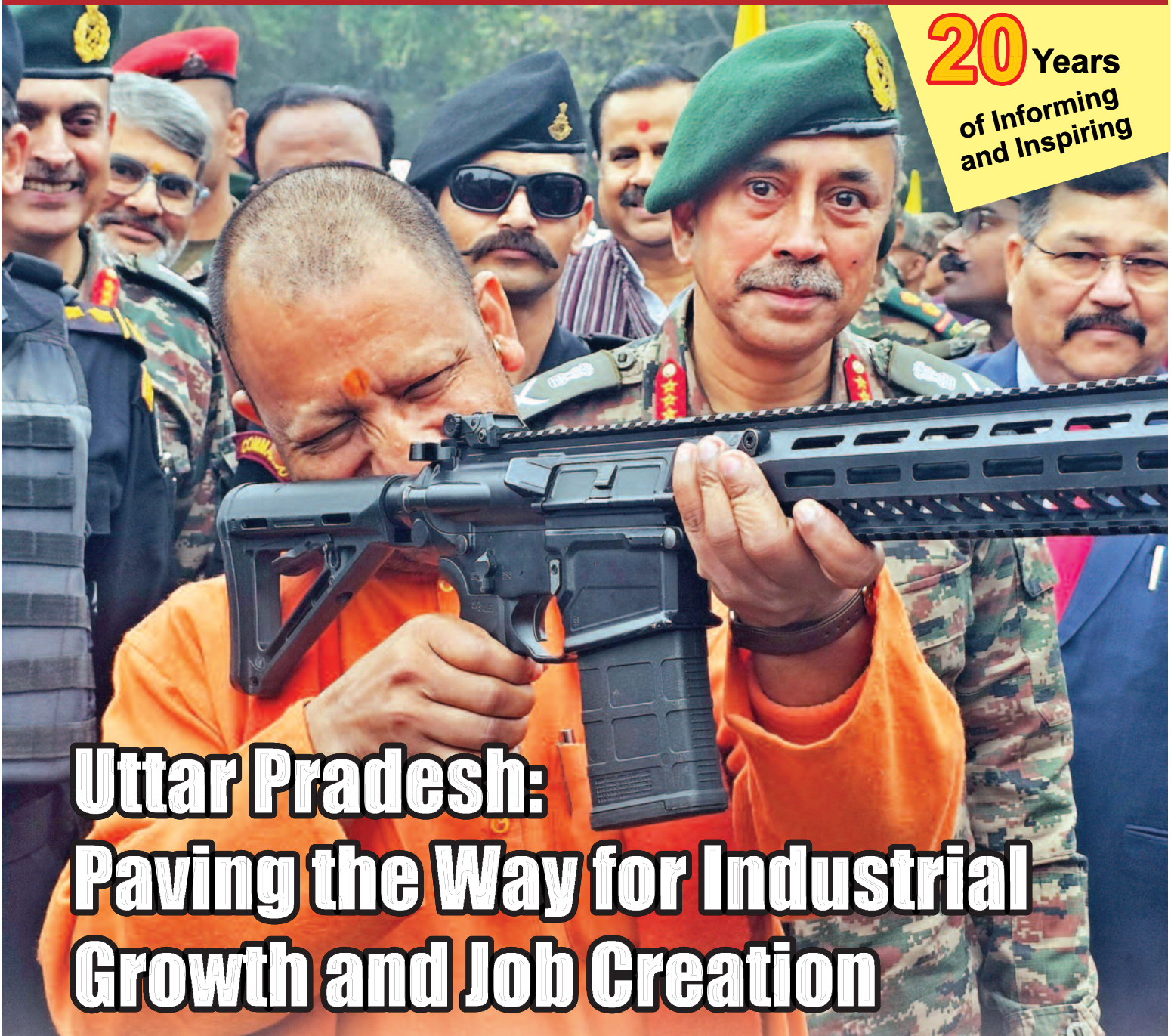




UDYOG VIHAR

“Navigating Industrial Landscapes: Insights into Laws, Labour and Safety”

20 Years
of Informing
and Inspiring



Uttar Pradesh: Paving the Way for Industrial Growth and Job Creation

“Ensuring Compliance and Welfare”

A Conversation with Sarju Ram,
Additional Labour Commissioner
of Gautam Buddh Nagar”

“Empowering Noida's Apparel Industry”

In Conversation with
Lalit Thukral, Champion
of the City of Apparel

Frontfoot Leadership

How Sanjeev Sharma
is Batting for
BJP's Success in



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- ❖ Prevent workplace incidents: OHS training can help prevent workplace incidents and improve workplace behavior.

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From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk

Dear Readers,

As the Editor-in-Chief of Udyog Vihar, I am pleased to welcome you to this latest edition of our magazine. Each issue reflects our unwavering dedication to being your trusted source for in-depth coverage of industrial and labour laws, pivotal industry developments, and the essential matters of industrial safety.

We understand the challenges and opportunities in the industrial landscape, and our mission is to equip you with the knowledge and insights needed to navigate them effectively. By offering comprehensive analysis and expert perspectives, we aim to empower industries to thrive while prioritising the safety and well-being of the workforce. Your engagement with Udyog Vihar fuels our passion for delivering content that informs and inspires action and growth. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to exploring the evolving world of industry with you in every edition.

Thank you for being part of this journey toward knowledge and progress.

Warm regards,

Satendra Singh
Editor-in-Chief, Udyog Vihar

DISCLAIMER-

The views and opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy. Any content provided by authors is of their opinion and is not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, club, organisation, company, individual or anyone or anything. "The editor does not necessarily agree with all the articles published in the magazine. In the event of any legal disputes, the jurisdiction will be Ghaziabad Court."



Expectations from New Industrial Cities: A Path Forward

Developing new industrial cities is a vital strategy to boost economic growth, create jobs, and address urbanisation challenges in India. However, success depends on careful planning, timely execution, and a vision prioritising sustainable development and smart infrastructure.

Vision for Industrial Cities

The Union Government's Industrial Corridor Development Program aims to establish 12 new industrial cities as economic hubs with advanced infrastructure, technology, and logistics. These cities are designed to attract investments, enhance manufacturing, and generate employment opportunities.

Challenges and Learning from the Past

Despite ambitious plans, India's track record with similar projects, like the Smart City initiative, highlights delays and bureaucratic inefficiencies. These new cities require a clear timeline, consistent monitoring, and accountability to avoid past pitfalls. Public-private partnerships will be crucial in filling resource gaps and accelerating development.

Strategic Planning for Success

It is essential to select the right locations based on connectivity, resources, and economic potential. Each city should offer a unique value proposition tailored to specific industries, while sustainable practices—like green energy and efficient waste management—will ensure resilience and long-term viability.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Inclusivity is as important as industrial growth. Cities must provide affordable housing, quality healthcare, education, and essential services to create a high quality of life for all residents and make them attractive places to live and work.

Conclusion

New industrial cities have the potential to reshape India's economic landscape and set benchmarks for future urban development. Achieving this vision will require learning from past experiences, a strategic approach, and a commitment to overcoming challenges through innovation and collaboration. If executed well, these cities could become symbols of India's progress and models for global urbanisation.

Satendra Singh
Editor-in-Chief



Udyog Vihar Advisory Board

At Udyog Vihar, we are honoured to be guided by an esteemed Advisory Board comprising experts and distinguished leaders from diverse fields related to industry, law, and governance. Their wealth of experience and insightful perspectives help shape the direction of our magazine, ensuring we deliver relevant and impactful content. Meet the members of our Advisory Board:



Lalit Thukral

Chairman–Noida Apparel Export Cluster

A visionary leader in the textile industry, Lalit Thukral brings a wealth of experience in export and industry dynamics, guiding our coverage of industrial growth and global trade.



Yogesh Gupta

Advocate–Labour Laws

An expert in labour laws, Yogesh Gupta, provides critical insights into legal frameworks and compliance, helping our readers navigate complex legal landscapes with clarity and confidence.



K N Agarwal

Assistant Labour Commissioner, U.P. (Retd.): With decades of experience in labour administration, K N Agarwal offers a unique perspective on policy implementation and labour welfare, enriching our analysis of regulatory developments.



Dr. M K Sharma

Assistant PF Commissioner (Retd.)

Dr M K Sharma's expertise in provident fund management and social security adds depth to our discussions on employee benefits and financial safety nets for the workforce.



Subhash Chandra Vishwakarma

Deputy Director Of Factories, U.P. (Retd.): A seasoned industrial safety and compliance professional, Subhash Chandra Vishwakarma ensures our focus remains steadfast on the crucial aspect of workplace safety and best practices.



S K Agarwal

Assistant Commissioner (IRS) GST (Retd.):

With a strong background in taxation and finance, S K Agarwal lends his expertise to our exploration of fiscal policies, GST implications, and their impact on industries.



Praveen Kumar Singhal

Chartered Accountant, Ex-Chairman-GZB of CIRC of ICAI

A leading chartered accountant, Praveen Kumar Singhal's financial acumen and strategic insights help our readers make informed decisions in financial planning and management.



Akash Vashishtha

Advocate & Environmentalist

As an advocate and environmentalist, Akash Vashishtha champions sustainable development and guides our content on environmental regulations and eco-friendly practices.

We are proud to have such a distinguished Advisory Board that brings together expertise from across sectors. Their guidance helps us uphold our commitment to excellence in every edition, ensuring that Udyog Vihar continues to be a beacon of knowledge and a trusted resource for our readers.

Warm regards
The Udyog Vihar Team



Recent Labor Law Judgments (2024) "Judicial Updates: Labor Law"

Kerala High Court

Private WhatsApp Chats: Employee's private WhatsApp group chats are not grounds for disciplinary action.

Mere Apology: An apology from an employee does not imply an admission of guilt.

Intentional Murder and Compensation: Intentional murder by an employee does not qualify for accident compensation.

Date of Birth Change Post-Retirement: Employees cannot change their date of birth after retirement.

Basic Wages and Allowances: Employers cannot object to considering certain allowances as basic wages later.

Responsibility and Punishment: Punishment cannot be interfered with solely because it was not the employee's responsibility to perform certain tasks.

Delhi High Court

Disciplinary Proceedings and Superannuation: Disciplinary actions cannot extend beyond the age of superannuation.

Industrial Dispute Location: Employees can only

raise disputes in the courts at their place of transfer.

Compensation Commissioner Orders: High Courts cannot be approached against orders from the Compensation Commissioner.

