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

## Why didn't Congress implement statute nationwide: PM on J&K

"Explaining critical policy decisions, the PM highlighted the significance of constitutional reforms, including CAA"



**COIMBATORE/VELLORE/NAGPUR:** DMK is "synonymous with corruption and scams", PM Narendra Modi said on Wednesday while targeting Tamil Nadu's governing party during two Lok Sabha election rallies for NDA candidates in Vellore and Nilgiris constituencies. Later in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, Modi questioned Congress's commitment to implementing "Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution" nationwide, referencing Article 370 in J&K that his govt abrogated in 2019. In Tamil Nadu, Modi asserted that 2024 elections would "end DMK's corruption, dynastic politics,

drug menace, and the party's anti-national ideology". While canvassing for Union junior minister L Murugan in Nilgiris, the PM alleged that DMK was "anti-Hindu", opposed the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, and threatened to eradicate Sanatan Dharma. In Vellore, where BJP ally Puthiya Neethi Katchi's AC Shanmugam is contesting, Modi brought up Katchatheevu issue, accusing Congress of ceding the island to Sri Lanka. He said RTI documents reveal the

"betrayal of India by Congress and DMK", while urging voters to "teach a lesson for the sins they committed". Continuing his attack on DMK, Modi said the party's "policy is to divide people based on language, religion, and caste, promoting the dynastic politics, corruption, and anti-Tamil culture". Catering to local sentiments, Modi highlighted that he addressed the UN convention in Tamil, asserting its status as the world's most ancient language. He further criticised DMK for boycotting the

installation ceremony of Tamil Nadu's "Sengol" in Parliament's new building. At an evening rally in Kalhan near Nagpur, he accused the opposition of spreading "falsehood" about BJP govt potentially changing the Constitution if elected for a third consecutive term. critical policy decisions, the PM highlighted the significance of constitutional reforms, including CAA. "Congress president asked how the country has benefitted from abrogation of Article 370.

## Elon Musk to meet PM Modi on India visit, set to unveil EV plan

**NEW DELHI:** Elon Musk is set to come to India to meet PM Narendra Modi and announce a much-awaited plan to make Tesla electric cars in the country. The widely-specified move was announced by the maverick but charismatic global business leader - who also runs satellite communications company Starlink and micro-blogging platform X (earlier Twitter) - through X handle, "Looking forward to meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in India!" Musk will be travelling to India later this month and his visit comes during the peak election season. It will signal govt's success in getting a marquee investor to set up shop in India and help create jobs. After Apple's vendors, who relocated from China, Tesla is expected to be the biggest investment story for Modi govt.



Musk's visit had been speculated right from the time of 'Vibrant Gujarat' investor summit in Jan this year and became "more or less a certainty" after the EV policy for new entrants was announced recently. The policy offers import duty concessions for five years to companies that invest \$500 million or more in setting up a manufacturing facility in India and source components here. The policy itself was announced days ahead of the poll announcement.

All indications point to Musk visiting India to announce his ambitious project, groundwork for which is being done for years. The project is likely to see Tesla commit at least \$2-3 billion investment as it sets up a factory to manufacture entry-level electric cars (speculated as Model 2, notwithstanding the recent question marks around the development of the product), to be priced around Rs 25 lakh. In earlier briefings of its plans with govt.

## Iran edging closer to nuclear weapons capability: Report

Iran is edging closer to nuclear weapons capability and Teheran is rapidly accumulating enriched uranium, "some of it very close to weapons grade", Washington Post newspaper said on Wednesday quoting officials who fear that a "bomb could be a short dash away." The latest development comes amid heightened tension in West Asia and six years after the Donald Trump administration withdrew from the Iran-US nuclear accord. "While Iran says it has no plans to make nuclear weapons, it now has a supply of highly enriched uranium that could be converted to weapons-grade.

## Congress urges Delhi high court to dismiss plea against use of INDIA acronym

**NEW DELHI:** Congress has opposed in the Delhi high court a petition against the use of acronym INDIA, saying it is "politically motivated" and should be dismissed with exemplary costs. In a reply filed on Tuesday, the party said the petitioner has failed to establish the very basis of the petition that the name of the alliance has caused confusion amongst the voters and misled them into voting for the alliance solely because of the acronym and "as a matter of national duty". The reply was filed in a PIL, which alleged that by using the INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) acronym, the parties were taking "undue advantage in the name of our country". HC had on April 2 granted a last opportunity to the Centre and several opposition parties to respond to the plea filed by Girish Bharadwaj. Congress, in its reply, said the petitioner has deliberately suppressed the fact that he is closely associated with VHP and his pleadings make it amply evident that one of the motives of filing this petition is to bolster his political affiliation. "Therefore, the present plea is not only a politically motivated, but has been filed under the garb of a PIL with an aim to advance the political stratagems of the petitioner. Hence, being both personally as well as politically motivated, the same is liable to be dismissed with exemplary.

## Factional fights stall Congress list of Delhi, Haryana nominees

**NEW DELHI:** Factional pressures and individual ambitions have emerged as big challenges for Congress in deciding its candidates for the Lok Sabha elections in the neighbouring states of Haryana and Delhi. The divided Haryana unit is said to have more aspirants being pushed by the dominant Hooda camp, even as rival leaders are sticking to their guns for their loyalists. Party sources said the screening



committee will meet again this week to try and clinch the names for nine Lok Sabha seats. Well-placed sources said former CM Bhupinder Hooda

is in favour of a "close aide" for Faridabad constituency, and is apparently pushing for actor-turned-politician Raj Babbar for Gurgaon. At the same time, he has not yet conveyed to the party his preference for Karnal and Sonapat, but both seats are in his area of influence. There is speculation in Karnal about a sadhu who fought elections in Uttarakhand earlier. Three constituencies - Bhiwani, Hisar and Rohtak - are seen as picking themselves. While Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda represented Rohtak thrice before losing narrowly in 2019

## ED mounts fresh PMLA probe into Chhattisgarh liquor scam

**NEW DELHI:** After Enforcement Directorate's money laundering case in the Chhattisgarh liquor 'scam' was quashed by Supreme Court earlier this week, the agency has registered a fresh investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against several accused, including former IAS officer Anil Tuteja and his son. ED's fresh case is based on another FIR filed by Chhattisgarh Police on Jan 17 accusing several



bureaucrats and politicians for their alleged involvement in the Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam. The apex court had on Monday quashed the money laundering case in the alleged Chhattisgarh liquor scam saying the

offence of money laundering cannot be made out "as there is no scheduled offence... If there is no proceeds of crime, the offence under PMLA is not made out." ED did not contest the reasoning but defended the probe.

## CJI-led bench tears into 2021 SC order in favour of Reliance Infrastructure

**NEW DELHI:** Anil Ambani's Reliance Infrastructure suffered a crushing blow on Wednesday as Supreme Court snatched away the Rs 2,782 crore arbitral award in favour of its subsidiary, Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd (DAMEPL), which has swelled to Rs 8,000 crore with interest. The award against Delhi Metro "suffered from the vice of perversity and patent illegality", it ruled. SC has usually been reluctant to interfere with arbitral awards but a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant justified the "harsh step" by saying it was necessitated by the "grave miscarriage of justice" that marked



the apex court's earlier verdict which resulted in "undeserved windfall" to DAMEPL. Reacting to the verdict, the company said, "Reliance Infrastructure wishes to clarify that the order dated April 10 passed by the Supreme Court does not impose any liability on Reliance Infrastructure and the company has not received any money from DMRC/DAMEPL under the arbitral award." The setback for Reliance Infra, just when it had seemed set to walk away with a huge pile of cash, was in keeping with the rollercoaster trajectory the dispute has taken since DAMEPL refused to continue operating the Airport Express, leaving Delhi Metro saddled with a project which, despite its rich potential, had not taken off. DAMEPL to refund

any amount it withdrew: SC Hailing the SC verdict quashing the arbitral award granted to Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd (DAMEPL) as "historic", Union urban affairs minister Hardeep Puri congratulated DMRC on achieving the "landmark verdict". "Our public sector utilities are strong & resolute in delivery of public service under the firm leadership of PM Modi and remain steadfast in pursuit of fairness & justice," he said on X. Reliance Infrastructure says the company has not received any money from DMRC/DAMEPL under the arbitral award. The setback for Reliance Infra, just when it seemed set to walk away with a huge pile.

## Allahabad HC Bar Association election results declared

### Anil Tiwari wins the post of president

**The results for the post of President and Secretary in the Allahabad High Court Bar Association elections have been declared today. Senior advocate Anil Tiwari has once again been elected president, while Vikrant Pandey has won the close contest for the post of secretary. Anil Tiwari, who was elected to the post of President, defeated Rakesh Pandey alias Babua by a huge margin of 603 votes. Anil Tiwari got 3048 votes, while Rakesh Pandey, who stood second, could get only 2445 votes, Veer Singh stood third by getting 1320 votes. Vikrant Pandey, elected to the post of Secretary, got 1959 votes, while Akhilesh Sharma, who stood second, could get only 1868 votes. Rai Saheb Yadav stood third by getting 1704 votes. Counting of votes for the remaining 26 posts including Vice President-Treasurer and Joint Secretary has not been done yet. Counting of votes for different posts will continue continuously. It may take another four to five days for the counting of votes to be over. After being elected to the post of President, Senior Advocate Anil**



Tiwari was warmly welcomed by his fellow lawyers. Flowers were showered on them, drums and shehnai were played to welcome them. There was a huge celebration, after registering the victory, Anil Tiwari said that his priority would be to do better work for the respect and welfare of lawyers. He also claimed to make efforts to provide cheap and accessible justice to the litigants by creating coordination between the bar and the bench. Anil Tiwari said that he will take every necessary step in the interest of lawyers. We will work to provide maximum facilities to lawyers through governments. He has also said that strict steps will be taken against those who defame the advocacy profession. It is noteworthy that the voting for the 28-member executive of the Allahabad High Court Bar Association was held amidst much fanfare on April 3.

# Demand for distant education surges in UP, reveals UPRTOU statistics

Prayagraj: After the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the demand for distance education has surged, as evidenced by the enrolment records of Uttar Pradesh's sole state open university-Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) in Prayagraj.

The data reveals that admissions for the academic year 2023-24 reached an all-time high, marking the most significant enrolment since the university's establishment in 1999. In this academic year, which included admissions from July 2023 and January 2024, there were 41,885 new admissions across 126 different courses, bringing the total number of registered students at the university to 81,306—an increase of 11,767 compared to the previous academic session, according to university officials.

Since the first wave of Covid-19 in 2020, educational institutions had transitioned to online classes. Over the past four years, the number of students enrolled in various UPRTOU courses has risen by more than 29,000, according to university officials. In the year 2020-21, comprising admissions done in July 2020 and January 2021, a total of 26,906 new students had taken admission. At the time there were 18,670 students in the second year and another 6,259 in the third year of their respective courses bringing the count of total registered students to 51,835.

After this, the number of total registered students increased to 57,445 in 2021-22 with 32,006 new admissions and 18,900 students in the second year and 6,539 in the third year of their respective courses. In the year 2022-23, the number of new students taking admissions further increased to 39,704 taking the count of total enrolled students at the university to 69,539 with 24,230 students in second year and 5,605 students in the third year of their respective courses before reaching around 81,306 in the current 2023-24 session comprising admissions in July 2023 and January 2024 with 41,885 new admissions and 31,561 students pursuing second year and 7,860 in third year of their respective programmes, informed UPRTOU admission in-charge Prof JP Yadav.

UPRTOU vice-chancellor Prof Seema Singh said that the university aims to increase the annual number of new student admissions to 100,000. Efforts are being made to raise awareness among potential students about the admission process and the wide range of courses offered by UPRTOU, she added. Earlier, in compliance with directives from the University Grants Commission (UGC), the university had discontinued over three dozen PG Diploma courses. University officials claimed that if these courses were still offered, the total number of student admissions would have exceeded 100,000 this year alone.

