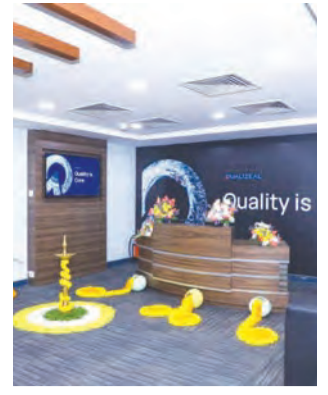


# Aryan Age

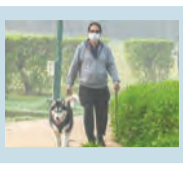
The Age of Truth

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**PG 02**  
Jharkhand: INDI alliance on course to a massive win

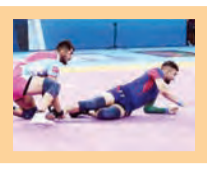
**PG 03**  
Pets, street animals suffer as pollution levels rise in Delhi



**PG 06**  
Tanzania to be partner nation for Gita Mahotsav, Odisha partner state



**PG 07**  
Dabang Delhi secures impressive win against Jaipur Pink Panthers in PKL



**PG 08**  
QualiZeal hosts QE conclave 2024

## PM Modi lauds BJP workers for landslide victory of Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra

**New Delhi :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the BJP workers for the landslide victory of party-led Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra assembly election saying it was a win for "good governance and development".  
"Development wins! Good governance wins! United we will soar even higher! Heartfelt gratitude to my sisters and brothers of Maharashtra, especially the youth and women of the state, for a historic mandate to the NDA.  
This affection and warmth is unparalleled." Modi tweeted on X.  
He added, "I assure the people that our Alliance will keep working for Maharashtra's progress. Jai Maharashtra".



According to Election Commission data, the Mahayuti alliance led by BJP is leading on over 210 seats, comfortably ahead of the 145-mark needed to form the government. The MVA is leading on 54 seats.  
The Prime Minister also thanked voters for electing NDA candidates in various Lok Sabha and Assembly bypolls.  
"NDA's pro-people efforts resonate all over! I thank people across various states for blessing NDA can-

didates in the various bypolls held. We will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling their dreams and aspirations," Modi wrote on X.  
Thanking NDA workers, the prime minister said that they worked hard, and went among people and elaborated on the party's good governance agenda.  
He also congratulated Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren on his party's victory in the state Assembly election.  
"I thank the people of Jharkhand for their support towards us. We will always be at the forefront of raising people's issues and working for the state," Modi wrote. "I also congratulate the JMM-led alliance for their performance in the state."

## Priyanka Gandhi wins Wayanad Lok Seat by over 4 lakh votes



**Wayanad (Kerala) :** AICC General Secretary and United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra won the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat by election by a huge margin of 4,08,036 votes on Saturday.  
This was the maiden entry of Priyanka Gandhi to the Parliament and she also broke the record margin of her brother Rahul Gandhi who secured 3,64,422 votes in the election held to the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in April 2024. But in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, Rahul Gandhi won the Wayanad seat by a margin of 4.31 lakh votes.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra secured 6,17,942 votes, while her rival and Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate Sathyan Mokeri got 2,09,906 votes and NDA candidate Navya Haridas polled 1,09,202 votes. In the April 2024 Lok Sabha election, Rahul Gandhi defeated LDF candidate Annie Raja by a margin of 3,64,422 votes. The former Congress President secured 6,47,445 votes, CPI National women leader Annie Raja (wife of CPI General secretary D Raja) of LDF bagged 2,83,028 votes and BJP state president K Surendran secured 1,41,045 votes.

## Maha Assembly polls Mahayuti poised for victory



**Mumbai :** The BJP-led Mahayuti is all set for a clean sweep in Maharashtra Assembly elections by leading on 227 seats out of a total 288 in the state, as per the latest trends on Saturday.  
The noon trends indicat-

ed that BJP was leading on 126 seats and its alliance partners Shiv Sena (Shinde) on 56, NCP (AP) 37.  
Whereas, the opposition Congress-led MVA was leading on 57 and others on 13 seats.  
The trends showed that

Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) were leading on 19 seats each.  
Speaking to media, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde expressed his gratitude to people of the state, saying that the results of Maharashtra Assembly are

coming based on development and transparent work that they have done during the two-and-a-half-year tenure.  
Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut expressed his doubts about incoming results.

## Maha Assembly polls: NCP (AP) chief attributes electoral win to leadership of Modi, Shah & people

**Mumbai :** The unprecedented success of the NCP (AP) and Mahayuti in the Maharashtra Assembly elections is a reflection of the people's trust in the developmental work done by the Mahayuti government and the capable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, averred Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Saturday.  
In a media statement issued here, he credited the electoral win to the collective hard work of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis as well as every representative and worker of the alliance partners over the last two and half years.  
The credit for this success also goes to the government officials who ensured that schemes like 'Ladki Bahin' and others reached the beneficiaries, he said and ex-



pressed his gratitude to the voters for giving overwhelming support beyond expectations to Mahayuti candidates.  
He especially thanked the 'Ladki Bahins' (dear sisters), acknowledging their significant contribution to the victory of Mahayuti candidates.  
Pawar assured that to meet people's hopes, aspirations and expectations, ef-

expressed his gratitude to PM Modi, Amit Shah, the central government and to colleagues in the outgoing state cabinet as well as all Mahayuti workers for their contribution.  
The historical success of Mahayuti and the NCP in this election is a new chapter not only in the politics of Maharashtra but also at the national level, he noted.  
This success reflects the trust and unity of farmers, labourers, women and youth in Maharashtra, he stated.  
"The victory increases our responsibility manifold. It is a collective triumph of all sections of the state, including farmers, labourers, youth, women, workers, entrepreneurs and the underprivileged," he asserted.  
Pawar assured that policies prioritising sustainable and inclusive development for all would be implemented.  
The NCP (AP) chief also

## BJP wins 5 seats in by-poll, SP lost seats

**Lucknow :** Ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) performed brilliantly and won seven seats in the by-elections held on nine seats in Uttar Pradesh counting for which was held on Sunday, whereas the main opposition party Samajwadi Party (SP) had to be satisfied with only two seats, but the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) could not even open its account.  
In the last assembly elections, SP had won five of these nine assembly seats and four were with the BJP, but due to different reasons, in the by-elections held on these seats, this time the saffron brigade performed brilliantly and has waved the saffron flag on seven seats, while SP has had to be satisfied with only two seats. In these by-elections, the people have completely rejected BSP and its account could not even be opened.  
In Ambedkar Nagar's Katheri seat, BJP candidate Dharmaraj Nishad got more than one lakh votes, while his opponent SP candidate Shobhavati Verma had to be satisfied with only 69,577 votes. BJP has won the Kundarki seat of Moradabad for the first time by giving a historic performance.



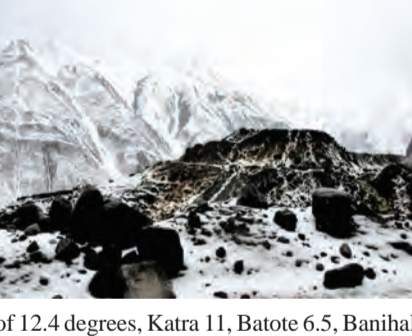
Party candidate Ramveer Singh got 1,64,585 votes from here while SP candidate Rizwan Ahmed could get only 24,355 votes. Saffron flag has been hoisted for the first time on this Muslim dominated seat.  
Mithlesh Pal, candidate of Rashtriya Lok Dal, a constituent of BJP alliance NDA, has won from Meera-

pur seat and defeated SP candidate Sumbul Rana by a margin of about 30,000 votes.  
BJP candidate Deepak Patel has won from Phulpur seat by a margin of 11,305 votes from his nearest rival SP candidate Mutjba Siddiqui. BJP candidate Deepak Patel got 78,289 votes in the last round of counting while

Siddiqui had to be satisfied with a total of 66,984 votes.  
The BJP candidate won the Khair seat of Aligarh by giving a tremendous performance. BJP candidate Surendra Diler got 1,01,811 lakh votes while SP candidate Charu Kain could get only 61,788 votes.  
In the Majhawan seat, BJP candidate Suchismita Maurya got 77,737 votes while SP nominee Dr Jyotibind got only 72,815 votes. In this way, BJP waved the flag of victory on this seat too.  
In the Ghaziabad seat, BJP candidate Sanjeev Sharma defeated SP's Singhraj Jatav. While the BJP candidate got 96,946 votes, Jatav had to be satisfied with only 27,959 votes.  
SP could save only Karhal seat, which is considered its stronghold, and Sisimau seat. From Karhal seat, SP's Tej Pratap Yadav defeated his nearest rival BJP's Anuj Yadav by 14,704 votes. Tej Pratap Yadav got 1,04,207 votes, while Anuj Yadav got 89,503 votes.  
Naseem Solanki got 69,714 votes in Sisimau seat while his nearest rival BJP's Suresh Awasthi could get only 61,150 votes.

## Feeble western disturbance hits Kashmir, bring light snowfall in upper reaches

**Srinagar :** A feeble western disturbance brought light snowfall in upper reaches of Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.  
Meteorological Department Srinagar centre's director Mukhtar Ahmad said the tourist resort hotspots like Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, the upper reaches of Gulmarg and other hilly areas experienced light snowfall. Ahmed said some plains received light rains in Kashmir on Saturday and the weather is likely to remain wet till Sunday. Earlier, the Kashmir Valley witnessed a marginal rise in night temperatures.  
The summer capital Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2.5°C, marking an improvement from earlier sub-zero levels. Just a day earlier, the city had experienced its coldest night of the season at -1.2°C.  
Similarly, other stations across the valley also recorded an uptick in temperatures.  
According to the MeT, the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir was the only location to remain below freezing, with a night temperature of -0.5°C. The hill resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir registered a minimum of 3.2°C, while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded 2.1°C. The Meteorological Department has predicted that night temperatures are likely to fall by 2-3°C in the coming days.  
Meanwhile, in the Jammu division, the Jammu city recorded a minimum temperature



of 12.4 degrees, Katra 11, Batote 6.5, Banihal 5.2 and Bhaderwah 3.2.  
The Kashmir region is set to witness a mix of weather conditions over the coming days, with light rain and snowfall in higher reaches expected.  
According to the MeT, the region will experience cloudy skies and light precipitation on November 24 and December 1, while the rest of the period is likely to remain dry.  
"Generally cloudy with light rain or light snow in higher reaches is expected at isolated places till forenoon of November 24," the MeT forecast said.  
It said light rain and snowfall in higher altitudes are anticipated from the late night of November 30 to the morning hours of December 1. The weather is to remain dry between December 2-5, MeT said.

## BJP maintains dominance by securing five seats in Raj by-election

**Jaipur :** The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continued its dominance in the by-polls by winning five assembly seats on Saturday while the main opposition party Congress was able to save only one seat.  
Due to the atmosphere in the country in favour of BJP and its allies and the efficient leadership of the state Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, the public expressed faith in the ruling BJP by making it win five out of seven seats in the by-elections.  
In the by-election, the BJP not only retained its

Sanlubar seat, but it also succeeded in snatching Jhunjhunu, Ramgarh and Deoli-Uniara assembly seats from the Congress, while this time the BJP also bagged the Khinwsar seat, which was dominated by MP Hanuman Beniwal since the beginning. Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) had political dominance in Khinwsar.  
However, the BJP could not reduce the political dominance of Bharat Adivasi Party (BAP) in Chaurasi and BAP retained its seat there. In Congress dominated Jhunjhunu, BJP candidate

Rajendra Bhambu won and he defeated his nearest rival Congress candidate Amit Ola by the highest margin of 42,848 votes.  
BJP snatched this seat from Congress. Bhambu got 90,425 votes while Ola got 47,577 votes. In Jhunjhunu, former minister and independent candidate Rajendra Gudha remained at third place and he got 38,751 votes.  
Similarly, in the Congress dominated Ramgarh seat, BJP candidate Sukhwant Singh won and he defeated his nearest rival and

Congress candidate Aryan Zubair by a margin of 13,636 votes. BJP snatched this seat from Congress.  
Sukhwant Singh got 1,81,111 lakh votes while Aryan Zubair got 95,175 votes. BJP also registered victory in Khinwsar and there BJP candidate Revantram Danga defeated his nearest rival and RLP candidate Kanika Beniwal by 13,901 votes. BJP snatched this seat from RLP. Congress candidate Dr Ratan Chaudhary remained at third place in Khinwsar and he got only 5454 votes.  
Former minister and BJP

candidate Rajendra Gurjar won in Deoli-Uniara and he defeated independent candidate Naresh Meena by 41,121 votes. BJP snatched this seat from Congress.  
Gurjar got 1,05,999 lakh votes while Naresh Meena got 59,478 votes and Congress candidate Kastur Chand Meena got 31,385 votes. BJP's Shanta Amritlal Meena won the election from Sanlubar and defeated BAP candidate Jitesh Kumar Katara by 1,285 votes. In the by-election, Shanta Meena got 84,428 votes while Katara got 83,143 votes and Con-

gress' Reshma Meena got 26,760 votes.  
In the Dausa Assembly constituency, Congress' Deendayal Bairwa succeeded in winning the by-election and defeated BJP candidate Jagmohan, brother of state Agriculture Minister Dr Kirori Lal Meena, by 2,300 votes. Bairwa got 75,536 votes whereas Jagmohan got 73,236 votes. In the by-election, BAP candidate Anil Kumar Katara was victorious on Chaurasi seat and defeated his nearest rival BJP candidate Kari Lal Nanoma by 24,370 votes.