Pre-Deposit of Damages: Tribunals cannot mandate pre-deposit of damages during appeals.

Defreezing Bank Accounts: High Courts can order defreezing of bank accounts to ensure payment of employee salaries.

Unemployment Proof: Proving unemployment is challenging as a negative fact cannot be established.

Calcutta High Court

Supervisor Definition: Handling administrative work independently and providing completion reports qualifies one as a supervisor.

Trainee Gratuity: Trainees are considered employees for gratuity purposes, unlike apprentices.

Office Relocation: Management is not required to notify changes in service conditions for office relocation.

Differing Opinions in Enquiry: Conflicting views between the disciplinary authority and enquiry officer

Judicial Updates: Labor Law

can invalidate the enquiry.

Absorption and Gratuity: Absorption after training does not disrupt service continuity for gratuity.

Interest on Gratuity: Employees are entitled to interest on delayed gratuity payments even without a specific claim.

Madras High Court

Leave Encashment: Employees must receive leave encashment as it is considered part of their salary.

Contractual Employment: Long-term contract work does not guarantee a right to regular employment.

Society Business Disputes: Disputes related to the business of a society cannot be mixed with employment disputes.

PF Account Inactivity: No interest is accrued on a provident fund account once it becomes inactive.

Recovery of Money: The Assistant Labour Commissioner can enforce recovery of money due to workers under a settlement.

Telangana High Court

PoSH Act Appeals: Appeal provisions under the PoSH Act and Rules are valid and not in conflict with each other.

Accounts Executive Classification: An Accounts Executive is not considered a 'workman' under Section 2(s) of the ID Act.

CLRA Act Violations: Violations of the CLRA Act result in penal consequences rather than regularization.

Parity with Reengaged Employees: Employees cannot claim parity with those reengaged for implementing a labor court award.

EPF Act and Trainees: Trainees receiving wages are considered employees under the EPF Act.

Company Clubbing: Clubbing of companies is valid if one is a 100% owned subsidiary of the other.

Bombay High Court

Contract Employment: Working on a contract basis for a long period does not confer a right to regular employment.

Retrospective Pension Contributions: Employers cannot make retrospective contributions beyond statutory limits to pension funds after retirement.

Funding and BOCW Act Prosecution: Funding status does not influence criminal prosecution under the BOCW Act.

Cooperative Societies and Maternity Benefits: Cooperative societies are included under the Maternity

Benefit Act.

Karnataka High Court

Date of Birth and Retirement: Changing the date of birth post-retirement is not permitted.

EPF Act and Establishment Heads: The President and Secretary of an establishment are not classified as employees under the EPF Act.

Defreezing Bank Accounts: Employers can represent before EPF authorities for defreezing bank accounts.

Show Cause Notices: Show cause notices for recovery of dues cannot be challenged if not initially contested.

Jharkhand High Court

CLRA Act Violations: Violations lead to penalties rather than regularization.

EPFO Limitation Period: Limitation for EPFO orders is calculated from the date of knowledge when the order was not shared.

Himachal Pradesh High Court

Trustee Powers: Only the CGIT, not solely the Board of Trustees, can reduce damages.

EPF Act and Orphanages: Messes run by orphanages fall under the EPF Act.

Orissa High Court

Absorption of Casual Workers: Industrial Tribunals, not Writ Courts, can direct absorption of casual workers.

Unemployment Proof: It is presumed that workmen have worked continuously unless proven otherwise.

Suspension Consideration: Authorities must consider applications for suspension even in sexual harassment cases.

Punjab and Haryana High Court

Cess Act Reimbursement: There is no restriction on agreeing to reimburse statutory liabilities under the Cess Act.

Provident Fund Deductions: Principal employers must ensure provident fund deductions if contractors lack PF accounts.

Patna High Court

Summons Issuance: Summons against the occupier can only be issued after establishing a prima facie violation of the Factories Act.

Key Judgments on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)–Sep-2024

Constitutionality of Section 14B

Calcutta High Court: Upheld the constitutionality of Section 14B of the EPF Act, affirming it does not breach Article 14 of the Constitution.

PF Code Allocation

Patna High Court: PF Code cannot be assigned based solely on inspection reports.

Start-Up Inspection Exemption

Bombay High Court: Start-ups are exempt from EPF Act inspections in their first year.

APFC Appeal Limitations

Himachal Pradesh High Court: APFC cannot challenge CGIT orders in the High Court.

Coercive Action Stays

Punjab & Haryana High Court: CGIT's orders to stay coercive actions during appeals are not challengeable in High Court.

Employer Prosecution

Bombay High Court: Employers cannot be prosecuted without evidence of their knowledge of PF misappropriation.

Retention of Section 7-O Deposits

Patna High Court: EPF authorities cannot unjustly retain or earn interest on Section 7-O amounts for ten years.

Exemption for Religious Institutions

Telangana High Court: Institutions run by religious or charitable trusts are exempt from the EPF Act.

Validity of EO's Report

Kerala High Court: EO's report must align with the establishment's employee register to be valid.

Bank Account Attachment

Telangana High Court: Employers can request a stay on bank account attachments before the CGIT during appeals.

Waiving Damages

Madras High Court: Ignorance of the law does not justify waiving damages for late EPF dues.

Interference with Arrest Warrants

Delhi High Court: The High Court cannot interfere with arrest warrants if the employer fails to respond to show cause notices.

Admissibility of Inspection Reports

Patna High Court: EO's inspection reports are



inadmissible without full employee details.

Coverage of Educational Institutions

Madras High Court: Educational institutions are covered under the EPF Act.

Disclosure of Documents

Delhi High Court: EPF authorities must provide employers with all relevant documents they rely on.

Pre-Deposit Hardship

Punjab & Haryana High Court: Hardship alone does not warrant a waiver of pre-deposit requirements.

Installment Payments

Madras High Court: Employers should seek installment payment arrangements from EPF authorities, not the High Court.

Labour Ministry Authority

Calcutta High Court: The Labour Ministry cannot void EPF Act proceedings.

SATENDRASINGH (CMD)

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Key Updates and Notifications from Various States as of August 2024

New Delhi:

- **PF Revision of Rate of Damages:** Effective from August 28, 2024.
- **ESIC Document Verification for Super Speciality Treatment:** Enhanced scrutiny starting August 28, 2024.

Haryana:

- **Legislative Assembly General Elections:**
 - ▶ Factories Closed: August 29, 2024.
 - ▶ Shops and Commercial Establishments Closed: August 28, 2024.

Rajasthan:

- **Election Holiday Declared:** August 28, 2024.

Uttarakhand:

- **Minimum Wages Update:** Effective from March 15, 2024.
- **Additional Minimum Wages Update:** Effective from April 1, 2024.

Kerala:

- **Karamachari Guidelines Implementation:** Effective from July 22, 2024.

Maharashtra:

- **Security Guard Board Minimum Wages:**
 - ▶ Aurangabad, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Nashik, and Raigad: Effective August 20, 2024.
 - ▶ Pune (VDA): Effective August 20, 2024.



▶ Mumbai and Thane (VDA): Effective August 20, 2024.

Jharkhand:

- **Minimum Wages Update:** Effective from March 11, 2024.

Uttar Pradesh:

- **Minimum Wages Updates:**
 - ▶ **Engineering Sector:** Effective from August 1, 2024.
 - ▶ **General Sector:** Effective from April 1, 2024.
- **Women's Safety in Industries and Establishments:** Guidelines issued on August 22, 2024.

For more detailed information, visit www.uvindianews.com or email us at contact@legalipl.com.



Subhash Chandra Vishwakarma
Deputy Director Of Factories,
U.P. (Retd.):
Proprietor
M/S Jaishree Vision and
Associates

MESSAGE

I am delighted to share my message for this issue of Udyog Vihar magazine, which is dedicated to industrial matters and activities. Having devoted 35 years to industrial safety, health, and welfare as Assistant/Deputy Director of Factories in Uttar Pradesh, overseeing the enforcement of the Factories Act of 1948, I am thrilled to see the launch of a publication focused on these critical areas.

The mission of this magazine, to serve as a valuable resource by highlighting key issues related to workers' health, safety, welfare, and well-being within factory premises, is of utmost importance. By covering incidents such as fatal accidents, serious non-fatal accidents, and dangerous occurrences in a manner that ensures affected workers are informed of their rights and receive the support they deserve, this publication is an inspiration to us all.

I extend my best wishes to Mr Satendra Singh for his commitment to this important endeavour.

Key GST Rate Clarifications from the 53rd GST Council Meeting: Latest Updates and Implications

The Central Board of CGST has clarified GST rates for specific products based on the recommendations of the GST Council meeting held on 22nd June 2024. These clarifications address common doubts and ensure consistent application of GST rates. Here are the critical updates:

1. GST Rate on Solar Cookers:

- Solar cookers that use solar energy and grid electricity are classified under the heading 8516.
- These solar cookers attract a GST rate of 12%, as specified in the existing GST rules.

2. GST Rate on Fire Water Sprinklers:

- There were questions about whether the 12% GST rate for sprinklers also applies to fire water sprinklers.
- It has been clarified that all sprinklers, including fire water sprinklers, are subject to a 12% GST rate.
- Any past issues or doubts regarding this classification are now regularised, meaning they are settled as they stand without additional penalties or adjustments.

3. GST Rate on Parts of Poultry-Keeping Machinery:

- Parts of machinery used in poultry-keeping are classified under tariff item 8436 91 00.
- These parts are subject to a 12% GST rate. The relevant entry in the GST schedule has been updated to include these parts to avoid any misunderstandings.

4. Definition of 'Pre-Packaged and Labelled' for Agricultural Produce:

- There were concerns about the



Sumit Kumar Agarwal
Assistant Commissioner
(IRS) GST (Retd.)



scope of 'pre-packaged and labelled' items for agricultural products, particularly after recent changes in packaging rules.

- It has now been clarified that agricultural produce in packages of more than 25 kilograms or 25 litres will not be considered 'pre-packaged and labelled.'
- As a result, these larger packages will not attract the 5% GST rate for more minor, pre-packaged goods.

5. Supplies to or by Government Agencies:

- Before 17th July 2022, supplies of pulses and cereals in branded packaging attracted a 5% GST rate.
- For supplies made by or to government agencies involved in distributing these goods under approved schemes, any issues or discrepancies from 1st July 2017 to 17th July 2022 are regularised, meaning no further changes or penalties will apply.
- Suppliers must provide a certificate from a senior government official to benefit from this regularisation, and any availed Input Tax Credit (ITC) on these supplies must be reversed if suppliers choose to benefit from this clarification.