Prayagraj: Many kids are observing roza for the first time. In a candid discussion with Patrika, Nasir (12) and Shazia (13) reveal his/her excitement of fulfilling his religious duty and emulate the tradition followed by his family from time immemorial.

"It was my earnest desire since childhood to observe roza like my parents and others in the family during the holy month of Ramzan. My father said following rituals of Ramzan make us dear to God," said Nasir (12), who observed the first roza of his life. Shazia (13) also observed her first roza this year. Community prayers and the shared experience of 'saheri' and 'iftar' attract youngsters most.

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## 'It was my desire to fast like my parents'

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## BJP placed its bet on MLA Praveen Patel from Phulpur Lok Sabha seat

Phulpur: Phulpur Lok Sabha seat of the state has been known for the most shocking results. The country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru won the elections from this seat and mafia don Atiq Ahmed also reached the Lok Sabha from this seat. Sometimes Congress, then SP, then BSP, after which BJP won. No one has been MP on this seat twice consecutively. On this Lok Sabha seat which has given two Prime Ministers, BJP has fielded three-time MLA Praveen Patel. Praveen once won from BSP. He has been an MLA for two consecutive terms. SP, Congress alliance and BSP have not declared candidates for this seat.



## 48% voters in district below 40

Prayagraj: Young voters were given much emphasis during the preparation of the voters' list. Almost half of the total voters in Prayagraj district are youngsters who will play a vital role in this year's Lok Sabha election. As per the last voters' list published on January 23, the district has 46,64,513 total voters out of whom 22,35,677 voters or about 48% are below the age of 40 years. Among them, 13,71,108 are in the age group of 30 to 39 years while 50,114 voters are aged 18 and 19 years.

Officials conceded the maximum thrust was on including the names of eligible young voters during the preparation of the district's voters' list. "A special campaign was now being run to bring these voters to the polling booth. Most of the events and initiatives being organised under SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) were taking place for voters aged between 18 and 40 years," they shared. "If one looks at the assembly-wise division in Prayagraj, there are 5,944 voters aged between 18 and 19 years in Pratappur, another 5,483 in Karachhana, 4,504 in Koraon, 4,453 in Bara and 4,413 in Handia."

Similarly, most voters in the 20-29 years age group are in Pratappur (80,934), Handia (76,728), Phulpur (76,628), Koraon (72,090) and Soraon (71,259). The total number of in this age group in the district are 8,14,455. For those aged between 30 years and 39 years, Prayagraj has the highest number of voters (13,71,108) followed by 1,32,180 in Handia, 1,30,542 in Pratappur, 1,22,087 in Allahabad West, 1,14,561 in Phulpur and 1,13,626 in Phaphamau. As a result, the number of voters below the age of 40 exceeds 22.35 lakh in Prayagraj. Additionally, the count of voters aged between 40 and 49 years is 9,75,871, including 1,02,088 in Allahabad West followed by 93,865 in Allahabad South, 93,766 in Allahabad North 85,146 in Phulpur and 84,459 in Soraon.



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## Hindus and Muslims came together to enjoy Sewain

PRAYAGRAJ: After Namaz and Khutba at Masjid Qazi Saheb Bakshi Bazaar five people including Imam-e-Jamaat Maulana Jawadul Haider Rizvi, Moezzin Amjad Hussain Pappu, Imran were honored by the mosque's Mutawalli Shahrukh Qazi by presenting them gifts. According to Syed Mohammad Askari General Secretary of Ummul Bunin Society on behalf of Shahrukh ji all the worshipers who came to offer namaz in the mosque were applied perfume and were also presented with a handkerchief. In the Masjid Noor Daira Shah Ajmal, the Intejamia Committee rewarded the children who gave correct answers to Namaz, Roza and religious questions during Ramadan for a month.

It would be dishonest if it is Eid and there is no mention of vermicelli. While Muslims enjoy the sweetness of vermicelli during Eid, there are a large number of Hindu brothers who are desperate for vermicelli on Eid. Muslims also wait for their Hindu brothers on this special day. The perfect combination of dry fruits, sugar syrup and milk khova in plain vermicelli made from flour by machines makes it delicious. Apart from plain milk vermicelli, people kept coming to each other's house throughout the day to enjoy vermicelli like Kemami, Sheerbranj, Irani, Mughali, Afghani, Mumbai's famous Sheerkorma etc. People also enjoyed sweet dahi bade, biryani kebab and korma.

## Eid shoppers thronging roadside stalls

Prayagraj: If Eid is drawing near, so is the hustle bustle in the markets of the city. Women clad in burqas were falling over each other to select matching dupattas, table cloths, earrings, footwear, household appliances, decorative accessories and other items for Eid. However, while owners of kiosks did brisk business, owners of permanent shops in the same locality hardly made



profit. "I always buy clothes from Madan Collection but this time, the street market at Roshanbagh had a lot better to offer and that too at an affordable price, said

Yasma Fatima, a resident of Civil Lines. "Besides readymade curtains and bedsheets, I found beautiful wallets and reasonably priced costume jewellery in the market to buy as Eid gifts," she added.

This time, inflation has also hit the public hard and even middle-class and well-to-do people are shopping at roadside stalls. "It is not possible to abstain from

fruits and vegetables no matter how expensive they are. But, the best way to make up for this is to shop for dresses, footwear and other accessories from street markets," said Aisha Khan, a college student. Thrilled will the heavy sale, Sunny, who sells designer and branded garments at cheap rates, said, "Compared to previous years, this time, there is a mad rush."

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## Vinod Sonkar enters poll fray from Kaushambi

Kaushambi: BJP has placed a strong bet on two-time MP Vinod Sonkar on Kaushambi Lok Sabha seat, a confluence of Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Jain pilgrimage sites. Vinod Sonkar had made special efforts to get the ticket. Many times Vinod's Machli Shahar Lok Sabha seat There were speculations about contesting the elections from this Lok Sabha seat. Many times the talk of Vinod's ticket being canceled also ran in the political circles. But in the end he was



successful in getting the ticket from this Lok Sabha seat. After getting the ticket, Vinod Sonkar will take out Jan Ashirwad Yatra today. Two-time MP Vinod This time victory will not be easy for Sonkar. This time all three assembly seats of Kaushambi are occupied by Samajwadi Party. This seat is dominated by veteran leaders. Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, Raja Bhaiya and Inderjit Saroj have a strong hold on this Lok Sabha seat.

## Face-to-face fight broke out between two political scions

Neeraj Tripathi, BJP and Ujjwal Raman Singh, Congress-SP alliance, soon a triangular fight can happen with BSP opening its cards

Karchana, Prayagraj: Two families in Prayagraj are facing political conflict. They belong to those families who have proved their political mettle in their respective areas on their own for many decades. Be it the

former MP and national general secretary of SP. While advocate Neeraj



Tripathi has been fielded as the BJP candidate from Allahabad Lok Sabha seat, known as the crown prince of both the houses. In front of him is the Congress-SP alliance. Former minister Ujjwal Raman Singh is beating the drum. While there is excitement in both the houses due to BSP not announcing its candidate yet, if any Patel is made a candidate from BSP, then the fight can be triangular. Then on which side the camel will sit, only the future results will tell. If we talk about both the families, the relations between Late Pandit Kesharinath Tripathi and Kunwar Revati Raman Singh have been very close

and they have been good friends. Moreover, Advocate Pandit Kesharinath Tripathi's is guru of Raman Singh Jr. His father Kunwar Revati, who is engaged in preparing his background with the wish of victory from Allahabad Lok Sabha, which was the parliamentary seat of Raman Singh. Anyone may know Neeraj Tripathi's name, but till now he has not been seen to have any involvement in politics. After the ticket an-



nouncement on Wednesday, people were stunned when the name of Neeraj Tripathi appeared in the list. On getting information, he was identified as the son of Pandit Kesharinath Tripathi. The SP and the general public are calling Neeraj Tripathi a dummy candidate.

## How 'Roza' transforms lives

Prayagraj: Roza, the dawn to dusk regimen followed by devout Muslims in the holy month of Ramzan, whereby they abstain from food, water, sex and vices like alcohol and tobacco, has completely transformed many a life, says Farhan Ahmed (42) and Arfaat Khan (45).

Ahmed, a former charas addict, gave up the vice 20 years ago, thanks to the tra-

dition of roza. While Idris, who used to be an alcoholic, has not touched liquor for the last two years. Ahmed, a successful businessman, remembers being a serious charas addict in his late teens and early twenties. "My friends and I were so hooked to charas that we smoked the whole day. I never went to the masjid, nor observed roza. However, I relented when my

health deteriorated. I observed roza for the first time in 1982. Initially, it was difficult and the withdrawal symptoms were painful. However, I managed to stay away from charas. This is when I decided to kick the habit completely."

Today, Ahmed abstains from tobacco and alcohol and visits the mosque regularly. Importantly, he observes roza every year and

attends namaz (prayers) five times a day. He thanks the tradition of roza for the positive changes in his life. "I was able to progress from my father's paper business to my profitable photocopying business, where I employ people," says Ahmed.

Likewise, Idris, who was addicted to liquor, got tired of being referred to as bevda (drunkard). That is

when I observed roza for the first time two years ago. I stopped alcohol for a whole month and never went back to the drink," he says.

Idris, who is a scrap store worker, is today able to divert his hardearned money to his family, which comprises his wife and two school going daughters. "I feel healthier, have earned back my self-respect and have a happier family," he says.

## Here, even strangers invite you to partake of iftaar with them'

Prayagraj: Being away from home on a special occasion may not be an ideal situation, but for students from other states who are currently residing in the city and observing the Ramzan fast are getting new experiences, which make up for the loss.

"Observing roza in Allahabad has been more of a cultural experience than a religious one. The festivity can be felt in the air. It is heartwarming how strangers are so eager to host you during iftaar and treat you to delicacies," says Filza

Khan a resident of Karachi who arrived here to visit a relative in Kareli.

Similarly, Muneeb Hyder, whose father is from Bangladesh and mother a US citizen, said in his hometown in North Dakota, there are just five Muslim families. "Ramzan feels like any other month there. Fasting in the US is purely a personal choice and there is no social or cultural aspect to it. On the other hand, I felt an enriching sense of community when I visited masjids in Old Allahabad and took part in iftaar with

scores of other fasting people." Muneeb said he lived in Dhaka till he was 11 and then moved to the USA. "Coming to Allahabad on a tourist visa during Ramzan has been like homecoming: The hustle-bustle in the markets, the warmth of the people, the organic nature of Old City; It's like Dhaka version 2.0. I am yet to notice a major difference," he said.

Having tried different delicacies from the city, Muneeb says he loved the seek kebab, shahitukda and keema. "I am also glad I

came here during the mango season. I can have my entire sehri and iftaar with just Dussehris!" he gushed.

ZohebAhmaz, of Afghan origin who is studying in Allahabad University has an unlikely iftaarfavourite: pakoras. "They are oily, but remind me of pakoras my mother makes during Ramzan," she said.

On being asked if the hot and humid weather here made fasting any more challenging, Zoheb said, "The summer heat did make the

first few rozas difficult, but the fact that the fasting period here is shorter made things fairly bearable." His friend Danish Raza from USA who is on a tourist visa and currently in Allahabad echoed similar sentiments and said, "In USA, Muslims fasting during Ramzan need to keep track of sehri and iftaar time themselves. On the other hand, it is wonderful to hear the azaan (prayer call) from nearby masjids in Allahabad which gives you the feeling that you are not the only one fasting during the holy month."