## 11 killed, 63 injured in Israeli airstrike on Beirut



**Beirut :** At least 11 people were killed and 63 others injured on Saturday in an Israeli airstrike at dawn targeting a residential building in Lebanon's capital Beirut, the Lebanese Health Ministry reported. The explosions destroyed an eight-story building and caused heavy damage to neighboring buildings. Civil defense teams are still working on searching for victims under the rubble. Israeli media outlets reported that the airstrike was aimed at a prominent Hezbollah official. Hezbollah has not commented on the incident. Since Sept. 23, the Israeli army has intensified its air attack on Lebanon in an escalation of conflict with Hezbollah.





## Jharkhand: INDI alliance on course to a massive win

**Ranchi** : Propelled by a stellar show from its spearhead JMM, the ruling I.N.D.I.A bloc seemed on course to retain power in Jharkhand with a massive two-thirds majority, leaving the BJP-led NDA far behind in the vote count for the state's Assembly polls on Saturday.

Of the total 81 seats in the state Assembly, I.N.D.I.A bloc has either won or is in the lead in 56 seats. In contrast, the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance has either won or continues to be ahead of rivals in only 24 constituencies.

The Jharkhand Loktantik Krantikari Morcha, fighting its maiden election, has won the in Dumri seat.

As per the Election Commission website at 7 p.m., the JMM has already bagged 23 seats, besides being ahead of rivals in 11 more, and could expect to pick up 34 seats if the trends hold. Considering the party contested 41 seats, it makes for a formidable strike rate of over 82 percent.

JMM's alliance partners Congress (11 wins plus five leads) and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD - two wins and two leads) were in sight of 16 and four seats respectively, while

the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation have triumphed in two seats.

Among the NDA constituents, the BJP could end up with 21 seats, having already picked up 15 seats with leads in half a dozen more. The Janata Dal-United (JD-U) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) were in the lead in one constituency each.

Chief Minister and top JMM leader Hemant Soren, who led the I.N.D.I.A campaign, completed a hatrick of wins from Barhait, having earlier coasted to victory from the seat in the 2014 and 2019 polls. Soren, who maintained a steady lead since the counting began at 8 a.m., won with a 39791 margin over his BJP opponent Gamliyel Hembrom.

The 49-year-old leader, who happens to be the eldest son of JMM founder Shibu Soren, has been helming the state since 2019, albeit with a five-month break earlier this year, when he was arrested for alleged corruption.

There was further good news for the JMM and Hemant as the afternoon advanced as his wife Kalpana Soren and brother Basant seized the lead from Gandey and Dumka constituencies



respectively after falling behind in the initial rounds.

With the counting over, Kalpana was ahead of BJP's Muniya Devi by almost 17,000 votes. The result is yet to be officially announced.

According to the EC website, Basant Soren defeated BJP nominee Sunil Soren by 14588 vote.

Among other prominent JMM nominees, Assembly Speaker Ravindra Nath Mahto was leading from Nala.

After a day-long snake and ladder game, veteran politician Louis Marandi, who jumped ship to JMM after severing his long association with the BJP just before the poll, prevailed over the



challenger from her former party Suresh Murmu by 5738 votes in Jama.

On the NDA side, overcoming initial hiccups, former state Chief Minister Champai Soren, who contested as a BJP nominee from Seraikella, won by a 20477 margin over her JMM rival Ganesh Mahali.

Champai, one of the

founders of the JMM, had crossed over to the BJP after he was replaced as Chief Minister by Hemant Soren in July.

In Dhanwar, Jharkhand BJP unit president and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi was leading by a 26,000 plus margin, with three-fourths of the polled votes already counted.

### People of Jharkhand have dusted BJP: Dr Manoj

Jharkhand Pradesh Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Chief spokesperson Manoj Kumar on Saturday expressed gratitude to the people of Jharkhand for the big victory of the India alliance and said that the common people of Jharkhand have worked to dust the BJP again in Jharkhand.

He said on Saturday that the Rashtriya Janata Dal expresses gratitude to the people. Jumle-waj got a lesson, now jumla will not work, the common people will have to work in public interest.

This victory of the India al-

liance is historic. Aam Aadmi expresses confidence in Grand Alliance. We have believed in the work done by the coalition government.

Dr. Manoj said that many congratulations to all the leaders including the leader of the Grand Alliance, Hemant Soren. "Many congratulations to the newly elected MLAs of RJD Sanjay Kumar Singh Yadav, Sanjay Prasad Yadav, Suresh Paswan and Naresh Prasad Singh and the MLAs of the Grand Alliance on behalf of the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

However, another state BJP stalwart and Leader of the Opposition in Jharkhand Assembly Amar Kumar Bauri suffered a humiliating defeat in Chandankiyari. Bauri, who had been elected from the seat in 2019, finished third this time. Uma Kant Rajak of JMM, who had lost to Bauri five years back as a AJSU nominee, was elected, with Arjun Rajwar of Jharkhand Loktantik Krantikari Morcha taking the second place.

Other notable BJP candidates who lost were JMM chief Shibu Soren's daughter-in-law Sita Soren in Jamtara and Lobin Hembram in

Barrio. Congress leader Ir-fan Ansari won with a 43,676 margin from Jamtara.

In another piece of bad news for the NDA, AJSU-P chief and former Deputy Chief Minister Sudesh Mah-to was trailing in Silli to his JMM rival.

The elections to the Jharkhand Assembly were held in two phases, with 43 constituencies going to the hustings on November 13, and the remaining 38 on November 20.

The state recorded a high overall voter turnout of 67.74 percent this time, the highest since its formation 24 years back.

## BJP wins 5 seats in by-poll, SP lost seats

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In Ambedkar Nagar's Katheri seat, BJP candidate Dharmaraj Nishad got more than one lakh votes,



while his opponent SP candidate Shobhavati Verma had to be satisfied with only 69,577 votes. BJP has won the Kundarki seat of Moradabad for the first time by giving a historic performance. Party candidate Ramveer Singh got 1,64,585 votes from here while SP candidate Rizwan Ahmed could get only 24,355 votes. Saffron flag has been hoisted for the first time on this Muslim dominated seat. Mithlesh Pal, candidate of Rashtriya Lok Dal, a constituent of BJP al-

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In the by-election, the BJP not only retained its Sanlubar seat, but it also succeeded in snatching Jhunjhunu, Ramgarh and Deoli-Uniara assembly seats from the Congress, while this time the BJP also bagged the Khinwsar seat, which was dominated by MP Hanuman Beniwal since the beginning. Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) had political dominance in Khinwsar.

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Bairwa got 75,536 votes whereas Jagmohan got 73,236 votes. In the by-election, BAP candidate Anil Kumar Katara was victorious on Chaurasi seat and defeated his nearest rival BJP candidate Kari Lal Nanoma by 24,370 votes.

## Bihar byelection : NDA makes clean sweep winning all four assembly seats

**Patna** : NDA made a clean sweep on Saturday winning all the four assembly seats in the byelection, making it tough for Grand Alliance in the next Bihar assembly election slated for 2025 as RJD had accepted it as semifinal of next major electoral battle of the state.

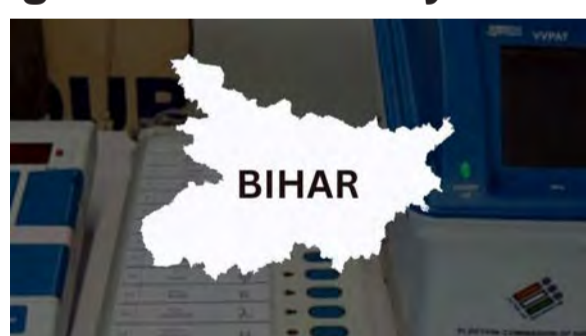
NDA won all four seats of Tarari, Ramgarh, Imamganj and Belaganj while Grand Alliance, earlier holding three seats, scored zero. BJP candidates Vishal Prashant and Ashok Kumar Singh won Tarari and Ramgarh seats respectively while JD(U) candidate Manorama Devi and HAM candidate Deepa Manjhi won Belaganj and Imamganj seats.

Belaganj and Ramgarh seats were earlier held by RJD while Tarari seat was held by CPI (ML). Imamganj seat was held by HAM, a partner of ruling NDA in Bihar.

Grand alliance was in upbeat mood with its satisfactory results of nine seats in 2024 Lok Sabha election and RJD had dubbed assembly by-election in four seats as semi final of 2025 Bihar assembly election.

RJD was naturally in high spirit with victory in four seats in recent Lok Sabha election after scoring zero in 2019 Lok Sabha election, while its allies Congress and CPI(ML) had also won three and two seats respectively whereas NDA's tally had slipped to 30 from 39 in 2019 Lok Sabha election.

It was big loss for entire



Grand Alliance as it was holding three seats while one seat was in kitty of NDA where by-election were held on November 13 and results declared on Saturday proved to be clean sweep for NDA.

What made the difference, is million dollar question but its answer certainly lies with "Jan Suraj" founded on October 2 this year by noted poll strategist Prashant Kishor.

NDA and Grand Alliance were contesting all four seats but new entrant Jan Suraj had also fielded its candidates in all these four seats, making the electoral battle interesting and somewhat unpredictable. Selection of candidates by "Jan Suraj" appeared to made dent in core voters of RJD, making the results, a nightmare for the party as its lost all three seats contested. CPI(ML) also lost its traditional stronghold of Tarari seat to BJP. "Jan Suraj" could not open its account but had upset the arithmetic of Grand Alliance in byelection.

Results have given a tough time for Grand Alliance to redraw its strategy

for next Bihar assembly election slated for 2025. RJD leader Tejaswi Prasad Yadav and his entire team of Grand Alliance would have to take a fresh look on its strategy and also keep in mind of Prashant Kishor factor in next major battle of the state.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary reacting to results, said that it was victory of people of the state. RJD had described the assembly by-election as semifinal and the party was moved out of the contest in this round itself, he remarked.

Union Minister and senior JD(U) leader Lalan Singh said that result of by-election in Bihar had proved the fact that people were solidly behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and rejected Grand Alliance.

RJD spokesman and former MLA Shakti Singh Yadav said that election was rigged by ruling party leaders in collusion with officials. It was naked display of misuse of administration during the polling, he alleged.

## Magic of Bhajan Lal works in Rajasthan by-election

**Jaipur** : In the by-elections held for seven assembly constituencies in Rajasthan, the magic of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma worked, due to which the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has succeeded in winning the maximum number of five seats.

The result that came out on Saturday in the counting of votes of this by-election held on November 13 proved to be very important for Sharma and the BJP. The assembly by-elections on seven seats were announced ten months after Bhajan Lal became the Chief Minister.

He has also emerged as the sensitive CM of Rajasthan, where the people choose him by sidelining all the issues of the opposition. Sharma also participated enthusiastically in the Maharashtra assembly elections in favour of the party candidates, the results of which are also being seen.

For this reason, Sharma dominated not only Rajasthan but also Maharashtra assembly elections. After being elected as MLA for the first time in the last Rajasthan assembly elections, he took many important historical decisions and after becoming the CM for the first time, he earned a lot of praise from the public.

He was successful in stopping the rebellion raised against many BJP candidates in the by-elections that came up. Also, by including leaders of many other parties in the party, the kind of atmosphere he created in the



changing political environment, he was successful in proving himself as an experienced political player.

Another important thing in the by-election is that former CM Vasundhara Raje or any party leader bigger than her did not participate actively in its election campaign and the entire responsibility remained with the CM and he held election meetings twice in every assembly constituency.

