

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ Thursday, 13 Februay, 2025 UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

FIR lodged against Arvind Kejriwal over Yamuna water remarks

NEW DELHI: An FIR has been registered against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal over his statements regarding the Yamuna river water and allegations against the Haryana government. Following a court order, hours before the Delhi elections, FIR was lodged at Shahabad Police Station in Kurukshetra, Haryana, against Kejriwal and other unidentified AAP members under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Facing political attacks from BJP leaders, Kejriwal now finds himself entangled in legal trouble over his remarks on the Yamuna. The Haryana government earlier this week filed a criminal complaint against him, with Haryana Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Vipul Goel confirming that a case has been registered against Kejriwal in a Sonipat court under the Disaster Management Act. Speaking to journalists after chairing a meeting of the urban local bodies department, Goel criticised Kejriwal's remarks as "absurd and misleading." He demanded that the Election Commission take strict cognisance of such "baseless statements," accusing the former Delhi CM of engaging in "cheap politics" ahead of the elections. "The water supplied to Delhi is the same water consumed by the President, Prime Minister, and Union Ministers," Goel said, accusing Kejriwal of spreading fear among both Delhi and Haryana's citizens.

Trump to sign order on reciprocal tariffs ahead of PM Modi's US

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump plans to announce reciprocal tariffs ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to America, the White House said. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters she believed Trump's tariff plan could be announced before he meets with PM Modi on Thursday. PM Modi is scheduled to reach US on Thursday and trade and tariff will likely to become one of the major issues that they will discuss. Trump's announcement of imposing a 25 per cent tariff on steel and aluminium has already feared the Indian sellers and this new plan may only give a fever to the manufacturers and distributors. Trump pledged on Wednesday to introduce "reciprocal tariffs" on other nations, indicating he might sign an executive order within 24 hours, potentially escalating international trade tensions, AFP reported. During his campaign, Trump stated: "An eye for an eye, a tariff for a tariff, same exact amount." Experts suggest these reciprocal measures would involve adjusting US



import tariffs to match those imposed by exporting nations on American goods. In an Oval Office statement on Wednesday, Trump indicated he could authorise reciprocal duties either later that day or Thursday morning. Economic experts caution that such measures could result in widespread tariff increases affecting developing economies such as India and Thailand. Trump has implemented extensive tariffs on trading partners since assuming office on January 20. A White House official disclosed to AFP on Wednesday that Trump's proposed 25 percent duties on steel and aluminium imports would be additional to existing tariffs on Canada and Mexico. In early February, Trump announced comprehensive

tariffs of 25 percent on Canadian and Mexican products, with Canadian energy imports facing a reduced rate of 10 percent. However, he subsequently suspended these blanket tariffs on neighbouring countries for one month after they committed to addressing illegal immigration and fentanyl trafficking. According to the anonymous official, if these tariffs resume after the 30-day period, duties on Canadian and Mexican steel and aluminium could reach 50 percent. Canadian Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc, visiting Washington with provincial leaders, told journalists Wednesday that Ottawa would await America's tariff decision.

India protests mistreatment, okays deportation of 96 more

NEW DELHI: India has protested the US handling of Indian deportees, who arrived handcuffed and shackled from San Antonio in a military plane on February 5, confirmed the government while officially announcing PM Narendra Modi's visit to Washington on February 12-13. Government sources, who confirmed that there are 96 more verified Indian nationals who may be deported to India soon, did not rule

out the possibility of PM Narendra Modi himself raising the mistreatment issue with President Donald Trump in what will be their first bilateral meeting since the latter's inauguration. "Yes, we have registered our concerns with the US (on mistreatment)," said foreign secretary Vikram Misri, responding to a query from TOI about whether India had, like Brazil, officially protested the treatment meted out to its citizens.

Significantly, Misri also said at a media briefing that the military deportation to Amritsar, compared to earlier flights in the past, was of "slightly different nature" as the Trump administration has characterised deportation as a national security operation. "That's perhaps one of the reasons why a military plane was used," he said. Misri also revealed that, as of now, there are 487 presumed Indian.

IIT-Roorkee student dies by suicide, third case in year

ROORKEE: A 19-year-old second-year BTEch student at IIT-Roorkee was found dead in her hostel room on Tuesday, the third student suspected to have died by suicide at the institute in a year. No suicide note was found, and police have launched an investigation into the cause of the incident. Anshu Malaiya, a resident of Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh, had been alone in her room

at Kasturba Bhavan hostel since Tuesday afternoon. In the evening, a fellow student came to meet her but found the door locked from inside and alerted the authorities. "Our team reached the spot, broke open the door, and recovered the body. We did not find any suicide note. Her mobile phone and laptop are password-protected, and efforts are being made to unlock them.

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

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

PMLA being misused like dowry law, says SC, gives bail to former bureaucrat

NEW DELHI: Observing that Enforcement Directorate's attitude should not be to keep an accused in custody, Supreme Court Wednesday granted bail to former bureaucrat Arun Kumar Tripathi despite stiff opposition from the agency, which said "crooks" who were damaging the country should not be protected. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan expressed disapproval over



ED opposing the bail when the order of the trial court taking cognisance of the offence of money laundering had already been quashed by the high court. It said PMLA was being misused like dowry harassment provisions of IPC

Section 498A. ED had arrested Tripathi, an Indian Telecommunications Service officer, on Aug 8, 2024 in a money laundering case connected with the Chhattisgarh liquor scam. Can't interpret law in this manner to protect crooks, ED argues in SC. Strongly opposing the bail on behalf of ED, additional solicitor general S V Raju said, "Crooks cannot get away on technical ground. s.

Haryana families fear ruin as USA deports illegal immigrants, fear for children's future

JIND: After US President Donald Trump deported the first batch of illegal immigrants from an army plane, families in Haryana are deeply concerned. Family members who are now filled with fear are now unable to sleep at night due to the growing anxiety and action being taken by Trump. Family members say that the children insisted on going, forcing them to send them to the USA by selling land and valuables through the dangerous "donkey route." Agents charged over 40 lakhs per person to send the children via this route. Now, if the children are deported, the families will be ruined. Talking to, Suresh Kumar, a retired army personnel and a

native of Khark Bhura village in Uchana town of Jind district, is at a loss for words after his son Rohit Sharma (21), was deported in first batch. "My son went to the UK on January 20, 2024, after completing his graduation. He initially went there on a study visa, but later decided to go to America. He reached America a few days ago, but was caught there. I haven't received any official communication from the authorities; instead, I learned about his return to India after the village sarpanch and local police contacted me to confirm his details. I haven't been in touch with my son for the past 15 days, and I don't know what has happened to him.

Modi to meet Musk during 2-day visit to US, possible discussion on Starlink's India plans

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on the way to the United States for his two-day visit, will meet Tesla CEO Elon Musk there and possibly they will discuss whether the South Asian market will open the door for Starlink or not, according to Reuters. During his two-day visit, PM Modi will meet US President Donald Trump, where trade and tariffs could be the main topics of their discussions. He will also meet several leaders, including Elon Musk, over potential initiatives like Starlink's satellite broadband services in India, as reported by Reuters. The discussion between Musk and PM Modi could focus on



Starlink's operational plans in India. The government has shown support for Musk's position on spectrum allocation rather than auction, though Starlink's licence application remains under review. "Musk is agreeable to give assurances on India security

concerns, which includes storing data locally," a source disclosed to Reuters. In December, Starlink's internet service was suspended in India following the confiscation of two company devices - one found in a conflict zone and another in a drug

trafficking incident, according to Reuters. Sources indicate uncertainty about whether Tesla's India entry would be discussed during the Musk-Modi meeting. However, discussions may include increasing India's role in electric vehicle component manufacturing. PM Modi's US visit follows his three-day stay in France. This marks his first US trip since President Trump began his second presidential term. The visit encompasses meetings with President Trump over two days. "Although this will be our first meeting following his historic electoral victory and inauguration in January.

Centre's Rs 1 lakh crore urban infra fund challenges states to think like startups

The Budget proposes an Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) of Rs 1 lakh crore to encourage states to think innovatively towards attaining sustainable urbanisation and redevelopment goals in existing cities. The grant is expected to infuse around Rs 4 lakh crore for infrastructure development, achieving saturation and implementing redevelopment projects. An allocation of Rs 10,000 crore is proposed for 2025-'26," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said in her speech. UCF would help implement proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs.

Become a leader in project management with IIT Delhi's Project Management

NEW DELHI: In a world driven by rapid technological advancements and ever-evolving market dynamics, project management has become the cornerstone of organisational success. A 33% growth rate in project management jobs is expected by 2027, resulting in 21.7 million project management jobs in India, as per NASSCOM1. This signifies an explosive demand for skilled project management professionals. Whether it's launching new products, streamlining processes, or driving innovation, businesses are increasingly reliant on adept project managers to navigate complexity and uncertainty.

Elon Musk's reply to DOGE update: This morning, 20 consulting contracts

Washington: Tesla CEO Elon Musk-led task force of Department of Government Efficiency recently announced the cancellation of 20 consulting contracts on February 3, primarily related to "strategic communication" and "executive coaching," resulting in a \$26 million savings for taxpayers. Announcing the same on X, it wrote "This morning, 20 consult-

ing contracts, mostly focused on "strategic communication" and "executive coaching," were terminated for immediate savings of \$26mm." Quoting the post, the Tesla CEO wrote "Another description for these types of payments is 'money laundering'," President Donald Trump established the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) through an executive

order, appointing the billionaire Elon Musk to lead the initiative. DOGE's primary objective is to modernize and streamline federal operations, aiming to reduce government spending and enhance productivity. The department has reportedly been granted access to sensitive data from agencies such as the Treasury Department, focusing on identifying and eliminating waste.

Saxena Sabha & KP Trust serving devotees with open hearts Robin Hood Army members made a special contribution

Prayagraj: Saxena Sabha, with the support of KP Trust, distributed tea, mathri, biscuits to the devotees who came to take bath on Maghi Purnima. Senior advocate and former president of KP Trust, Mr. T P Singh prepared samosas under his direction and distributed them to the devotees.



Members of Robin Hood Army served the devotees with full enthusiasm, love and zeal. General Secretary Dr. Anjani Saxena said that the distribution of tea, biscuits, mathri, samosa etc. to the devotees started from 6 am by setting up a stall in front of Chitragupta temple near KP Community. On the orders of Kayastha Pathshala Trust President Dr. Sushil Kumar Sinha, free support of tents etc. was provided by the trust under the direction of Vipin Dada.

