

# AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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

## Maharashtra govt. formation: Signal to Shinde?

**NEW DELHI:** BJP on Saturday announced that the new Mahayuti govt will be sworn in on Dec 5 in what is being seen as a signal to Eknath Shinde to make up his mind fast about joining the govt led by Devendra Fadnavis.

State BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said in a post on X that the swearing-in ceremony will take place at Azad Maidan and PM Modi would attend it. "The wait for this historic swearing-in is over. We thank the public for their support," Bawankule said.

CM will be from BJP, deputies from NCP & Sena, says Ajit

The announcement came after talks had paused after the three Mahayuti netas, caretaker CM Eknath Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar met home minister Amit Shah in Delhi. The unambiguous post on X and the timing of it came as a surprise because there



"It's the CM's prerogative to decide portfolios"

Asked about Sena's demand for the home portfolio, Ajit Pawar said, "It's the CM's prerogative to decide portfolios. There is no tug-of-war regarding portfolios." Shiv Sena's Sanjay Shirsat justified the party's demand. "When BJP held the deputy CM's post, they got the home portfolio. So it's only fair that we insist on it. If there is a dashing leader in charge of the home department, it will keep rioters at bay," he said.

has been no communication between Shinde and BJP since he left Delhi and headed to his village in Satara district, after which he has been reportedly unwell. Political circles in Delhi and Mumbai were unanimous that the post was a clear mes-

sage to Shinde to come around and agree to be part of the Fadnavis govt. During deliberations, Shinde had raised the issue of the awkwardness of him joining govt as deputy CM after having served as CM of Mahayuti govt. Sources said Shah is

learned to have told him calmly that even Fadnavis, an ex-CM, had joined him as deputy and it was not a decision Fadnavis took on his own but because he was asked to do so by the party. BJP's confidence is based on the numbers it has in the assembly: 132 plus five independents, which with Ajit's support swells to a daunting 178, putting the ball in Shinde's court.

NCP chief Ajit Pawar on Saturday reiterated the CM would be from BJP and there would be two deputy chief ministers, one from NCP and the other from Shiv Sena.

However, Sena would, in addition to seeking the deputy CM's post, keep up its demand for the home portfolio and for retaining all the nine ministries it held in the Shinde-led govt, a Sena functionary said. These include the industries and urban development departments.

## Four electrocuted in Chennai as cyclone Fengal makes landfall

**CHENNAI:** Four people were killed in electrocutions in different parts of Chennai as Cyclone Fengal (pronounced Feinjal) brought 9cm to 13cm of rain across different parts of the city since Saturday morning.

In its 7pm bulletin, IMD said the forward sector of spiral bands associated with the cyclone entered the land, and the system might take another three to four hours to further move and cross the coast near Puducherry.

On Sunday, the weather system might contin-



ue to bring rainfall after it moves inland, as IMD issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall for Chennai and 13 districts, including the city's three neighbouring districts. A red alert for extremely heavy spells was issued to Villupuram,

Kallakurichi and Cuddalore as they are closer to the landfall location. Bloggers said the cyclone was caught between high-pressure ridges, and much of the clouds around the storm on the seaside vanished by Saturday evening due to high wind shear. "Cyclone

Fengal is going to be stuck off the Cheyyur-Marakkanam coast till Sunday morning," said blogger Pradeep John in one of his online posts. Tamil Nadu's coastal districts and Chennai on Saturday escaped with long spells of rain and strong winds. There was flooding and tree falls, but not to the extent feared. Public transport was kept to a minimum and since it was the weekend and schools, colleges and most offices were shut, people hardly ventured out.

## Dhaka optimistic about India ties, wants concerns addressed

**KOLKATA:** Bangladesh interim govt foreign affairs adviser Md Touhid Hossain expressed optimism on Saturday about the prospects of building a strong relationship between Bangladesh

and India despite the challenges posed by recent developments even as he acknowledged that while the previous Hasina govt made efforts to address New Delhi's concerns, Dhaka's concerns remain unre-

solved. While saying that unresolved issues such as water-sharing and border killings still require attention, Hossain emphasised that both countries must take a realistic approach considering the post-Aug 5

situation. "We are hopeful that we can establish a good relationship with India, protecting the interests of both nations," said during a round-table discussion titled "Bangladesh-India Relations.

## 'Sanctity paramount': TTD prohibits political and hate speeches at Tirumala

**TIRUPATI:** Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has banned political and hate speeches at Tirumala and warned of initiating legal action against the violators.

The newly constituted TTD trust board headed by chairman BR Naidu passed a resolution to this effect at the maiden trust board meeting held at Tirumala recently.

The resolution No 93 passed by the TTD trust board states "the decision was taken to strictly maintain the serenity and divine atmosphere at Tirumala duly preserving the sanctity of the seven hills. As such political and hate speeches are strictly prohibited at Tirumala. Legal action will be taken if anyone contravenes the resolution".

TTD authorities expressed concerns over political statements made by various elected representatives during their visits to the Tirumala temple.

They said political speeches had hurt the sentiments of the devotees several times in the past.

TTD prohibits political and hate speeches at Tirumala. The administration has also focused its attention on the spike in instances of photo and video shoots by celebrities, politicians and others near the Tirumala temple. It has also banned anyone from indulging in such acts which disturbs the spiritual ambience of the Tirumala hills and hurts the sentiments of the visiting devotees.

Temple officials said videos shot by actress Nayanthara and her husband and film maker Vignesh Shivan, reels shot by YSRCP MLA Duvvada Srinivas and his live-in partner Duvvala Madhuri near the Tirumala temple during their earlier visits had led to some serious controversies in the past.

They justified the board's decision on banning unauthorised video/photo shoots at Tirumala. They also clarified that VIPs including politicians may, however, speak on matters related to the Hindu Sanatana Dharma, aspects related to pilgrim services, and TTD administration etc.

## In top 'clean' cities, air is not so fresh, data shows

**NEW DELHI:** Indore may be the cleanest city in India, having secured the top rank seven times in a row, but when it comes to air quality, it reported a 21% rise in the level of the pollutant PM10 in 2023-24 compared to 2017-18. The city joined 30 others including Navi Mumbai, Vizag, Cuttack, Guwahati, Gwalior, Patna, Raipur, Chandigarh and Bhopal that



reported increase in the level of annual average particulate matter (PM10) - a critical air pollutant - during that period. All these 31 cities are in the list of 130 which are under National Clean Air

Programme (NCAP), launched by environment ministry in Jan 2019 with an aim to improve air quality by reducing PM10 up to 40% by 2025-26 from the 2017-18 level or achieving the national standards during the period.

Incidentally, Navi Mumbai was the third ranker and Vizag fourth in the list of cleanest cities after Indore and Surat in 2023.

## AAP MLA Naresh Balyan arrested for 'links' with gangster

**PUNE:** Sangwan, who is in alliance with gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, is currently in the UK and has a red corner notice against him. Two of his shooters went on a rampage early Nov, firing indiscriminately at two business establishments in Paschim Vihar and Chawla



on the same day following extortion demands from Sangwan. At the end of Aug, Sangwan sent his shooters to fire at a popular confecti-

onery outlet in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar after the owner refused to pay Rs 2 crore as protection money.

The AAP MLA was under investigation since last year after an audio clip of a purported conversation between him and Sangwan, also known as Nandu, surfaced.

On Saturday, Balyan was called in for questioning in the case.

## Reconsider stand on Vishwakarma scheme, don't reject it for petty political gains, Centre tells TN

**NEW DELHI:** Stating that a state should not arbitrarily reject a scheme for petty political gains, Centre Saturday urged Tamil Nadu govt to reconsider its decision to reject PM's Vishwakarma scheme, which aims to "uplift traditional artisans and crafts-



people". Minister of state for skill development and

entrepreneurship (MSDE), Jayant Chaudhary emphasised that the scheme is designed to foster social and economic mobility for individuals engaged in 18 traditional trades and crafts, and is "not caste-oriented", as alleged by Tamil Nadu.

## Roadblocks are 'price of pioneering': Gautam Adani

**In his first public reaction to indictment by US prosecutors,** Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said Saturday that "every attack" makes the group stronger and affirmed its "absolute commitment to world-class regulatory compliance".

"This is not the first time we have faced such challenges... despite a lot of the vested reporting, no one from the Adani side has been charged with any violation of FCPA (America's Foreign Corrupt Practices Act) or any conspiracy to obstruct justice," Adani said while speaking at the 51st India Gem & Jewellery Awards in Jaipur. In today's world, negativity spreads faster than facts - and as we work through the legal process.

## ‘Wave goodbye to America’: Trump threatens 100% tariffs on Brics nations over plans to replace US Dollar



**NEW DELHI:** US President-elect Donald Trump has issued a stern warning to Brics member countries and their allies, threatening to impose 100 per cent tariffs if they proceed with plans to introduce or support a currency to replace the US dollar in international trade.

Trump's statement, made on his social media platform, Truth Social, on Saturday, targeted the bloc's ongoing efforts to challenge the dominance of the dollar. Trump demand-

ed a formal assurance from the Brics nations, which include Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, alongside newer members such as Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE. He stated, "We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new Brics currency, nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US Dollar, or they will face 100 per cent Tariffs." He further warned that any such move would result.



# Inauguration of Computer Lab at Bhartiya Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan Established by Meja Urja Nigam

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Meja. The computer lab established under the Corporate Social Responsibility program of Meja Urja Nigam was inaugurated on 30th November 2024 at the Bhartiya Mahila Gramodyog Sansthan in Badhera, Prayagraj. The computer lab was inaugurated by Mr. Kamlesh Soni, Chief Executive Officer of Meja Urja Nigam, in the esteemed presence of Mr. Ashutosh Dixit (Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief), Mr. Gaurav Kumar (Chief Development Officer) Prayagraj, Mr. P.K. Sabat (General Manager - Contract & Materials), Mr.



Vivek Chandra (Head of Human Resources Department), and Mr. N.P. Singh (Chairman - BMGI).

Meja Urja Nigam has provided 50 computers, chairs, and tables for the operation of this computer lab. Over the next year, nearly 200 girls and women from Meja and Karchhana will receive free training. The cost for this initiative, approximately 55 lakh rupees, will be borne by Meja Urja Nigam.

The event was attended by the principal, teachers, staff, students, parents, village heads from nearby villages, and officials from Meja Urja Nigam.

## Life is a marathon, not a sprint: Col. Ramneik Goswami

Annual Sports and Athletic Meet of Holy Trinity School held

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The Annual Sports and Athletic Meet of Holy Trinity School was organized on Saturday. Principal, D. A. Luke and Academic Supervisor, C.B. Luke welcomed the chief guest Col. Ramneik Goswami, CO 2 UP

Arty Bty. NCC. The Athletic meet commenced with the ceremonial march past of the four houses led by school sports captain Akshat Kushwaha followed by the sports vice-captain Aradhya Kesarwani along with the school captain Raghav Makhija and vice-captain Mysha Afzal.