Sharma surprised everyone by taking many such historical decisions including ERCP and Yamuna Water Agreement, in the first year of his state government, he decided to organize the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit in the capital Jai-

pur. Under this, MoUs worth about Rs 25 lakh crore have also been signed so far. In this way, Sharma has been successful in drawing everyone's attention towards himself.

After this by-election, Bhajanlal is being heard everywhere and as soon as the results of the by-election came, BJP's state President Madan Rathore gave all the credit for BJP's victory to Bhajanlal. Similarly, other leaders of the party are also giving credit to the Chief Minister and praising his skillful politics that under his leadership BJP has become united and strong. This victory has also increased the stature of Rathore.

It has also been proved in the by-election that no wave was

created against the new BJP government of one year and people have accepted it.

Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who is called the magician of politics, was not seen actively in the by-election this time and this time neither his magic was seen, but he could not even convince Naresh Meena who demanded a ticket from Uniara-Deoli and its result was also seen in the by-election.

In this way, BJP had never won the election in Khinwsar, where the political stronghold of MP Hanuman Beniwal was demolished and the flag of BJP's victory was hoisted. Due to this, Beniwal's political reputation in Khinwsar got tarnished.

Similarly, the BJP surprised everyone by winning the Congress-dominated Ramgarh assembly seat and in Ramgarh also the political reputation of former MLA Zubair Khan's family ended.

After the last Lok Sabha elections, the new state President of BJP, Madan Rathore, is also being patted on the back for this. Along with this, BJP's new state President Rathore is also being praised that during his tenure as state president, the party leaders and workers appeared united. In this by-election, BJP won Jhunjhunu, Khinwsar, Ramgarh, Deoli-Uniara and Salumbhar seats and while it maintained its dominance in Salumbhar, it also maintained its dominance in four of these places.



## Briefs :

## Court suggests first tree census for Delhi

**New Delhi :** In response to the alarming rate of tree felling in Delhi, which Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) data indicates is five trees per hour, the Supreme Court announced on Friday its intention to mandate a tree census for the city—the first of its kind. Additionally, the court plans to establish an expert committee to oversee and approve any tree felling activities. A bench comprising Justices A. S. Oka and Augustine George Masih stated they would outline strict criteria for tree felling and introduce an extra layer of scrutiny through this expert panel to prevent illegal activities. This committee, to be appointed by the Supreme Court, will have the final authority on tree felling decisions, requiring its mandatory approval after various government departments give their initial consent. The court also agreed with senior advocate ADN Rao's suggestion that local Station House Officers (SHOs) should be held personally accountable for any unauthorized tree cutting. Furthermore, the census is proposed to extend to the protected Taj Trapezium Zone in Agra. The bench emphasized the necessity of a tree census and the establishment of a vigilant mechanism to prevent illegal tree felling. The Supreme Court was hearing a petition demanding a complete ban on tree felling in the city without the court's permission, which currently applies only to forest trees. The petitioner cited MCD data revealing that from 2019 to 2021, a total of 1,33,117 trees were sanctioned for felling across all categories, averaging 44,372 trees annually, or five trees every hour. Highlighting allegations that various authorities, responsible under the (DPTA), had failed in their duties, leading to a reduction in Delhi's green cover, the court decreed that no trees would be cut without the panel's approval. In certain cases, especially involving a larger number of trees, the Supreme Court's approval may also be required.

## Kailash Gahlot appointed member of BJP coordination committee

**New Delhi :** Ahead of state assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday announced the appointment of Kailash Gahlot as a member of the party's Delhi assembly election coordination committee. Kailash Gahlot resigned as Delhi transport minister and also from AAP on November 17 and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) the next day. After leaving the party, Gahlot said that he reached the decision to quit AAP over a prolonged period. Earlier, Delhi BJP on November 15 named its 23-member state election coordination committee for the Assembly polls due in February next year.

## After brief respite, air quality slips back to 'very poor' in Noida &amp; Ghaziabad

**Noida :** After a brief respite, the region's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category again on Thursday. Noida and Ghaziabad both witnessed a 'poor' AQI day on Thursday for the first time in eight days. On Thursday, however, AQI rose in both cities with Noida recording AQI of 318 while Ghaziabad stood at 303. Greater Noida remained in the 'poor' category at 266, compared to 212 the day before. Air monitoring stations in both districts recorded air quality levels ranging from 'poor' to 'very poor'. In Noida, the Sector 62 station recorded the worst AQI at 357, followed by Sector 1 (313) - both in the 'very poor' category.

## Pets, street animals suffer as pollution levels rise in Delhi

**New Delhi :** Rising pollution levels in Delhi are severely impacting pets and street animals, leading to numerous health complications and behavioral changes, according to veterinarians. Pet owners and animal welfare advocates have raised alarms as many animals exhibit respiratory issues such as coughing, sneezing, chest congestion, vomiting, and diarrhea. Experts link these problems to the city's deteriorating air quality.

Sumit Nagar, a consulting veterinary doctor with the Delhi Forest and Wildlife Department, notes an increase in respiratory distress among animals. Animals suffer from health issues similar to humans, including suffocation, lung damage, and respiratory inflammation. Diwali brings additional challenges like noise pollution shock and burns, particularly for monkeys that encounter wires. Pet owners are limiting outdoor activities to shield their pets from the polluted air, leading to behavioral problems like pent-up energy and aggression in dogs.

"The morning smog makes it difficult to walk my dogs. They cough and vomit due to the toxic air," said Sujata Bhattacharya, a Pitampura resident. "Since masks aren't an option for them, we've cut down on outdoor time, but this has made them more aggressive. Dogs need outdoor activities to expend energy,



but even bathroom breaks expose them to harmful air," she added.

Cat owners report their pets suffering from eye irritation and sneezing, with many cats avoiding outdoor spaces. Ranjana Mukherjee, a pet owner from Gurugram, mentioned that her three cats have been sneezing and experiencing eye irritation. She observed that her cats have stopped going outside, which is unusual for them, and seem lethargic due to the current conditions.

Street animals face even graver challenges. Smoggy mornings and nights with poor visibility have led to more hit-and-run incidents, according to

animal activists. "Low visibility makes driving dangerous, and street animals often fall victim to accidents. They lack shelter or protection, making them especially vulnerable," said Kanika Diwan, an animal welfare activist. Feeding street animals has also become more difficult. "The number of feeders has decreased because of the pollution.

There's little awareness about how poor air quality affects animals. Governments often overlook their issues because animals don't vote," said Gaurav, a feeder from Dwarka.

Sanjay Mohapatra, founder of 'House of Stray Animals', emphasized the

detrimental effects of toxic air on street animals. "Pollution irritates their eyes and skin, particularly those living near industrial areas or busy roads.

The situation is dire," he said.

Delhi continues to rapple with severe pollution, with thick smog enveloping the city, especially in the mornings and evenings. The Air Quality Index (AQI) remains in the "severe" category in many areas, posing significant health risks for residents. Authorities have enacted Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), imposing strict restrictions on construction, industrial activities, and vehicular movement.

## Atishi 1,000 times better than her predecessor: LG VK Saxena in rare praise for Delhi CM

**New Delhi :** LG VK Saxena Friday complimented chief minister Atishi, saying: "I am happy today that Delhi's CM is a woman. I can confidently say she is a thousand times better than her predecessor."

He was addressing students of Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women at the seventh convocation ceremony.

While making the comment, LG glanced at Atishi, who was present on the dais.

Atishi was sworn in as the eighth CM of Delhi in Sept following the resignation of Arvind Kejriwal, who ran AAP govt for nine and a half years.

Notably, Kejriwal during his tenure as Chief Minister, was constantly at odds with LG Saxena,

and the two made strong remarks against each other.

The Delhi LG took to social media platform X, to inform about the event. He said that this convocation marks a celebration of progress and the vital role women play in shaping a technologically advanced and equitable future.

"Presided over the 7th Convocation of Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW), in the presence of Hon'ble Delhi CM @AtishiAAP and Prof.

Yogesh Singh, VC, DU. Young bright women graduating today will be breaking barriers, redefining gender roles, and stepping into a rapidly changing world with technical expertise and

determination. Their bright, young minds are a testament to the innovation and resilience needed to lead in this era of transformation..," LG Saxena stated in a post on X.

"These young women carry not only the promise of bright futures but also a new-found responsibility to contribute to their parents and families, society, and nation-building.

This convocation marks a celebration of progress and the vital role women play in shaping a technologically advanced and equitable future.

My good wishes to the graduating students and their parents, as indeed to the faculty and the management of IGDTUW," he added.



## Metro seeks 7,200 crore in Delhi Budget to 'fulfil commitments'

**New Delhi :** With Delhi govt finalising the revised budget for the 2024-25 financial year, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has written a letter to.

The chief secretary seeking Rs 7,200 crore for fulfilling various commitments including timely completion of new corridors under Phase-IV and remaining payment to contractors for Phase-III expansion.

In a letter to the chief secretary, DMRC managing director Vikas Kumar said if the funds were not made available timely, the execution of phase-IV would be delayed, leading to cost overrun.

Under Delhi Metro's Phase-IV expansion plan, the construction of three priority corridors -- RK Ashram to Janakpuri (West), Aerocity to Tughlaqabad, and Mukundpur to Maujpur -- is going on at a fast pace and is likely to be completed in 2026, while the sanction for two more lines -- Lajpat Nagar to Saket G block.



And Inderlok to Indraprastha -- was received early this year.

DMRC is likely to build another corridor -- Rithala to Nathupur -- in Phase-IV, but it has yet to receive necessary approvals from central and Delhi govts.

The DMRC MD, in his letter, said that the three priority corridors, spanning a total route length of nearly 62 km, were being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 24,948.6 crore and required regular flow of money.

To meet the project

deadline, apart from funds for the other three corridors spanning over 47km.

"Your kind intervention in this matter is earnestly solicited to ensure the timely release of the necessary funds, which are crucial.

For the successful execution of the Phase-IV project and addressing the associated financial obligations. If these are not made available timely.

The execution of Phase-IV would be delayed leading to cost overrun," he added.

## SC extends Grap-4 till Monday; Delhi's air turns 'severe' again later in day

**New Delhi :** Supreme Court Friday refused to relax the strict measures in force under stage 4 of Grap despite Delhi's air quality improving a bit from 'severe' to 'very poor' over the last two days. The curbs will stay at least till Monday, the court said, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

SC's decision proved to be prescient as the city's AQI slipped back into the 'severe' zone in the evening. At 4pm, when the day's 24-hour average is declared, the AQI was still 'very poor' at 393, having deteriorated from the previous day's average of 371. However, by 6pm, the AQI was severe again at 401.

A bench of Justices A S Oka and Augustine George Masih expressed dissatisfaction over implementation of the ban on entry of trucks in the city which is mandated under Grap-4 and appointed 13 young lawyers as court commissioners to visit the entry

points and file a report. There are around 113 entry points for heavy vehicles to enter the city, of which 13 are major ones. "We are not satisfied with the affidavit of the Delhi govt," the bench said.

It directed Delhi govt and police to ensure that checkpoints are immediately set up at all 113 entry points and personnel manning the entry points clearly informed about the accepted essential items whose entry would be permitted. It directed police to facilitate the visit of court commissioners to the sites and also share CCTV footage with them.

"As far as entry of trucks is concerned, there is no implementation. Hundred entry points are unmanned. There is no implementation of fireworks ban, construction... nothing was being implemented. Somebody has to be answerable. The percentage share of pollution caused by these trucks is

a very large," the bench said. Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for CAQM, urged the court to allow relaxation of Grap-4 measures.

"Please allow us to bring it down to at least Grap-3. Yesterday and today, we have come to the Grap-2 stage," she told the bench. Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for some parents, also pressed for allowing physical classes in schools saying that closing down schools affected working parents and also children with special needs.

Agreeing with her plea, the bench said consequences of Grap-4 were very drastic and it affected various sections of society. The court gave an assurance that it would examine on Monday whether the decision needs to be reviewed.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, who is assisting the court as amicus, requested the bench

to appoint a committee of retired SC judges to monitor and suggest measures to deal with the pollution crisis in Delhi which has become an annual affair. Bhati vehemently opposed the proposal and said, "We are strongly opposing this. Please do not create any more tiers. There is no judicial application of mind that is required. Your lordships are already monitoring.

## 'Shocking' State Of Affairs At Chandni Chowk, Says HC

**New Delhi :** Expressing shock at the "state of affairs" in Chandni Chowk, Delhi High Court on Friday summoned the local deputy commissioner of police and the deputy commissioner of MCD for an explanation.

It ordered Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Police to immediately remove the deficiencies and illegal activities going on in the area after examining the photographs.

