

Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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PG 02
SpaceX to launch ISRO's GSAT-N2 satellite from US on Today

PG 03
BJP Calls It 'Courageous Step' Amid AAP's Allegations of 'Dirty Politics and Conspiracy'



PG 06
Air quality worsens in Haryana, DCs to take call on suspending primary classes



PG 07
Aus captain Healy faces fitness issues for India ODI series



PG 08
Ramoji Group forays into millet food category

PM Modi Receives Nigeria's GCON Award

2nd Foreign Dignitary After Queen Elizabeth

Nigeria : The GCON has previously been awarded to Queen Elizabeth II in 1969, making Mr. Modi the second foreign dignitary to receive this prestigious honour. In a significant move to strengthen diplomatic ties between Nigeria and India, President Bola Tinubu has conferred the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) upon Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



The award was announced during a bilateral meeting held at the Aso Rock Presidential Villa in Abuja, where Mr. Modi was warmly received by President Tinubu. The Indian leader arrived in Abuja on Saturday evening and was welcomed with the Indian Anthem, followed

by a Guard of Honour and a 21-gun salute. President Tinubu emphasised that the honour is "to signify our appreciation of India as Nigeria's partner." This gesture underscores the strong strategic partnership between the two countries, which was established in 2007 during Dr. Manmohan Singh's state visit. Mr. Modi's visit is the first by an Indian prime minister since Dr. Manmohan Singh's state visit in 2007.

President Tinubu and Prime Minister Modi will engage in bilateral discussions to further enhance collaboration in critical sectors. The two leaders will exchange signed MOUs to strengthen cooperation in

key areas. The visit will feature delegation-level talks, marking a significant step forward in Nigeria-India relations.

This honour is the 17th international award conferred upon Prime Minister Modi, solidifying his reputation as a key player in global diplomacy. The Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) has previously been awarded to Queen Elizabeth II in 1969, making Mr. Modi the second foreign dignitary to receive this prestigious honour.

As Nigeria and India continue to foster their strategic partnership, this visit is expected to yield significant outcomes in areas such as economic development, energy, and defence. With over 200 Indian companies investing more than USD 27 billion in critical sectors in Nigeria, the bilateral relationship is poised for further growth and cooperation.

Delhi minister Gahlot resigns from cabinet and AAP, says party facing controversies

New Delhi : Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi minister Kailash Gahlot resigned from the cabinet and the party on Sunday, saying the outfit is facing grave challenges and controversies.



In a letter to AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Gahlot expressed concerns over the party's deviation from its core values, stating that political ambitions have overtaken its commitment to the people.

Thanking Kejriwal for giving him the honour of serving and representing the people of Delhi as an MLA and a Minister, Gahlot said, "At the same time, I also want to share with you that today the Aam Aadmi Party faces grave challenges."

"Challenges from within, to the very values that brought us together to AAP. Political ambitions have overtaken our commitment towards people, leaving many promises unfulfilled," he said.

Highlighting unfulfilled promises, Gahlot mentioned the failure to clean the Yamuna River, which he said is "perhaps more polluted than ever before."

He also referred to controversies, including the "Sheeshmahal," calling it "embarrassing and awkward."

"These controversies are now making everyone doubt whether we still believe in being the AAMAADMI," he added.

Gahlot criticised the party for prioritising political agenda over public welfare, saying it has "severely crippled" its ability to deliver basic services.

He also raised concerns about the ongoing conflict between the Delhi government and the Centre, which, he believes, is hindering

progress in the capital.

"It is now obvious that real progress for Delhi cannot happen if the Delhi government spends the majority of its time fighting with the Centre," Gahlot said.

"I began my political journey to serve the people of Delhi, and I wish to continue doing so. Therefore, I have no option but to step away from AAP," Gahlot wrote in his resignation letter.

He thanked Kejriwal and his colleagues for their support during his tenure.

Sources said Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has accepted Gahlot's resignation.

PM Modi thanked Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

PM Modi in a post on X thanked Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the welcome and hoped his visit would deepen the bilateral ties.

"Thank you, President Tinubu. 'Landed a short while ago in Nigeria. Grateful for the warm welcome. May this visit deepen the bilateral friendship between our nations.'"

PM Modi was replying to a tweet by the Nigerian President welcoming him to the country, the first by an Indian PM since 2007.

"I look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his first visit to Nigeria, which is also the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to our dear country since 2007."

"Our bilateral discussions will seek to expand the strategic partnership between both countries and enhance cooperation in critical sectors," he posted.



The MEA spokespersons in a post said that PM Modi was welcomed by Minister for Federal Capital Territory Nyesom Ezenwo Wike.

"PM @narendramodi arrives in Abuja, Nigeria. 'Warmly welcomed by Minister for Federal Capital Territory Nyesom

Ezenwo Wike @GovWike, who presented PM with the 'Key to the City' of Abuja.

"The key symbolises the trust and honour bestowed on PM by the people of Nigeria."

According to Nigerian news sites, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive a ceremonial welcome at the Presidential Villa in Abuja on Sunday.

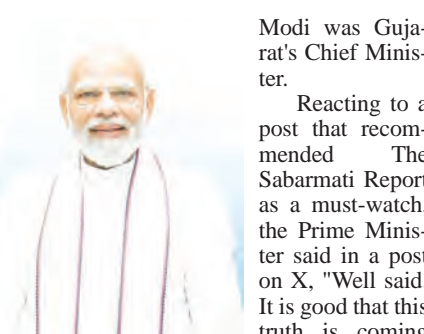
His visit to Nigeria will be the first by an Indian prime minister since Dr Manmohan Singh's state visit in 2007, when the two nations established a strategic partnership.

President Tinubu and Prime Minister Modi will hold talks to strengthen the bilateral ties further. Both leaders will exchange signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to enhance collaboration in critical sectors.

'A fake narrative can persist only for a limited period before the facts come out'

PM Modi's Post On The Sabarmati Report

New Delhi : A fake narrative can persist only for a limited period before the facts come out, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said in his response to The Sabarmati Report movie that released this Friday.



The movie, starring Vikrant Massey of 12th fail and Mirzapur fame, captures the events leading to the 2002 train burning incident near Gujarat's Godhra station. Fifty-nine passengers, many of them Hindu pilgrims travelling to Ayodhya to attend a religious event, died in the train fire that was later found to be an act of arson. Shortly after the train burning incident, riots broke out in Godhra, leading to over a 1,000 deaths. At the time, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi was Gujarat's Chief Minister. Reacting to a post that recommended The Sabarmati Report as a must-watch, the Prime Minister said in a post on X, "Well said. It is good that this truth is coming out, and that too in a way common people can see it. A fake narrative can persist only for a limited period of time. Eventually, the facts will always come out!" The Sabarmati Report has made Rs 1.69 crore at the box office on its opening day. It has been produced by the Ektaa R Kapoor-helmed Balaji Motion Pictures and directed by Dheeraj Sarna. Besides Mr Massey, it stars Raashii Khanna and Riddhi Dogra in key roles.

Arrested actress Kasthuri brought to Chennai from Hyd, remanded in judicial custody

Chennai : Popular South Indian film actress Kasthuri Shankar, who was arrested in Hyderabad last night for her alleged derogatory remarks against Telugu speaking people living in Tamil Nadu, was brought to Chennai on Sunday and remanded in judicial custody.



A special team from Chennai, which arrested Kasthuri after her anticipatory bail plea was dismissed by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on November 14, obtained a transit warrant from a Hyderabad court, and escorted her to Chennai on Sunday afternoon.

After preliminary interrogations at the Chintadripet All Women Police Station in Chennai, she was produced before an Egmore Magistrate Court at his residence, who remanded her in judicial custody till November 29.

She was later escorted to Puzhal Central prison. It may be recalled that Mr Justice N.Anand Venkatesh of the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court had on Thursday dismissed her anticipatory bail petition filed by the actress apprehending arrest in the case relating to her alleged derogatory remarks against Telugu community in Tamil Nadu on November three during a protest demonstration in Chennai on Brahmin Rights and opposed alleged dis-

crimination against Hindus. A complaint was filed with the Greater Chennai City Police Commissioner on November five by the All India Telugu Federation and cases were booked against her under Secs 192, 196(1)(a), 353(1)(b) and 353(2) of BNS (formerly IPC) by the Egmore police station.

Since then the Egmore police were on the look out for her and formed special teams to arrest her.

Yet another complaint was also filed at the Thirunagar police in Madurai which had registered a case against Kasthuri for alleged offences under Sections 196(1)(a), 197(1)(c), 296(b), 352, and 353(3) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) based on a complaint from the members of Tamil Nadu Naidu Mahajana Sangam. The Sangam in

a petition to the Commissioner of Police, Madurai city on November 5, alleged that the remarks made by Kasthuri against the Telugu speaking community and women were demeaning and disturbs the social fabric of the State. Her comments amounted to dividing the community in Tamil Nadu, stoking racial hatred and causing concern to people of the Naidu community.

Apprehending arrest in the case, the actress moved the Madras HC Bench seeking anticipatory bail. In her petition, Kasthuri said she had already issued a public apology and that her comments were specific to certain individuals and not directed at the broader Telugu community. The cases were filed against her due to political pressure.

She further stated that no riot or provocation had happened among any members of the society over her comments and she had been receiving support from the different quarters of the Telugu people across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

During the course of hearing of her plea, the court remarked that her comments were unwarranted and she should have refrained from speaking against the women of the Telugu community. Her apology does not address the comments made against the Telugu speaking women, the court said.

Cases were also registered against the actress by the police at Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore by the members of Tamil Nadu Naidu Mahajana Sangam.

DRDO carries flight-trial of long-range hypersonic missile off Odisha coast

New Delhi : Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-trial of India's first long-range hypersonic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

This flight-trial of hypersonic missile that was conducted late Saturday is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 km for the Armed Forces, an official statement said on Sunday.

The missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains.

The flight data obtained from downrange ship stations confirmed the successful terminal manoeuvres and impact with a high degree of accuracy.

This missile has been



indigenously developed by the laboratories of Dr APJ

Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, Hyderabad, along

with various other DRDO laboratories and industry partners.

The flight trial was carried out in the presence of senior scientists of DRDO and officers of the Armed Forces.

In a post on X, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the flight-trial as a historic achievement that has put India in the group of select nations having capabilities of such critical and advanced military technologies.

He congratulated DRDO, the Armed Forces, and the industry for the successful flight trial.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated the team of DRDO, which has actively contributed to this successful mission.

Recent violent clashes in Manipur deeply disturbing: Rahul

New Delhi : Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday termed the recent violent clashes in Manipur as 'deeply disturbing' and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the state and work towards restoring peace in the region.

On his social media handle X, Gandhi said, "The recent string of violent clashes and continuing bloodshed in

Manipur is deeply disturbing." He said, "After more than a year of division and suffering, it was the hope of every Indian that the central and state governments would have made every effort at reconciliation and found a solution," the Raebareilly MP said. "I urge the PM once again to visit Manipur and work towards restoring peace and healing in the region," Gandhi said.

Manipur is deeply disturbing." He said, "After more than a year of division and suffering, it was the hope of every Indian that the central and state governments would have made every effort at reconciliation and found a solution," the Raebareilly MP said. "I urge the PM once again to visit Manipur and work towards restoring peace and healing in the region," Gandhi said.

New Sri Lankan cabinet to be sworn in Monday

Colombo : The swearing-in ceremony for the new Sri Lankan cabinet will be held on Monday, the President's Media Division (PMD) announced on Sunday.

Cabinet ministers will be sworn in before President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, and deputy

ministers will also take their oaths, the PMD said. The president will name a 23-member cabinet, local media reported. President Dissanayake's National People's Power (NPP) won 159 seats out of 225 in the parliamentary election held on Nov. 14.



Parliament Standing Committee on Defence reviews Coast Security

Chennai: A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence reviewed the working of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in ensuring coastal security along India's vast maritime boundaries.

The Committee, which had also visited India's premier defence training establishment the Officers Training Academy, held the coastal security review meeting on Saturday, a defence release said today.

The delegation of Members of Parliament (MPs) was led by Radha Mohan Singh, who chaired the meeting.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and ICG also attended the meeting.

The ICG was represented by ICG Director General S Paramesh who provided a comprehensive overview of the Coast Guard's operational capabilities, strategic initiatives, and preparedness to address the nation's coastal security challenges.

The discussion focused on ICG's ongoing efforts to safeguard India's maritime interests, improve coordination with various stakeholders, and enhance response mechanisms for ensuring maritime safety and security.