The chief guest took the ceremonial salute of the four colours declaring the Athletic Meet 2024 'open'. In his edifying speech the chief guest highlighted the importance of sports and teamwork to navigate through the challenges in life. "Life is

a marathon, not a sprint" and therefore, one should be consistent in his endeavours, he remarked.

The junior field display with various drills left the parents enthralled. The hard



work of the teachers was amply evident and much appreciated by the academic supervisor Mrs. C. B. Luke. She also thanked the parents for their support and applauded the skill of the toddlers. The coveted Athletic House trophy 2024-

2025 was bagged by Saint Andrew's House with 509 points, followed by the Saint Patrick's house with 451 points and Saint Peter's house with 326 points at the third position. At the end, the Headmistress R. S. Mandal gave vote of thanks and thanked the Principal, Academic Supervisor, parents and the teachers. The Sports Meet came to an end with the National Anthem.

## Curtains draw over Bishop Din Dayal Carols Choir Competition

Smiling faces of winners exuberated enthusiastic aura of grand event

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Bishop Din Dayal Carol Choir Competition concluded at All Saints Cathedral Church, Civil Lines on Saturday. Bishop Morris Edgar Dan of Diocese of Lucknow was the chief guest of the program. More than ten college choirs showcased their talent in the competition and mesmerized

the church welcomed the chief guests. After the special prayer meeting in the church people of Christ Society recited carols. They also conducted candle light service, after which they circumambulation the church with candles in their hands. Under the leadership of Babylon Society of India,

colleges participating in the competition included institutions like Erny Memorial College, Leprechaun Mission, Bishop Johnson Girls, YMCA, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Sam Higgin Bottom College and Bible Seminary. On this occasion, the chief guest Bishop Morris Edgar Dan, while addressing the congregation, said that on the birth of Lord Jesus Christ, God's angels sang songs with enthusiasm, after which carol singing has been going on. The program was conducted by Rev. Dr. Vinita Eusebius, Presbyter Incharge of All Saints Cathedral Church. Mainly people present in the program were Pastor Kamla Singh, Smriti Singh, Arun Paul, Rajeev Prasad, Anukriti Joshi, Pastor William Hariprasad, Pastor SP Lal Mudit Mohan Srivastava, Sunil Kumar Verma etc.

**Candle light service today :** Candle light service has been organized at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday from 6:00 pm. Candle light service and carol competition have also been organized in other churches on different days.



everyone with beautiful songs. The joy of Christmas started with a carol singing competition in the All Saints Cathedral Church in memory of the first Bishop Din Dayal of Lucknow Diocese. Students from more than a dozen missionary schools of the city came together. The chief guest in the program was Bishop Morris Dan, Bishop of Lucknow Church of North India. After the prayer meeting the priest of

vigorous preparations have been made to light the flame of hope. For this, all the church Christians along with their families participated. All the people also participated in the candle light service from every house. The joy of the arrival of Lord Jesus has started with carol singing. People present at the event enjoyed beautiful performances at the Christian Music Competition. The

## NC Rly employees protest over forced deduction by unions

Prayagraj: Thousands of donation deduction forms were deposited in the grand rally of North Central Railway Employees Union. Prayagraj, North Central Railway employees protested against the deduction of Rs 400/- from salary by North Central Railway Employees Union and North Central Men's Union. In the great movement of the Sangh, thousands of employees submitted donation deduction forms, total forms were 5765/- Joint General Secretary Rupam Pandey ensured Branch President Rahul Srivastava from the Central Railway Employees Union got involved along with his supporters. This time there was a protest among the employees regarding the forced collection of donations and the employees protested loudly by raising slogans. There was a crowd of employees on every floor of the Divisional Railway Manager's office and the sound of the slogan echoed.

## SHANKH hosts seminar on "Cultural Transformation: The Question of Bharatiya"

Indian Value-Based Systems Crucial for Safeguarding India: Shri Ambrish

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: On Saturday, SHANKH organized a seminar and discussion on the theme "Culture in Transition: The Question of Bharatiya" at Vatsalya Auditorium, Civil Lines, Prayagraj. The event featured distinguished speakers, including Shri Ambrish, National Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), and Prof. Sunil Kumar Sharma, Head of the English Department at Allahabad University, with Dr. Kirtika Agarwal serving as the convener. The seminar focused on the essential questions surrounding Indian identity, concluding with a Q&A session.

The event was moderated by Vishwas Narayan Tiwari.

In his keynote address, Shri Ambrish emphasized that Hinduism is not merely a religious practice but a holistic way of life. He highlighted the need for deep study and proper understanding of Hinduism's core principles, especially among the younger genera-

tion. Presenting Hindu philosophy in a simple, scientific way is crucial for reaching different sections of society. He further stressed that a profound understanding of religion and self-

if Hinduism is understood and embraced in its entirety, it can bring peace and harmony not only to India but to the world.

Prof. Sushil Kumar Sharma, speaking as a co-

stressed the need for dedicated efforts to preserve and promote Bharatiya values.

Dr. Kirtika Agarwal, the convener, extended her best wishes to all participants and summarized the theme, calling for the creation of a better society grounded in Indian values.

Special guest Dr. Mrityunjay Rao Parmar, Asst. Prof. of Allahabad University, remarked that Indian culture serves as a guiding light not only for India but for the world. He emphasized the importance of nurturing the connection between individuals, society, culture, and institutions. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by SHANKH president Alok Parmar. Key members of SHANKH, including convener Nilesh Narayan, and members Raghavendra Singh, Neha Dubey, Abhinav Mishra, Ambuj, and Prashant, were also present.



awareness can help society rise above casteism, discrimination, and outdated customs. Shri Ambrish advocated for promoting the study of religious texts, Sanskrit, and utilizing temples as centers for cultural and educational activities. He called for collective efforts to spread Indian values globally, asserting that

panelist, emphasized the urgent need to address the distortions in Indian culture. He noted that while the uniqueness of Indian culture is widely recognized, it is concerning that many Indians are increasingly turning away from it and adopting Western values. He underscored the relevance of today's discussion and

# UP State-Level Gymnastics Competition: KhelGaon became champion in Aerobics

## Players from KhelGaon showcased outstanding performances

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: During the three-day Uttar Pradesh State-Level Gymnastics Competition at KhelGaon Public School from November 29 to 01 December 2024. On the second day of the Aerobic Competition, players from KhelGaon showcased outstanding performances, securing the first position with 16 Gold, 07 Silver, and 1 Bronze Medal. Players from Varanasi secured the Second Position with 01 Gold, 04 Silver, and 06 Bronze Medals, while players from Lucknow secured the Third Position with 02 Silver and 01 Bronze Medals.

On the Second Day of the 41st Uttar Pradesh State-Level Gymnastics Competition, some of the main results of the competitions held are as follows:

**Under- Mini Aerobic Gymnastics Competition:**  
Individual Men Championship:- Advik Somvanshi of Prayagraj with 7.40 points got First position, Anirudh Swarnakar of Varanasi with 06.20 points got Second Position. Kiaan of Varanasi with 02.80 points got Third Position.

**Individual Women Championship:-** Shubhangi Patel of Prayagraj with 07.10

points got First Position, Ananya Pandey of Prayagraj with 06.10 points got Second position and Deepanshi of Lucknow with 03.50 points got Third Position.

**In Mixed Pair Event:-** Anirudh Swarnakar and Yashika Verma of Varanasi with 07.00 points got First Position. Advik Somvanshi and Priyal Kesarwani of Prayagraj with 05.00 points got Second Position. Ruchir and Amayra Bhargava of Varanasi with 03.80 points got Third Position.

**In Trio Event:-** Ananya Pandey, Shubhangi Patel, Aradhya Singh of Prayagraj with 06.80 points got First Position, Yuvika Sonkar, Priyal Kesarwani and Sanvi Singh of Prayagraj with 06.50 points got Second position. Pratishtha Mishra, Gaurav Kumar and Aman Gupta of Varanasi with 03.00 points got Third Position.

**Under- Sub Junior Aerobic Gymnastics Competition:**

**Individual Men Championship:-** Rudra Pratap Singh of Prayagraj with 07.80 points got First position, Yash Kesarwani of Prayagraj with 07.00 points got Second Position. Devansh Singh of

Varanasi with 05.60 points got Second Position.

**Individual Women Championship:-** Ayushi Singh of Prayagraj with 06.20 points got First Position, Pranjali Singh of Varanasi with 04.80 points got Second position and Shrivika Singh of Prayagraj with 04.00 points got Third Position.

**In Mixed Pair Event:-** Yash Kesarwani and Anukriti Yadav of Prayagraj with 06.50 points got First Position. Devansh Singh and Saanvi Jajodia of Varanasi with 04.00 points got Second Position.

**In Trio Event:-** Ayushi Singh, Anukriti Yadav and Ashika Srivastava of Prayagraj with 05.50 points got First Position, Chahat Yadav, Ishita Yadav and Anshika Gupta of Varanasi with 03.00 points got Second position,

**In Group Event:-** Yash Kesarwani, Ayushi Singh, Anukriti Yadav, Ashika Srivastava and Aliya Khan of Prayagraj with 07.50 points got First Position. Ayush Rawat, Ishan Gautam, Vansh Rawat, Aditya Gautam and Shaurya Verma of Lucknow with 04.00 points got Second position, Devansh Singh, Saanvi Jajodia,

Chahat Yadav, Ishita Yadav, Anshika Gupta of Varanasi with 03.50 points got Third position,

**Under- Junior Aerobic Gymnastics Competition:**

**Individual Men Championship:-** Pranjal Yadav of



Prayagraj with 09.20 points got First position, Abhinav Singh of Prayagraj with 04.20 points got Second Position.

**Individual Women Championship:-** Samridhi Singh of Prayagraj with 05.20 points got First Position, Avighna Singh of Prayagraj with 04.00 points got Second position and Shambhavi Singh of Varanasi with 02.00 points got Third Position.

**In Trio Event:-** Shivansh Srivastava, Manas Rawat and Anand Singh of Prayagraj with 10.50 points got First Position, Astha Singh, Aparna Mishra and Avighna Singh of Prayagraj with 06.00 points got Sec-

ond position.

**In Group Event:-** Shivansh Srivastava, Manas Rawat, Anand Singh, Pranjal Yadav and Samridhi Singh of Prayagraj with 08.00 points got First Position.

**In Aero Dance Event:-** Shivansh Srivastava, Anand Singh, Manas Rawat, Pranjal Yadav, Astha Singh, Aparna Mishra, Avighna Singh and Samridhi Singh of

Prayagraj with 08.00 points got First Position.

