrangements, separate routes for the arrival and return of devotees and taking them to pre-determined holding area in case of increase in crowd.

After discussion, it was decided to include important points in the traffic and movement plan of the devotees. It was decided to provide assistance to the devotees coming to the fair area by Civil Defense in night shelters located at the railway station and bus station.



It was also decided to provide training to defense volunteers on crowd control and security related information collection. Special emphasis was given on

working in coordination between the police and digital volunteers, so that the devotees can get all the relevant information on time. In order to provide better facilities, necessary instructions were given regarding the arrangements and traffic diversion in the fair through digital volunteers and dissemination of information

through simple videos and refutation of false and misleading information. In the said seminar, Chief of Civil Defense Prayagraj was given.

Warden Anil Kumar, Deputy Chief Warden Sadiq Hussain Siddiqui, Deputy Controller Neeraj Mishra and Additional Police Commissioner Prayagraj, Senior Superintendent of Police Fair, Deputy Commissioner of Police Crime, Deputy Commissioner of Police City, Deputy Commissioner of Police Traffic and officials/employees and digital volunteers of Civil Defense were present.

## 3rd Kumbh Conclave postponed

Prayagraj: In view of the by-election notification issued by ECI on October 16, the pre-determined program 3rd Kumbh Conclave to be organized on 25-27 October has been postponed to next month on 25-27 November.

## Kartik fair to be inaugurated today

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of Maa Yamuna Maiya Aarti Committee, Meerapur Prayagraj, Kartik fair will be inaugurated on Friday at 5:00 pm at Hanuman Temple, Banyan Ghat, Meerapur. On this occasion, committee chairman Dinesh Kanojia and general secretary Abhishek Thakur. The fair will be inaugurated by performing the Aarti of Mata Yamuna ji by worshipping as per the complete rituals. General Secretary Abhishek Thakur said that there will be Aarti of Maa Yamuna ji at 5:00 in the morning and evening at Banyan Ghat Meerapur every day during the entire Kartik month.

## Tribute paid to late Pandit Radheshyam Shuklaji

Prayagraj: BJP leaders paid tribute to late Pandit Radheshyam Shukla, father of BJP leader Raees Chandra Shukla, on his first death anniversary BJP District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the first death anniversary of late Pandit Radheshyam Shukla ji was celebrated at his residence and on the occasion of annual labor DDA, recitation of Ramcharitmanas and Brahma Bhoj was organized. On this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, BJP leader Vidup Agrahari, former district president. Hundreds of people like Narendra Dev Pandey, Ashok Singh, Vinod Prajapati, Rajesh Kesarwani, Jai Krishna Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Pankaj Gupta etc. were present and paid tribute to late Pandit Radheshyam Shukla ji.

## Fight organization's battle on own shoulders: Dr. Udit Raj

Prayagraj: Dr. Udit Raj emphasized on the strength of the organization and protection of reservation in the Social Justice Conference. He said that discipline and



dedicated workers are required. He was addressing the Social Justice Conference on Thursday at Sardar Patel Seva Sansthan Alopi Bagh. Congress leader Irshad Ullah was present during the occasion.

# Always accessible to address handicapped people's difficulties and aid them: DM

Prayagraj: District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandan on Thursday 26 year old disabled Abhishek Mishra, son of Dinesh Kumar, resident of Gram Sabha - Bhawanipur, Tisentulapur, Block - Manda, Tehsil - Meja. Antyodaya Ration Card and Ayushman Card and Ayushman Card were provided to Mishra and the concerned have been directed to provide the family of Divyang Abhishek with the benefits of toilet, solar light and other permissible facilities.

On this occasion, the District Magistrate said that

if any disabled person has any such problem, he can

priority to the works related to them. At the time of pub-



meet them and tell them, he is available to them all the time and also all the officers should be sensitive towards the disabled and give

lic darshan with the District Magistrate, disabled Abhishek Mishra had given him an application on 08th October and told him that

he is 100 percent physically handicapped and cannot see anything. He is applying for Ayushman and Antyodaya Ration Card. He falls in the eligible category, still his Ayushman and Antyodaya ration card has not been made, he is troubled for two years and no hearing is being held anywhere, on which the District Magistrate has decided to provide him Ayushman and Antyodaya ration card and other permissible facilities. Had assured for the same, in order to which he made the said card available today.

## BJP leaders congratulated Haryana CM

Prayagraj: After BJP's historic victory in Haryana, BJP legislature party leader Nayab Singh BJP Prayagraj Metropolitan officials and workers congratulated Saini on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Haryana for the second time. BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra and Metropolitan spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani, while congratulating him, said that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, with his experience and working efficiency, will become the leader of Indian society. Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, while congratulating, will set new records in Haryana by ensuring all-round development of the rural poor in accordance with the working style and policies of the Janata Party. Congratulating, he said that the double engine government of Haryana under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a new step towards public welfare and good governance in Haryana. The record has been set, I am confident that Naib Singh Saini will give it more momentum. Those who congratulated him include Kunj Bihari Mishra, Ramesh Pasi, Devesh Singh, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Raees Chandra Shukla, Councilor Kiran Jaiswal, Vivek Aggarwal, Raju Pathak, Girjesh Mishra, Raghavendra Singh, Pramod Modi, Ramlochan Sahu, Prashant Shukla, Sachin Jaiswal, Ajay Agrahari, Shatrughan Jaiswal etc.

## First road of Mahakumbh 2025 plan ready

Prayagraj: The road to Kotha Parcha was ready at midnight. Let us tell you that there is very little time left for the upcoming Mahakumbh 2025. Under the Mahakumbh, the work of widening and road construction is going on at a fast pace, in which 48 roads were to be built under the Mahakumbh 2025 scheme, after the tender for which the contractors started their work. When the action of encroachment started on all the tenders to



build the road, there was a lot of opposition from the public due to which the construction companies and officials had to face problems. At present, somehow the work started at all the places. Ajay Construction Company in Kotha Parcha got a drain and received the tender to build the road. Ajay Construction started the work of removing the encroachment and making the drain in December 2023. While starting the work, the construction company had to face various types of opposition. Ajay Construction continued its work by convincing the people there and 16/ Made the local people happy by building the road on 10/2024. Local people say that we all thank Vinod ji, the trader of Ajay Construction, for quickly building good roads with good material and giving them to us.

## Seven days seminar 'Roots of heritage' begins at SHUATS

Prayagraj: Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) inaugurated a seven-day seminar titled "Roots of Heritage" on Thursday in Biotechnology Auditorium. The inaugural ceremony was graced by esteemed keynote speakers Prof. Dr. Shambhunath Tripathi and Anant Narayan Shukla, along with Chief Guest, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of SHUATS, Dr. Vishwarup Mehra.