"There is garbage and filth lying everywhere, people are gambling there, drug addicts and vagabonds are on the streets, it seems. What are police doing, are they aware of the ground reality? How can people stay there (in public spaces)?" a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela wondered.

The court said neither police nor Public Works Department (PWD) nor MCD officials were doing



their job. "We also come from this city. All these regular beats and patrols are going on for collections, there is a lot of 'hafta' collection going on there. It seems police have become helpless. This gives a bad name to the force," the bench remarked. The court said it was of the prima facie view that the deficiencies

and illegal activities must be attended to and removed by MCD and Delhi Police as expeditiously as possible. It directed MCD, PWD, Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation Limited, Delhi Police and Delhi Traffic Police to file their status reports within two weeks.

The bench was hearing a public interest litigation

filed by Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal highlighting the highly neglected, disturbing and pathetic state of affairs in the area of Chandni Chowk Redevelopment Project from Lal Quila Road up to Fatehpuri Masjid and its surrounding areas, including metro stations.

After seeing the photo-

graphs submitted by the petitioner, the court said, "These are shocking state of affairs."

Senior advocate Sanjeev Ralli, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that there was a total failure, neglect and lack of attention on the part of authorities, which kept shifting their responsibility by blaming each other. He said till the time the court was monitoring the situation, there was no problem.





## Politics of the Adani Issue

Famous industrialist Gautam Adani and his conglomerate are once again in the limelight. While Adani has been in the news in Maharashtra due to Dharavi, he has now also been in the news internationally. Gautam Adani has been accused of allegedly defrauding investors in the US and bribing government officials. The US Securities and Exchange Commission has accused Gautam Adani and some of his associates of defrauding investors. Warrants have also been issued against Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani and his associates in this case. The Congress has become aggressive over this and has reiterated its demand for the formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate the Adani case. While the opposition in India is aggressive over this, the US has assured that a way out can be found.

Adani is accused of paying \$235 million in bribes to Indian officials to get solar power projects in India. The country's industries and their shares have fallen sharply after the US action against Adani. In this context, White House Press Secretary Karin Jean-Pierre told reporters at a press conference that the administration is aware of the allegations made against Adani. However, she assured everyone that the relationship between India and the US is strong and that we are confident that we will be able to resolve this issue like any other issue, considering that our relations will not be affected.

The US Department of Justice has raised questions about Adani and his role in this fraud case. While the Adani Group has suffered a major setback due to this, an international contract of the Adani Group has also been cancelled. Kenyan President William Ruto has taken a hasty decision and cancelled the plan to expand his country's main airport. Adani had bid the highest for this project. The Kenyan government has announced the cancellation of the airport expansion and power transmission contract with the Adani Group. The cancellation of this project contract worth nearly Rs 6,000 crores will be a big blow to the Adani Group. The shares of Adani Group companies have fallen sharply in the Indian stock market. Here, the Adani Group has immediately issued a statement regarding the alleged bribery case in the US, saying that all these allegations are unacceptable. All the allegations made by the US Department of Justice against the directors of 'Adani Greens' are baseless and we reject all those allegations. As stated by the US Department of Justice itself, the crimes filed in such cases are only allegations until they are proven. Also, until then, the accused concerned is innocent. We are investigating all possible legal aspects in this case, the Adani Group said in this statement.

Opposition parties are demanding his arrest here in the country. Opposition leaders criticized that Adani has the protection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, so he is safe. The truth or falsehood of the allegations made against Adani will be known only after the actual court proceedings. The information given by the US Department of Justice in the charge sheet has not yet been fully disclosed. However, information is coming to light that some states in India have been named in this charge sheet. It is reported that bribes worth about Rs 2,000 crore were offered to get the opportunity to set up such power generation projects in states like Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. It is important to note that this case dates back to 2021 to 2022.

It is also important to note that during this period, all these four states belonged to the opposition parties that are now accusing and criticizing Adani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi through him. The leaders who allege that Adani's alleged financial irregularities have the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi should take this matter into special consideration. Because, it is not possible for an industrial group to get such contracts in their state without the consent of the Chief Ministers of the opposition parties. Therefore, it should not be forgotten that while pointing one finger at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, three fingers of the same hand are pointed at the leaders who are making the allegations. This is not an attempt to take Adani's side or to declare him innocent. Legal action has now been initiated against him in the US and the truth regarding it will come out as soon as possible. But, once such issues are politicized, the question of political morality also arises. When investigative agencies like ED, CBI etc. raid opposition party leaders in India or seize their assets considered unaccounted for, isn't the same issue of 'political morality' raised by the opposition parties? The question is asked, how does the ED find only opposition party leaders to raid? It is being said that action is being taken against the leaders of the opposition parties out of a sense of 'witch hunting' or political vendetta. Then, why are the same opposition parties silent on the Adanis with whom the states where the opposition parties are in power have done business, and why is only Prime Minister Narendra Modi being targeted in this regard, are these questions not also related to political correctness and impartiality? After all, the fact that the line 'ours is ours and others are ours' is an important reality in the politics of our country. It is also fair to ask whether the then Chief Ministers of the states where this alleged bribery by Adani was taking place two-three years ago did not notice this matter, and why did they not take action against the Adanis or against their own officials who allegedly accepted bribes from them. If no such action has been taken, then many issues arise such as whether someone would accept the allegation that these Chief Ministers had also protected Adani. This attitude has become 'cover up your own and show others' openly'. If Adani has committed any wrongdoing, then strict action should be taken against him in India, this demand is not at all wrong. However, one hand does not clap. Therefore, it is clear that the wrongdoing cannot take place unless Adani and many state governments, their officials and the policy makers of those states are also involved in such transactions. Then, it would be right and more credible to demand that an inquiry should be made, but that it should be conducted in a comprehensive and impartial manner.

# AIIMS set up under PMSSY

Union Health Ministry entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and Ministry of Education to provide enhanced funding and technical support to Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU, here today. Union Minister Health and Family Welfare Shri J P Nadda and Union Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan were present on the occasion.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed today enables provision of grant in aid to IMS, BHU by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the lines of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The provision of grant to IMS BHU by MoHFW will enhance the availability of affordable state-of-the-art secondary and tertiary health care services to the people of the region. It will contribute significantly in reducing referrals by enhancing delivery of clinical care services. This will result not only in increased patient experience and satisfaction but is expected to notably reduce out of pocket expenditure on patient care. Union Health Ministry has from time to time been providing support to IMS, BHU under various schemes for establishment of new facilities and upgradation of existing ones. Considering the excellence of IMS BHU and its potential to further im-



prove the quality of health care services, need was felt for providing enhanced support to enable it to deliver healthcare services of highest standards.

Calling this a historic day, Shri J P Nadda stated that this MoU is a result of the Union Government's "whole of the government" approach, which fosters increased collaboration across various government departments for shared goals aimed towards people's benefit.

Shri Nadda emphasized that this MoU would establish close partnership between AIIMS, New Delhi, and IMS, BHU leading to higher teaching standards and excellence in research outcomes too. He also proposed regular student and faculty exchanges between IMS, BHU and AIIMS for enhanced outcomes.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Pradhan said that the MoU will deepen ac-

ademic and research collaboration between AIIMS and IMS BHU paving the way for sharing of knowledge and expertise, particularly in the areas of upgradation of clinical and healthcare facilities, robotics surgery, hospital administration and governance among others. The MoU will help establish IMS, BHU as a world-class institute, he added.

Smt. Purnya Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that "this MoU provides for sharing of experience, technical support and academic cooperation between the two Institutes. This is in alignment with the Union Govt's "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach."

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Education said, "the MoU provides for both technical and administrative support to IMS, BHU and this has been possible because of the gov-

ernment's commitment to a collaborative approach."

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Vice Chancellor, BHU noted that, "It is rare for an institute to be supported by two Ministries." He said BHU will continue to enhance its teaching standards, research outputs and assured that the MoU will be implemented in letter and spirit.

Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) is a prestigious Institute of BHU with four full-fledged constituents namely, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Ayurveda, Faculty of Dental Sciences, and College of Nursing. An MoU was signed India between All Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi and Institute of Medical Science, Banaras Hindu University on 19th June 2018 to facilitate exposure to latest developments and best practices in health care, medical education and research. The MoU inter alia provided that

MoHFW may also consider financially supporting infrastructure development projects to create health care and research facility in various super specialties in collaboration with Ministry of Education.

Sharing of experience and expertise in upgradation of clinical facilities. Cooperation & collaboration in the areas of teaching & learning for UGs, PGs, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals.

Technical Support in establishing & operating 'State of the Art Skill Lab' facility.

Training & mentorship for starting Robotic Surgery facilities.

General academic collaboration, including exchange of educational resource materials and publications that are of mutual interest.

Development of student & staff exchange programmes, visiting scholars

programme, research fellowship programmes, etc.

Collaborative basic and applied, research, including joint grant applications.

Support in implementation of key Governance reforms.

Any other mutually agreed areas which may be identified from time to time for the holistic growth of AIIMS New Delhi & IMS BHU.

Shri Jaideep Kumar Mishra, Addl. Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Education; Smt. Ankita Mishra Bundela, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Prof. M Srinivas, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi; Prof. SN Sankhwar, Director, IMS, BHU; Prof. Arun Kumar Singh, Registrar, BHU and senior officers of the Union Government were present on the occasion.



## Entertain-Educate-Elevate

In Day 3 of 55th IFFI, Shri Shantanu Moitra, eminent music director, jammed with Shri Vidhu Vinod Chopra, film director, producer and script writer in a vibrant way today here in Kala Academy, Panjim, Goa and created a true illustrious masterclass session on 'Living Movies: Filmmaking and the Creative Life' for the packed house.

Shri Moitra began the session with his famous 'Piyu Bole Piya Bole' song from the movie

Great films resonate through passionate voices. Share your love for cinema with #AnythingForFilms, #FilmsKeLiyeKuchBhi, and #IFFI2024. Tag us @PIBIndia, and we'll help spread your passion! For journalists, bloggers, and vloggers wanting to connect with filmmakers for interviews/interactions, reach out to us at [iffi4pib@gmail.com](mailto:iffi4pib@gmail.com) with the subject line: Take One with PIB

class conversations, as he has repeatedly done through his movies,

with his vibrant energy throughout for rest of the session.



'Parineeta' and Shri Chopra joined him in no time. Breaking the established pattern of such master-

Shri Chopra immediately stood up from the comfort of his sofa and kept the entire audience engaged

Recollecting his zero moment, Shri Chopra narrated the story of his dream to assist Vijay

Anand, in his early days. Someone close to Mr. Anand assured him that he will confirm the possible association with Anand. That promise kept him waiting for months; but the letter did not arrive ever.

Shri Chopra explained how, with his first film 'Khamosh' made with the financial assistance from NFDC, he faced challenges to market the movie and repay NFDC. As per NFDC policy, if he failed to do so, there would be no assistance for the next venture. Eminent directors, distributors praised the film, but again the phone did not ring with the good news. Finally, he himself had to be the distributor of the film.

Taking cue from these stories, Shri Moitra fondly recollected: "During 'Parineeta' there was doubt with the possibility of the music getting popular, especially considering the then existing trends in the industry. But Vidhu being himself who never received the letter, or got that call, signed me for next three VCF ventures; even before the success or failure; and that's what defines Vidhu Vinod Chopra."

Shri Moitra also highlighted

how tough a taskmaster Shri Chopra is. While characterising Shri Chopra for the audience, he commented, 'Vinod doesn't know where he wants to go - but he certainly knows where he doesn't want to stand'. Shri Moitra did not miss the chance to point out, on a lighter note, how this trait makes his life and that of others who are working with Shri Chopra, miserable.

On the topic whether understanding business prospective is essential for budding filmmakers or not, Shri Chopra firmly stated his disapproval. "I only make a film that I am believing in" and he concluded by saying "Entertain-Educate-Elevate: The Principle of 3E's we follow in VCF."

On his relations with the film director when he himself produces the film, Mr. Chopra said, "I don't trust a director, I trust a human being."

The session witnessed the jovial, musical and engaging Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Shantanu Moitra together setting a live demonstration of the life philosophy which is also depicted through their cinema: "Don't be a bore; Only entertain."

## President of India graces the inaugural session of LokManthan-2024

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the inaugural session of LokManthan-2024 in Hyderabad, Telangana. Speaking on the occasion, the President appreciated all stakeholders for organizing the LokManthan. She said that this is a commendable effort to strengthen the threads of unity in India's rich culture, traditions, and heritage. She emphasised that all citizens must understand India's cultural and intellectual heritage and strengthen our invaluable traditions.