On this occasion, the former president of Kayastha Pathshala Trust, T P Singh, Arvind Darbari, Manoj Saxena, Nisha Saxena, Kaushal Saxena, S K Saxena, Vineet Saxena, Suman Saxena, Swayam Saxena, Umesh Khare, Dheeraj Saxena, Gaurav Saxena, Chitra Saxena, Unnati, Sanya, Saumil, Shikhar, Abhikash etc. cooperated.

Minister Yogendra Upadhyay held discussions with delegation of Yamanashi Province of Japan

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government is taking important steps towards international cooperation to strengthen higher education at the global level. Under this effort, efforts are being intensified to establish world-class institutions in the state and to make quality education and foreign technical expertise accessible to the youth.

State Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay and State Minister Ranjani Tiwari held discussions with the delegation from Japan's Yamanashi province. The delegation was led by Yamanashi Province's Deputy Governor Kou Osada, along with International Strategy Division Director Koichi Furuya and Yamanashi Government Advisor Nirendra Upadhyay were also present. In this meeting, the possibilities of deepening cooperation in the field of education, promoting academic excellence and setting up world-class institutions in Uttar Pradesh were discussed. Mainly student exchange programs, scholarships and academic partnerships were considered.

Highlighting the 'Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Promotion Policy 2024', Yogendra Upadhyay assured a favorable environment and infrastructural support for education in the state. He said that we will

actively promote student exchange programs and academic partnerships with Yamanashi Province, which will give Japanese students a rich experience of learning and innovating in Uttar Pradesh. Citing the example of the recent agreement with Western Sydney University to set up a campus in Noida, he said that Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a global education hub.

The Yamanashi delegation stressed on the cultural similarities between Uttar Pradesh and Japan and assured that UP students will feel like their second home in Japan. Plans to provide insurance protection to the parents of Indian students who come to Japan to study were also discussed, which was described as a symbol of deep cordiality between the two regions.

Minister of State Ranjani Tiwari said on the occasion that Uttar Pradesh will further strengthen its education system by taking advantage of Japan's advanced technologies.

The Japanese delegation expressed commitment to further expand cooperation in the future. Deputy Governor Kou Osada said that by the end of this year a large delegation including CEOs of top Japanese companies would visit Uttar Pradesh to explore possibilities of cooperation in technology, tourism, education and other sectors.

Certificate and Appointment Letter Distribution Program for 32 Trained Youths by Meja Urja Nigam via Virtual Platform

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH



Meja: A virtual ceremony was organized on February 10, 2025, by Meja Urja Nigam under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program as part of the Skill Development Initiative. During this event, training certificates and appointment letters were awarded to young men and women who received training at the Center for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP),

Bhopal. The event was held in the MUNPL auditorium, where certificates and appointment letters were virtually presented to 32 trainees from CRISP, Bhopal.

This initiative is a significant step towards realizing the vision of the 'Skill India Mission,' effectively implemented through such training programs. "The youth are the future of the country, and by providing them with proper training and op-

portunities, we can lay the foundation for a developed and self-reliant India." In line with this vision, Meja Urja Nigam has promoted skill development under the 'Skill India' mission through its CSR program in collaboration with CRISP, Bhopal.

The trainees received three (3) months of free residential training at CRISP, Bhopal, in the following trades:

1. Four-Wheeler Service

and Maintenance - 09 trainees

2. CNC Machine Operator - 23 trainees

After completing the training, CRISP ensured 100% placement for the trainees. This stands as a testament to the program's success, providing not only employment opportunities but also new directions for the trainees' careers. Placements were secured with an average monthly salary of

₹17,000, contributing to the economic stability of the youth.

The significant ceremony was graced by the presence of Shri Aresh Kumar Chattopadhyay, Chief Executive Officer of Meja Urja Nigam, along with other senior officials. Shri Aresh Kumar Chattopadhyay extended his best wishes for the bright future of all trainees and encouraged them to

continue learning and becoming self-reliant.

This program not only served as a strong platform to enhance the skills of young people but also marked an important step toward realizing the dream of 'Skilled India, Capable India.' It clearly demonstrates that with the right resources and guidance, the youth can refine their talents and make meaningful contributions to nation-building.

Offering comfort and care to attendees at Maha Kumbh via Rahat Seva Kendra Bringing wellness solutions to where they are needed

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Cipla Health Limited, the fast-moving wellness goods (FMWG) arm of Cipla, incorporated in 2015 with a vision to spearhead the wellness wave in India is taking a step forward in providing care and comfort at the Maha Kumbh 2025, one of the world's largest congregation of devotees. Cipla Health, through its flagship brands Omnigel, Cipladine and Prolyte is setting up dedicated "Rahat Seva Kendra," to support attendees in managing the physical strain often associated with such events.

Walking long distances and navigating crowded areas during the Maha Kumbh can lead to discomfort, including joint pain, minor injuries, and dehydration. To address these challenges, the Rahat Seva Kendra will provide pil-

grims, police personnel, and other attendees with wellness solutions. These solutions will include massages for the back, shoulders, and feet using



Omnigel to alleviate physical discomfort, first-aid assistance with Cipladine for minor injuries, and hydration solutions with Prolyte to combat dehydration and keep them refreshed.

This initiative extends beyond offering relief, focusing on creating a com-

prehensive environment of care by bringing wellness solutions to where they are needed most; ensuring attendees at this spiritual journey can fully immerse them-

selves in the experience without physical discomfort. This marks another milestone in Cipla Health's commitment to enhancing lives and promoting well-being through its innovative solutions.

Commenting on the initiative, Shivam Puri, CEO,

Cipla Health Ltd., said: "Omnigel, Prolyte, and Cipladine are at the heart of Cipla Health's vision to deliver wellness solutions that truly make a difference to people in moments that matter most. The Maha Kumbh Mela is not just a spiritual journey; it is also a test of endurance for millions of attendees. Through our Rahat Seva Kendra, we aim to bridge the gap between care and convenience by providing comfort, relief, and support where it's needed most. By integrating our innovative solutions into this sacred journey, we strive to ensure that every attendee can immerse themselves in the experience with ease, unhindered by physical discomfort. This reinforces our commitment to improving lives and delivering meaningful, impactful care."

Kashmera Shah recalls KrushnaAbhishek treating her to masala pav on first date

Varanasi: VCOLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' is cooking up a feast of fun, but the upcoming episode serves something even more special- the nostalgia of a love story simmered to perfection! As the laughter chefs chop, stir, and sizzle their way through a series of culinary challenges, KrushnaAbhishek and Kashmera Shah find themselves whisked back in time, straight to their first date! Krushna, known for his impeccable comic timing, drops a heartwarming revelation. On their very first date, he treated Kashmera to masala pav instead of taking her to an upscale fine-dining restaurant. And now, life comes full circle as the duo is tasked with making the very same dish together in a cooking battle!

Kashmera, reminiscing about that special first date, shares, "Krushna knew that I come from Los Angeles,

where the idea of a first date is fine dining and candlelit dinners. But Krushna, in his classic style, wanted to treat me to something authentically Mumbai. He nailed it when he chose masala pav! And now, years later, here we are, standing in a televised kitchen, battling it out to cook the very same dish! Life truly is cyclical; it was destiny that we got to prepare this special dish and revisit the memory of our first date. But don't be fooled by our mischievous streak-this time, we put a whole lot of seriousness into the dish. To find out if



we nailed it or burnt our chances, watch the episode! With love, nostalgia, and a whole lot of masalas, the upcoming episode promises to be a full-course meal of laughter and sizzling competition. Will Krushna and Kashmera's dish win hearts, or will the heat of the kitchen get the better of them? Watch the latest season of 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' Co-

Powered by RajdhaniBesan, Special Partner Catch Masale and VikramElaichi Tea every Saturday-Sunday at 9:30 pm only on COLORS!

All India Dharma Sangh offering "Jalanjali & Tilanjali" to stampede victims, praying for their peace DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF SWAMI KARPATRI JI MAHARAJ OBSERVED

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: All India Dharma Sangh under the joint aegis of Swami Karpatri Foundation and Vedic Rejuvenation Institute with the guidance of Dharmguru Anant Vibhushit Shri Brahmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj and Peethadheeswar Shri Vidyasadhak Doctor Gun Prakash Chaitanya Ji Maharaj, on the holy land of Teerthraj Prayagraj, the tapobhoomi of sage Bharadwaj, under the presence and guidance of Koteswar Mahadev, 3 crore offerings of Shri Gayatri Mahayagna are being given in this

Mahakumbh for the welfare of the world by 451 Vedic scholars. Sumit Gupta, Secretary of Vedic Kayakalp Sansthan, said that on the occasion of the Poorna Mahakumbh being held in Prayagraj, on the day of Mauni Amavasya, by offering Jalanjali and Tilanjali to the countrymen who lost their lives due to known and unknown loss of life, through special mantra chanting, we will pray for their soul's peace and salvation. Water tribute given on the death anniversary of Swami Karpatri Ji Maharaj: Dharmguru Anant Shri

Vibhushit Shri Brahmanand Saraswati vehemently opposed those doing politics on the tragic incident that happened on Mauni Amavasya and appealed to the people of whole India to offer Jalanjali and Tilanjali for the peace of the departed souls and pray for their salvation. In this context, on the death anniversary of Dharma Samrat Swami Karpatri Ji Maharaj, Jalanjali and Tilanjali were offered with the entire entourage of the Dharma Sangh. With an appeal to all Sanatanis to stop politicking the issue of religion, the message was



given that all Sanatanis took a pledge to achieve the goal of Akhand Bharat shown by Dharma Samrat for the unity

and integrity of Dharma.

Took a pledge to perform International Laksh Chandi Yagna in 2026: Dharmguru

Anant Shri Brahmanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, along with his entire entourage, resolved to perform the In-

ternational Laksh Chandi Yajna in the year 2026 to make India a Dharmguru and to remove the increasing climate pollution and global unrest. Laksh Chandi Yajna is an ancient Havan procedure that is considered important in Sanatan Dharma. This Yajna is performed to obtain the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi, wealth, prosperity, and property. Its main objective is to eliminate unemployment from the country and increase wealth, success in business, freedom from global pandemics like corona and to eliminate global terrorism, along with giv-

ing the message of happiness to humanity in the country. Water conservation is necessary for the welfare of the world: Peethadheeswar Dr. Gun Prakash Chaitanya Ji Maharaj said that water conservation is extremely necessary for the welfare of the world. Therefore, he declared that save water, save the world, to achieve this resolution, a Sankalp Yatra will be taken out all over India to save one lakh twenty five thousand liters of water from every person associated with the Dharma Sangh by the year 2035.