# SHUATS holds National Seminar on Beekeeping for best techniques adoption

Prayagraj: Prayagraj based Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences organized one-day national seminar on "Recent advances in beekeeping" under the aegis of Society of Biosciences, Department of Biological Sciences in Collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research, Lucknow and Council of Science & Technology, Lucknow, on Tuesday. During the inaugural session, Most Rev. Prof. (Dr) Rajendra B. Lal (Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SHUATS), Dr. Sanjay Singh (Director General, UPCAR, Lucknow), Dr. R.R. Singh (Additional Director, Extension, UPCAR), Dr. Piyush Sharma (Secretary, UPCAR), (Dr.) Alok Milton Lal (Director, Directorate of Research, SHUATS) and Dr.

C. John Wesley, Joint Registrar (Administration) addressed the gathering and said that the Beekeeping

come generation of farmers, the well-articulated motto of our government. The seminar included



was an important component of agricultural science and its recent approaches would have far reaching impact in Agriculture and might contribute to the in-

three incisive and insightful technical sessions on various aspects of beekeeping. Each technical session encompassed lectures by guest speakers from nation-

ally reputed institutes. The eminent guest speakers of the seminar Prof. Ram Ratan Singh (Additional Director, Extension, N D U A T, Ayodhya), Dr. Sujayanand, G.K. (Senior Scientist, Agricultural Entomology, Division of Crop Protection, I C A R - I I P R, Kanpur), Dr. Rahul Kumar Singh (Scientist, Agricultural Extension, KVK Kallipur, Varanasi), Dr. Pratiksha Singh (SMS, KVK, N D U A T, Ayodhya), P.S. Ojha (State Advisor, FPO Cell, Agriculture Department, Uttar Pradesh) and Dr. Rinki Kumari Chauhan (SMS, Entomology, KVK, Haidergarh, Barabanki, en-

lightened the participants with their knowledge and research experiences. The active involvement of eminent scientists, scholars, faculty and students made the event remarkable.

The organizing secretaries of the seminar Dr. Kamin Alexander (Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, SHUATS) and Dr. Vinod Kumar Tiwari (Scientific Officer, UPCAR, Lucknow) were grateful to all the participants, staff members Dr. D.K. Bose, Dr. Anupriya Paul, Dr. Anoorag Tayde, Dr. Deepanshu and officials especially to the Vice Chancellor, SHUATS for his continuous support and guidance and to Director General, UPCAR and Director, CST, UP for providing financial assistance to conduct the seminar.

## Swift transition: Gadgets replaced faqirs for sehari wake-up calls

Prayagraj: The typical wake-up calls by groups of faqirs, who used to frequent lanes and bylanes, beating special drums known as 'das' and singing holy verses to wake up rozedars for pre-dawn 'sehari,' are no longer in use. Cellphones and loudspeakers have taken the place of faqirs. The day used to start with a wake-up call from faqirs, according to Syed Shamim Ahmad Gauhar. However, new gadgets such as cell phones have replaced custom, and there is no harm in that. He explained that people who were fasting used to be awakened by beating a special instrument called a 'das,' which was similar to a percussion instrument called a 'dhol,' but only had leather on one hand. "The majority of the faqirs who used to wake

### Next generation is not interested in religious service

people up are no longer around. The ones who are left are over 90 years old. This holy service does not pique the curiosity of the young generation "Gauhar remarked. According to Mohammad Yasin, "In the past, a group of faqirs would sing verses to wake people up for 'sehari.' Alarms and loudspeakers have replaced the custom in recent years." Chowk, Rani Mandi, Atala, Rasoolpur, Hatia, Razapur, Bakshi Bazaar, and Baigantola are some of the prominent Old City areas where loudspeakers can be heard reciting holy verses and urging people to rise for 'sehari.'

Shakeel Khan, a Kareli resident, said, "We still miss the melodious

voices of 'faqirs' like 'Pankha Shah Baba' and 'Jhola Shah Baba,' who sang holy verses while urging us to wake up for sehari. We now have to depend on our mobile phone's alarm." In certain parts of Katra, 'faqirs' always come to people's homes to wake them up. According to a local, "It's very nice to hear the faqirs as soon as you open your eyes. The number of such faqirs has significantly decreased. We may be among the last few people to see the tradition." The word 'sehari' means something we ate before breakfast and comes from the Arabic word 'sehari,' which means morning.

## Shia community observed Eid, while others chose Thursday: Farooq Naseer

Prayagraj: After conflicting announcements regarding the sighting of the crescent moon, a section of the Shia community celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr on Wednesday, while others opted for Thursday.

the arrival of Eid al-Fitr, praying to Allah Almighty for goodness and peace to spread across world on this great occasion.

Clearing air over confusion on celebrating Eid, he said, "Maulana Saif Abbas

the community will observe Eid on Thursday. The confusion stemmed from Maulana Saif Abbas's announcement, citing the sighting of the moon in Kargil late Tuesday night, in accordance with Ayatollah Sistani's guidance. However, Maulana Syed Kalbe Jawad Naqvi, representing Ayatollah Sistani in India, clarified that the instruction pertains specifically to Iraq and neighbouring regions, excluding India. Following the Eid prayers on Wednesday, Maulana Saif Abbas emphasised prayers for peace and prosperity. Meanwhile, the grand preparations for Eid prayers on Thursday are underway."

Farooq Naseer stressed the need for all sections of society to move forward together for the sake of the country and paid tribute to the sacrifices rendered by armed forces to ensure peace in the country.

Naqvi, chairman of the Shia Moon Committee, initially confirmed the moon sighting late Tuesday night, prompting some Shia members to offer Eid prayers on Wednesday. However, following the instructions of Ayatollah Agha Sistani, an eminent religious leader of the Shia sect based in Najaf, Iraq, a significant portion of



Farooq Naseer, popularly known as 'Engineer Sahab' extended Eid Mubarak greeting to Shia community, who witnessed the observance of special religious rituals for Eid al-Fitr, amidst prayers for goodness and peace to spread across the world on this joyous occasion. He expressed his happiness at

## Prayers sought in favour of Palestine

PRAYAGRAJ: After the Eid prayers anger and sorrow were expressed over Israel's bombing of innocent Palestinian residential areas, places of worship, schools, colleges and hospitals and the martyrdom of innocent Palestinian Muslims. Prayers for forgiveness for the deaths of innocent people were also sought. The United Nations was also called upon to come forward in establishing peace by providing food, water and medicine to the survivors of Palestine. After the Namaz, people extended their hands in the presence of Maulana Jawad Haider Rizvi and prayed for the rights of Palestinian Muslims and also cursed Israel's Nesto Nabood Imam-e-Jamaat Maulana Jawad Haider Rizvi of Masjid Qazi Saheb Bakshi Bazar said in his sermon that it is obligatory for every adult to pay Fitra. Fitra should be calculated before Namaz according to the three kilos of wheat, rice or flour consumed in a month so that even people less than us can celebrate Eid. Help the needy by fulfilling your wishes so that there is no difference between us and the poor community and they can also celebrate Eid ul Fitr well.

## NEVER TOO OLD TO VOTE

# 1049 Prayagraj centenarians keen on suffrage

PRAYAGRAJ: With the stage setting for the largest democratic exercise in the world, the electorate, both young and old, is ready to exercise its franchise in the coming Lok Sabha Elections-2024. Interestingly, this includes 1,049 voters of Prayagraj district, whose age is between 100 to 120 years, reveals the voter's list finalised by the district election officials.

The list shows that there are 414 men and 440 women voters aged between 100 to 109 years. The list also shows that there are three men and 10 women voters who are aged between 110 and 119 years whereas if one talks about voters aged 120 years, there are 44 men and 38 women voters eligible to cast their votes in Prayagraj this time, officials confirm.

District magistrate/district election officer, Prayagraj Navneet Singh Chahal said that as per the

updated voters' list of Prayagraj, there were 46,64,519 voters, including 25,27,676 men, 21,36,224 women and 619 transgenders.

"All voters are eager to exercise their franchise, including aged voters to whom we will extend all support." One such eager voter is Bajinath Dubey, 95, a resident of Mukundpur village of Holahgarh development block, located around 45km from Sangam city and falling under Phulpur parliamentary constituency. "This may well be my last election. So I am very keen to cast my vote as a dutiful citizen. I cast my first vote when I was 22 and since then I have never missed an opportunity to cast my vote," he shared.

With the much-awaited notification of Lok Sabha elections-2024 finally out, preparations are also in full swing for proper arrangements for voting. The district administration is trying to ensure 100% vot-

ing and awareness campaign is already being run for the youth, even as guidelines from the Election Commission of India are awaited for elderly voters.

There are 50114 voters in the district between 18 and 19 years of age. It is believed that this will be the first time most of them will cast their vote, as per officials.

Similarly, there are 8,14,455 voters in the age group of 20 to 29 years while there is a total of 13,71,108 in the age group of 30 to 39 years. Likewise, a scrutiny of the voters' list of Prayagrah reveals that 9,75,871 voters are in the age group of 40 to 49 years and 7,34,615 in the age group of 50 to 59 years. The list shows that 4,34,615 voters are in the age group of 60 to 69 years, 2,11,612 voters are between 70 and 79 years of while 59,743 voters are aged between 80 and 89 years. Similarly, there are 11,096 voters between the age of 90 and 99 years.

## Razia Sultan to felicitate 20k namazis at Eidgah

Prayagraj: "At Eidgah, around 20,000 namazis, social workers or other people from all religions join in and congratulate the people on Eid by offering vermicelli, water and roses with the aim of strengthening the unity and integrity of India," informed Razia Sultan Advocate High Court Secretary-Bharatiya Janhit Kalyan Samiti, Poet/Shayera Prayagraj.

Highlighting the difficulties faced by Muslim women, she said, "Ramzan is the most important month for Muslims. We often get a fair glimpse of the hardships faced by men during

this month, the trouble faced by women often take a backseat. Being a woman, particularly a housewife is not easy during Ramzan."

"It takes at least three hours to get the food ready for iftaar. Then there are arrangements to be made for dinner. Household chores are also to be looked after and are harder to do in this hot weather. My kids are also studying and fasting. I need to make sure that they don't pressurize themselves too much. Men have it easy but for a woman, there is no time for rest," she said.

"The rules of fasting apply equally to men and

women. A man will come back from work and rest. A working woman has to come back, read the Quran, see the household chores and



basically not have it as easy," she added.

Pregnant women are not allowed to keep fast as it

poses a risk to their health. Some women fast despite this. "When my sister was pregnant she kept all rozas. Such women are doubly blessed by God," she claimed. "If a woman works extra hard in addition to the household chores, she gets more sawaab (god's blessing). It is simpler for men to fast. But I am happy because I am getting more grace from Allah," Razia stressed.

Young girls, who are often studying, attending coaching classes and tuitions along with boys, also face quite a lot of hardships when fasting. "We

come across many girls and boys, who are fasting and studying equally. While the boys just have to go home and rest, a lot more is expected from girls. Most of them help in the daily food preparations. It takes at least three hours to get the food ready for iftaar. Making arrangements for family members as well as invitees was not an easy task and household chores are also to be looked after," she opined.

She believes that she earns more sawaab (grace of god) by staying at home and completing the household chores timely.

## IIIT-A's annual tech fest, Aprojksha-2024, kicks off

The three-day annual technical fest-Aprojksha-2024 began at the Jhalwa campus of the Indian Institute of Information Technology-Allahabad (IIIT-A) here on Wednesday. IIIT-A director Prof Mukul Sharad Sutaone inaugurated the fest and said that this annual event serves as a platform for students to showcase their technical prowess, engage in cutting-edge discussions and foster industry partnerships. "With a strong emphasis on skill development and knowledge sharing, the fest not only celebrates technological advancements but also propels the institution towards greater academic excellence and industry relevance", he added. He further said that technical fests are not just about robot battles and coding marathons; they are the lifeblood of academic institutions. Such fests provide a platform for students to showcase their skills, learn from industry experts, and network like there's no tomorrow, he added. IIIT-A's dean of student affairs Prof Ranjit Singh painted a picture of a future where technology and innovation reign supreme. Robotics expert Prof GC Nandi said that the fest isn't just about flashy banners and freebies-it's a platform for students to level up their skills and knowledge. From cutting-edge workshops to mind-bending competitions, this fest is a crash course in all things tech, he added.