The President said that diversity provides a rainbow of beauty to our fundamental unity. Whether we are forest dwellers, villagers, or city dwellers, we are all Indians. This feeling of national unity has kept us united despite all the challenges. She stated that efforts have been made for centuries to divide and weaken our society. Artificial distinctions have been created to break our natural unity. But, our citizens imbued with the spirit of Indianness have kept the torch of national unity lighting.

The President said that

the influence of Indian ideology has spread far and wide in the world since ancient times. India's religious beliefs, art, music, technology, medical systems, language, and literature have been appreciated all over the world. Indian philosophical systems were the gift of ideal life values to the world community. It is our responsibility to strengthen that glorious tradition of our ancestors.

The President said that for centuries, imperialism and colonial powers not only exploited India eco-

nomically but also tried to destroy our social fabric. The rulers who looked down upon our rich intellectual tradition instilled a sense of cultural inferiority among citizens. Such traditions were imposed on us, which were harmful to our unity. Due to centuries of subjugation, our citizens became victims of the mentality of slavery. Instilling the feeling of 'Nation First' among the citizens is essential to make India a developed nation. She was happy to note that LokManthan is spreading this feeling.







# HARYANA

## Briefs :

### BJP will win MC elections too, claims party state head

**Chandigarh** :BJP state president Pandit Mohan Lal Badoli said the elections of the municipal corporations (MCs) would be held soon and the party would win these with a clear majority. He said the BJP won the Assembly elections on the basis of public welfare works and now it would also win the MC elections. "The BJP is ready for the election of the civic bodies and other civic bodies in the state," said Badoli, who reached Maharaja Agrasen College, Jagadhri, in Yamunanagar district on Thursday evening for the party membership campaign, where he was given a grand welcome by party leaders and workers. "The BJP workers are engaged in strengthening the party in the entire state; soon we will achieve the target set for the membership campaign," said Badoli. He said the purpose of the membership campaign was to strengthen the organisation as much as possible for public welfare works. "The public burst the balloon of Congress's lies in the Assembly elections and now Congress lies will not work in any election," said Badoli. He further said that through the membership drive, workers were not only strengthening the organisation, but were also helping people in getting the benefits of schemes by informing them about the historical work being done by the government. "In 2019, as many as 33 lakh primary members were made in the BJP, but this time, the target is to make 50 lakh primary members in Haryana. The workers have been given the target of adding 250 new members in the party at every booth," said Badoli. He said the Congress did not have a leader and it should choose the Leader of Opposition from among the independent or INLD MLAs. Senior party leader advocate Vedpal, Cabinet Minister Shyam Singh Rana, former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gujjar, Yamunanagar MLA Ghanshyam Dass Arora, district President of the BJP Rajesh Sapra, former Mayor Madan Chauhan, BJP State Vice President Banto Kataria, Rakesh Tyagi, Nischal Chaudhary and other party leaders were present.

### Seminar on Ambedkar's role, influence held at Kurukshetra University

**Kurukshetra** :Dr BR Ambedkar Study Centre, Kurukshetra University, on Thursday organised a one-day national seminar on "Dr BR Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly: His role and his influence". During the inaugural session of the seminar, Kurukshetra University Vice-Chancellor Prof Som Nath Sachdeva said, "Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar continues to inspire generations. Besides being the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr Ambedkar was also an immortal champion of social harmony." Social thinker Mukul Kaniitkar presided over as the chief guest of the seminar. Kaniitkar said that to understand the greatness and contribution of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, it was necessary to read his original letters. The book written on Ambedkar's life by Dhananjay Keer is based on his original letters, speeches.

## Don't take donkey route to go abroad, CM urges youth

**Chandigarh** : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today urged youngsters not to take the donkey route to go abroad as it leads them into difficult situations and they end up losing a huge amount of money.

The Chief Minister said, "A large number of youngsters are going abroad but I urge you not to take the illegal route. The donkey routes lead them into difficult situations and sometimes, they come back after spending a huge amount of money. The government has made arrangements to send youngsters abroad through proper channel and after providing appointment letters. Life gives a golden opportunity to every person and you have that opportunity in your hands because you have elected a government committed to protecting your self-respect. There was a time when youngsters had to lower their self-respect at the doors of some Chaudhris to get jobs, but now, the situation has been completely changed as jobs are being given on merit."

He was addressing the gathering on the closing ceremony of a district-level youth festival at Kala Kriti Bhawan in Kurukshetra. He visited a science fair on the occasion and



distributed rewards and certificates to the winners of the youth festival. "The youngsters of Haryana have made their presence felt at the national and international levels. The students are securing good ranks in CBSE, NEET and JEE examinations. The sportspersons of Haryana have brought laurels at national and international levels," CM Nayab Singh said.

The CM highlighted the achievements and policies of the BJP government and added, "Over the past

10 years, we have tried to give all facilities to the youngsters and remove all the obstacles in the fields of education, jobs, startups, skill education and sports. The government is developing an ecosystem to support youngsters in all sectors, including education, skill development, self-employment and going abroad. The government aims to make every youth of Haryana skilled and financially strong by 2030." Later in the evening, the CM held a meeting with social and religious

organisations regarding preparations for International Gita Mahotsav-2024.

In his address, the CM called upon organisations to play active roles in organising the mahotsav and said, "We can't achieve anything without the cooperation from society. The government is playing its part and it also makes provision of the budget but there are limitations. The society has no limitations. When people work unitedly, everything becomes right."

## Haryana's PWD (B&R) fined Rs 10L for exacerbating pollution

**Gurugram** : As air quality concerns in the National Capital Region reach a critical point, with daily judicial monitoring by the Supreme Court, the Haryana Government's Public Works Department (B&R) is facing scrutiny for its failure to comply with environmental regulations and its involvement in air pollution violations.

The Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) on Friday imposed a hefty fine of Rs 10 lakh on the Public Works Department (B&R) of the state government for contributing to air pollution by neglecting environmental regulations and allowing dust emissions on a poorly maintained road near SGT University on the Dhankot-Badali highway on the outskirts of Gurugram city. Regional Officer of the HSPCB, Nirmal Kumar Kashyap, and senior scientist Vikas Grewal, who visited the site, found that dust was being emitted due to vehicle movement on the unpaved road. The PWD (B&R) had failed to take any measures to control the air pollution. Since the implementation of Stage-4 of the

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) by the district administration, the PWD (B&R) was expected to sprinkle water and adopt all necessary measures to control dust pollution, but no action had been taken.

According to the orders issued by Kashyap and Grewal, "Huge loose dust is found on the road without compaction, resulting in large clouds of dust being emitted as vehicle pass, worsening the already severe air quality in the region and endangering public health." The orders further stated, "The minimum measure of sprinkling water has not been carried out..." The HSPCB added, "The unmaintained road is emitting dust into the atmosphere, creating a hotspot for dust pollution, violating the GRAP Stage-4 guidelines and posing a serious risk to public health." In light of these violations and the ongoing severe environmental conditions, the HSPCB directed the Superintendent Engineer of the Gurugram Circle, PWD (B&R), to deposit an environmental compensation of Rs 10,00,000 with the HSPCB.



## Bansi Lal varsity V-C meets CM over projects on campus

**Chandigarh** : Chaudhary Bansi Lal University (CBLU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Deepti Dharmani called upon Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini regarding new development works and projects being undertaken in the university.

The V-C said that the state government's policies for the welfare of the youth and employees had created an atmosphere of hope among the university staff.

She expressed hope that the government would show generosity towards the university and strengthen the education system by providing adequate resources for fresh appointments and construction of new buildings. She stated that this would enable the university to provide employment-oriented academic programmes to the youth and play a positive role in the construction of 'Viksit Bharat'. She held a detailed discussion with the Chief Minister regarding many develop-

ment policies, including approval of new posts in the university, land for college campus on the old premises, girls hostel, grant for the construction of new buildings, etc.

The V-C said that the Chief Minister showed his positive attitude on all these issues and assured the varsity that action would soon be taken on this issue.

The Vice-Chancellor also requested the Chief Minister to provide land for the construction of 'Golden Jubilee Campus College' on the old campus of the university. She said that her meeting with the Chief Minister was successful and positive and hoped that work on all the proposals would start soon.

Prof Dharmani presented detailed information to the CM about the campaigns being run by the university to make the youth self-reliant by providing them employment-oriented and quality education embedded in cultural values.

## Rs 37 L penalty imposed in Palwal, Faridabad

**Faridabad** : The ongoing drive against violations under Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has resulted in penalties exceeding Rs 37 lakh within the civic limits of Palwal and Faridabad over the past 48 hours. Palwal has taken the lead, issuing challans worth Rs 27.5 lakh.

Following inspections and checks, construction work at 95 sites has been halted. In Palwal city and district, challans were issued against two sites over the last two days, according to officials.

The Regional Office of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), which had imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on the National Highways Authority of India on Wednesday, has also imposed fines totalling Rs 12 lakh for violations involving the handling and disposal of construction and demolition waste since the commencement of GRAP Stage IV.

This phase prohibits construction activities on plots measuring 500 sq m or more. Out of 190 sites in-



spected, two were found to be non-compliant. Similarly, inspections at 44 industrial sites in Palwal revealed one site violating norms, resulting in a fine of Rs 10

lakh. Additionally, fines totalling Rs 5.25 lakh were imposed on three diesel generator sets found flouting rules, and penalties

amounting to Rs 27,000 were levied for 19 incidents of open waste or garbage burning within the civic limits.

In Faridabad, penalties

imposed by the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) in the past two days have surpassed Rs 10 lakh. Forty teams inspected 650 construction sites, of which 92 were found violating norms, leading to significant penalties.

In addition to construction-related violations, 168 challans were issued in the past 48 hours for various activities like usage of polythene (49) dumping of garbage (45), burning of waste (52) illegal meat shops (8) and two challans each for running illegal dairies and resorting to open defecation within the civic limits. Palwal district alone saw additional fines of Rs 7 lakh during this period for similar violations.

Palwal Deputy Commissioner Dr Harish Vashisth emphasised the continued commitment to curbing pollution.

He noted that Palwal's Air Quality Index (AQI) has been comparatively better, averaging around 100, while neighbouring Faridabad recorded an average AQI of 289 at 3 pm today.

## Pollution board for penalty of Rs 11L from firm for dumping waste in open

**Panipat** : The (HSPCB) has recommended environmental compensation of Rs 11.22 lakh from the JBM company for dumping garbage in the open area between two canals near Mehra village and for not disposing of the solid waste in a scientific manner. Ashish of Ugrakheri village, in his complaint to the NGT, said the JBM Enviro Group has been given the contract for handling, management and disposal of solid waste by the Municipal Corporation (MC) Panipat under the service contract. But the JBM, instead of scientific disposal of the solid waste, was discharging it in an open area between the two canals, which are at a distance of mere 50 feet. Following the complaint, the NGT constituted a joint committee of District Magistrate, Panipat, and the HSPCB on August 27. Following the NGT's order, Deputy Commissioner, Panipat, nominated Brahm Prakash, SDM, as his nominee and a joint committee, comprising SDM Brahm



Prakash and Bhupender Singh Chahal, Regional Officer, HSPCB, inspected the site where solid waste was dumped by the JBM Environment Management Private Limited in the presence of Chief Sanitary Inspector Jitender Narwal and Ajit Tiwari, representative of the JBM. During the inspection, it was found that the solid waste dumping started at the site in July last year, while the dumping was stopped in February this year. The mixed solid waste was found dumped in the open at the site, no boundary wall existed at the solid waste dump-

ing site, open burning of solid waste was also found during the time of inspection carried out by the joint committee. CSI Narwal, a representative of the MC, said a new site near the sugar mill at Dahar village had been identified as a secondary collection point for the dumping of the solid waste of the MC before the final disposal of waste to the energy plant operating at Murthal village of Sonapat. In the report, the joint committee found a legacy waste of approximately 360 MT at the site, no segregation of solid waste was done by the JBM, no bound-

ary wall was built by the company, the waste was dumped in a pervious open land and solid waste was causing damage to the upper soil and leachate percolation was through the soil, thus contaminating the groundwater.