These clarifications aim to clarify any confusion regarding the GST rates for these items, ensuring that businesses and individuals can comply with the tax laws without ambiguity.

Evolution of Labour Laws in India: A Historical Perspective and Key Statutes

First world war was fought during 1914 to 1919. Indian forces from british side took part in the war. The repair & maintenance of war planes, ships, vehicles etc were found necessary to be carried in india. Most of such work was entrusted to tatas who engaged various work force. The work force started to pour in even from out-side. The indian workers came to know that good compensation was awarded to the disabled workers and family of the deceased workers. Thus, WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1923 came into force.

The workmen started gathering and the then government felt that union activities should be controlled through some legislation and thus TRADE UNIONS ACT, 1926 was enacted.

Thereafter, PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT, 1936 came into operation. Which initially was made applicable on the employees getting salary upto rs. 200/- per month, however, the ceiling was further revised in due course which is now rs. 18,000/- pm at present. The payment of wages act 1936 regulates the payment of wages to certain classes of persons employed in industry. It was enacted to ensure that the wages payable to employees covered by the act should be disbursed by the employers within the prescribed time limit and that no deduction other than those authorised by the law, are made by the employer.

THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT (STANDING ORDERS) ACT, 1946 was enacted in order to define the uniform terms and condition of services of all the workmen. Under this act the model standing orders come into effect until the draft standing orders are got certified from the certifying officer



of the area concerned. It must be kept in mind that the model / certified standing orders prevail over the terms and condition mutually agreed upon between the parties to the extent that those condition are inconsistent with model / certified standing orders. The standing orders also empower the management with the right to lay-off, suspend, hold domestic enquiry in the prescribed manner, disciplinary action etc.

It was also felt necessary that in case if there is any dispute regarding implementation of terms and condition of service, the same must be resolved first amicably,

otherwise by way of adjudication by Labour courts / industrial tribunals under INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ACT, 1947. The awards of labour courts / industrial tribunals are final and can't be called in question on facts. It also regulates lay-off, retrenchment, lock-out, closure, strike, conciliation & adjudication proceedings.

In the past the wages was paid as per mutual contract only. The rate of wages was too low as the rate of wages was fixed not keeping in view the work or necessity of the employee. Hence MINIMUM WAGES ACT, 1948 was enacted to guarantee minimum wages which was ascertained keeping in view different factors like price of various commodities, nature of work, climate etc. Even the expected increase in price of commodities were kept in mind while fixing the minimum rate of wages which is in the manner of variable dearness allowances. In any case the contractual rate of wage should never be less than the statutory rate of wages.

For better, safe and hygienic work conditions, THE FACTORIES ACT, 1948 was

brought in which specifies regarding the stability of the building, period of work, over-time at double rate, earned leaves, health, hazardous process besides other work conditions etc.

Afterward THE ESI ACT, EPF ACT, BONUS ACT, GRATUITY ACT, INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT (NH) ACT, etc. Were enacted.

At this end it shall be necessary to discuss the CONTRACT LABOUR (R & A) ACT, 1970. The contract labour should be treated only as a supplementary measure but not as a complementary measure. Such force should be engaged on work which is not of perennial nature.

But we find that work culture is lacking amongst work force. The union / workers fight for their rights and privileges but they don't care for their duties & responsibilities which are very essential ingredients for healthy and cordial industrial climate. The main reasons of the disputes arrives with the workmen are that most of the work force is illiterate due to which the union leaders mould the opinion of the workers to their side for their gains & to achieve their vested goals.

I am of the considered opinion that the word management must be spelled like "MANAGE - MEN - T" wherein the word "T" stands for truly, timely, technically and tactfully. I mean to say that the main function of the managerial staff is - how to manage personnel / men truly, timely, technically & tactfully?

Understanding the Recovery of EPF Dues: Statutory Provisions and Procedures



Dr. MK Sharma
Assistant PF Commissioner
(Retd.)

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) relies on the machinery of the state government to recover EPF and other dues arrears under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Legal Framework:

- **Amendment Act 33 of 1988:** Section 8 to 8G was inserted to create an independent recovery mechanism akin to Income Tax Certificate Rules.
- The provisions were made effective from 1st July 1990 (Notification No. S.O. 531(E)).

Authorities for Recovery:

1. **Recovery Officers:** Appointed under Section 8B(1).
2. **Central Provident Fund Commissioner (CPFC)** or any other officer authorised by the Central Provident Fund Board under Section 8F(1).

Powers of Recovery Officers:

- Every Recovery Officer under the EPF Act is deemed to act judicially within the meaning of the Judicial Officers Protection Act of 1850.

- Recovery Officers shall have the powers equivalent to those of a civil court.

Modes of Recovery:

1. **Attachment and Sale:** Movable or immovable property of the establishment or employer can be attached and sold.
2. **Arrest and Detention:** The employer can be imprisoned and detained.
3. **Appointment of a Receiver:** A receiver can manage the employer's movable or immovable property.

Forms Used for Recovery: Forms numbered 1 to 8 are used in recovery procedures.

Amounts Recoverable:

1. **Interest:** Interest is recoverable from the date of issue of the recovery certificate.
2. **Amount of Dues:** The principal amount due.
3. **Costs and Charges:** Any admissible costs and charges associated with the recovery process.
4. **Penalties:** Any penalties imposed, if applicable.

A Comprehensive Overview of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965: Sharing Profits with Workers

From the very beginning of industrial revolution, when the workers saw that their employers were making huge profit, started agitating for a share in profits. Numbers of attempts were made to achieve this goal not only by workers but also by the social democrats in various countries including our country. During and after agitation, it was almost universally accepted that the profits are made possible by the contribution of both Capital & labour in any industry and social justice requires that labour should be allowed a reasonable share in the increased profits | prosperity that are made in any particular period and on the basis of this principle, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 passed in the year 1965 in the India.

Salient Features of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965

- 1. Applicability of Act-** This act shall apply to Every factory and every other establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed on any day during an accounting year. Establishment includes departments, undertaking and branches etc
- 2. Act is not applicable to certain classes of employees,** employed by LIC, General Insurance, Dock Yards, Red Cross, Universities & Educational Institutions, Chambers of Commerce, Social Welfare Institutions etc.
- 3. Eligibility of Bonus-** An employee will be entitled only



K N Agarwal
Assistant Labour
Commissioner, U.P. (Retd.)

when he has worked for 30 working days in that year.

4. Disqualification and Deduction of Bonus- if employee dismissed from service for- Fraud; or

- Riotous or violent behaviour while on the premises of the establishment; or
- Theft, misappropriation or sabotage of any property of the establishment; or
- Misconduct of causing financial loss to the employer to the extent that bonus can be deducted for that year.

4. Payment of Minimum Bonus- An establishment has to pay bonus @8.33% of the salary or Rs.100, (on completion of 5 accounting years following the accounting year in which the Employer sells the goods produced or manufactured by him or renders services, even if there is no profit.

5. Payment of Maximum

Bonus- Maximum bonus is payable up to @20% subject to, and in proportion to, availability of sufficient allocable surplus

6. Eligible Employees- Employees drawing wages up to Rs.21,000 per month or less. However, if salary of an employee is more than Rs 7000 p.m. or more than minimum wage fixed in scheduled employment, bonus shall be payable @ Rs.7,000 per month or minimum wage in scheduled employment whichever is higher.

7. Time Limit for Payment of Bonus- Within 8 months from the close of accounting year.

8. Maintenance of Registers & Records etc-

- A register showing the computation of the allocable surplus in Form A.
- A register showing the set-on and set-off of the allocable surplus, in Form B.
- A register showing the details of the amount of bonus actually disbursed, in Form C.

9. Submission of Return- Every employer shall on or before the 1st day of February in each year upload annual returns in the Form D on the web portal of Ministry of Labour and Employment giving information as to the particular specified in respect of the preceding year:

10. PENALTY- For contravention of any provisions of the Act or the Rules-shall be punishable with imprisonment up to 6 months or with fine up to Rs. 1000 or both

Courts Should Expedite Justice in Crimes Against Women and Children: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged the judiciary to expedite the delivery of justice in cases related to crimes against women and children, emphasising that faster verdicts will strengthen public trust in the judicial system. Speaking at the National Conference of District Courts in New Delhi, Modi highlighted the judiciary's critical role in ensuring safety and security for women and children across the country.

Key Highlights:

- **Importance of Swift Justice:** Prime Minister Modi called on courts to prioritise cases involving crimes against women and children, stating that timely justice is crucial for reinforcing public confidence in the judicial process.
- **Judiciary's Role in Public Trust:** Modi emphasised that as the speed of judicial decisions increases, so will the citizens' sense of security. He reiterated the judiciary's role in upholding the Constitution and safeguarding citizens' rights, especially in times of crisis.
- **Reform and Modernization:** The Prime Minister highlighted recent judicial reforms to make the court processes more efficient. He pointed out that since 2019, over 75 laws have been repealed to simplify legal proceedings and reduce complexities for the common man.
- **Virtual Court System:** Modi noted the progress made in the digital transformation of courts, including establishing virtual courts and the e-Courts project, which aim to enhance accessibility and reduce case backlogs.
- **Special Courts and Legal Reforms:** Emphasizing the need



for specialised courts, Modi advocated for the establishment of fast-track courts specifically to handle cases of sexual offences and crimes against children, ensuring that justice is not delayed.

- **Historical Context:** Modi referred to the period during the Emergency when the judiciary faced challenges maintaining its independence. He praised the judiciary for its resilience and commitment to upholding justice during those times.
- **Call to Action for Judges:** Addressing the gathering of judges from 500 district courts, High Courts, and the Supreme Court, Modi urged the judiciary to maintain its momentum in delivering justice swiftly and effectively. He stressed the importance of judicial reforms in

enhancing the justice delivery system.

Key Announcements:

- **Flagging Off New Vande Bharat Trains:** During the event, PM Modi also flagged nine new Vande Bharat Express trains, which will enhance connectivity across several major cities, including Patna, Ranchi, Mumbai, and more.