TODAY EVENT

Maharaja Harishchandraji's birth anniversary program organized by Harishchandra Vanshiya Rastogi Sabha on Thursday at 5:00 pm in International Gita Promotion Camp

Kumbh awakening spirit of Sanatan in young gen: Swami Chinki Ji Maharaj

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Mahamandaleswar Swami Chinki Ji Maharaj, who came from Kumbh Nagar Om Shri Shankar Rai Math, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, who was anointed as Mahamandaleswar in Panchayati Shri Nirjani Akhara



on 2 February, said in the meeting today, looking at the increasing crowd on the occasion of Maghi Purnima, that all you devotees, if you take bath at any ghat in the 84 Kosh of Prayagraj, you will get the benefit of Kumbh and at the same time, this huge group of people who are coming to Kumbh will also get convenience because I am seeing that the pressure of crowd is continuously increasing on Sangam, so I will request all the devotees that if you all take bath at any ghat in Prayagraj, you will get the full benefit of

Kumbh because it is according to the Shastra Samvat that there is the benefit of Triveni in the 84 Kosh of Prayagraj. Maharaj Ji considers all his achievements to be the blessings of his guru Shri Bankhari Baba and wished a bright future for today's young generation who are carrying the flag of Sanatan Dharma.

Sri Ramanujacharya Sahasrabi Purna Mahamahotsav held: Sri Jeer Swami Ji Maharaj

Prayagraj: Kumbh Shri Tridadi Swami Ji Maharaj Shibir Sector 9, Shri Ramanujacharya Sahasrabi Mahamahotsav was held in which Shri Lakshmi Narayan Maha Yajna, lamp donation of 25 lakhs of pure desi ghee, 12500 conch shells and 12 lakh Kalash of Shri Ramanujacharya were anointed on this occasion by Jagatguru Uddhavpracharya Ji Maharaj Tej Pandey Pur Vihar Peethadhiswar. Swami Ram Prapann Ji Maharaj Vrindavan was also present on this occasion.



Traders increased pride of Prayagraj: Mayor

Prayagraj: On this auspicious occasion of Maghi Purnima, Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani distributed prasad to the devotees from all over the



world by participating in the feast at Kidganj, Ram Bhavan Square, Sulaki Square, Moti Mahal Square, Johnstonganj Square. And expressing his gratitude to the business brothers, he said that whenever devotees have come to Prayagraj, the business brothers have opened the doors of their stores and increased the pride of Prayagraj.

Maha Kumbh 2025: Over 2 crore people take bath on Magh Purnima



Maha Kumbh Nagar lit up with 27L lamps

Better life may be conceived by restraining senses racing for pleasures and feasts: Jiyar Swami

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: 27 lakh lamps were lit around the yagya mandap in Jiyar Swami Maharaj's camp in sector number eight of Mahakumbh. Mahakumbhnagar was lit up with 27 lakh lamps.

Media in-charge of Jiyar Swami Maharaj, Akhilesh Baba, told that this is the first time in Maha Kumbh that 27 lakh lamps have been lit simultaneously. Two thousand devotees were busy decorating the lamps. Artists created the figures of Jai Shri Ram, Jai Shriman Narayan, Jai Shri Lakshmi Narayan through lamps. Wednesday was also the concluding day of the seven-day Shri Lakshmi Narayan Maha Yagya being held under the aegis of Jiyar Swami Maharaj. In this, the saints who had come from all over the country were given clothes and bid farewell. Jiyar Swami Maharaj said that whoever got the opportunity to remember Shriman Narayan Prabhu on this holy land of Prayagraj should consider his life



bleamed. A better life can be imagined only by controlling the senses running after pleasures and feasts. For this, the only duty of a human being is to lead a life of good conduct, which is the first religion of a human being. The first means of life is conduct. The one who lives with decent conduct and gives the message of dignity to others is an Acharya. The above words were said by Shri

Lakshmi Prapanna Jiyar Swami. While discussing the story of Devahuti-Kapil Samvaad described in Bhagwat Purana, he said that the coming of a human being in this world is meaningful only when he renounces worldly pleasures and worships God. Welfare does not come by merely going and staying in Ayodhya, Vrindavan and other pilgrimage places, but by staying within the deco-

rum there. Momentary detachment is of no use. Detachment from the world is commendable but detachment from God is condemnable. Spending life only in pleasures and feasts is not the purpose of coming into this world. Living in this world and living a life free from worldly pleasures and attaining salvation after leaving the body should be the ultimate goal of life. These are called Jeevan

Mukti and Videh Mukti respectively in the scriptures. He said that there is a difference between appearing free and being free. Ordinary prisoners living in jail do not live in physical bondage in the jail premises, but are bound by the four walls of the jail. Swami Ji said that the sutra has great importance in the world. The world runs on sutra. Vyasji composed Brahmasutra to make humans aware of the

world created by Brahma. He interpreted Adi Shankaracharya's Brahmasutra from the point of view of Advaita. His commentary is known as Shankar Bhashya. Ramanuj Swami commented from the point of view of Vishishtadvaita. His commentary is known as Shri Bhashya. All commentaries and scriptures are meant for the welfare of the people. There is nothing in the world apart from God. Swamiji said that for the purification of the body, conscience and soul, one should do Asanas and Pranayam regularly. Due to living in the body, the soul is also considered impure, but the soul is not impure. There is no fault in it. Lord Kapildev preached the philosophy of philosophy under Sankhya philosophy to mother Devahuti. He told that Kamalaksh (Vishnu) is above nature and man and their presiding deity. Creation of the universe is done under the God in the proximity of nature and man.

Vishwa Manav Roohani Kendra serving pilgrims at Mahakumbh

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Vishwa Manav Roohani Kendra is situated at one end of Panchkula district of Haryana state. It is known for spirituality as well as service to humanity. Thousands of devotees visit here every day to connect the soul with God and to know God. The head of the institution is Sant Baljit Singh. He has dedicated his life to the service of humanity. The saint has lakhs of followers in Haryana and the surrounding states. Sant Baljit Singh has a large number of followers in the country as well as abroad. The biggest thing is that when Sant Baljit ji himself suddenly came here, the devotees were astonished. Vishwa Manav Roohani Kendra is dedicated to the service of devotees in the holy Triveni Sangam area of Mahakumbh. Free food, medical and ambulance services are being provided here continuously since January 12. Manmohan, a member of the management team, said that thousands of devotees took advantage of food and medical services in the camp of Vishwa Manav Roohani Kendra on Maghi Purnima Snan Parv. Here, the sevadars remain ready to serve the devotees with full devotion and joy 24 hours a day. He told that every day thousands of devotees are getting free food here and also taking advantage of medical facilities from professional doctors. This Shivar has become a unique confluence of people's faith in Mahakumbhnagar. A unique confluence of food, medical service and spirituality is going on here. Vishwa Manav Roohani Kendra, under the inspiration of its spiri-



tual head Sant Baljeet Singh Ji, every year organizes Shri Amarnath Yatra, Adi Kailash Yatra, Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra, Kinnaur Kailash Yatra, Mani Mahesh Yatra,

It provides services through its charity in religious events like Kanwar Yatra, Shaktipeeths across the country during Navratri and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi pilgrimage. In Mahakumbh 2025, the organi-

zation has set up a huge food distribution center and free medical camp near Sector No. 21, Khak Chowk, Mahavir Marg South Pontoon (Pipa) Bridge No. 03. The organization made special arrangements for sadhus, saints, disabled and elderly people in Mahakumbh Nagar as well as police, paramilitary forces and other administrative staff deployed in the fair. Dedicated to the service of humanity since 2005, the organization has been doing selfless service throughout India through its 255 branches. This organization is continuously contributing in the field of medicine, education and social service.

Adani Group working on future plans to invest in power and cement plants in UP

Karan Adani met UP Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: Karan Adani, MD of Adani Ports and SEZ Limited of Adani Group, one of the leading industrial groups of the country and the world, which is continuously making positive and active contribution in the economic development of India, met the Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, at his official residence at 6 Kalidas Marg. During this, he discussed in detail the investment projects being implemented by the Adani Group in Uttar Pradesh and future investment plans in various key sectors. Karan Adani praised the changed industrial environment in

Uttar Pradesh under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Karan Adani expressed gratitude for the support and positive cooperation received from the state government in various projects. He said that the process of investment in Uttar Pradesh has become simpler through transparent and effective processes.

Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi expressed his gratitude to Adani Group for being a partner in the economic development journey of the state and congratulated Karan Adani. Minister



Nandi said that Uttar Pradesh's excellent investment policy, industry friendly ecosystem and world class infrastructure have attracted investors towards the state. The participation of Adani Group among these investors is very important and noteworthy. The participation of

Adani Group in mega projects like Defence Corridor and Ganga Expressway has given a new impetus to the economic development of the state. Along with this, new employment opportunities have been created on a large scale. Minister Nandi said that in the coming

times, the future plans of Adani Group to invest in power plants and cement plants along with other important sectors will give a new strength to the economic structure of Uttar Pradesh. Meaningful, concrete and effective discussions were held in this direction. Minister Nandi said that under the valuable guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the growth engine of India. As a result of this, Uttar Pradesh is continuously moving ahead rapidly towards becoming a one trillion dollar economy.

BJP collecting memories of ex-PM Vajpayee

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Prayagraj: As part of the Atal Birth Centenary Celebrations, the Bharatiya Janata Party is preparing to reach out to senior workers through the Atal Smriti Sangrah and Atal Virsat Sammelan. Giving information, BJP spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that

under the BJP Prayagraj Mahanagar Atal Birth Centenary Celebration, through Atal Smriti Sangrah, such senior workers and individuals have been identified who have any memory, video audio clip, paper cutting, autograph of Atal ji or any other paper related to Bharat Ratna

former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which is directly or indirectly related to Atal ji. By compiling those memories/materials, the selected memories/materials will be displayed at the state and national level. The party will identify and honor such senior workers who have

worked with Atal ji, in RSS, or affiliated organizations. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that from February 15 to March 15, 2025 intellectuals, eminent people and fans of Atal ji will be invited through Atal Virsat Sammelan. The authors of books and articles

written on the life and work of Atal ji in the district will be honored in the conference. Information about Atal ji's memories will be presented through digital medium. Besides, the schemes implemented in the country and state during the tenure of Atal ji will also be displayed.