Following the joint committee's observations, the HSPCB served a show-cause notice to JBM Company for the imposition of the penalty for the improper handling and unscientific dumping of solid waste at the site in violation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

## MC proposes hike in treated water rate

**Karnal** : A day after Mayor Kuldeep Kumar withdrew the proposal to increase the municipal cess on electricity, the MC has now proposed to increase the rates of tertiary treated (TT) water in the city. The agenda will be tabled in the MC General House meeting to be held tomorrow for discussion and approval. Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria will attend the meeting. According to the Chandigarh Water Supply Bylaws, the use of tertiary treated water is compulsory in all houses/institutions having area of one kanal and above. The bylaws make connections of tertiary treated water compulsory within three months from the date of issue of notification, but the MC found that only 2,906 of the total 7,385 one-kanal houses in the city have such connection. Of the total 414 institutions, only 150 have these connections. The MC has proposed to charge 7.5% of total water bill from the one kanal house owners, who have not taken the TT water connection in spite of its availability. In a bid to tide over the financial crunch in



the civic body, the MC has proposed to sell the TT water at Rs 7 per kilo litre, on the pattern of the Delhi Jal Board. At present, the civic body charges Rs 2.50 per kilo litre. The MC has also proposed to make TT water available for other purposes, such as construction, chilling plants, AC cooling units etc. Under tertiary treatment, sewerage water is made suitable for irrigation through chemical treatment and sedimentation process. It is the final stage of the wastewater cleaning process to make it suitable for irrigation and related activities. The treated water (BOD) should be less than 10 mg. Use of tertiary

water for agriculture and related activities is out of the main objectives of the City Water Action Plan (CWAP) as it will reduce dependence on ground and potable water. An official said the increase in treated water rate had been proposed as occupants of one kanal house could easily afford it. Further, the MC has also proposed to increase the monthly rent of all 176 Verka/Vita booths in the city. According to the agenda item, to be taken up during the House meeting tomorrow, in October 2023, the MC House had decided to give extension to 176 Verka/Vita booths up to March 31, 2024, at monthly rent of Rs 6,520,



## Tanzania to be partner nation for Gita Mahotsav, Odisha partner state

**Chandigarh** : The International Gita Mahotsav this year will showcase a divine confluence of spirituality, culture and art. The grand event will take place from November 28 to December 15 during which the timeless message of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita will be shared with all of humanity.

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said this while addressing a press conference here today. He said the solution to every problem could be found in the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.

He said that this year, the United Republic of Tanzania would be the partner country for the mahotsav and Odisha will be the partner state.

Saini stated that the mahotsav has achieved immense success over the past eight years, since 2016. Lakhs of people from India and abroad attend the mahotsav. Last year, 45-50 lakh people took part. He highlighted that for the first time in 2019, the International Gita Mahotsav was held in Mauritius and London, followed by celebrations in Canada in September 2022, Australia in April 2023, and Sri Lanka and England in 2024. The Chief Minister said that from November 28 to December 15, a grand Gita 'maha-aarti' will be held daily on the banks of Brahma Sarovar.

Cultural programmes



will take place at various pilgrimage sites throughout the 48 'kos' of Kurukshetra from November 28 to December 11. The festival will officially kick off with a Gita 'yajna' and 'pujan' at Brahma Sarovar on December 5. On the same day, a three-day 'International Gita Seminar' will begin at Kurukshetra University. On December 9, a saint sammelan will be held at Purushottampur Bagh, followed by an All-India Devasthanam Conference at the same location on December 10. The Chief Minister highlighted that on Gita Jayanti (December 11), a Gita yajna and Bhagwat katha would be organised at Jyotisar Tirtha with a global recita-

tion of the Gita by 18,000 students.

On December 11, there will be an 8 'kos' Tirtha Sammelan, Gita Shobha Yatra, Deepotsav and cultural programmes at 182 pilgrimage sites within Kurukshetra University. As in the previous years, Gita book fairs and exhibitions will also take place at Brahma Sarovar from December 5 to 11.

The Chief Minister said that a Crafts and Saras Mela would also take place from November 28 to December 15, featuring the cultures of Tanzania and Odisha, along with other artistic creations. Suryabanshi Suraj, Odisha Minister of State for Languages, Literature and

Culture, highlighted that Haryana was the land of the Gita, while Odisha was the land of Mahabharat Jagannath, who is regarded as an avatar of Lord Krishna. Anisa Kapufi Mbega, High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to India, said this partnership demonstrated how culture could unite people. Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand said this year marked the completion of 5,161 years since the sacred message of Bhagavad Gita was revealed. He said that programmes of Gita Mahotsav has already been organised in five countries Mauritius, England, Canada, Australia and Sri Lanka.

## HC upholds amendment to Haryana Municipal Act

**Kurukshetra** : In a significant ruling, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has upheld the validity of the Haryana Municipal (Amendment) Act, 2018, and the Haryana Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 2019, which empowered the State Election Commission (SEC) to remove municipal presidents and members on grounds of statutory disqualification.

Dismissing a writ petition challenging the provisions, the Bench of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Sudeepti Sharma court reaffirmed the legislative competence of the Haryana State Legislative Assembly to enact such laws under the constitutional framework.

The petitioner, an elected president of a municipal committee, had sought to declare the amendments null and void.

Arguing they violated constitutional provisions, including Article 243V, and the Supreme Court's decision in the case of 'NP Ponnuswami versus the Returning Officer'.

The petitioner further challenged a show-cause notice issued by the SEC, claiming procedural violations and non-adherence to the principle of natural justice.

The Bench ruled that the amendments were constitutionally valid and fell squarely within the legislative competence of the State Assembly.

Article 243V explicitly allowed state legislatures to create laws prescribing disqualifications for municipal members and designate an authority to decide such matters.

The court emphasised that the SEC's empowerment to decide on disqualifications was in harmony with this constitutional mandate.



The judgment further clarified that the constitutional framework permitted the States to create multiple statutory remedies for addressing electoral disputes.

The Bench was of the opinion that dual remedies provided under the amended Act and Rule 85 of the Haryana Municipal Election Rules, 1978, were complementary rather than conflicting.

The court noted that such provisions did not violate any constitutional bar.

The Bench took note of the petitioner's argument that the SEC's reliance on an inquiry report prepared by a Deputy Commissioner without allowing him to participate violated the principle of audi alteram partem, or natural justice.

The court rejected the contention, holding that the show-cause notice had merged into the SEC's final decision, which was already under challenge in a separate writ

petition.

Any grievances about procedural lapses, the court said, would be addressed in that case.

The court's decision is significant as it upholds the SEC's jurisdiction to adjudicate disqualifications.

Under the amended Act, emphasising that legislative measures aimed at maintaining democratic integrity must be respected.

"The impugned legislation is made with the completest wisdom of fullest legislative empowerment," the judgment stated.

Constitutional principle that once elections are concluded, disputes regarding disqualifications must be decided through designated statutory mechanisms rather than judicial interference.

State legislatures have the authority to create bodies and mechanisms to address such electoral issues within their jurisdiction.

## Shortage of doctors, paramedics ails healthcare in Panipat

**Panipat** : The tall claims of the state government of providing quality health services to residents notwithstanding, there is an acute shortage of doctors and paramedics in the district.

The 200-bed Bhimsen Sachar Civil Hospital, which caters to a population of 14 lakh at the district headquarters, has 24 doctors against the sanctioned strength of 55.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had inaugurated the new building of the hospital on Haryana Day in 2019, and it was upgraded to 200 beds from 100 beds. However, patients have to face a lot of problems in the absence of doctors and technical staff.

As per information, the post of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) has been lying vacant for the past many months. A total of 28 doctors are posted in the hospital, including 24



medical officers, two senior medical officers (SMOs) and two deputy medical superintendents (DMS). Three dental surgeons are working at the hospital.

About 1,500 to 2,000 patients visited the Civil Hospital daily, while 25 to 30 deliveries are done daily. As many as 70-80 pa-

tients are admitted to the hospital every day, sources said. Similarly in Samalkha, the 50-bed Civil Hospital is also facing an acute shortage of doctors. The hospital has a sanctioned strength of 11 doctors, but only five are posted there and there is no specialist.

In November 2023,

former CM Manohar Lal Khattar had made an announcement to upgrade the Civil Hospital to 100 beds. As per data of the Health Department in the district, six posts of deputy civil surgeon is lying vacant against the sanctioned strength of nine; nine SMOs are posted against the sanctioned

strength of 16; 97 medical officers are working against the strength of 147; 11 posts of lab technician against the sanctioned strength of 46; 19 pharmacists working against the sanctioned posts of 41; and 10 radiographers are working against 15 sanctioned posts. There is no dental assistant-cum-mechanic in the district. The government had also announced plans to provide better health facilities like MRI, Cath Lab, CT scan, haemodialysis and blood bank to patients. The CT scan and haemodialysis facility is being run on PPP mode. The blood bank was started in May — after five years of the announcement — the sources stated.

Dr Jayant Ahuja, Civil Surgeon, said, "We have been asking the government for more doctors on a regular basis. The recruitment process of 766 doctors is under way at the government level."

## Medical college to come up in Palwal, panchayat transfers 47 acres

**Palwal** : The Pelak village panchayat here has transferred over 47 acres for the setting up of the first medical college and hospital in the district. Work on the detailed project report (DPR) is likely to be taken up soon by the Department of Medical Education and Research (DMER). With the lease deed for transferring the land to the DMER recently, the process of setting up the first medical college and hospital has been set into motion, according to officials of the district administration. "The land was leased by the panchayat to the DMER for 33 years on November 14," said an official.

This has paved the way for setting up the medical institution that had been announced over two years ago. He said the availability of land had been a major issue and it got resolved a few months ago when the district administration identified the land which could be transferred without any major hitch. The project could have hit a hurdle if the govern-



ment had to acquire private/farmers' land, as the consensus of owners was vital.

Deputy Commissioner Harish Vashisht said while the land for the medical college had been transferred, the DMER had to start the process of preparation of the DPR and release of tenders. The project could have hit a hurdle if the government had to acquire private/farmers' land, as the consensus of owners was vital.

Deputy Commissioner Harish Vashisht said while the land for the medical college had been transferred, the DMER had to start the process of preparation of the

DPR and release of tenders. He said the establishment of a state-run medical institution would not only help in the expansion of health infrastructure in the district but also provide the state-of-the-art educational facilities in the medical field to residents, as there was no such institution in the district that came into being in 2008, he stated. Meanwhile, the local 100-bed Civil Hospital, which has been upgraded to 200 beds, is set to get a specialised Centre of Maternal and Child Health (MCH). The state Health Department has sanctioned a budget of Rs 125 crore for the centre.

## 13K farmers register for incentive under crop residue management in Karnal

**Karnal** : A total of 13,306 farmers in Karnal district have registered for crop residue management on 1,42,598 acres, demonstrating their commitment to sustainable agricultural practices.

The state government, under its initiative to combat stubble burning and promote eco-friendly practices, is offering an incentive of Rs 1,000 per acre to farmers adopting these measures.

Farmers have expressed enthusiasm for ex-situ management, with 8,842 farmers registering to manage paddy stubble on 98,087 acres. Ex-situ management involves the removal of crop residue for use in alternative applications such as biofuel production. Notably, 2,154 farmers have registered to supply stubble from 21,703 acres to the 2G ethanol plant, a step toward reducing stubble burning and promoting renewable energy. As per the officials, in-situ management, which focuses on incorporating the stubble into



the soil using stubble management machines, has also gained grip. A total of 2,466 farmers have registered under this system, covering 22,807 acres.

The last date of the registration is November 30 and the department will start verification of the claims of the farmers after the completion of registration. Dr Wazir Singh, Deputy Director Agriculture (DDA), appreciated the efforts of farmers for adopting in-situ and ex-situ management systems. He

emphasised the importance of such measures in reducing pollution.

"Farmers of the district have showed enthusiasm in adopting stubble management system, which helps in reducing stubble burning cases. The district has recorded a fall of nearly 25 per cent of cases in comparison to the last season," the DDA said. He said that this season, the district recorded 93 cases of stubble burning while last year till November 21, the district recorded 122 cases.