Conclusion:

Prime Minister Modi's address underscored the need for a proactive judiciary that delivers justice swiftly and plays a pivotal role in building a secure and just society. His call for faster judicial processes, particularly in cases involving vulnerable sections of society, reflects the government's commitment to strengthening the rule of law in India.

High Court Suggests Experts in Vedas and Scriptures Manage Temple Affairs, Keeps Lawyers Away

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has expressed concerns over appointing advocates as receivers for managing the affairs of prominent temples in Mathura. The court suggested that experts in Vedas and scriptures, rather than lawyers, should be involved in temple management to ensure adherence to religious traditions and practices.

Key Directives from the High Court:

- **Expert Management Recommended:** The court advised that those with profound knowledge of Vedas, scriptures, and traditional religious practices should be appointed to oversee temple management instead of appointing advocates as receivers.
- **Avoiding Legal Conflicts:** The High Court noted the growing trend of legal professionals becoming involved in temple administration, leading to various legal disputes. The court emphasised that those profoundly familiar with the religious and spiritual aspects should manage temples rather than turning them into a legal battleground.
- **Case Background:** The court's observations came during a hearing related to the appointment of a receiver for several well-known temples in Mathura. The issue has raised concerns about adequately managing and preserving religious customs at these sacred sites.
- **Directive to District Authorities:** The High Court has directed district authorities to ensure that temple management follows traditional guidelines and that the involvement of legal



professionals is minimised. This move aims to preserve the sanctity and proper administration of temples.

Broader Concerns:

- **Issues with Current Management:** The court pointed out that many temples are currently managed by trusts and committees that do not adhere strictly to religious norms, leading to frequent disputes and mismanagement.
- **Temple Receivership:** Several famous temples in Mathura have been placed under receivership, resulting in numerous legal challenges. The court stressed that temple management should be devoid of legal complexities and instead focus on maintaining religious integrity.
- **Specific Temples Under Dispute:**

The High Court listed several prominent temples, including Shri Krishna Janmasthan, Govardhan, Vrindavan, and others, as embroiled in legal battles due to management issues. The court suggested that involving spiritual experts could help resolve these disputes effectively.

Conclusion:

The Allahabad High Court's directive aims to safeguard the religious and cultural essence of temple management by advocating for the involvement of experts in Vedic and scriptural knowledge. This approach seeks to maintain the sanctity of temple administration while keeping legal complications at bay, ensuring that these revered sites' spiritual and traditional values are preserved.

“If a Company Commits a Crime, the Responsibility Does Not Fall on Its Officers”

The Supreme Court has ruled that the responsibility does not automatically extend to its officers if a company is accused of fraud or criminal conspiracy. The court emphasised that questioning the officers' accountability does not arise unless specific allegations are made against them.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra stated that officers cannot be held accused just because they hold positions in the company. It must be proven that the criminal conspiracy or fraud was committed directly by the officers in question. The court further clarified that the responsibility of the officers will only be established if the law has specific provisions indicating such. Otherwise, it cannot be assumed.

The bench was hearing a petition filed by Rattanlal Gulati, the head of the Delhi Race Club, challenging a decision by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate in Bulandshahr last year. According to the petitioner, Delhi Race Club had purchased goods from the complainant but had not made any payments since 2017, leading to a pending payment of ₹9,11,434.

The court stated that under penal law, mere allegations against the company's officers without direct involvement do not hold ground. This decision underscores the need for specific and direct



accusations against individuals within a company so that they can be held personally liable.

“Supreme Court Says: Bank's Recovery Agents are a Group of Thugs”

The Supreme Court has called a bank's recovery agent firm a "group of thugs." The court stated that despite the loan amount being fully settled, the recovery firm hired by the bank did not return the seized vehicle to the individual. The court directed the Bengal Police to file charges against the company within two months.

The bench, comprising Justice Suryakant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, also directed compensation to the petitioner, Debashish Bosu Roy Chowdhury. The bench ordered Bank of India's recovery agent to



pay the compensation amount. Debashish had taken a loan of ₹15.15 lakh from the bank to operate a bus in Kolkata. In its order, the bench observed that based on the comments made by the High Court

and the petitioner's arguments, it seems the recovery agent is essentially a group of thugs that use their influence to harass loan borrowers on behalf of the bank.

The firm's actions, on the bank's instructions, led to the seizure of Debashish's bus. However, even after a settlement between the bank and Chowdhury, the bus was not returned in good condition. The bus was returned in poor condition, prompting the filing of a preliminary case against the recovery agent firm, Messrs City Investigation and Detective.



“Ensuring Compliance and Welfare”

A Conversation with Sarju Ram, Additional Labour Commissioner of Gautam Buddhannagar”

In this interview, Sarju Ram discusses the challenges and responsibilities of implementing labour laws in factories and establishments, highlighting the importance of balancing compliance with worker welfare. He also delves into the effective execution of the POSH Act and the Maternity Benefit Act and strategies for resolving industrial relations issues, emphasising the critical need for safety and fairness in the workplace.



Today, we have Sarju Ram, the Additional Labour Commissioner of Gautam Buddha Nagar, who will address all queries related to labour laws. Since your arrival in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida has seen remarkable improvements in operations. You have been working excellently and are known for your ability to satisfy both the workers and the employers.

Satendra Singh: What challenges do you face in ensuring compliance with labour

laws in factories and establishments? How do you address these challenges?

Sarju Ram Sharma, Additional Labour Commissioner, Gautam Buddha Nagar: Before I answer that, let me briefly explain that compliance with labour laws and the welfare of workers are two distinct aspects. Sometimes, compliance with labour laws occurs, but worker welfare does not. When we enforce the law, people often think we are causing harm, but that's not true. When

industries develop, worker welfare naturally improves. Even during the Gupta and Maurya periods, there was significant industrial and commercial development, which inherently led to compliance with labour laws and enhanced worker welfare.

Regarding compliance with labour laws, there's a reference from the Valmiki Ramayana where, after King Dasharatha's death, Bharat went to persuade Lord Rama, who was in exile. When Bharat met Rama, the first question Rama asked was:

कञ्चिद्दासस्य भक्तं च वेतनं च यथोचितम् ।
सम्प्राप्तकालं दातव्यं ददासि न विलम्बसे ॥

Meaning: "Do not delay giving food and wages to a servant according to their due, and at the appropriate time."

This verse emphasises the importance of prompt and fair remuneration for workers, stressing that wages and provisions should be provided without delay. It reflects the value of timely and just compensation in work relationships.

कञ्चित् वृत्तसमापन्नं यथोक्तमनुतिष्ठतः ।
दद्यान् आप्लुत्य दातव्यं इति नोपकृतं भवेत् ।

Kaṁchit vṛtta-samāpannam
yathoktam anuṭiṣṭhataḥ,

Dadyāna āplutya dātavyam iti
nopakṛtaṁ bhavet.

Meaning: "One who has completed his task and is deserving, as per the agreement, should be given what is due to him without delay. Without this, even a well-rendered service is not considered accomplished."

This is the same question we pose to employers today. As Shri Ram Chandra Ji mentioned at that time, ensuring that all workers, devotees, servants, and soldiers receive their due wages in appropriate amounts and on time is

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crucial. This principle aligns with the Minimum Wages Act and the Timely Payment of Wages. Employers should provide sufficient funds to workers to meet their basic needs.

Satendra Singh: Recently, there have been numerous complaints about the harassment of women in various places. What are your views on the implementation of the POSH Act in companies? How does the Labour Department ensure its implementation? What should be the approach, and why is the POSH Act mandatory? Please provide some insights on this matter.

Sarju Ram: The POSH Act of 2013 is compelling legislation that benefits both men and women. One of its most significant components is the Internal Complaints Committee, which should be established in every company, establishment, and factory. The benefit of this committee is that when a female employee faces harassment by a male, she can file a complaint with the committee. The committee investigates, conducts hearings, and reaches a conclusion through an investigation report. Based on the report, if the accused is found guilty, disciplinary actions can be taken against him. This reassures us of the measures in place for workplace safety.

Previously, without such a committee, complaints were directly filed at police stations, often leading to unnecessary complications. Now, with proper investigations, the truth is established clearly, whether the harassment claim is valid or not, ensuring that if harassment has occurred, appropriate actions are taken. This positive impact of the



Acts' implementation should give us hope for a more equitable workplace.

Additionally, significant progress has been made under the Maternity Benefit Act. Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh is the first district to achieve this, which is noteworthy as no such efforts were made previously in the region.

We have informed our officers that they, too, hold authority; they can make decisions on cases, order reinstatement, and perform tasks usually done by Labour Commissioners. This authority allows even Assistant Labour Commissioners to recover dues effectively. Once they were aware of their powers, they started working actively, resulting in the disbursement of ₹618,000 to women workers. This empowerment of officers is a significant step towards gender

equality in the workplace and should inspire us all.

Many companies used to terminate women employees once they became pregnant, which is why it is essential to enforce restrictions against such practices.

Satendra Singh: When a woman is expecting and takes leave before and after delivery, totalling six months, can she take these leaves consecutively?

Sarju Ram: Yes, the leave can be taken three months before, after delivery, or a combination of both. She can utilise her earned or privileged leaves if additional leave is needed. There's no issue in doing so.

Satendra Singh: What provisions exist for contract labourers working under a one-year contract? How does your department ensure contract labourers receive the same benefits as principal employers? There is often confusion about whether contract labourers receive the benefits they are entitled to. Could you please shed some light on this?

Sarju Ram: A company provides the same facilities for all regular or contract workers. For example, the canteen and other amenities are identical for both. Contract workers who perform similar tasks as directly hired employees are entitled to the same wages and benefits as stipulated. In numerous cases, contract workers were awarded wages equivalent to regular employees. An earlier case in HAL set a precedent where contract workers received the same salary as long as the company employed them.

Satendra Singh: What types of labour can work under contractors? Can you elaborate

on work of a perennial or temporary nature?

Sarju Ram: Article 10 of the Contract Act is relevant to contract labour. This article allows the appropriate government to decide whether a particular industry can engage contract labour for certain types of work. Notifications will be issued specifying whether contract labour is permissible for certain activities. If prohibited, no license for contract labour will be granted for that work; however, licenses may still be obtained for other permissible work.

Satendra Singh: In hazardous factories, what precautions are taken for safety? How does your department, including Assistant and Deputy Directors of Factories, monitor these measures?