**Under- Senior Aerobic Gymnastics Competition:**

**Individual Men Championship:-** Satyam Tiwari of Prayagraj with 11.45 points got First position, Shivam

Kumar of Lucknow with 02.00 points got Second Position.

**In Mixed Pair Event:-** Satyam Tiwari and Simran Singh of Prayagraj with 10.00 points got First Position.

**In Trio Event:-** Satyam Tiwari, Simran Singh and Anuj Upadhyay of Prayagraj with 06.00 points got First Position.

**Under- Junior Artistic Gymnastics Competition:**

**Individual All Around Event:-** Harschit D of Prayagraj with 73.95 points got First Position, Sumit Yadav of Prayagraj with 68.70 points got Second position and Vikas Yadav of Agraw with 66.29 points got Third Position.

**In Floor Exercise Event:-** Harschit D of Prayagraj with 12.60 points got First Position, Sumit Yadav of Prayagraj with 11.95 points got Second position and Sundram Kumar Sharma of Agraw with 11.40 points got Third Position.

**In Pommel Horse Event:-** Agrim Rawat of Prayagraj with 12.15 points got First Position, Shashwat Arvind Kothawale of Prayagraj with 11.75 points got Second position. Vikas Yadav of Agraw with 11.55 points got Third position.

**In Still Rings Event:-** Shivansh Gupta of Prayagraj with 11.30 points got First position, Agrim Rawat of Prayagraj with 11.30 points got Second Position. Vikas Yadav of Agraw with 11.25 points got Third position.

**Vaulting Table Event:-** Agrim Rawat of Prayagraj with 11.70 points got First position, Shashwat

Arvind Kothawale of Prayagraj with 11.27 points got Second Position and Akshay Prajapati of Bareilly with 9.87 points got Third Position.

**Parallel Bars Event:-** Jatin Kushwah of Prayagraj with 12.80 points got First position, Harschit D of Prayagraj with 12.45 points got Second Position and Vikas Yadav of Agraw with 11.35 points got Third Position.

**Horizontal Bar Event:-** Harschit D of Prayagraj with 12.30 points got First position, Sumit Yadav of Prayagraj with 10.95 points got Second Position and Aditya Savita of Agraw with 09.80 points got Third Position.

On the second day of the three-day championship, Dr. U.K. Mishra, Chairman, KhelGaon Public School, Sri Anil Mishra, Vice-Chairman, KhelGaon Public School, Dr. Rajeev Verma, Director, KhelGaon Public School, Mrs. Akanksha Srivastava, Mr. Prabhash Srivastava, Mrs. Anita Rawat, Mr. Jay Prakash Rawat, Mrs. Aarti Singh, Mr. Dharendra Bahadur Singh along with teachers, Team Managers, Coaches, and a large number of participating gymnasts from various districts of the state were present.



# BFTS valedictory function held at AF Station Bamrauli

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: The Basic Flying Training School (BFTS), a premier flying training establishment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Air Force Station Bamrauli, Prayagraj, celebrated a significant milestone with the successful completion of the 214 ICG Stage-II, 214 APC (H), and ICG Stage-I courses. Established on 09 October 1987, BFTS has been a beacon of excellence in imparting ab-initio training to pilots, preparing them for the challenges of modern military aviation. The valedictory function, held on 30 November 2024, was graced by Air Commodore Sagar Singh Rawat VM (G), Air Officer Commanding, 23 Wing Air Force, as the Reviewing Officer (RO). He

was received by Wing Commander Gagan Sikri,

mended the graduating officers for their exceptional

manding course reflects the high standards of the Indian



Commanding Officer, BFTS. In his address, the Reviewing Officer com-

commitment and perseverance, emphasizing that the completion of such a de-

phy of first in ground subjects and overall order of merit for stage I. Asst

ComdtSonmale Suraj was best in ground subjects while Asst Comdt Abhineet Gupta stood first in flying and first in overall order of merit for Stage II.

The rigorous five-month training program has equipped a new cohort of pilots with advanced knowledge and operational capabilities essential for both combat and humanitarian missions. BFTS continues its proud tradition of producing professional aviators ready to meet the evolving demands of modern military developments, embodying the future of leadership in the Indian Armed Forces, informed Samir Gangakhedkar, Group Captain, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

## One day educational tour of Government Model Inter College organized

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Prayagraj. On Friday, the students of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Government Model Inter College Samhan Uruwa

for educational tour. The Principal of the school Lallan Singh said that educational tour leads to person-

Prayagraj made an educational tour of Agriculture University Naini Prayagraj. The experienced trainers there explained the students about the latest techniques in the field of technology and agriculture.

On Friday, the students of class nine to class twelve of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Government Model Inter College located in Meja were made aware of important information related to milk production, biochemistry, central library, latest research in agriculture and various types of plants, fruits, flowers, fertilizers in Agriculture University Naini Prayagraj

ality development and social development along with educational development. This educational tour was very helpful for the students to gain knowledge, learn group work and time management, which will help them in personality development and achieving their goals in future.



## My Bharat Outreach Prog organised at SHUATS

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: My Bharat Outreach Programme was organised on 29th November 2024 in the auditorium of SHUATS, Prayagraj keeping in view to empower youth through practical skills, educational equality, and social mobility. The Chief Guest of the programme was Mr. Samarddeep Saxena, Regional Director, NSS Cell Lucknow and the Guest of honour was Dr. Manju Singh, OSD & State Liaison Officer, NSS Cell, Higher Education Department, Lucknow. NSS Programme Coordinator Prof. Dipak Kumar Bose welcome the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour by giving bouquet and shal and told the aim of the program to help young people become active citizens and leaders through practical skills and social activities. Mr. Samarddeep Saxena, Regional Director NSS Cell, Lucknow informed about the activities going on in the whole Uttar Pradesh



and encouraged NSS volunteers to take active participation through this programme. Dr. Manju Singh, OSD & SLO, NSS Cell, Lucknow encouraged the NSS volunteers through her motivational speech and discussed in detail about the benefits and future prospects of the My Bharat Portal. Mr. Satyam Kesari, Assistant Program Coordinator emphasised on the portal and shown the steps to be followed for registration in My Bharat Portal. A total of 187 NSS volunteers were participated in the program and among them 73 NSS volunteers registered themselves in My Bharat Portal on spot. Mr. Ashwani Kumar from Directorate of NSS Cell, Lucknow and NSS Programme Officers Dr. Satendra Nath, Dr. Hira Bose, Er. Dileep Kumar, Dr. Anoorag R. Tayde, Dr. Reena Mehta, Dr. Alka Gupta, Dr. R.N. Shukla, Dr. Anupriya Paul and Mr. Bipin Kumar Singh were actively participated in the programme.

ture prospects of the My Bharat Portal. Mr. Satyam Kesari, Assistant Program Coordinator emphasised on the portal and shown the steps to be followed for registration in My Bharat Portal. A total of 187 NSS volunteers were participated in the program and among them 73 NSS volunteers registered themselves in My Bharat Portal on spot. Mr. Ashwani Kumar from Directorate of NSS Cell, Lucknow and NSS Programme Officers Dr. Satendra Nath, Dr. Hira Bose, Er. Dileep Kumar, Dr. Anoorag R. Tayde, Dr. Reena Mehta, Dr. Alka Gupta, Dr. R.N. Shukla, Dr. Anupriya Paul and Mr. Bipin Kumar Singh were actively participated in the programme.

## Afreen, Ayushi, Vanshika won in inter-university competition

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj successfully organized an inter-university competition on 30-11-2024 to commemorate the 148th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and National Unity Day. The program was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Singh. In his presidential address, he said that the work done by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to unite India is a source of inspiration for today's youth. He highlighted the relevance of Sardar Patel's thoughts and inspired the students to adopt his ideals of unity, perseverance and dedication to the nation. Coordinator of the program, Prof.

Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Dean Student Welfare, in his address, threw light on the life and contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and while congratulating the successful organization

struggle and the integration of the princely states of the country always inspires us. His vision and determination created an organized and strong India. Today's youth should imbibe his

essay writing. The students demonstrated their creativity and skills and underlined the importance of national unity. The main objective of the program was to develop national consciousness

Gautam Kohli, Dr. Priyanka Saxena, Dr. Utkarsh Upadhyay and Dr. Ajit Singh played the role of judges. On this occasion, many dignitaries of the university, faculty members and students were present. At the end of the program, the winners were awarded. Afreen Khan of Prof. Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj won the speech competition, Aayushi Tripathi of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj won the poem writing competition and Vanshika Singh of Bhatkhande Sanskrit University, Kaiserbagh Lucknow won the essay writing competition. The program was conducted by Shivani Singh, Research Scholar, Hindi Department.



of the first and second phases of the competition, said, "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a symbol of Indian unity. The role he played in the freedom

principles and ideals and contribute to the progress of the country."

Three competitions were organized in this program - speech, poetry writing and

among the students and inspire them to maintain the unity and integrity of the country.

In the program, Dr. Pradeep Tripathi, Dr.

## Vishwa Janchetna Trust Bharat's 6th anniv celebrated

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Like every year, the sixth annual festival/honorary ceremony and All India Poetry Conference program of the literary cultural social organization Vishwa Janchetna Trust of India was organized in a grand manner at Lokmanya Tilak Public Service Trust, Alopibagh, Prayagraj. The city mayor was the chief guest. Shri Ganesh Kesarwani ji attended the program and honored the officials of Prayagraj. He praised the literature seekers who are doing literary service and told Vishwa Janchetna Trust India to build a Hindi Bhavan on the land of Prayagraj in the fu-

ture. The program started with Ganesh puja by Ved Pathi Antriksh Pandey, Maa Saraswati and Lakshmi puja and lamp lighting, Vedic mantra chanting and Saraswati puja, Saraswati vandana, welcome song and public awareness anthem by Bihar Unit President Pandit Sumit Sharma 'Piyush' on the stage. The sequence of the program became lyrical.

After the grand opening, three girl students (Shagun Tiwari, Parul Mishra, Aarohi Srivastava) gave their dance performances in the form of a cultural program.

Secretary of the organization, Rajesh Mishra Prayas ji told that Vishwa Janchetna Trust India is also working in the social and cultural field, which



Under this programme, many artists were honored with "Bharat Gaurav Samman" by the Honorable Mayor and other officials. Like every year,

the organization gave "Madhu Smriti Samman", "Shri Budhiram Badola Ji Smriti Samman", "Dr. Avneesh Gupta Smriti Samman 2024" to the people doing good work. This year, teachers and journalists were also honored in the series of honor ceremonies. A sequence was formed in which eminent journalists of newspapers were honored with Martandey Samman 2024 by Founder Dilip Kumar Pathak, President Santosh Kumar Preet ji, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Spokesperson Dr. Sharad Srivastava "Sharad" ji and other officials were honored with Guru Drona Samman 2024. District Convenor Saqib Siddiqui 'Badal' said that as special guests in the said program, retired Army Subedar Major Shri Rajesh Pandey ji, Shri Prem Chandra Pandey ji, Dr. Suresh Kumar Mishra ji, Dhanraj Sahu ji came from Chhattisgarh and Aruna Sahu ji came from the land of Banaras: Kanchan Singh. Parihar ji, Dr. Praveen Kumar Shukla, Dr. Sharad Srivastava ji and many other people were present as guests.