## Displaying the state's legacy: UPPSC's decades-old building transformed into museum

Prayagraj: The 70-year-old building of the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC), which once served as its officers' training centre, has now been transformed into a unique museum. Following a year-long exercise, the museum named 'Kalpvrisikh' is now ready to be formally inaugurated and houses rare archaeological and historical artifacts related to Uttar Pradesh, including those of the state's civil ser-

vices. Established on April 1, 1937, the UPPSC initially operated from the building of the Directorate of Education before shifting to its current location in 1949-50, which previously served as the British Officer's Training Centre.

This building, with sturdy walls and a roof dating back to the British era, remained vacant after the commission shifted to a new office building constructed adjacent to it. However, in-

stead of demolishing the historical building, UPPSC chairman Sanjay Srinet decided last year to preserve it as a heritage building and set up a unique museum within it. The budget for the mission was sourced from the annual buildings' repair budget without any separate allocation, as informed by UPPSC officials.

The museum features paintings, writings of notable figures, images of state heroes from the Independence

movement, as well as historical artifacts, including ancient statues discovered during excavations and even a Persian version of the Ramayan. The initiative not only showcases the cultural significance of UP but also provides a platform to educate visitors about the state's rich legacy. The museum's diverse collection offers a glimpse of the state's historical evolution and serves as a tribute to its enduring legacy, the officials added.

## Azam Khan donates fruits and garments to reach out during Ramzan

Prayagraj: Setting an example of service to humanity, Saba Khan a teacher by profession and her social activist husband Azam Khan, who lives in Lukerganj have cut down their expenses during Ramzan and are buying clothes and other articles for poor rozedars. Members of the Muslim community are donating generously for the noble cause raised by Saba Khan. Azam Khan said, "Every year, we distribute clothes and other articles among

poor people observing roza. We have reduced our expenses during Ramzan and collected money from members of the Muslim community willing to donate for the noble cause. Till now, we have distributed clothes, fruits and other eatables, books including the Holy Quran and other items to poor Muslims living in nearby areas."

The couple refused to divulge details of the amount spent on the grounds that charity should

be anonymous. But beneficiaries of the largesse were



all praise for the effort. A female beneficiary said, "We did not expect we

would be able to celebrate Eid in properly but these generous people distributed clothes and other eatables amongst us. They deserve all praise for the noble act and the Almighty Allah will definitely reward them for this act".

Meanwhile, Saba Khan said, "It is the duty of every Muslim to ensure that his/her community member who is in distress celebrates Eid in the same way as the rest. We all have contributed to this great cause."

## Editorial

### Old Indian epistemological model is efficient

It is entirely possible that the old Indian epistemological model is efficient, but the prevailing model of WIPO, national Patent Offices, and all that paraphernalia massively benefits the Western model. As an example, the open-source model was predicted to make a big difference in biology, but that effort seems to have petered out after a promising start. Therefore, we are stuck for the foreseeable future with the IP model, which means Indians need to excel at it. In passing, let us note that the brilliant Jagdish Chandra Bose was a pioneer in the wireless transmission of information, including the fundamental inventions that make cellular telephony possible. However, as a matter of principle, he refused to patent his inventions; Guglielmo Marconi did and became rich and famous. India has traditionally been quite poor in the number of patents, trademarks, copyrights, geographical indications, semiconductor design layouts etc. that it produces annually. Meanwhile, the number of Chinese patents has skyrocketed. Over the last few years, the number of Indian patents has grown as the result of focused efforts by the authorities, as well as the realisation by inventors that IP rights can help startup firms dominate niche markets. India also produces a lot of creative works, including books, films, music and so on. The enforcement of copyright laws has been relatively poor, and writers and artists often do not get fair compensation for their work.

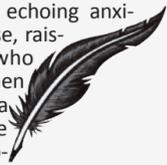
Unfortunately, things will get a lot worse with generative AI. Most of us have heard of, and probably also tried out, the chatbots that have been the object of much attention and hype in the past year, such as chatGPT from OpenAI/Microsoft and Gemini from Google. Whether these are truly useful is a good question, because they seduce us into thinking they are conscious, despite the fact that they are merely 'stochastic parrots'. But I digress.

The point is that the digital revolution has thrown the edifice of copyright law into disarray. At the forefront of this upheaval stands generative AI, a technology with the uncanny ability to mimic and extend human creative output. Consider two stark examples: the contentious case of JK Rowling and her copyright battle with a Harry Potter-inspired fanfic, and the recent Japanese law that grants broad exemptions for training large language models (LLMs).

Rowling's spat with Anna M Bricken, the author of a Harry Potter fanfic titled "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Wine," ignited a global debate about fair use and transformative creativity. Bricken's work reimagined the Potterverse with an adult lens, but Rowling, citing trademark infringement, sought to have it taken down.

While the case eventually settled, it exposed a fundamental dilemma: can AI-generated works, even if derivative, be considered distinct enough from their source material to warrant copyright protection? The answer, shrouded in legal ambiguity, leaves creators navigating a tightrope walk between inspiration and infringement.

On the other side of the globe, Japan enacted a law in 2022 that further muddies the waters. This controversial regulation grants LLMs and other AI systems an almost carte blanche to ingest and remix copyrighted material for training purposes without seeking permission or paying royalties. While proponents laud it as a catalyst for AI innovation, critics warn of widespread copyright infringement and a potential future where authorship becomes a nebulous concept. The Japanese law, echoing anxieties around JK Rowling's case, raises unsettling questions: who owns the creative spark when AI fuels the fire? For India, a nation at the precipice of the AI revolution, these developments raise crucial questions. With a burgeoning AI industry,



# It was only in 1959, when India started to cross the McMahon line

This came back to mind when I read that for the fourth time, China has 'renamed' places in Arunachal Pradesh. A few months back, China had changed the names of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh. The first renamed place was then Pangchen, an important location near the McMahon Line, north of Tawang. This time too, the first renamed place was Hathong-la, the plateau facing the Thagla ridge of 1962 war memory. Why Hathong-la? China is probably not too pleased with the many articles/programmes which recently appeared in the Indian media celebrating the 65th anniversary of the arrival of Dalai Lama in India near this very spot. Among the other names changed is Mago, the constituency of Chief Minister Pema Khandu (he has just been reelected unopposed). Also to be noted rivers such as the Kameng and the Subansiri and several spots near the disputed Fish Tails in the east of the State, have been 'renamed'. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar rightly said: "If today I change the name of your house, will it become mine? Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always be a state of India. Changing names does not have an effect." The point remains that for years China did not even know about the



McMahon Line. To understand China's poor knowledge of Tibet Southern borders, it is necessary to go back to the Bandung Conference in 1955. An apparently moderate Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai managed to convince a credulous Indian prime minister about the 'sincerity' of the new Chinese Communist rulers. Writing about his encounter with Zhou at the Conference, Nehru said: "When asked if he wanted to push communism into Tibet, Chou En-lai [Zhou Enlai] laughed and said that there could be no such question as Tibet was very far indeed from communism. It would be thoroughly impracticable to try to establish a communist regime in Tibet and the Chinese Government had no such wish."

A few days later, the Indian prime minister told his foreign secretary about a remark of the Chinese

Premier on the McMahon Line: "Although [Zhou] thought that this line, established by British imperialists, was not fair, nevertheless, because it was an accomplished fact and because of the friendly relations which existed between China and the countries concerned, namely, India and Burma, the Chinese Government were of the opinion that they should give recognition to this McMahon Line." At the end of 1956, as India prepared to celebrate the 2,500th anniversary of the birth of Buddha, Communist China was extremely nervous; eastern Tibet was on fire with the Khampa rebellion, while central Tibet was slowly getting contaminated by the revolt. After months of prevarication, Beijing finally allowed the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama to visit India for the celebrations. A febrile Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai came to

Delhi thrice to ensure that the Dalai Lama returned to Tibet. During one of his encounters with Nehru, Zhou admitted that India knew more about Tibet's history than China. "For example, I knew nothing about McMahon Line until recently when we came to study the border problem after the liberation of China," he said.

Zhou added that though people like him never knew about the McMahon Line till recently, the Kuomintang regime had referred to it. Zhou also spoke of a 'secret' pact between British India and Tibet at the time of the Simla conference in 1914 when the Tibetans sat on an equal footing with the Chinese and British India between October 1913 and July 1914. Five years later, in April 1960, Zhou Enlai visited Delhi and had long talks with Nehru. He also had two informal encounters with Indian Defence Minister VK Krishna Menon, during which Zhou stated that China would never change its position in the Western Sector (Aksai Chin), but was open for the rest of the border. Zhou was testing the ground for a 'swap'. India would acknowledge Aksai Chin as Chinese and Beijing would recognise the North East Frontier Agency (today's Arunachal Pradesh) as Indian.

**Another Chinese source**  
An unpublished Chinese document entitled "China's reaction to Indian occupation of the territory to the south of McMahon Line, 1952-54" mentions the situation on the borders soon after the arrival of the PLA on the plateau: "Undoubtedly, Indian occupation of the McMahon line [in February 1951] officially placed the McMahon line issue before the Chinese government. As the records point out, the key problem was that the Chinese government did not release any comment nor show any resistance." This refers to the expedition of Maj Bob Khathing in Tawang in February 1951. While Lhasa informed Delhi about the Khathing expedition, Beijing was not. The Chinese paper comments further: "Although during this period, New Delhi agreed that China enjoyed suzerainty over Tibet, [at the same time] India treated Tawang as a local problem... This kind of a puzzling silence from the side of the Chinese government could only be interpreted as China permitting India to expand its territories to the McMahon line. ... It was only in 1959, when India started to cross the McMahon line.

[in Khenzimane?] that China expressed its objection [for the first time]."

## How non-violent Jainism thrived in the warlike Deccan

A Kannada-speaking king died in 975 CE, after starving himself for three days at his guru's monastery. His name was Marasimha II, and his kingdom was based near present-day Bengaluru. Marasimha, according to his court poet, had spent his life in war: he had participated in campaigns in Madhya Pradesh, slaughtered rival families, and even piled up the skulls of his enemies. Yet, in the last year of his life, he had erected Jain temples, and his ritual suicide was in a Jain monastery.

Marasimha's kingdom disappeared within a few decades of his death, but Deccan Jainism retained its following for almost 500 more years. This is one part of its story. By the time of Marasimha's

death, Deccan Jainism was already a grand old religion, counting among its adherents the plateau's most powerful rulers, ascetics and litterateurs. Historian RN Nandi writes in *Religious Institutions and Cults in the Deccan* that Jain monks began to appear in inscriptions from the 4th-5th centuries CE. Also around this time, other practices from North India, including permanent stone temples to gods and the use of Sanskrit in political settings, appeared in the Deccan. All these offered potent symbolic and political tools to newly emerging kingdoms, such as the Kadambas in present-day Banavasi and the Early Western Chalukyas in present-day Badami. Deccan Jainism was woven into

medieval South Indian kingship from the outset. In Bahubali and Badami Chalukyas, Jainism scholar Hampa Nagarajiah notes that one of the earliest free-standing examples of Deccan architecture is Jain: it's a temple on the Meguti hill at Aihole, built in the 7th century by Ravikirti, a Jain courtier of the Chalukya king Pulakeshin II (610-642 CE). The temple's dedicatory inscription was composed by Ravikirti in Sanskrit. It shows that he was familiar with the political aesthetic of the Sanskrit cosmopolis — the sprawling medieval geocultural world that connected Sanskrit-speaking courts from Vietnam.

To Afghanistan. The Meguti hill, where Ravikirti.

## It has to be calibrated, and after India's loud assertions

The list goes on. It must be understood that, though India has updated its security policies and interests, it is still a committed and responsible player in the community of nations, and biased and baseless claims by any foreign news outlet hardly hold any rational ground to doubt that.

