

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

**IPL 2025, RCB vs CSK:**  
**Romario Shepherd's car-**  
**nage, Yash Dayal's ice-cold**  
**finish take RCB to the top**

**NEW DELHI:** The fans at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium were on the edge of their seats as Royal Challengers Bengaluru edged out Chennai Super Kings in a nail-biting thriller that went down to the final ball. From the outset, the contest promised nerves and fireworks — and it delivered on all counts. Half-centuries from Virat Kohli and Jacob Bethell, followed by Romario Shepherd’s explosive finishing touch, powered RCB to a formidable total. In response, 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre stole the spotlight for CSK, forging a crucial partnership with Ravindra Jadeja to take their side within touching distance of a stunning win. But in the end, CSK fell just two runs short. The final over, bowled by Yash Dayal, was a theatre of nerves and drama. With CSK needing 15 off 6 and Dhoni and Jadeja at the crease, the pressure was immense. Dayal began with a dot, then conceded a single. On the third delivery, he removed the legendary Dhoni, swinging the match back in RCB’s favour. Then came chaos — a waist-high no-ball followed by a single from new batter Shivam Dube. With six needed off three, Jadeja managed just a single.Four were needed off the final ball. Dayal bowled a low full-toss, Dube struck it to long-on, but RCB’s fielding held strong. Only two runs were scored.Dayal’s calm under pressure sealed a memorable win for RCB, lifting them to the top of the points table amid wild celebrations.

## 'Debate over Virat Kohli's strike-rate and intent should stop now'

**NEW DELHI:** Virat Kohli has once again shown why he’s considered one of the greatest batters in IPL history. On Saturday night against Chennai Super Kings, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru star smashed a brilliant 62 off just 33 balls, putting to rest all the chatter around his strike rate and intent. Former India cricketer Mohammed Kaif summed it up best in a post on X: "Very impressive, very



aggressive, very very Virat Kohli. Strike rate and intent debate around Kohli should stop now."The 35-year-old not only batted with authority but also brought up multiple personal milestones. He became the first-ever player to hit 300

sixes for a single IPL franchise, continuing his deep legacy with RCB. Kohli's form this season has been nothing short of spectacular. With his latest innings, he has now scored 505 runs in 11 matches, reclaiming the Orange Cap. This is also his eighth IPL season with over 500 runs, making him the most consistent batter in the league’s history, surpassing David Warner, who has done it seven

**'False' toll fee deduction? NHA**  
**I cracks the whip**

**NEW DELHI:** Have you ever received a toll deduction message from your FASTag wallet even though your car was parked or you hadn’t passed through a toll plaza? Officials explain that this can occur when toll operators mistakenly enter the vehicle number, often due to issues with the FASTag being unreadable for various reasons, or when people carry tags in their wallets. Cracking down on such instances of "false" deductions from FASTag wallet, the NHA has penalised toll collectors in at least 250 cases. For each violation, the highways authority's toll management entity.

**SC likely to hear plea on May 5**  
**seeking contempt action against BJP**  
**MP Dubey over remarks against CJ**

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court is expected to hear a plea on May 5 demanding initiation of suo motu contempt proceedings against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey for allegedly making derogatory and scandalous remarks against the apex court and the Chief Justice of India. The petition, listed for likely hearing this week, seeks the court’s intervention over what it terms an attack on the dignity of the judiciary. It also urges the top court to direct the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to issue an advisory to all state Chief Secretaries to curb hate and provocative speeches by political leaders, especially in relation to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. The controversy stems from Dubey's remarks on the Supreme Court’s handling of



the Waqf (Amendment) Act. In an interview to ANI on Saturday last week, he said, “The Supreme Court is going beyond its limits. If everything is to be decided there, shut down Parliament,” alleging that the judiciary was provoking religious discord and accusing CJI D Y Chandrachud of being responsible for “civil wars.”He also criticised the court’s ruling on Article 377 and claimed it had usurped legislative powers, saying, “You want to take this country towards anarchy.”The BJP swiftly distanced itself from Dubey’s comments. Party president .

## Pakistani goods worth \$500 million reportedly entering India via intermediary countries



Pakistani cement, soda ash, and textile raw materials. The official claimed that Pakistani dried fruits, salt, and leather products are being transported to India through Sri Lanka. Given the likelihood of \$500 million worth of exports reaching India through alternative routes, the official emphasised the necessity to implement a complete prohibition on Pakistani exports to India, whether direct or indirect, and to monitor and identify goods that might enter through origin manipulation. "This comprehensive ban imposed by India including a ban on indirect exports would enable the customs authorities to prevent Pakistan exports from entering India through circumvention," the official added.This report comes as the central government imposed a ban on trade

with Pakistan amid escalating tension after the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, that resulted in 26 fatalities. "India's already minuscule imports from Pakistan--barely \$ 0.5 million a year--will now drop to zero. No one in India will miss anything except perhaps Himalayan pink salt (Sendha Namak), extracted from salt deposits of Pakistan," said Ajay Srivastava, Founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), in a recent statement. This also comes against the backdrop of long-standing trade restrictions. Following the Pulwama attack in 2019, India had imposed 200 per cent tariffs on Pakistani goods. As a result, direct trade between April 2024 and January 2025 dwindled to just \$ 0.42 million, restricted mostly to niche items like figs (\$

## CRPF jawan dismissed for hiding marriage to Pakistani woman

**NEW DELHI:** The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has dismissed jawan Munir Ahmed for allegedly concealing his marriage to a Pakistani national, a move deemed detrimental to national security, officials said on Saturday. Ahmed, who was serving with the CRPF's 41st battalion, was terminated without a formal inquiry under rules allowing immediate dismissal in sensitive matters. According to CRPF



spokesperson DIG M Dhinakaran, “Munir Ahmed has been dismissed from service with immediate effect for concealing his marriage to a Pakistani national and knowingly harbouring her beyond the valid-

ity of her visa. His actions were found to be in violation of service conduct and detrimental to national security.” Ahmed married Menal Khan from Pakistan via video call on May 24, 2023. His relationship surfaced recently after the Centre directed Pakistani nationals to leave the country in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives.

## Elon Musk says 'Yes' to the 'slogan': Don't Google it, just ...

**Elon Musk** has a new slogan for internet users. Or rather say is giving shoutout to a new catch phrase for xAI's AI chatbot Grok. In a post on Twitter, Elon Musk wrote an affirmative 'Yes' to a post from 'Tesla Owners Silicon Valley' that says: 'Don’t Google it. Grok it.' Grok is positioned it as competitor to OpenAI’s ChatGPT as well as Google Gemini and other AI Chatbots. Not just this, the account shares a series of post on Grok, and the reasons one should be using them.

"Grok 3 images are insanely real ????", goes one. There are also other post that tell: 'How to download and install Grok?', 'How to use Deep Search with Grok AI?' An earlier post shared the meaning of the word Grok, quoting Elon Musk. "Grok is a word from a Heinlein novel, Stranger in a Strange Land, and it's used by a guy who's raised on Mars."For those unaware, Elon Musk founded xAI in 2023 as a counter to OpenAI’s ChatGPT. Musk has openly criticized.

## Odisha HC grants bail to thief with 'sapling plants' condition

**Orissa**  
**An Orissa** HC judge has granted bail to a man facing prosecution for alleged theft on the condition that he plant 200 saplings of local varieties such as mango, neem, and tamarind around his village in Jharsuguda district and maintain them for two years, reports Lalmohan Patnaik.Manas Ati had been in judicial custody since December 25 last year for allegedly stealing six electric poles in villages under Kolabira police.

## FIR filed against Sonu Nigam over 'emotionally provocative' remarks at Bengaluru concert

**NEW DELHI:** An FIR has been registered against renowned singer Sonu Nigam following allegations of disrespectful comments about the Kannadiga community during a musical programme in Bengaluru. The complaint was initiated by Dharmaraj A, who heads the Bengaluru city district unit of Karnataka rakshana vedike, an organisation advocating for Kannada interests.The allegations claimed that Sonu Nigam made "objectionable and emotionally provocative" remarks that offended the Kannadiga community's sensibilities and fostered discord amongst various linguistic groups in Karnataka.The official complaint stated, "This complaint is lodged against the renowned singer Shri Sonu



Nigam for making objectionable and emotionally provocative statements during a musical event held on April 25 and 26, at East Point College of Engineering and Technology, Virgonagar, Bengaluru, which falls under your police station's jurisdiction. His statements have deeply hurt the sentiments of the Kannadiga community, incited hatred among various linguistic communities in Karnataka, and are likely to provoke violence. A video of Shri

Sonu Nigam's statement has gone viral, causing widespread outrage among millions of Kannadigas across the state." The event took place while the singer was performing at East Point College of Engineering and Technology in Virgonagar, Bengaluru, on April 25. When a fan persistently requested him to perform a Kannada song, Sonu refused, stating that the fan was making demands in an aggressive manner. He then stated, "Yahi kaaran hai,

Pahalgam mein jo hua hai na. Yahi kaaran hai jo kar rahe ho, jo kiya tha na abhi. Dekho toh kaun saamne khada hai." The response drew severe backlash from not just the Kannadiga community but also from public across India, who spoke against making the comparison. Police officials have registered the case under Sections 351(2), 352(I), and 353 of the Indian Penal Code and have commenced their investigation. The controversial remarks were delivered during a stage performance and were recorded on video, which subsequently spread across social media platforms, triggering significant backlash from Karnataka residents.

## Maharashtra stipend for 8L Ladki beneficiaries cut

**MUMBAI:** The state govt has reduced the stipend of eight lakh beneficiaries of its flagship Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana because they were also receiving benefits under another govt scheme, the Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi (NSMN). The eight lakh women will receive a payout of Rs 500 instead of Rs 1,500 per month because they already receive Rs 1,000 under Namo Shetkari programme. The Ladki Bahin scheme stipulates that its beneficiaries can avail of other govt schemes only if the benefit is capped at Rs 1,500 per month.This is part of state's move to scrutinise beneficiaries of the Ladki Bahin scheme and to restrict the stipend only to those who fit the eligibility criteria.

## 'I am deeply sorry': Kagiso Rabada provisionally banned for use of recreational drug

**NEW DELHI:** South Africa and Gujarat Titans pacer Kagiso Rabada has been provisionally suspended following the use of a recreational drug, the cricketer confirmed in a statement on Saturday. “As has been reported, I recently returned to South Africa from participating in the IPL for personal reasons. This was due to my returning an adverse analyti-



cal finding for the use of a recreational drug,” Rabada said in a statement. “I am deeply sorry to all those that I have let down. I will never take the privilege of playing cricket for granted. This privilege is much larger than me.