Editorial

India's naval advancements will fuel its Indian Ocean ambitions

As India approaches its 75th Republic Day, the nation has achieved a significant milestone in strengthening its naval capabilities. In an exceptional move reflecting strategic foresight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently commissioned three advanced naval platforms in a single day: a destroyer, a frigate, and a submarine. However, in a fast-changing security environment in the Indo-Pacific, the developments in naval capabilities must be measured in a relative context—capabilities of arch rivals and a swiftly evolving security domain, that is. Now, five points need to be underscored in this context. The commissioning of advanced naval platforms highlights India's aspiration to establish itself as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Over the years, India's maritime security strategy has significantly evolved. The 2015 Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision reflects India's dedication to fostering regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. This vision is supported by initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Island Countries (IOIC), which emphasise coastal connectivity and sustainable development. PM Modi's address at the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue further reinforced India's strategic perspective for the Indo-Pacific. The SAGAR vision has gained traction through frameworks such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), aiming to tackle regional security issues and counter China's expanding influence. While China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has grown to become the world's largest by fleet size, it still lacks the operational capabilities and combat experience of the United States. India's navy, although the smallest of its armed forces, has consistently demonstrated efficiency and timely acquisitions. Compared to the Indian Air Force, which faces critical squadron shortages, the navy pragmatically acknowledges domestic limitations in engine development. It relies on foreign collaborations to fill gaps, ensuring progress. However, I'll turn to that later. To establish itself as a net security provider, the Indian Navy must sustain the momentum it has recently achieved in naval defence exports. Although this initiative began in earnest only in 2011, it gained significant traction after 2016. India has transitioned from being a cautious supplier of naval equipment, primarily targeting countries such as Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, to a more prominent player in defence exports. For many years, India's exports to nations such as Seychelles, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka were limited to refurbished ex-navy and coast guard vessels. However, this trend has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. Naval ships, as of 2024, account for over 61 per cent of India's total defence exports. This shift highlights India's growing capability to manufacture advanced platforms and its determination to emerge as a dependable supplier of defence equipment to neighbouring countries. This development is a critical component of India's regional and maritime strategy, especially given China's rapid ascent in modernising PLAN and expanding its influence in the Indian Ocean by providing naval assets to smaller nations. China has already established itself as the leading defence exporter to both Pakistan and Bangladesh. It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties when Germany refused to supply key propulsion components.



Slowing capital expenditure is good. Don't invest in BSNL, save for shortfall instead

The Union government's capital expenditure (capex) continues to be a cause for concern. Of course, the extent of its decline has reduced somewhat — from 35 per cent at the end of the first quarter of the current financial year to 15 per cent at the end of six months. But the latest number for the April-November 2024-25 period shows that the Union government's capex was still 12 per cent lower than what it was in the same period of 2023-24. Instead of aiming for the targeted 17 per cent growth to ~11.11 trillion in capex for 2024-25, the government will have to strive hard to at least cross the figure of ~9.48 trillion reached last year. What has led to this decline? A widely held view is that the seven-phase general elections, which began on April 19 and ended on June 1 last year, caused a slowdown in capex. But if that indeed is the reason, the decline in capex in the first quarter should have been reversed in the second quarter of 2024-25. And certainly, the first two months of the third quarter should have raised the trajectory of capex growth to a higher level. There has been some improvement, but a 12 per cent decline in the April-November 2024-25 period is no comfort. Look at the slightly different trajectory seen in the Union government's revenue expenditure growth during the same period. The Budget for 2024-25 had projected a rise of over 6 per cent to ~37.1 trillion in revenue expendi-



ture. At the end of June 2024, the growth was just about 2 per cent, but it has been rising since then, reaching 4.2 per cent by the end of the first six months of 2024-25 and climbing even higher to 7.8 per cent during April-November 2024-25. So, if revenue expenditure has gained momentum, why has capex failed to follow suit? A close analysis of the government's capex numbers presents an interesting picture. Over 90 per cent of the Centre's total capex during 2024-25 was accounted for by just six sectors — roads, railways, defence, telecom, transfer to states and new schemes. Their share in total capex in 2023-24 was a little less at 87 per cent. But the 12 per cent decline in the first eight months of 2024-25 is primarily the result of a marked slowdown in only two of these six areas — roads and defence, which accounted for over 40 per cent of the total capex outlay for 2024-25. Capex on the construction of roads and highways fell by 16 per cent, while defence saw a decline of 15 per cent. This is serious and has worrying implications

for both infrastructure and defence. The problem of slowing expenditure in these two areas should not have been difficult to fix. Either effective monitoring of spending is lacking, or there are serious problems with project execution, reflecting the poor expenditure-absorbing capacity of these two sectors. This is borne out by a relatively good performance of the Indian Railways, which accounts for over 22 per cent of this year's capex. At ~1.68 trillion, the Indian Railways' capex is just about 1 per cent lower than its spending during April-November 2023. With regard to the transfer of special assistance as loans to states for their capex and additional central assistance for their externally aided projects, the Union government's performance was slightly better. In the April-November 2024-25 period, these transfers rose by about 5 per cent, although much lower than the budgeted increase of 41 per cent.

In contrast, such transfers during the entire 2023-24 had risen sharply

by about 24 per cent to ~1.15 trillion. It appears that these transfers will take a hit in the current year and for the first time since this initiative to help states boost their capex was undertaken a couple of years ago. Significantly, this has not yet adversely impacted the states in a big way. The capex of 25 states (accounting for 95 per cent of all the states' and Union territories' total capex budget) has risen by just about 1 per cent in the April-November 2024-25 period, although states like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal saw their capex fall by varying margins. Eventually, however, this will have an adverse impact on the states' capex programme and its growth-enhancing effect. There are two more sectors that account for another 13 per cent of the Centre's capital expenditure budget. But they bring out an intriguing aspect of why the government's capex has been slowing. They suffer from a peculiar problem, which has nothing to do with either the relevant sectors' expenditure-absorbing capacity or the absence of effective expenditure monitoring. The bulk of the capex under telecommunications was meant for infusing equity into state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd, or BSNL. Of the total capex of ~0.84 trillion, the proposed amount for BSNL's equity infusion accounted for as

much as ~0.83 trillion. But the total expenditure under this head in the first eight months of 2024-25 is only 6 percent of what has been budgeted. In other words, a decision to transfer the equity amount promised to BSNL would increase the government's capex by a significant margin. Why this money has not been transferred is puzzling. Last year, against a budgeted BSNL equity infusion of ~0.53 trillion, the actual infusion was higher at ~0.65 trillion. This year, no action on this front even after eight months is a puzzle as this failure also contributes significantly to the decline in the Centre's capex. More importantly, the Budget for 2024-25 had allocated a significant amount of ~0.66 trillion for capex on central sector schemes and projects. Of this, a large chunk, estimated at ~0.62 trillion, was earmarked for new schemes that the government would announce during the year. However, in the first eight months of the current year, only 4 percent of that total outlay has been used up, leaving ~0.63 trillion yet to be spent. It is likely that the government may not need this amount or it may have kept its powder dry to meet any new schemes that it might announce later in the year, for which such capital allocations will be useful. For the Union finance ministry, currently busy preparing the Budget for 2025-26, such a state of play with regard to slowing capital expenditure could well be an opportunity.

Will Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Really Lead To Peace?

On January 20, 1981, on the day Ronald Reagan took over as the new US president, Iran freed 52 American hostages it had been holding for over a year. That projected Reagan as a strong leader sending a powerful signal to US allies and its foes. His predecessor, Jimmy Carter, did all the negotiations and tried his best to have the hostages released while he was still the president. But Tehran would not let him take the glory. Forty-four years on, Donald Trump is taking the credit for the Gaza ceasefire deal, which will come into effect a day before his inauguration, cementing his reputation as a tough leader. Biden can say that the deal happened under his watch. But there is no doubt that it was Trump whose pressure led to achieve the goal. He declared on his social media platform Truth Social: "This EPIC ceasefire agreement could have only happened as a result of our Historic Victory in November, as it signalled to the entire World that my

Administration would seek Peace and negotiate deals to ensure the safety of all Americans, and our Allies." Days after he threatened that there better be a Gaza deal by his January 20 inauguration or "all hell would break out", his special envoy to the Middle East, Steven Witkoff, landed in Tel Aviv last Saturday. It was the Sabbath, the day of rest for Jews. But Witkoff insisted on meeting the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that day. At their meeting, he conveyed Trump's message that the incoming President of the United States wanted to end the Gaza war and demanded that a ceasefire agreement be signed immediately. The format of the three-stage deal announced on Wednesday was proposed by Biden in May last year and was later also endorsed by the UN Security Council. But both Hamas and Israel kept dragging the negotiations over it. In Israel, Netanyahu refused to give any concessions to Hamas and continued with his brute military operation in Gaza.

Investors line-up for Excitel's \$200-million equity deal

Extension of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar energy value chain, increased allocation towards PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, and greater thrust to distribution and transmission infrastructure are likely to be the key features of the upcoming Budget, as far as the energy sector is concerned. Sources said these proposals figured not only in the budget wish lists of the industry, but also in the respective recommendations from the ministries of power and renewable energy to the finance ministry, ahead of the Budget. "Given the success of PM Suryaghar scheme with almost 600,000 installations in just nine months since its launch, one could probably see additional allocation to target more households," said Ashwin Jacob, partner at Deloitte India. "As far as evacuation of power from offshore wind projects is concerned, we would want to see the VGF or budgetary support to continue or get enhanced," he added. "We hope to see a decisive increase in funding to accelerate the green energy transition. Priorities must include scaling renewable energy by addressing grid and transmission challenges, advancing Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for grid stability and reliable power, doubling energy efficiency and digitalizing the energy sector through AI, smart meters, and data-driven solutions. Streamlining rooftop solar programs with simplified approvals, financing, and monitoring is equally vital," said Saurabh Kumar, Vice President – India, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP).