During the review, Paramesh briefed the Committee on the various facets of ICG operations, including its extensive surveillance systems, advanced

vessel fleet, and specialized response units.

The ICG's role in preventing maritime security threats, such as illegal fishing, smuggling, and human trafficking, were also highlighted.

The Committee members expressed their satisfaction with the ICG's recent achievements, acknowledging the force's significant progress in strengthening coastal security infrastructure, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and implementing cutting-edge technologies.

They commended the ICG's proactive role in safeguarding India's 11,098 km coastline and ensuring the security of vital maritime trade routes.



SpaceX to launch ISRO's GSAT-N2 satellite from US on Today

Chennai: SpaceX is targeting Monday (tomorrow) for Falcon 9's launch of ISRO's advanced communication satellite 4,700 kg GSAT-N2 into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, US. The two-hour window opens at 1:31 p.m. ET.

If needed, a backup opportunity is available on Tuesday, November 19 during a two-hour window that opens at 4:33 a.m. ET, SpaceX said in its website.

This will be the 19th flight for the Falcon 9 first stage booster supporting this mission, which previously launched SES-22, space's HAKUTO-R MISSION 1, Amazonas-6, CRS-27, Bandwagon-1, and 13 Starlink missions.

After stage separation, the first stage will land on the Just Read the Instructions dronship, which will be stationed in the Atlantic Ocean. GSAT-20 (also known as CMS-03 or GSAT-N2) is a communication satellite developed by ISRO and will be launched by a SpaceX Falcon 9, ISRO said.

It will be a commercial mission. Though ISRO's LMV-3 which has the capacity to launch satellites weighing upto 4,000 kg into the GTO, the Indian Space Agency chose to launch it using Elon Musk-owned SpaceX's Falcon-9 launch vehicle from US, as it weighed 4,700 kg.

This will be ISRO's first



commercial launch using SpaceX. The GSAT-20, funded, owned and operated by New Space India Limited (NSIL), will be a continuation of GSAT series of communication satellites and is intended to add data transmission capacity to the communication infrastructure required by Smart Cities Mission of India.

The entire capacity on-board CMS-02 satellite will be leased to Dish TV. GSAT-N2 (GSAT-20) is a Ka-band High throughput communication satellite of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under the Department of Space and the commercial arm of ISRO. GSAT-N2 is the 2nd Demand Driven satellite of NSIL.

GSAT-N2 is set to enhance broadband services

and in-flight connectivity (IFC) across the Indian region.

This satellite, featuring multiple spot beams and wideband Ka x Ka transponders, aims to support a large subscriber base with small user terminals, significantly boosting system throughput through its multi-beam architecture which allows frequency reuse.

GSAT-N2, with a lift-off mass of 4700 kg, has a mission life of 14 years. The satellite is equipped with 32 user beams, comprising 8 narrow spot beams over the Northeast region and 24 wide spot beams over the rest of India. These 32 beams will be supported by hub stations located within mainland India. The Ka-Band HTS communication payload provides a throughput of approximately 48

Gbps.

The payload consists of three parabolic 2.5-meter deployable reflectors with multiple feeds generating 32 spot beams over the Indian region using a single feed per beam configuration.

The GSAT-N2 spacecraft structure is based on the standard Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer (CFRP)-based I4K bus. GSAT-N2 is compatible with all major launch vehicles. The thermal control configuration includes both active elements, such as heat pipes and heaters, and passive elements, like multi-layer insulation (MLI) blankets, optical solar reflectors (OSR), thermal paints, and coatings, as used in earlier missions.

The Solar Array deployment mechanisms on

the North and South sides of the spacecraft are used for the deployment of N&S Solar arrays. Each Ka-band antenna is equipped with Deployment and Pointing mechanisms for in-orbit deployment and precise pointing of the antennae.

The propulsion system of GSAT-N2 is configured with a unified bi-propellant chemical propulsion system employing MON3 as oxidizer and MMH as fuel. GSAT-N2's power system is a single fully regulated 70V bus, consisting of solar panels for power generation, Li-Ion batteries for energy storage and peak load support, and power electronics for power conditioning and distribution.

The electrical power system is designed to meet a power requirement of approximately 6 kW. The Attitude and Orbit Control System (AOCS) uses a body-stabilized, momentum-biased system with momentum/reaction wheels to provide a stable platform for communication. Together with the propulsion subsystem, AOCS offers the capability of 3-axis attitude control using thrusters in the transfer orbit as well as orbit raising and fine orbit corrections.

The satellite carries a Sun Sensor, Earth Sensor, Inertial Reference Unit (IRU), and Star Sensor.

All sensors provide attitude data in the form of absolute attitude, while the IRU provides attitude rates and incremental angles about all the axes.

TN: Railways probing insect found in sambar served to passenger in Vande Bharat Exp

Madurai (Tamil Nadu): The Southern Railways has been conducting a detailed investigation into a complaint raised by a passenger that a small insect was found in the sambar served with his breakfast in Tirunelveli-Chennai Egmore Vande Bharat Express train on Saturday.

According to a press release issued by the Madurai division of the Southern Railways on Sunday, the complaint was given by a passenger travelling in Coach C2 of the train at 0800 hours, shortly after the train departed from Madurai.

The food, supplied by the Tirunelveli-based kitchen managed by M/s Brindavan Food Products, was inspected immediately by the onboard manager, Chief Catering Inspector, Chief Commercial Inspector and Assistant Commercial Manager.



The insect was found stuck to the lid of the casserole container, appearing uncooked, suggesting possible post-preparation contamination.

The railway officials apologised to the passenger, assured strict action against the licensee, and arranged an alternative

meal from Dindigul railway station, which the passenger declined.

The contaminated food package was handed over to the Health Inspector at Dindigul for quality checks.

Preliminary inspections of other food packages revealed no abnormalities.

A thorough inspection of the mini pantry area, where food packages were distributed, confirmed it was hygienic, with no signs of insect presence.

Further, the Food Safety Officer, Health Inspector and Chief Commercial Inspector from

Tirunelveli conducted a joint inspection of the Tirunelveli base kitchen.

Food samples were collected and sent for testing to ascertain the cause of the contamination.

As a result of this negligence, a penalty of Rs 50,000 has been imposed on the catering contractor, and further action is being pursued.

The railway is conducting a detained investigation into the incident, considering all possibilities regarding the source of the contamination.

The railways remain committed to ensuring the quality of food provided to passengers, with regular inspections conducted on trains to monitor food standards.

Passenger complaints were handled promptly through the Rail Madad system, ensuring timely resolution and follow-up, the release added.

Maha: CEO rejects NCP's new TV ad for state assembly polls

Mumbai: The Chief Electoral Office in Maharashtra on Sunday refused to give sanction to Ajit Pawar led Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) new TV advertisement, 'Aata Ghadyalache Batan Dabnar, Sarvanna Sangnar', made for the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

NCP had applied for pre-certification of its TV advertisement for the election campaign before the State Level Certification Committee as per the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

However, the State CEO has objected to some of the references made in the advertisement like in the video, a wife humorously tells her husband, "Now you will do the same - vote for NCP, or else I won't feed you tonight."

The poll body highlighted that one cannot deny food to anyone for



not voting for a particular party.

The poll body has also seen the conversation in the advertisement as "a threat by wife to

husband".

And asked the party to cut that portion out to get the green signal for broadcasting the advertisement.

67 years of Maharashtra Assembly have seen 461 women MLAs: EC

Mumbai: Altogether 461 women have been elected to the Maharashtra Assembly since its establishment in 1957, the Election Commission said on Sunday.

In Britain, America, and many other countries, women voters have fought for their right to vote for one hundred and fifty years, and then they have got that right.

According to the 2011 census, there are 929 women for every 1000 men (Gender Ratio) in India. As against that, in 2019, the number of women on the electoral roll for every 100 men was 925. Special campaigns for women voter registration were carried out to increase the number, and thus, the number improved significantly to 936 in 2024.

Total 9,70,25,119 voters have been registered in Maharashtra for the Vidhan Sabha General Election - 2024.

Of them, male voters number 5,22,00,739 and female voters are 4,69,96,279.



It denotes the percentage of women voters is almost 50 percent of the total number of voters.

In various districts of the state, the female voters outnumber male voters in some areas.

The November 20 elections will see the formation of the 15th Maharashtra Leg-

islative Assembly. In the 14th Assembly, the number of women legislators was 27.

The first Maharashtra Legislative Assembly had its tenure from 1957 to 1962. The number of women MLAs in the first Assembly was 30.

During the term of the second Legislative Assem-

bly from 1962 to 1967, the number of women MLAs was 17, which dropped to 12 during the third Assembly from 1967 to 1972.

In the fourth Legislative Assembly from 1972-78, 28 women MLAs attended the House, while in the fifth there were only 8 women MLAs.

Weather improves after snowfall in Kashmir; temp drops as Sonamarg records minus 5.3°C

Srinagar: The Picturesque Sonamarg, with a chilly -5.3°C, Gulmarg at -1.8°C, and Pahalgam at -2.0°C, recorded their season's lowest temperatures on Sunday, following fresh snowfall in the higher reaches of the Kashmir valley on Saturday.

The tourist destinations of Sonamarg in Ganderbal, Gulmarg in Baramulla, and Pahalgam in Anantnag, along with other higher reaches of the Kashmir valley, received snowfall while the plains were lashed by rains on Saturday, resulting in the dip in temperatures.

The minimum temperature during the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday at Sonamarg was recorded at -5.3°C, Gulmarg at -1.8°C, and Pahalgam at 2.0°C, the first lowest during this season.

However, the night temperature in other weather stations of the Kashmir valley was recorded at 0 to 4°C above



normal.

The fresh snowfall brings much cheer to the faces of the tourists staying at the tourist destinations.

The day temperature in all the weather stations of the Kashmir valley also dropped by 2-9 °C on the previous day.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and

Kashmir, recorded the maximum temperature at 12.2°C on Saturday, and it was 3.7°C below normal.

The weather improved on Sunday, and the sun appeared in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley and is likely to remain dry till November 23, the MeT office said.

The MeT office predicted that another

wet spell is likely to occur on November 24 with the possibility of light rain and light snow over higher reaches and at scattered places of Kashmir and isolated places of Jammu division.

Thereafter, the weather is very likely to remain generally dry till November 30, it said.

Briefs :

Mayor on garbage check in Vasant Vihar

New Delhi : In his first official inspection, mayor Mahesh Kumar Khinchi took stock of cleanliness in Vasant Vihar ward on Saturday. During the inspection, he ordered authorities to swiftly resolve garbage-related issues of the local residents. Deputy mayor Ravinder Bhardwaj, local MLA Parmila Tokas, councillor Himani Jain and MCD officials accompanied him during the visit to the area. Khinchi said, "After assuming the role of mayor, this marks our first official visit... The purpose is to inspect the garbage collection points where significant accumulation has been reported. We are here to evaluate the current arrangements and identify areas of concern." "Our primary objective is to address these issues promptly and ensure effective solutions are implemented."

Govt opens bus depot with all-women staff

New Delhi : Transport minister Kailash Gahlot on Saturday inaugurated the world's first all-women bus depot, named 'Sakhi Depot', in Sarojini Nagar, govt said in a statement. Officials said the depot boasts a 223-strong female workforce, comprising 89 drivers and 134 conductors, operating a fleet of 70 buses—40 air-conditioned and 30 non-air-conditioned—serving 17 routes across Delhi, apart from other administrative, maintenance, and support staff. "It is part of a broader vision to create a more inclusive and gender-equal work environment," the statement read. During the inauguration, Gahlot highlighted the significance of the depot as a symbol of breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields and as the first step in a series of such initiatives under the 'Sakhi' programme aimed at expanding opportunities for women in public transport. He said establishing the Sakhi Depot required overcoming several challenges, including revising the minimum height requirement for drivers from 159 cm to 153 cm to make the role more accessible for women. "Buses were also modified with features like power steering and adjustable seats to facilitate female drivers and to support training and licensing. Delhi govt launched the 'Mission Parivartan' programme in April 2022, providing free training for aspiring women drivers," the statement further said.