It goes beyond my personal aspirations. “I am serving a provisional suspension and I am looking forward to returning to the game I love playing.” “I couldn’t have gone through this alone. I’d like to thank my agent, CSA, and Gujarat Titans for their support. I’d also like to thank SACA and my legal team for their guidance and counsel.



## Caste census victory of Rahul Gandhi's struggle: Cong

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Under the leadership of Congress Gangapar District President Ashfaq Ahmed a procession was taken out from Mauima railway gate to Mauaima intersection and thanked the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. On this occasion, Mr. Ahmed said that the decision of Jatigati census is the victory of the struggle of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for social justice. Rahul Gandhi has been raising the demand for caste census with great vigor for years. It is the Congress's commitment to provide justice to every person of the country with everyone's share and participationRepresentation of every class and caste on important positions is mandatory for the development of the country. It is expected that the Central Government will implement it in a justified manner. Dr. Jagat Narayan Singh said that the atmosphere of anarchy has been established in the cur-

rent BJP government, hooliganism is at its peak, whose option is only the Congress party, which can fight for the interests of the peopleIn the procession, by bringing the policies of the party to the people, they should appeal to the people and support the Congress party and strengthen the hands of Rahul Gandhi. During this, Sarvaswari Kalim Altaf, Surendra Yadav, Vinod Kumar Vishwakarma, Samasul Qamar, Mo .Farooq, Shadab Ahmed, Girdhari Lal Gautam, Shiv Prasad Prajapati, Ram Pujan Yadav, Chhoti Lal Patel, Rajesh Patel, Sunil Pandey, Omprakash Saroj, Jitendra Patel, Mo. Shamim Pradhan, Sandeep Chaudhary, Mo. Kaif, Shahbaz Pathan, Akbar Ali, Ram Babu, Mo. Tartik, Ajay Kumar, Mo. Sufian, Lalji Vishwakarma, Mo .Saif, Ashok Patel, Anil Kumar Saroj, Gopal Yadav, Gyanendra Kumar Yadav, Ghanshyam Gautam etc. were present.

## Nod to caste census shows RaGa's acumen: Pradeep Kr Mishra Anshuman

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Issuing a press release, former Metropolitan President Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman said that by conducting caste census, the total number of castes living in India is accurately assessed, due to which the government works on all kinds of important issues like giving educational benefits on the basis of caste and emphasizes on benefiting them by setting standards, regarding all these aspects, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Honorable Rahul Gandhi ji, raised his voice on this important issue in the country's House and awakened the current government of the Center, which the current government of the Center was earlier turning away from discussing this important question, but Honorable Rahul Gandhi ji has constantly raised his voice strongly on this issue and awakened the sleeping government of the Center. This step of Honorable Rahul Gandhi ji is commendable.

Former Metropolitan President Pradeep Mishra

Anshuman also said in his statement that the government should conduct caste census, because it will make it clear that during the present time, the number of castes in India will also be completely revealed to everyone. And even today there are both rich and poor people in all types of castes. When the equation of caste status becomes clear, then the government can also benefit them on the basis of their economic income because even today there are people living in the country who have very little source of income, so it is also the moral responsibility of the government that tomorrow, keeping all the facts in mind, it should work for the interests of the citizens. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is fighting from the House to the road on all these issues, in which all of us Congress people will be ready to unite and take his struggle forward. East Metropolitan Organization Secretary Vinay Pandey said that Honorable Rahul Gandhi is a true servant of the country and the people.

## Decision to conduct caste census milestone for backward upliftment: Ashwini Patel

Prayagraj: BJP Backward Class Front Metropolitan meeting was held in Civil Lines, on this occasion the Regional President of Backward Class Front Ashwani Patel said that

In the meeting of the Cabinet's Political Affairs Committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a major decision was taken to conduct caste census along with the next general census. For this, BJP OBC Morcha Kashi region expressed hearty congratulations, welcome and gratitude to the Honorable Prime Minister, saying that before this, the first caste census was conducted in 1931. This will be the first caste census in independent India. Many political parties have been demanding caste census. This will strengthen the society from economic and social point of view and there will be uninterrupted progress of the country. After independence, Nehru ji had decided not to conduct census of any caste except Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe. The data

of caste census will be very important for making and implementing policies as well as ensuring equitable distribution of the country's resources. This reveals aspects like the economic condition of the population. Caste census will make it easy to find out the data of all the castes of the backward class. Our backward society will get more strength in getting schemes and rights and participation will be ensured.

Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that regarding caste census, BJP Backward Class Front will organize public awareness campaign and seminar at area, district and division level. On this occasion area vice president of OBC Morcha Ashok Sharma, District President Anand Jaiswal, District President Yamuna Par Subhash Patel, District President Gangapar Vijay Patel, Dharmendra Singh Patel, Manoj Kumar Kushwaha, Rajesh Kesarwani and other backward class front workers participated.

# Honoring Excellence: Dignitaries Felicitated for Remarkable Contributions During Mahakumbh 2025

Commitment to Social Service Highlighted at Felicitation Ceremony Organized by District Crime Prevention Committee, Prayagraj

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: A grand felicitation ceremony was organized by the District Crime Prevention Committee, Prayagraj, at the Recreation Hall of the Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Prayagraj Division. The event recognized individuals and organizations for their outstanding and socially beneficial contributions during the Mahakumbh 2025.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Sanjay Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager of North Central Railway, lauded the efforts of the Committee, stating that managing facilities for nearly 50 million pilgrims during Mahakumbh 2025



was a massive challenge. Despite the overwhelming crowd, the Committee fulfilled its social responsibilities with remarkable dedication, he added.

Special Guest and Mayor of Prayagraj, Mr. Umesh Chandra Ganesh Keswani, praised the Committee's unwavering commitment to society and

called its efforts an inspiration for all.

Presiding over the event, Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Srivastava described such committees as

vital pillars of the community. Committee Secretary Mr. Santosh Kumar Srivastava noted that the event was a symbol of respect for selfless social ef-

forts. Several journalists, officers, and committee members were honored for their significant roles.

Distinguished attendees included former Commissioner R.S. Verma; Chairman of Arya Kanya Inter College, Mr. Pankaj Jaiswal; senior officers from North Central Railway including Atul Yadav, P.K. Srivastava, Alok Gupta; and other notable figures such as Laxmi Kant Mishra, Shoaib Alam, Sandeep Soni, Jai Kesariwani, Sonika Kesari, Bhavna Tripathi, Nagina Verma, Sudha Gaur, Namrata Gupta, Shweta Sharma, Josna Shukla, Manju Rani, and Lata. The event was dynamically hosted by Mr. Satish Chandra Mishra.

## 302 Complaints Received, 36 Resolved During Sampurna Samadhan Diwas

PRADEEP KUMAR PANDEY

Ghazipur, Bureau : To ensure prompt redressal of public grievances, a Sampurn Samadhan Diwas was organized at the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of Chief Development Officer (CDO) Santosh Kumar Vaishya. A total of 45 complaints/applications were received at the Sadar Tehsil, out of which 6 were resolved on the spot.

According to reports from all seven tehsils, a total of 302 complaints/applications were received across the district, and 36 of these were resolved on the spot.

In Jakhania Tehsil, under the chairmanship of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), 40 complaints were received and 10 were resolved on-site. In Sevarai Tehsil, 22 complaints were received and 3 were resolved immediately. In Zamania Tehsil, 56 com-



plaints were received and 5 were resolved. Muhammadabad Tehsil reported 36 complaints, with 2 resolved on the spot. In Kasimabad Tehsil, 72 complaints were lodged, of which 4 were resolved during the event. Saidpur Tehsil received 31 complaints, and 6 of them were addressed on the spot.

The Chief Development

Officer directed all concerned officials to ensure no complaint remains pending. He emphasized the importance of immediate field visits and on-site inspections for timely resolution. He also instructed officials to ensure 100% redressal of complaints registered on the IGRS portal, noting that the matter is under constant review at the state govern-

ment level. He warned that in cases of negligence or default, the concerned officer will be held personally accountable.

Present on the occasion were Project Director Rajesh Yadav, District Development Officer Subhash Chandra Saroj, SDM Sadar, Tehsildar Sadar, along with all related administrative and police officials.

## Land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra wants to grab government land of power house as well, demands investigation and action

Land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra is a criminal gang operator, demand for investigation and action!

Bhadohi: When the government administration is constantly giving instructions to take action against land mafias, then who is protecting the land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra?

Due to lack of action against land mafia, the question arises whether the government which is giving protection to this land mafia has become more influential than the administration?

There is a very long list of illegal activities of land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra of Gyanpur tehsil of Bhadohi district. He has got recognition for four schools in the same campus with different names. Regarding this fraud, the education department officials have demanded that a case be investigated and a primary case be registered against him. On investigation, it was found that land mafia Kamla Shankar Mishra, who is in collusion with the famous mafia kingpin of the district, has usurped the land of innocent farmers and government land in Gyanpur tehsil.

By manipulating the records of the lands of the poor, farmers, Dalits and government lands, he gets their lands registered in the name of his family and his institution and takes possession of them. He took

over the lands of Gram Samaj, Panchayat Bhawan, PWD, Power House, public land, children's playground etc. and got them registered in the name of his father, brother and his family by making fake Khasra Khatauni entries of the land. After illegally occupying twenty bighas of land,



he built a big school building on this land and has got recognition for four schools at the address of that building. Whereas there is no land in the name of any school. The officials of the Education Department say that unless the papers of land registration in the name of a school are deposited in the office, that school is not given recognition. But this land mafia has got recognition for many colleges in the same campus and he has not submitted the papers of land registration in the name of any college.

Taking cognizance of this point, the officials should investigate and take strict action against this education mafia. People

say that he is not only a land mafia but also a very big education mafia of the area. Not only this, he has planned to loot the remaining land of the village society and is trying to capture all the government land. Sources say that when land mafia Shankar Mishra was posted in Gyanpur tehsil,

during his posting, he made his own village his working area and got posted in his own village as a light accountant. Whereas the accountant is not posted in the village to which he belongs. While working on the post of accountant, how was he given the charge of his own village by the Pargana Officer? If this is investigated, the suspicious role of SDM can also come to the fore and due to the corruption of accountant and Kanungo working as his associates, there is an uproar in the entire Gyanpur tehsil. There is a lot of anger among the farmers as no action has been taken against these two despite repeated complaints

against them. People have demanded strict action from the District Magistrate by suspending these two.