The ceremony commenced with a prayer by Dr. Lalchung Gangte, Associate University Chaplain. Dr. Ram Chandra, the keynote speaker, emphasized the significance of reconnecting with one's civilization through the "Roots of Heritage" program. He highlighted the importance of preserving Indian culture, which extends beyond spiritual significance to being an integral part of livelihood. Dr. Chandra expressed

pressed concern that Indian culture is now largely confined to shops and streets, rather than being a personal aspect of life. The seminar includes 224 business workshops, with a focus on farmers in the creative department. Notably, 20% of the

gion. He emphasized the need to preserve Indian civilization amidst the rapid spread of foreign influences. Dr. C.J. Wesley, Additional Registrar of SHUATS, shared the biography of Dr. Sam Higginbottom, founder of

concluded with Dr. Ashish Alexander, Chairman of the Special Event Committee, thanking attendees and announcing future programs commemorating Dr. Sam's birthday. Dr. Sunita B. John delivered the vote of thanks, and Dr. Archana



72% international contracts comprised exports of jewelry and clothing.

Dr. Bishrup Mehra, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of SHUATS, praised India's diversity, citing the unity among people despite differences in clothing, food, caste, and religion.

SHUATS, previously known as Allahabad Agriculture Institute. Dr. Wesley attributed the institute's growth to Dr. Higginbottom's foresight, highlighting the fertile soil along the Yamuna River as ideal for agricultural advancement. The program

Singh expertly conducted the ceremony, which was attended by faculty and a large number of students.

This workshop promises to be a thought-provoking exploration of India's rich heritage, fostering a deeper connection with the nation's cultural roots.

# DIWALI CRAFTS FAIR KICKS OFF

## Ashutosh Sundaram, Director, All India Radio inaugurated fair

Prayagraj: The Diwali Crafts Fair, which spread the cultural flavor of entire India with multi-coloured presentations of regional folk dances, indigenous folk songs and mesmerizing singing, filled with the fragrance of the soil of India, was inaugurated on Thursday evening at Shilpapat of North Central Region Cultural Centre. Ashutosh Sundaram, Director of Akashvani, started the program by garlanding the statue of Vighna Vinayak Ganapati, breaking coconut and lighting the lamp on the stage. Director-in-charge Ashis Giri welcomed him by presenting him a bouquet and a bodysuit. In his address, the Center Director talked about the craft fair and

the objective of the center in organizing it and promoting crafts by connecting it with the public. Ashutosh

every corner of the country come to showcase their talent and introduce them to the culture there. The cultural



Sundaram in his blessings said that NCZCC has been continuously preserving art and culture. Here artists from

evening on Muktakashi stage was started by Sujit Kumar and small artistes with Ganesh Vandana. After this,

bhajan singer Ankita Chaturvedi and fellow artistes gathered a lot of applause by presenting Mere Ram Prayag Mein Aaye Siya Sang Laaye, Nagari Ho Ayodhya Si, Bade Bhage Se Aaye Shri Ram and Chhaap Tilak Sab Chhini Re. After that, Deepak Sharma, who came from Mathura, enthralled the audience by presenting a folk dance based on Braj.

Craftsmen from all over the country have set up stalls - Craftsmen from every corner of the country have set up 114 stalls. There are food stalls from every major state and there are also stalls of

local products, which include Phulkari from Punjab, Hand Block Chadar from Hapur, Khurja Blue Pottery from Bulandshahr, Carpet from Bhadohi, Embroidery from Jammu and Kashmir, Art Ware. Stalls of dry fruits, Madhubani painting of Bihar, jewelry of Delhi, pearl jewelry of Hyderabad, wooden toys of Karnataka, artificial jewelry of Prayagraj, Khakra bedsheets, jute work, Khadi boutique and Gotapatti of Rajasthan have been set up. The program was conducted by Sharad Mishra. On this occasion, a large number of spectators including all the officers and employees of the center were present.

## Disability no hindrance, if courage is high: Shailesh

Prayagraj: Shailesh and his entire team won the hearts of special children, on the birthday of Prashant Sir, Director of National Genius Institute at Government Mamta Vidyalaya, Prayagraj, Shailesh Classes NGO Azamgarh provided copies, pencils and other necessary things to the children. There was no limit to the happiness of the mentally underdeveloped and disturbed children of the school. Senior assistant Dharamdev Bharti and assistant teacher Dinesh Sharma told that these children are part of our family, we all take care of them like their guardians. Meanwhile, senior social worker and teacher Shri Narayan Yadav, head of the anonymous Sneha family, said that the children have been coming and meeting them and serving them, those children do not feel the absence of family. The Director of NGI Institute said that he has been celebrating

birthdays with the children for the last many years and the happiness that comes with the smile on their faces is incomparable. While leaving, the children asked for jersey, shoes and dress from Shailesh sir, Shailesh sir promised the children that within a month,



they would provide all these things to all the children attending the school. Earlier, on behalf of Shailesh Sir, things like projectors, notebooks, pens etc. were made available in the primary schools of Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Ghazipur, Ballia etc. districts so that technical education could be developed in the children from the very beginning. Employee leader Ravi Shankar Mishra said that this is a good initiative, good people of the society should come to Mamta Vidyalaya, this will benefit all the needy children and the disabled children will be able to join the mainstream of the society.



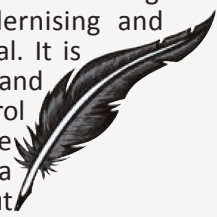
## Editorial

### Post-Cold War era and Great Power competition

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

#### Post-Cold War Era Begins

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



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

#### Introduction

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



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

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

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

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

## How women are navigating challenges and taking centre stage?

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

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

Closer home, several women are

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

## How India's South-South cooperation in Africa's agricultural sector is a win-win game

**Exciting** things were happening in Nairobi at the end of February. Indian models for Global South cooperation were in focus over a few days. This was particularly evident at the 11th Sankalp Africa summit session on scaling agricultural innovation through South-South collaboration. As many as 1500 people with ideas for impacting the development of their communities gathered at this annual event from across Africa. Investors and impact financiers looked at them and interacted to find solutions. Many sessions focused on possible solutions using the success of models in different countries, particularly India.

The agriculture and South-South cooperation session aimed at creating a deeper understanding of the challenges that agriculture value chains face in Africa. The role of agricultural innovations and how targeted interventions and sustainable development approaches could positively impact them and consequently benefit small farmers were emphasised. These have particular relevance for an enhanced understanding of the enabling aspects, barriers to technology transfers, and their adaptability.

One of the areas that was focused on was South-South collaboration through innovative



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

Uganda in 2018.

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

## India presses on land borders amid Chinese expansionism in Indian Ocean

**Member** of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that on maritime disputes, "China has been exercising a high degree of restraint. [...] In face of deliberate infringements, China will take justified actions to defend its rights in accordance with the law. In face of unwarranted provocation, China will respond with prompt and legitimate countermeasures. China also urges certain countries outside this region not to make provocations, pick sides, or stir up trou-

bles and problems in the South China Sea." Wang Yi's statements on the South China Sea come at a key point where India is mounting pressure on the India-China land border. It has redeployed 10,000 soldiers from its western border to the Indo-Tibetan border in the Indian states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These troops will join 9,000 troops already guarding the 532 km stretch of the Indo-China border in these states, Bloomberg reported. The area consists of some of Hinduism's holiest sites, known as the Char Dham

(four holy abodes, as defined by Adi Shankaracharya). "China is committed to working with India to safeguard the peace and stability of the border areas," Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, said. "We believe that India's practice is not conducive to safeguarding peace and is not conducive to easing tensions." Mao added that "India's increase in military deployments in border areas does not help to calm the situation in the border areas or to safeguard peace and safety in these areas," according to a

report by Reuters. The armed forces are well equipped, capable and ready to give a befitting reply if anyone casts an evil eye on India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said recently against the backdrop of the nearly four-year border row with China in eastern Ladakh and concerns over Chinese military forays into the Indian Ocean. Maldives' new Islamist, anti-India President Mohamed Muizzu signed a military assistance pact with China earlier this week, surprising analysts from his own country.