## Ensure service benefits to power staff are safeguarded: Kataria

**Ambala** : Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria has directed the authorities concerned to ensure that all present service benefits given to employees are safeguarded after their transfer to the new company under the process of privatisation of power distribution in UT. The Administrator has specifically directed the authorities to address the grievances of the UT Powermen Union properly. In order to proceed further in the privatisation process, the Chandigarh Administration today issued the Letter of Intent (LoI) to Kolkata-based (EEDL), a subsidiary of the RP Sanjiv Goenka (RPSG) Group, the highest bidder. After the approval of the Union Cabinet, the CPDL was formed and to safeguard the interests of the employees, who are proposed to be transferred to the new CPDL, the Chandigarh Electricity Employees Master Trust has been incorporated under Indian Trust Act, 1882. According to the Draft Transfer Scheme, which contains the provisions to safeguard the interests of the transferred employees, the terms and conditions of the services applicable to the person-



nel transferred shall not in any way be less favourable than or inferior to those applicable to them immediately before the transfer date; all such personnel shall have continuity of

services in all respects. All benefits of service accrued, including their entitled government benefits during their service under the Administration before transfer date, to the company,

shall be fully recognised and protected and taken into account for all purposes. The transferred personnel shall not be posted outside Chandigarh by the company without their prior concurrence. All the procedures in which terminal benefits are to be sanctioned and disbursed from the trust shall be determined by the Administration on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. The trust will manage and function till the terminal liabilities of the transferred employees are fully paid. The Chandigarh Electricity Reforms Transfer Scheme has been formulated and the transfer of the functions from Chandigarh Administration to the CPDL shall be done through an Electricity Reforms Transfer Scheme, wherein, specific provisions have been incorporated to safeguard the interests of the employees. The Chandigarh Administration shall constitute a committee from transfer date to receive options/representations/suggestions on the transfer of personnel to the company and make a recommendation to the Administration with regard to their grievances in matters of transfer of personnel to the company.





## Dabang Delhi secures impressive win against Jaipur Pink Panthers in PKL

**Noida :** Dabang Delhi K.C. stretched their unbeaten run in PKL 11 after a comprehensive win against Jaipur Pink Panthers, dominating them with a scoreline of 35-21 at the Noida Indoor Stadium here.

Ashu Malik scored 9 points and was supported by Naveen Kumar and a High 5 from Yogesh on Friday night.

Arjun Deshwal and Ashu Malik got the first points for their respective teams in this contest. It was Jaipur Pink Panthers that got their noses in front courtesy of a tackle on Ashu Malik while he was on a Do-or-Die Raid.

Arjun Deshwal was sent to the bench quickly too, resulting in a slow start as the two teams took a cautious approach.

With Ashu Malik off the mat, it was Naveen Kumar who was keeping the scoreboard ticking for Dabang Delhi K.C.

However, Jaipur Pink Panthers regained their lead



with Surjeet Singh getting a couple of tackles while Arjun Deshwal was doing what he does best in attack.

Dabang Delhi K.C. levelled things up as Yogesh inflicted a Super Tackle on Neeraj Narwal to make it an intense contest.

It was then the turn of Dabang Delhi K.C. to take the lead courtesy of Ashu

Malik doing well on a Do-or-Die Raid.

Arjun Deshwal was unsuccessful in his Do-or-Die Raid as Dabang Delhi K.C. inflicted an All-Out with Ashu Malik continuing his good work, helping his team take control of the game and extending their lead to eight points with the scoreline reading 17-9 at

half-time.

Dabang Delhi K.C. started off the second half in a similar dominant manner, extending their lead to 11 points with Ashu Malik and Ashish Malik delivering the goods.

They got another All-Out on Jaipur Pink Panthers, making it a massive 14-point lead as the raiders

kept them in command of the contest.

Arjun Deshwal came back in the game and managed to find his rhythm, trying to keep his team alive with the defenders contributing as well.

Jaipur Pink Panthers managed to close the gap to 11 points, keeping the game alive with under 10 minutes to go.

The hopes of a comeback didn't last for too long for Jaipur Pink Panthers because Dabang Delhi K.C. kept their discipline on the defensive end.

Arjun Deshwal did get some raids as the game carried on, but it wasn't enough for his side to close the gap on their opponents.

Ashu Malik couldn't complete his Super 10 in the closing stages of the game, but his teammate Yogesh did manage to register a High 5 to his name.

In the end, Dabang Delhi K.C. sealed a 14-point victory to carry on their good form.

## Logo and trophy of Nepal Kabaddi League unveiled



**Kathmandu :** The official logo and trophy of the inaugural edition of Nepal Kabaddi League (NKL) were unveiled, media reports said on Saturday.

Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak, Sports Minister Teju Lal Chaudhary, All Nepal Kabaddi League President Tulasi Thapa, Nepal Olympic Committee President Jeevan Ram Shrestha, and Astrionix Management Private Limited Chairperson Amit Begani, among others, unveiled the logo and trophy amid a function in Kath-

mandu. Astrionix is the main sponsor of the NKL, the Kathmandu post reported. The men's kabaddi league will involve six franchise teams representing Kathmandu, Pokhara, Biratnagar, Janakpur, Dhangadhi and Butwal. The kabaddi association finalised a 10-year agreement with Astrionix in November last year. The association has also reached an understanding with Astrionix to organise a women's kabaddi league in the future.

While the official dates for the tournament

are yet to be announced, it is expected to take place in January-February next year. The league is expected to be a major boost for kabaddi in Nepal, a country that secured a bronze medal in their debut in women's kabaddi competition at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China last year, the reports said. The women's team also have a proud record in the South Asian Games. They won silver at the 13th South Asian Games, and bronze medals in the previous two editions of the SAG.

## Australia name squads for women's ODIs against India, New Zealand

**Sydney :** Australia have named two 13-member squads for their ODI series against India and New Zealand, from December 5 - 23.

Australia will host India for a three-match ODI series in early December, followed by a trip to New Zealand later in the month for another three-ODI event.

Regular Australia skipper Alyssa Healy will miss the India series as she is recovering from a knee injury but will be fit for the series against New Zealand. Tahlia McGrath will captain the team in her absence.

Queensland batter, 21-year-old Georgia Voll has received her maiden call-up to the India series squad. Voll is among the top three run-scorers in the ongoing Women's Big Bash League and the Women's National Cricket League and has four half-centuries to her name across the two tournaments, an ICC report said.

"We've chosen an experienced squad for these two upcoming tours with next year's Ashes series and ICC Women's World Cup very much very much the focus," Cricket Australia's Head of Performance (Women's Cricket) and National Selector, Shawn Flegler said.

"Georgia Voll has had a strong start to the summer and has shown her potential over several years," he said.

"She'll form an exciting partnership with Phoebe Litchfield at the top of the order in what will be a great opportunity for her to



get a taste of international cricket against a strong India side," Flegler said.

"The decision for Alyssa Healy to miss the India series was made with a longer-term view to the Ashes, with her availability for the New Zealand series to become clearer over the next few weeks," he said.

"Tahlia McGrath impressed as captain in tough conditions during the World Cup and will have strong support from Ash Gardner who has developed into a strong leader within the side, both on and off the field," he added.

All six ODIs will be a part of the ICC Women's Championship, where Australia are currently at the top with 28 points. India are at No.3, while New Zealand are at No.6 and yet to qualify for next year's ICC Women's World Cup 2025 in India.

Australia squad for In-

dia ODIs: Tahlia McGrath (c), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham, Georgia Voll

Australia squad for New Zealand ODIs: Alyssa Healy (c), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Wareham. Australia also provided updated on the injured Sophie Molineux, Darcie Brown, and Tayla Vlaeminck. Molineux and Brown were injured during the WBBL, while Vlaeminck has been battling a shoulder injury since the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai.

"Sophie has returned to play following knee sore-

ness which will continue to be managed over the course of the summer," Australian Women's Team Physiotherapist, Kate Beerworth said. "Darcie has resumed training following a hip muscle strain and is on track for both series."

Both players will be available for national duty, while Vlaeminck continues to rehabilitate. "Tayla underwent right shoulder stabilisation surgery last week and is unavailable for the remainder of the 2024/25 season," Beerworth said. Schedule: Women's ODI Series v India 5 December: Allan Border Field, Brisbane 8 December: Allan Border Field, Brisbane 11 December: WACA Ground, Perth Women's ODI Series v New Zealand 19 December: Basin Reserve, Wellington 21 December: Basin Reserve, Wellington 23 December: Basin Reserve, Wellington.

## Chennaiyin FC chase three points in home stronghold of Kerala Blasters FC

**Kochi :** A long-standing and fascinating southern rivalry will reawaken when Kerala Blasters FC and Chennaiyin FC go against each other at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here in the Indian Super League (ISL) match on Sunday, at 7:30 pm IST.

Both teams have played eight matches thus far, with Chennaiyin FC placed fourth thanks to three wins and Kerala Blasters FC positioned 10th with two wins and draws each to their name.

Given the slender difference in the number of victories they have garnered thus far, things could change pretty quickly in the standings and both teams will be cautious of ceding any ground, particularly to begin the post-international break phase on a strong footing.

Chennaiyin FC have notched 16 goals, which is their highest such tally after eight games in any season. Their goal difference of +4 is the second-best at this stage after 2017-18, when it was +5. They have averaged 25.3 touches inside the opposition's box per game in the current campaign, which shows their relentless pursuit of finding breakthroughs past their defensive unit.

Chennaiyin FC had won their most recent match against Kerala Blasters FC by 1-0 in February 2024. It was a remarkable feat since they had been winless in their last seven encounters against the Kochi-based team. Now, they will be chasing back-to-back triumphs against this opposition for the first time since



2019-20.

Kerala Blasters FC have netted in each of their last 15 home games. A strike in the coming match will equal the longest goal-scoring run at home by any side in competition's history alongside Bengaluru FC (January 2018 to March 2019), Chennaiyin FC (November 2016 to October 2018) and Delhi Dynamos FC (October 2015 to December 2016). This fact shows that they always believe in taking the game to the opposition when playing in their backyard.

Kerala Blasters FC have conceded the most penalties (5) in ISL 2024-25, whereas Chennaiyin FC follow them closely (4) in this regard. This does suggest that the scales of the encounter could tilt in either team's favour through their performance and composure from the spot.

Kerala Blasters FC head coach Mikael Stahre said that his team needs to fix some defensive issues, but highlighted an impor-

tant issue that might have slipped under the radar too.

"We have conceded too many goals (16) and we need to find a solution for that. But, it's not like we've conceded too many chances, so that helps, as it would have been worse had we conceded a lot of goal-scoring opportunities as well," Stahre said.

Chennaiyin FC head coach Owen Coyle expressed his gratitude towards the supporters of Chennaiyin FC who will be travelling for the match against Kerala Blasters FC in Kochi.

"There are a few hundred fans who will be coming for the away game against Kerala Blasters FC. We are thankful for them since they support us everywhere we go. We want to put a smile on their faces and we can do that by winning this difficult game," Coyle said.

The two teams have played 22 games against each other in the ISL, with Kerala Blasters FC and

Chennaiyin FC winning six and seven encounters respectively. Nine matches have resulted in a draw.

Chennaiyin FC's Connor Shields has been in incredible creative touch off late, producing the league-best 34 goal-scoring opportunities - which is 15 more than the next best (19) tally by Greg Stewart in this metric. Shields has also logged in four assists so far this season.

With three goals and assists each, Kerala Blasters FC's Adrian Luna is one away from surpassing Rafael Crivellaro (2 goals & 4 assists) as the player with most goal contributions in this fixture. Luna has directly contributed to a goal in the last four out of his five matches against Kerala Blasters FC.

Chennaiyin FC's Wilmar Jordan Gil has attempted more headed shots (10) than any other player in the league in 2024-25.

Kerala Blasters FC will hence have to be wary of the aerial prowess of the opposition.

## Kane score Hat-trick against Munich and fastest to 50 Bundesliga goals

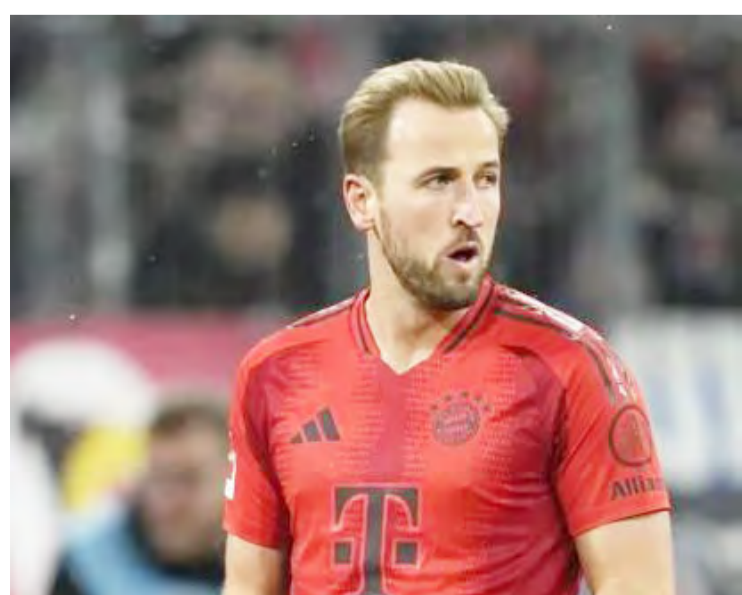
**London :** Harry Kane made history by reaching 50 Bundesliga goals at the fastest pace ever with a hat-trick in Bayern Munich's 3-0 win over Augsburg, media reports said.