During this period, he got 20 bighas of land registered in the name of his brothers and family by committing fraud on the land of village society, Panchayat Bhawan, children's playground, public land etc. He illegally occupied the land of a handicapped Dalit Mallu of the same village. To take possession of his land, he got a fake affidavit prepared and then he took possession of Mallu's land and made him homeless.

Dalit Mallu, who is handicapped in both eyes, sent complaint letters to the higher authorities. When God took away Dalit Mallu's eyes, this land mafia took away his land. His cruel acts are increasing very rapidly and since the news against him has started being published in various newspapers, he has become nervous. Now he is using various tricks to save his mafia empire. To save his mafia empire, he is now trying to intimidate the complainants with the help of the mafia kingpin. Due to which there is a lot of anger among the local people. This land mafia and his associates Kanungo, Lekhpal etc. are now trying to sup-

press the fourth pillar and silence the journalists. Since the news has started being published against him, the District Magistrate has taken it very seriously. The education department officials are also very uncomfortable after reading the news that how four schools are running in the name of a single campus.

The police administration has started taking action regarding the encroached land. Information about it is being collected by the local police information unit. People also say that if ED and CBI investigate its black deeds, then a very big mafia racket can be exposed.

Therefore, he has built a huge empire with the help of black money and the illegal money he has earned through bribery and corruption. With the help of that money, he gets all the complaints against him hushed up. But this time the district administration has taken a very strict stand and said that the land of Gram Samaj, Gram Panchayat, children's playground, power house, public etc. should be vacated from the possession of this land mafia and the illegal possession of people's land which he had occupied during his tenure should be removed.



## Under Operation Passenger Security, accused who stole passengers' belongings and mobiles was arrested

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Under the guidance and direction of Post Commander / Prayagraj, in a joint operation by Railway Sub-Inspector Post Prayagraj and GRP, Prayagraj, to pre-



vent theft of passenger luggage and to nab the criminals involved in the theft, on 03.05.2025, 01 vicious accused was arrested from 20 steps near PF-1 Delhi end junction board of Railway Station Prayagraj with 01 mobile stolen from passengers.

## Fractional laser machine installed in the skin department of MLN Medical College

State-of-the-art equipment found for advanced treatment of skin diseases

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Patients are now going to get more advanced treatment facilities in the Postgraduate Department of Dermatology and Venerology of Motilal Nehru Medical College, Prayagraj. Recently, the department has received a fractional CO2 laser machine, which was formally

tients get accurate and effective treatment, but post-graduate students will also benefit from training on the latest techniques. This will also increase the quality of medical education.

Dr. Amit Shekhar, Head of the Department said on this occasion, "It is a matter of pride for our depart-



inaugurated by the college's Principal Prof. Vatsala, Vice-Principal Prof. Mohit Jain and Chief Superintendent Prof. RB Kamal. Fractional CO2 laser is considered one of the latest skin treatment techniques, which is extremely effective in treating various complex skin conditions. It will be used especially in the treatment of the following problems:

- Post-acne scars
  - Warts and keloids (hardened bumps or lumps on the skin)
  - Fungal infections of the nails
  - Removal of moles, tags or other unwanted skin discolorations
- With the arrival of this machine, not only will pa-

ment that we now have state-of-the-art technology like fractional CO2 laser. With this, we will be able to solve many problems of patients without surgery. Also, it will provide an excellent opportunity to the students to train on modern equipment. We are grateful to the Principal and the administration, with whose cooperation this was possible. Principal Prof. Vatsala Mishra praised this initiative and said that the medical college is constantly moving towards technological advancement and this machine is an important step in this direction. Congratulating the department, she expressed hope that regional patients will benefit widely from this.

## NCR is continuously moving towards making the railway network eco-friendly, sustainable and self-reliant through its green energy initiative

Chhota Bheem will teach safe rail journey

PRAYAGRAJ: Western Railway has joined hands with Chhota Bheem under a unique initiative to promote public awareness and railway safety. Western Railway will use the beloved characters from the world of Chhota Bheem for educational and outreach activities. Shri Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway and Shri Rajiv Chilakalapudi, CEO & Managing Director, Green Gold Animation Pvt. Ltd., makers of Chhota Bheem signed the Letter of Collaboration at the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 held at Jio World Centre, Mumbai on May 2, 2025.

According to the press release issued by the Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway, Western Railway will adopt an unconventional way to reach the hearts of the general public. The characters of Chhota Bheem and his family will be used across various media formats including print, digital, television, radio and physical installations like posters and school programmes for a period of one year. This strategic collaboration aims to leverage the wide appeal of the Chhota Bheem franchise to effectively communicate the essential messages on railway safety and responsible behaviour across railway premises, particularly targeting the young audience and families. Notably, the nationwide and global popularity of Chhota Bheem has a great impact on children and has the potential to influence them positively.

# Minister Nandi visits Mutthiganj Mandal and shared sorrows of his own people

## Expressed condolences by visiting homes of BJP officials and workers LISTENED TO PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE AND ASSURED THEM OF ALL POSSIBLE HELP Inaugurated development works and dedicated them to people

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, who considers the people of Prayagraj as his family, on Saturday, along with former Mayor of Prayagraj, Abhilasha Gupta Nandi, in Mutthiganj Mandal of his Prayagraj City South Assembly constituency, visited the homes of BJP officials and workers who lost their loved ones recently. Minister Nandi expressed his condolences and met the family members and consoled them. He also promised all possible help in this hour of grief. During this, Minister Nandi met the people and listened to their problems and spoke to the officials of the concerned departments over the phone and gave instructions for immediate resolution of the problems.

Minister Nandi inaugurated the CC road and drain

construction work built from the house of Ravidatt Pathak in Mutthiganj to the ancient Nageshwar Mahadev temple via the house of former councilor Shailendra Mishra at a cost of Rs 6.94 lakh, Makhnuganj Mandi in Mutthiganj at a cost of Rs 9.72 lakh, Vijaypur Kothi at Rs 3.59 lakh, Mahaveeran Gali at Rs 15.49 lakh, the lane in front of Samia Mai temple at Katghar intersection at a cost of Rs 5.66 lakh and on Baluaghat Road at a cost of Rs 6.46 lakh.

On receiving the news of the demise of the mother of booth president Radha Srivastava, Minister Nandi, along with former mayor of Prayagraj, Abhilasha Gupta Nandi, visited her house in Dariyabad and paid homage. After this, Minister Nandi attended the lunch program organized at the residence of BJP official Sushil Nishad in Dariyabad



Chachar Nala area. On the demise of the mother of BJP Backward Front President Shatrughan Jaiswal in Aryanagar Mutthiganj and Rajendra Agrahari in Salikram Nagar Bansmandi, he visited their house today and expressed condo-

lences. Met the family members and consoled them. On receiving the news of the demise of the son of Jaikrishna Kesarwani and the demise of Rameshwarnath Gupta, Minister Nandi visited their house in Sadhoganj Mandi

and expressed condolences and paid homage. On the demise of Umashankar Kesarwani in Bargad Wali Gali Mutthiganj and former director of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Prayagraj Mahanagar Shaligram Gupta, he visited

their house today and met the family members and expressed condolences.

On this occasion, Mandal President Parmanand Verma, former Mandal President Dilip Kesarwani, Kishori Lal Jaiswal, Raghavendra Mishra, Councilor Satish Kesarwani, Neeraj Tandon and Neeraj Gupta, Anoop Kesarwani, Rajkumar Kesarwani, Sudhanshu Trivedi, Dharmendra Kesarwani, Ashu Tiwari, Ankush Chourasiya, Sahil Kesarwani, Swati Gupta, Manoj Kesarwani, Sanjay Gupta, Saurabh Chourasiya, Vishal Malik, Vinay Jaiswal, Shatrughan Jaiswal, Prateek Malviya, Triloki Nath, Sushil Nishad, Ajay Yadav, Raja Nishad, Dharendra Nishad, Gunja Nishad, Jitendra Jaiswal, Vijay Jaiswal, Pappu Kesarwani, Ravi Kesarwani, all the area residents, office bearers and workers etc. were present.

# Justices honored at Saint Joseph College

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: On 3rd May 2025, a program was organized at Saint Joseph College in honor of the Justices of the Supreme Court of India, which included those alumni of Saint Joseph College. This is the first time in Indian history that three Justices, who are currently working, have come from the same institution.

Saint Joseph College started the program in its famous auditorium with the Chief Guest Justice Manoj Mishra, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice Vikram Nath, Vice Chancellor Allahabad University, Dr. Sangeeta Srivastava, Justice Siddharth Verma, Group Captain Achyuta Kumar, Principal Walter D'Silva, Head Master Melvin Paes, Junior Administrative Coordinator Father Gladwin Fernandes, Administrator A. Magavan, Staff Coordinator Jyoti Dubey.

The program started with lighting of lamps. After that, Bible reading was done by college teacher Lim Terry. After that, a prayer song was presented by the students of class 7.

Later in the program, Principal Walter D'Silva, Head Master Melvin Paes,

Junior Administrative Coordinator Father Gladwin Fernandes honored Justice Manoj Mishra, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Siddharth Verma, Vice Chancellor (Allahabad University), Dr. Sangeeta Shrivastava, Group Captain Achyuta Kumar by presenting them bouquets. After that, a musical song was presented by the college choir (by the students).

College teacher Linda Gaffney spoke about her time at school with Justice Manoj Mishra, his achievements in life and described him as a person rich in dignity, fairness and human rights.

While addressing, Justice Manoj Mishra thanked Group Captain Achyuta Kumar for inviting him and recalled the moments spent in his school and inspired the children to always think high.

Justice Manoj Mishra was honoured with a memento and a shawl by college principal Father Walter De Silva. Thereafter, a skit was presented by the students of the junior class.

Further in the programme, college teacher

Ancy Thomas told about the time spent by Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia in the court, about his moments spent in school and about his interests.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia while addressing thanked Group Captain Achyuta Kumar and Principal Father Walter D'Silva for inviting him and he told about his moments spent in the school and told the children about his life.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia was honoured with a memento and a shawl by the college principal Walter D'Silva. Later, a series of songs were presented by college teachers Saubhagya Nayak, Ankur Arora, Raju Solomon, Avinash Sharma, teacher Srijita Chatra and alumnus Kushagra Allen Philip.