Sarju Ram: Inspections cover many aspects. Once an issue is identified and corrected, it must be maintained. Every worker, whether a safety officer or not, should be vigilant. For example, if materials are lying around or machinery is exposed, such hazards must be immediately addressed. Doors should open outward for quick exits, safety belts and helmets should be worn correctly, and training is essential to ensure safety awareness.

One notable example is the Grasim Industries plant in Renukoot, where employees gather for a 50-minute prayer every morning, followed by safety briefings. Such practices foster a safety culture across all levels of the organisation, benefiting every worker and manager alike.

Satendra Singh: Regarding the Contract Act, what happens when a contractor completes a job and wants to retrieve their

Satendra Singh: How does your department resolve Industrial Relations (IR) matters?

Sarju Ram: This is an efficient issue. Both sides present their arguments—workers want to receive the maximum possible benefits, while employers aim to minimise costs. Our task is to find a common ground, a convergence point where both parties can agree, leading to a successful negotiation. Reaching this point often involves extensive discussions and adjustments. Agreements are also registered, which brings joy to all parties because a satisfied worker is more dedicated and productive, enhancing industrial relations.

In one instance, there was a strike where a minor altercation with a worker leader escalated into a national issue. We intervened, spent the entire day with the Police Commissioner at the site, and eventually facilitated a settlement. Today, the factory operates smoothly with high production.

Honest and sincere efforts often resolve such conflicts. Sometimes, strict measures, akin to bitter medicine in Ayurveda, are necessary for the greater good of both parties. When both sides are satisfied, the industry thrives, productivity increases and harmonious relations are established.

security deposit? There seems to be a delay in refunds since the implementation of the online system. What would you say about this?

Sarju Ram: There shouldn't be any issues. If you have deposited the security online, you should be able to reconcile it easily. In the past, matching deposits was more cumbersome with offline challans. Now, if all original documents are correctly submitted and all work is certified as complete by the principal employer, the security amount is refunded electronically without delay.

Some contractors have experienced delays, and we have deployed additional staff to address these issues, ensuring that all reconciliations are handled efficiently and promptly.

Satendra Singh: What powers do inspectors have during inspections under labour laws?

Sarju Ram: The government has periodically regulated the inspection system. The first significant regulation was issued in 1998, mandating inspections only with the approval of district or divisional officers. In 2017, a new system was established with a Central Inspection Framework encompassing three types of inspections: regular, complaint-based, and accident-triggered.

If a complaint is unresolved, and both parties fail to reach an agreement despite mediation, the Labour Commissioner is informed in writing, highlighting the need for an inspection. Random inspections are conducted based on established lists, ensuring compliance across all hazardous and non-hazardous factories.

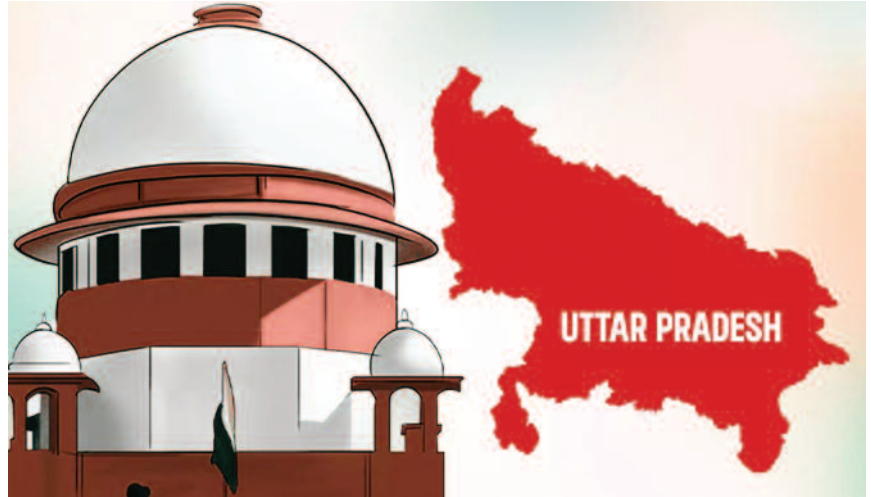
“You can watch the full interview on our YouTube channel @uvindianews.”

Supreme Court Criticizes UP CMO for Delay in Remission Plea

The Supreme Court has reprimanded the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's Office for not accepting and processing a remission plea for the early release of a prisoner. The court cited the enforcement of the model code of conduct during elections as the reason for the delay. The court questioned the officer responsible for this refusal, noting that the model code should not obstruct decision-making.

The court had previously ordered on April 10 that the state consider the permanent remission of a life-term convict who had served over 14 years in prison and had been granted six weeks for this decision. The matter was revisited on July 7, but the state requested an additional two weeks, which the court granted with a warning that no further extensions would be allowed. The court set a deadline and warned that contempt proceedings could follow if the decision were not made.

During the hearing, Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George



Masih inquired why the delay occurred. They were informed that the file was sent to the Chief Minister's Secretariat, which refused to accept it and sent it back. The court ordered the official involved to provide a detailed affidavit and the name of the officer who refused the file, with the possibility of contempt charges against the official.

The Supreme Court noted that this was not the first instance of delays in decisions on premature releases,

emphasising that such governmental approaches are unacceptable. The case highlighted by the court involved a discriminatory stance, as another convict, Udaybhan Karvariya, had been granted remission after serving only nine years.

The Supreme Court's stern response underscores the expectation that state authorities should act independently of the model code of conduct and fulfil their responsibilities without undue delays.

"Cannot Provide Certified Copies of Victims' Statements Until Charge Sheet is Taken Cognizance of"

The Allahabad High Court has stated that until the charge sheet/police report is taken cognizance of by the court, no individual has the right to obtain a certified copy of the statements of victims recorded under Section 164 CrPC (now Section 183 CrPC). The court has directed all courts not to issue

copies of such statements. Justice Vivek Kumar Birla and Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal passed this order.

The court said that in many cases, accused persons challenge the First Information Report (FIR) and submit the statements of victims recorded under Section 164. Even lower courts

are issuing certified copies of victims' statements recorded under Section 164, which is not legally sanctioned. The Supreme Court has also directed that neither the accused nor any other person has the right to obtain copies of the statements of victims recorded under Section 164 CrPC.

"GDP Growth Rate at 6.7% in the First Quarter"

Due to reduced government spending due to elections and the lack of better agricultural performance, India's GDP growth rate for the first quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year was 6.7%, slightly below the RBI's expectation. This marks the lowest growth rate in the past 15 months. Despite an estimated 7.1% growth rate, the 6.7% rate is still impressive, making India one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world for this quarter.

Key Insights:

- The overall GDP for the first quarter was ₹43,63,732 crore, up from ₹40,91,484 crore in the same period last year.
- The Chief Economic Advisor anticipates a 7.1% growth for the year based on positive trends in agriculture and manufacturing, spurred by favourable monsoon conditions and increased rural spending.

Sector-Wise Growth Rate:

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing: 2.7%
- Mining and Quarrying: 7.0%
- Manufacturing: 4.7%
- Electricity, Gas, Water Supply, and Utility Services: 10.4%
- Construction: 10.5%
- Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication: 7.2%
- Financial, Real Estate, and Professional Services: 7.1%
- Public Administration, Defence, and Other Services: 9.5%



Global and Domestic Industry Insights:

- Globally, industry growth in July remained stable at 6.1%, supported by natural gas production.
- In the financial year 2023-24, India's expected annual growth rate remains robust at 8.2%.
Despite slower government spending and a minor contraction in manufacturing, growth across various sectors, particularly in construction and utility services, contributed to sustaining the overall growth momentum. Economists suggest that while the 6.7% growth rate in the first quarter might appear concerning, it is expected to pick up pace with improving economic activities and strategic government interventions in the coming quarters.

"Land Acquisition Projects on 'Bhoomi Rashi' Portal Doubled in Eight Months"

The Central Government's initiative to make the land acquisition process for national highway construction fully digital, transparent, and integrated is showing positive results. The 'Bhoomi Rashi' portal, launched to bring notifications related to land acquisition, compensation, and related information onto a single platform, now has 3,291 NHAI projects registered.

As of December last year, only 1,467 projects were registered on this portal. This means that the number of

projects has more than doubled in the previous eight months. The portal also provides detailed information on the acquired land and the compensation awarded for it.

The 'Bhoomi Rashi' portal aims to consolidate land acquisition notifications for highway projects in one place. Compensation payments for land acquisition are also processed through this portal. In her last budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised bringing all land records onto this portal to facilitate development work in both urban and rural areas.

"Post-EPS, Time for Major Reforms in Private Sector Employees' Pension"

After the central government's Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) applied to more than 90 lakh employees of 23 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), there is a growing demand for similar benefits for the private sector. Around 78 lakh pensioners from organised private sectors receive just ₹1,000 as a minimum monthly pension. There is a strong call for this amount to be raised to at least ₹10,000.

Supreme Court's Order and the Need for Reform:

- The Supreme Court had ordered that private sector employees' pensions be recalculated, considering 30 months of their final salary, which would significantly raise their pension amounts. However, no substantial changes have been implemented yet.
- Various employee unions and organisations are advocating for the government to review and increase the minimum pension amount for private sector employees, which aligns with the recent changes for CPSEs.

Financial Implications:

- The report mentions that if the government sets a minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month, the annual financial burden would increase by ₹5,500 crores. If the amount is increased to ₹6,500, this figure would rise to ₹18,500 crores annually.



- Over the past six years, the government has received over 1.31 crore applications related to EPS, underscoring the urgency and scale of the issue.

Call for Equal Treatment:

- Amarjeet Kaur, General Secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, stressed that private sector employees should receive the same pension benefits as government employees.
- She urged the government to consider providing pension benefits to private sector employees, similar to those given to government workers, which include raising the minimum pension to ₹7,500 and adding dearness allowance.

The article emphasises the pressing need for the government to reform pension schemes for private sector employees, ensuring equitable benefits and financial security for millions of pensioners who have served in various industries. The growing momentum for reforms highlights the importance of addressing these disparities to provide fair retirement benefits for all workers.

GST Council Likely to Meet in September to Discuss Key Issues

The GST Council is expected to convene in early September to address several important matters, including expanding the tax base, clarifying rules to reduce tax disputes, and reviewing the process of tax rate rationalisation. This meeting, tentatively set for September 9, will involve central and state government representatives.

At the previous quarterly meeting in July, the Council discussed potential legislative amendments that could be included in the upcoming Union budget. The forthcoming meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will explore pending issues, such as more precise guidelines to minimise legal disputes arising from tax interpretations.