# RBI kept its policy rate and stance unchanged, MPC decision saw two dissents

Comments by Mr. Abheek Barua, Chief Economist – HDFC Bank on RBI Monetary Policy Committee

Ambala/Hisar: As expected, the RBI kept its policy rate and stance unchanged. Although, the MPC decision saw two dissents instead of the one seen in the



previous policy. The one positive out of the policy was the upward revision in the GDP growth forecast to 7.2% from 7% earlier for FY25. On the other

hand, inflation forecasts were kept unchanged. The RBI remains in a wait and watch mode to assess domestic developments like the mon-

soon performance, food inflation, and the new fiscal strategy before moving on rates. We continue to see the possibility of a rate cut in Q4 2024. Despite

the governors' emphasis that monetary policy decisions are driven primarily by domestic considerations, we think that any rate cut action could end up being aligned with the timing of the Fed's rate cut cycle to limit financial market volatility.

On the regulatory front, the increase in bulk deposit limit to INR 3 crore from INR 2 crore, signals the RBI's intention to encourage banks to garner greater retail deposits to fund credit growth.

## ICICI Bank's Festive Bonanza is back with attractive deals



**GURUGRAM:** ICICI Bank's annual Festive Bonanza is back with an array of attractive deals on big brands across electronics, mobiles, fashion, jewellery, furniture, travel, e-commerce and dining. Customers of the Bank can avail of these offers and get discounts of up to ₹40,000, by using their credit/debit cards, internet banking, cardless EMI and consumer finance. They can also choose to avail the benefit of no cost EMI by using their credit/debit cards. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Rakesh Jha, Executive Director, ICICI Bank said, "We are pleased to bring back 'Festive Bonanza' to our customers with a variety of discounts, offers, and cashbacks. By partnering with top brands across categories, we have curated these attractive offers and discounts

during the festive season, for our customers to make the most of their festive shopping. The deals can be accessed through ICICI Bank's credit/debit cards, internet banking, consumer finance and cardless EMI. We are also delighted to announce special festive offers on home loan, car loan, two-wheeler loan and education loan. We believe these offers will make the festive season even more enjoyable and rewarding for our customers." The Bank offers special deals on iPhone 16 and other Apple products. On the purchase of iPhone 16, customers can avail an instant cashback of up to 5,000 on their cred-

it cards and EMI purchases made through their credit and debit cards. ICICI Bank credit card holders exclusively get the option to register for Apple's 'iPhone for Life' programme. It allows them to pay for select iPhone models in 24-month interest free instalments starting at ₹2,497 and offers a guaranteed buy back option for the existing iPhone when they upgrade to their next iPhone. Customers are eligible to get special offers at Big Fashion Festival of Myntra.

Further, they can enjoy special offers on home loan, car loan, two-wheeler loan and education loan from the Bank.

## After ISBT rule change, more buses use terminal

**Delhi:** An official claimed the Delhi government will shortly announce amended bus norms at the Inter State Bus Terminal at Kashmiri Gate. After inspecting the Maharana Pratap ISBT, L-G VK Saxena announced the terminal renovation. Private and government interstate buses will pay the same parking and bus bay fees under the new plan. Private buses are charged more, therefore they park unauthorized and pick up passengers on roads outside the

ISBT facility, causing gridlock and revenue loss. To reduce bus turnaround time, time-based parking charges will be implemented.

This will speed up bus circulation and reduce passenger wait times. Under the new rules, buses will be penalized for overstaying. A bus parked for 30-35 minutes will be fined Re 200 plus GST.

A Rs 250 plus GST punishment applies to times over 35 and 40 minutes. The official stated that exceeding 40

minutes will cost Rs 300 plus GST, while over 45 minutes will cost Rs 350 plus GST for five minutes incrementally. Fastag-less buses will not be allowed into the terminal, but a facility will be available outside for them to receive them. The new regulations will maintain ISBT efficiency and allow them to operate at their full capacity of 3,000 buses per day, up from 1,700. Kashmere Gate, Anand Vihar, and Sarai Kale Khan are Delhi ISBTs.

## Litterateurs Prem Vij, Dr. Vinod Sharma and Rekha Mittal were present



**CHANDIGARH :** International Samvad dialogue seminar and award distribution ceremony was organized on the occasion of Hindi month-2024 under the joint aegis of Hindi Department, Punjab University, Chandigarh and Punjab National Bank. Deputy General Manager Sanjeev Singh, Deputy General Manager Suresh Kumar Sharma, Chief Manager Sanjeev Jain, Manager Pradeep Kumar, Chairman of Hindi Department of Baba Mastnath University, Rohtak Dr. Baburam, Chairman of Hindi Sangam Foundation New Jersey America Ashok Ojha, senior litterateurs Prem Vij, Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma and Rekha Mittal were present as guests in the program. Chairman of Hindi Department Prof.

Ashok Kumar, Department Faculty Member Prof. Baijnath Prasad, Prof. Neerja Sood, researchers and students were also present in the program. Hindi fortnight was celebrated by the Hindi Department in which various programs and competitions related to Hindi language and literature were organized. Sanjeev Jain, while sharing his views on official Hindi, said that Hindi is not only a language of communication but also a language of employment. Dr. Baburam shared his views on overseas literature, translation, communication language, official language and national language. Ashok Ojha, while informing about the status of Hindi in America, said that Hindi is being widely promoted there.

## CM Atishi inspects Okhla as part of gov't repair drive

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi CM and AAP leader Atishi on Monday visited Okhla in southeast Delhi to inspect condition of the roads in the area. The visit was part of the Delhi government's road assessment and repair plan in which all the ministers have been designated with the task of identifying roads that are in poor condition in the next week, after which the Public Works Department (PWD) will carry out repairs. "The city will be free of potholes after all damaged Public Works Department (PWD) roads are repaired by the end of October, Atishi had said on Sunday. It was decided that starting Monday, all ministers will inspect roads in their designated areas for a week to identify those in need of repair. "For two days, Arvind Kejriwal and I inspected the roads of Delhi and found that the condition of roads is very bad.



## Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles Partners with Flipkart to Enhance Online Motorcycle Purchases in India



**GURUGRAM / REWARI:** Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles has announced a collaboration with Flipkart, marking a significant step in the premium motorcycle market in India. This partnership makes Jawa Yezdi the first premium motorcycle manufacturer to offer its products on Flipkart's e-commerce platform, aiming to improve how enthusiasts access and purchase high-end motorcycles across the country. The collaboration is a key part of Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles' digital strategy, designed to improve the customer experience and increase the accessibility of its premium motorcycle range. By using Flipkart's platform with over 500 million users, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles will reach a wider audience, allowing motorcycle enthusiasts from various parts of India to explore, compare, and choose from their range of performance-classic bikes. Ashish Singh Joshi, CEO of Classic Legends, commented on the partnership: "Our collaboration with Flipkart marks a significant milestone in the premium motorcycle segment.

By bringing Jawa and Yezdi motorcycles to Flipkart's platform, we're enhancing the discovery and purchase experience for enthusiasts across India. This partnership allows customers to explore our entire range, compare models, and understand the unique heritage and performance of our bikes, all from the comfort of their homes. We're not just selling motorcycles online; we're offering a gateway to the Jawa and Yezdi lifestyle. This collaboration streamlines the journey from interest to ownership, making it more convenient for riders to connect with our brands. It's about bringing the showroom experience online while maintaining the premium touch that our customers expect."

## Jharkhand moves contempt plea against Centre

**NEW DELHI:** In a first, Jharkhand government has moved Supreme Court seeking contempt of court action against the Centre for its "deliberate and wilful" delay in implementing the SC collegium's July 11 resolution recommending appointment of Justice M S Ramachandra Rao as chief justice of the state, reported. In its petition, the Hemant Soren govt said the state was without a chief justice for two months, since the retirement of Justice B R Sarangi on July 19. It said the SC's five-member collegium led by CJI D Y Chandrachud, anticipating the vacancy, had recommended to the Centre to transfer the

Himachal Pradesh HC CJ to Jharkhand HC as its CJ. Can't pick & choose It said despite the passage of more than two months, the Union govt was deliberately sitting over the SC collegium's recommendation, a situation that displayed the Centre's complete disregard for the highest court's decisions. Jharkhand govt said Centre's deliberate inaction on the collegium resolution was also in violation of Article 216 of the Constitution. , which says, "Every high court shall consist of a chief justice and such other judges..." Constitutional courts are empowered to initiate contempt of court proceedings .

## Tubes and Pipes manufacturer Scoda Tubes Limited files draft papers to raise 275 crore via IPO

**GURUGRAM :** Scoda Tubes Limited has filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO is a complete fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to 275 crore. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for Capital expenditure towards expanding production capacity of seamless and welded tubes and pipes, Funding the part incremental working capital requirements of the Company and General corporate purposes.



The company is a stainless-steel tubes and pipes manufacturer based in India having over 14 years of experience. The products are broadly categorised into: (i) seamless tubes/pipes; and (ii) welded tubes and pipes, under five (5) product lines, namely,

(i) stainless steel seamless pipes; (ii) stainless steel seamless tubes; (iii) stainless steel seamless "U" tubes; (iv) stainless steel instrumentation tubes; and (v) stainless steel welded tubes and "U" tubes ("Products" or "Stainless Steel Products"). The products

are under the brand, "Scoda Tubes Limited". These products are used by a diverse range of customers like engineering companies, EPC and industrial companies engaged in Oil and Gas, Chemicals, Fertilisers, Power, Pharmaceuticals, Automotive, Railways and Transportation sectors As of August 31, 2024, the company's manufacturing facility has a total installed capacity of 20,000 MT per annum of mother hollow, 10,068 MT per annum of seamless products and 164 1,020 MT per annum of products.



## PIL Filed on Illegal Import of Refurbished Medical Devices into India: Concerns and Policy Violations

**HISAR:** The growing trend of refurbished medical equipment presents significant risks to patient safety and raises important questions about the reliability and effectiveness of these devices, which are vital to the healthcare system. The Patient Safety and Access Initiative of India Foundation (PSAII) had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Delhi, citing numerous violations and non-compliances in the import of refurbished medical devices. As per the directions passed by the Court, recently PSAII received responses from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Speaking on the matter, Professor Bejon Kumar Misra, the Founder of PSAII, said, "The petition had been filed seeking issuance of directions to the

Respondents to identify and furnish a list of all second-hand and re-furbished High-End And High-Value (HEHV) Used Medical Equipment other than Critical Care Medical Equipment that have been imported into India since 2019 without permission of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and for directions to Companies including the Intuitive Surgical to immediately recall all such Refurbished HEHV Medical Equipment that are installed without prior approval as per the Rules and Regulations and stop the import of Refurbished HEHV Medical Equipment including the systems that are at customs cleared and not installed at customer locations until the Government inter-ministerial committee of Respondents decides on implementation of policy framework

that would regulate the import of such devices." Medical devices, including refurbished ones, are governed by stringent regulatory vigil under the Medical Device Rules, 2017, in India. These regulations aim to ensure that medical devices meet rigorous safety and efficacy standards before entering the market. However, a growing trend of importing refurbished devices, such as CT scanners, MRI machines, ultrasound equipment, laboratory devices, and surgical robotics, without appropriate certifications has been observed. This creates a loophole that compromises India's self-reliance and poses potential risks to patient safety. Associations such as AiMeD, FICCI, and several domestic companies opposed the import of refurbished medical equipment in India, urging the government.

## Expecting to leave Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon inspired by the participants,' says two-time Olympic Champion Valarie Allman

**New Delhi:** Two-time Olympic gold medallist Valarie Allman, the International Event Ambassador for the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2024, shared her excitement to see the massive participation for the upcoming World Athletics Gold Label Road Race. During a press conference in New Delhi, Allman expressed, "I'm thrilled to be part of this incredible event. The energy and dedication of over 36,000 participants at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon are sure to leave me inspired and in awe." The American discus throw champion, fresh from her gold medal victory at the 2024 Paris Olympics with an impressive 69.50-meter throw, reflected on the significance of mass sporting events like the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon. "These road races represent a unique chal-



lenge that I deeply respect. As a field athlete, I'm amazed by the endurance and determination of runners. Witnessing such a massive turnout is going to be an exhilarating experience," Allman remarked. Recently nominated for the 2024 Women's Field Athlete of the Year, Allman holds a personal best of 71.46 meters, ranking as the 15th longest throw in the sport's history. Sharing her impressions about visiting India, she said, "Being halfway around the world is

exhilarating. I'm eager to immerse myself in the culture, experience what India values, and live like a local. From exploring the streets to savouring the cuisine, I want to engage all my senses and leave with a deeper understanding of this beautiful country." Sharing her impressions about the race and its focus on sustainability, Allman remarked, "The Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon exemplifies how small choices can create a big impact."

## CAPSULES

### Paytm acquires five UPI addresses

**Delhi:** The parent firm of Paytm, One97 Communications, a prominent fintech business, has partnered with four banks to acquire five UPI handles. State Bank of India (SBI), Yes Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank are these four banks. An update to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) website earlier this week indicated that this calculated step guarantees the continuation of UPI transactions for Paytm users. Of these, the well-known and currently in use @paytm is still up and running, so users can carry on with their transactions as usual. In addition, in collaboration with Yes Bank, NPCI has approved the creation of the closed user group UPI handle @ptyes. The NPCI has also approved two additional handles: @ptsbi (in conjunction with State Bank of India) and @pthdfe (in association with HDFC Bank). These handles won't become active right away, though. Users can utilize the @paytm handle without any issues, according to a Paytm representative. This event follows the clearance of Paytm's third-party application (TPAP) provider permit by NPCI. SBI, Axis Bank, Yes Bank, and HDFC Bank are collaborating to provide continuous UPI services for Paytm's user base.