BJP forms manifesto panel for Delhi polls

New Delhi : BJP on Saturday announced a 12-member manifesto committee headed by south Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri to prepare a vision document and spell out the poll promises for Delhi ahead of crucial assembly polls, which are due in less than three months. Several senior party functionaries from Delhi, including former central ministers Harsh Vardhan, Vijay Goel, and Meenakshi Lekhi, former Delhi minister Arvinder Singh Lovely, and spokesperson Praveen Shakar Kapoor, have been included in the committee. Bidhuri said the committee members will hold discussions with the representatives of various communities and pressure groups and collect feedback from the general public to prepare the manifesto. He alleged that basic facilities such as roads, drains, drinking water, and civic infrastructure collapsed under AAP govt in Delhi in the last 10 years while the city turned into a slum.

Kailash Gahlot Resigns: BJP Calls It 'Courageous Step' Amid AAP's Allegations of 'Dirty Politics and Conspiracy'

New Delhi : On Sunday, a political upheaval occurred when senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi minister Kailash Gahlot resigned from the party. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) praised his departure as a courageous act, while AAP accused the BJP of engaging in "dirty politics and conspiracy" to pressure Gahlot into quitting.

In his resignation letter, Gahlot expressed disappointment with the party's direction, citing internal issues and a shift away from public service toward political ambition. He also criticized AAP for not addressing problems like the pollution of the Yamuna River and suggested that scandals like the "Sheeshmahal" incident had damaged public trust in the party.

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva lauded Gahlot for revealing the shortcomings of the AAP leadership. "Kailash



Gahlot has shown Arvind Kejriwal his true reflection and distanced himself from his 'looter gang.' His decision is commendable," Sachdeva remarked.

BJP leader Nalin Kohli echoed this praise, pointing to Gahlot's critiques of AAP's governance. "His

resignation highlights the worsening pollution in the Yamuna and underscores AAP's failure to meet its promises. The party's governance has devolved into excuses and deflection," Kohli commented.

On the other hand, AAP leaders claimed that

tions of corruption amounting to Rs 112 crore.

"Gahlot had no choice but to resign. The BJP's conspiracy and misuse of the ED and CBI forced his hand," Singh asserted.

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar supported these claims, stating, "Gahlot likely chose the BJP over imprisonment. Just hours before his resignation, he was still active within AAP. The pressure is evident."

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has accepted Gahlot's resignation, which occurs just months before the capital's assembly elections. This event is expected to influence political narratives as both parties ramp up their campaigns.

Gahlot's resignation not only highlights allegations of political coercion but also brings into question AAP's internal unity and governance, setting the stage for a heated electoral contest in Delhi.

Hospitals deny free treatment to acid attack survivors in Delhi

New Delhi : Violating the Supreme Court's 2015 guidelines mandating free treatment, including medicines and corrective surgeries, for acid attack survivors across the country, Delhi's private hospitals continue to charge these patients.

While NGOs extend monetary assistance to survivors to meet treatment costs, the latter find the going extremely tough when these expenses exceed established limits. Consequently, they are compelled to approach courts.

Two such acid attack survivors, Ruman and Priyanka, went to court after a prominent private hospital in the capital allegedly refused them admission in 2019 and 2023, respectively.

In an order in the case of Priyanka, the high court sent out the message that all expenses, including those for surgeries and medicines, would be covered by the hospital. Although the hospital subsequently admitted these patients and provided treatment, they remain unwilling to offer follow-up care for

free without legal intervention.

Priyanka (30), who was allegedly forced to consume acid by her husband in 2017, has alleged that she was asked to pay Rs 5,000 for medicines on Oct 31 this year.

She said she noticed a distinct change in the attitude of the hospital staff when they learned that they had to provide court-mandated free treatment to her. She claimed that the staff insisted on partial payment, demanding half the amount. However, after her lawyer intervened, the hospital withdrew that demand.

Priyanka, whose digestive system is severely damaged, claimed that during each hospital visit, she is now forced to involve her legal counsel since the staff denies assistance without such intervention. Visibly distressed, she said she is mentally and physically drained. Ruman, 26, is receiving treatment at the same facility and has voiced similar concerns about insufficient medical care.

Arvind Kejriwal Asked About Kailash Gahlot's Shock Exit

New Delhi : At a press conference held to welcome former BJP MLA Anil Jha into the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), national convener Arvind Kejriwal declined to address a question about Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot's unexpected resignation. When asked about Gahlot's departure, Kejriwal redirected the microphone to senior party leader Durgesh Pathak. Despite the reporter's insistence, Kejriwal deflected, saying with a smile, "You want an answer, right?" before Pathak began speaking. Kejriwal then criticized the BJP without mentioning Gahlot's resignation.

Pathak explained that Gahlot had been under investigation and faced raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax authorities for months. "He had no choice but to resign. This clearly indicates that the BJP has already lost the Delhi election. They have no substantial issues and are relying on ED, CBI, and Income Tax investigations, while we focus on people's issues," Pathak stated.

Earlier, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh described Gahlot's resignation as part of the BJP's "dirty



politics." Singh claimed that Gahlot was pressured through ED-CBI raids and was acting according to the BJP's script. He accused the BJP of using what he called the "Modi Washing Machine" to force opposition leaders to join them, a tactic frequently mentioned by opposition parties to describe coercive measures employed by the BJP.

The AAP's response came about an hour after Gahlot posted his resignation letter on social media. In the letter addressed to Kejriwal, Gahlot, who handled key portfolios such as Home and Transport, highlighted significant internal

challenges within AAP. He criticized the party for prioritizing political ambitions over public commitments, citing the unfulfilled promise to clean the Yamuna River, which remains heavily polluted.

Gahlot's letter also took an indirect swipe at Kejriwal, referencing "many embarrassing and awkward controversies," such as the "Sheeshmahal" scandal, a term used by the BJP to criticize the renovation of the Chief Minister's residence. He questioned whether AAP still upheld its principles as the party of the common man and accused it of focusing more on its politi-

cal agenda than on delivering basic services to Delhi residents.

Stating that his political journey began with a commitment to serve Delhi's people, Gahlot expressed his disillusionment and resignation from AAP's primary membership, wishing Kejriwal well for the future.

A lawyer by profession, Gahlot represents the Nazafgarh Assembly constituency and has been a cabinet minister since 2015. He also took on the finance portfolio following former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's arrest in a corruption case last year.

The BJP quickly responded to Gahlot's resignation. Party spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla remarked that Gahlot's letter exposed how the "Aam Aadmi Party has become the Khaas (special) Aadmi Party," accusing them of breaking promises and prioritizing self-interest. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva praised Gahlot's "bold step," suggesting it proved even AAP insiders believed Kejriwal misused public funds. Sachdeva added that the BJP would welcome Gahlot if he chose to join their ranks.

Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot Quits AAP, 'Sheeshmahal' Jab Is Parting Shot

New Delhi : In a significant setback for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) just months before the Delhi Assembly elections, senior minister and long-time party leader Kailash Gahlot has resigned.

Stating that his political journey began with a commitment to serve Delhi's people, Gahlot expressed his disillusionment and resignation from AAP's primary membership, wishing Kejriwal well for the future.

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Gahlot's letter took a pointed swipe at Kejriwal, referencing the "Sheeshmahal" controversy—a term used by the BJP to describe the expensive renovation of

the Chief Minister's residence during Kejriwal's term. Gahlot argued that such controversies make people doubt whether AAP still embodies its "Aam Aadmi" (common man) ethos.

The "Sheeshmahal" controversy involves the expenditure of approximately ₹45 crore on renovating the Chief Minister's residence, a point of frequent criticism by the BJP. AAP has defended the renovation, stating that the residence, built in 1942, required a complete overhaul as recommended by the Public Works Department. Gahlot expressed that AAP's focus on its political agenda has hindered its ability to deliver basic services to Delhi's residents. He emphasized that real progress for Delhi is unattainable if the government spends most of its time in conflict with the Centre. Gahlot concluded his letter by reaffirming his commitment to serving the people of Delhi and resigning from the primary membership of AAP.

A lawyer by profession, Gahlot represents the Nazafgarh Assembly constituency and has been a cabinet minister since 2015. Following the arrest of former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in a corruption case last year, Gahlot also managed the finance portfolio.

The BJP swiftly responded to Gahlot's resignation. Party spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla claimed that Gahlot's resignation letter exposed how AAP has become the "Khaas (special) Aadmi Party" and accused them of breaking promises. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva praised Gahlot's "bold step," suggesting it demonstrated internal acknowledgment within AAP of misusing taxpayer money.

Delhi air pollution: City's AQI remains in 'severe' category for 5th consecutive day

New Delhi : The air quality in the national capital remains a concern as the Air Quality Index (AQI) stays in the 'severe' category for the fifth consecutive day on Sunday morning.

The overall AQI of Delhi stood at 428 in the 'severe' category at around 7.30 am., as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

CPCB data showed that most areas reported air quality in the severe category, with AQI levels above 400.

Key locations recorded severe pollution levels, including Anand Vihar at 457, Ashok Vihar at 466, Aya Nagar at 426, Bawana at 471, Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range at 415, Dwarka Sector 8 at 445, and Dilshad Garden at 448.

Other areas showed similarly alarming figures: 411 at ITO, 466 in Jahangirpuri, 419 near Major Dyan Chand Stadium, 434 on Mandir



Marg, 463 in Mundka, 402 in Najafgarh, 444 in Narela, and 442 in Nehru Nagar. Further hotspots included North Campus DU at 427, NSIT Dwarka at 410, Okhla Phase 2 at 409, Patparganj at 439, Punjabi Bagh at 442, Pusa at 407, RK Puram at 434, Rohini at 449, Shadipur at 457, Siri Fort at 405, Sonia Vihar at

440, Vivek Vihar at 454, and Wazirpur at 463. The hazardous pollution levels are triggering serious health issues, including respiratory problems, eye irritation, and an elevated risk of cardiovascular diseases.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), over 14 locations in Delhi recorded AQI lev-

els exceeding 400 on Sunday.

Visuals from the city reveal dense smog blanketing the skyline.

In response, the Delhi government has enforced a ban on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP-III) to curb emissions. The restriction came into effect on Friday and aims to mitigate the worsening pollution levels.

As per the government directive, violators will face penalties under Section 194(1) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, which includes a fine of Rs 20,000.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) ordered the activation of GRAP-III across Delhi-NCR on Friday at 8 am, following a sharp spike in pollution levels that pushed Delhi's AQI into the 'severe' category. This measure seeks to prevent further degradation of air quality in the region.

Scolded by man for harassing girl, 2 brothers kill his nephew in Delhi's Nand Nagri

New Delhi : A 28-year-old man was murdered, allegedly by two brothers, after his uncle scolded them for harassing a girl in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri on Friday.

Police have arrested them. The deceased was identified as Manish, alias Rahul, who lived with his family in Sunder Nagri.

The accused have been identified as Salman, a tea-seller, and Arbaaz, a labour-

er, and booked for murder.

DCP (northeast) Rakesh Paweriya said cops went to the spot after being informed that a person had been stabbed in the neck near a restaurant in Murga Market around 9.30pm.

Accused even beat up the girl: Victim's friend

Manish's uncle, Krishan Kumar (38), told police that Salman and Arbaaz were harassing a girl in Sunder Nagri when he inter-

vened, scolding the two and asking them to leave.

About half an hour later, he was told that they were quarrelling with his nephew, Manish. "When Kumar reached there, he saw Arbaaz holding Manish and Salman stabbing him with a sharp weapon on the right side of his neck. Manish was critically injured," police said. He later succumbed to his injuries.

His friend Aman said,

"Manish was leaving the park after receiving a call from his wife when the duo, accompanied by a group of their associates, arrived and attacked him." He managed to escape and was rushed to a hospital. But the severe injuries caused excessive bleeding and he died later, said Aman.

He alleged that the accused brothers were not only harassing the girl but were also beating her,

prompting Kumar to confront them. "Their father also came and threatened Manish's uncle," he claimed. According to Aman, Manish was the sole breadwinner for his family of three: his wife, their four-year-old daughter and two-month-old son. "He used to assist his uncle in the cable operation business." An officer said they were probing the role of the accused's father in the case.

Editorial

Politics of 370!