In 1688, the Glorious Revolution in Britain took away the divine right from kings. Another 'glorious revolution' is underway in international relations, and it has greatly shaken up the divine right that the West and some of its plaintiff legacy media, led by the US, presumed to be theirs. In the past week, both the Indian prime minister and the defence minister have asserted that, if required, India will not hesitate to ensure its security, something that the US, Britain, and Israel have been doing themselves. To secure these interests is as much science as a piece of art. It has to be calibrated, and after India's loud assertions, it will have to be even more precise.

Unfortunately for Pakistan, too many things are falling into place for outsiders to do an American-style hit job. The new Osamas are in deep

trouble. Too many people are willing to get the job done for a few dollars more. It is not just the dollars one feeds into other networks; there is also popular demand for free Sindh and Balochistan. Also, there are several other players in Pakistan, a country that has become a breeding ground for terrorism. Pakistan is having an open season. It's a porous place with guns for hire. The point, however, goes beyond an alleged Indian strike at terrorists and the neutralisation of those who have caused bloodshed.

India has changed its security policy. That is the diplomatic message to Pakistan. The stakes go up between nuclear-armed antagonists. A strike against India will not be unilateral, and India is capable of reverting. Terrorists operate across borders, making it difficult for states to apprehend them through conventional means. Preemption is an important criteria, as terrorists who pose an imminent threat to national security forfeit their right to due process. Having said that, it has to be acknowledged that there is also an element of rhetoric in India's security dis-

course, after all it's election season.

When a left-wing pamphlet with its readership in terminal decline, called *The Guardian* from Britain, did a recent story alleging Indian cross border neutralisation of Islamic terror, it only ended up helping the BJP. It is not as if India is going to town tomorrow with a Wild West-style shootout.

A death by a thousand cuts that Pakistan planned meets India's changed security strategy, but the allegations made by *The Guardian* are unfounded. It is actually the Western World, with Osama's killing in Pakistan being the most publicised, which has many such examples. In 2015, British Prime Minister David Cameron, for example, authorised a drone strike in Syria that killed two British citizens. They were planning terrorist attacks in the UK. The decision

sparked debate over the legality and ethics of such actions, particularly the targeting of citizens without due process, but the British public decided that they were not willing targets of jihad, and tax dollars that paid for the drones were put to good use.

## From West to India, reversing the brain drain

Western media is full of stories of Indian entrepreneurs "fleeing" to the West. Sections of the Indian media parrot this narrative. In a globalised world, Indian startup entrepreneurs obviously seek global markets. Hubs in Dubai, Singapore, London and San Francisco have long attracted talented Indian entrepreneurs. But the "brain drain" theory is now being turned on its head.

According to several startup entrepreneurs, the fear of missing out (FOMO) is about

missing India's digital, financial and infrastructure boom. Europe is in recession and traumatised by the grinding Russia-Ukraine war. Japan slipped into recession in the October-December 2023 quarter. China's economic slowdown and geopolitical tensions with the West have alarmed foreign businesses.

Dubai and other Gulf entrepots remain a hub for global Indian firms but the Gaza conflict could disrupt trade in the region, especially around the Red Sea. India in contrast is a

picture of economic stability and opportunity. It's not only the business environment that draws successful Indian entrepreneurs back home. As Hemant Mohapatra, who worked for several years in the West for AMD, Google and Andreessen Horowitz, wrote in a blog on Medium: "For those that don't know me well, I went to the US in 2003 and have been visiting India 1-2 times a year till 2014 and often 3+ times a year since 2014. So I've been able to observe the small shifts better

than most locals did, and of course, the macro-trends that are now obvious to most. "India fintech is way, way ahead of the US/EU. For offline, there were weeks I didn't use cash — most places take cards, UPI and a dozen other options. For online, I use UPI for most online purchases. Can't believe I am saying this but online purchases in India feels easier via UPI in India vs CCs or PayPal in the US. "Overall, I couldn't be happier with my move. I feel lucky to be in India at a time.

## DAMEPL to refund any amount it withdrew: SC

● DAMEPL had cited non-rectification of defects on track and civil work by DMRC. On Sept 19, 2021, an SC bench of Justices L N Rao and S R



matter to arbitration as per its contract with DMRC. The arbitral tribunal comprising A P Mishra, S S Khurana and H L Bajaj asked DMRC to pay Rs 2,782 crore with interest to DAMEPL. A single judge of Delhi high court upheld the order but it was reversed by an HC division bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna (now an SC judge). DAMEPL had cited non-rectification of defects on track and civil work by DMRC. On Sept 19, 2021, an SC bench of Justices L N Rao and S R Bhat upheld the award, after which DAMEPL started execution proceedings before HC. A protesting DMRC was forced to deposit Rs 1,800 crore as the first

tranche of the dues. After its petition seeking a review of the 2021 judgment was dismissed, DMRC, running low on cash, moved the SC with a curative petition, the very last option for seeking redress of its grievance that DAMEPL had terminated the contract on flimsy grounds. Critical of the SC's 2021 judgment for interfering with a well-considered decision of division bench of Delhi HC, the bench of Justices Chandrachud, Gavi and Kant allowed DMRC's curative petition, discontinued the execution proceedings and ordered return of the amount deposited by DMRC.

**New Delhi: Hailing the SC verdict** quashing the arbitral award granted to Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt Ltd (DAMEPL) as "historic", Union urban affairs minister Hardeep Puri congratulated DMRC n achieving the "landmark verdict". "Our public sector utilities are strong & resolute in delivery of public service under the firm leadership of PM Modi and remain steadfast in pursuit of fairness & justice," he said on X. After operations on Airport Express were suspended, DAMEPL took the

## QUAKER'S HEARTFELT LONG-FORMAT AD FILM STRIKES A CHORD, SPOTLIGHTING NUTRITION'S CRUCIAL ROLE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

**Gurugram: Quaker, one of India's leading players in the oats segment, stands for nutrition. The brand, through its 'Bowl of Growth' initiative addresses the cause of child malnutrition through 3 key pillars – providing nutrition to children aged 3 to 5 years, educating parents/caregivers and spreading awareness in the community. In a state where malnutrition is a cause of concern, this special nutrition-focused program was launched in pre-identified blocks of rural areas in Pune,**



Maharashtra. To strengthen the pillar on community awareness further, the brand launches its first long-format ad film 'Dohale Jevan Poshanchi Vaati'. The emotionally evocative narrative not only supplements the

nutritional needs required to address child nutrition but also weaves in elements of ethnicity and culture to forge a profound connection with the audiences.

In her remarks on the launch, Sravani Babu, Associate Director, and Category Lead - Quaker, PepsiCo India, said, "Quaker's endeavour to fight against malnutrition started last year when we partnered with NGO MAMTA HIMC and the Government of Maharashtra, to launch Quaker Bowl of Growth Program in Pune.

## BJP: Resignation reveals AAP's 'corrupt ways'

**New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, while reacting to social welfare minister Raaj Kumar Anand's resignation from govt and AAP, said that this was the beginning of the end of a story of "deceit" that Arvind Kejriwal started in 2011 with the "Anna**

Andolan". "Raaj Kumar Anand, who was with Arvind Kejriwal since Anna Andolan, listened to his own conscience and resigned from govt today (Wednesday)," Sachdeva said.

At a press conference, Delhi BJP secretary Bansuri Swaraj said

Anand's resignation testifies that both Aam Aadmi Party and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had lost their political credibility in the capital. "While resigning, Raaj Kumar Anand also referred to Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and said this AAP.

## Sitting out, Raj seems to save day for MNS, eyes state polls

**Mumbai: MNS chief Raj Thackeray's unconditional support for Mahayuti in this LS election was prompted by the fear that a defeat this time would have meant the end of the road for the party, feel political observers. It is believed that Raj would seek his pound of flesh in the assembly and civic elections to be held later this year, but the party's declining vote share over the years and its decision to abstain from the parliamentary polls for the second time in a row makes it difficult to gauge what the backing for Mahayuti actually translates to. "It will be impossible to measure any vote transfer and analyse the real gain in polling because of**



MNS's support," says an observer. MNS had put on a stellar show in its maiden entry in both LS and assembly elections in 2009. In the LS polls, all its six candidates in Mumbai secured over 1 lakh votes, cutting into undivided

Shiv Sena and BJP's votes, and won 13 seats in the assembly elections. In Mumbai alone, it secured around 24% votes and prevented the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance from winning 11 seats. By the time the 2014 LS polls rolled around, its climb-

down began. It fielded candidates against Sena and extended support to BJP's PM candidate Narendra Modi in that election, but its vote share dropped from 4.6% in 2009 to 1.5% and all its 10 candidates faced an embarrassing drubbing. In the assembly polls that year, it won only one of the 209 seats it contested from, and its vote share dropped to 3.2%. In 2019, the party sat out the LS polls and campaigned widely against BJP and PM Modi. Months later, in the state assembly polls, it fielded 101 candidates but won only one seat. Its vote share dropped further to 2.3%. It saw a similar decline in BMC polls—its strength dropped from 27.

## AI cloud firm Neysa raises \$20 million

**Bengaluru: AI cloud and platform-as-a-service startup Neysa has secured \$20 million led by Matrix Partners India, Nexus Venture Partners, and NTTVC to accelerate the adoption of genAI platforms and services, empowering customers to harness the power of AI/ML in their businesses. Neysa is co-founded by Netmagic founder Sharad Sanghi and Anindya Das. Silicon Valley investor B V Jagadeesh will be the chairman of the firm. Neysa deploys and scales up customers'**



ML projects on the AI cloud platform with three distinct offerings — Nebula, Palvera, and Aegis. Neysa has embraced an integrated approach and industry vertical solutions to accelerate generative AI adoption in enterprises across India and globally. "Our goal is to

leverage this funding to push the limits of innovation, assisting our clients with the power of our end-to-end generative AI PaaS ecosystem and our AI-engineered observability platform, in a way that provides demonstrable and tangible outcomes for their business.

## Pizza outlet gets FDA notice for discrepancies

**Mumbai: Maharashtra FDA served an improvement notice to Pizza Hut's franchise owner Sapphire Foods India Ltd in Goregaon this past week citing 11 violations and asking it to make further rectifications to avoid legal consequences. The notice follows action against an outlet of the pizza chain in Aurangabad that was shut down for three days from April 3 to 5 for "failure to amend mislabelling and display violations." The regulatory body has pointed to "misleading ingredient labelling" after finding that a cheese pizza variety had "just 1.5% cheese". It has also hauled up the popular chain for "undisclosed use of cheese and paneer substitutes, "excessive salt levels, missing allergenic warnings, and inadequate separation of**

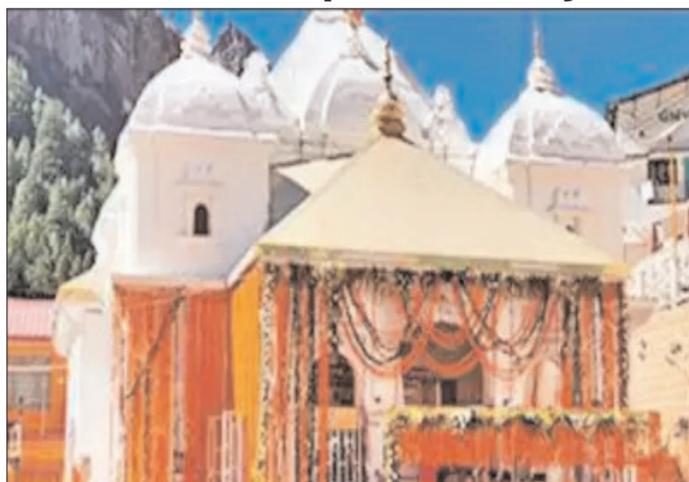


vegetarian and non-vegetarian items". FDA commissioner Abhimanyu Kale told TOI: "We expect leading brands to be mindful of their role towards serving healthy and safe food." "The white cheese dressing used in the pizza contained a mere 1.5% cheese powder, with the primary components being water and refined soybean oil," said Kale. Therefore, labelling such an item as 'cheese' is misleading and a violation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, he said. FDA also pointed out "high saturated fat and sodium content" in certain items and said

they should be clearly displayed to inform consumers. FDA officials said it is mandatory for restaurants to analyze their popular food combinations in terms of nutritional facts at least once in six months and mandatorily maintain such records. Some establishments were also found to be using cheese.

analogues instead of real cheese and paneer, misleading customers and potentially engaging in "financial fraud", the FDA notice read. Shailesh Adhao, joint commissioner (food) said at some of the outlets, raw and cooked food items.