## NCZCC's Shobha Yatra today

Prayagraj: As part of the National Crafts Fair organized by the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, Government of India from Sunday in the Cultural Center premises, a Shobha Yatra will be taken out from the Center premises from 2 pm on Sunday, which will reach Subhash Square via AG Office, where the artists will be given a grand welcome by Civil Lines Industry Trade Board President Neeraj Jaiswal, famous singer and General Secretary Swati Nirkhi, Regional Councilor Pankaj Jaiswal and other businessmen.

## Science exhibition, children's fair organized in Saraswati Vidya Mandir

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Science exhibition and children's fair program concluded at Saraswati Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar. At 11.30 am in the school, Dr. Anil

displayed their models. The models securing first, second and third positions in the science exhibition were decided by the science lecturers of D.A.V. Inter College, Meerpur. Principal of Khatri



Kumar Kalra and RN Mehrotra Manager and Jewelers Association President Dinesh Singh inaugurated the science exhibition by lighting the lamp and laying flowers on the picture of scientist Jagdish Chandra Basu. In which 68 students

School, Principal of Jwala Devi, Principal of Rajruppur and all members of the school management committee were present in the program. Principal Dinesh Kumar Dubey expressed his gratitude to all the dignitaries who came to the program.

# A scintillating Annual Day at MPVM

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir celebrated its Annual Day at the AMA Hall Prayagraj. The parents witnessed exuberant performances from both the primary and secondary sections of the school on Saturday. The theme of the primary section was 'Harmony in Motion'. The program began at 9:30 AM. Shri Mannu Prakash Dubey (Additional General Manager, Railways) was the chief guest. All the dignitaries along with the parents were given a warm welcome by the Principal Mrs. Alpona Dey. A token of gratitude was presented to the chief guest followed by the lighting of the lamp.

Chitrakaar Hai' by class 6 following which a drama based on old games titled 'Rewind n Recharge' was enacted by class 3. The event was carried forward by the students of class 5 as they performed a dance drama based on the classic old stories titled 'Treasure Classics' followed by the 'The Tutting Titans' of class 4 performing Tutting dance. Balletic Beauty was a mesmerising dance performance by class 2. Thereafter, a hindi play titled 'Balak Dhruv' was enacted on the stage.

The Chief guest applauded the little participants for their phenomenal performances. He also congratulated and commended on the tireless efforts of the teachers who have solely been responsible for the day's success. The managing Heads of the school embraced the students for their splendid acts and thanked

all the parents for their constant support. The program was drawn to a close with a vote of thanks by the primary incharge Mrs. Boishakhi Ghosh.

The program of the sec-



ondary section commenced at 12:00 PM with an array of performances based on the theme of 'PARYAVISION' a goal towards a greener earth.

Shri Rajiv Bharti (Registrar General at Allahabad High Court) was the chief guest along with Shri Saurabh Srivastava (Dep.

Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer also an alumnus of the school) was the Guest of Honour for the second session. They were warmly welcomed with the guard of honour.

the program wouldn't have been possible.

The function commemorated with 'A tribute to good Earth' dance performance on the five elements that constitute the earth. Then a beautiful stage presentation by class 9 on the same theme was showcased. Face painting titled 'Illustrious Promethean' was conducted. Class 8 exquisitely presented 'Navras' through the life of Lord Krishna. An enthralling qawwali performed by the students of secondary and senior secondary classes followed by the English play titled 'Villa For Sale'. A splendid presentation by class 7 gave a strong message on 'Sustainable Development' under the title 'Paryagleanings'. The last and the most awaited event of the eve was the band. The group of MPVM called The Electrics mesmerized the audience with their enchanting voices. It was

truly an ethereal experience to the ears.

Both the Chief guest and the Guest of Honour of the secondary program were extremely delighted by the function. Mr. Srivastava even became a little nostalgic remembering his good old days in MPVM. He even congratulated the students for their flawless performances. The Hon. Secretary of the school Dr. Krishna Gupta congratulated the Principal, incharges teachers for putting up a spectacular show where every depicted perfection. Speaking about the history of the MPVM, she talked about the heights of success that it has reached by putting emphasis on women empowerment through its Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The entire program concluded with a vote of thanks following which the Annual Day was called off with the National Anthem.

## Rajesh Kr Kesarwani nominated media in-charge of Shri Panchayati Akhara Naya Udaasin

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Mahant Jagtar Muni Ji, Secretary of Shri Panchayati Akhara Naya Udaasin Registered, appointed the saints of the Akhara. With unanimous consent and blessings, Rajesh Kumar Kesarwani was nominated as media in-charge and spokesperson of Shri Panchayati Akhara new Udaasin registered Prayagraj unit.



## Ex-SP councillor missing

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Krishna Dev Kuttu, former councilor of Samajwadi Party, 244 Neem Sarai Mundera, Police Station Dhumanganj, Allahabad. His age is around 67 years. He is wearing a sky blue shirt and blue colored pants. He has been missing since 5 pm on Thursday, 28th November.



## Editorial

## Brief History of Recent Attacks on Hindu Festivals

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

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



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

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

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

One, the person whose assassination is at the centre of

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

booster shot. In fact, the Indira Gandhi government had sought the extradition of a dreaded Khalistani terrorist, Talwinder Singh Parmar, who had warned three years before the 1985 Kanishka bombing that "Indian planes will fall from the sky", but the Canadian government refused to entertain the Indian demand, saying the extradition protocols between Commonwealth countries would not apply with India as it had not been deferential enough to the British Queen, the Head of the Commonwealth!

## The Wakf Amendment Bill isn't radical enough. Reinvent or wind up

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



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

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

Likewise for the Wakf. Even though most

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

Hardly any life has ever been touched by this much-vaunted Empire of Charity. A case in point: in the Shah Bano case, the Supreme Court granted maintenance to a divorced Muslim woman. But the Muslim leadership saw this as an attack on Islam, since according to them, Sharia has no provision for alimony. Therefore, the Muslims couldn't take the highest court's judgement lying down. They bullied the government into submission.

And such was the awe of their vote bank that the government readily capitulated, passing a law to subvert the said judgement. It had the most ironic title, the Muslim Women (Protection on Divorce) Act 1986. However, a valid question still needed to be answered—what about the divorced woman falling into destitution? Maulana Syed Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, then president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, gave a solemn undertaking that maintenance for divorced destitute women would be paid by Wakf Board. So far, in nearly four decades, not a single woman has been paid the promised pittance. So much for charity! The near total absence of any visible charity by Wakf should bring us to its real character and organisational structure. In my previous article on the subject, it was irrefutably established that Wakf is neither religious nor charitable. It has no scriptural basis in the Quran or the Sunnat, and has actually been used as a juristic subterfuge to circumvent Islamic laws of inheritance and property distribution. It was also demonstrated that the legal fiction of vesting ownership in Allah and making Wakf irrevocable, inalienable, and unalterable were clever contrivances for the consolidation of property, formation of estates, and building of political power. There are different types of Wakf, yet it's strange that there is no systematic classification of them.

## China-Pakistan SCO presence threatens India

India's presence at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's 23rd meeting in Islamabad sent a clear message: there will be no engagement with Pakistan. Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, who attended the two-day summit in place of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, brought his signature swagger to the proceedings. He made it clear that India's participation in the Council of Heads of Government meeting was to fulfil its obligations to the SCO and not to interact with the host country. No bilateral meetings occurred between the two sides at the event, which was overshadowed by the unusually escalating tensions between India and Canada. Even as journalists scrutinised interactions, statements, body language and strategic commentary, India's participation remained overall restrained, with sharp rebuttals to any attempts to thaw tensions with Pakistan.

The SCO is a political, economic, and security organisation founded by China and Russia in 2001. Initially a Eurasian alliance, it expanded in 2017 when India and Pakistan joined. Iran became a member in 2023, followed by Belarus in 2024. The organisation also includes several observer states and dialogue partners. With both China and India as members, SCO is the world's largest regional alliance in terms of population—a factor that contributes significantly to its economic influence. The SCO was established in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, which explains why counterterrorism is its core focus. However, given Pakistan's history of sheltering anti-India elements, the SCO's counterterrorism framework offers limited value for New Delhi, which I will elaborate on later in the article. For Russia and China, the SCO remains central to their strategic

efforts to advance an alternative global order. India's engagement with the SCO is a key reflection of its multi-alignment and reinforces its commitment to regional cooperation. It is crucial to prevent regional organisations such as the SCO from succumbing to China's dominance. Especially when the world is grappling with complex dependencies on Beijing and there's a growing effort to counter the nation's unilateral moves and disregard for international law. While India may not reap significant direct benefits from the SCO—given the sanctions on Iran and Russia and the limitations on trade with both—it must continue its participation to ensure the region isn't dominated by China. It's important to remember that Beijing's involvement with the SCO aligns with its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which most SCO members, except New Delhi, have endorsed.

Russia's capacity to balance China has weakened due to the Ukraine war, increasing its reliance on Beijing. Simultaneously, events in the Middle East have drawn Iran even closer to the authoritarian axis of Russia, China, and North Korea.

Thus, for pragmatic reasons, India must continue its engagement with the SCO. The SCO risks becoming an anti-Western bloc without India—an outcome New Delhi can ill afford. The country aims to leverage its multi-aligned stance to benefit from both sides of the global divide while assuring emerging economies of its commitment to collaborative regionalism in an increasingly polarised era. The fundamental issue with the SCO is the absence of a unified economic, strategic, or regional vision. India does not align with the China-Russia-Iran trio's efforts to undermine the existing global order. Over the past few years.



## IT hiring is improving, but firms are wary



**Delhi:** LinkedIn and other leading job sites said that top IT services companies' active hiring rose to 82,000 in March from 50,000 in January, the first growth in 20 months. However, due to declining attrition, the top IT services businesses' collective gross hiring declined 4-6% QoQ in the quarter ending March, according to Xpheno's study for ET based on talent movement patterns in January-March. Wipro, Infosys, TCS, HCL, LTI Mindtree, L&T Technology Services, Tech Mahindra, and Cognizant were exam-

ined. "While gross hiring (attrition refills and fresh hiring) has been low and declining for eight quarters, the current rise in active demand denotes a return of hiring for capacity in the ITS cohort," Anil Ethanur, co-founder of X Gross hiring volume for the quarter ending March 2024 may be the lowest in over two years due to the 4-6% reduction.