There is no reason for anyone to oppose the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir. The matter was passed in Parliament after the Assembly was dissolved. The Supreme Court upheld it. Therefore, the wheels of time cannot be turned back now. Political parties in Kashmir know this; but they are happy to politicize this issue. A glimpse of that has been seen recently. Despite knowing that trying to achieve something that is never possible is a waste of time and foolishness, political parties continue this drama to show the people. However, the people are very smart and patient. Once they decide, they teach the good guys a lesson. Article 370, which gave special status to Kashmir, was like a lion without teeth and mane. There was no reason for anyone to oppose it because it was abrogated. The government has to take a policy decision; moreover, the Supreme Court has also upheld it. Therefore, the wheels of time cannot be turned back now. The repealed article cannot be re-implemented and special status cannot be given. It is not that the regional parties in Kashmir are unaware of this; but even though the BJP opposition has expressed displeasure after the political parties took pleasure in politicizing this issue and revoked the special status of Kashmir, now Kashmir cannot be given special status again. For this, a government with a full majority at the Centre and the approval of fifty percent of the states will be required. Therefore, it will not be possible for the opposition to go through this complicated process. It is known that the regional parties in Kashmir have no chance of winning more than three-four seats in the Lok Sabha. It is not possible to say how long it will take for the Congress and its allies to get a majority in the Lok Sabha. In this situation, what Union Home Minister Amit Shah says that even after four generations of Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray, they cannot give special status to Kashmir is happening here.

The recent ruckus in the Kashmir Assembly is for two reasons: 'How much effort we are making for a special state for Kashmir and we will not allow the concept of 'one nation, one flag' to be touched in India.' In fact, after the assembly elections, the new Omar Abdullah government of Jammu and Kashmir passed two resolutions in the assembly. The first resolution demanded full statehood. All parties agreed to it. The second resolution demanded the withdrawal of Article 370. There was a constant uproar in the assembly over this resolution. Basically, a resolution is not a law. The second issue is that the Kashmir Assembly does not have the authority to grant special status to Kashmir. In such a situation, if the proceedings of the new assembly are being stalled on this issue, it is not right. There were no people's representatives in the assembly for the intervening six years. Now that the people's government has come, the keys to this government are in the hands of Delhi. In such a situation, instead of wasting time by fighting, the MLAs should have paid attention to how the development of Kashmir, which has stalled in the last few years, can be restored with patience and discussion; But instead of the interests of the Kashmiri people, the MLAs there seem to be interested in mere chaos and chaos. These MLAs should be aware that the people of Kashmir have sent their representatives to the Assembly to raise their basic issues. It is natural for the BJP MLAs to oppose the demand to re-implement Article 370. It was unthinkable for the ruling NCP and Congress MLAs to get into a fight because of what they did.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Chowdhury moved the proposal to re-implement Article 370 in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. The National Conference very cleverly used signals to select the mover of this bill. Chowdhury is a Hindu and has been elected from Nowshera in Jammu. If Article 370 cannot be re-implemented, then the question arises as to why the new government of the Union Territory passed a resolution in the Assembly. Article 370 cannot be re-implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. The decision of the central government in this regard has been approved by a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court. The court mentioned several facts in its decision. It is evident that even after the resolution is passed, the consent of the central government and the President will be required to re-implement Article 370. No matter who is in power at the center, this will not be possible now due to political reasons. Anyone who tries to implement this issue through Parliament and the President using political power will have to face opposition from the 80 percent majority Hindu community. The cancellation of the two and two symbols has been given the highest approval. The court also said that the government has the unilateral right to amend Article 370. The constitution of Jammu and Kashmir has become inactive due to the implementation of the Constitution of India. The court had also rejected the claim of sovereignty of Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP government's decision to abrogate Article 370 in 2019 was opposed by regional parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference, the PDP, and Congress and non-BJP parties. The Congress also disagreed with the court's decision. Congress leader P. Chidambaram had said that we disagree with the method of abrogating Article 370. After this, many Congress leaders opposed the abrogation of Article 370; but did not say that it would be re-implemented. For the Congress, the opposition to the abrogation of Article 370 is a symbolic ideological fight against the BJP. Therefore, they have promised only full statehood in the Jammu and Kashmir manifesto. This is a political gamble for the 'National Conference' and the 'PDP' to save the people's base in Kashmir. With the approval of the proposal, it is questionable whether the 'National Conference' has started to feel that the promise included in the manifesto has been fulfilled. The 'National Conference' proposal does not mention Article 370. The proposal emphasizes on giving special status. Although the central government has given special status to many states in the northeast, the government is not ready to give such status to anyone new. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar have learned the lesson. The 'National Conference' had prioritized the restoration of Article 370 in its election agenda; but as soon as it came to power, the party changed its tune.

Today, competitive politics is going on in Jammu and Kashmir. Due to political pressure, it was necessary for the 'National Conference' to bring this proposal. In fact, Kashmiris are being misled in the name of 370. Local citizens are raising questions like what problems in Kashmir are there, is anyone monitoring the power crisis in winter? The Abdullah government's proposal has only moral significance. In other words, through this proposal, the state government has tried to tell its supporters that it only wants to fulfill its election promises. The limited powers of the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Assembly cannot do much on issues like restoration of Article 370 and 35 (A), Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019. Now only the Indian Parliament has the power to make laws on this subject. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act will also come in the way of the state government. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 also comes in the way of Omar Abdullah. It gives the Union Territory Assembly the power to make laws on matters other than police and law and order; but at the same time, this act also states that the state government cannot make a law that affects any central law. The approval of the Lieutenant Governor is necessary for the approval or amendment of a bill in the Assembly. Otherwise, it will be considered ineffective. From this point of view, the proposal passed by the Omar Abdullah government to restore Article 370 will remain only on paper until it gets the approval of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Space, Biotechnology, Science and Startups: Minister Spotlights India's Growth Potential

At the CSIR Healthcare Theme Conclave's inaugural session at SKICC today, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, described Jammu & Kashmir as a key player in India's 'Viksit Bharat' journey.

The Minister presented a vibrant picture of India's innovation-driven future, emphasising the transformative potential of biotechnology, space technology, and youth-led startups. He positioned Jammu and Kashmir as a



ence of Startups, doctors, scientists, innovators, and young en-



treasure trove of untapped resources.

Speaking to a packed audi-

trepreneurs, Dr. Jitendra Singh declared, "India's startup ecosystem, now the third-largest glob-

ally with over 1.6 lakh ventures, stands testament to our entrepreneurial spirit. From just 350 startups a decade ago, we've grown exponentially, becoming a powerhouse of innovation."

The Minister highlighted India's remarkable progress in the space sector, achieved through public-private partnerships. "Three years ago, we had just single-digit collaborations in space; today, over 300 global-standard partners have joined hands with ISRO. Our first-generation space startups are now celebrated entrepreneurs and knowledge leaders," he shared.

Dr. Jitendra Singh credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary policies for catalyzing these achievements. "The launch of Startup India was more than a slogan; it was the spark that ignited a nationwide movement," he noted.

The Minister also outlined

the extraordinary strides in biotechnology, an area he called the future of the global economy. He pointed to pioneering achievements, such as India's first DNA vaccine and the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer, which underscore the nation's scientific prowess.

"In 2014, India's bio-economy was worth just \$10 billion. Today, it stands at \$130 billion, and we are on track to reach \$300 billion by 2030," he announced. He also spoke passionately about Jammu and Kashmir's role in this transformation. "The region is poised to become a bio-economy hub, driving the next industrial revolution with its unique natural resources."

Dr. Jitendra Singh made a heartfelt appeal to young innovators, urging them to become "the architects of 2047 India." He emphasized the importance of societal awareness, suggesting that

parents accompany their children to such conclaves to bridge generational knowledge gaps.

Citing examples from the region, he highlighted the lavender cultivation success story as proof of the area's potential. "When a young entrepreneur earns ₹15,000 per vial of lavender oil, why should our youth stand in line for government jobs?" he asked, challenging the audience to rethink traditional career paths.

The Minister closed his speech by aligning the conclave's goals with India's broader aspirations for 2047. He stressed the critical role of Himalayan states, including Jammu and Kashmir, in driving sustainable growth and innovation. "As resources in other parts of the country diminish, the untouched potential of this region will lead India's growth story," he stated, adding that this transition is supported by robust government policies and the unwavering determination of the nation's youth.

The two-day conclave brings together experts and stakeholders to discuss healthcare advancements, biotechnology, and sustainable development strategies. It also features exhibitions showcasing cutting-edge innovations, particularly from young startups.

The event is expected to inspire more collaborations and investments in the region, reinforcing its role as a springboard for India's innovation journey towards becoming a global leader in science and technology.

Technical textiles will become the economic backbone of India

Union Minister of Textiles Shri. Giriraj Singh inaugurated the Textile Pavilion under the Special Handloom & Handicraft Exhibition cum Sale at India International Trade Fair (IITF) in the august presence of Shri.

es zero-carbon footprint and does not consume any energy and Handloom industry is also a zero-water footprint sector.

Sh. Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for Textiles, while visit-

loom weavers. Workshops on GI Tagged Handloom and Handicrafts by Dr Rajni, Talk show on Sustainability / Circularity/ Recycling/ Up-cycling by Pratyush Kumar.

Hon'ble Prime Minister during

Ware, Kathputli, Hand Block Printing, Chikankari, Tie & Dye, Wall Hanging, Terracotta, Imitation Jewellery etc name a few attracts customers across the globe with exclusives weaves, designs, and

market their products to consumers. The exhibition enables an interface between the weavers and consumers.

Handloom and Handicrafts products drawn from different re-



Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for Textiles Shri. Giriraj Singh and Shri. Pabitra Margherita visited various stalls in the pavilion and interacted with Handloom weavers and artisans. Speaking at the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF), HMOT emphasized the importance of carbon fibers in the textile industry and India is focusing on amplification of Technical Textiles.

ing the exhibition and live display of handloom and handicrafts, has stressed upon strengthening handloom and handicrafts to boost production and to increase their earnings to engage communities. He also emphasized the importance of preserving India's rich craft heritage while adapting to modern market needs. Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary Textiles, Smt. Amrit Raj, Develop-



Mann ki Baat (112th episode) appreciated that the work of handloom artisans is spread across every corner of the country and the way handloom products have made their

traditional motifs.

Government of India has launched the various schemes for Handloom and Handicrafts for branding of high-quality products with zero defects and zero effect on the environment to encourage and to give a distinct identity to the products, apart from highlighting the uniqueness of the products. It also serves a guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is genuinely handcrafted. All the exhibitors at the exhibition have been encouraged to display their exquisite products and thus aim to improve the market for their products and earnings of the handloom and handicrafts community. "Special Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition cum Sale" is an initiative of the office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms and Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India through National Handloom

regions of India are on display and sale at the exhibition. This includes Bhagalpuri Silk, Mithila Paintings, Tribal jewellery, Embroidered & Crocheted Goods, Lac Bangles, Jute craft, Madhubani, Hand block prints, Venkatgiri Sarees, Kani shawl, Banarasi Sarees and Stoles, Kosa, Chanderi, Bastar iron and tribal hand embroidery items, wood carving, Kutch Bandhani, Sozni crafts, Mangalgiri, Mekhla Chador, Moirang Phee, Ikat, Bomkai sarees, Bagh prints, Pottery and Clay objects, Leather (Bags & Accessories), Kauna, Tribal Hand Embroidery, Applique, Art Metal Ware, Patta Chitra, Kotpad, Arani, Phulkari, Pochmapalli Silk, Jamdani, Gadwal, Cane & Bamboo, Dhaniakhali, Tangail Suits, Kantha work, oxidized jewellery etc. The Textile Pavilion is at Hall No 05, ground floor, Bharat Mandapam and the exhibition will be open to the public from 10 am to



There are 12 verticals or sectors in Technical Textiles, HMOT added. PM has given ₹1500/- crores for R&D in this sector and our country giving more attention in the export of Technical Textiles and Technical textiles will become the economic backbone of India, said Shri Giriraj Singh. As India celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Birsu Munda, theme of this event is inspired by 'Janjatiya' community, HMOT added. Shri. Giriraj Singh emphasized that the Government is trying to improve the textile value chain for better income opportunities for the weavers and their families. He also said that India has the largest handloom community in the world focused around sustainability and energy efficiency. The world is moving towards usage of sustainable products and handloom industry produc-

ment Commissioner, Handloom and other senior officers of Ministry of Textiles attended the inaugural function.

Attractions of Special Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition at Bharat Mandapam as noted below 206 number of stalls (Total 27 states representing Handloom & Handicrafts) 100 Handloom (22 states representing) 100 Handicrafts (27 states representing) 06 for Theme Pavilion (Theme - TRIBAL TREASURES OF INDIAN TEXTILES) 08 Live Handloom, Art/ Crafts Demonstration [Kani Shawl (J&K), Tangaliya/ Kutchi Shawl (Gujarat), Kullu/ Kinnauri Shawl (H.P.), Loin Loom (Manipur and Nagaland), Horn & Bone Craft (U.P.), Bhagalpuri Silk (Bihar), Bagh Print (Odisha)] B2B interaction sessions of Retailers/ Brands etc with Hand-

place in the hearts of people is very successful, tremendous, and also urged to upload photos with local products on social media with the hashtag '#MyProductMyPride'.