Further in the series, college teacher counselor Aparna Ranjan gave information about Justice Vikram Nath. She told about the moments spent in his school, his interests and every moment of his life.

Justice Vikram Nath while addressing thanked Group Captain Achyuta Kumar and Principal Father Walter D'Silva for inviting

him and said that coming back to the school would refresh his old golden memories and told about the 13 years he spent in the school and told the children about the important moments of life and the knowledge he learnt from them.

Justice Vikram Nath was honoured with a memento and a shawl by the college principal Walter D'Silva. The programme was taken forward by a beautiful dance performance by the students of the junior classes.

Principal Walter D'Silva while addressing thanked Group Captain Achyuta Kumar, Chief Guest Justice Manoj Mishra, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice Vikram Nath, Vice Chancellor Allahabad University, Dr. Sangeeta Shrivastava for coming and addressed the children that they should also take inspiration from all of them. Moving towards the end of the program, teacher Dr. Sheetal Sebastian expressed her gratitude to everyone. The program was successfully conducted by teacher Sumona Banerjee and the program ended with the national anthem.

## District Magistrate after listening to the public complaints in Tehsil Sirathu, directed concerned officers to resolve them in a quality and timely manner

Kaushambi: Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas was organized in all tehsils today. District

Magistrate Madhusudan Hulgi and Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Srivastava heard public complaints in Tehsil Sirathu and directed the concerned officials to resolve them in a quality and timely manner. The District Magistrate directed the joint team of revenue and police to go to the spot and resolve the complaints related to revenue. The District Magistrate directed all the officers to take the complaints received on Tehsil Diwas and IGRS seriously and resolve them in a timely and qualitative manner and said that it should be ensured that no complaint remains pending. A total of 93 complaints were received on the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, out of which 07 complaints were resolved on the spot.

In Tehsil Diwas, complainant Razia Devi resident of village Shahjadpur Pargana Kada submitted an application and informed that her land is being forcibly occupied by Bachauli son of Jumman Raj, on which the District Magis-

trate directed the joint team of revenue and police to investigate and take necessary action. Similarly, applicants Shivkumar and Rambabu resident of village Bamhrauli police station Kokhraj submitted an application and informed that the applicant has got Pradhan Mantri Awas but there is no land to build it, she had demanded a lease but the lease has not been allotted yet, on which the District Magistrate directed the Sub-District Magistrate Sirathu to investigate and take necessary action. A total of 41 complaints were received in Tehsil Manjhanpur, out of which 05 complaints were resolved on the spot and a total of 41 complaints were received in Tehsil Chayal, out of which 01 complaint was resolved on the spot.

## Criminals shot a lawyer in Prayagraj: kept writhing on the ground for 20 minutes

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

PRAYAGRAJ: An advocate was shot at and injured by some unidentified miscreants while the former was going somewhere on his mobile here on Saturday Dadouli Lakdamandi near Kalyan Shah Ka Pura village of Soraon police station area. The advocate slumped on the ground bleeding profusely.

Seeing this, a crowd of passersby gathered. Police reached the spot after getting the information and admitted him to SRN Hospital where his condition was stated to be precarious by the doctors. However, police is yet to ascertain as to who shot at the advocate and the main motive behind it. The injured advocate identified as Man Singh Yadav is said to be a resident of Kingriya Ka Pura police station Mauaima. Police is investigating the matter. The advocate has been shot twice. This has

spread panic in the area. Initial investigations revealed a dispute over land has led to this incident.

Advocate Man Singh Yadav, son of Phoolchand, a resident of Kigiriyana Ka Pura village of Mauaima, practices law in the district court. He was going to Soraon tehsil from his house on a motorcycle at around 1.30 pm on Saturday afternoon. During this, he had reached Prayagraj Pratapgarh highway in front of Kalyan Shah Ka Pura village of Soraon police station area when bike-borne attackers shot him from behind. One of the miscreants who shot him was wearing a helmet. The other one was wearing a mask. Man Singh Yadav was shot in the back. After getting injured, Man Singh Yadav fell down. On the other hand, the villagers ran towards the spot on hearing the sound of firing, when the attackers fired the second round.

# Shubham Dwivedi's sacrifice will wipe out the terrorists: Mayor Shubham Dwivedi's urn of ashes immersed in Sangam

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The urn containing the ashes of Kanpur resident Shubham Dwivedi, who was martyred in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, reached the Sangam coast on Friday, where his last rites were performed with due worship. Prayagraj Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani was also present on this occasion and he paid tribute along with the martyr's family.

Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani said that the valor and sacrifice of martyr Shubham Dwivedi can never be forgotten, Shubham Dwivedi got married on February 12 this year. He went on a trip to Kashmir with his wife, where he was killed by terrorists in Pahalgam on 22 April. This attack caused outrage across the country and various leaders strongly condemned it.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also expressed condolences, calling the incident "cow-

Shubham's family members were present in this tribute ceremony held on the banks of Sangam. Everyone



ardly" and assured all possible help to the martyr's family. And I will make every effort to get Shubham Dwivedi ji the status of a martyr. A large number of local citizens and

bid a tearful farewell to the martyr and saluted his bravery. The martyrdom of Shubham Dwivedi has shaken the entire country, his sacrifice will not go in vain, it will wipe out the ter-

rorists and these efforts made in his memory will keep his bravery and sacrifice alive forever. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani told that coincidentally today was Shubham Dwivedi's birthday and

Shubham Dwivedi's cousin Saurabh Dwivedi immersed the ashes in the Sangam. During this, father Manoj Dwivedi, wife Eshanya Dwivedi were present. Wife Eshanya Dwivedi demanded martyr status for all the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist incident including Shubham Dwivedi and strict action against the terrorists.

Councilors Digvijay Kushwaha, Tirthraj Pandey, Subhash Chandra Vaishya, Rajesh Kesarwani, Bharat Nishad, Rajesh Pathak, Himalaya Sonkar, Vivek Mishra etc. were present during this time.



## Editorial

## The airport is being developed through a public-private partnership

Some geopolitical weight in the region. It presents no hesitation in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). It knows the disputed character of PoK and exercises no restraint. Instead, it tutors India on what it does in its sovereign territory. India understands China's cunning and exercises patience and quietness, making necessary preparations to check the latter's possible misadventures.

However, the work-in-progress frontier highway will significantly strengthen India's border infrastructure and seamless connectivity. It will present a significant impetus for encouraging economic engagement in the region. Infrastructure and connectivity have always played a pivotal role in modernising the economy and opening the scope for economic.

Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) at Jewar, in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, conducted its first flight validation test on 9 December. According to NIAL officials, the first commercial flight from Noida International Airport is scheduled to take off on 17 April 2025. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the construction of NIAL during a well-attended foundation stone-laying ceremony on 25 November 2021. An IndiGo test flight travelled from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) to NIAL, completing the final security-related analysis for the facility. Officials stated that the flight was conducted under close coordination between the pilots and the air traffic controllers (ATC). There were no passengers on board when the flight landed on the 3.9-kilometre runway shortly after noon. Earlier, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had granted flight and security approvals. Technically, the airport will now be readied for commercial operations. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) oversaw the exercise, and all data collected will be submitted to the DGCA for review. Supervising personnel included officials from the DGCA, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), NIAL, and the Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Department. The test assessed systems such as airspace coordination, communication protocols, emergency response readiness, and runway performance. Previous milestones included the successful calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) and the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) in October 2024. "

With the validation flight completed, we are committed to finishing the airport project before the end of April", said Union Minister.

for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. "Today marks a very important occasion in the progress of the airport and definitely whatever support is required from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, we will continuously provide, so that the early operations from the airport can begin," he said. The aim is to complete the validation process by December 15, after which the airport concessionaire will apply for an aerodrome license, a key requirement for commercial operations. This greenfield airport will be the largest in the country. It is located approximately 72 kilometres from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which, until now, has been the only other international airport in the National Capital Region and is nearing its capacity. Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, currently has 15 operational civil airports. The airport is being developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. It will be owned by Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) and operated by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Zurich Airport AG. In June 2022, Tata Projects.



## To stand in this house is to be reminded of what is most beautiful about religious faith

Suman

To stand in this house is to be reminded of what is most beautiful about religious faith: its ability to give solace and to inspire, its aspiration to these great and lovely heights, in which strength and delicacy are so perfectly conjoined. In addition, to be asked to speak here on this day, the fourth anniversary of the notorious fatwa of the late Imam Khomeini, is a particular honour. When I was an undergraduate at this college, between 1965 and 1968, the years of flower-power and student power, I would have found the notion of delivering an address in King's Chapel pretty far-out, as we used to say; and yet, such are the journeys of one's life that here I stand. I am grateful to the Chapel and the college for extending this invitation, which I take as a gesture of solidarity and support, support not merely for one individual but, much more importantly, for the high moral principles of human rights and human freedoms that the Khomeini edict seeks so brutally to attack. For just as King's Chapel may be taken as a symbol of what is best about religion, so the fatwa has become a symbol of what is worst. It feels all the more appropriate to be speaking here because it was while in my final year of reading history at Cambridge that I came across the story of the so-called satanic verses or temptation of the Prophet Muhammad, and of his rejection of that temptation. That year, I had chosen as one of my special subjects a paper on Muhammad, the rise of



Islam, and the caliphate. So few students chose this option that the lectures were cancelled. The other students switched to different special subjects. However, I was anxious to continue, and Arthur Hibbert, one of the King's history dons, agreed to supervise me. So as it happened I was, I think, the only student in Cambridge who took the paper. The next year, I'm told, it was not offered again. This is the kind of thing that almost leads one to believe in the workings of a hidden hand. The story of the 'satanic verses' can be found, among other places, in the canonical writings of the classical writer al-Tabari. He tells us that on one occasion the Prophet was given verses which seemed to accept the divinity of the three most popular pagan goddesses of Mecca, thus compromising Islam's rigid monotheism. Later he rejected these verses as being a trick of the devil

saying that Satan had appeared to him in the guise of the Archangel Gabriel and spoken 'satanic verses.' Historians have long speculated about this incident, wondering if perhaps the nascent religion had been offered a sort of deal by the pagan authorities of the city, which was flirted with and then refused. I felt the story humanized the Prophet, and, therefore made him more accessible, more easily comprehensible to a modern reader, for whom the presence of doubt in a human mind, and human imperfections in a great man's personality, can only make that mind, that personality, more attractive. Indeed, according to the traditions of the Prophet, even the Archangel Gabriel was understanding about the incident, assuring him that such things had befallen all the prophets, and that he need not worry about what had happened. It seems

that the Archangel Gabriel, and the God in whose name he spoke, was rather more tolerant than some of those who presently affect to speak in the name of God. Khomeini's fatwa itself may be seen as a set of modern satanic verses. In the fatwa, once again, evil takes on the guise of virtue; and the faithful are deceived. It's important to remember what the fatwa is.