Sharat Goyal, CEO of Impact Infracap also expects the government to remove restrictions on state wise caps on roof top capacity for net-metering for industrial establishments. "Further, adoption of batteries to substitute use of diesel generators for back-up power should

receive incentives and policy support given their role in reducing dependence on imports," he said. While the government is increasingly working towards enhancing the country's RE capacity, the distribution and transmission infrastructure for its evacuation still needs to be strengthened. With the peak demand for power growing at a rate of 8-9% annually, the industry is looking forward to strengthening of climate resilient infrastructure augmentation. "One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution infrastructure, especially in high density/ urban load centres, in view of the sharp rise in peak demand over the last few years," said Anujesh Dwivedi, Partner at Deloitte India. He noted that there may be some allocation towards supporting the preparatory work especially on the listing of power utilities, or some incentive mechanism for promoting initiatives on private sector participation or listing of utilities at the state level because they are increasingly being seen as the much needed structural reforms the sector needs. The industry is optimistic of a wider coverage of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by including smart metering in infrastructure definition.

"This would direct more financing for a sector which seeks to bring down India's transmission and distribution losses to 12% and improve recovery for state utilities," Goyal said. Goyal also noted that power transmission despite significant potential has not seen any notable monetisation events which could address the latent investor demand. "Government should announce a time-bound privatisation programme for assets owned by PGCIL," he said. The sector also sees the PLI scheme for solar value chain to continue with possible reduction in the duty structures for solar equipment.

Tulip's resignation in the UK is troublesome for Hasina. Spotlight on daughter Saima

The sins of fathers shall be visited upon the sons—this ominous pronouncement in the Bible has now come true for Tulip Siddiq, a 42-year-old minister in the British government, but with a twist. In her case, it wasn't her father's sins that visited upon her but those allegedly committed by her aunt, the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed. And it cost Siddiq her job. Slapped with a range of corruption charges by Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC), which forced an internal gov-

ernment inquiry, Siddiq has strenuously denied any wrongdoing—except that of ignorance about benefiting from dubious transactions. But she has paid the price and resigned as UK treasury minister on Tuesday, though she stressed that an independent review found she had "not breached the ministerial code". If the sins of aunts can impact nieces, then can daughters escape their mothers'? Ever since Siddiq's case hit the headlines, the spotlight has slowly but surely turned to Sheikh Hasina's daughter,

Saima Wazed, also known as Putul, who was elected regional director of the World Health Organisation's Southeast Asia branch amid considerable controversy in February 2024. An editorial in the eminent medical journal The Lancet had earlier questioned if she was fit for the job, as she only held a master's degree in psychology while rival aspirants were doctors with years of public health experience. The ACC has now initiated a probe into how she got the job: on her own merit or her mother's

intervention as prime minister. All eyes are now on Putul and whether she'll be forced to follow in her cousin's footsteps. What does it all mean for 77-year-old Sheikh Hasina, who has been sheltering in New Delhi since fleeing Dhaka on 5 August after a violent student uprising against her 15-year continuous tenure as Bangladesh's prime minister? There is no doubt that the charges being hurled at her, her family, and her friends are coloured by political prejudice from those now in power in Bangladesh.

Ridhm Goyal of Genesis scored 99.99 percentile



Karnal. Like every year, Genesis Classes has ensured its top position in North India this time too. 21 students of the institute scored more than 99 percentile. The first stage result of JEE Mains exam was declared yesterday evening. In this, about 40 students dominated by scoring more than 98 percentile in JEE Mains. The process of successful students coming started from this morning itself.

JEE Mains exam is held twice a year. Last year also, most of the children from Karnal achieved success as students of Genesis. Giving information, Genesis

Classes directors Jitendra Ahlawat and Navneet Singh said that Genesis has set records of success along with the children in the last 14-15 years. Here are the top 21 students

Ridham Goyal 99.99 Percentile
Ayush Arora 99.88 Percentile
Shivam Chahal 99.87 Percentile
Ranbir Malik 99.78 Percentile
Tushar scored 99.77 percentile
Bhavishya Dhanker 99.76 Percentile
Hardik scored 99.73 percentile
Shabb Jain 99.65 Percentile
Priyam Gupta 99.63 Percentile

Devarshi Nayyar 99.61 Percentile
Arsh Gandhi 99.57 Percentile
Bhavishya Choudhary 99.52 Percentile
Keshav Gupta 99.51 Percentile
Tanvi scored 99.48 percentile
Hardik Gupta 99.33 Percentile
Gunish Garg 99.30 Percentile
Sarthak Arora 99.19 Percentile
Om Sharma 99.17 Percentile
Janvi Gupta 99.07 Percentile
Soumya scored 99.05 percentile
Mandeep Saini 99.05 Percentile
By achieving this, he brought glory to Karnal and Genesis.

IndiaWood 2025 to take place from Marh 6-9



LUDHIANA: Marking a quarter-century of industry advancements & growth, IndiaWood 2025, the leading trade fair for woodworking and furniture manufacturing, will take place from March 6-9, 2025, at India Expo Mart & Centre (IEMC), Greater Noida, Delhi NCR. As part of Nuernberg Messe global woodworking portfolio, this milestone edition reflects India's emergence as a manufacturing powerhouse and a key global player in the furniture and woodworking industry. Since its inception, IndiaWood has shaped the industry's growth, bringing

together manufacturers, suppliers, technology leaders, and professionals on a single platform. Over the past two and a half decades, it has played a pivotal role in fostering technological advancements, sustainable practices, and global collaborations. Today, as India ranks among the top five

global furniture producers and is set to grow its furniture exports by 20% annually, INDIAWOOD continues to be a catalyst for industry progress." Valued at USD 25.75 billion in 2025, the Indian furniture market is projected to reach USD 37.18 billion by 2030. With wood accounting

409 newly qualified CAs conferred degrees

Panchkula: As many as 409 newly qualified CAs conferred their degrees at a convocation ceremony organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) at Indradhanush Auditorium on Friday. The event was presided over by CA Abhishek Singh Chauhan, Chairman ICAI Chandigarh Branch in the presence of

the governing council, senior CAs and proud parents. Addressing the gathering, CA Chauhan emphasized the importance of innovation in the field of accountancy, underscoring its role in driving national prosperity. Present on the occasion, CA Atul Gupta, Past President of ICAI, highlighted ICAI's stature as the world's largest pro-

fessional body for Chartered Accountants, established by an Act of Parliament. The ceremony also featured inspiring addresses by Central Council Member and Convocation Coordinator Raj Chawla, NIRC Member Shalini Gupta, and other senior Chartered Accountants of the tricity.

Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena to form Sanatana Dharma protection wing



Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president Pawan Kalyan announced the formation of the Narasimha Varahi Brigade to safeguard Sanatana Dharma in Telugu states Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. I speak for the Jana Sena Party, not the NDA. "Several people have asked us to keep a youth wing, cultural wing, etc., but with Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy's blessing, we will set up a wing to protect Sanatana Dharma," Pawan Kalyan added. Pawan Kalyan stressed the significance of respecting religion, especial-

ly when visiting Hindu temples and practicing Sanatana Dharma.

Sanatana Dharma guides India and the world, he said. Visiting Hindu temples and adopting Sanatana Dharma requires some ideals. The country can not survive without Sanatana Dharma, a guiding light for the globe,

he said. The JanaSena president stressed religious tolerance but defended Sanatana Dharma. "We respect churches and mosques, but we will punish any act that hurts Hindus. He stated social media posts mocking Hinduism or Sanatana Dharma are prohibited. Kalyan added that the

Karnataka govt pressured to restore 4% Muslim quota

Delhi: Since last year's assembly elections and this month's bypolls to three assembly seats showed the Muslim community had consolidated behind the Congress party, they are pressuring the government to restore their 4% reservation. The previous BJP government eliminated the quota, but the Supreme Court delayed the decision. In 2023, the Supreme Court deemed the quota abolishment "prima facie shaky and flawed", making it a difficult matter. It is unclear whether and

Delhi: According to Election Commission audited reports, political parties spent 2023-24 on ads, helicopter flights, and media consultants. Offering insights into their spending during a year of many state elections. The reports may only cover part of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections' spending patterns, announced on March 16. Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Mizoram had assembly elections during this time. With a budget of



₹1,754 crore, the BJP prioritized media presence, spending roughly 58% on commercials and electronic media. Party advertising and publicity costs were 591.39 crore and electronic media 434.84 crore. Press conference expenses increased to ₹90.99 lakh from

₹71.60 lakh last year. From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, the party won three state assembly elections and lost Karnataka. With 240 Lok Sabha seats, it returned to power as part of the National Democratic Alliance coalition without a majority.

Work will be done rapidly to clean the Yamuna River: Union Jal Shakti

JAG MOHAN THAKEN

Chandigarh: - "After the formation of a new government in Delhi, Yamuna will be cleaned in the coming time and work will be done rapidly in this regard and we will work together to clean the Yamuna River". Claiming this the union Jal Shakti minister CR Patil, on the issue of allegations of Delhi getting poisonous water through the Yamuna River, the Union Minister said I have been drinking Delhi water for the last 16 years and I am alive. The water of Yamuna River is getting polluted due to garbage, dirty sewage and industrial waste generated in Delhi and Haryana has no role in this. Along with Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana, Union Minister CR Patil addressed a press con-



ference here Wednesday, in which they highlighted the decisions taken by the Central Government for the welfare of people in the Union Budget presented recently by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. Responding to questions from media persons, Minister Patil said the SYL issue between Punjab and Haryana is currently in the Supreme Court and all efforts are being made to resolve the issue amicably. He said the issue should be resolved through continuous dialogue between stakeholders. Sometimes such dis-

putes occur between states and he assured that the issue will be resolved soon. The Union Minister said the Opposition has always criticized the Budget, but in our government, employment opportunities are being provided to the youth. A WHO report says that due to Jal Jeevan Mission, 5.5 crore hours of women have been saved and 3 lakh children's lives have also been saved after getting clean water from the tap. Under this scheme, 25 lakh women have been given kits and training to check the purity of water coming to their village.

10 Haryana farmers fast indefinitely in Khanauri for Dallewal

Ten additional farmers began a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri protest site in solidarity with Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose indefinite fast for farmer demands worsened his health. In addition to Dallewal, 111 Punjabi farmers have fasted



indefinitely for three days. Since February 13,

2018, farmers under the SKM (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have camped at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana to demand a legal minimum support price (MSP) for their crops.

Security forces prevented them from marching to Delhi. Farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohar told reporters at the Khanauri border that 10 farmers from Hisar, Sonapat, Panipat, and Jind districts began their fast-unto-death on Friday.