The Handloom and Handicraft sector is a symbol of our country's rich and varied cultural heritage. The handloom sector of India employs 35 lakh persons directly or indirectly which is next only to the agricultural sector in the country. The art of handloom weaving and handicrafts has traditional values attached to it and each region has exquisite varieties.

The uniqueness of products such as Banarasi, Jamdani, Baluchari, Madhubani, Kosa, Ikkat, Patola, Tussar Silk, Maheshwari, Moirang Phee, Baluchari, Phulkari, Laheriya, Khandua, Tangaliya, Madhubani Painting, Warley Painting, Art Metal



Development Corporation (NHDC) Ltd. to provide direct access to the handloom weavers and artisans to

07.30 PM. India International Trade Fair (IITF) from 14th to 27th November 2024.



HARYANA

Briefs :

Farmers protest shortage of fertiliser, seek action against black marketing

Chandigarh : Farmers from several villages in the Kalanwali subdivision have been facing significant challenges due to a shortage of DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) fertiliser. In response, hundreds of farmers gathered at the grain market on Saturday to voice their dissatisfaction and urged the government and administration to ensure an adequate supply of DAP. They also demanded strict action against shopkeepers engaged in black marketing of DAP and urea, and those compelling farmers to purchase additional items along with fertilisers. Farmers, including Jaspal Singh, Sukhchain, Gusharan Singh and Jagat Singh, highlighted that while the government claims sufficient DAP supply in the state, the ground reality tells a different story. In Kalanwali, the severe shortage of DAP has hindered farmers' ability to plant wheat and mustard crops. They reported that DAP is being sold at inflated prices, with bags priced at Rs 1,350 being sold for Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,000. Additionally, shopkeepers are reportedly forcing farmers to buy products like zinc, sulphur and nano fertilisers along with DAP and urea. Farmers also accused the authorities of remaining silent despite being aware of the issues. Addressing the crisis, Dr Rakesh Kumar, Subject Matter Specialist of the Agriculture Department, confirmed that a shipment of DAP has arrived in Sirsa and will be distributed today at four firms in Kalanwali. Dr Kumar himself will distribute tokens to farmers for the fertiliser. He assured that strict action would be taken against shopkeepers found black marketing DAP or forcing farmers to purchase additional items along with fertilisers.

IIIT professor alleges sexual harassment, 2 booked

Gurugram : The Rai police have registered an FIR against two persons following an inquiry into a complaint of sexual harassment lodged by a professor in the (IIIT) here. (HSWC) Vice-Chairperson Sonia Aggarwal along with ACP Mukesh Jakhar on Friday reached the IIIT campus to inquire into the matter. "The matter came to the commission's notice just two days ago and an inquiry is underway into the matter. Not only the woman professor but two girl students also came to the fore today and alleged the same," said Aggarwal. "The woman professor alleged that two persons — one professor and an administrative official — were harassing her for around a year. She was being stalked by them and they were using indecent language about her," the Vice-Chairperson said, adding that the statement of the victim had been recorded and even one girl student had also given a complaint in writing. Apart from this, statements of the accused professor and an administrative official were recorded to verify the allegations, she said.

Former Odisha Governor highlights media's role as pillar of democracy

Chandigarh : Former Odisha Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal emphasised the critical role every individual plays in the betterment of the nation and society. Speaking on the occasion of National Press Day during a symposium on "The Changing Face of Media" at the Media Centre on Saturday, he highlighted the growing responsibility of the media as the fourth pillar of democracy. Prof Lal reflected on the evolution of media from the pre-Independence era to the present day, underlining its significant impact.

He stressed that individuals who strengthen themselves internally are better positioned to achieve success. Using spiritual analogies, he explained the transformative journey of the media and its importance. He observed that the rise of social media and digital platforms has broken traditional geographic barriers, significantly extending the reach of news. These platforms, he noted, have empowered individual voices and reshaped the dynamics of information dissemination. While acknowledging the media's role as a pillar of democracy, he remarked that journalists act as mirrors, reflecting the realities of society.

He added that stories published and broadcast by the media often prompt action from the government, administration and the public to address gaps and challenges. Prof Amit Sangwan, Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, also spoke about the changing nature of the media. He acknowledged its pivotal role during India's independence struggle and its continuing significance in the country's development. He underscored the dual responsibilities of freedom of expression and the duty to work in society's interest. Prof Sangwan further emphasised the need for journalists to adapt to the demands of the digital age by becoming technically proficient, noting that mastering technology is essential for meeting industry demands and achieving career growth.

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Increase in number of BPL families govt failure: Selja

Sirsa : Sirsa MP and former Union Minister Kumari Selja said today that Haryana, which is considered a leading state in terms of economic development and prosperity in India, has now become a below poverty line (BPL) state due to the negligence of one of its own departments — the Citizen Resource Information Department.

"This is because 70 per cent of its total population has fallen below the poverty line. The increasing number of BPL families is a report card of the government's failure. The government should explain how such a large population became poor despite their claims of development."

In a statement released to the media, Selja said that it was surprising that those who truly deserved BPL cards and benefits did not receive them. According to the per capita income data released last year, Haryana ranks second in the country with an annual per capita income claim of Rs 2.96 lakh. "If this is the case, then how come there are so many BPL families, and where did they come from? The BJP has no achievements to showcase. In 10 years, the BJP has



turned 70 per cent of Haryana's population into poor. Now, the government should answer this."

She said that the increasing number of BPL families was a report card of the government's failure. "The gov-

ernment should clarify how such a large population became poor despite their development claims. If the increase in BPL numbers is due to data manipulation, the responsible government officials should be held ac-

countable and punished. If any individual declares their income in the family identity card, it is the government's responsibility to verify it, but it seems no action is being taken due to this investigation."

Flying squads to check burning of stubble, garbage in Rohtak

Rohtak : Rohtak Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata has directed the officials concerned to strictly comply with the instructions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in view of the increasing levels of pollution.

"Three-tier monitoring committees should be formed to monitor the burning of stubble and garbage in rural as well as urban areas. Flying squads should also be constituted to investigate and check such incidents," the Deputy Commissioner said, adding that strict action would be taken against officials found negligent. Presiding over a review meeting at the local mini-secretariat, Khadgata said the departments should register the details of the buildings under construction on more than 500 square yards of land in the urban areas on the government portal.

"All relevant instructions should be followed while demolishing the dilapidated buildings and constructing new ones. The debris should be dumped at designated places. While constructing buildings on



private land, it should be ensured that the environment is not polluted," he said. The heads of the government departments were told to ask the contractors to ensure that debris is not left in the open after demolishing a building. "If any such instance is detected, a fine will be imposed on the department concerned, which will be recovered from the contractor," said the deputy commissioner. Khadgata asked the DSP concerned to ensure that over 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old petrol vehicles in the district are

seized at the earliest. He said water should be sprinkled on the roads as per the guidelines issued by the authorities concerned, but fresh water should not be used for the purpose. Water purified by STP should be used for sprinkling on the roads, he added. "The officers should also ensure that dirty water is not poured into drains and canals by any vehicle. If any vehicle is found doing so, then the vehicle should be confiscated and a fine imposed on its owner," he said. The Deputy Commissioner said the local municipal authorities should

fix the responsibilities of the employees/officers at three levels to monitor the incidents of burning of garbage etc in the urban areas. He also directed the District Revenue Officer and Block Development and Panchayat Officer to deploy patwaris and panchayat secretaries in every village to monitor the burning of paddy straw.

He instructed Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) officials to ensure compliance with NGT directions by the operators of the industrial units in the district.

Pollution board serves notice to 22 units in Panipat

Panipat : The Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has served closure notices to 22 sites, including industries, a bank and construction sites in the district, for the violation of norms under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP-2). With the dipping temperature, the air quality index (AQI) of the textile city has also started deteriorating. On Friday, the AQI was 343, which is very poor. As per the CPCB, the main pollutants in the air were recorded at severe levels — the PM 2.5 was maximum at 399 while the PM10 was a maximum of 401 in the district.

Apart from this, as the AQI has deteriorated badly in the national capital region (NCR), the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented the ban orders under GRAP-3 from Thursday onwards. The HSPCB has launched a special drive in the district after the CAQM implemented the GRAP. The teams of HSPCB found a total of seven construction sites in the HSIIDC and on the NH-44 which were not registered on the HSPCB's dust portal.



During the inspection, the HSPCB found several violations, like these were not registered on the dust portal, had not installed the PM 2.5 and PM 10 sensors, not installed anti-smog gun, building material was not covered at the site, dust masks were not provided to workers etc. Following the

violations, the HSPCB has served closure directions to all these sites and also initiated the proceedings for the levying of environmental compensation (EC) on these violators. Apart from the construction sites, the operation of diesel generator sets had been banned in the NCR by the CAQM.

Dense fog throws life out of gear, but beneficial for wheat growers

Sirsa : Dense fog engulfed Sirsa on Saturday morning, reducing visibility to just 2 m and disrupting daily life. Commuters, especially drivers, faced significant challenges.

While the fog also increased the risk of road accidents. Despite these disruptions, farmers welcomed the dew accompanying the fog, which experts say benefits the wheat crop. Transportation services were severely impacted. Several trains departing from Sirsa ran late, including the Kisan Express and Delhi Express.

Over the past three days, long-distance and passenger trains, including superfast services like the Gorakhpur-bound Gorakhdham Superfast and the Jaipur-Bathinda train, have been running hours behind the schedule. Daily commuters have borne the brunt of these delays, struggling to reach their destinations on time.

Road traffic was equally affected, with the



administration urging drivers to use fog lights and drive cautiously. Traffic police have intensified monitoring on major routes to prevent accidents. However, an incident occurred on the Chakerian-Kalanwali road, where dense fog led to a school bus colliding with a tractor-trailer during an overtaking attempt.

According to villagers, the fog was so thick that the bus driver could not spot the trailer in time. The collision damaged the bus' front wind-

shield and the trailer, but no children aboard the bus were injured.

As the fog disrupted routine activities, experts noted that the weather is ideal for wheat cultivation, providing some respite to farmers.

However, passengers and daily commuters continued to face difficulties, with disrupted train schedules adding to their woes.

The administration has urged people to remain cautious during the foggy season, advising safe-driving practices to avoid accidents.

Potholes, slush on Ballabgarh-Sohna state highway take toll on commuters

Gurugram : The government's claims on infrastructure and growth fall flat when one traverses the half-a-kilometre-long stretch of the Ballabgarh-Sohna state highway here, which has become a daily ordeal for the commuters. It continues to remain in a shabby condition despite the collection of toll from the commuters. More than 50,000 vehicles reportedly use the highway daily.

"Despite being a toll road, the condition of the passage connecting Ballabgarh and Sohna of Gurugram remains deplorable. No repairs have been taken up in the past about two years," says Umesh Kumar, a resident, adding that the stretch between Nangla and Pali villages connecting Ballabgarh flyover and Pali T-point, having a length of around 500 metres, is in a poor shape due to the drainage issue. The failure to fix the problem of drainage and carry out repairs had left the commuters harassed. Charging authorities of utter negligence, Om Prakash Bhadana, another commuter, says the stretch has become a nightmare to commute as no thought has



been spared to ensure the proper drainage of waste water from the nearby village. Even as the stretch remains waterlogged and damaged, he says, no action has been taken against the erring officials. The slush and potholes

pose a constant risk of accidents and traffic snarls, he adds. The Faridabad Industries Association (FIA) has also taken up the matter with the authorities, says an entrepreneur, who claims that it has adversely affected the

movement of the commercial and goods vehicles. "Collection or revision of toll on damaged roads is unjustified," he says, adding that it is an important road between Faridabad and Gurugram, the leading commercial hubs. Neeraj Sharma, former MLA from NIT Assembly segment, who had raised the matter in the Assembly and in the District Grievance Committee in 2021, says despite directions of the state government the problem stands unresolved. While several crores have been collected as toll, the commuters have failed to get any relief," he rues. The 32-km-long road built on a BOT basis was opened in 2012.