One cannot properly call it a sentence, since it far exceeds its author's jurisdiction; since it contravenes fundamental principles of Islamic law; and since it was issued without the faintest pretence of any legal process. (Even Stalin thought it necessary to hold show trials!) It is, in fact, a straightforward terrorist threat, and in the West it has already had very harmful effects. There is much evidence that writers and publishers have become nervous of publishing any material

about Islam except of the most reverential and anodyne sort. There are instances of contracts for books being canceled, of texts being rewritten. Even so independent an artist as the filmmaker Spike Lee felt the need to submit to Islamic authorities the script of his film about Malcolm X, who was for a time a member of the Nation of Islam and performed the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca. And to this day, almost one year after the paperback of The Satanic Verses was published (by a specially constituted consortium) in the United States, and imported into Britain, no British publisher has had the nerve to take on distribution of the softcover edition, even though it has been in the bookstores for months without causing the tiniest frisson. In the East, however, the fatwa's implications are far more sinister. 'You must defend Rushdie,' an Iranian writer told a British scholar recently. 'In defending Rushdie you are defending us.' In January, in Turkey, an Iranian-trained hitsquad assassinated the secular journalist Ugur Mumcu. Last year, in Egypt, fundamentalist assassins killed Farag Fouda, one of the country's leading secular thinkers. Today, in Iran, many of the brave writers and intellectuals who defended me are being threatened with death-squads. Last summer, I was able to participate in a literary seminar staged in a Cambridge college and attended by scholars and writers from all over the world, including many

## When a country actually sort of does not observe written agreements

Abhinav

Between the Indian and Pacific Oceans and resulted in the creation of the Quad. The centrality of India today to the Indo-Mediterranean and the Indo-Pacific, is a result of former prime minister Abe's strategic genius and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eventual vision and persistence. The Indian move increases pressure on China which attaches great political, spiritual and strategic importance to Tibet. Tibet's Dalai Lama and its government in exile has sheltered in India, adding to tensions between the neighbours. The rumoured creation of a new Indian fighting command on the land border creates pressure for China at a time when it seeks to achieve dominance in the seas, both the South China Sea as well as the Indian Ocean. At the same time, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu Jaushieh was interviewed by a national Indian channel, infuriating the Chinese Communist Party. A

public protest was quickly issued by the Chinese embassy in New Delhi condemning the interview's content as "totally unacceptable". Taiwan and India have moved closer in several spheres as China's threat to Taiwan has increased with increased investments and manufacturing by Taiwanese companies in India to protect their value chain in case of an invasion by the mainland. India's policies at countering China have been deliberate, with the country starting to respond to Chinese aggression swiftly, especially given the upcoming general election. During his bilateral visit to Japan, India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said that China has not respected its agreements with India. "We can disagree on many things, but when a country actually sort of does not observe written agreements with a neighbour, I think, you have caused ... because ... then raises a question mark about the stability of the relationship and frankly.

## The battle for freedom of expression, and for political and gender rights

Syed Hussain

Since it was issued without the faintest pretence of any legal process. (Even Stalin thought it necessary to hold show trials!) It is, in fact, a straightforward terrorist threat, and in the West it has already had very harmful effects. There is much evidence that writers and publishers have become nervous of publishing any material about Islam except of the most reverential and anodyne sort. There are instances of contracts for books being canceled, of texts being rewritten. Even so independent an artist as the filmmaker Spike Lee felt the need to submit to Islamic authorities the script of his film about Malcolm X, who was for a time a member of the Nation of Islam and performed the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca. And to this day, almost one year after the paperback of The Satanic Verses was published (by a specially constituted consortium) in the United States, and imported into Britain, no British publisher has had the nerve to take on distribution of the softcover edition, even though it has been in the bookstores for months without causing the tiniest frisson. In the East, however, the fatwa's implications are far more sinister. 'You must defend Rushdie,' an Iranian writer told a British scholar recently. 'In defending Rushdie you are defending us.' In January, in Turkey, an Iranian-trained hitsquad assassinated the secular journalist Ugur Mumcu. Last year, in Egypt, fundamentalist assassins killed Farag Fouda, one of the country's leading secular thinkers. Today, in Iran, many of the brave writers and intellectuals who defended me are being threatened with death-squads. Last summer, I was able to participate in a literary seminar staged in a Cambridge college and attended by scholars and writers from all over the world.

touched by the friendship and enthusiasm with which the Muslim delegates greeted me. A distinguished Saudi journalist took my arm and said, 'I want to embrace you because you, Mr Rushdie, are a free man.' He was fully aware of the ironies of what he was saying. He meant that freedom of speech, freedom of the imagination, is that freedom which gives meaning to all the others. He could walk the streets, get his work published, lead an ordinary life, and did not feel free, because there was so much he could not say, so much he hardly dared to think. I was protected by the Special Branch; he had to watch out for the Thought Police. Today, as Professor Fred Halliday says in this week's New Statesman & Society, 'the battle for freedom of expression, and for political and gender rights, is being fought out not in the senior common rooms and dinner tables of Europe, but in the Islamic world.' In his essay, he gives some instances of the way in which the case of The Satanic Verses is being used as a symbol by the oppressed voices of the Muslim world. One of the many Iranian exile radio stations, he tells us, has even named itself Voice of the Satanic Verses. The Satanic Verses is a committedly secular text that deals in part with the material of religious faith. For the religious fundamentalist, especially, at present, the Islamic fundamentalist, the adjective 'secular' is the dirtiest of dirty words. But here's a strange paradox: in my country of origin, India, it was the secular ideal of Nehru and Gandhi that protected the nation's large Muslim minority, and it is the decay of that ideal that leads directly to the bloody sectarian confrontations which the subcontinent is now witnessing, confrontations that were long foretold and could have been avoided, had not so many politicians chosen to fan the flames of religious hatred. Indian Muslims have

## Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

Simran

"One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution infrastructure.

, especially in high density/urban.

load centres, in view of the sharp rise in peak demand over the last few years," said Anujesh Dwivedi, Partner at Deloitte India. He noted that there may be some allocation towards supporting the preparatory work especially on the listing of power utilities, or some incentive mechanism for promoting initiatives on private sector participation or listing of utilities at the state level because they are increas-

ingly being seen as the much needed structural reforms for the sector needs. The industry is optimistic of a wider coverage of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by including smart metering in infrastructure definition.

"This would direct more financing for a sector which seeks to bring down India's transmission and distribution losses to 12% and improve recovery for state utilities," Goyal said. Goyal also noted that power transmission despite significant potential has not seen any notable monetisation events which could address the latent investor demand. "Government should

announce a time-bound privatisation programme for assets owned by PGCIL," he said. The sector also sees the PLI scheme for solar value chain to continue with possible reduction in the duty structures for solar equipment. Jacob highlighted.

that there may be some rationalisation of duties on capital goods required for solar upstream manufacturing could be seen so that overall that industry can really take off. "We expect continuation and maybe broadening of the PLI support towards the solar module value chain. We already have a few interventions there, which are likely to

be extended deeper," Dwivedi said. Similarly, on the battery manufacturing front, the industry expects localization of the value chain given competing countries have already advanced beyond India. In the green hydrogen segment, the industry believes the government may bring in hydrogen purchase for specific sectors like (green) steel. On the EV front, the industry seeks more support towards building public charging infrastructure given the anticipated increase in the EV penetration. "Under the PM E-drive, we already have an allocation of about Rs 1,100 crores for FY26. Given that the final guidelines.

, including many Muslims.I was



# Maharashtra CM Fadnavis receives threat message from Pakistani number



**NEW DELHI:** Mumbai Traffic Police received a WhatsApp message from a Pakistani number, in which a person identifying himself as Malik Shahbaz Humayun Raza threatened to attack Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, officials said on Friday. Following the threat, the Worli police registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. Security agencies have been alerted, and efforts are underway to trace the sender and verify the credibility of the threat.

Mumbai Police officials assured that all necessary security measures are being taken to ensure the safety of the chief minister. A similar incident of threatening was also reported last week. Police arrest 2 for sending bomb threat to Eknath Shinde

Mumbai Police have arrested two individuals from Buldhana in connection with an email threatening to bomb the car of Maharashtra deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde. The threat

# Industrial City’s Shendra node gets separate power supply

**Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.** The Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC), a power regulator, gave the necessary approval. The regulator is also expected to hear the multi-year tariff (MYT) petition submitted by the MITL to decide the tariff structure within the next few weeks. The development is expected to ensure a smooth and quality power supply to the thriving industrial city that witnessed Rs 60,000 crore investment. The industrial city is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for two

lakh people. A senior official said different industries in Auric would benefit immensely due to the award of the power distribution licence to the MITL. "The industries can expect power supply at competitive rates in comparison to other states. The power supply will be smoother, helping industries carry out different operations in a seamless manner," he said. The power supply distribution network at Shendra is largely underground and can work with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems that are used to monitor and control industrial processes. "MITL has set up a dedicated consumer facilitation centre at Shendra. Centre will help deliver the highest quality of services to industries," Auric authorities said. Piyush Goyal, the Union minister for commerce and industry, who visited Auric on Feb 19, said the greenfield industrial city would have its own power distribution network. Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Ather Energy, Lubrizol India Private Limited, and JSW Green Mobility are among the major companies that announced huge investments at Auric.



# Inoventive 3D makes waves with Dubai’s first fully 3D-printed boat

**Cyberfin,** a shark-shaped boat made from recycled ocean waste plastic, was completed in just six days and nine hours, highlighting the efficiency of this innovative technology. With dimensions of 10 meters in length, 2.1 meters in width, and 2.7 meters in height, it can accommodate up to 10 passengers and is officially registered with the Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA).