Despite the drop in gross hiring, fewer exits will result in a lower headcount degrowth than last quarter "and IT sector consultants said FY25

discussions are still focused on bench dilution, automation, efficiency, and targeted hiring in niche areas like AI and GenAI due to macroeconomic uncertainty and few signs of demand recovery. "IT services bellwethers will be cautious in FY25 talent acquisition as they focus on profits. Even if some regions are showing signs of improvement, overall demand signals are poor and do not indicate a spending comeback in the next two quarters.

## Will invest if EV GST stays 5% for 10 years: Mercedes-Benz

**Delhi:** Mercedes-Benz, one of the first major carmakers to show interest in the government's new EV policy, said it would invest \$500 million "provided it gets an assurance that the current 5% GST regime for electrics will continue for a decade." "We must determine its logic. The tax advantage of 5% GST on EVs must last ten years for investments to be made "Mercedes India MD & CEO Santosh Iyer. "We'll start with a business case.

No commercial case exists today," Mercedes was one of the first multinational



automakers to invest in electric mobility in India and is developing six green automobiles. The company's electric lineup comprises the EQS limousine, EQB MPV, and EQE SUV. Cars are made in its plant outside Pune. The company is introducing its smallest electric SUV, the EQA, and planning the EQS Maybach and electric G

Class green SUVs. Iyer said the company hopes the government would use tax incentives to promote green mobility in India. "On our part, we will do everything possible to accelerate the transition to EVs through our six models." Iyer said firms and service providers must work together to build a dense EV charging network. In addition, like the telecom industry and cell tower sharing, electric charger infrastructure may be common and pooled.

Iyer said the government should encourage EVs as India goes toward carbon.

## Small business payment rules to change by centre

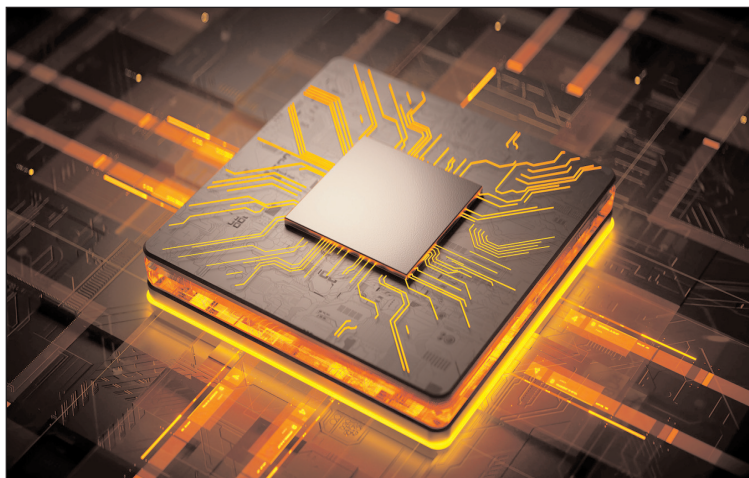
**Delhi:** An exporter in Chennai with multiple units was forced to deregister one of its entities on Udyam, the portal for micro, small, and medium enterprises, because some large buyers did not want to be caught in a government mandate requiring actual payment of

all dues to MSMEs within 45 days to claim tax deduction for expenditure. Several small businesses across the country are protesting that the government's well-intentioned attempt to ensure prompt payments is being used against them since they have little leverage in

negotiating with large enterprises that set pricing and payment terms. Others argued the standards were against business practices in particular sectors or in specific parts of the country where 60-90-day payments are common.

## Government contemplating 25K GPUs

**Delhi:** According to media reports, the Indian government is considering a public-private partnership (PPP) to set up a cluster of 25,000 GPUs (graphic processing units) for Indian companies working on AI and other emerging technologies that require high computing capacity. The Ministry of Electronics and IT is debating the INR 8,000-10,000 crore plan at the highest levels. Indian AI startups, corporations, and CEOs have urged the government to invest in scarce and expensive processing resources. Experts say the proposal will keep Indian data sovereign. They added many in the business have been using foreign clouds because GPUs are scarce in



India. One of Meity's seven AI working groups recommended a 25,000 GPU cluster, reports said. Data and people capital are abundant in India due to many digital changes, according to experts. India needs at least 25,000 GPUs for supercom-

puting to compete in the global AI race. The 75th fastest supercomputer in the world, India's 'Arawat' at C-DAC in Pune, has 640 GPUs. Worldwide, the fastest supercomputers have over 30,000 GPUs. The official said the government

will invite private companies to set up GPUs here through the usual tendering process after finalizing the project.

If they had a 1,000 GPU cluster instantly, AI businesses in the country may attract more funding, experts claimed. While the government considers this suggestion, recent agreements between Nvidia, Reliance Jio, and Tata Sons may provide entrepreneurs with computing infrastructure. Experts also said India needs fast supercomputers, and companies are looking at government programs to develop gigantic supercomputers and enterprises to train large language models (LLMs) in numerous Indian languages.

## Optiemus plans to invest Rs 140 crore to expand drone manufacturing

**Delhi:** To grow and provide drone manufacturing services to the agriculture, mapping, and allied industries, Optiemus Unmanned Systems, a subsidiary of Optiemus Infra, a contract maker of electronics, would invest Rs 140 crore. According to chairman Ashok Gupta, the company is localizing parts and components in order to reach 75% indigenization by the end of the fiscal year.

If interest rates



were high right now, would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit?

"We are set to leverage our

expertise in drone technology to offer a cost-effective and efficient solution for agricultural and defence needs," Gupta stated.

## NCLT tells Byju's: Show lack of funds or face audit

**Delhi:** The National Company Law Tribunal advised Byju's to have its finances reviewed to determine if it can pay its employees. The court ruled that Byju's is still operating and must generate revenue to pay salaries while hearing a group of employees' request for unpaid wages. The court ordered the firm to establish its incapacity to pay or face an audit. The remarks were part of the arguments, and no decision has been made. Byju's didn't comment. Several Byju employees haven't been paid for February and March. In an earlier letter to staff, founder and CEO Byju Raveendran stated a few investors' deci-



sion to prevent the company from using rights issue funds had delayed salary payments. Byju's laid off 500 workers and closed most of its offices in April.

In an interim order in late February, the NCLT ordered the company to keep all \$200 million rights issue funds in a separate escrow account and not withdraw them until the mismanagement and oppression suit filed by a section of

investors against the company's management was resolved. Since the start, Byju's investors Prosus, Peak XV Partners, Sofina, and General Atlantic have opposed the rights offer and are believed to have appealed the Karnataka high court's recent decision to lift the NCLT stay on its second rights sale. Discover how frozen accounts affect employee compensation at Byjus in Karnataka.

## Air cargo from India increases amid Red Sea crisis, aiming for 10 mn tonnes by 2030



**Delhi:** Air freight from India has more than doubled since the Red Sea crisis, allowing the country to reach its 2030-31 goal of transporting 10 million tonnes (MT) of air cargo. India's air freight peaked at above 3.5 MT in 2017-18 and has recovered from COVID-19. President of the Air Cargo Forum of India (ACFI) Yashpal Sharma stressed the significance of minimizing trans-shipment carriage times and allowing foreign freighter

aircraft to reach numerous Indian destinations. Air transport accounts for less than 2% of worldwide freight. A half-percent adjustment will improve aviation cargo volumes after the Red Sea crisis. India has a huge chance but must address the hurdles, especially speeding up trans-shipment, which takes 2-2.5 days "Sharma stated Thursday at the ACFI Annual Conclave 2024 in New Delhi. India's air freight sector is unique, with foreign

imports, exports, and domestic cargo each accounting for one-third of volume. Less than 15% of aviation cargo is carried by freighters; most is in passenger planes' bellies. Freighter aircraft numbers fluctuated, according to aviation ministry senior economic advisor Piyush Srivastava. Before COVID, India had six freighters. This number grew to 28 during the pandemic as airlines shifted passenger planes to cargo.

## Google to face South Korean regulator over YouTube bundling allegations



**Delhi:** South Korea's antitrust regulator is poised to punish Google (NASDAQ:GOOGL) for improperly bundling YouTube's music service with its premium membership program, authorities. Since February last year, the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) has conducted an on-site investigation into whether the tech giant violated fair transaction rules by offering YouTube Music to Ad-free YouTube premium members without further charges. After a

months-long inquiry, the FTC presented a review report calling for Google's punishment before a plenary meeting, Yonhap News Agency reports. Officials said the examination focused on whether Google abused its market dominance by deploying such a technique and limited fair competition in the industry. Some argue that bundling has increased YouTube subscribers but limited consumers' choices and unfairly hurt other music streamers.

CAPSULES

## 375 million subscribers' details are reportedly for sale, however Bharti Airtel disputes any data breach

**Delhi:** In the midst of accusations of a significant consumer data leak, telecom giant Bharti Airtel has denied any security system compromise. A claim has surfaced suggesting that there has been a compromise of Airtel customer data. This is nothing more than vested interests' desperate attempt to damage Airtel's brand. An Airtel representative clarified the rumors of a data breach that have been circulating since yesterday, telling Moneycontrol, "We have done a thorough investigation and can confirm that there has been no breach whatsoever from Airtel systems." Unverified claims claimed that the Aadhaar number, phone number, email address, and address of 375 million Airtel subscribers were out for grabs on the dark web. Moneycontrol was unable to confirm the veracity of the report on the data leak. A database was purportedly offered for sale on a dark web forum by a threat actor going by the handle "xenZen," who apparently demanded \$50,000 for the material.

## Ola leaves Google Maps and relocates to its own Maps Ola

**Delhi :** The ride-hailing company Ola has replaced its Google Maps integration in its app with its own internal map system, Ola Maps, according to a statement made by CEO and founder Bhavish Aggarwal. Aggarwal claimed in a post on X that the action had allowed the business to save Rs 100 crore a year.