DU to expand PhD admission slots by 20-25 pc

Delhi: Delhi University's executive council (EC) resolved to boost PhD admission seats by 20-25% from the last round of admission. The EC also allowed a university representation on St. Stephen's College's governing body to connect DU and the college. DU also updated donation rules to fund scholarships, honors, and capital assets. Under this, the government, trusts, and corporations may set up scholarships.

Delhi: The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) approved the layout design for the projected Film City in Sector 21, allowing filmmaker Boney Kapoor-led Bayview Bhutani Film City Private Limited to begin building. On December 24, 2024, Bayview Bhutani submitted the layout plan for clearance because work cannot begin without it. Yeida officials approved the layout plan following a thorough planning and high-level committee assessment. The concessionaire must get authorization for spe-



cific parking, landscaping, and horticulture work and phase the project, according to the authorities. Officials said the developer must establish a film institute and get GRIHA 4-Star/IGBC Gold accreditation for green buildings to minimize environmental damage and carbon footprint during con-

struction. "We authorized the layout plan, allowing site building. The concessionaire will now schedule site work. The concessionaire must build according to the terms and conditions "Yeida CEO Arun Vir Singh remarked. Construction of the 1,000-acre Film City project, with the first

phase encompassing 230 acres, is estimated to cost ₹1,510 crore over eight years. The project also builds a film institute with excellent technology to teach filmmaking, acting, music, and cinematography. According to officials, Kapoor said centralizing such facilities will save production costs by giving filmmakers access to crucial equipment and services. Film City will have air-conditioned indoor shooting locations for harsh weather. The new studio floors will be 40,000-60,000 square feet to accommodate huge setups and various backdrops.

409 newly qualified CAs conferred degrees at ICAI Convocation

Chandigarh: In a momentous occasion for the accounting fraternity, 409 newly qualified Chartered Accountants (CAs) from upper north region were conferred with their degrees at a convocation ceremony organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) at Indradhanush Auditorium on Friday. The event was presided over by CA Abhishek Singh Chauhan, Chairman ICAI Chandigarh Branch in the presence of governing council members, senior professionals, and proud parents. Addressing the gathering, CA Chauhan emphasized the importance of innovation in the field of accountancy, underscoring its role in driving national prosperity. He encouraged the young professionals to remain diligent, ethical, and dedicated as they step into their careers, particularly in taxation and financial management. Adding to the significance of the event, CA Atul Gupta, Past



President of ICAI, highlighted ICAI's stature as the world's largest professional body for Chartered Accountants, established by an Act of Parliament. He described the CA profession as the "mother of all professions," which is playing a pivotal role in shaping the economic framework of the nation. He urged the graduates to uphold integrity and professionalism while contributing to India's financial growth. The ceremony also featured inspiring addresses by Central Council Member and Convocation Coordinator Raj Chawla, NIRC Member Shalini Gupta, and other senior Chartered Accountants, who extended their best wishes to the newly minted professionals, encouraging them to excel in their endeavors and make meaningful contributions to the field of finance.

After the lecture and oath taking against drug abuse, anti-drug slogans echoed on the streets



Kurukshetra/Shahabad : Under the guidance and guidelines of Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau's Director General of Police, Mr. OP Singh, IPS and under the leadership of Superintendent of Police Mr. Mohit Handa, IPS and Superintendent of Police Mrs. Pankhuri Kumar, strict steps are being taken to make Haryana drug-free. On one hand, criminals involved in drug trafficking are being sent behind bars, on the other hand, drug-free awareness programs are being conducted. In this series, Bureau's Awareness Program and Rehabilitation In-charge/Sub Inspector Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma is going

from village to village using bicycle. Today, a one-day awareness program against drug abuse was organized in PM Shri Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Shahabad Markanda, in which 812 students and 50 teachers participated. Thereafter, a separate awareness program and a walking awareness march against drug abuse was organized with 115 volunteers of National Service Scheme to make people aware about the ill effects of drug abuse. Bureau's awareness program and rehabilitation in-charge/sub inspector Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, who arrived as the main speaker, while making the students aware

about the ill effects of drugs, said that the habit of drugs comes secretly in a person's life and gives some pleasure, but this momentary pleasure turns into grief in life and snatches away everything. While discussing deeply about the ill effects of drugs in this program that lasted for 2 hours, Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma said that if drugs were good, then the mother would first give it to the child and say take it, my child. He asked to give secret information against drugs on the helpline number 9050891508 or 1933 or Manas portal of Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau.

The government's budget will take the country towards becoming a world leader: Ashok Gurjar

Kaithal: Kaithal BJP's outgoing district president Ashok Gurjar Dhand termed the budget presented today by the Union Finance Minister as public welfare, developmental and welfare oriented and said that the budget of the central government will take the country towards becoming a world leader. In this budget, commendable steps have been taken like income tax exemption for the middle class and increasing the credit card limit for farmers from 3



lakh to 5 lakh. New employment opportunities will be available in the budget. He said that this budget will fulfill the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India should become a strong nation. This budget has been pre-

pared keeping in mind knowledge, poor, youth, women.

Talking to journalists at his establishment in the town, Ashok Gurjar Dhand said that tax exemption has been given in the budget, which will benefit the middle class. The target has been set to ensure strong development of every class. I praise this budget. This budget will prove to be a milestone for every class. Outgoing District President Ashok Gurjar Dhand said that the Union Budget is a

very good budget for all-round development and is a budget for the benefit of every section.

Ever since the Bharatiya Janata Party government has come, the country's economy has improved a lot. Ashok Gurjar Dhand said that this time there has been a huge increase in the collection of GST and income tax. The budget will prove to be a milestone along with proving to be a boon for the country and the people of the state.

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 supercomputing to compete in the global AI race. The 75th fastest supercomputer in the world, India's 'Airawat' 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.

Upstox forays into insurance distribution; aims to simplify wealth management in India

DHARAMSHALA:

Upstox, one of India's premier wealth management platforms, today announced its entry into the insurance distribution business. While Upstox has traditionally been recognized for its offerings in Stocks, F&O, and Mutual Funds, the introduction of Insurance marks a significant stride towards evolving into a comprehensive wealth-building platform. Today, Upstox is a one-stop-shop for a wide array of financial instruments including Stocks, IPOs, F&O, Commodities, Currencies, Fixed Deposits, P2P Lending, Government Bonds, T-Bills, NCDs, Gold, Insurance and much more.

With this launch, the company aims to revolutionise India's insur-

ance landscape by offering its users a simplified, transparent and customised experience of purchasing insurance in line with their needs. Currently, Upstox is offering Term Life Insurance on its platform and is planning to roll out Health, Motor and Travel Insurance soon. HDFC Life is among the first insurers to partner with Upstox and feature their Term Insurance plans on the platform. Currently, the insurance penetration in India stands at just 4.2% with a considerable portion of the population still being dependent on traditional and agent-driven models to purchase policies. Along with that, there is a lack of awareness, overload of choices, heavy paperwork and complex jargon

involved in the process of buying insurance. Through its research, Upstox recognized that often users succumb to a one-size-fits-all approach; and opt for a term insurance plan without proper assessment. Upstox has thus set out to solve the gross mis-selling of insurance products and embarked on a monumental task of streamlining Life, Health, Motor, Travel insurance for its customers. By leveraging advanced technology and industry expertise, Upstox aims to simplify the insurance process - from identifying the top plans in each category to purchasing insurance and finally making the claim process smooth. Upstox is also trying to encourage younger Indians to consider.

We should take inspiration from the life of Kalpana Chawla: Mrs. Renu Bala

Karnal: On Saturday, on the occasion of the 22nd death anniversary of the angel of the space and former student of the school, late Dr. Kalpana Chawla, a tribute and prayer meeting was organized at 11 am in the premises of Tagore Bal Niketan Senior Secondary School, Karnal. The chief guests of this program were Mrs. Renu Bala Gupta, former mayor, Municipal Corporation, Karnal and Mrs. Megha Bhandari, Chairperson, Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment. On this occasion, the dignitaries present paid tribute to late Dr. Kalpana Chawla. On this occasion, 10 students of the school were given a cheque of Rs 25,000 each (total amount Rs 2,50,000) as Kalpana Chawla Award. On this occasion, the parents of these students were also specially honoured.



While addressing the students, the chief guest Mrs. Renu Bala Gupta said that we should take inspiration from Kalpana Chawla's life and play an important role in making our country proud. Along with this, the welfare of the society should be paramount. On this occasion, she honoured all the 10 students with the Kalpana Chawla Award and while congratulating their parents, she also inspired other students to move ahead. On this occasion, Mrs. Megha Bhandari, Chairperson, Haryana Welfare Society for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairment, while addressing the students, said that today's women

are actively contributing shoulder to shoulder with men in every field. This year the names of the students receiving the Kalpana Chawla Award are as follows - Samaira, Jiya, Jasmine, Kavya, Ritika, Lakshita Sandhu, Chahat Sharma, Shruti, Arunya Pawar, Ishita Chauhan. Dr. Rajan Lamba informed that for the past several years this award is being given by Rupa & Company, Delhi (N.D. Mehra Memorial Foundation, Delhi) on the death anniversary of late Dr. Kalpana Chawla to the brilliant students of the school on the basis of their excellent performance in education and all other fields.

Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd. Executes acquisition of EMC Ltd.

CHANDIGARH: Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd. (BSE: 540642, NSE: SALASAR), is a one stop engineering and infrastructure solution provider. The Company is engaged in providing turnkey EPC services for Railway and Power sectors and is also engaged in designing and manufacturing of telecom towers, Monopoles and other Heavy Steel Structures. The company announced that it has executed the acquisition of EMC Ltd. on an "As is where is," "As is what is," "Whatever there is," and "No recourse" basis as a going concern. This acquisition has been executed in compliance with the terms and conditions outlined in the E-Auction Process Information Document issued by the Liquidator. A Sale Certificate has been issued by the Liquidator in favor of Salasar confirming completion of sale. Earlier, Salasar announced that it effectively completed the payment of balance amount of Rs. 1,680 Mn for acquisition of EMC Ltd. (Formerly known as Electrical Manufacturing Company Limited). This demonstrates a pivotal moment in Salasar's continuous pursuit of expanding market presence and capabilities. Commenting on the above status, the management team of Salasar said, "We are thrilled to announce the timely completion of the payment for the acquisition of EMC Ltd., marking a monumental milestone in our journey of strategic expansion. Our ability to swiftly settle the full amount underscores our commitment to executing our plans with precision and agility. This acquisition represents more than just a business transaction; it symbolizes our dedication to inorganically expand into allied areas within the engineering and infrastructure solutions sector."