## Meticulous arrangements for 36,000+ participants are in place for the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2024

**New Delhi:** The Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon outlined arrangements for over 36,000 + participants on Sunday, 20th October, including medical facilities and the Route for the marathon at the media conference at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Wednesday. Present on the occasion are Hugh Jones, Secretary General of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races and Race Director; Rajesh Kumar Raghuvar, Deputy General Manager, DMRC; Dr. Vijay Patel – Chief Medical Officer of New Delhi

Municipal Council; Dr. Sameer Gupta & Dr. Sonia Lal Gupta, Medical Directors for VDHM 2024; Kushal Singh – DCP Traffic, South District, Delhi Police & Rajender Singh – ACP Hauz Khas, Delhi Police; Vivek Singh, Jt. MD, Procurement International; P N Sankaran, Director, Operations, Procurement International; and Mandar Pandya, Vice President & Head Operations, Procurement International. "It is always a pleasure to be a part of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, and even after so many times, every time I come to Delhi, it is always nice to meet pas-

sionate runners and witness them achieving their personal best," said Hugh Jones, Secretary General of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races and Race Director VDHM 2024. Dr. Vijay Patel – Chief Medical Officer of New Delhi Municipal Council shared further during the press conference and said, "We have been collaborating with VDHM since 2019 to maintain a clean and sustainable marathon environment. Prior to the event, our team thoroughly cleans the marathon route,

and during the event, our staff is stationed along the route to ensure all waste is properly segregated and sent for scientific processing. This commitment guarantees that we achieve a 100% waste-managed race."

Further sharing details of the marathon, Rajesh Kumar – Deputy General Manager at DMRC said, "We are committed to wholeheartedly supporting this major event by ensuring the safety and security of all participants, as well as facilitating smooth travel to and from the marathon."

## Indian shooters start Junior World Championships with two golds

**Delhi:** Indian shooters started their ISSF Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun campaign in the Peruvian capital with two team golds in both men and women's 10m air pistol. With two golds India led the medal tally after competition day one, with Romania and Chinese Taipei winning the two golds and five other nations winning medals. Umesh, Pradhyumn, and Mukesh, the junior men's three, led India to the top of the 10m air pistol men's team cate-



gory with 1726 points. Romania finished second, 10 points behind, Umesh shot 580 and Pradhyumn 578 but finished sixth and eighth, respectively. Luca of Romania won gold and Hsieh Hsiang-Chen of Taiwan silver. Mukesh scored 574 to finish eighth in qualifying. Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita, and

Anjali Chaudhary won the junior women's 10m air pistol team gold with 1708. They beat Azerbaijan by one point and bronze-winning Ukraine by four. Kanishka and Kanika, who shot 573 but with lower inner 10s, made the individual final in third and fifth place, respectively.

## The Kerala assembly on Sunday unanimously passed a resolution against the central government

**NEW DELHI:** The Kerala assembly on Sunday unanimously passed a resolution against the central government over delay in the extension of financial aid to the landslide-hit Wayanad which killed more than 400. During an adjournment motion discussion on the rehabilitation of landslide survivors in Wayanad, both the CPI(M)-led LDF and the opposition UDF united in criticizing the prime minister, PTI reported. Questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the wide-spread coverage of

his visit to Wayanad, MLA T Siddique, who moved the adjournment motion said, "For the rehabilitation, we need at least Rs 2000 crore. Now, the landslide survivors ask whether PM Modi had visited Wayanad for a photo shoot." Siddique claimed that even months after the visit of PM Modi, not a single penny had been allocated by the Centre for Wayanad's rehabilitation. Meanwhile, former health minister of the state K K Shailaja raised questions regarding

why the Centre did not provide adequate aid to deal with the disaster. "His visit received wide media coverage. But what did we get? The Centre had not given even a penny to Wayanad so far. Crores of rupees of destruction happened. How could this small state bear all these (expenses)?" she said. She said that in a federal democratic system, it is the moral obligation of the central government to assist each state during natural disasters and provide funds for rehabilitation efforts.

## Capital to use 20% solar power by 2027: CM



**Delhi:** Chief Minister Atishi ordered authorities to deliver generation-based and capital incentives to consumers under the Delhi Solar Policy within a month. In March 2024, the Delhi Solar Energy Policy, 2023, aimed to enhance rooftop solar capacity and offered state capital subsidies, generation-based incentives, and Central Financial Assistance to potential users. She stated that the power department and DISCOMs will conduct outreach programs to notify Delhi citizens of

this policy and its benefits. This policy adds GBI per unit of electricity produced to electricity bill subsidies. The CMO added that consumers who create more electricity than they use will receive subsidies in their bank accounts within a week. She said the government wants to quadruple Delhi's solar capacity from 1,500 MW to 4,500 MW by March 2027. She added Delhi will have the greatest solar energy usage in the country by 2027, at 20%. For modest rooftop plants,

the 2024 solar policy pays Rs 3 and for larger plants, Rs 2. The former policy's minimum generation riders for GBI have been eliminated.

Delhi will extend GBI to commercial and industrial clients for the first 200 MW of installations.

The reward is one rupee each unit of solar power generated for five years. Community solar deployment alternatives are also included for users with limited budget or rooftop space.

## A warning against bogus syllabuses and sample

**Delhi:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a warning alert informing parents and students to be wary of false information pertaining to the curriculum, study guides, and practice exams for the 2024–25 school year. The Board has issued a warning to pupils about the dangers of falling for online scams that spread false information. We've noticed that some websites and online portals are disseminating stale information and unreliable updates about curriculum, sample question papers, CBSE resources, and activities. The alert said, "These links and news erroneously assert to offer up-to-date information for the session 2024–25. "In the interest of the public, we wish to emphasize that information from unauthorized sources can be misleading and may cause unnecessary confusion among schools, students, parents, and other stakeholders," it continued. Due to significant discrepancies between theory and practical scores in a few courses, CBSE has recently instructed schools to assess practical exams appropriately.

In a notification, the CBSE said that, based on data from prior years' results, it had used sophisticated AI techniques to identify significant disparities between theory and practical grades in specific courses among 50% or more students in about 500 CBSE-affiliated schools. In the meantime, the July 15th date of the CBSE supplementary examinations for Classes 10 and 12 has been set.

The Class 12 supplementary test will take place on a single day, July 15, while the Class 10 CBSE supplemental exam 2024 will end on 22.