## YES BANK Drives Innovation and Growth for North India's MSMEs

**GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD :** YES BANK, the sixth-largest private sector bank in India and a leader in MSME banking, is playing a pivotal role in fostering growth and innovation within North India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. The region's MSMEs, particularly in states like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi-NCR, Punjab, and Haryana, are crucial contributors to India's economic trajectory towards its \$5 trillion economy target, significantly impacting the national GDP. Uttar Pradesh alone boasts of 96 lakh MSMEs spread over 75 districts, while Delhi-NCR continues to be a major hub for diverse businesses ranging from manufacturing to services. Notably, the MSME sector in North India is projected to grow at a CAGR exceeding 9% by 2030, underscoring its immense potential. The Bank also registered a 25.8% Y-o-Y

increase in MSME advances, with a significant portion amounting to 36%, originating from the North, reflecting its commitment to driving local economic development. The bank has maintained a 59% share of retail and SME advances in its loan book, with 86% of the SME portfolio collateral-backed to ensure sustainability and stability. Additionally, the share of low-cost deposits (CASA) increased to 32.0% in September 2024, contributing to the bank's overall deposits, which grew by 18.3% year-on-year to 2.77 trillion. Dr. Rajan Pentel, Executive Director, YES BANK stated, "Our commitment to enhancing financial inclusion and supporting economic growth in North India is unwavering. With 36% of our MSME loan portfolio originating from the region and a robust 27.5% Y-o-Y growth in deposits, the North continues to

be a cornerstone of YES BANK's strategic expansion. We opened eight new branches in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in FY25 and further aim to open 350 -400 new branches nationwide in the next 3-5 years. We disbursed Rs 5,000 crore in MSME loans during H1-FY25, driving accessibility and growth. Through initiatives like our Start-up Accelerator Programme, which has empowered over 1,200 start-ups in the region, we aim to further strengthen the North's entrepreneurial ecosystem and advance our vision of inclusive banking." During H1-FY25, the Bank disbursed ₹5,081 in the region and supported 1,220 start-ups through its Start-up Accelerator Programme, with a portfolio size of 2,500 crore. The North also saw 27.5% year-on-year growth in deposits, reflecting significant regional economic activity and financial inclusion.

## Mahindra launches BE 6e starting at 18.90 Lakh and XEV 9e starting at 21.90 Lakh

**GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD:**

Mahindra has rewritten the rules of electric mobility with the launch of its flagship Electric Origin SUVs, the BE 6e and XEV 9e. They are built on a ground-up revolutionary electric origin architecture INGLO and are powered by MAIA, the fastest automotive mind in the world. These vehicles embody Mahindra's vision of "Unlimit India"—an era where Indian innovation and design not only challenge global benchmarks but set new ones. The introductory prices\* of BE 6e and XEV 9e were announced at the Global Premiere today. Veejay Nakra, President - Automotive Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. and Joint Managing Director, Mahindra Electric Automobile Limited, said, "The insight that inspired our brand idea is rooted in the most powerful human emotion - Love, which is eternal, inspires our deepest choices and



defines who we are. Our electric origin SUVs, BE 6e and XEV 9e are about Unlimit Love that will inspire our customers to live a life without limits, filled with experiences that will make them feel alive. Crafted for unmissable presence, unparalleled technology and unrivalled performance, our electric origin SUVs will set new global benchmarks. The BE 6e, with its edgy, athletic silhouette and race-inspired agility, is designed for those who thrive on performance and adrenaline while the XEV 9e exudes sophistication with its suave SUV coupe design, seamlessly blending indulgent luxury with dynamic performance."m R Velusamy, President -

Automotive Product Development, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. and Joint Managing Director, Mahindra Electric Automobile Limited, said, "The BE 6e and XEV 9e are the next Indian icons that will be world beaters. The difference between a vehicle that is made-electric and these two Born Electric SUVs is that one you have seen before, and the other one is unlike anything you have seen before. One just about matches industry standards of performance while one sets a new standard for performance in the industry. One has tech that will soon be history, while one has tech that will make everything history.

## CAPSULES

### Why Empathy and Understanding are Key to Supporting Fertility Patients with Disabilities

**Chandigarh :** Fertility treatments can be a challenging journey for many individuals, but for those with disabilities, the path can be even more complex. People with physical or intellectual disabilities often face unique obstacles that can affect their ability to conceive and undergo fertility treatments. From physical limitations to emotional and logistical challenges, these individuals may encounter barriers that others may not fully understand. As Dr. Rakhi Goyal, IVF Specialist at Birla Fertility and IVF, Chandigarh explains, "Empathy and understanding are essential in supporting fertility patients with disabilities, as their journey often involves unique physical, emotional, and logistical challenges. It's crucial to approach their experiences with sensitivity, acknowledging both their desires to become parents and the barriers they may face. Providing an open, non-judgmental space for these patients to express their needs ensures they feel valued and heard. By offering personalized care and adapting treatment plans, we empower individuals with disabilities to pursue their fertility goals, knowing they have the support and compassion they deserve."

For patients with disabilities, medical professionals must provide tailored support that goes beyond conventional care. This includes modifying procedures to meet their specific needs, whether that involves adjusting equipment, providing additional assistance during visits, or offering emotional support through counseling.

## Endometriosis Awareness: How It Affects Fertility and Treatment

**Chandigarh :** Endometriosis is a chronic medical condition that affects millions of women worldwide, yet it remains underdiagnosed and misunderstood. The condition occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus, often on the ovaries, fallopian tubes, and the pelvic cavity. This misplaced tissue responds to hormonal changes, just like the uterine lining, leading to inflammation, pain, and the formation of scar tissue. Over time, this can cause significant

damage to reproductive organs and disrupt normal fertility. "Endometriosis is a condition that affects millions of women, yet its impact on fertility is often underestimated. The growth of endometrial tissue outside the uterus can cause inflammation, scarring, and damage to reproductive organs, making conception more challenging. Awareness is key to early diagnosis and effective treatment, as options like surgery, medication, and assisted reproductive technologies can help man-

age symptoms and improve fertility outcomes. By raising awareness and understanding the condition, women can make informed choices and seek the support needed to navigate their fertility journey with endometriosis," says Dr. Rakhi Goyal, IVF Specialist at Birla Fertility and IVF, Chandigarh. The link between endometriosis and infertility is well-documented. Studies show that up to 50% of women with endometriosis may experience difficulty

conceiving. The scarring and adhesions formed by the abnormal tissue growth can block the fallopian tubes, interfere with ovulation, and impair the implantation of the fertilized egg. As a result, women with endometriosis may find it more challenging to get pregnant naturally. While there is no cure for endometriosis, several treatment options can help manage symptoms and improve fertility. These include pain management strategies, hormonal therapies to suppress the growth of endometrial tissue.

## Is Stress Messing with Your Fertility? Let's Talk!

**Rewari :** When it comes to fertility, many people focus on physical factors like hormone levels, age, and reproductive health. However, there is another significant factor often overlooked—stress. While it's commonly acknowledged that stress affects mental well-being, its impact on fertility is just as profound. "Stress can have a profound impact on fertility, yet its role is often underestimated. Chronic stress disrupts hormonal balance, affecting ovulation, sperm quality, and overall

reproductive health. The pressure of trying to conceive can create a vicious cycle, where anxiety about fertility only increases stress, making conception more challenging. It's important to acknowledge the connection between mental and physical health, and seek support when needed. Managing stress through mindfulness, therapy, and lifestyle changes can play a crucial role in improving fertility and creating a more balanced path toward parenthood," says Dr. Nandini Jain, IVF Specialist at Birla

Fertility and IVF, Rewari. Scientific research supports the connection between stress and fertility. Chronic stress has been shown to disrupt the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal (HPG) axis, the system responsible for regulating reproductive hormones. For women, stress can interfere with ovulation, leading to irregular menstrual cycles or even anovulation (the absence of ovulation), both of which can hinder conception. In men, stress can negatively affect sperm quality, reducing sperm

count, motility, and morphology, all of which are important factors for successful fertilization. The emotional strain of fertility struggles can create a feedback loop, where stress and anxiety about conception make the process even more difficult. Recognizing the impact of stress on fertility is the first step toward addressing it. Management techniques such as mindfulness, yoga, therapy, and making healthy lifestyle choices can significantly reduce stress levels and improve overall reproductive health.

## Redefining IVF Care in Your City with Birla Fertility & IVF

**Rewari :** In recent years, assisted reproductive technologies like IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) have transformed the fertility landscape, providing hope to countless individuals and couples looking to start a family. While IVF has become a widely recognized solution, the quality of care and experience for patients varies significantly across different clinics. At Birla Fertility & IVF, a new approach is being introduced—one that emphasizes personalized care, advanced technology, and a compassionate environment. "At Birla Fertility & IVF, we are redefining the IVF experience with a personalized approach that prioritizes both advanced medical care and compassionate support. Our state-of-the-art technology, combined with a team

of skilled professionals, ensures that every patient receives tailored treatment plans designed for the best possible outcomes. We understand the emotional and physical challenges of fertility journeys, and we are committed to providing a compassionate, patient-centered environment. With Birla Fertility & IVF, you can trust that you are receiving the highest standard of care on your path to parenthood," says Dr. Nandini Jain, IVF Specialist at Birla Fertility and IVF, Rewari. Birla Fertility & IVF stands apart due to its commitment to providing individualized care. Every patient is different, and their fertility journey requires unique attention. The clinic's team works closely with each patient to under-

stand their specific needs, creating customized treatment plans that incorporate the latest in fertility technology and evidence-based practices. Beyond just the medical treatment, the clinic also recognizes the emotional aspect of fertility care. The journey can be stressful, and Birla Fertility & IVF ensures that patients receive the support they need, not just physically but emotionally as well. With a holistic approach to fertility care, the clinic is making strides in creating a supportive and successful environment for individuals seeking to build their families. Delhi : The Dubai Sports Ambassadors are former cricketer Harbhajan Singh and six-time Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza. The Dubai Sports Council's.

## 'Want Parliament to run': TMC breaks from INDIA bloc's strategy to target

**NEW DELHI:** With the first two days of the Winter Session washed out in both Houses of Parliament since it opened on Monday, essentially over the Adani issue, Trinamool Congress took a different line, from the Congress-led charge against the government, at its meeting of party MPs meeting on Wednesday. "TMC wants the House to run so that people's issues can be raised," party leader in Rajya Sabha, Derek O'Brien told reporters after the meeting. Since the Adani issue pushed by Congress has been leading to disruptions, many opposition parties including TMC, keen to raise other issues to take on the BJP-led government, agreed to a two-day discussion on the Constitution proposed by the gov-



ernment, to use the opportunity to bring up every matter of importance, that they want to highlight in the House. "TMC wants Parliament to run. We don't want one issue to disrupt Parliament. We must hold this government accountable for its multiple failures," TMC Lok Sabha MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar told reporters on Wednesday. Mamata Banerjee's party is working out its own space within the INDIA bloc, essentially to have its own say within the group, even

while Congress is the largest party and hence gets to lead the opposition charge most often. Congress' recent electoral defeats in Haryana and Maharashtra and TMC's victory in the Bengal bypolls have pushed the regional party into taking its own line, rather than follow Congress, while remaining within the opposition bloc. Most of the INDIA bloc party leaders including Mamata Banerjee are expected to attend Jharkhand chief minister and JMM chief

Hemant Soren's swearing-in on Thursday, for a show of strength for the opposition bloc. Asserting that TMC is part of the INDIA bloc at the national level, but not electoral ally with any party, Dastidar said, "We will take on BJP but our outlook on how to go about it can be strategically different.

... TMC does not have an electoral alliance with any party, but we win."