Government eyes \$100 billion FDI as it sets up EFTA platform

NEW DELHI: With an eye on receiving \$100 billion investment from European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations - Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein - government on Monday announced the setting up of a dedicated platform to promote trade, investment and business facilitation between the two regions. Last March, India and the four European nations had signed a free trade agreement, which included an investment commitment in return for tariff reductions by New Delhi on products, including chocolates, watches and cut and polished diamonds. The agreement is not yet operational but is expected to be in force later this year. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said all the four EFTA nations have moved forward in seeking to implement the agreement. "With the \$100 billion



FDI, I believe that we could be catalysing overall investments of may be \$400 billion or \$500 billion in the Indian ecosystem," the minister said, adding that a million direct jobs could be created. Government eyes FDI The setting up of the dedicated investment desk is seen as an important step and it will be the centralised support mechanism for companies from the EFTA region looking to expand in India. It will provide market insights and regulatory guidance, business match-making and assistance in navigating India's policy and investment landscape. "It will help businesses from EFTA countries navigate areas of con-

cern and it will make it easier for them to do business in India," Goyal told reporters. He also said India has offered EFTA countries an opportunity to have dedicated enclaves in either of the 20 industrial smart cities, being developed by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation, or in the 100 industrial hub and spoke model areas announced in Budget. "We are in dialogue with the countries to see if any of these (industrial parks) could be dedicated to companies from their respective countries," Goyal added. Helene Budliger Artieda, Swiss state secretary said that they are informing their companies.

CHENNAI: Southern states can do more to improve labour productivity, gross value addition, research and skilling, said chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran. Speaking at the CII South Global Linkages Summit, he said the southern states have performed well in GDP

per capita, labour force participation, skilling and gross value addition in manufacturing but there is room for improvement. He said the number of persons engaged in manufacturing in south India is 33% but

Gold loans rise 50% in seven months

Delhi: Bank loans against gold jewelry rose 50.4% in the first seven months of the year. Despite single-digit growth in every other personal loan area, credit rose sharply. RBI issued sectoral deployment of bank credit Gold loans totaled Rs 1,02,562 crore in March 2024. Growth was 56% year-over-year, up from



output share is about 26%. "So that kind of tells you there is scope for improvement in productivity," he said, adding, while these states have basic skilled workforce, it needs to improve professional skills and 'very high order' professional skills,

especially with the global developments of high value added manufacturing and adoption of artificial intelligence. Southern states have done well in economic and social progress and should benchmark themselves against the world, not within India, he added.

and get higher new ones. Analysts see rising gold loan demand as an indication of financial instability. RBI ordered banks and financial companies to review and fix their gold loan rules and procedures within three months last month. After an examination, evergreening was found to hide bad loans.

Grasim profit drops 29% to Rs 1,844.3 cr in Q3 dragged by cement, investment in paints

NEW DELHI: Aditya Birla Group flagship Grasim Industries on Monday reported a 29.15 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,844.29 crore for the quarter ending December 2024. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 2,603.43 crore during the October-December quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing by Grasim Industries, which is the holding firm for group companies such as UltraTech, Aditya Birla Capital and Aditya Birla Renewables. Its revenue from operations was up 8.84 per cent to Rs 34,792.85 crore during the quarter under review compared to Rs 31,965.48 crore in the corresponding period of the previ-



ous fiscal. The revenue growth was "up by 9% YoY, driven by all-round growth across key businesses," said an earning statement from Grasim Industries. During the quarter Grasim's "consolidated EBITDA at Rs 4,668 crore was down 9 per cent YoY mainly due to lower realisations in

the cement business and initial investments for building a strong consumer-facing paints business- Birla Opus," it added. Further, higher interest and depreciation charges on account of investments in the Building Materials businesses have led to lower PAT. Grasim's revenue from its

Cellulosic Fibre business in the December quarter was up 5.9 per cent to Rs 3,934.09 crore. Its revenue from the Chemicals business was up 11.52 per cent to Rs 2,226.27 crore in the December quarter, led by an improvement in Caustic Soda international average spot prices. With this realisations in domestic markets also improved in line with global prices. Its revenue from its Building Material business reported a growth of 10.42 per cent to Rs 18,784 crore. It was at Rs 17,010.90 crore in the October-December quarter a year ago. Grasim's 'Building Materials' comprises its Cement business UltraTech, its newly launched Paints business.

FM: RBI's gold buying not to replace \$ for settlements

NEW DELHI: FM Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday clarified in the Lok Sabha that India's rising gold reserves, including those held by RBI, is not intended to replace any international currency. She responded to Congress MP Manish Tiwari's concerns about whether the global shift towards gold signalled a move away from the US dollar as a dominant settlement mechanism. Sitharaman said, "Gold is also kept in the Reserve Bank and gold is also being bought by the Reserve Bank. But



beyond that, as regards an international currency or potential currency, there is not much for me to comment at this stage." Congress MP Tiwari stated that since the US abandoned the gold standard in 1971, gold had lost its significance as a major financial asset. However, in recent years, central

banks worldwide have increased their gold holdings. From constituting only 6% of global reserves in 2006, gold now makes up about 11% in 2024. Countries like China, India, Poland, and Turkey have been among the most aggressive buyers, and domestic gold prices in India have surged as well.

BP, ONGC tie up for projects in India, abroad

NEW DELHI: Flagship explorer ONGC and British energy major BP plc on Monday signed a framework MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to explore partnerships in oil and gas projects in India and internationally, giving a much-needed leg-up for India's pitch for investments at the India Energy Week beginning here on Tuesday. The MoU comes within a month of ONGC selecting BP as a technical service provider for raising output from its flagship Mumbai High oil and gas field. The focus of the collaboration will be on exploration and production as well as trading, besides other vectors of the energy sector, the companies said after signing the MoU in the presence of oil minister



Hardeep Singh Puri. The companies see scope for jointly bidding for offshore acreage under India's Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) rounds in partnership with their respective partners. In addition, the companies see potential for collaborating in deep-water exploration, enhancing production and optimising management of ONGC's maturing fields. The MoU envisages value-creation through strategic collaboration in trading

and other areas, such as carbon sequestration. The MoU is valid for three years, during which both parties will work together in the identified areas of collaboration. "ONGC and BP have agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership across the energy industry in India and internationally, focused on oil and gas exploration and production, as well as trading and extending to other energy vectors," a statement said.

42% manufacturing companies plan to invest: Survey

NEW DELHI: The average capacity utilisation in the manufacturing sector is around 75%, which reflects sustained economic activity in the sector, and the future investment outlook is also positive, a survey showed on Monday.

About 42% of respondents indicated plans for investments and expansions in the next six months, according to the Ficci quarterly survey of the manufacturing sector. government expects private investments to gather pace and add strength to overall GDP growth, which is estimated to have slowed to 6.4% in 2024-25. "Domestic demand conditions show optimism in Q3 of 2024-25. This assessment of Indian manufacturing is also reflected in the higher order books. 83% of the respondents are expecting a higher number of orders in Q3



FY25 compared to the previous quarter," according to the survey results.

Ficci survey "Challenges faced by respondents in expanding capacities include rising raw material costs, high interest rates, which are creating financial pressures. Respondents expect weak domestic and export demand, further contributing to market uncertainties going forward," the survey said, but added that measures unveiled in the Budget may help in overcoming some of the challenges. The latest quarterly

survey on manufacturing (QSM) assessed the performance of manufacturers for Q3 (Oct-Dec), 2024-25, for eight major sectors that include automotive & auto components, capital goods, chemicals, fertilisers & pharmaceuticals, electronics & electricals, machine tools, metal & metal products, textiles, apparels & technical textiles and miscellaneous. Responses have been drawn from manufacturing units from both large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over Rs 4.7 lakh crore.

Biocon's growth formula: Generics & biosimilars

BENGALURU: Biocon is betting big on new product launches in its generics and biosimilars portfolios, which are expected to fuel its expansion in the next 2-3 years. The company is leveraging the Viatris acquisition to provide a significant boost towards an integrated biosimilars enterprise model.

This integrated approach encompasses complete oversight of value-generation through development and production, alongside value-realisation through distribution and market deployment. "We have an experienced and committed team in the US which is focused strongly on biosimilars. And the fact that we are now a fully integrated biosimilars company has enabled us to position ourselves in a strong position with the payers, the PBMs (pharmacy benefit managers) and HMO (health maintenance organisation) sectors. We are India's premier biosimilars company and we are making a brand presence in the global markets. We are building Brand Biocon and getting a 20% plus market share in the US for some products is significant," said Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, chairperson of the Biocon Group. Its subsidiary Biocon Biologics completed the acquisition of the global biosimilars business of its partner Viatris. As a part of the transaction, Biocon Biologics issued compulsorily convertible preference shares. (CCPS) in the company valued at \$1 billion, equivalent to an equity stake of at least 12.9% on a fully diluted basis.



Alumni loved reliving memories at the Alumni Meet

Bhagwan Parshuram Institute of Technology (B.P.I.T.) in Rohini Sector 17, Delhi, hosted the much-anticipated Alumni Meet 'Abhigyan-2024' on 22 December 2024. Institute alumni from around the country and abroad made the program a success by attending in huge numbers. Mementoes were given to all program attendees. The performance began with Saraswati Vandana and lamp lighting. In attendance were Chairman of the Institute M a n a g e m e n t Committee Mr. Vinod Vatsji, Vice President Mr. Bhagirathraj Sharma, Treasurer Mr. Sanjeev Sharmaji,



Principal Prof. Payal Pahwa, and all Directors and Heads of Departments. Pahwa congratulated the alumni and said that students are any educational institution's

true promoters. Students help the school progress. In his welcome speech, institution chairman Vinod Vatsji wished the students a good future and encouraged them

to work hard to succeed. He also acknowledged the students' exceptional contribution to B.P.I.T.'s current standing. He encouraged alumni to stay involved and offer

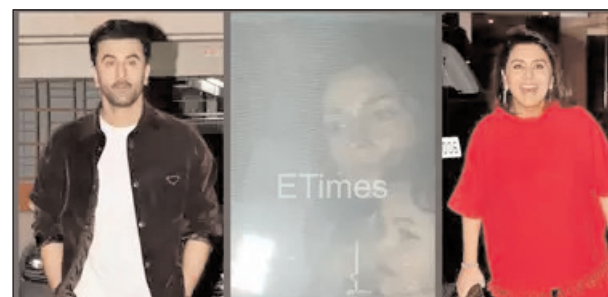
ideas to improve the university.