The toll charge varies between Rs 40 and Rs 400 per vehicle for one way, depending upon the type of vehicle. The toll was revised on all the state highways recently. Charanjit Rana, Executive Engineer, PWD says as the problem is related to the disposal of waste water on the road, the matter has been taken up with the District Development and Panchayat Officer, Faridabad.

Air quality worsens in Haryana, DCs to take call on suspending primary classes

Gurugram : As the air quality in the state continues to be a matter of concern, the state government has asked the Deputy Commissioners to assess the prevailing situation and to take a call on the discontinuation of physical classes for students up to fifth standard.

In a letter to Deputy Commissioners, the Directorate of School Education has stated that the government has decided that the Deputy Commissioners concerned shall assess the prevailing situation as per the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and in view of the severe AQI levels in Delhi and surrounding regions...they may discontinue physical classes and issue necessary directions for holding online classes for up to Class 5 in the schools (government and private) in the interest of the health and safety of the students. The assessment for rural and urban areas of the districts concerned may be carried out separately. On Saturday, the air quality in eight cities -- Jind, Bahadurgarh, Bhiwani, Gurugram, Kaithal, Panipat, Rohtak and Sonapat -- was "very poor" while in 11 other cities, it was on the poor side, as per the air quality index (AQI), which is the average of past 24 hours. With the average particulate matter 2.5 at 394, Jind was the second most polluted city in the country after Delhi (417).

As per the evening bulletin of the Central Pollution



Control Board, Jind registered an AQI of 394, Bahadurgarh 388, Panipat 350, Rohtak 339, Bhiwani 325, Sonapat 325, Gurugram 320 and Kaithal 318 to remain among the cities with "very poor" air quality. Ballabgarh (288), Manesar (276), Dharuhera (276), Karnal (276), Kurukshetra (263), Yamunanagar (256), Faridabad (255), Charkhi Dabri (253), Palwal (249), Ambala (238) and Mandikhera (215) were among the cities where the air quality was on the poor side.

Meanwhile, with 25 fresh cases of stubble burning reported on Saturday, the number of farm fires have jumped to 1,080 in this season. Of 25 fresh cases, maximum 11 were reported from Jind, followed by six from Sirsa, two each from Kai-

thal, Fatehabad and Sonapat, one each from Hisar and Karnal.

An official from the pollution control board said the meteorological conditions, temperature and wind speed, besides the local factors and sporadic incidents of farm fires, were the contributing factors in the present situation. Dr Dipti Grover, Assistant Professor, Institute of Environmental Studies, Kurukshetra University, said: "The current air quality and weather conditions in Haryana are raising significant environmental concerns. With the onset of winter, the air quality in these areas has deteriorated, largely due to seasonal stubble burning, increased vehicular emissions and industrial pollutants. The AQI in several parts of Haryana has consistently

been in the "very poor" category, posing health risks, especially to vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and those with respiratory conditions. Citizens are also advised to limit outdoor activities."

"The prevailing weather conditions, including lower temperatures and calm winds, have further aggravated the situation by trapping pollutants near the surface, leading to the formation of smog. Visibility in the morning hours has reduced significantly, impacting daily activities and transportation. The reason for persisting situation is weak western disturbance moving towards the mountains may cause easterly winds leading to partly cloudy conditions and light smog intermittently," she added.

Victims can't drive criminal justice system through piecemeal settlements: HC

Chandigarh : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that all disputes between parties are required to be resolved collectively for a settlement in criminal cases. The Bench made it clear that piecemeal settlements in criminal cases were inconsistent with established principles of law, particularly Section 482 of the CrPC and its corresponding provision in the BNSS.

The question for adjudication before the Bench was whether partial quashing of criminal proceedings on the basis of partial compromise was permissible. The issue was raised after some HC Benches allowed the same, while others declined the relief. "In some situations the victim may attempt to be the driver of the criminal justice system. But to ensure that the victim or complainant, does not become the driver of the criminal justice system through making of piecemeal settlements, the courts are required to be not accepting any piecemeal settlements, rather are required to be rejecting piecemeal settlements..." the Bench asserted.

Taking up a bunch of 34 petitions against the States of Punjab and Haryana, the Bench asserted that the court's power to quash criminal proceedings, based on a compromise, was limited to instances where a full and a joint compromise was reached among all relevant parties. The Bench, for reaching the conclusion, drew heavily on precedents from the Supreme Court, including verdicts in the case of "Gian Singh versus the State of Punjab" and "Narinder Singh versus State of Punjab". The judgments established that the high courts had discretionary power to quash proceedings, even in non-compoundable cases, to prevent misuse of ju-



dicial processes provided that goodwill between parties was maintained. In the 27-page judgment, the court added that a piecemeal compromise undermined the prosecution's strength and impeded a fair trial. It held that any compromise omitting certain parties or defendants was in contravention of Section 246 of the BNSS, which mandated joint trials for all co-accused implicated in a single FIR. Accepting partial compromises could risk impairing the prosecution and the complainant's ability to uphold the charges effectively, potentially leading to inconsistencies and partial justice. Elaborating, the Bench observed partial compromises contradicted procedural mandates for joint trials which required accused named in a joint FIR to face a unified trial. The Bench also made it clear that its plenary jurisdiction under Section 482 of the CrPC was meant to prevent abuse of judicial process and promote harmony be-

tween parties having resolved their disputes. The court, at the same time, made it clear that certain offenses, including those under the Prevention of Corruption Act, UAPA, POCSO, and cases involving serious charges such as rape, remained outside the compositional authority, irrespective of any settlement. The Bench added that offenses involving grievous harm or attempted murder necessitated careful consideration of factors such as the assault's location on the victim's body, weapon type, and the authenticity of the compromise to ensure that settlements were not tainted by coercion or extrinsic inducements. The court observed that Single Benches acted beyond established legal boundaries by accepting piecemeal settlements in certain cases and they should refrain from adopting such practices while ensuring alignment with binding legal precedents and statutory requirements.

Tributes paid to martyrs ahead of 8th edition of Military Literature Festival in Chandigarh

Chandigarh : Tributes were paid to martyrs here on Sunday as a precursor to the eighth edition of the Military Literature Festival, with Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria laying a wreath at the Chandigarh War Memorial.

Former Army chief General (Retd) VP Malik, former Indian Air Force chief BS Dhanoa and Military Literature Festival association chairman Lieutenant General (Retd) TS Shergill were also present on the occasion.

A 'Bravehearts Ride' motorcycle rally, spreading the message of courage, sacrifice and patriotism was also organised as part of the events connected with the Military Literature Festival (MLF). The eighth edition of the MLF will be held here on November 30 and December 1.

"We paid our tributes to the martyrs, who made supreme sacrifices for the motherland," Kataria told reporters here after laying a wreath at the memorial. He said the valour of the bravehearts continues to inspire generations and exhorted the youth to embrace the noble path of serving

the nation with the same courage and dedication shown by these heroes.

Replying to a question, Kataria said even today the youth have a great fascination for the armed forces.

"Youth are the future of the country. The future of the country is going to be shaped by them... If one works with dedication, honesty, the country progresses with cooperation from all...and we can achieve the aim of a developed nation by 2047," he said. Speaking on the sidelines, General Malik said the main purpose of this MLF was to inspire the youth.

With the 25th anniversary of the Kargil War triumph being the theme of this year's MLF, General Malik, who was the Army chief at that time, said there would be discussions about the war.

When asked about the country emphasising self-reliance in defence, General Malik said 'Atmanirbharta' was a good thing.

"During the Kargil War, we had to import 75 per cent of the arms and ammunition... For the security of a nation, self-reliance, especially when it comes to defence equipment



and weapons, is necessary," he told PTI. Asked about lessons our country can learn from the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts, General Malik said the (Indian) armed forces were watching and observing them very carefully. "All the new issues which are coming up, new concepts which are coming up, they are all watching and we are drawing those lessons and incorporating them,"

said General Malik. "I keep hearing the discussions which are taking place. So, it is not that we are just looking at it only, but we are also absorbing those lessons and making them as part of our doctrines," he added. When asked that warfare had transcended into new domains, cyber etc, General Malik said, "The nature of conflict has expanded quite a lot. A lot of things have come, cyber war

etc. These are new aspects of the nature of conflict which are being observed and these lessons are being absorbed by the armed forces." "The whole nature of warfare has changed, one of the main reasons is because of the technological changes that have come about. Warfare today is a very dynamic issue because the technology is moving so fast. Because of that you find a new weapon system, new capabilities are coming. Armed forces are also trying and improving these capabilities in our own doctrines," he added. On the military recruitment scheme Agnipath, General Malik said it was a good scheme aimed at ensuring the youthful profile of the armed forces. Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Shergill said warfare had changed in scope and size. Referring to increased domains of warfare, he said there would be a discussion on this during the MLF.

Former Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Dhanoa, touching upon motivating the youth to join the armed forces, said military veterans could play an important role in doing this. "The veterans must tell their stories. Aim is what, if there is a child, you

must put stars in the eyes of the child. My grandfather did it for me when I was a child. He used to tell me stories. I decided to join the military at a very early age. It is our job as veterans that we speak to the young people, young children, organise things like this (MLF), and put stars in the eyes of the children," he said. The former IAF chief said the youth must join the military for two reasons -- "one is of course service to the nation and second is that this is the job they want to do and nothing else. If that is your motivation, you will do very well". Referring to the IAF's Heritage Centre in Chandigarh, he said, "We must have more places like this so that we can motivate children. When they go around and see things like this, it will motivate them." "On the 50th anniversary of the 1971 (Indo-Pak) war, the Air Force Association published a book in which the veterans from all branches of the IAF, who were in that war, wrote their story. When people read it, they get motivated... Likewise, the MLF does a tremendous job in motivating people to come and join the military," he added.

Union sends notices to agents over 'illegal' deduction of farmers' money

Gurugram : Days after the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) spokesperson accused some commission agents of deducting money of paddy farmers illegally in the name of expediting lifting, the Shahabad grain market committee has issued notices to 60 commission agents in the grain market. The union spokesman Rakesh Bains, who had submitted a complaint, said that during heavy arrivals and poor lifting of paddy crop in the grain market, some commission agents and their accountants demanded and deducted Rs 40 a quintal from farmers whose produce with 17 per cent or less moisture was lying in the grain markets. The money was demanded in the name of getting timely lifting of their produce. The commission agents created pressure on the farmers, which was illegal and against the norms.

"Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has multiple times announced that no money will be deducted from the farmers, but still this was being done. The



farmers have told us that they were forced by the commission agents. However, fearing non-cooperation from the commission agents in future, the farmers are not coming forward, but the union has raised the matter with the market committee officials.

"We have submitted a complaint to the market committee secretary, following which notices have been sent to those concerned," he added. Bains said, "Even last

month, when we raised the matter for the first time, the market committee secretary had sent notices to the presidents of two commission agent associations and president of rice millers association.

They were asked to clear their position, but to no avail. We demand a fair probe and demand action against the commission agents, besides suspension of their licences and legal action." Shahabad Market Committee secretary

Krishan Kumar Malik said, "Though no farmer has approached us so far with any complaint regarding money being deducted, following a complaint received from BKU spokesman, notices have been issued.

There are about 200 commission agents in the grain market of which notices have been given to 60 commission agents in the first phase, while the remaining will be given notices in the next two phases."

32 farmers booked for stubble burning in Yamunanagar so far

Yamunanagar : As many as 32 FIRs have so far been registered against farmers for allegedly burning paddy residue in their fields in Yamunanagar district in the current harvesting season. Dr Satish Kumar Arora, Assistant Plant Protection Officer (APPO), Yamunanagar, said a fine was also imposed on the farmers against whom FIRs were registered. He further said a fine of Rs 35,000 was deposited by farmers in 14 of the total 32 cases. "There was a provision to impose a fine of Rs 2,500 against each case of stubble burning. However, the Government of India has now issued a notification regarding the increased environmental compensation charges, which are double the previous charges," said APPO Dr Arora. He said the department had also made red entries in 61 khasra numbers of agricultural land of 32 farmers on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB) portal stopping them from selling their crops in grain markets of the state for allegedly



burning stubble.

Dr Aditya Pratap Dabas, Deputy Director, Agriculture, Yamunanagar, said they had taken the task of stopping farmers from burning the paddy residue. He said after getting information of active fire locations, the

committee formed by Deputy Commissioner Captain Manoj Kumar inspected the sites immediately and took action if stubble burning was found on the spot. Stubble burning is a crime as it causes harm to the environment as well as to the fertility of the

agricultural land. Therefore, the farmers should not burn residue," said Dr Dabas. APPO Dr Satish Kumar Arora further said they had got a total 110 cases of active fire locations through HARSAC and other sources in the paddy season last year.