TMC wants to take up Bengal's deprivation, unemployment, price rise and inflation, situation in Manipur and the northeast, fertilizer shortage and the Aparajita (women's protection) Bill, that has been passed by the West Bengal assembly but is being withheld by the governor, in the House. The party plans to take the

### Former MLA 'Dada' passes away, CM Yogi offers condolences

**Lucknow** Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former multiple-term MLA from Varanasi's South constituency, Shyamdev Rai Chaudhary, fondly known as "Dada," passed away on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his heartfelt condolences, describing Chaudhary's demise as a significant and irreparable loss to the BJP family. In a message posted on his social media platform 'X,' the Chief Minister wrote, "The demise of senior politician and former MLA Shyamdev Rai Chaudhary ji (Dada) is extremely sad and an irreparable loss to the BJP family. Humble tribute to him!" He added, "I pray to Lord Shri Ram to grant salvation to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this immense sorrow. Om Shanti!" Chaudhary had been unwell



## PM Vidya lakshmi Scheme to help middle-class Indian

**Delhi:** The Union Cabinet authorized the PM Vidya lakshmi Scheme to help middle-class Indian youngsters afford quality higher education.

Under this initiative, qualifying students can get collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans up to Rs 10 lakh with an interest subsidy. It simplifies education loan processing for students admitted to NIRF-ranked colleges, including the top 860 Quality Higher Education colleges. With an initial Rs 3,600 crore spend for two years, the plan could impact 22 lakh pupils annually. PM Narendra Modi wrote on X, "This plan makes education more accessible. It empowers Yuva Shakti, improving our nation's future." Students at central and state government institutions and private NIRF top 200 institutions will be



most affected by the initiative.

A single online application will let students apply for loans and interest subsidies. Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan praised the plan for its potential to empower millions of students by removing financial barriers to great higher education.

"PM Vidyalakshmi will maximize access to higher education for meritorious students, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent students from achieving their goals," said. Under PM Vidyalakshmi, students only pay interest while studying.

### Admissions to Delhi Nursery for 2025-2026 open

**Delhi :** he admission timetable for entry-level classes (those under six) in private, unaided, recognized schools for the 2025-2026 academic year has been made public by the Delhi Government's Directorate of Education. Special Needs (CWSN), Disadvantaged (EWS), are covered by the timetable. On the Directorate's module, schools must post their unique entrance requirements and associated.

## Indian IT firms expect stricter visa rules

**Delhi:** Donald Trump's second term as president would focus on immigration policy in his political revival. Industry observers expect different immigration policies under a second Trump presidency. He would tighten employment-based visa regulations while cracking down on illegal border crossings. Indian IT firms use the most H1-B visas, which allow US companies to temporarily hire foreign workers. Indian IT companies have hired more locals and reduced visa dependency in recent years. Nomura reported that tougher immigration rules could hurt India. Over 72% of US H-1B visas were given to Indians in 2023. Thus, Indian Americans are becoming a major US political bloc. Trump campaigned on ending illegal immigration, especially across land borders, but legal immigration for professionals and students might be regulated. The study noted that the US has raised H-1B visa registration and application fees. Cornell Law School pro-



## Top 14 Fully Funded German Scholarships

**Delhi :** Germany offers international students one of the lowest education costs in Europe. Best institutions, inexpensive education, and outstanding infrastructure are hallmarks of Germany. About 3,50,000 international students study in Germany each year. Studying in Germany is inexpensive. International students struggle to cover Germany's EUR 1200 monthly cost of living. Thus, scholar-

ships and other financial aids help international students meet their living expenses. We discuss .Many German scholarships are for international students. The two main forms of German study scholarships are DAAD Scholarship Germany German Erasmus Scholarship Programs Heinrich Boll International Scholarships Bayer Foundations KAS Scholarships.

Trump damaged H-1B workers in his first term by narrowing eligibility, slowing processing, and issuing more denials.

professor of immigration law practice Stephen Yale-Loehr said a second Trump presidency will damage legal and illegal immigrants. Donald

## CAPSULES

### CBI raids activist Harsh Mander's office, residence in FCRA violation probe

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted searches at the office and residence of retired IAS officer and activist Harsh Mander in connection with a probe related to the violation of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had recommended a CBI inquiry last year into the foreign funding of Aman Biradari, a non-government organisation (NGO) founded by Harsh Mander. This follows a money laundering probe initiated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in September 2021, where Mander's residence was previously raided. The investigation is centred around two NGOs associated with him.

**Who is Harsh Mander?**

- Harsh Mander is a rights activist associated with right to food, right to information, bonded labour and the right of adivasis.
- He is the Director of Delhi-based think tank Centre for Equity Studies.
- He is author of several books including Between Memory and Forgetting: Massacre and the Modi Years in Gujarat, Partitions of the Heart: Unmaking the Idea of India, The Right to Food Debates: Social Protection for Food Security in India.
- Harsh Mander was also a member of the Sonia Gandhi-led National Advisory Council during the erstwhile UPA government.

## The First Sports Destination," demonstrates Dubai's rising

**Delhi :** The Dubai Sports Ambassadors are former cricketer Harbhajan Singh and six-time Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza. The Dubai Sports Council's "Dubai Sports Retreat" at the Museum of the Future announced .The event, "Dubai: The First Sports Destination," demonstrates Dubai's rising desire to become a sports powerhouse. Sheikh Mansoor Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Sports Council, ordered the retreat to boost Dubai's sporting status and encourage active, healthy living. Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al explained the initiative's vision. The retreat brought me together with Dubai's sports ambassadors, a prestigious



**"Being named a Dubai Sports Ambassador is a tremendous privilege," stated. "Dubai has been my home for years"**

collection of Arab and international personalities. We want athletics to be a lifestyle, a source of happiness, and Dubai's growth driver." Six-time Grand Slam winner and former doubles world No. 1

Mirza acknowledged her honor . "Being named a Dubai Sports Ambassador is a tremendous privilege," stated. "Dubai has been my home for years, and I am thrilled to help bring people together.

### A 24-hour police patrol monitors EVMs

**Delhi :** The counting was moved to from due to the Election Commission's technical staff's busy schedule. Delhi University is preparing for election results. Vote counting begins at 8:30 AM at DU's conference room. The 500 DUSU election EVMs were stored in a safe chamber in the examination department after the High Court postponed vote counting. A 24-hour police patrol monitors EVMs. DU officials said a strong room was built at the examination department on September 27.

## CBSE Cracks Down On Dummy Admissions

**Delhi:** Officials said the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) removed affiliation of 21 institutions and demoted six from senior secondary to secondary in a crack-down on 'dummy' admissions. They said the decision follows a September surprise visit of Rajasthan and Delhi schools that identified serious violations. "Dummy or non-attending admissions undermine the mission of school education and students' foundational growth. CBSE Secretary Himanshu



Gupta said the organization is taking decisive efforts to battle dummy schools and send a clear message to affiliated institutions to resist dummy or non-attending admissions. He added the surprise inspection committees reported the anomalies found during inspections to the schools. The Board carefully

reviewed school responses. He stated that 21 schools were withdrawn and six were degraded from senior secondary to secondary level based on inspection results and video graphic proof. Sixteen of the 21 schools that lost their affiliation are in Delhi, while five are in Kota and Sikar, Rajasthan's coaching hotspots.

## Changes in JEE Main exam pattern may prevent 'grade inflation'

**Delhi:** JEE Main is a major milestone for Indian engineers, opening doors to top universities and launching a successful career. However, the exam is famously difficult due to its design and heavy competitiveness. Over 14 lakh applicants applied for JEE Advanced this year, but 2.5 lakh qualified. The National Testing Agency (NTA) recently announced a JEE Main 2025 exam format change. The NTA announced on Thursday that Section B's optional question structure, introduced in 2021 to ease the COVID-19 epidemic, will be withdrawn. The first JEE Main 2025 application period will commence soon, including details on the NTA's website. JEE Main 2025 test pattern revised JEE Main, a national engineering



### Ayurveda-Biology in NET worries experts Vida Suhlan

admission exam, covers Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics. From 2021 to 2024, candidates answered 90 questions in three hours. Every subject had 30 questions in two parts: Section A has 20 MCQs and Section B 10 numerical questions. Candidates could choose 5 of 10 numerical problems from Section B of each subject. It remained in place until the JEE 2024 exam to help students overcome pandemic challenges. JEE Main Section B will return to its prandemic format in 2025.

**Delhi:** The University Grants Commission (UGC) announced that the UGC-National Eligibility Test now includes Ayurveda Biology. "The Commission, in its 581st meeting held on 25th June 2024, has agreed to include "Ayurveda Biology" as an additional topic from December 2024 onward to UGC NET.

## LG recommends CM limit EWS income to 5 lakh for private school enrollment

**Delhi :** Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has urged the A government to increase the income ceiling for EWS admissions in private schools from 1 lakh to 5 lakh due to unfilled seats and rising minimum pay. We recommend a 8 lakh income cap for primary and secondary students who pursue higher education, as stated in a Delhi High Court case. The lieutenant governor believes private school EWS admissions should follow the 8 lakh restriction for higher education institutions or at least 5 lakh as recommended by the High Court. Under the Right To Education Act, 2009, 25% of private unaided school spaces are earmarked for economically disadvantaged children. The lieutenant governor stated that skilled workers earn more than the proposed 2.5



### The dual degree option at DU will help students learn more

**Delhi:** The University of Delhi (DU) now allows students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. DU students can enroll in one degree through the normal mode at any DU-affiliated college or department and a second through Open and

lakh annual income ceiling, as per the minimum wages notified by the Delhi government. In Delhi, 11% of EWS-reserved seats in private schools have been unfilled in the last three academic years,

Distance Learning (ODL) through the School of Open Learning. This policy gives existing students the option to expand their academic horizons without choosing between conventional and distant education. It has restrictions, though.

according to data. "These unfilled seats clearly indicate policy failure on part of the Delhi government by keeping the threshold limit of annual income unrealistic and with restricted coverage."

## IIT-Delhi surpasses IIT-Bombay as India's top university



**Delhi:** The 2025 QS Asia University Rankings placed IIT-Delhi first among Indian universities. In one year, the Delhi institute rose two places to 44th in the continent, surpassing IIT-Bombay, which fell eight places to 48th. Asia's top 100 universities include six Indian institutes. IIT-D's rise is due to research, academic reputation, and a growing number of PhD-holding faculty. "There's a lot of emphasis on tech advancement, startups, and solving problems that help society," said IIT-D ranking cell director and planning dean Prof. Vivek Buwa. Following IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay ranks second among Indian colleges in 48th place, down eight spots from last year. Several additional Indian colleges made the ranks, however many fell. IIT Madras declined from 53rd to 56th, IISc Bangalore from 58th to 62nd, and IIT Kanpur from 63rd to 67th. The Core Ultra makes strides IIT Delhi topped India's QS Rankings due to advances in numerous categories. Its performance in 'citations per paper,' a criterion that measures research impact by assessing the average number of citations per published paper, was particularly impressive. 'Papers/publications per professor' was another important criteria that the institute got 95 out of 100. With nearly 640 regular faculty.