# Pran Pratistha concludes at Kalibari

**Chandigarh:** A three-day Pran Pratistha of Bhagwan Sri Ramakrishna at Kalibari, Sector 47 concluded with a soulful Bhakti Sammelan, special Kali Puja and cultural events. Devotional music, enlightening talks by monks and scholars and a mesmerizing Kirtan Sangeet by Padda Polash enthralled devotees. The play Divya Sparsh depicted Sri Ramakrishna’s divine life. Kalibari celebrates its 56th Foundation Day on Tuesday with special Pooja, Langar, blood donation, and free health and eye camps.

**Fully 3D-printed boat** "This marks a significant milestone not just for Inoventive 3D but for the entire marine industry," said M. Ali, Managing Partner of Inoventive 3D. "Our large-format 3D printing capabilities allow us to produce boats in a fraction of the time required by traditional manufacturing methods. With this innovation, we can manufacture 6-7 boats per month, transforming Dubai into a hub for 3D-printed marine solutions." Traditional boat manufacturing takes 3 to 4 months.

# India's Got Latent row: Ranveer , Ashish dial cyber cell, say they want to record statements

**NEW DELHI:** YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia and Ashish Chanchlani have voluntarily reached out to the cyber cell, expressing their willingness to record their statements in connection with a case regarding alleged obscenity promotion on the controversial show India's Got Latent. The Cyber Cell officials confirmed on Monday that both influencers had contacted them and agreed to appear after summons were issued for them to testify. The development comes amid a series of legal actions stemming from India's Got Latent show. Ashish Chanchlani had recently approached the Supreme Court seeking to



quash or transfer an FIR filed against him in Guwahati. The FIR relates to accusations of promoting obscenity on the show. The Supreme Court, on February 18, issued notices to both the Maharashtra and Assam governments, tagging Chanchlani's plea with a similar request filed by Ranveer

Allahbadia, also known as BeerBiceps. The case involves Allahbadia, who is the primary accused, and Chanchlani, both of whom are named in an FIR lodged by the Guwahati Police. The FIR stems from comments made by Allahbadia during his guest appearance on India's Got

Latent, a comedy YouTube show hosted by Samay Raina. Allahbadia made controversial remarks about a participant's parents, which were quickly criticised as inappropriate and sexually explicit. The remarks sparked outrage on social media, with public figures, political leaders, and citizens condemning the comments. In response, Allahbadia issued an apology, and Raina removed all videos of the show from his YouTube channel, stating that he was fully cooperating with authorities. The controversy took a legal turn as the Supreme Court criticised Allahbadia's remarks, describing them as "dirty and perverted".

# Sena factions clash in Thane, raise slogans at Dighe memorial

**Thane: Workers** of the rival Shiv Sena factions led by deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray indulged in sloganeering and heated exchange at Anand Ashram in Thane's Ashram Naka area on Sunday evening. The clash led to traffic disruptions in the area. The residence of the late Shiv Sena leader Anand Dighe, Anand Ashram serves as the party office of Shinde's Shiv Sena. On Sunday, the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) organised a

rally in Thane ahead of the civic elections. Despite a strong police presence, tensions escalated when senior leaders, including Vinayak Raut, Sanjay Raut, and Chandrakant Khaire, arrived at Anand Ashram to pay their respects to Dighe. The rival Sena faction members confronted each other and started sloganeering. The situation intensified when the Sena (UBT) leaders proceeded to Shakti Sthal, Dighe's memorial, where another round of slogan shouting erupted between

the two groups. Former Thane mayor Minakshi Shinde condemned the event, calling it an insult to Dighe's legacy. She defended Shiv Sena's decision to perform a 'Dudh Abhishek' (milk offering) at the memorial to "purify" the site. The political blame game took centre stage at the Sena (UBT) rally with Sanjay Raut launching a scathing attack on the Shinde faction. He accused the Prime Minister of orchestrating the split in the Shiv Sena and criticised Shinde.

# Free limbs and calipers measurement camp organised by Narayan Seva Sansthan concludes, 447 benefitted

**Chandigarh: Udaipur based Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS)** organized a free screening and limb/caliper measurement camp at the Community Center, Sector 49 C on Sunday. The camp was inaugurated by Sanjay Tandon, a noted politician and social worker and Shipra Bansal, Chairperson, Child Rights Protection Commission, UT in the presence of local councilor Rajendra Sharma and Vandana Agarwal, Director, NSS. Sanjay Tandon praised the Sansthan's initiatives stating that those who serve society with pure intentions are immortal. He highlighted the work of NSS in empowering the disabled and fostering human cooperation, calling it an

inspiration for society. He also announced a Rs. 1 lakh grant to NSS and assured continued support in the future. Shipra Bansal lauded the Sansthan's work in empowering differently-abled children over the past 40 years, emphasizing the importance of ongoing efforts to build a healthy society through collaboration with NGOs. During the camp, attendees heard success stories from beneficiaries whose lives were transformed by the Sansthan's work. The chief guests and other dignitaries were briefed about the measurement and fitting process by medical professionals and technical teams. andana Agarwal in her welcome

# Under construction mosque in cemetery razed, case registered

**Kanpur:** A mosque being constructed illegally on a burial ground was razed by the district authorities in Hamirpur district. The administration obtained land details from the municipal records and after confirming that the construction was illegal, demolished

the structure. A case was registered against six identified and 250 unidentified people. A search has been initiated for the suspects. Officials received information about the construction of a mosque at a burial ground near Chhimoli Road. SDM

Rajkumar Gupta sought land status report from regional records officer Satyam Awasthi, who verified that the property, situated in Mauja Maudha, spanning 2.09 hectares, was officially documented as a cemetery. Following the report, authori-

ties, anticipating potential unrest, conducted a late-night demolition of the incomplete structure. The operation was overseen by SDM Rajkumar Gupta, tehsildar Anubhav Chandra, CO Vinita Pahal, and Kotwali officer Umesh Kumar Singh.

# New I-T bill may be introduced in House on Tuesday

**NEW DELHI:** Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to introduce the new income tax bill in Parliament on Tuesday, with the legislation likely to be referred to a standing committee for examination. "I hope to have it introduced in Lok Sabha in the coming week. The process is the committee gives its recommendation, it comes back, and then the government, through the Cabinet, takes a call on whether these amendments.

# Spending on gaming in small towns has increased 16 times in the last five years

**Delhi:** According to a Visa white paper on payments, spending on online gaming increased 16 times in smaller areas between 2019 and 2024. The pattern indicates that digital consumption is becoming more and more prevalent in India's non-metropolitan regions. Spending on digital services, such as gaming, online education, and entertainment, has increased ninefold



and sixteen fold since 2019, respectively, among consumers in smaller towns. In smaller towns, the number of consumers spending more than

Rs 2 lakh a year with a single card has increased by over four times, while in category A cities, the figure has increased by 1.4 times. This change has

led to a 175% increase in total card expenditure in category C+ cities since 2019 and suggests that affluence is spreading outside of metropolitan areas. According to Niko Partners' India Market Report, the country's video game market is predicted to develop at an annual rate of 11.1%, surpassing \$1 billion in 2025 and reaching a valuation of \$1.4 billion by 2028.



## Paytm migrates merchants to UPI IDs

**Delhi:** Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma claimed merchant clients have migrated to the new PSP bank handles. Last week, the financial startup gained NPCI approval to begin user migration. Sharma launched the new sound box at a virtual press conference and said Yes Bank, a PSP bank, can elect to undertake additional due diligence on switching merchants. "Migration of merchants has been completed and the system is running with Yes Bank as the back end," he said. The new method transfers Paytm clients to PSP banks including Axis, HDFC, SBI, and Yes Bank. A PSP bank connects the UPI app to the banking channel. Only banks can be PSPs. Paytm previously settled with OCL-affiliated Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL). The Reserve Bank of India ordered the payments bank to shut down basic banking services by 15



### Swiggy moves closer to \$1.25 billion IPO

**Delhi:** Swiggy's shareholders have approved a \$1.2 billion initial public offering (IPO), according to Registrar of Companies papers sourced by Tofler. The documents claimed that the Bengaluru-based firm wants to raise up to Rs 3,750 crore (approximately \$450 million) through a fresh issue and up to Rs 6,664 crore (about \$800 million) through an OFS. In preparation for its IPO later this year, the business seeks Rs 750 crore from anchor investors. The company's shareholders consent and approve the creation, issue, offer, allot, and/or transfer of its equity shares up to Rs 3,750 crore by way of a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 6,664 crore by certain existing shareholders (OFS). Prosus owns 32% of Swiggy, SoftBank 8%, Accel 6.2, its founder group 6.7%, and Elevation Capital 4.4%. Tracxn, a market information platform, lists Norwest Venture Partners, Tencent, DST Global, and Alpha Wave.

March due to supervisory concerns and rule violations. Following RBI's order, Sharma resigned as

Paytm Payments Bank's non-executive chairman and board member in February.

## Standard Capital Markets Ltd. Board To Consider Declaration of Special Dividend

**Chandigarh:** Standard Capital Markets Ltd., a leading player in the financial services sector, has announced that its board will meet on 30th April to consider Declaration of special dividend. The board will also consider issuance of equity shares/convertible securities either by way of Preferential Issue/Rights Issue/or any other mode as may be considered or as may be deemed fit. Earlier, the company effected a stock split in 10:1 ratio (subdivision of 1 equity share of FV Rs. 10 into 10 shares with FV of Re. 1 each) and bonus issue in 2:1 ratio (two bonus share of FV Re.1 for every existing equity share of FV Re. 1 held). Standard Capital Markets Limited is a leading player in the financial services sector. Embracing the uniqueness of each client, the company consistently strives to deliver personalized, professional services. It upholds an unwavering commitment to every client while adhering rigorously to the best professional norms and practices, exuding dynamism

in every interaction. The company offers a diverse range of Personal Loans, ensuring not only competitiveness but also flexible repayment terms. With their support, clients can confidently pursue their goals without confusion or worry. For businesses seeking financial support, the company extends Business Loans with flexible overdraft options. The company empowers clients to stay ahead of the competition by providing prompt financial assistance, fostering business growth with ease. The Flexi Overdraft feature simplifies cash flow management, allowing easy access to funds as needed, and eliminating the complexities of traditional loan applications. Upcoming products from Standard Capital Markets Limited include Fee Financing and Gold Loans. The Fee Financing offerings cater to aspiring students and parents, simplifying educational expenses. The tech-driven platform enables swift and effortless applications for fee financing, ensuring accessible and affordable education for

all. Simplified Gold Loans offered by the company provide an instant solution for urgent financial requirements, leveraging gold holdings without delays or excessive paperwork. The company is dedicated to nurturing a culture of learning and progress, reflected in its offerings of Educational Loans. It is an upcoming product aimed at supporting aspiring learners in accessing quality education. With a focus on flexible repayment options, the company alleviates financial constraints for students, enabling them to pursue academic aspirations. Its financial assistance endeavors ensure academic pursuits are within reach, offering competitive interest rates and streamlined online application processes. In line with its commitment to empowerment, the company is working towards extending Agriculture Loans (upcoming product), recognizing farmers as the cornerstone of the Agriculture Loan offering. Timely financial assistance for various farming activities.