Aus captain Healy faces fitness issues for India ODI series

Sydney : Australian women's cricket captain Alyssa Healy has been ruled out of the remainder of the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) due to a left knee injury.

The Sydney Sixers confirmed the news, dealing a significant blow to their campaign, according to Cricket Australia.

Healy's injury raises concerns about her availability for Australia's upcoming home ODI series against India, set to begin on 5 December.

This is the second major injury setback for Healy this year; earlier, a ruptured planar fascia sidelined her during the Women's T20 World Cup semi-final against South Africa, where Tahlia McGrath captained the side in her absence.

In November, Healy expressed reservations about her full availability for the ongoing cricket season, citing her dual roles as captain



and player. "Being skipper as well is a fairly big role for me. I want to be available for

as much of the summer as I can," she stated.

The upcoming India series is followed by a busy calendar, including an away ODI tour of New Zealand and a home multi-format Ashes against England, adding urgency to Healy's recovery.

Despite her commitment, Healy acknowledged earlier that she might miss parts of the WBBL. "I want to be available for every game I possibly can, but the reality is that might not be the case," she admitted, reflecting on limited appearances for the Sixers in recent seasons.

If Healy doesn't recover quickly, Tahlia McGrath is expected to reprise her leadership role during the India series.

This development leaves Australian fans anxiously awaiting updates on their skipper's fitness ahead of a packed international schedule.

Davis leads LA Lakers to fifth straight win

London : Anthony Davis starred for the Los Angeles Lakers as they defeated the New Orleans Pelicans 104-99 to secure their fifth consecutive NBA win.

The 31-year-old scored 31 points and added 14 rebounds, while Lakers rookie Dalton Knecht scored 27 points, the BBC reported.

LeBron James managed 21 points, seven rebounds and five assists for the visitors but failed to extend his career-best streak of four consecutive triple-doubles.

Brandon Boston Jr and Brandon Ingram, who had 32 points for the hosts, made consecutive three-pointers to give the Pelicans a 97-95 lead.

But 39-year-old James responded with back-to-back three-pointers to give the Lakers a 101-97 lead with 37 seconds remaining.

"Big-time win. We want all the wins we can



get. We don't have no time to feel out the first month or two," James said.

"Every game is important. To get this win in a hostile environment was big for us."

Elsewhere on Saturday, Jayson Tatum scored a three-pointer at the buzzer to guide the Boston Celtics to a 126-123 overtime win over the Toronto Raptors.

Tatum narrowly

missed a triple-double with 24 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists as Jaylen Brown led the Celtics with 27 points.

De'Aaron Fox scored 49 points as the Sacramento Kings beat the Utah Jazz 121-117 while the Dallas Mavericks posted a 110-93 win against the San Antonio Spurs, who were without the injured Victor Wembanyama.

Dabang Delhi win big against Bengaluru Bulls in Pro Kabaddi League

Noida : The Dabang Delhi K.C. rode the brilliance of Ashu Malik, who registered his 10th Super 10 of PKL Season 11, and swatted away the challenge of the Bengaluru Bulls with a scoreline of 35-25, at the Noida Indoor Stadium here.

The Dabang Delhi, who had Ashu Malik scoring 14 points and Yogesh picking up a Hi-5, will move into the top 5 after this win on Saturday night.

For the Bengaluru Bulls, Pardeep Narwal finished 5 with points, while Nitin Rawal got 7 and Akshit added 4 more to the cause.

Ashu Malik was out of the blocks very quickly for the Dabang Delhi K.C. and Jai Bhagwan responded with a two-point raid to get the Bengaluru Bulls going as well.

Ashu Malik was once again leading the charge for his side, and the Dabang Delhi K.C. had their noses out in front in the early exchanges of the contest.

Midway through the first half, Pardeep Narwal swung into action for the Bengaluru Bulls, who were chipping away at the early deficit.



Nitin Rawal's Super tackle gave the Bengaluru Bulls a boost even as Ashu Malik and the Dabang Delhi K.C. continued to dominate proceedings.

Along with Ashu, defenders Yogesh and Sandeep were holding were putting on a solid showing as well. Just before the half-time break, Pardeep Narwal scored a 3-point raid, keeping his side within touching distance of the Dabang Delhi K.C. At the break, Dabang Delhi K.C. led the fast and pacy game 18-13.

The Dabang Delhi K.C. defence continued to stifle the Bengaluru Bulls' attack early in the second half, but were finding tough to pick up points in attack.

The Bengaluru Bulls had Nitin Rawal soldiering on along with Akshit, and with half-hour gone in the game, the deficit was a 4-point one. Ashu Malik kicked off the final phase with three-point super raid, and also completed yet another Super 10. This was his 10th Super 10 in PKL Season 11, but right after that,

the Bengaluru Bulls got their act going with Akshit, and were far from throwing in the towel. The Dabang Delhi K.C. though were solid in defence, and held their nerve, with the likes of Yogesh coming to the fore. Ashish Malik then inflicted an ALL OUT in the final minute, to put the game out of the Bengaluru Bulls' reach.

The Bulls threatened to make a comeback, but the Dabang Delhi K.C. walked off with a comprehensive 10-point win.

Tamil Thalaivas beat Bengal Warriorz 46-31 in Pro Kabaddi League

Noida : Tamil Thalaivas wiped out the Bengal Warriorz, handing them another massive 15-point loss with a scoreline of 46-31 in Match 57 of PKL 11 at the Noida Indoor Stadium, here. High 5s from Moein Shafaghi, Amir Hossein Bastami and Nitesh Kumar, and a Super 10 from Vishal Chahal made it a comfortable outing for the Tamil Thalaivas as they returned to winning ways on Saturday night. The two defensive units were dictating terms in the opening exchanges of this contest and saw more tackles than raids.

The two teams were at even Stevens, giving very little away before Vishwas S executed a brilliant Super Raid to give the Bengal Warriorz a four-point lead.

The tables turned rather quickly, courtesy of Vishal Chahal inflicted a Super Raid and dismissing three players for the Bengal Warriorz. That helped the Tamil Thalaivas execute an ALL OUT, putting them back in the lead by three points.

Just when it seemed like the Tamil Thalaivas would ride on their momentum to extend their lead further, the Bengal Warriorz showed their mettle.



Nitin Kumar managed a couple of quick raids, while their defence kept them in the game to make it a two-point deficit at half time, with the Tamil Thalaivas leading 18-16.

The Tamil Thalaivas didn't put a foot wrong at the start of the second half, extending their lead to six points. That lead went to ten points in the blink of an eye,

as Nitesh Kumar completed his High Five to inflict another ALL OUT on the Bengal Warriorz.

There was no stopping the Tamil Thalaivas as they kept piling on the misery on the Season 7 champions.

Moein Shafaghi got a Super Raid of his own, eliminating three players from the Bengal Warriorz, while Narender Kandola completed a

milestone of 500 Raid points in the league as the Tamil Thalaivas continued to run riot.

Vishal Chahal completed his Super 10, helping his side carry on their fine form in this contest, further extending their lead to twelve points.

Nitin Kumar and Vishwas S were the only two raiders who made an impact for the Bengal Warriorz.

Baisoya clinches Jaipur Open 2024 title in marathon playoff against Rashid Khan

Jaipur : Sachin Baisoya made a comeback by clinching victory in a marathon playoff against Rashid Khan in the Rs 1 crore Jaipur Open 2024 played at the Par-70 Rambagh Golf Club in Jaipur on Saturday.

Both the Delhi-based professionals, Sachin Baisoya (65-65-64-64) and Rashid Khan (64-68-61-65) ended the regulation 72 holes with identical totals of 22-under 258 before locking horns in a titanic playoff tussle that lasted an astonishing five extra holes.

The 29-year-old Sachin finally sealed the deal with a three-foot birdie conversion following an extraordinary tee shot on the Par-3 second hole. Baisoya, involved in his first-ever playoff, lifted his third career title on Saturday earning him a prize money cheque worth Rs 5 lakh thus pushing him up from sixth to fifth place in the ATA Steel PGTI Ranking. Chandigarh's Akshay Sharma (67), Hyderabad's Milind Soni (69), and Delhi's Kshitij Naveed Kaul (70) took third place at 16-under 264. Jaipur's Prakhar Asawa finished tied 43rd at three-under 277. Sachin Baisoya, overnight tied third and two off the lead, struck the last day's joint-best score of 64 that got him into the playoff. After a slow start, Sachin opened his account with an eagle on the eighth and then added five birdies at the cost



of just one bogey on the back-nine as both his hitting and short-game were top-class. Baisoya earned his place in the playoff after a mammoth 35-foot birdie conversion on the 18th. Rashid Khan, who was overnight second and one off the lead, mixed six birdies with a bogey during his 65 on Friday. He found the water hazard on the 18th but made a sensational recovery with an up-and-down to save par and make the playoff. On the first four playoff holes, all played on the Par-5 18th hole, both players were level as they matched each other shot for shot including a 35-footer for par by Rashid on the first extra hole. The action then moved to the Par-3 second hole for the fifth extra hole. While Rashid found the bunker with his tee shot, Sachin landed it within three feet of the flag. Rashid's exception-

al bunker shot that stopped four feet from the hole was not good enough as Sachin sank his birdie putt from three feet to win the playoff and the title. The five-hole playoff encounter fell just short of equalling the PGTI record of six holes played in a playoff between Aadil Bedi (winner) and Udayan Mane back in 2020 at Tollygunge Club in Kolkata. Arjun Prasad, the leader for the first three rounds, carded a 76 on day four to finish tied 14th at 12-under 268. Sukhraj Singh Gill, who fired a hole-in-one on the 11th hole in round two on Thursday, won himself Nissan's recently updated New Magnite for his effort. Sukhraj received the keys to the New Nissan Magnite from Rajesh Srivastava, Head, Marketing Communications, Nissan India, during the tournament's prize distribution ceremony.

'I don't like getting out to off-spin in Australia': Smith reveals strategy to tackle Ashwin

New Delhi : Steve Smith, the renowned Australian batsman, is preparing for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy with a focus on countering Ravichandran Ashwin's spin bowling. Smith acknowledges Ashwin's prowess, particularly after the Indian spinner dismissed him multiple times in recent encounters.

During the 2020-21 series, Ashwin secured Smith's wicket three times, and in 2023, he repeated the feat twice, limiting Smith to a mere 22 runs. Smith is determined to reverse this trend in the upcoming series.

"I don't like getting out to off-spin in Australia. But he's also a very good bowler and he came in with some decent plans. There were a couple of occasions where he got on top of me," Smith told the Sydney Morning Herald.

Smith believes a proactive approach is key to combating Ashwin's spin. He aims to disrupt Ashwin's rhythm and prevent him from settling into a comfortable bowling pattern.



of him at the SCG when I was a bit more proactive (Smith made 131 and 81 at Sydney). So, that's key for me. Just be proactive against him and not let him settle and bowl the way he wants to," he added.

Interestingly, Ashwin's bowling statistics in Australia are notably different from his record on home soil. While his average in India stands at an impressive 21.57, it rises to 42.15 in Australia.

This disparity could potentially work in Smith's favor. Smith hopes to capi-

talize on any early opportunity to gain an advantage over Ashwin.

Ashwin has previously expressed confidence in his ability to decipher Smith's batting technique. He claims to have "figured out" Smith's approach, implying an upper hand in their battles.

"I think I've kind of figured out what he does or how he bats, I've had an edge over him. I've had the wood over him," Ashwin had told Channel Seven.

Smith, however, downplays Ashwin's as-

sertions, emphasizing the extended nature of a five-match series. He believes that even if one player gains an early advantage, the longer format allows for adjustments and shifts in momentum.

"Ashwin and I have had some good battles over the years. When you have five matches, if someone gets on top of another player, they could have 10 innings against them."

"So, you're facing those mental challenges each game, and if it goes

one way early, they will feel under pressure against that player. There's nowhere to hide in five games like there are in a two-game series," said the New South Wales man.

Smith, who needs just 315 runs to reach the 10,000-run milestone in Test cricket, will return to his preferred batting position at number four. He had experimented with opening the batting in four Tests earlier this year, but the move didn't yield the desired results.

"It always makes your summer better when you start well. It gives you a lot of confidence. It's about not overthinking things. It's playing each ball as it comes and keeping it simple."