The Council will also likely examine industry-specific practices, such as those related to software exports and the airline sector, which have recently come under scrutiny due to tax notices issued to some companies.

While the final agenda is still being set, a ministerial group led by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary will present updates on efforts to rationalise GST rates, potentially sparking further discussions on rate adjustments. This consultative process is anticipated to be extensive, as changes to the rate structure could lead to significant revisions across various sectors.

Experts suggest that this meeting may drive momentum for broader reforms, focusing on tax rate adjustments, simplifying compliance, and resolving disputes.

"IT Park and Incubation Center to Take Shape in Amausi Industrial Area"

To establish Uttar Pradesh as an industrial hub, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has initiated the development of IT Park and Incubation Center projects in Lucknow's Amausi Industrial Area. The groundwork for these projects has already begun, and the Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established to oversee the entire process. Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Limited has been appointed as a consultant for this initiative.

Key Features of the Project:

- The IT Park and Incubation Center will be developed under the guidance of a dedicated PMU, formed specifically to ensure the project's timely and efficient completion.
- Notable companies like HCL,

TCS, Wipro, Infosys, and Shriram will have offices in this development, making it a significant IT hub.

- The incubation facility will also include a dedicated area for startups, offering them the necessary infrastructure and support to grow and thrive.

Government Support:

- Under the IT and ITES Policy-2022, the state government has allocated an incentive package worth ₹212.63 crores to support establishing IT infrastructure in the state.
- The Industrial Investment Promotion Scheme-2003 and other policies have provided additional incentives totalling ₹66.66 crores for projects in various districts, including Lucknow, Ghaziabad,

Noida, and others.

Project Scope:

- The project is expected to house modern facilities, including state-of-the-art workspaces, training centres, and a two-lakh-square-foot incubation area to support innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The development also aims to create employment opportunities and strengthen the state's position as a preferred destination for IT and industrial investments.

With these initiatives, Uttar Pradesh is set to become a significant player in the IT sector, offering world-class infrastructure and support to businesses and entrepreneurs alike. The project is a step forward in realising the state's vision of fostering a robust industrial ecosystem that can compete globally.

EPFO to Launch Advanced Technology System in 3 Months

About Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will launch its new information technology system, "EPFO 2.0," within the next three months. The announcement came as part of ongoing IT modernisation initiatives to enhance the organisation's efficiency and ease of operations.

The new system promises several improvements, including centralised claim settlement with end-to-end automation of claims processing, centralised monthly pension disbursements, and universal account

number-based EPF accounting. Additionally, it will simplify the remittance process by restructuring the electronic challan-cum-receipt with due statements and eliminate the need for member ID transfers when changing jobs.

The system replaces the traditional approach of physically submitting voluminous documents, offering an online submission and tracking feature for members' applications. This upgrade is expected to reduce processing times and streamline transactions for both members and employers.

As part of these modernisation efforts, Mandaviya also launched the "Online Module for Surrender of Exemption" on August 13. This module further reduces the time and effort required by providing online facilities for application submission, validation, and transfer of past accumulations.

The introduction of EPFO 2.0 is part of the government's broader initiative to enhance members' ease of living and simplify employers' compliance, reflecting a commitment to modernising public services through advanced technology.



"Empowering Noida's Apparel Industry"

In Conversation with Lalit Thukral
Champion of the City of Apparel

Shri Lalit Thukral, the Chairman of the Noida Apparel Export Cluster (NAEC), is a key figure in Noida's evolution into the esteemed 'City of Apparel'. His collaborative efforts with the government and the Honorable Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath have been instrumental in this achievement. During an interview with UV India News, Lalit Thukral shared insights into his association's work and the government's expectations of it regarding supporting the apparel export industry.

Satendra Singh: Mr. Thukral, can you explain the Noida Apparel Export Cluster (NAEC) and how you work towards its goals?

Lalit Thukral: The Noida Apparel Export Cluster represents the garment industry. In Noida, we have around 4,000 top-tier factories. Exports from Gautam Buddha Nagar exceed ₹40,000 crore annually, and the district produces goods worth ₹10,000 crore each year. Approximately one million people are directly and indirectly associated with this industry. Under the visionary 'One District One Product' scheme, part of the Honorable Chief Minister's plan, Noida has been recognised as the 'City of Apparel' due to its significant export volume, garment production, and substantial foreign exchange inflow.

Our current focus is on the development of an Apparel Park on the Yamuna Expressway. With possession secured and construction underway, we anticipate a significant boost in exports by ₹10,000 crore and the creation of employment opportunities for 300,000 women within the next one to two years. This initiative is a testament to our industry's potential for growth and prosperity.

Satendra Singh: Considering your industry employs women and other labourers, how does your association guide and educate its members on complying with labour laws?

Lalit Thukral: Companies in the export line work with significant stores, all of which require compliance. We ensure compliance by

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providing minimum wages, ESIC, PF, and other benefits. How can we sustain our operations if we don't care for our labourers? We do everything possible to support them. For instance, companies often cover their treatment costs privately if a worker is not receiving adequate treatment for an illness. Our industry workers are like family to us; many know me personally. Even if someone who hasn't worked with us for years approaches me for help, I assist them in whatever way I can.

Satendra Singh: Since you mentioned that your industry predominantly employs women, do all your companies have IC committees?

Lalit Thukral: Every company within our cluster fully complies with the regulations, including forming IC (Internal Complaints) committees. There are various committees specifically for women, and we practice this diligently. Women form a significant part of our workforce, and we must ensure their well-being.

Satendra Singh: As the apparel industry in Noida has been recognised as the "City of Apparel," what further support or facilities does the government need to boost your industry?

Lalit Thukral: While the government provides us with all sorts of support, there are some areas where additional attention could help our industry grow significantly. For example, our industry contributes to exports worth ₹1.6 trillion, with ₹40,000-50,000 crore coming from large players and around ₹1.2 trillion from MSMEs. However, MSMEs often don't receive the full benefits. If the government supports MSMEs through bank cooperation and credit limits, they can double their output, boosting exports from ₹1.2 trillion to ₹2.4 trillion. We've been stuck at 15 billion for years, while

Bangladesh, which was at 10 billion, has grown to 50 billion in a decade.

MSMEs are the backbone of employment, and with the proper support, they can significantly uplift our garment industry. If the government launches schemes enabling MSMEs to scale up their businesses, our industry could reach 29 billion by 2030. This sector is critical for job creation, women's empowerment, and economic growth.

Satendra Singh: You mentioned Bangladesh earlier. Why is Bangladesh's apparel industry ahead of ours?

Lalit Thukral: Bangladesh has Foreign Trade Agreements (FTAs) that India does not. When Bangladesh exports goods, they are exempt from duties of 10-12%, while Indian exports face these charges. Additionally, labour is cheaper in Bangladesh, and Bangladesh's economy heavily relies on garments. Bangladesh also imports a significant amount of high-quality yarn and fabric from India, processes it, and exports it at a lower cost due to these exemptions. However, India has its unique strengths, particularly in fashion and design, which are unmatched. With further improvements, we can enhance our position globally.

Satendra Singh: Regarding skill development, what steps is your association taking to train workers in your industry?

Lalit Thukral: Skill development is a crucial aspect. Many workers in our industry have never received formal training but are skilled through experience. To address this, the Noida Apparel Export Cluster is launching a portal next week called "Skill Ganga," which will offer courses focused on skill development. This portal will provide training and job opportunities. For example, if an employer needs 1,000 tailors or 50 supervisors, they

can specify their requirements on the portal. If we have 500 qualified candidates, they will be sent with certification to fill the positions. Those not yet qualified will receive training through our institutions. This initiative will meet the industry's needs, and workers will receive the necessary training quickly, maintaining production efficiency.

Satendra Singh: What is the expected timeline for completing the Apparel Park on the Yamuna Expressway?

Lalit Thukral: There were some delays due to land possession issues involving farmers, but those have been largely resolved, and many sites are now under construction. I expect that full-scale production will commence within one to two years.

Satendra Singh: Is there a message you want to share regarding how your association can benefit its members?

Lalit Thukral: Beyond business, sustainability is critical. Our cluster is planting trees, particularly fruit trees, along different roads, enhancing the environment and providing free fruits to workers. Birds will also find habitats here. We need to think outside the box for labour welfare, and I've already requested the government to create living arrangements for workers, such as dormitory-style housing or permanent flats. During the pandemic, when many labourers left, significant challenges were created. While the government supported us, we still faced limitations. Therefore, sustainable living arrangements for workers would be highly beneficial.

Satendra Singh: Thank you very much for your time.

“You can watch the full interview on our YouTube channel @uvinianews.”

New Job Schemes May Fast-Track Code on Wages Implementation



The Labour Ministry has initiated consultations with trade unions regarding framing rules for employment-linked incentive (ELI) schemes, aiming to roll them out by December-end. During a meeting on Wednesday, one essential suggestion was to expedite the implementation of the Code on Wages, ensuring that ELI benefits are accessible across all sectors.

Representatives from 10 trade unions were asked to provide their views on the ELI schemes, including recommendations for potential adjustments. A significant recommendation was to extend these schemes to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to encourage their employees to join the workforce.

Union members emphasised the importance of linking the Aadhar data of scheme beneficiaries with EPFO to prevent duplication. They also called for measures to address rural labour migration to urban areas by

earmarking additional funds for industries in those regions.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of overhauling labour codes and implementing the Code on Social Security 2020 and the Code on Wages 2019, alongside the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 and the Industrial Relations Code 2020.

The five proposed ELI schemes, which require an outlay of approximately ₹2 lakh crore, aim to provide job and skill development opportunities to over 41 million youth over five years:

Scheme A: This scheme targets first-time formal sector employees, offering up to ₹15,000 as one-time wages in three instalments through direct benefit transfers (DBT).

Scheme B: Focuses on job creation in manufacturing, providing incentives for the employment of first-time employees based on their EPFO contributions during their first four

years.

Scheme C: Supports small and micro enterprises with subsidies of ₹3,000 per month for two years towards hiring apprentices with salaries of up to ₹10,000 per month.

Scheme D: A centrally sponsored scheme announced in 2022 to skill 41 million youth, including a ₹1,500 stipend for internships and apprenticeship allowances.

Scheme E: Offers internships to 50,000 young graduates with allowances and one-time stipends.