## SC stays all proceedings before high courts on pleas against NEET-UG paper leak

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice on petition filed by National Testing Agency (NTA) seeking transfer of pleas relating to NEET-UG, 2024 from high court to the apex court and stayed all proceedings before different high courts on alleged leak of NEET-UG exam question paper. The apex court also issued fresh notices to Centre and National Testing Agency seeking their responses on new petitions filed by students against NEET-UG and said that all petition so far filed would be taken up together on July 8. 'Memorised overnight': Arrested candidate confesses leaked NEET paper matched with exam paper. It refused to pass any interim order on the case. The announcement of the NEET-UG 2024 results on June 4 sparked significant



backlash from both students and their parents. The results were met with legal challenges, which focused on three primary concerns. Firstly, there were allegations that certain students were awarded grace marks. There were also assertions that the question paper had been leaked prior to the examination. Suspicions were raised about potential malpractices at particular exam centres. No stay on NEET counselling. SC once again declined to halt the counselling process for admissions based on the results of the NEET-UG examina-

tion. The court said that if the petitioning students were to succeed in their legal challenges, it would lead to the cancellation of the 2024 exam and the subsequent counselling process. This development follows the hearing on Tuesday, during which a petition seeking the cancellation of NEET UG 2024 was considered. During the proceedings, the court remarked that the 'sanctity of the exam has been affected' and requested a response from the National Testing Agency (NTA) regarding the matter.

## 'Not secure': Bengal governor says police at Raj Bhavan a 'safety threat'

**NEW DELHI:** West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose on Thursday said he sees the current contingent of Kolkata Police posted at Raj Bhavan as a "threat" to his security. "I have reasons to believe that the presence of the current officer-in-charge and his team is a threat to my personal security," Bose told news agency PTI. "I have informed Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee that I am insecure with Kolkata Police in Raj Bhavan, but there was no action," he said. The West Bengal governor's statement comes days after he called for the Kolkata Police team to leave Raj Bhavan campus. Police officers, however, remained at their posts as the Lalbazar official said no communication had been received from Raj Bhavan on the matter. According to a Raj Bhavan official, a letter was sent to the relevant state government authority. At a press meet on Friday, Bose had expressed his displeasure at victims of poll violence being denied entry to Raj



Bhavan despite being granted requisite permission. He had sought a reply from CM Mamata Banerjee, alleging that Kolkata Police had tried to prevent him from carrying out his duty as governor. On Monday morning, Raj Bhavan officials requested closure of the police outpost at the North Gate, but cops said they could not leave without a directive from Lalbazar. Additionally, Bose wanted to set up a Jana Manch near the gate, but the police team refused, citing that Raj Bhavan was in a high-security zone with prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC permanently imposed around it. Sources said the gover-

nor wanted the team of over 100 Kolkata Police personnel to be removed, suspecting that they were keeping tabs on him. Bose already receives Z category security from CRPF; Kolkata Police is posted only in the outer ring. An official said since Raj Bhavan was a state-owned heritage property maintained by the PWD, it was the duty of Kolkata Police to guard the area, which it had been doing since 1866. Additionally, several cabinet ministers reside on the campus. The governor, therefore, could not give police marching orders at whim, the official said, hinting that the state may seek legal opinion on the matter if needed.

## CAPSULES

### Man with dyed hair, beard held at Delhi airport for impersonating 60-plus passenger



**NEW DELHI:** A 24-year-old man, disguised as a 67-year-old, was arrested by the CISF at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport while attempting to board an Air Canada flight to Canada on Tuesday evening. The man, identified as Guru Sewak Singh, was detained after security personnel found his behavior suspicious, said a senior CISF officer on Wednesday. The suspect presented a passport under the name Rashvinder Singh Sahota, claiming to be a sexagenarian. However, his youthful appearance, voice, and skin texture raised doubts among the CISF personnel, leading to a more thorough investigation. Closer scrutiny revealed that Singh had dyed his hair and beard white and was wearing glasses to appear older.

## 'Memorised overnight': Arrested candidate confesses leaked paper matched with exam paper

**NEW DELHI:** Amid the ongoing controversy over the alleged National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) paper leak, one of the arrested candidates from Bihar, Anurag Yadav (22), has confessed to receiving the leaked exam papers through his uncle, a junior engineer. In his statement, Anurag Yadav said, "I returned from Kota and was taken to Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar by my uncle on the night of May 4, where I was given the NEET exam question paper and answer sheet, which I was made to study and memorise overnight." The confession from Anurag Yadav, report-



edly a student of Allen Institute Kota, highlights the extent of the leak. As per the report by Times Now, Yadav said that his uncle arranged the papers for him. Upon receiving the call from his

uncle, Anurag returned to Bihar, where he was given the question paper and answer sheet on the night of June 4. He confirmed that the questions provided to him matched those in the

actual exam held at DY Patil School. Despite the National Testing Agency (NTA) denying any paper leak, Anurag's confession, along with those of others, brings to light the serious breach in the examination process.

"I am conducting a thorough investigation in my department to identify officers or employees working at the behest of Tejashwi Yadav. The entire RJD system is based on crime and corruption," he said. However, NHA has clarified that it does not operate any guest house facility in Patna.

## Army doctor turns saviour for ill man onboard flight

**MUMBAI:** An Army doctor saved the life of a 27-year-old critically ill man onboard a Pune-Chandigarh flight by resuscitating him, giving emergency medicines and also requested for an emergency landing in Mumbai. Major Simrat Rajdeep Singh, a medical officer with the Western Command Hospital, Chandimandir (Haryana), said while he was travelling from Pune to Chandigarh by an Indigo flight on Monday, a co-passenger, who boarded in Goa, started experiencing respiratory distress

mid-air at an altitude of 39,000 feet. "I asked about the previous medical history of the patient, who was from Belgaum, from his brother who was also travelling with him. The medical reports showed the patient has small kidneys with poor renal function," Singh told PTI over phone on Tuesday. Clinically, the patient was in "fluid overload" and was getting drowsy. He also had accelerated hypertension, tachycardia, tachypnoea and he gradually he started gasping, the medical officer said. The crew

had most of the necessary equipment and drugs available in their medical emergency kit, he said. Singh said he administered the required emergency drugs to the patient through intravenous line access and kept him on continuous oxygen support for an hour. He also requested the flight captain to lower the altitude and make an emergency landing at the nearest place, as Chandigarh was still two hours away. Since Mumbai was the nearest airport, the flight made an emer-

## NEET paper : RJD leader Tejashwi's aide booked room for arrested students, alleges Bihar deputy CM Vijay

**NEW DELHI:** The NEET paper leak controversy has taken a political turn with Bihar's deputy chief minister, Vijay Sinha, accusing the leader of the opposition in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, of involvement in the scandal. During a press conference in Patna, deputy CM Vijay Sinha detailed phone calls made by Tejashwi Yadav's personal secretary, Pritam Kumar, to book accommodations for Sikander Kumar Yadavendu, the mastermind of the NEET question paper leak. "On May 1, Tejashwi Yadav's personal secretary

Pritam Kumar called guesthouse worker Pradip Kumar to book a room for Sikander Kumar Yadavendu... On May 4, Pritam Kumar called Pradip Kumar again for booking the room... The word 'mantri' was used for Tejashwi Yadav," Sinha said. "Sikander Yadavendu is a close relative of Tejashwi Yadav's PS Pritam Kumar. An NHA guest house was booked for Sikander's sister Reena Yadav and son Anurag Yadav on May 4. A phone number and 'Mantri Ji' were mentioned in the NHA guest house's

diary. The investigating agency is trying to identify this 'Mantri Ji,'" Sinha added. Sinha, also the minister of road construction, ordered an inquiry into the booking of the NHA guest house. "I am conducting a thorough investigation in my department to identify officers or employees working at the behest of Tejashwi Yadav. The entire RJD system is based on crime and corruption," he said. However, NHA has clarified that it does not operate any guest house facility in Patna.