The institute's current students delight audiences with their dance and music performances in honor of their seniors. Everyone

looked engulfed in student recollections. Midway through the program, students met their senior and junior friends, professors, and support staff and took memorable photos with them. Everyone discussed their student and career lives.

Miss Nayab Mitra performed at the end of the program, and Major Vanshay Kapoor, Chetan Parashar, Mr. Nikhil Gupta, Mr. Rohit Bhatija, Mr. Aman Sharma, Miss Bhavana Sharma, Mr. Vikram Sanwaria, Miss Tanvi Sharma, and others received Alumni Achievement Awards.

Alia, Ranbir, and others arrive in style at Bhatt's family Christmas party



Keeping up with their annual tradition, the Kapoors and Bhatt's have come together to celebrate Christmas Eve. Alia Bhatt arrived with her baby Santa Raha. They were joined by Ranbir Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Pooja Bhatt, and others. For the family dinner, Alia wore a white slip dress and carried her adorable little girl in her arms. Soon after, Ranbir Kapoor arrived looking stylish as usual. The Animal star wore a plain white t-shirt, black pants, and a matching jacket. He completed his look with white sneakers and a charming smile. Ranbir made sure to greet the paparazzi and pose for photos before heading inside Mahesh Bhatt and Soni Razdan's home. Next to arrive at the Bhatt bungalow was actress Neetu Kapoor. The Bollywood veteran embraced the Christmas spirit, dressed in a chic all-red outfit for the evening. She was also seen carrying a couple of stylish headbands, likely to be worn by guests at the festive gathering. Pooja Bhatt, Alia's older sister, made a chic entrance at the event. She wore a black outfit and added a vibrant touch with a long red coat and black heels, making her look even more stylish. On the work front, Alia Bhatt recently finished filming for Alpha and is currently working on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love And War, which stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. Additionally, she is in discussions with Dinesh Vijan for a new feature film.

Arjun reflects on SRK genius and aura from Kal Ho Naa Ho days as an AD: 'Wo Al se bhi aage hai'

Arjun Kapoor, who worked as an assistant director on Nikkhil Advani's Kal Ho Naa Ho (2003), recently opened up about his admiration for Shah Rukh Khan, describing the superstar's brilliance, empathy, and larger-than-life personality. Speaking on Raj Shamani's podcast, Arjun shared his thoughts about Shah Rukh's exceptional qualities during the film's production. "Some people are touched by God. Some people are just personalities that are larger than life and transcend generations. Mujhe lagta hai unko jo dimaag mila hai wo adbhut hai. Wo Al se bhi aage hai.



(I feel like his brain is amazing. He is ahead of Al)," he said. Arjun emphasized Shah Rukh's unmatched ability to process and understand situations with compassion and precision, all while exuding effortless charm.

Anil Kapoor on Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora's relationship Arjun also highlighted Shah Rukh's attentiveness, explaining that he fully immers-

es himself in conversations yet remains acutely aware of his surroundings. Reflecting on Shah Rukh's life journey, Arjun remarked how the loss of his parents shaped his profound empathy and understanding of life. "There is a quest to be better, bigger, broaden his horizons," Arjun added, praising Shah Rukh's continuous drive for growth. "He has

made the most of the gift that he has been given. He is a genius." What stood out most for Arjun was Shah Rukh's ability to make everyone feel special despite his towering stardom. "If I message him today, his reply will surely come.

No matter how busy he is. He will make sure he replies," Arjun revealed. He described Shah Rukh's aura as something unique and almost indescribable. "There is an aura around him," Arjun said, applauding Shah Rukh's remarkable balance of immense fame and heartfelt warmth, which makes him truly one of a kind.

Parineeti reveals she is repeating her shimmery golden outfit



Parineeti Chopra is currently on a break from acting after her wedding with Raghav Chadha. However, the actress stays connected with fans on social media. She recently surprised her fans by re-wearing an outfit from five years ago. Sharing stunning pictures on Instagram, Parineeti asked followers if they remembered where she first wore the outfit. Parineeti looked stunning in a golden full-sleeve glittery crop top layered over a black tank top. She paired it with a beige skirt featuring a chic waist belt, keeping her accessories and makeup minimal to let the outfit stand out. Sharing the stylish pho-

tos on Instagram, she revealed that she had repeated the outfit for an event and playfully asked fans to guess where she had worn it before. Her dedicated fans were quick to identify the outfit, recalling that she had worn the golden ensemble in 2019 during the Kesari promotions with Akshay Kumar on The Kapil Sharma Show. They also remembered her sporting the same attire while meeting rapper Badshah at DJ Snake's concert in India. Many fans praised Parineeti Chopra for reusing her outfit, highlighting her commitment to sustainability. They admired her for promoting the idea.

Priyanka-Isha steal the spotlight with their dance moves at Dubey's birthday bash

Priyanka Chahar Choudhary and Isha Malviya became household names through their roles in the show Udaariyaan. Since then, their popularity has only soared, thanks to their impressive performances in reality shows. The two actresses have maintained a close friendship and are often spotted together at various events and gatherings. Last night, they reunited at a party hosted by Ravi Dubey and Sargun Mehta. Notably, both Priyanka and Isha are gearing up to star as leads in upcoming shows. A video from Ravi Dubey's birthday bash shows Priyanka Chahar Choudhary and Isha Malviya having the time of their lives. Embracing their inner Punjabi spirit, the duo danced with full enthusiasm, captivating everyone with their charm and vibrant energy. Their camaraderie and strong bond shine through in the clip, making it a delightful sight for onlookers. The video also features Sargun Mehta and Ayesha Khan joining Priyanka and Isha on the dance floor. Later in the evening, Aparshakti Khurana made an appearance, with Sargun warmly greeting him with a heartfelt hug.

Australian reporter calls out Virat for confronting female Journalist at the airport: "You're nothing but a bully, Virat"

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma and Indian cricketer Virat Kohli are celebrated for their longstanding love and family life. The couple recently welcomed their second child, Akaay, and are reportedly planning to move to London with their daughter, Vamika, and newborn son. A recent video of Virat from Melbourne Airport went viral online as he sought privacy for his children and family. Reports surfaced that Kohli confronted a journalist

under the impression that his children were being filmed. Now, Tony Jones, a reporter for Australia's Nine Sports, criticised Kohli for the altercation during his appearance on 3AW Melbourne radio, expressing disbelief at the cricketer's actions. Tony explained that the journalists and cameramen were simply doing their job by capturing footage of public figures at the airport. He pointed out that Kohli, despite being a global cricket superstar, took offence

at the cameras focusing on him, which is understandable given his fame. Jones expressed particular concern about Kohli's confrontation with the female journalist Nat Yoannidis in the clip. According to Jones, Kohli singled out despite other male videographers being present. He expressed his anger after seeing the footage, where Virat singled out a female journalist despite the presence of two male cameramen. Jones described

Kohli's behaviour as bullying, particularly as he intimidated the much shorter, calling him a "big tough man" for targeting her in the confrontation. "He stood over this girl, Nat, who's about five foot one, five foot two, and just absolutely berated her. You're nothing but a bully, Virat," he stated. The video of the incident, widely circulated online, showed Kohli visibly upset, arguing with the lady over his belief that his children were being recorded.

Shaan recounts terrifying ordeal after fire breaks out in his building: 'We took refuge at our neighbour's home'

A fire broke out early Tuesday morning in the Fortune Enclave building in Mumbai's Bandra, where playback singer Shaan resides. While the incident caused significant damage to parts of the building, Shaan and his family escaped unharmed. Shaan recounted the terrifying ordeal. "The fire broke out on the seventh floor around 12.30 am. We were asleep and were



woken up around 1 am. Most of the people in the building, seventh floor and below, had gone down. We were told to go to the terrace, but since the terrace

was locked and the smoke was mounting, we took refuge at our neighbour, Mrs Kazi's home, on the 14th floor. They were stuck too. We were there for

about 40 minutes until the fireman came up and they took us down." When asked about the damage to their home, Shaan said, "The seventh floor is completely gutted with fire. The sixth and eighth floors are partially burnt, but there hasn't been much damage to the building. Our home is fine." The fire was extinguished after two and a half hours.

Vivek Oberoi opens up about heartbreak, self reflection



Actor Vivek Oberoi recently shared his own experiences with heartbreak and lessons he learned along the way. Speaking candidly to 'MensXP', the 'Saathiya' actor opened up on how he handled heartbreak and what advice he had for young men going through the same emo-

tional roller coaster. Oberoi, who has had several high-profile relationships before marrying Priyanka Alva Oberoi in 2010, shared how the pain of heartbreak shaped him. He said that too many men suffer from a broken heart, and men get accustomed to an unhealthy way of responding to their emotions. Most young males, when they break up, feel betrayed and begin talking about their ex-female partner's shortcomings.

Filmmaker Boney Kapoor recently shared insights into his own transformation, including his hair transplant and weight loss journey. In an interview, he also spoke about his daughter, actress Janhvi Kapoor and Anshula Kapoor's weight loss journeys. Boney mentioned Anshula, who used to be heavier and has lost weight. He also spoke about Janhvi, revealing that, "She was 'slightly plumpish' as a child and in her childhood days. Right from that age, while



she was a kid, she became conscious that she should not be putting on weight." Poll In an earlier interview, Boney opened up on his transformation journey, revealing that he has lost 14 kgs and undergone a hair transplant. He mentioned

that after seeing himself on the monitor while working in 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar' playing the role of Ranbir Kapoor's father, he realized the need to focus on becoming fitter and healthier. "After Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar, when I saw

myself on the monitor, I felt that I should... and my kids also wanted me to look sharper, leaner, better and of course, healthwise also I needed to... I am 69 today so I am not getting any younger so there were reasons whether it was Arjun, Janhvi, Anshula, Khushi. All four in some way or the other used to convey it to me," the filmmaker stated. He also expressed that his childrens, Janhvi and Arjun Kapoor, have been always supportive throughout his trans-

formation journey. He mentioned that while his daughter Janhvi often shows her love and support on social media, his son Arjun is more reserved and not as demonstrative in public. On his work front, Boney's upcoming film 'No Entry 2' starring Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh and Arjun Kapoor shooting will go on floors in June 2025. The first part of the film featured Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Esha Deol, Lara Dutta, Bipasha Basu and Celina Jaitley.