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya emphasised the government's focus on making the schemes more accessible and sustainable to provide meaningful employment opportunities for youth nationwide. The ministry also considers ways to enforce the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 and extend ELI benefits to all sectors, ensuring broader applicability and impact.

Will Switching to a Consultant Role with a ₹1 Crore Salary Save You Tax?

Switching from an employee to a consultant role with an annual income of ₹one crore might save tax, but several factors and conditions must be considered. As an employee, income is taxed under the 30% tax bracket with standard deductions, but a consultant can reduce taxable income through various business expenses.

Tax Scenario Comparison:

- **Employee:** With a ₹1 crore salary, Sanjana, the example used, pays ₹29.25 lakh in tax after deductions for standard exemptions and employee benefits.
- **Consultant:** When switching to a consulting role, Sanjana's taxable income drops to ₹86.04 lakh due to allowable business expenses (e.g., rent, office setup, travel), and her tax liability reduces to ₹24.05 lakh.
- **Eligible Business Expenses for**

Consultants: Consultants can claim deductions for expenses directly related to their work, such as rent, utilities, communication, travel, and office maintenance. Specific costs like laptops and office furniture can be capitalised and depreciated over time.

- **GST and Compliance:** Consultants with annual turnovers above ₹20 lakh must register for GST. Professionals can claim input tax credits on their GST returns for business-related expenses, which could offset their liabilities. However, consultants face increased compliance with monthly and quarterly GST filings, and the benefits of input credits are only realised if they strictly adhere to GST regulations.
- **Considerations for the Switch:** The move from employment to consulting should factor in potential

tax savings and the added responsibilities of managing business expenses, increased compliance work, and securing contracts from multiple clients to maintain independent contractor status.

- **Audit and Compliance Needs:** Consultants must maintain detailed records of all expenses and income, and those with incomes exceeding ₹50 lakh annually must undergo tax audits by a chartered accountant. This adds another layer of administrative effort compared to being an employee.

Ultimately, while consultants can potentially reduce their tax burden through deductible expenses, they must weigh the benefits against compliance costs, administrative responsibilities, and the shift from a steady salary to variable income sources.



ESIC Ordered to Pay ₹50 Lakh for Delayed Medical Assistance Leading to Woman's Death

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has issued a scathing verdict against the senior medical commissioners of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for failing to provide timely medical assistance funds, resulting in the death of Shanti Ayani, a 25-year-old woman from Hyderabad.

Shanti, diagnosed with blood cancer in 2011, required a bone marrow transplant, and her treatment at the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) was estimated to cost ₹50 lakh. Her mother, Manda Kumari, a member of the ESIC, sought financial support for her daughter's treatment. Although a letter of credit was issued to TMC in November 2012, the hospital demanded a deposit before beginning the therapy. This led to delays as ESIC withheld the release of funds despite repeated reminders.

Due to the delay in receiving funds, Kumari had to admit her daughter to another hospital for chemotherapy in October 2013. Unfortunately, Shanti passed away within a month due to her illness. Kumari approached higher authorities, including the Prime Minister, the National Human Rights Commission, and the Andhra Pradesh High Court, seeking intervention and immediate financial relief, but ESIC ignored her appeals. The NCDRC ruled that



ESIC's negligence and delay in disbursing the approved funds were unacceptable, particularly after all necessary documentation, including a letter of credit, had been provided. The commission initially awarded Kumari ₹35 lakh, but upon review, increased the compensation to ₹50.57 lakh with 6% interest from 2013. The NCDRC also directed that ₹35 lakh be used to establish a trust in Shanti's memory, dedicated to the education and healthcare of underprivileged girls, with the remaining amount deposited in a public sector bank. The NCDRC's decision highlights the need for ESIC and other institutions to prioritise prompt and efficient service delivery, especially in critical medical cases where delays can lead to tragic outcomes.

"India Will Lead the World, Bio-E3 Policy is a Game Changer"

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh stated that the new Bio-E3 policy is a game changer. India will lead the world in the field of biotechnology. The Union Cabinet approved the Bio-E3 policy on Saturday.

The Bio-Economy, Environment, and Employment policy is designed to strengthen initiatives related to the economy, environment, and sustainable lifestyle, making it a significant step towards India's green development. It aims to enhance the balance

between greenhouse gas emissions and their removal from the atmosphere, supporting the government's goal of a 'Net Zero' carbon economy.

Key Points of the Bio-E3 Policy:

- The policy is expected to create new employment opportunities and strengthen the country's economy.
- Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned that India's economy was worth \$10 billion in 2014, which has grown to over \$130 billion in 2024 and

is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030.

- The policy will also promote the development of bio-based products and contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative.

The minister highlighted that the new policy will propel India further along the path of green development, supporting sustainable lifestyles and enhancing efforts against climate change by increasing the amount of renewable energy and balancing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

"Easy Access to Small Loans Across the Country"

RBI Governor Says a New Platform Will Soon Be Launched for Hassle-Free Loan Distribution

Soon, farmers, small entrepreneurs, and individuals across the country will find it easier to access small loans. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is preparing to launch a new platform to simplify and expedite the distribution of small loans, ensuring that credit is accessible without unnecessary obstacles.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that a new platform would soon be launched to integrate various data related to borrowers, providing a centralised database for lenders. This move is expected to enhance the flow of credit to underserved sectors like agriculture and small businesses. The Governor stated that the platform would help improve financial inclusion by streamlining the loan process and reducing dependency on traditional credit scoring methods.

Key Highlights:

- The RBI's proposed platform will leverage the power of technology and data analytics to expand credit access. It will consolidate information from various sources, enabling lenders to make informed decisions.
- The Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC) platform aims to bring all stakeholders—lenders, borrowers, and intermediaries—onto a single digital platform, ensuring a seamless loan application and approval process.
- Small loans up to ₹1.6 lakh will be



offered under this platform. A pilot project has already been successfully conducted in select states, including Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, where loans were disbursed without collateral using this platform.

Loan Distribution Insights:

- The platform will integrate data from Aadhaar, land records, credit history, and other relevant sources to provide a holistic view of the borrower's creditworthiness. This will reduce the reliance on traditional collateral and allow

quicker loan approvals.

- The initiative is part of the government's broader push towards a more inclusive financial system, particularly in rural areas where access to formal credit has traditionally been limited.

Governor Das emphasised that the RBI aims to democratize access to credit by using technology, making it easier and faster for people to get the funds they need. This platform represents a significant step towards ensuring that credit reaches the underserved and supports economic growth across all country regions.

"IT Park and Incubation Center to Take Shape in Amausi Industrial Area"

To establish Uttar Pradesh as an industrial hub, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has initiated the development of IT Park and Incubation Center projects in Lucknow's Amausi Industrial Area. The groundwork for these projects has already begun, and the Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established to oversee the entire process. Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Limited has been appointed as a consultant for this initiative.

Key Features of the Project:

- The IT Park and Incubation Center will be developed under the guidance of a dedicated PMU, formed specifically to ensure the project's timely and efficient completion.
- Notable companies like HCL, TCS, Wipro, Infosys, and Shriram will have offices in this development, making it a significant IT hub.
- The incubation facility will also include a dedicated area for startups, offering them the necessary infrastructure and support to grow and thrive.

Government Support:

- Under the IT and ITES Policy-2022, the state government has allocated an incentive package worth ₹212.63 crores to support establishing IT infrastructure in the state.
- The Industrial Investment Promotion Scheme-2003 and other policies have provided additional incentives totalling ₹66.66 crores for projects in various districts,



including Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Noida, and others.

Project Scope:

- The project is expected to house modern facilities, including state-of-the-art workspaces, training centres, and a two-lakh-square-foot incubation area to support innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The development also aims to create employment opportunities and strengthen the state's position as a preferred destination for IT and industrial investments.

With these initiatives, Uttar Pradesh is set to become a significant player in the IT sector, offering world-class infrastructure and support to businesses and entrepreneurs alike. The project is a step forward in realising the state's vision of fostering a robust industrial ecosystem that can compete globally.

"Mysore Deep Perfumery House Receives Top Export Award"

Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH), known for manufacturing agarbatti (incense sticks) under the brand name 'Zed Black,' has been honoured with the Top Export Award. The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts presented this award.

Ankit Agarwal, the company's director, stated that MDPH is the first company from Central India to receive this prestigious award. MDPH's products are exported to more than 40 countries.



SEBI Shuts Down 15,000 Finfluencer Sites in Crackdown

In the past three months, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken down over 15,000 content sites operated by unregulated financial influencers, known as influencers. SEBI's full-time member, Kamlesh Varshney, stated that this action aligns with SEBI's ongoing efforts to prevent regulated entities from associating with unregistered financial influencers.

Varshney explained that SEBI collaborated with technology platforms to remove misleading content harming investors. This measure aims to ensure that investor education and regulatory compliance coexist seamlessly while curbing the influence of unregistered influencers.

SEBI has asked technology platforms to develop systems for identifying unregulated content, enhancing SEBI's oversight. Varshney emphasised that SEBI is committed to reducing entry barriers and providing clear guidelines for the financial market. The objective is to combine investor education with a robust regulatory framework, ultimately fostering a safe investment environment. Additionally, Varshney highlighted that SEBI received over 1,000 responses to its proposal to ease certain



restrictions on registered investment advisers and research analysts. SEBI's board is expected to review and potentially approve these proposals in its next meeting in September.

Varshney also reflected on the evolution of the financial markets due to technological advancements, noting the impact of visionaries who have leveraged technology to create successful startups. He expressed optimism about the future, indicating that emerging technologies will continue to shape the landscape of the financial markets.

Nvidia's Future Hinges on Advanced Chips That Push Technological Boundaries

Nvidia is betting on its advanced AI chips to maintain its lead in the semiconductor market, operating under the principle that "bigger is better." However, this approach comes with challenges as these next-generation chips, known as Blackwell, are roughly the size of four Scrabble tiles and house 2.6 times the number of transistors compared to their predecessors. Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, has noted a high demand for these powerful chips.

Despite Nvidia's recent quarterly solid sales and profits, the company acknowledged significant manufacturing challenges with these advanced chips, impacting profit margins. Nvidia did not detail the specific issues, but industry experts suggest that the complexity of Blackwell's design, which combines two advanced new processors on a single piece of silicon, poses manufacturing hurdles. Each chip needs to be nearly flawless; even minor defects can

render the \$40,000 Blackwell chips useless, impacting overall production yields.