"When I'm playing my best, I'm not overthinking and I'm just playing what's in front of me. It's going to be a good battle," he explained.

Smith is eager to make a strong start and carry that momentum throughout the series. He believes in keeping his approach simple, trusting his instincts, and playing each ball on its merit. The battle between Smith and Ashwin promises to be an enthralling contest within the larger context of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.



Ramoji Group forays into millet food category

Hyderabad : The Ramoji Group, has announced its foray into millet food category business by launching 'Sabala Millets-Bharat Ka Super Food,' on the 88th anniversary of Ramoji Rao.

At the launch on Saturday evening, Sahari Cherukuri, Director of Sabala Millets, said "In the first phase, 45 unique millet-based products and variants have been launched from khichdi of various states to millet-based cookies, health bars, munchies and noodles, enriching the food category in India".

We are honoured to launch this millet range on the birth anniversary of our founder, Ramoji Rao, as we pay tribute to his visionary dream for a healthier Bharat, she said Sabala will be a brand dedicated to fostering a positive and systematic shift in food consumption patterns, promoting balanced nutrition, and championing a sustainable future.

We are producing these products from the existing facility at Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh) and we



are also planning to launch another 55 millet products in the next three months. Sahari, a granddaughter of Ch Ramoji Rao, the founder of the group, informed.

Without disclosing the investments in the newest venture by Ramoji Group, Sahari, who is also the Director Priya Foods, said "This venture marks a transformative step in the Group's commitment to consumer health, offering millet-based products designed to cater to

modern, health-conscious lifestyles without compromising nutritional integrity.

Sabala Millets is committed to promoting a range of nutritious and tasty line of products for its consumers, she claimed.

It is bridging the gap between traditional Indian grains and modern recipes through innovation, she said it characterises our steadfast resolve to blend balanced nutrition with great flavour.

Sabala millets is dedi-

cated to supporting local millet farmers and promoting eco-friendly agriculture practices, she informed and claimed that each product and its variants are "free from preservatives", offering consumers natural, nutrient dense options without any compromise on quality or taste.

Price starting from Rs 75, the entire product range of Sabala Millets are available for purchase on its official e-commerce site www.

sabalamillets.com' offering consumers convenient access to nutritious millet-based options and the order will be delivered at their consumer door step, she said. In the coming months, we intend to cover all quick commerce, market places and modern trade and large format retail stores, she said.

The first Quick Service restaurant (QSR) has been launched at the Ramoji Film City and based on the feedback from our customers from it, We definitely intend to launch more QSR points across the country, she added. The launch event offered guests a first-hand tasting experience of the new product range and an engaging presentation from Sahari Cherukuri followed by unveiling of the brand logo, brand film and the e-commerce website www.sabalamillets.com.

As part of its outreach, Sabala Millets has also launched a digital campaign aimed at educating and engaging consumers on the benefits of millets, complete with recipes and tips for easy integration into daily meals.

India to shift to 'smartphone era' for cars embracing 5G, advanced AI in 2025: Report

New Delhi : India is set to enter a transformative "smartphone era" for cars in 2025, with the introduction of vehicles featuring 5G M2M connectivity and advanced AI technologies, according to the latest findings from Techarc's India Connected Consumer Report 2025. The report said the automotive sector will skip 4G and will enable connectivity using the latest 5G cellular technology.

It observed that consumers are interested in spending money on improving the value proposition in terms of features, quality and experience rather than exploring too many smart devices.

"22 per cent of the respondents shared about considering optimising their smart devices portfolio. Among the new set of categories, smart/connected cars is generating high interest among consumers. 55 per cent of the respondents said that they have come across news or information about smart/connected cars in recent times," it said.

Starting in 2025, passenger cars in India will be equipped with 5G

M2M connectivity, on-device GenAI, and cloud connectivity, making advanced technologies accessible across various price segments, it added.

In-vehicle computing and artificial intelligence (GenAI), along with cloud applications, will become essential components of cars, enabling real-time data processing to support drivers effectively.

Most cars priced at Rs 20 lakh and above will feature these technologies as standard. The cumulative revenues from automotive chipset companies have already surpassed USD 1.5 billion, with companies like Qualcomm and MediaTek leading the market. Some of the familiar applications that consumers will be able to use while driving include communication apps for audio/video conferencing, OTT entertainment apps, music streaming, podcasts, online shopping, vehicle maintenance, and servicing.

"With connectivity and the technologies it brings to the cars, the future of the automobile sector will be fundamentally determined by the auto-technologies that

will influence the overall experience, performance, comfort, safety and entertainment available to the drivers as well as the passengers.

"So far, such features were seen as luxury or high-end experiences. But starting 2025, many of these will become mainstream for cars in India," Techarc AutoTech Analyst Sadat Achange said. With 22 automotive manufacturers producing nearly 5 million passenger vehicles annually in India, the country is poised to become a leader in the global 5G M2M market within the next few years, the report said.

About 21 per cent of respondents said MG Motors is the leader in providing connected cars in India, followed closely by Kia Motors at 18 per cent and Tata Motors at 15 per cent, it added.

Hyundai and Maruti Suzuki also ranked among the top-five brands in this category.

The report draws insights from a survey of 4,500 "connected consumers" across metro and non-metro cities. The report defined a connected consumer as one owning at least 3 smart devices in addition to a smartphone.

McDonald's invests \$100 million to recover from E. coli outbreak

New Delhi : Fast food giant McDonald's is investing \$100 million to bring back customers after an E. coli outbreak linked to onions in its Quarter Pounder hamburgers. The investment includes \$65 million allocated directly to the franchises most affected by the outbreak, the company stated.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had earlier stated that sliced onions on the Quarter Pounders were likely the source of the E. coli outbreak. Meanwhile, Taylor Farms in California has recalled onions that may be linked to the contamination.

At least 30 cases were reported in Colorado, 19 in Montana, and 13 in Nebraska, while New Mexico reported 10 cases. According to federal health officials, these cases were reported between September 12 and October 21, with at least 104 people falling ill and 34 requiring hospitalization.



The Food and Drug Administration said, "There does not appear to be a continued food safety concern related to this outbreak at McDonald's restaurants." However, the outbreak

damaged the company's sales. In the early days of the outbreak, Quarter Pounders were removed from menus in several states. McDonald's found an alternate supplier for the

900 restaurants that temporarily halted serving the burgers with onions. Last week, McDonald's resumed selling Quarter Pounders with sliced onions nationwide.

Aditya Ultra Steel to set up 5 MW solar plant; posts Rs 5.87 crore profit for April-September

New Delhi : Rolled steel products manufacturer Aditya Ultra Steel Ltd has reported a net profit of Rs 5.87 crore for April-September period of 2024-25 and also announced setting up a 5 MW solar plant at Rajkot in Gujarat. The company in a statement on Saturday said its revenue from operations stood at Rs 312.39 crore in the first six months of 2024-25. Operating profit stood at Rs 10.50 crore in the period under review.

The rolled steel products maker, which sells products under the Kamdhenu brand, listed on NSE SME platform in September following its around Rs 46 crore IPO. The company had reported revenue of Rs 587.80 crore in FY24 while profit was Rs 7.69 crore in the fiscal.

Aditya Ultra Steel Ltd Managing Director Sunny Sunil Singh said that the company is setting up a Rs



15-crore solar power plant with a capacity of 5,000 KWP at Jasdan, Rajkot, to meet its energy needs and enhance sustainability.

The company is set to embark on a

major expansion initiative aimed at increasing production capacity, improving operational efficiency, and advancing sustainable practices, he added.

Starlineups Enterprises Q2 profit jumps over 2-fold on higher income

MUMBAI: Diamonds and jewellery trader Starlineups Enterprise Ltd has reported a more than two-fold jump in net profit to Rs 3.25 crore for the July-September quarter of 2024-25 compared to the year-ago period on higher income, according to a



statement. The Surat-based company posted more than two-fold rise in revenue to Rs 24.43 crore for the September quarter of FY25 compared to Rs 9.07 crore revenue in the year-ago period, Starlineups Enterprise said in the statement.

Whiteland Corporation announces new appointments to drive growth

New Delhi : Whiteland Corporation has named Sudeep Bhatt as director strategy and Suneet Singh as senior vice president marketing to lead its next growth phase in residential and retail real estate. Sudeep Bhatt, with 26 years of experience in strategy and sales, will focus on aligning business operations with the company's growth plans. He will oversee efforts to optimize operations, enhance revenue, and build trust-based relationships. Suneet



Singh, with 24 years of marketing experience in real estate and retail, will work on strengthening Whiteland's brand and engaging with customers to expand its presence. Founder Navdeep Sardana outlined the company's development plans, including 13 million square feet of projects, with residential and commercial spaces under development in multiple sectors. Sardana also noted the focus on corporate governance, compliance, and construction techniques.

Income Tax department launches campaign to help taxpayers report overseas income for AY 2024-25

New Delhi : The Income Tax department has initiated a new campaign to contact taxpayers who have failed to report substantial overseas income or assets in their ITRs for AY 2024-25.

The Compliance-Cum-Awareness Campaign launched by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for Assessment Year 2024-25 will allow taxpayers in properly filling out Schedule Foreign Assets and reporting income from foreign sources in their income tax returns.

The CBDT announced that they will communicate through SMS and email with resident taxpayers who have submitted their



ITRs for AY 2024-25. These notifications target individ-

uals who have been identified through information

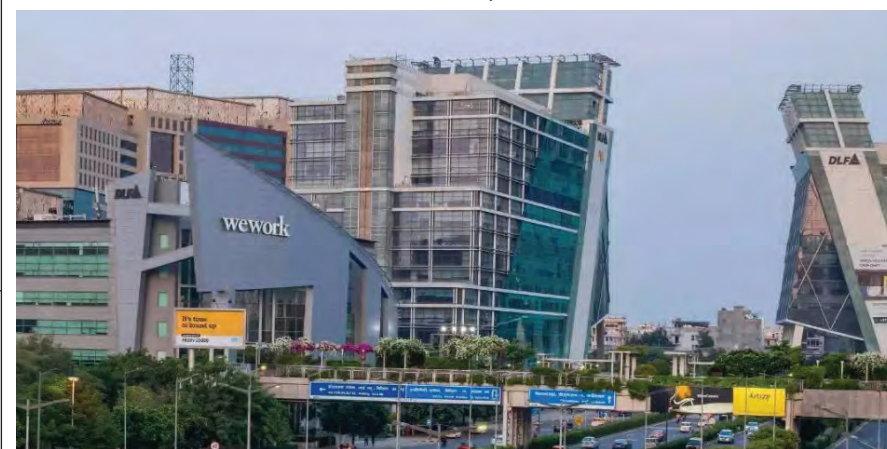
obtained via bilateral and multilateral agreements, in-

dicating their potential ownership of foreign accounts, assets, or receipt of income from overseas jurisdictions.

The initiative aims to provide reminders and guidance to those who may have incompletely filled Schedule Foreign Assets in their submitted ITR for AY 2024-25, particularly concerning high-value foreign assets.

The CBDT stated that by implementing technology and utilising data received through the Automatic Exchange of Information, the department strives to establish a more effective and user-friendly system.

Delhi-NCR is 6th costliest office market in Asia Pacific, Mumbai ranks 8th



New Delhi : Delhi-NCR ranks as the sixth costliest office location in the Asia Pacific region, with average monthly rentals of Rs 340 per sq ft, whilst Mumbai holds the eighth position, according to Knight Frank India's latest Asia-Pacific Prime Office Rental Index for Q3. Hong Kong SAR maintains its position as the region's most expensive office market in the third quarter.

The third quarter of 2024 saw stable prime rents in NCR, while Mumbai and Bengaluru experienced YoY growth of 5 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, attrib-

uted to robust corporate demand and constrained new supply.

Mumbai commands prime office rents of Rs 317 per sq ft monthly, positioning it as the eighth most expensive commercial market in the APAC region.

At Rs 138 per sq ft monthly, Bengaluru's prime office market ranks 18th, placing it amongst the most affordable prime office markets in the region.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said, "The resilience of the Indian economy continues to attract

strong global corporate interest as reflected in the sustained demand across India's major office markets".

He further said that quarterly transactions have reached unprecedented levels and are expected to surpass annual targets in 2024, with rents remaining stable.

Baijal added, "This positive outlook, supported by consistent physical occupancy, steady rent levels since 2022, and rising demand in 2024, underscores our confidence in the sustained strength of the Indian office market in the near to medium term".