## Highcourt strikes down Bihar govt's 65% reservation in jobs

**NEW DELHI:** Patna high court on Thursday struck down a 65 per cent reservation set by the state in government jobs and educational institutions. The high court in March had reserved its judgment on a batch of writ petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the increase in quota for backward, extremely backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and higher educational institutions in the state. A division bench of Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Harish Kumar reserved the judgment while concluding a marathon hearing on 10 writ petitions filed by one Gaurav Kumar and others. The petitioners had challenged the constitutional validity of the amendments made in

reservation laws. On November 21, the state government had notified the amended reservation laws. The Bihar government in November last year had officially notified in the state gazette two bills, aiming to raise the quota for deprived castes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and educational institutions. With the enactments, Bihar held the highest reservation percentage among larger states, reaching a total of 75 per cent. Reacting to the court's order, RJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha urged Bihar CM Nitish Kumar to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court. "We consider it as very unfortunate. I would like to say that we should see the social background of the petitioner. Who are those people trying to do this

from behind the curtains? We would urge Nitish Kumar to challenge this decision immediately in the upper court," Manoj Jha said. The two bills that hiked quota The two bills, namely the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Bill-2023 and the Bihar (in admission in educational institutions) Reservation Bill, 2023, had become law after the gazette notification. Bihar, with the law, was the second only to Tamil Nadu to provide the highest percentage of reservation to backward classes. While Tamil Nadu offers 50 per cent, Bihar provided 43 per cent reservations for them, followed by Sikkim and Kerala with 40 per cent

## 'Didn't know carrying copies of big brands is a serious offence':

**HYDERABAD:** Travelling to the United States with a Puma, Adidas, or Nike fake? Your bargain buys might just get confiscated - or even destroyed - by US customs officials. With US Customs and Border Protection (CPB) stepping up its surveillance of smuggling of counterfeit goods, many Indian students and travellers who flew into America in recent months had their fake luxury items seized at the port of entry. Some told they had to watch the staff run scissors through their clothes or ditch them in the trash can. CPB rules say an individual can carry one counterfeit item of each type (like one shirt, handbag, or pair of shoes) provided it is for personal use and not for sale. Anything in "excess" of this is banned. travelled to the US to meet my son, who is pursuing a master's in supply chain management in Texas. I was carrying eight shirts, four trousers, some socks, and a pair of shoes. All the goods were still packed as I had just bought them, said a schoolteacher from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. "At the port of entry officials checked my bags and bombarded me with questions about where I was travelling from, who the goods were for, if I was smuggling them, etc. Though I tried explaining to them that it was all for my son, they insisted that I could not take them as they were all counterfeit goods - copies of big brands - which I wasn't aware of. Since they threatened me with criminal charges, I had no choice but to let them seize everything immediately." The traveller said many of the clothing items were torn before being discarded. "I lost goods worth at least Rs 30,000," added the 43-year-old, appealing to authorities to mention these rules on relevant platforms for the benefit of travellers.



## To prevent mosquito infestation, administration should create awareness through fogging: Ramchandra

**Kaithal:** Former director of Hafed and prominent social worker Ramchandra Jadoula said that while demanding from the district administration and health department, he said that along with making the villagers aware about the prevention of diseases spread by mosquitoes, fogging should be done in every street, locality, ward, public places, squares, so that the villagers can get relief from the diseases spread by mosquitoes. Talking in an interview at the new grain market Dhand, Ramchandra Jadoula said that according to the health department, the dengue mosquito bites during the day and it breeds in stagnant and clean water. High fever, body, head and joint pain and pain behind the eyes, red spots or rashes on the skin, bleeding from the nose-gums or with vomiting and black stool are the symptoms of dengue. If there is high fever along with these symptoms,

then immediately go to the hospital and get yourself treated. If there is fever, immediately go to the doctor and get yourself treated. Former Director Ramchandra Jadoula said that awareness is the only protection from the diseases spread by mosquitoes during rainy and summer season and for this the villagers should take precautions to prevent diseases like dengue and malaria. Villagers should regularly clean the coolers etc. in their houses. He said that the villagers should be alert and aware and keep their surroundings clean and avoid the mosquito menace. Along with keeping our surroundings clean, we should not let water accumulate in coolers and junk items to avoid the mosquito menace. Do not keep broken utensils, tyres, pots etc. on the roof of the house so that rainwater does not accumulate in them. Wear full-sleeved clothes.

## GRM Overseas bags Rs. 600 million Basmati rice order from Yemen based Al-Naqeeb Group

**CHANDIGARH:** GRM Overseas, one of the leading Indian basmati rice exporters and India's leading food FMCG, has bagged a new order worth Rs.600 million from Bin Awadh Alnaqeeb Group from Yemen. As per the agreement, GRM Overseas will ship Indian Basmati Rice to Bin Awadh Alnaqeeb Group, is the largest importer of Basmati Rice from India. The Rs. 600 million order is the biggest order the company has received from the Yemen-based importer distributor till date. Commenting on the new order, Atul Garg, Chairman & MD, GRM Overseas said, "The continuous flow of orders with growing value from Bin Awadh Alnaqeeb General Trading Corp underlines the trust we command in the overseas market. The Middle East is a key market for us and the order from Yemen will further strengthen our revenue from this region." Earlier, the com-



pany announced that its board approved the proposal of raising funds by way of preferential issue of convertible share warrants to the person belonging to the promoter/promoter group/Non-promoter group category subject to such regulatory/statutory approvals as may be required and the approval of shareholders of the company. The company will issue the warrants at Rs. 146 per warrant, aggregating up to a total of Rs. 136.50 Crores.

From humble inception in 1974 to redefining itself in the form of GRM, the Company has travelled a long way since then.

Initially set up as a rice processing and trading house, it is growing to become a consumer staples organisation. During the initial years, GRM exported rice to the Middle East, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Gradually expanding its reach, GRM has developed a market for its rice in 42 countries, thereby achieving the title of being among the top 5 Rice Exporters in India. GRM has three rice processing units with an overall annual production capacity of 4,40,800 MT based out of Panipat (Haryana), Naultha (Haryana) and Gandhidham (Gujarat).

## CAPSULES

### How Virat Kohli's advice helped Yash Dayal dismiss MS Dhoni

**NEW DELHI:** Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal held his nerves to stop Chennai Super Kings juggernaut, helping Royal Challengers Bengaluru snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and secure a spot in the playoffs of IPL 2024. On Saturday, RCB defeated CSK by 27 runs in front of a roaring and jam-packed M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. CSK needed 17 runs off the final over. Despite being hit for a towering six by Dhoni on the first ball, Dayal managed to hold his nerve and seal the win for RCB. Jadeja and Dhoni hit nine stunning boundaries between them to push CSK past 200, but once Dhoni fell to Dayal in the final over, the match swung in RCB's favour. After being hammered for a maximum over long leg by Dhoni, an angry Virat Kohli ran towards Dayal and instructed him to bowl a slower ball to Dhoni. A video of Virat instructing Dayal, saying "yorker nahi, slower daal," is now going viral on social media.