## CAPSULES

### Staff fraud costs M&M Financial Services 150cr

**Delhi:** Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services revealed a NorthEast branch fraud that could cost Rs 150 crore. Fraudsters forged automobile loan KYC documentation to steal corporate funds. Area business managers and other staff are under investigation, according to the corporation. After the announcement, firm shares fell 5.5%, resulting in a market cap loss of roughly Rs 1,700 crore. The corporation postponed its April 23 board meeting to discuss FY24 results. M&M Financial Services was regulated last year for recovery tactics. After the theft, Centrum financial indicated in a research report that the financial business had fewer provisions due to asset quality fluctuation. Macquarie's Vertelo invests \$1.5B in India for charging stations and EV loans.

### Auctions for mobile spectrum to continue

**Delhi:** Union communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw clarified a day after the government's application to the apex court on administrative allocation of spectrum in public interest or in pursuit of government function was mentioned in the 2G spectrum case that the government will continue to follow the auction process for spectrum allocation and was not seeking to modify the 2G judgment. Vaishnaw stated they would continue to follow the spectrum auction process for mobile services. The Telecommunications Act 2023, which was notified in the official gazette on December 24 but has not yet been enacted, requires the central government to auction all telecommunication spectrum except for activities listed in the First Schedule.

## Air India CEO says India's aviation expansion might support another international hub

**Delhi:** Air India Ltd. CEO Campbell Wilson said India's airline business is growing quickly enough to accommodate at least one more international hub beyond Mumbai and Delhi. "India can be home to at least three hubs and plenty of point-to-point services," he said. The globe has few marketplaces like India. Southern India can flow Asia-Africa or Australia-Europe, while northern India flows east-west "added. Air India ordered 470 Airbus SE and Boeing Co. jets last year, one of the largest jet purchases in aviation history. Bloomberg says India's growing consumer class and economy might



make it a major travel market. IndiGo and Akasa are among the Indian airlines that have ordered over 1,100 aircraft and invested \$12 billion to build 72 new airports by 2025. Air India has received one new

aircraft every six days for six months and will continue to do so for 12 months. "11 Boeing 777s, three Airbus A350s, and 15 Boeing 737 Maxs arrived this month. Retrofitting widebodies

### Vodafone Idea FPO subscribed 7x, largest fund-raise

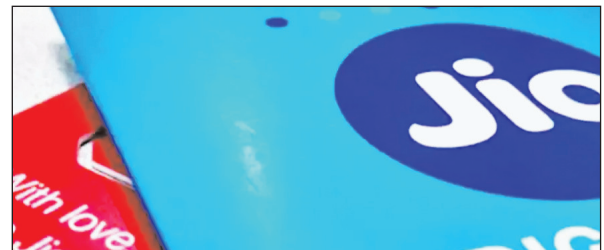
**Delhi:** Vodafone Idea's Rs 18,000-crore follow-on public offer (FPO) was subscribed seven times, the most popular fund-raising maneuver. The Rs 10-Rs 11 FPO, the largest in Indian history.

should finish in 2025 or 2026 "Wilson stated.

"At the time of privatization, Air India had 43 wide-body aircraft for a population of 1.3 billion," he said. Singapore has 150 wide-body planes, Dubai 250.

## Jio needs two pricing hikes to catch Airtel in Arpu

**Delhi:** Reliance Analysts estimate that Jio, India's largest telecom operator by market share, would need two 15-20% rate hikes over the next three years to catch up to Bharti Airtel on average revenue per user (Arpu). Tariff rises and customer mix should boost Jio's Arpu to Rs 235 by FY27. However, Airtel's Arpu should reach Rs 286 in three years. Jio's Arpu at Rs 182 has been flat sequentially for the last three quarters, despite reporting January-March quarter earnings in line with experts' projections. JP Morgan



analysts claimed Jio's Arpu deflated because of early success in JioBharat feature phones at lower prices. Furthermore, free 5G is substantially reducing 4G data top-ups. Jio's 5G subscribers reached 108 million. Its 5G network handles 28% of wireless data traffic. Users receive 28% of data traffic for free from

the company. Analysts forecast a 20% tariff hike in July-September FY25 and another in FY27 after elections. A rate boost is vital for Jio, which is focused on increasing users, as its free cash flow went negative Rs 15,100 crore in FY24 due to a huge spike in cash interest payments to Rs 13,600 crore.

## Kalibari Reached Spiritual Milestone with Pran Pratishtha of Sri Ramakrishna

**Chandigarh,:** Kalibari Chandigarh witnessed a deeply spiritual and historic moment with the Pran Pratishtha (Installation and Consecration) of Bhagwan Sri Ramakrishna, the divine child of Mother Kali. Organized under the aegis of the Ramakrishna Mission, this sacred ceremony marked a new and divine chapter in Kalibari's spiritual journey that began in 1970. The pran pratishtha was led by Revered Swami Shantatmananda ji (RKM, Gurgaon) and Swami Sukhananda ji (RKM, Bhuj) in the presence of the executive body of Kalibari Chandigarh and a large gathering of Bengali devotees and spiritual seekers from across the region. The day's proceedings commenced at dawn with a soulful Prabhat



Feri (devotional procession), followed by the lighting of ceremonial lamps and the chanting of Vedic hymns, creating a sanctified atmosphere. The occasion was epitomised with the presence of Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj of Belur Math, who gave divine blessings to the gathering.

Devotees participated wholeheartedly in the Bhog, Arati, Homa, and Puja ceremonies throughout the day, accompanied by devotional

songs (Bhaktigeeti) and a community feast (Langar). The evening segment featured the revered Mangal Arati, followed by a majestic Kali Puja that extended the whole night and was led by Swami Shantatmananda ji. The spiritual ambience was further enriched by a mesmerizing Kirtan Sangeet performance by the acclaimed Padda Polash and team from Kolkata, who captivated the audience with their devotional melodies.

## RBI bans Kotak Mahindra from online and mobile customer acquisition

**Delhi:** The Reserve Bank of India has barred Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels and issuing new credit cards due to its failure to build IT systems and controls that grew with its growth and caused serious regulatory violations. As per RBI's announcement, RBI's press notice stated that the bank is "materially deficient in building necessary operational resilience on account of its failure to build IT systems and controls commensurate with its growth". Kotak Mahindra Bank's IT inventory management, patch and change management, user access management, vendor risk management, data security and leak prevention strategy, business continuity and disaster recovery rigour and drill had



serious deficiencies and non-compliances. Interestingly, the press notice noted that the bank's IT Risk and Information Security Governance fell short of regulatory criteria for two years. "During the subsequent assessments, the bank was found to be non-compliant with the Corrective Action Plans issued by the Reserve Bank for 2022 and 2023, as the compliances submitted by the bank were found to be either inadequate, incorrect or not sustained". In the absence of a robust IT infrastructure and IT Risk Management.

### Issue over digital competition now centers on targeted advt

**Delhi:** The main topic of discussion in India's planned legislation governing big digital companies is how tech companies use internet users' data to bombard them with adverts. Public comments on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' proposed Digital Competition Bill are currently being accepted. It prohibits "inter-mixing or cross-using" data from various services provided by companies. in the digital economy without the authorization of the users involved.

## IndiGo orders 30 long-haul planes for \$9.5 billion



**Delhi:** In 2027, IndiGo will fly nonstop between India and remote locations using its own wide-body aircraft. The Rahul Bhatia-founded mega budget carrier "has agreed" to order 30 twin-aisle Airbus A350-900s worth over \$9.5 billion at list price and an option for 70 more. Indian travelers will have two domestic airlines, Air India and IndiGo, running medium to ultra long-haul routes on dual aisles (Vistara merges into AI this year), as well as many foreign carriers. IndiGo "agreed to order" 60 Trent XWB engines for 30 A350s. IndiGo evaluated the B787 Dreamliner, but Boeing's ongoing issues persuaded it to stick with Airbus, which has over 1,000 A320 family single aisles on order and is the world's largest A320 operator. Airbus controls India's single aisle market, but troubled Boeing is no longer the only wide body with Indian carriers. Since last year, Airbus has been receiving orders for big birds, starting with AI. IndiGo leased two B777s from Turkish Airlines to run a daily Delhi/Mumbai-Istanbul trip. After that experience, it ordered wide bodies for delivery in 2027, IndiGo's 21st year. Airlines can acquire 70 more A350-900 "at its discretion, for possible future needs under certain conditions," they say. IndiGo had over 10 crore passengers in 2023 on 350 planes.



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

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



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

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

## Who is Sandip , ex-principal of RG Kar MCH Look at his educational

**Delhi:** Dr. Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, has recently faced intense scrutiny after the tragic rape and murder of a doctor on duty at the institution. He resigned from his position as principal on August 12, three days after the incident. On Sunday, he appeared before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for the third time, due to an alleged connection to the murder. This situation has led many to question Ghosh's professional qualifications and career trajectory.

**Becoming a doctor**

Sandip Ghosh's journey began in the small town of Bongaon, West Bengal. He completed his higher secondary education at Bongaon High School in 1989. Pursuing a career in medicine, Ghosh enrolled at RG Kar Medical College, a prestigious institution in Kolkata, where he earned his medical degree in 1994. Ghosh's early career in medicine was marked by steady progression. Initially, his career appeared unremarkable as he advanced through various roles within the medical field. However, he rose to prominence

when he was appointed as the principal of RG Kar Medical College in 2021. This role was a significant leap, marking a return to the institution where he had completed his medical education. Before joining RG Kar Medical College, Ghosh was the vice-principal at Calcutta National Medical College. Despite being an orthopaedics professor and surgeon, he had been unable to establish a reputation in the field due to professional irregularities, which later came to light during his tenure at RG Kar Medical College, again fraught with controversy.