## Doors of Yamunotri, Gangotri shrines to open on May 10



**UTTARKASHI: The portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri shrines will open for devotees on May 10, the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, announced the Gangotri temple committee on Tuesday. Suresh Semwal, secretary of the committee, said, "The portals of the temple will open at the auspicious time**

of 12.25pm on May 10," adding that on the day before, "the procession of goddess Ganga will start from the Mukhba village, the winter adobe of the goddess. After an overnight halt at Bhairav temple, the idol will reach Gangotri shrine next day." Meanwhile, doors of Yamunotri shrine will also open

on May 10 and the time of opening will be officially announced on April 14. This year, Char Dham Yatra will begin on May 10, with the opening of three of four shrines, including Gangotri, Yamunotri and Kedarnath. The doors of Badrinath shrine will open on May 12.

## Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles Launches the New Stealth Dual-tone Perak

**Gurugram / Faridabad :** In a significant announcement for the year 2024, Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles is delighted to introduce the flagship Jawa Perak now in an all-new stealth dual-tone paint scheme, meticulous brass work, along with forward-set foot pegs and enhanced rear mono-shock. It has also rolled out revisions across its Bobber range, aimed at elevating the riding experience and accessibility for enthusiasts; the Jawa 42 Bobber is now available from a thrilling price point of Rs 2.09 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi) and new alloy wheel variants. Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles, a leading name in the Indian motorcycle market, continues to redefine the Bobber segment with its iconic models, the Jawa Perak and Jawa 42 Bobber. These bikes have not only established a thriving Bobber culture in India but also garnered immense popularity among enthusiasts who appreciate authentic styling and sporty performance. Commenting on the launch, Ashish Singh Joshi, CEO of Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles, stated, "The Jawa Perak quickly became one of our top-selling models, a testament to India's growing aspirational market. The 42 Bobber only cemented our segment domination further. The bobber mindset is an acquired one; you either have it or don't. You must ride it to know if you have it. That said, the Jawa Perak's new design does tempt you over to the dark side!" Bobbers are renowned for their unique appeal, catering to riders who prioritize both style and performance. The Jawa Perak and Jawa 42 Bobber deliver an unparalleled experience in this segment. The 2024 Jawa Perak from the Heritage collection sets new standards in the premium Bobber segment.

## No extra lawyer meetings for CM, says court

**New Delhi:** A court on Wednesday dismissed an application moved by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking permission to have five weekly meetings with his lawyers instead of the two permitted, noting that he had been using the allotted time for "purposes other than legal interviews". The court of special judge Kaveri Baweja observed in its 15-page order, "The applicant has failed to satisfy this court that he has been using the two permitted legal meetings per week solely for the purpose of discussing the pending litigation with his counsels. The status report/note filed by the investigating agency indicates that the applicant had dictated certain directions for being passed on to the water minister to one of his lawyers (whose name he refused to disclose to the investigating agency) during the course of a legal meeting." Kejriwal, arrested by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case



connected to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, is in judicial custody in Tihar Jail. Both the jail authorities and ED submitted in the status report and replies that the legal interviews were being "misused" by Kejriwal for "extraneous purposes". Kejriwal contended that he had 30-35 ongoing litigations across states, including Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Assam and Delhi, and needed to discuss them with his counsel. In response, the court said there seemed to be no objective criteria for assessing whether five or two meetings would be sufficient to address the concern of the accused. "In the absence of any such objective criteria for assessment, the

prayer of the applicant... not only appears to be whimsical but also seems to have been made without any statistical basis or objective standards for assessment," it added. Further, refusing to accept Delhi CM's submission claiming parity with another accused, Sanjay Singh, who was allowed additional meetings with his lawyers, the court noted that the Feb 22 order was passed not only without hearing the opposite side as well as the jail authorities but the relevant jail rules were also not considered. "Hence, this court is of the opinion that the order... can neither be treated as a precedent nor can this application be allowed on the ground of parity," it said.

## Shot that may free pregnant women of anaemia

**New Delhi:** Ferric carboxymaltose (FCM), an injection used for treating iron deficiency in cancer and chronic kidney disease patients worldwide, was found by AIIMS doctors to be effective and safe for pregnant women with moderate to severe anaemia. A new "indigenous" molecule of FCM, which was used as a single shot in various departments in AIIMS for the last two years, was included in the Centre's Anaemia Mukta Bharat Programme in Feb 2024 to treat pregnant women with iron deficiency. Professor Kapil Yadav of the Centre for Community Medicine at

AIIMS said one shot can be used as a substitute for blood transfusion in patients with severe anaemia. It can also be the first line of treatment in patients with moderate anaemia. At least 3-5% of pregnant women are reported to be severely anaemic. The World Health Organization's classification of anaemia says that pregnant women whose haemoglobin (Hb) level is from 10.0-10.9 g/dL are mildly anaemic, while Hb levels between 7.0 and 9.9 g/dL are deemed to be moderately anaemic. Hb levels below 7.0 g/dL are classified as severely anaemic. Iron plays a crucial role in the pro-

duction of red blood cells in the human body. Its deficiency leads to an insufficient number of healthy red blood cells, necessary for maintaining optimal well-being. This state of inadequate iron levels is referred to as iron deficiency or, more specifically, iron deficiency anaemia. Earlier, 5-6 injections were administered to patients with severe anaemia, Professor Yadav said. This treatment had "side effects too, such as anaphylaxis, a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction", he said. In anaphylaxis, the immune system releases a flood of chemicals that can cause the body to go into shock.

## Aya Nagar pond polluted, needs maintenance, DPCC tells NGT

**New Delhi:** Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has submitted a report to National Green Tribunal (NGT), informing it about the condition of a pond in the Aya Nagar area. The report states that the water body is being polluted and must

be maintained. The pond, identified by Khasra No. 1706, is also listed by the Delhi Wetland Authority as one of the 1,040 water bodies meant to be notified. It was observed that there is no sewerage system in the area, leading to the discharge

ending up in the pond itself. The tribunal had in Nov 2023 asked DPCC to inspect the site. An inspection was carried out in Feb this year. In a report dated March 12, which was released recently, DPCC presented its observations.

## CAPSULES

### Save Constitution': AAP to take pledge on April 14

**New Delhi:** Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday said it would observe Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary on April 14 as Samvidhan Bachao, Tanashahi Hatao Divas on the advice of incarcerated chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

According to AAP leader Gopal Rai, in another message from Tihar Jail, Kejriwal asked party MLAs and volunteers to work to ensure that the people of Delhi faced no problems. Rai said, "Arvind Kejriwal has sent two messages from the jail. First, he has said even in the current difficult situation, the party has to continue serving the people of Delhi. He said all AAP leaders and workers should connect with people and try to solve their problems as much as possible."

Rai continued, "Secondly, he said we were ready to bear all atrocities by this dictatorial central govt. But right now, it is most important to save the Constitution and democracy. So, he has sent us the message that on April 14 on Ambedkar's birth anniversary, the party should observe Samvidhan Bachao, Tanashahi Hatao Divas across the country." Accordingly on April 14, Rai said, AAP workers will gather across the country with photographs of Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, and take a pledge to fight for and protect the supreme law of the country.

## NDMC begins geo-tag match for 50,000 properties

**New Delhi:** NDMC has started the process of linking geo-tag details to 50,000 properties based on data from a survey. The council aims to complete the process this fiscal. Later, residents will be invited to verify the details once these are uploaded on a portal, or upload details for left-out properties. "The move aims to update the data on properties in the tax net and assist in classification and assessment of tax.



We are verifying the latitude and longitude of all properties or units," an official said. NDMC has issued IDs to 16,500 properties. "But some of these property IDs may consist of more than one

unit. For example, we have given one property ID to the West Kidwai Nagar area. So is the case with ministries and other such premises because a consolidated property tax is paid for them by

the ministry or department concerned. But these have multiple flats and offices. This initiative aims to cover details of all the units," the official said.

## 3 women among 4 held for running trafficking racket, 2 infants rescued

**New Delhi:** Four people, including three women, were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly running a child trafficking gang. Two infants — one only 15 days old and the other three months old — were rescued by police during a raid.

The gang allegedly targeted economically disadvantaged families in Punjab. They would tempt these families and persuade them to give up their children, only to later sell them to other parties for profit, police said. The accused were iden-



tified as Gurmeet Singh (41), Hasmeet Kaur (37), Mariyam (30), and Naina (24), all residents of Delhi. Police received information on April 2 regarding a child trafficking gang seen operating near a hospital in Nangloi. Soon the team apprehended four indi-

viduals. Among those detained was a woman carrying a newborn girl, estimated to be between 15 and 20 days old. The group was making arrangements to transport the infant to an undisclosed location. Police found that the infant was originally

bought from Fazilka in Punjab. She was to be sold for a hefty sum. Police have informed her parents about it. "The accused obtained this baby girl from Punjab and tried to sell her in Uttar Pradesh but could not find a customer. Later, they tried to sell her in Delhi but were caught," police said. Police are also probing whether the child was sold multiple times. The accused disclosed that they had sold another 3-month-old child for Rs 2.5 lakh to a couple in Chandigarh.

## India now 4th largest exporter of digitally delivered services

**New Delhi:** Amid a more optimistic picture of global trade in 2024, there is more good news for India, which has now emerged as fourth largest exporter of digitally delivered services, whose share has now increased to more than a fifth of international trade in services. Data released by WTO in the Global Trade Outlook and Statistics estimated India's digitally delivered services exports at \$257 billion in 2023, 17% higher than the previous year. Having pipped Germany, India lags the US, the UK and Ireland. Digitally delivered services — using computer networks to provide professional services to education, gaming and streaming music and videos — itself has seen a sharp increase over the last two decades, now accounting for over



one-fifth of global services trade, compared with 14% in 2005. Their exports are now 50% higher than pre-Covid levels, bucking the falling trend seen in goods trade. "Use of artificial intelligence (AI), including models capable of creating content, such as text, images, music or even videos, increased rapidly in 2023. These technologies are set to revolutionise various aspects of the economy, leading to increased efficiency, innovation, cost savings, personalization

opportunities, creation of new jobs, and economic growth, further boosting trade in digitally delivered services," the report said. Overall, the WTO expects the global economy and trade to improve. After a 1.2% decline in goods trade volume, the multilateral body on Wednesday forecast a 2.6% increase in 2024. In value terms, world goods trade, measured by the average of exports and imports, fell 5% in 2023 to \$24 trillion, while commercial services.