## Maharishi Dayanand Public School's Pre Primary and Primary classes Annual function concluded

CHANDIGARH:

Maharishi Dayanand Public School, MDAV Bhawan, Daria, Chandigarh's Pre Primary and Primary classes Annual function concluded. The program was inaugurated by NRI Sudarshan Garg who had come from Chicago, USA and Area Councilor Bimla Dubey. NRI Sudarshan Garg was present as the chief guest said that study should not be done with stress but with the spirit of learning. Presence of mind is necessary to remain alert towards the events happening around. Knowledge helps a person to progress towards greatness. Life should be lived with laughter. It is necessary to love the younger ones and respect the elders while being disciplined. Study teaches the art of living. He said that he will always keep making efforts for the upliftment of the school as



before. Councilor Bimla Dubey was as Guest of Honour. She motivated the students and praised the efforts being made by the school for the spread of education in the rural area. He said that parents also have an important responsibility in the upliftment of children. It is important to take out time for them. He said that children should also not forget their duties. They should also leave laziness and do their work themselves. Appreciating the achievements of the

students, she inspired them to move forward with dedication and confidence. NRI Sudarshan Garg and Bimla Dubey were honored with the school's memento for doing commendable work for the upliftment of education in rural areas. Pre-primary children dressed in colorful costumes gave their charming performance on different songs. Expressing concern about environmental imbalance, students of primary classes gave the message.

## Sharad Pawar questions EC's role, says democracy is in danger

PUNE: NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said some people had raised red flags on possibility of "30% vote manipulation" ahead of the recent assembly polls in Maharashtra, and the election outcome prima facie showed there was truth to the claims. "Before elections, some people made a presentation that it is possible (to increase votes through manipulation), and they also raised a red flag saying it will be done in the elections. It was our shortcoming that we did not pay heed to them," Pawar said, questioning role of EC.

"We never thought that EC would go to that extent in taking a wrong stand. After the poll results, however, prima facie it appears that the red flags raised by those people held some truth," he said when asked about opposition's take on EVM issue. Pawar was at Pune's Mahatma Phule Wada to meet 95-year-old social worker Baba Adhav, who is on a hunger strike against



the alleged corruption and use of money in the recent elections. After the meeting, the veteran politician said, "Parliamentary democracy looks in danger, given the current situation. Those in govt have no interest in this." "Opposition has been raising the issues in Parliament for the last six days, but not even for a minute has the discussion happened on issues of national interest," Pawar said. Despite EC's repeated assertions denying the possibility of EVM tampering, opposition parties have been alleging manipulation of voting machines in the assembly polls, questioning the spurt in number of votes polled in the last

hour of voting. During his interaction with Adhav, Pawar said some people had claimed 30% of votes could be added to increase the vote count. On Congress's plan to launch a nationwide movement over the EVM issue, he further said, "The issue was raised in Congress Working Committee's meeting, where it was suggested that it should be raised by members of the INDIA bloc at national level. A decision on the issue is expected either on Monday or Tuesday." Speaking about Adhav's hunger strike, the veteran politician said, "Adhav's agitation has given voice to concerns of common people.

## CAPSULES

### Bangladesh carriers cancel 3 daily flights as flyer count nosedives

KOLKATA: At least two daily flights between Kolkata and Dhaka and one between Kolkata and Chittagong have been cancelled by airlines operating between the two countries as passenger count continues to nosedive in the wake of continued unrest in Bangladesh, attacks on minorities and curbs on travel due to Indian visa restrictions.

Bangladesh's flag bearer, Biman Bangladesh, has cut operations between Kolkata and Dhaka from twice daily to a single flight a day. The country's private carrier, US-Bangla Airlines, has reduced the frequency to Dhaka from twice daily to once and has discontinued the flight to Chittagong.

Indian carrier IndiGo still continues to operate its twice-daily schedule, but sources said the airline was closely following the situation in Dhaka. The dip in passenger loads over the past few months, which has further accentuated in recent days, was a cause for concern, they said.

The number of flights from Kolkata to Dhaka/Chittagong has dipped from 125 in Sept to 97 in Nov. Consequently, the count of departing passengers has reduced from 15,479 in Sept to 12,747 in Nov. The number of arrivals to Kolkata from Bangladesh has dipped from 114 in Sept to 96 in Nov, resulting in a drop in passenger count from 12,540 in Sept to 10,121 now.

Kolkata: Bangladeshi carriers have been the worst-hit due to the crisis in the country. Biman Bangladesh flights from Kolkata are down from 59 in July to 28 in Nov while US-Bangla Airlines has fared worse with flight departures down from 84 in July to 24 now.

## EC to meet Congress team, hear out poll process complaints

NEW DELHI: Election Commission, in its interim response Saturday to concerns raised by Congress regarding "arbitrary deletion and additions of voters" and increase in voting percentages between 5pm and 11.30pm on polling day in the recent Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections, reiterated that electoral roll updation is a transparent process conducted with the involvement of all political parties. The commission also agreed to meet a Congress delegation to hear the



party's concerns regarding the polling process, EC sources said. While ruling out any discrepancy in turnout data, EC clarified - just as it had when similar doubts were raised by Congress during the 2024 Lok Sabha elec-

tions - that the gap in the 5pm data and the final voter turnout was on account of procedural priorities, as presiding officers perform statutory duties near the close of polling before updating voter turnout data. EC underlined in the letter sent

to Congress's law, human rights and RTI department, that the poll panel has, starting with the 2024 general elections, made it a standard practice to put out a press statement with updated voter turnout figures as of 11.45pm on polling day, as an "additional disclosure measure". Congress had flagged the twin concerns despite the varied results in Maharashtra and Jharkhand - while the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance won a landslide in Maharashtra, UPA recorded a spectacular win in Jharkhand.

## Two accused arrested with consignment of banned drugs, 2400 capsules and 5400 tablets recovered

Karnal: Under the able guidance and leadership of Superintendent of Police Karnal, taking forward the Karnal Drug Free Campaign, the Crime Unit Anti Narcotics Cell team of the District Police, on the basis of secret information, raided in a planned manner on 29.11.2024 from Lalupura Mod Mangalaura and arrested two accused Arf son of Irfan and Ans son of Inam residents of Ward No. 17 Gulshan Nagar, Shamli Uttar Pradesh. The police team recov-



ered 2400 banned Tramadol capsules and 5400 banned Alprazolam tablets from the possession of the accused. Incharge Anti Narcotics Cell Sub Inspector Himmat Singh said that

a case has been registered against the above accused in Madhuban police station under sections of NDPS Act. On interrogation, the accused revealed that this consignment of drugs was given to

them by an unknown person and they were told through WhatsApp call that they have to supply this consignment in Mangalaura area, for which they were to get a huge amount. He said that today both the accused will be produced before the honorable court and police remand will be obtained and during the remand, the accused who provided them the consignment of drugs will be traced and he will also be arrested as soon as possible.

## Congress: Ex-CJI opened Pandora's box on Places of Worship Act

NEW DELHI:

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh on Saturday said the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 is in the news these days because of certain

oral observations made in 2022 by then Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud that have since opened a "Pandora's box". On May 20, 2022, the top court had made oral observations while hearing a dispute involving the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi saying that the PoW Act does not bar ascertaining the religious character of a structure as on August 15, 1947. In his post on X, Ramesh said, "On September 12, 1991, the Rajya Sabha debated the Bill that subsequently became the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. This is in the news very much

these days because of oral observations made by the just-retired Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on May 20, 2022 that has since opened a Pandora's Box." "On the occasion of this Parliamentary debate, perhaps one of the greatest speeches in the Rajya Sabha's history was made by the distinguished author Rajmohan Gandhi who was then Janata Dal MP representing UP," he added. "It was a masterclass in Indian culture, traditions, history, and politics as well. His brilliant speech, with that lovely excerpt from the Mahabharata, has continuing.

## Injecting drug users are inviting death: Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma

Karnal: The World Health Organization has launched many such campaigns from the health point of view across the world so that humans can live a healthy life. Among these, a special campaign has also been launched regarding AIDS. 1 December is celebrated as World AIDS Day all over the world. It started in the year 1988. Its main objective is to create awareness about AIDS, research on this subject and brainstorming about its eradication. The full form of AIDS is 'acquired immune deficiency syndrome'. It is a virus named HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus). In the 1980s, people had a lot of fear and various beliefs and misconceptions about AIDS. To remove this, awareness programs were conducted in India through television and newspapers so that people become aware about this subject and this disease can be controlled. This is a global problem. Let us tell you that HIV is not spread by eating, drinking, touching, shaking hands or kissing, nor is it spread through air, water or insect bites. When does this actually happen? Let us shed some light on this.



(Human Immunodeficiency Virus) i.e. (HIV) seriously damages the immunity of the human body. It weakens the human body so much that the human body loses its ability to resist diseases. This is the reason why the body of such a person gets infected. The HIV virus is a chronic and life threatening condition. According to experts, AIDS disease is caused by HIV. There are various reasons, but today where the problem of drugs is becoming serious in the world, the use of illegal injections is becoming one of the reasons for this. Injecting many people with the same needle is one of the main reasons for this. Although now it is completely banned, but the drug addicts are

not able to get needles or the medical store owners cannot sell it to anyone, so in such a situation, the people injecting drugs use the same needle again and again and not only this, if many people inject drugs with one needle, then the risk of becoming HIV positive increases a lot. Its prevalence and use among the youth is a matter of concern. Such drug users are becoming victims of HIV. Many diseases are arising among the youth who take drugs. Many such cases have come to light in which the youth took two injections simultaneously and died on the spot. The Indian government is working on a war footing for the drug-free campaign, on the other hand, many states are also working in this field, but awareness can prove to be the most useful weapon because due to lack of awareness, the youth are moving in this direction. The most important need is to spread awareness among the people living at a low level. Although the government has taken many measures for the reform of such drug users. Free treatment is possible in the de-addiction centers run by the government.

### Delhi's government is surveying registered retirees

Delhi: Delhi's government is surveying registered retirees after "fake" beneficiaries received "women in distress" funds. The drill involves anganwadi personnel, officials say. They verify beneficiaries' ancestors at their registered addresses. Final reports are expected before the end of the month. The pensioner list will be updated to remove "fake" beneficiaries found during verification. A top Delhi government official said the department of women and child development had received allegations that some women had faked paperwork to acquire the monthly allowance for distressed women. The government randomly found ineligible women receiving pensions under the plan. "The verification drive is being carried out to ensure that financial assistance under the scheme is extended only to genuine beneficiaries and to identify.