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

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

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

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

## Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market

**NEW DELHI:** Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific,



said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest market. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given

the government's focus on regional air transport through ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way

India is developing, the actual number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is in talks with several Indian airlines for more orders. "The focus here is on regional and ATR is for that. So we are talking to all the airlines in India," he said. Asked if ATR plans to make in India, Clercin said: "We do already have a presence in India. There are some simulators (for pilot training) operated by third parties in India. The footprint depends a lot on the size of the markets, and India is one of the most promising aviation markets globally. We've seen the amazing resilience of the country.

## Pregnant teenager among five Ukrainians killed by Russian missile

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



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

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

## From White House firestorm to UK fortune: Zelenskyy secures \$3.3 bil-

**London**

Just a day after a fiery confrontation with Donald Trump in the Oval Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was met with cheers, handshakes, and a \$3.3 billion loan in London. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer personally welcomed Zelenskyy outside 10 Downing Street, where he reaffirmed the UK's unwavering support for Ukraine. "That is the people of the United Kingdom coming out to demonstrate how much they support you, how much they support Ukraine," Starmer said, as onlookers applauded. "We stand with you and Ukraine for as long as it may take." The leaders then signed a \$3.3 billion agreement aimed at boosting Ukraine's military production—funds that will be repaid using revenues from frozen



Russian assets. "This is true justice—the one who started the war must be the one to pay," Zelenskyy declared on X, thanking the UK for its continued support. From Washington fury to British diplomacy The warm reception in London stood in stark contrast to Zelenskyy's tense visit to Washington, where a heated argument erupted between him, Trump, and Vice President JD Vance inside the Oval Office. The confrontation reportedly stemmed from Trump's frustration over Zelenskyy.

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

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

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

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



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

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

## Vietnam's restrictive internet law comes into force

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



## What is CBP Home App, launched a week ago, that helped Ranjani Srinivasan flee to Canada?

**Ranjani Srinivasan's self-deportation** became an advertisement for the newly launched CBP Home app. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced the launch of the CBP Home App on March 10 and on March 11, Indian PhD student Ranjani Srinivasan applied for self-deportation and fled to Canada when ICE agents visited her in her Columbia University accommodation. Her student visa was revoked on allegations of supporting Hamas though she claimed she was not an activist and was not part of any protest group. But as the university informed her that they canceled her enrolment after her student visa was revoked, she found it safe to leave the country on her own.

**What is the CBP Home App?**

Not a new application, but an overhaul of CBP One and for the oppo-



site reason. CBP One was formerly used to process asylum claims at the southern border. CBP Home was launched for self-deportation. Those who want to leave the country can fill out a form on the app along with their photo in an 'Intent to Depart' statement to the government. The individual will have to provide biographical information, current phone number and also whether he or she has enough money to depart and a valid and unexpired passport. Individuals with no legal status in the US can leave the country and then return again in the future legally through self-deportation.

Otherwise, the Trump administration had warned, that they would be caught, deported which will never allow them to return. Ranjani Srinivasan was not in the US illegally. She came to the US from India as part of the Fulbright program in 2016 and started her doctoral program at Columbia University in 2020. She said she was in the fifth year of an urban planning doctoral program at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and was supposed to graduate in May. On March 5, her student visa was revoked which made her lose legality on US soil.

## Kamala demanded chairs with leg height not less than 15 inches

Kamala Harris has a list of specifications that she wanted her interviewers to ensure during her campaigning and one of those was the height of the chair given to her. "Leg height no less than 15 inches; floor to top of seat height no less than 18.9 inches; arms on chairs may not be very high, arms must fall at a natural height; chairs must be firm," this was the brief from Kamala Harris' team for chairs. Kamala Harris demanded chairs with leg height not less than 15 inches during interview. Here's why Kamala Harris appeared smaller than Tim Walz in her first interview on



CNN following which her campaign came out with a specification of the chair height. During her campaign as the Democrat presidential candidate, former Vice President Kamala Harris or her team made sure that she was given chairs with some specifications. A new book about Kamala Harris' campaign by Jonathan Allen and

Amie Parnes, **FIGHT: Inside the Wildest Battle for the White House** revealed the former VP's strange demand. "Her team required that she be provided a chair that met certain specifications," according to the book excerpt. The chair specification was put in place after her first media interview on CNN.

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

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

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

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

## BLA claims 90 Pakistani soldiers killed in attack on army convoy in Balochistan

### Balochistan

In Balochistan, a Pakistani military convoy was attacked by the Baloch Liberation Army, resulting in 90 army personnel deaths. The convoy comprised eight buses, with one completely destroyed. However, a Pakistani police officer confirmed five paramilitary deaths. Earlier this week, a similar attack by the BLA led the military to free hostages from a train siege in Balochistan. A total of 90 Pakistani army personnel were killed after the Baloch rebels attacked a military convoy carrying troops on Sunday, said the Baloch Liberation Army. However, a Pakistani police officer said that only five paramilitary troops were



killed in the attack. Claiming responsibility for the attack, the BLA, which is the separatist group in Pakistan's Balochistan, said they "targeted a convoy of the occupying Pakistani military a few hours ago in a VBIED Fidayee attack near Rakshan Mill on the RCD highway in Noshki". The rebel group claimed that the convoy

"consisted of eight buses, one of which was completely destroyed in the explosion". The Baloch separatist group said they "systematically" eliminated all military personnel on board, bringing "the total number of enemy casualties to 90".

### BLA press release

"There were seven buses in

the convoy which was heading to Taftan (on the Iranian border). At Noshki, a car laden with explosives hit one of the buses," Mohammed Zafar, a police official in Noshki, told AFP.

**Sarfraz Bugti, the chief minister of Balochistan, condemned the attack.**

Earlier this week, the unprecedented hostage situation began on Tuesday near Mashkaf Tunnel, about 157 km from Quetta, when the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), an ethnic Baloch separatist group, attacked the Jaffar Express and took more than 450 passengers hostage, including security personnel. The nine-bogie train was traveling north.

## Pak minister defends military trial of civilians

### ISLAMABAD:

A Pakistani minister on Wednesday defended the military trial of civilians, saying that such courts were competent to deal with the cases related to attacks on army facilities.

Information minister Attaullah Tarar also urged the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led by Imran to refrain from politicising or disputing the issue of military trials. "When an attack is carried out on a defence institution or its property is set ablaze, it becomes the responsibility of the relevant authorities to



apprehend the culprits. Just as railway police handle crimes on railway premises, military courts address offences targeting assets. So, when attacks on military assets occur, the Military Act is enforced," he said while addressing a press conference. Tarar criticised Khan's party for using military courts as a political

tool, aiming to create controversy around them. He clarified that military courts only handle cases involving attacks on defence establishments, citing incidents such as the attack on the Corps Commander's House in Lahore. The minister also criticised the PTI for changing its stance regarding trials of civilians in the military courts, recalling that during Khan's tenure, military court trials were praised. "The statements praising the military courts from PTI's leadership are still available on social media."

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

**DHAKA: Bangladesh is set to receive its first** consignment of rice imported from India since the formation of the new interim govt even as it looks to be drawing closer to Pakistan than to its immediate neighbour India, which stood beside Bangladesh in 1971 through shared sacrifices. Bangladesh had witnessed ships



coming from Karachi twice in recent days. On Nov 13, for the first time since independence, a container-carrying ship sailing directly from Karachi had docked at Chhattogram (Chittagong). This time the ship "MV Tanais Dream", carrying 24,690 metric tonnes of parboiled rice imported from India under the open tender agreement, will arrive at Chaudagram port at 5.30am on Thursday. This is also the first consignment of parboiled rice imported from India under the Nov 11

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

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

agreement.

## US threatens 'unrelenting' strikes on Houthis until they are 'done shooting at ships'

### New York

The United States will maintain "unrelenting" strikes on Yemen's Houthi rebels until they say "we are done shooting at ships and assets," defense secretary Pete Hegseth said on Sunday. His remarks came after President Donald Trump ordered airstrikes on Houthi targets in Sanaa on Saturday. "This campaign is about freedom of navigation and restoring deterrence. The minute the Houthis say we'll stop shooting at your ships, we'll stop shooting at your drones, this campaign will end," Hegseth said in an interview on Fox News's Sunday Morning Futures. **"But until then, it will be unrelenting," he added.** He further continued that "this is about stopping the shooting at assets ... in that critical waterway, to reopen freedom of navigation,



which is a core national interest of the United States, and Iran has been enabling the Houthis for far too long," adding, "They better back off." Earlier on Saturday, Trump announced on Truth Social: "Today, I have ordered the United States Military to launch decisive and powerful Military action against the Houthi terrorists in Yemen. They have waged an unrelenting campaign of piracy, violence, and terrorism against American, and other, ships, aircraft, and drones. To all Houthi terrorists, YOUR TIME IS UP, AND YOUR

ATTACKS MUST STOP, STARTING TODAY. IF THEY DON'T, HELL WILL RAIN DOWN UPON YOU LIKE NOTHING YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE!"

White House national security advisor Mike Waltz further confirmed that the US carried out successful strikes targeting Houthi leadership and infrastructure. "We hit the Houthi leadership, killing several of their key leaders last night — their infrastructure, the missiles. We just hit them with overwhelming force and put Iran on notice that enough is enough," Mike Waltz told Fox News on

## Elon Musk reacts to Democratic Party's favorability dropping to a record low: 'Public is wise'

**Elon Musk** who once prided in calling himself a Democrat before he turned towards Donald Trump ahead of the election and is now a crucial part of the government reacted to the latest poll which revealed that the Democratic party's favorability rating stands at a record low. CNN released the poll conducted between March 6 to 9 revealing that the party's favorability rating stands at just 29 per cent -- a record low in CNN's polling dating back to 1992 and a drop of 20 points since January 2021 just after the Capitol riots.

**The Republican Party stands at 36 per cent in favorability.**

Elon Musk said the public is wise and they now know the Democratic Party scams as their funding is being turned off -- something that Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency has been doing. "The public is wise to the Democratic Party scams and their funding via bogus taxpayer-funded NGOs is being turned off," Elon Musk said. According to CNN, just 63 per cent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents gave a favorable view of their own party -- which is a dip from 72 per cent in January and 81 per cent at the beginning of Joe Biden's presidency. 79 per cent of Republicans and Republican-minded people take a positive view of the GOP. "Democrats, who overwhelmingly consider Trump too extreme, have yet to consolidate around any one-party leader to serve as a counterpoint."