## RRTS, Metro to come face to face at New Ashok Nagar

**New Delhi:** At New Ashok Nagar, passengers can see the Namo Bharat RRTS and Delhi Metro trains crisscross by early 2025. The two trains will also cross each other at Ghaziabad. The Namo Bharat and Delhi Metro trains also traverse at Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan, but people will not be able to see the trains cutting across each other here because the RRTS station at Anand Vihar is underground while the metro station is elevated and it is the other way round at Sarai Kale Khan. The entire 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is likely to become operational from June 2025, but the trial run in the Delhi segment may start by early 2025. The 14-km stretch in Delhi has four stations: Anand Vihar, Sarai Kale Khan,



New Ashok Nagar and Jangpura. In the Delhi section, the RRTS stations at Anand Vihar, Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar are being constructed close to metro stations to facilitate seamless connectivity. "It was a challenging task to construct new infrastructure close to an existing one. It was possible only due to both the train companies wanting the passengers to enjoy hassle-free movement

from one transport mode to the other," said an official of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), executor of the RRTS project. The Anand Vihar RRTS station will be 297 metres long and 35 metres wide. For the convenience of passengers, three lifts (one to access the platform and two to connect to Delhi Metro), five escalators (three to access the platform and two to connect to

the metro), and two entry/exit gates will be built. One entrance will be towards Chaudhary Charan Singh Marg and the other towards Anand Vihar Railway Station. "With multi-modal integration at its core, the 215m long, 50m wide and 15m high Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station is located close to the Delhi Metro station, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station and Vir Haqiqat Rai ISBT.

### 17-year-old model raped by three men in Moradabad hotel

**BAREILLY:** A 17-year-old girl returning from a modelling assignment was allegedly raped by three men in a hotel in UP's Moradabad on Monday. Investigating officer inspector Usha Malik told "The girl alleged she was sedated by three friends, one of whom was known to her, and offered her a lift from New Delhi to Moradabad in their car. The accused first raped her in the moving car and then took her to a hotel room, where they took turns raping her." The accused were identified as Bharat Singh, Anil, and Waseem alias Sonu from Ghaziabad. They were booked under sections of the IPC, along with Pco Act and SC/ST Act. The girl, from Sambhal, had gone for a modelling assignment to Jaipur and then came to Delhi, where she was waiting for a bus at Dhaukuan Metro station. The accused offered her a lift in their car, and since she knew one of them, she didn't hesitate.

## Tamana Organizes Human Chain Event to Commemorate

**New Delhi:** World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), recognized by the United Nations since April 2, 2007, stands as a beacon for advocating the rights and freedoms of individuals with autism. In alignment with this noble cause, Tamana, a pioneering NGO in India, marked the occasion with a remarkable initiative. Established in 1984 by the mother of Tamana, a child born with Cerebral Palsy, Tamana has been a trailblazer in addressing disabilities. Notably, in 1995, Tamana became the first NGO in India to recognize autism as a distinct disability and initiated specialized programs for individuals on the spectrum. The inauguration of the Tamana Autism Centre School of Hope in 2003, graced by the esteemed Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, further solidified Tamana's commitment to serving the autism community with world-class facilities and unwavering

support. This year, Tamana celebrated WAAD 2024 by fostering unity and inclusivity through a unique event. Mainstream schools- including Modern School Vasant Vihar, Springdales School, Dhaura Kuan, KR Mangalam School, Prudence School, Dwarka- joined hands with Tamana Autism Centre students to form a symbolic human chain. This collective gesture symbolized solidarity and underscored the importance of embracing diversity while recognizing the unique talents and capabilities of every individual.

The event encompassed various awareness activities, including the screening of an autism-themed film and a compelling street play performed by students from the Tamana Teacher Training Cell. Additionally, students with neurodiversity showcased their remarkable singing and dancing talents

through a cultural program, captivating the audience with their sheer enthusiasm and spirit. Dr. Shayama Chona, President of Tamana and a recipient of the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards, expressed, "At Tamana, we believe in fostering a culture of understanding and compassion through inclusive events. Our collaboration with mainstream schools not only enriches the experiences of typically developing students but also contributes significantly to the broader movement for autism awareness and acceptance." Tamana's legacy of excellence in disability advocacy has been recognized nationally and internationally. The organization was honored with the National Award for Best Institution for Child Welfare in 2010 and granted Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2005.

## Cricketer, IITian: How a bright lad's path spun towards a dark 'terror' alley



**NEW DELHI:** Tauseef Ali Farooqui was a promising cricketer. Known for his left-arm spin in the neighbourhood and the cricket academy, the lad even aspired to play for India one day. He distinguished himself academically too

- it took him just a single attempt to crack the IIT entrance exams after passing out from Sanskriti School in Chanakyapuri. He enrolled as a student of biotechnology at IIT Guwahati. In his final year at IIT, the

22-year-old has been arrested by Assam Police under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for openly expressing his goal of joining terror outfit IS on emails and LinkedIn post.

## 'More than Z+': Odisha BJP asks EC to downsize Pandian security

**BHUBANESHWAR:** BJP moved poll authorities on Saturday seeking withdrawal of "unnecessary security benefits" given to VK Pandian, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik's aide and BJD leader, claiming his squad of 74 personnel outstripped even Z+

cover of 55 guards. The move came a day some RTI activists shared the information about security of Pandian, who currently holds cabinet rank. Pandian is protected by two SIs, 12 havildars, 56 constables and four women constables. A

BJD spokesperson declined to comment on the matter. As per a memorandum submitted by BJP leader Surath Biswal and others to chief electoral officer Nikunja Bihari Dhal, such huge deployment using public money violates model code.

## NC set to hand Ladakh Lok Sabha seat to Congress

**NEW DELHI:** Congress is likely to contest Ladakh parliamentary seat in upcoming 2024 elections, which will make it the third seat of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state to come to the party's kitty. Sources said partner National Conference has agreed to Congress's claim on Ladakh seat of the newly-carved UT. It will be some consolation for the principal opposition party which was keen on securing Anantnag constituency in Kashmir region, only to be rebuffed by ally NC which asked Congress to contest two seats in Jammu region, a difficult turf in view of ruling BJP's stranglehold on the area. A senior Congress leader said, "We will contest the Ladakh seat. It has been decided. We were also keen on Anantnag where we performed well last time, but National Conference is unwilling. Congress is making sacrifices for the larger cause of opposition unity."

## PWD to inspect 100 flyovers in city for repair

**New Delhi:** Public Works Department (PWD) has directed officials to carry out inspections of 100 flyovers in the city for any structural defect for their timely repair and maintenance. According to its latest order, PWD's maintenance wing will be given responsibility after the flyover construction work is completed in some cases and for rest of the existing ones as well. "Routine maintenance works like painting, desilting, re-carpeting, pothole repair, road marking, signage etc should be done by the maintenance team. Maintenance unit should continue to inspect the flyovers, underpasses, bridges in general and intimate any defect in the structure to the flyover unit."

## Experience Effortless Facial Hair Removal with the KAI CAN Face Razor

**New Delhi:** KAI India, a leading name in personal grooming products, offers the CAN Face Razor for Women. This revolutionary product is designed to give women a painless and effortless way to achieve smooth, flawless, and radiant facial skin, free from unwanted hair. KAI India is the Indian subsidiary of Japan's leading brand KAI, with over a 115-year legacy in crafting exceptional beauty tools. The CAN Face Razor is easy to use, glides smoothly on the face, and leaves the skin feeling softer,

brighter, and clear. With its specially designed blade using PTFE Technology, the razor requires less force while shaving, and its special coating keeps the blades rust-resistant, durable, and sharper for an extended period. The double-coated stainless steel blade, with protective skin guards, make shaving safe and avoid any cuts or skin abrasions. The anti-slip handle ensures a perfect grip, providing smooth and precise shaving. The protective blade cover makes it travel-friendly and protects the blade

from dust. Mr. Rajesh U. Pandya, Managing Director, KAI India, said, "The CAN Face razors are safe, suitable for all skin types, and even removes the tiniest of hair with precision. After using the CAN Face Razor, the skin will be smoother, making it the perfect canvas for better application of skincare products and makeup. Shaving facial areas will become a lot easier in just a few minutes." The KAI India CAN Face Razor is available on their website [www.kai-indiaonline.com](http://www.kai-indiaonline.com) and all other leading e-com-

merce platforms for INR 279/- only. Say goodbye to unwanted facial hair and welcome smooth, flawless, and radiant skin with KAI India's CAN Face Razor. Founded in Seki in 1908, KAI group products have cult status in Japan. The brand is known for its high-quality beauty care and personal grooming products integrating practical aesthetics with refined craftsmanship providing well-designed, innovative houseware, and beauty care products that are used widely in day-to-day lives.

## Lost & not found: 22% rise in misplaced, stolen phones

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi witnessed a rise of 22% in the number of lost and stolen mobile phones in 2023 compared with the previous year. From 2.8 lakh such cases in 2022, the figure jumped to 3.4 lakh last year. Police have not revealed the details of the recovery, but sources said it was minuscule. The reasons behind the spurt and the dismal recovery are many. Gangs use technology to make the police's job of tracing these phones difficult. These criminals operate in an organised network. Snatchers,



robbers and thieves work together, selling stolen phones at discounted prices to mobile shop owners. These shopowners then tamper with the phones' IMEI numbers and resell them to unsuspecting customers

or even ship them to other countries, allowing them to earn significant profits from this criminal activity, cops say. Lost & Not Found: 22% Rise In Misplaced, Stolen Phones Last year, Delhi Police's

Crime Branch busted a gang that employed a sophisticated smuggling method. The gang prepared and packed several bundles, each containing 40 phones, into bags. These bags were then handed over to drivers or cleaners of tourist buses plying on the Delhi-Nepal route. The gang would inform their accomplices in Nepal about the bus numbers beforehand. A key member of the gang received between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,500 per phone, depending on its condition, through hawala channels.

## Battered & burned, teen help flees captivity

**NEW DELHI:** A teen domestic worker was allegedly beaten with rods and subjected to burns by her employer in Ghaziabad. The girl who managed to escape from the house of her employer on the eve of Holi is undergoing treatment for injuries at a Ghaziabad hospital. Police have registered an FIR in the case. The girl came to the city around a year ago from Siliguri in West Bengal. A relative had got her a job as a domestic worker in the house of Reema Sharma, a single mother, in Ghaziabad's Vasundhara. "My mother is a labourer in a tea garden and the only one with an income. I wasn't attending school, so my family and I decided it would be best if I worked in the city and contributed to the family finances," said the 17-year-old girl. The torture started soon after, she alleged.

"My employer beat me with rods and made me work from 6am to two at night. Once she poured boiling water on my leg when I couldn't finish a task," the teenager said, showing scald marks on her left leg and a swollen right ear on Tuesday. She couldn't tell her parents about this because she did not have a phone. "Once, when my employer let me speak to my mother on her phone, I tried telling my mother about my ordeal. That night, I was mercilessly beaten for trying to inform my mother about my state," claimed the girl, whose body showed numerous injury marks. On March 24, her employer allegedly beat her mercilessly over household chores. "I somehow mustered courage and escaped," the traumatised girl said. She hid herself under the stairs of the building all

night. In the wee hours the next morning, the colony security guard noticed her and alerted the housing society secretary, who contacted Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), a child's rights NGO. BBA took the girl to the hospital, where she is undergoing treatment. Police have filed an FIR against Sharma. Unable to speak properly due to injuries and seeking justice, the girl said, "I want my employer to be punished in the same way she punished me." Manish Sharma, director, BBA, said, "As if stripping them of their childhood isn't enough, girls brought from distant places from vulnerable families are tortured, abused and made to live in horrifying conditions. We need stricter laws and monitoring of placement agencies if we want to save our children from such abuses."