### 'He could go well past his...': Hayden makes a bold claim regarding Virat Kohli

**NEW DELHI:** Former Australian opener Matthew Hayden has made a bold claim regarding Virat Kohli's batting prowess as the Indian Premier League 2024 playoffs approach. Hayden believes that the Royal Challengers Bengaluru star can eclipse his legendary 2016 season, where he won the Orange Cap by scoring an astonishing 973 runs in 16 games, including four centuries, and led RCB to the final.

## Rename namesake disease hitting Ranikhet's fame: HC

**DEHRADUN:**

Uttarakhand high court has directed the state to propose a new name for a disease that has Ranikhet, a picturesque tourist spot, in its name. After a PIL highlighted that the hill station's reputation suffers due to its association with an avian disease known as 'Ranikhet disease', the administration has now been told to file an affidavit suggesting an alternative name by June 27. During the hearing, Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal discussed the negative impact of the



disease's name on Ranikhet's tourism. Ranikhet renowned for healthy air, Himalayan views The petitioner, Satish Joshi, of Ranikhet, said "the picturesque town's allure is overshadowed by this association". Ranikhet, about 50km from

Almora, is renowned for its healthy climate, pleasant breeze, stunning Himalayan views, and pollution-free greenery with deodar and oak trees. The area's attractions, including Kumaon Regimental Centre, museum, & golf course, offer memorable experiences for

visitors.

Ranikhet disease, also known as Newcastle disease, affects the birds and poultry, leading to severe respiratory issues, nervous system problems, and high mortality rates. This affliction has significant economic implications for poultry farmers and can affect the large local bird populations. The petitioner contended other celebrated hill stations like Mussoorie and Nainital are exalted. Ranikhet, therefore, should not be overshadowed.

## Dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing

**Delhi:** A month after opening its first engineered landfill in Tehkhand, Municipal Corporation of Delhi assigned its operation and maintenance to an experienced agency. The civic authority noted that managing the leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space, and most significantly, leveling ash from two waste-to-energy plants—Okhla and Tehkhand—requires competence. The site can hold 10 lakh tonnes of ash, and 12,000 tonnes have been dumped. "While the horticult-

ure department has planted a 30-meter strip around the designed landfill, the weighing bridge, roads, and drains need a dedicated system for maintenance. Leachate treatment plant operation will also be monitored by the agency "official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of con-

duct is lifted.

MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully. Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash "Source.

## Poll promises unfulfilled, iron factory linked to Dalai Lama

**KODERMA:** On the outskirts of Jharkhand's Koderma town, a defunct iron factory stands abandoned and corroded, greeting visitors at the entrance of Hirodih, a dusty and sleepy settlement of four villages next to a forgotten legacy. Thousands of residents of Hirodih swing between hope and despair every elec-

tion, as their demand to revive the plant, once owned by Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel Prize winner, the Dalai Lama, getting them promises and assurances from candidates seeking votes every time, only to be forgotten after the polls. After the Buddhist monk crossed into India from Tibet in the 1950s, he set up this plant, spread over 350 acres of land bought from the villagers for Rs 4 crore in 1960, and named it Gayday Iron & Steel Company. The only venture owned by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the factory was a major avenue for employment in the region. But, more than four decades since its closure, hopes of its revival have only diminished due to half-baked attempts, failed promises and administrative apathy, turning

Koderma into a migration-prone region. Jung Bahadur Singh, who is now in his late 70s, was among the first employees of this factory. He continued to be on the rolls even when the factory's ownership kept changing hands, but the jobs continued to shrink owing to a lack of proper patronage to run the factory. The septuagenarian lives in Gamarwad village, one of the four villages where people voluntarily gave up their lands for the factory, hoping it would usher in prosperity for generations to come. Talking to his shanty, Singh recalled the hum of machines churning out world-class spun iron pipes. "Hirodih became the plant site on the advice of then PM Jawaharlal Nehru. The land acquisition began .

## One Point One Solutions Ltd. Secures A New Client-Win With India's Largest Integrated Power Company Within The Energy And Utility Industry

**CHANDIGARH:** One Point One Solutions Limited, a leading provider in technology-enabled business process management (BPM) services, announces a significant client win within the Energy and Utility industry. This partnership is with one of India's largest and most renowned integrated power companies. The esteemed company, a key component of India's largest conglomerate, operates as an Indian electric utility and electricity generation entity based in Mumbai, India. The company has been a pioneer in technology adoption, with many firsts to its credit, supporting the country's energy independence. With a distinction of being among the top private players in each sector

of the value chain including solar rooftop and value-added services, the brand is credited with steering the energy sector on technology, process and platform. The brand has now over a century of expertise in technology leadership, project execution excellence, world-class safety processes, customer care and driving green initiatives committed to 'lighting up lives' for generations to come. The leading E & U brand, in response to the increasing demand for its cutting-edge products and services, has partnered up with One Point One Solutions to provide comprehensive Back Office services for revenue recovery and assurance. These services encompass data collection, inbound and outbound servic-

es, onboarding new customers, and other process support. The partnership aims to optimize support operations while concentrating on providing outstanding customer service. By combining their strengths, both organizations are poised to enhance operational efficiency and customer satisfaction in the utility sector. One Point One Solutions is excited to contribute to this mission and looks forward to achieving new milestones in business process management and customer service excellence. One Point One Solutions is a full-stack player in BPO, KPO, IT Services, Technology, & Transformation. The company was incorporated in the year 2006 .

## Shafali's record and Mandana's century gave India the win over SA

**BARAMULLA:**

Independent candidate from Baramulla Lok Sabha seat Abdul Rashid Sheikh, who is lodged in Tihar for alleged terror-funding activities, has significantly reduced his liabilities and increased assets in the last five years, his poll affidavit shows. Better known as 'Engineer Rashid', the former MLA's assets are now valued at Rs 1.5 crore compared to Rs 80 lakh in 2019. It includes a 41,072 sq ft non-agriculture land in his home town Langate and a house in Srinagar worth Rs 90 lakh. Rashid has declared Rs 11.3 lakh home loan and Rs 3.1 lakh Kissan Credit Card loan as liabilities. The former MLA has only Rs 1,424 in his sole bank account, his financial disclosures show. In the affidavit, he cited pension as his source. of income and his spouse works as a "housemaid".

### Shivraj launches rapid bank interest subvention claim settlement portal

**Delhi:** Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan established a web platform to speed up bank interest subvention claims under Agriculture Infrastructure. Chouhan launched the web portal developed by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) and NABARD to automate and speed up the settlement of bank interest. subvention claims under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), that the new credit claims automation will resolve claims in a day, compared to months for manual settlement. "The move will also ensure transparenc.