The England captain needed to score three goals to get to the landmark and after scoring a 63rd-minute penalty for the opener, he added two more in injury time, a BBC reported.

His second strike also came from the spot after he was fouled by Keven Schlotterbeck, who was sent off for a second yellow card, just before Kane headed in his third just before full-time after a fantastic first touch to control the ball.

With the 50 goals coming in 43 Bundesliga games it meant he surpassed Erling Haaland's mark of 50 in 50 for Borussia Dortmund, before the Norwegian joined Manchester City.

The win moved Bayern eight points clear of Leipzig at the top of the league ahead of the weekend's



games and also ensured the German giants remain unbeaten in the league

with nine wins and two draws from their 11 games.

"We knew it would be difficult to break them down. We knew we had to be patient," Kane told DAZN.

"At half-time that's what we said, 'we just have to keep doing what we're doing'. Thankfully we got the penalty to open the game up and then did well to kill the game off." The 31-year-old has 14 goals in 11 league games for Bayern this season, with five of those penalties. "I work on them a lot," added Kane. "They're a big part of the game. They helped us again today." Of course I've missed many at training, but that's the time to miss them. "It has already been a record-breaking season for Kane, who has now scored 20 goals in all competitions this term. He scored four times in the 9-2 win over Dinamo Zagreb in the Champions League in September, which made him the top English scorer in Champions League or European Cup history with 33 goals in 45 games, passing Wayne Rooney's old mark of 30.

## Milan-Cortina 2026 hosts 1st World Press Briefing

**Rome (Italy) :** The organizing committee of the Milan-Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games held the first and only World Press Briefing of this Olympic cycle in Milan from November 20 to 22 with over 200 representatives from media organizations, National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and international winter sports federations (IFs) attended the event in person.

During the briefing, the Milan-Cortina 2026 Organizing Committee provided updates on key areas of preparation, including accreditation, transportation, accommodation, and venue operations. Attendees also visited the competition venues in Bormio, which will host alpine skiing and ski mountaineering events and Livigno, which will stage freestyle skiing and snowboard competitions.

"The snow sports competition areas are small Ital-



ian mountain villages with a long history that must be preserved. The organizing committee aims to ensure the delivery of core services while fully considering economic and environmental sustainability in the preparation process," said Andrea Varnier, CEO of Fondazione Milano Cortina. According to the organizing committee, one distinctive feature of the 2026

Winter Olympics is its wide geographical spread. The venues span across urban and mountain settings, forming four major competition clusters, with Verona added as the location for the closing ceremony. While this innovative approach highlights the diversity of the host regions, it also presents logistical challenges for the organizers.





## Tata AIA Life Insurance crosses 1 million App Downloads

**Kolkata :** Tata AIA Life Insurance has announced that its customer app has crossed 1 million downloads.

"This milestone is yet another testimony to the growing trust and dependence of Tata AIA customers on its digital solutions that include the mobile app, consumer portal, and WhatsApp-enabled services," the private insurer said in a statement on Saturday.

These solutions encourage a 'Do-It-Yourself' philosophy empowering Tata AIA consumers to experience convenient and seamless ways to manage their life insurance journey with the brand.

With this ultramodern app, consumers can manage their insurance policies from anywhere at any time. They need not visit a branch or print policy documents, as everything they need is available at their fingertips.

The app provides over 60 services 24x7, including premium payments, tracking claim requests, portfolio updates, sum assured, fund value, NAV details. It also offers industry-first features like Instant Loans, improving the consumer experience



and enhancing the ease of transactions. Another 'first of its kind' feature includes instant customer service, where transactions get completed in real-time and the consumer is instantiated instantly.

"We are committed to enhancing our customers' experience by continually innovating and expanding our digital offerings," said Soumya Ghosh, Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Tata AIA.

"Reaching over 1 million app downloads is not just a number; it signifies our dedication to providing best-in-class services that meet the evolving

needs of our customers."

Through its sustained focus on digitization initiatives, Tata AIA has improved its instant issuance process with an end-to-end Straight Through Processing (STP) mechanism, which ensures an efficient and swift response to inquiries. Tata AIA ensures seamless digital services for its customers with an STP ratio of 97 percent in FY24.

In the past 12 months, the number of monthly active users has increased 2X with a daily and monthly active user engagement of 11 pc.

Due to its ease of use and best-in-class Consum-

er Experience, the app has seen a fivefold increase in digital transactions. Its user-friendly interface and functionality have earned the app an excellent rating of 4.7 on Android and 4.6 on iOS.

As proven by the impressive 92 Customer Satisfaction Score of its digital platforms, customer satisfaction remains the top priority for Tata AIA. The Persistency ratio which reflects the percentage of consumers who choose to renew their policies with Tata AIA, has earned the Company the top rank in four out of five cohorts, including 13th-month persistence.

## QualiZeal hosts QE conclave 2024

**Hyderabad :** QualiZeal, a global leader in Quality Engineering (QE), hosted the second edition of the QE Conclave 2024 on Friday evening at a private hotel, Madhapur, Hyderabad.

Themed AI-Powered Quality Engineering: A Vision for 2025 and Beyond, the event saw the launch of the company's groundbreaking AI-powered quality engineering tool, QMentisAI.

The conclave brought together over 600 industry leaders and professionals to explore transformative trends in QE. The event featured keynote presentations, live demonstrations, and discussions aimed at equipping QE professionals with cutting-edge tools and strategies for the evolving tech landscape.

QMentisAI, unveiled by Madhu Murty Ronanki, Co-Founder & Head of India Operations at QualiZeal, is designed to simplify complex quality engineering processes using generative AI. Highlighting its capabilities, Mr. Ronanki said, "QMentisAI integrates GenAI into



every phase of the testing lifecycle, empowering businesses to innovate faster, optimize efficiency, and achieve superior results."

Live demos showcased the tool's ability to automate tasks like user story generation, test script updates, and bug reporting, while also offering real-time risk assessments and ETL testing. Industries such as e-commerce and hospitality re-

ported significant efficiency improvements, with up to a 50 per cent reduction in test cycle times and faster time-to-market during beta testing.

The event also featured a session by Parth Singh, Director of Sales at Tricentis, emphasizing the importance of achieving software quality at scale. He noted, "As AI transforms the industry, QE is pivotal in driving

excellence and efficiency across sectors."

The conclave underscored QualiZeal's commitment to advancing QE with AI-driven solutions, setting a new benchmark for the industry as it embraces the future of digital transformation. QMentisAI is poised to redefine software quality standards globally, delivering measurable value to clients across diverse industries.

## Presence of Srinivasan on Tata Sons and RBI Board, direct conflict of interest

**New Delhi :** While Tata Sons is making every effort to avoid launching an IPO, on the other hand a new revelation has come to light in this matter. Actually, Venu Srinivasan is on the board of both Tata Sons and RBI. Therefore, this is a direct conflict of interest.

IPS officer turned corporate lawyer Y P Singh says that it is a settled position in Administrative Law and it is that if there is presence of particular person in a statutory body, who may appear to have any conflict of interest, then the decision of the statutory body gets vitiated because there is always a possibility of an indirect or direct influence in the minds of the majority decision makers.

To reiterate, the position of law is that even if there is any possibility of any such influence, even if there is no influence, yet the decision of the statutory body shall get vitiated. This principle emanates from the dictum - justice should not only be done but also seen to be done,



said Singh.

Thus, the presence of Srinivasan

in two opposing roles, would vitiate a decision of the RBI, even though he may not have exerted any influence, he said.

With less than a year remaining for the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) September 2025 deadline for mandatory public listing, Tata Sons, one of India's most influential conglomerates, finds itself navigating a regulatory quagmire. The conglomerate has applied to voluntarily surrender its Core Investment Company (CIC) registration, a move that has ignited debates over its regulatory strategy and sparked scrutiny within financial circles.

In response to a Right to Information (RTI) request, the RBI confirmed on Thursday (November 14) that Tata Sons submitted its application to relinquish its CIC registration on March 28, 2024. 'The application submitted by Tata Sons for the surrender of COR as a CIC is under examination', the response said.

## Germany-based Wienstroth Wärmebehandlungstechnik GmbH announces launch of Indian Subsidiary in Kolkata

**Kolkata :** Wienstroth Wärmebehandlungstechnik GmbH, a global leader in the heat treatment industry, on Saturday, announced the launch of its wholly owned subsidiary, Wienstroth Furnaces India Pvt Ltd, with its first office at Rajarhat in the city.

The announcement happened in the presence of the state Minister for Industries Shashi Panja, Barbara Voss, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of India, Kolkata; and Tom Reiner, Regional Director Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, and others.

Wienstroth Wärmebehandlungstechnik GmbH has a rich legacy of excellence in steel heat treatment, with operations in Germany and China and a client base spanning the globe.

The company has installed 10 furnaces in India to support the country's growing ball-

bearing industry. This new subsidiary represents a significant step in meeting India's rising demand for heat treatment services, particularly as the bearing sector anticipates substantial growth. Speaking on the occasion, Thomas Winkelhofer, Managing Director, Wienstroth Wärmebehandlungstechnik GmbH, said, 'Innovation and quality are the cornerstones of Wienstroth's operations. Our newly established Indian subsidiary will leverage state-of-the-art technology and advanced methodologies to deliver superior heat treatment solutions. This expansion reaffirms our commitment to providing our clients with the most effective and efficient solutions available. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the government of West Bengal and all stakeholders for their support and look forward to a successful partnership as we embark on this new venture.' Winkelhofer said.



## Adani Group CFO says, 'none of the 11 public companies are subject to...'

**New Delhi :** Days after the US indictment of Gautam Adani and other individuals, Adani Group CFO Jugeshinder Singh has said that the bribery indictment pertains to a single contract at Adani Green Energy. According to a Reuters report, the Adani Group CFO said that the indictment is linked to one contract which comprises some 10% of its business.

The CFO clarified that amongst the conglomerate's eleven publicly listed companies, none are subject to the indictment. He emphasised that neither the portfolio companies nor any subsidiaries of the public entities face accusations of improper conduct.

The Adani Group CFO further stated that the organisation would provide a comprehensive response after thoroughly examining the details presented in the legal documentation.

The United States Department of Justice (DoJ) has filed charges against industrialist Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and six additional individuals, alleging their involvement in a massive corruption scheme involving thousands of



crores of rupees. The charges include defrauding American investors and impeding investigations, creating significant legal and reputation-related challenges for one of India's prominent business groups.

A New York district court and the Securities and Exchange Commission

(SEC) have issued both criminal and civil charges, which could result in substantial monetary penalties and profit recovery, though settlement options remain available. The investigation included participation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Following these devel-

opments, Adani Green cancelled its \$600 million bond offering, marking the second cancellation in consecutive months.

This occurred amidst declining group shares and bonds, resulting in substantial market value losses as investors assessed the potential consequences.

## Closer to their tech dreams: 276 students selected for Bharti Airtel scholarship

**New Delhi :** After the death of his father, Shikhar, who lives in Fatehpur, UP, had to grow up fast. A physical disability and mounting agricultural loans only added to this pressure. He focused on his education, and today, has been admitted to a computer science degree at National Institute of Technology, Karnataka. Thanks to the new Bharti Airtel Scholarship, his studies have been fully funded, and his dream to uplift his community using technology is more accessible.

Going beyond their original plan to award 250 students from across country, Bharti Airtel Foundation has given a full scholarship to 276 students pursuing technology courses at top 50 NIRF engineering institutions in India.

The students are from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Among them are Jharkhand-based Ashna Noor, who aspires to start an NGO for girls in her village, and Mohit Gangwar, who



hopes to support his homemaker mother and father who suffers from paralysis.

Rakesh Bharti Mittal, vice-chairman of Bharti Enterprises, says the scholarship stemmed from a desire to expand the foundation's work in education.

"When we were thinking about what we should look at next, the idea that came to my mind was that there are so many children who don't pursue higher education because their parents

have financial constraints. The gross enrollment rate for technology-related higher education is hardly 30%," he says.

As many as 22% of this year's Bharti scholars are girls. "We have been focused on bringing more girls into higher education because that is something that has been missing for a long time. When we're talking of a country which wants to take a leadership role in technology globally - in space, in semiconductors, in renewable energy

- why should the girls be left behind," asks Mittal.

The foundation has long worked on education, from launching 64 rural Satya Bharti Schools to a 'Quality Support Programme' that has helped 1,000 schools improve infrastructure and technology access. Speaking of the importance of philanthropic interventions in education sector, Mittal says, "If you're educated, your life, your family, your future generation and the country benefits."