## The BPCL Sanawar Polo 2024 Hosted by the Old Sanawarian Society

**New Delhi:** The BPCL Sanawar Polo 2024, hosted by the Old Sanawarian Society, unfolded amidst the vibrant ambiance of Delhi's Jaipur Polo grounds on a delightful afternoon of March 30th, 2024. Polo aficionados gathered to witness this prestigious event, which was co-hosted by entrepreneur Sunayana Chibba. Some of the esteemed guests present at the event were Arjuna Awardee Col Billy Sodhi (Senior Most Living Polo Player in India), Polo Players Jai Shergill, Youngest Polo Player Jaiman Shergill, Jaimal Shergill, Donna Chadha, Amarjyot Hundal, Pankaj Sappru President OSA, Riyad Kundenmal, Uday Kalyan, Angad Kalan also part of Indian World Cup team, Mau Shergill, Afsana Cherian Kapoor, Rajendra Singh Chadha, Aparna Verma to name a few. The event featured two exhilarating exhibition matches: traditional Polo and Cycle Polo, with teams predominantly composed of Old Sanawarians. Adding to the



spectacle were the officers of the 61st Cavalry, showcasing their equestrian prowess. The splendid performance by the Army Band further enhanced the atmosphere. Attendees numbering over 300 included distinguished personalities from the National Capital Region (NCR), notable alumni of Sanawar, senior bureaucrats, leading industrialists, accomplished scientists, renowned doctors, eminent artists, and prominent figures from the film and media industry. During the presentation ceremony, 14 revered Old Sanawarian Polo players were honored with Lifetime

Achievement Awards. Among them were several Arjuna awardees who had represented and captained the Indian Polo team since the 1960s. The esteemed gathering paid tribute to these stalwarts, with Col. (Retd.) H S Sodhi VSM, the senior most among them, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. The presentation party included representatives from the Title Sponsor Bharat Petroleum, Co-Sponsor Hero Insurance Broking, Gifting Sponsor Shaza Life, the Headmaster of The Lawrence School, Sanawar, and the President of The Old Sanawarian Society.

## Landlord, nephew kill man for using 'foul language' in northeast Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** A 47-year-old man, employed as a marshal with the DTC, has been killed allegedly by his landlord and landlord's nephew for using foul language in northeast Delhi's Karawal Nagar area. While suspect Rahul (30) was arrested, landlord Sunil (50) remains at large, police said on Wednesday. After receiving a PCR call at 12.15am on Monday regarding the incident, a police team was rushed to the spot to find that victim Satvir had been rushed to the hospital. "When admitted, the victim was unconscious, displaying injuries to his limbs but none on vital areas" said Joy Tirkey, DCP (north-east).

## Wherever he wants to go...': Rayudu believes other IPL franchises will 'treat Rohit better'



NEW DELHI: Ever since Hardik Pandya took over the reins of Mumbai Indians from Rohit Sharma, fans and cricket pundits have been pretty vocal about the manner in which the captaincy changed hands at one of the most successful IPL franchises and have been blunt in expressing their displeasure. Be it the booring of Hardik at various venues and on social media or the crowd rallying behind Rohit, the captaincy change move from MI hasn't gone down well. And to go with that, various reports spec-

ulating Rohit might move to a different franchise next season have added fuel to fire. With Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants admitting to having Rohit in their side will be a massive bonus, former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu too jumped in on the Rohit's speculated move debate, saying that MI didn't treat him well during the entire captaincy switch saga. "It's Rohit Sharma's call. Wherever he wants to go, he can go. All the IPL teams would love to have him as the captain. I

am sure he'll go to a franchise that maybe treats him better than what has happened here," Rayudu said on a Star Sports show. IPL 2024 Points table Rohit led MI to five IPL titles before the franchise late last year announced that a returning Hardik will take the baton from the opener in IPL 2024. MI started the 17th edition under Hardik with a hat-trick of defeats and finally had their first win of the season against Delhi Capitals at their home last week.

## Shubman Gill overtakes Virat Kohli for this big record in IPL

NEW DELHI: Shubman Gill on Wednesday etched his name in the history books of the Indian Premier League (IPL) by becoming the youngest player to reach 3000 runs in the tournament. Playing against Rajasthan Royals, Gujarat Titans skipper Gill, who also completed 4000 T20 runs, achieved this impressive milestone at the age of 24 years and 215 days, surpassing the previous record held by Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting maestro Virat Kohli, who did it in 26 years and 186 days. Sanju Samson (26 years and 320 days) is at the third spot followed by



Suresh Raina (27 years and 161 days) and Rohit Sharma (27 years and 343 days). Gill's accomplishment at such a youthful stage of his career underscores his exceptional talent and potential as a batsman. Since his debut in the IPL, Gill has consistently showcased his batting prowess, combining

classical technique with innovative stroke play. His ability to anchor innings and score runs consistently has established him as a key player. At just 24 years old, Gill's achievement serves as a testament to his maturity and cricketing acumen beyond his years.

## Alina Saldanha, a former Goa minister, joins the Congress

Delhi: Alina Saldanha, a two-term Cortalim MLA and former minister of forests and environment, joined the Congress with her supporters. Saldanha (72) resigned from both the primary membership of the BJP and as an MLA, and in December 2021,

he joined the Aam Aadmi Party. Additionally, in January of this year, Saldanha resigned from the AAP. She remembered, "I remember my days as a young person when the Congress ruled the state," in a speech she gave after entering the

Congress. The state was in a state of law and order and harmony. There was camaraderie between different communities. Other large states in the nation took note from our tiny state. Saldanha remarked, "I feel like we are missing those days..."

## Ashutosh Sharma: Umpiring for money, depression after row with coach

NEW DELHI: Before his brilliance in the ongoing IPL, Ashutosh Sharma was best known for breaking Yuvraj Singh's long-standing record of hitting the fastest fifty in T20 cricket by an Indian. Representing Railways, Sharma blazed to an 11-ball half-century against Arunachal Pradesh at the 2023 Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament – a ball less than Yuvraj's unforgettable 12-ball fifty against England at the 2007 T20 World Cup. Despite his record-breaking feat last year, Sharma's moment in



the sun came with back-to-back lion-hearted knocks for Punjab Kings in the IPL. The first one (31 off 17b) resulted in a thrilling victory for Punjab against Gujarat Titans, while the second (33\* off 15b) nearly got his team home against Sunrisers

Hyderabad. Ashutosh was born in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh; he played age-group cricket for his home state and then went on to play List A as well as T20s for MP. The streets of Ratlam couldn't give wings to Ashutosh's crickering dreams so he moved to

Indore. "I left Ratlam as an 8-year-old and moved to Indore for cricket coaching," Ashutosh told TOI during an interaction. The shift to Indore also brought some harsh realities with it. "Khaane ko paise nahi hote the (I didn't have money to sustain myself). I didn't know where the next meal would come from. I was just 10 (years) at that time. It was a small, very small room where I lived." I then picked up umpiring to earn some money, I also washed clothes to make ends meet.

## 'I am your biggest cheerleader': Dhanashree showers love on Yuzvendra

NEW DELHI: Dhanashree Verma, wife of Rajasthan Royals spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, expressed her affection and admiration for her husband as he marked his 150th match in the Indian Premier League. Chahal achieved this milestone during RR's match against Gujarat Titans on Wednesday in Jaipur. "Hey Yuzi, congratulations for your 150th IPL match today. I have said this before also and I will say this today also, congratulations. We are super proud of you and the



way you have contributed all these years to your previous teams and now to Rajasthan Royals. I am sure even they are super proud of how you play your game and every time you come back with a

bang," Dhanashree said in a video posted by RR on their X handle. She emphasized Chahal's knack for taking crucial wickets for his team at pivotal moments in the match. She expressed that she

is his biggest cheerleader and will always extend her unwavering support. "We all love you for that whenever there is pressure in the match you are just that one bowler who comes and takes a wicket. So Yuzi just be who you are, believe in your craft and your skill-set. We all are there to support you always. I am your biggest cheerleader and I will always support you 100%. So please go ahead, enjoy today's match. It's your 150th match. IPL match is a very big thing. So enjoy and yes Halla Bol!"

## Sanju overtakes Jos Buttler to register most fifty-plus scores for Rajasthan Royals

NEW DELHI: Rajasthan Royals' captain Sanju Samson continued his impressive form in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season, surpassing English batsman Jos Buttler to achieve the record for the most fifty-plus



scores for the franchise in T20 cricket. Samson achieved this milestone during Rajasthan Royals' IPL match against Gujarat Titans at Jaipur's Sawai Mansingh Stadium. POINTS TABLE | ORANGE CAP | PURPLE CAP The Kerala-born batsman played a stellar innings, scoring an unbeaten 68\* off just 38 balls, featuring seven fours and two sixes, at a striking rate of 178.95. This marked Samson's 23rd fifty for Rajasthan

Royals and his 25th score of fifty-plus when including his two centuries. In contrast, Jos Buttler has scored 24 fifty-plus scores for Rajasthan Royals, comprising six centuries and 18 fifties. Overall, Samson has amassed 3,649 runs in 131 matches for the franchise, boasting an average of 31.45 and a strike rate exceeding 139.86, including two centuries and 23 fifties. In the ongoing IPL season, Samson has accumulated 246 runs.

## Hardik is the glue holding Mumbai Indians' batting together, says Tim David

NEW DELHI: Mumbai Indians' all-rounder Tim David came to the defense of skipper Hardik Pandya's scoring rate in the ongoing IPL, emphasizing his role as the "glue" holding the batting together for the five-time champions. Despite Pandya scoring at a rate of 138.46, accumulating 108 runs in four matches while batting at various positions, there have been observations of his inability to accelerate the innings, particularly in the middle and lower order this season. In the opening match against his former team, the Gujarat Titans, Pandya faced pressure and managed only an 11-run innings off four balls in a challenging chase. Similarly, in the subsequent match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the MI skipper could



## 'Captain has the hardest job to speak...': Sanju Samson after suffering first defeat in IPL 2024

NEW DELHI: Gujarat Titans handed Rajasthan Royals their first defeat of the IPL 2024 after clinching a thrilling three-wicket victory in a gripping encounter in Jaipur on Wednesday. Riyan Parag's explosive 76 and Sanju Samson's unbeaten 68 guided Rajasthan Royals to a formida-

ble total of 196 for three, with the duo stitching a sensational 130-run partnership. Yet, Rashid Khan's unbeaten 24 and Rahul Tewatia's 22 proved crucial as they orchestrated a remarkable comeback, steering GT to victory on the final delivery of the innings.

GT skipper Shubman Gill showcased his prowess with a commanding 44-ball 72, playing a pivotal role in his team's successful chase. The match showcased thrilling performances from both sides, ultimately culminating in Gujarat Titans' dramatic triumph over Rajasthan Royals.

## OPS struggles with dummy candidates before LS

Delhi: In Ramanathapuram, expelled AIADMK rebel O Panneerselvam is running as a BJP-backed independent: At least three other O Panneerselvams have nominated; more may follow. Since OPS will not be running on a party emblem, his adversaries' 'dummy' candidates may make this impossible. OPS confidant V Pugazhendi accused EPS of fielding namesakes. "It is to prevent OPS from getting the preferred symbol as the returning officer will decide by lot if more than one independent candidate has given their first preference for the same free symbol," explained. Pugazhendi petitioned EC to freeze AIADMK's two leaves. OPS is O t t a k a r a t h e v a r Panneerselvam, but the others are Ochappan, Oyyaram, Oyyathevar, and Ochathevar.

## CAPSULES

### Oh, it is MS Dhoni': Vaughan and Doull sum up bowler's reaction to MSD's dropped catch vs KKR

NEW DELHI: In a recent Indian Premier League (IPL) match between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), fans witnessed an unusual moment involving the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Despite CSK ultimately securing victory by 7 wickets, the spotlight was on Dhoni for dropping an easy catch of West Indian marauder Andre Russell. The incident sparked a flurry of reactions among fans and pundits, as such occurrences are rare for someone of Dhoni's calibre, known for his exceptional skills behind the stumps. However, even the best can have off moments, and this instance served as a reminder of the unpredictable nature of cricket. The incident happened in the eighth ball of the 18th over, Mustafizur Rahman executed a deceptive slower delivery aimed at Andre Russell, managing to elicit an edge from the KKR all-rounder. Despite the skillful execution, Dhoni, positioned behind the stumps, failed to secure the catch, attempting it with just one hand. Rituraj Gaikwad, who was fielding near the boundary line, momentarily stunned by the missed opportunity. However, despite the lifeline provided by the dropped catch, Russell couldn't capitalise on the reprieve and was dismissed soon after for just 10 runs.