These chips involve a delicate blend of silicon, metal, and plastic components. Even small heat variations can lead to material warping at different rates, complicating the manufacturing process. G. Dan Hutcheson, Vice Chair of TechInsights, highlighted that getting the components to work in unison is crucial, as any drop in individual yields can lead to broader manufacturing issues.

According to Huang, Nvidia recently made design adjustments to improve Blackwell's production yields, with no functional changes required. The company remains confident in its strategy, with Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress indicating that Nvidia is on track to scale Blackwell's production, which is expected to significantly boost its revenue.

Vistara to Cease Operations After November 12: Can Air India Meet the Standards?

Vistara, which began operations in January 2015 and currently has a fleet of 70 aircraft, will discontinue its services after November 12, 2024. According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Vistara holds a 10% market share in the domestic segment and 4.1% in international traffic. Air India has a 14.3% market share domestically and 13.1% in global traffic.

Industry observers are skeptical about whether the merger will benefit consumers. Ameya Joshi, founder of aviation consultancy Network Thoughts, expressed concerns about the timing of the merger post-Diwali and its potential to confuse the market, which typically sees last-minute bookings during festive seasons despite higher fares.

Ajay Prakash, a board member of the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality, noted that Vistara has built a loyal customer base. He suggested that not all Vistara passengers would automatically switch to Air India, particularly since Air India faces challenges until it refurbishes its older aircraft and introduces new ones.

Rajiv Mehra, president of the Indian Association of Tour Operators, commented that while Air India could improve



in the long term, it remains uncertain whether it can meet the premium service standards that Vistara flyers are accustomed to.

Additionally, Singapore Airlines recently announced that the Indian government had approved its foreign direct investment (FDI) in Air India, signalling further steps in the merger process between the two airlines.

Consumer Affairs Ministry Focuses on Airline Refund Issues

The Consumer Affairs Ministry has taken steps to address the widespread issue of delayed refunds for airline passengers, prompted by a growing number of complaints filed with the National Consumer Helpline, a government-supported service that assists consumers in resolving disputes.

Passengers can register their complaints or grievances online through Air Sewa, a platform managed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. According to guidelines, airlines must process refunds within seven working days if the booking was made via online payments; otherwise, the agent or platform is responsible.

While the exact number of complaints regarding airline refunds has not been disclosed, officials indicated the volume is significant. The ministry plans to issue notices through the Central Consumer Protection Authority. It will impose penalties by the Consumer Protection Act (CPA)



2019 if airlines fail to comply with refund regulations.

Officials emphasised that additional guidelines are unnecessary, as the CPA already contains sufficient provisions to penalize violators who do not adhere to ticket refund norms.

CEO Pay in IT Industry Soars, Exceeding 1,000 Times the Median Salary

The gap between CEO compensation and median employee salaries continues to widen in the IT industry. Data over the past five years from major IT companies such as Accenture, Infosys, Wipro, and HCL reveals significant disparities, with only IBM showing a narrowing of this gap. Most large IT firms have seen CEO pay escalate far beyond that of their employees, reflecting a broader trend of increasing executive compensation, often driven by stock grants.



The most notable instance is Wipro, where former CEO Thierry Delaporte's compensation was 1,702 times the median salary of ₹8.9 lakh in the 2023-24 financial year. Similarly, Accenture's CEO Julie Sweet earned \$31.5 million, 683 times the median salary of an Accenture employee, which stood at \$49,842. In contrast, the median CEO-employee pay ratio among the S&P 500 companies in the US was 186:1 in 2022.

In India, regulatory requirements mandate companies to disclose their pay ratios as per the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) guidelines. However, these guidelines do not prescribe a specific calculation method, allowing

companies to report these figures as they see fit.

Several factors contribute to this disparity. As IT services firms have become global entities, CEO compensation is often benchmarked against international standards. Ram Subramanian, founder and MD of In Govern Research Services, noted that with IT companies growing into global players, there is a significant increase in CEO pay as talent at senior levels is benchmarked globally. He emphasised that while CEO compensation has increased significantly, pay for entry-level employees has not seen comparable growth.

Additionally, the increasing role of stock awards, which constituted

about 70% of CEO compensation in 2023, further amplifies the disparity. The median value of these awards rose by 10.7% from 2022 to 2023, underscoring the growing influence of performance metrics on executive pay.

The widening gap has drawn criticism from various quarters, including former industry leaders like Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy, who has argued for more equitable compensation structures that reflect employees' contributions across all organisation levels. However, despite such calls for reform, the disparity continues to grow, raising concerns about the broader implications for employee morale and corporate governance.

"UP's Heritage to Enthrall Domestic and International Visitors at Trade Show"

The upcoming International Trade Show, scheduled to be held next month at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, will showcase Uttar Pradesh's cultural heritage and craftsmanship, attracting both national and international visitors. The trade show will feature a variety of sectors, highlighting the state's diverse culture, crafts, and local products.



Event Details:

- The five-day trade show will run from September 25 to 29, 2024, and is expected to draw over 5 lakh visitors. It will include exhibits from 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, showcasing local ODOP (One District One Product) items.
- The preparations are nearly complete, with District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma confirming on Friday that the event will highlight the state's strengths in tourism, cultural heritage, and industrial sectors.
- The event will kick off with a grand inauguration, possibly by the President of India. Invitations have been extended to various

dignitaries, and the opening ceremony is planned at Rashtra Pati Bhavan.

Special Attractions:

- A laser show will offer a virtual experience of visiting the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and other significant attractions from Varanasi and Ayodhya.
- Visitors will be able to engage in a rich cultural experience through live demonstrations and performances.

Security and Accessibility:

- Security arrangements include CCTV and drones, and traffic management plans are in place to ensure smooth access to the

venue.

- Parking facilities will be available at the adjacent grounds near Expo Mart. Electric buses will be operational to facilitate visitor movement and ensure easy transportation to and from the venue.

The event aims to strengthen collaboration with industry associations, schools, and social groups to enhance visitor participation. With high expectations, the trade show is set to become a significant platform for showcasing Uttar Pradesh's rich heritage to a global audience, furthering the state's position on the international stage.

"GST Return Filing Not Possible Without a Valid Bank Account"

GST taxpayers who have not provided their bank account details to the GST authority will be unable to file their returns via GSTR-1 from September 1. This information was provided in an advisory issued by the GST Network.

According to Rule 10A of the GST regulations, taxpayers must submit their bank account details within 30 days of obtaining registration or before filing their first GST return. This requirement also applies when availing of the facility to upload an invoice. In its advisory dated August 23, 2024, the GST Network mentioned that from September 1, 2024, Rule 10A will be strictly enforced. Therefore, taxpayers without a valid bank account can

neither file GST returns for August 2024 nor use the invoice upload facility.

The GST Network has advised taxpayers who have not yet provided their bank account details on the GST portal to update their registration information promptly. In its meeting held last July, the GST Council approved amendments to strengthen the registration process and address issues related to fake registrations under Rule 10A. The amendments also made providing bank account details linked to the taxpayer's name and PAN mandatory.

Taxpayers are encouraged to comply with this requirement to avoid difficulties in filing their GST returns from the upcoming dates.

"Approval for the Merger of Viacom 18 and Star India"

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger plan of Viacom 18 Media, owned by Reliance Industries, with Star India. Viacom 18 is the holding company for the Viacom 18 group's media and entertainment assets. A two-member bench of the NCLT has approved the joint arrangement plan between Viacom 18, Digital 18, and the global media giant Walt Disney's Star India. This development comes two days after the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of media assets between Reliance Industries and Walt Disney Company.

India's Economy Expected to Grow 6.5-7% This Year, Says CEA.

India's economic growth momentum remains strong, with the country expected to grow by 6.5-7% this year, supported by a favourable monsoon that is likely to boost agricultural growth and rural demand, along with increased private investment. Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran made these remarks, highlighting that India's economy could grow at a sustainable rate of 7% in the medium term if ongoing structural reforms are maintained.

Nageswaran noted that despite a slower growth rate of 6.1% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the economy's underlying strength remains robust. He emphasised that India continues to have the fastest-growing major economy, aided by steady capital expenditure and improved balance sheets in the financial and corporate



sectors.

Strong demand in passenger vehicles, airlines, and two-wheelers was cited as evidence of urban and rural consumption resilience. Nageswaran also acknowledged the need for caution regarding inflation expectations and the influence of geopolitical conflicts, which could impact global trade and commodity prices, posing challenges

to India's growth trajectory.

He also mentioned that a stable macroeconomic environment and structural reforms would support sustained economic growth. Despite potential uncertainties like unpredictable weather patterns and rising inflation, the CEA expressed optimism that the economy would remain on a steady growth path due to sound fiscal policies and robust demand across critical sectors.

Government Revises Privatization Policy for Public Sector Companies

New Delhi: In the fiscal year 2021-22, the Indian government announced its policy on privatising Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and their disinvestment strategy through the Union Budget. The government declared its intent to privatise non-strategic CPSEs while retaining and disinvesting in CPSEs within strategic sectors. This approach marked a shift from earlier policies, as the government aimed to streamline public sector involvement and increase private sector participation in the Indian economy.



Key Points of the Revised Policy:

- **New Privatization Strategy:** The government's revised policy, outlined in the Public Sector Enterprises (PSE) Disinvestment Policy 2021, focuses on reducing the presence of CPSEs in non-strategic sectors while privatising those in strategic sectors through a gradual and structured process.
- **Privatization Goals:** For the fiscal year 2024-25, the government has set a target of raising ₹51,000 crore through disinvestment. In the previous fiscal year, it achieved ₹56,260 crore, primarily through the privatisation of significant entities such as Air India.
- **Air India's Privatization:** Air India's sale has been the most significant privatisation effort in recent years. This move highlighted the government's commitment to reducing its footprint in sectors where private players can operate more efficiently.
- **Strategic Disinvestment:** The government continues to evaluate and identify CPSEs that can be moved into the private sector. Several companies have been shortlisted for potential privatisation, including Engineers

India Limited, Bridge & Roof Company, and Hindustan Copper Limited.

Challenges and Considerations:

- **Election Delays:** One of the challenges faced in executing the disinvestment plan is the delay caused by elections in various states. Political factors often influence the pace and timing of privatisation efforts, making it difficult to proceed with planned sales during election periods.
- **Complex Privatization Process:** Privatizing CPSEs is a complex process that requires careful

planning to safeguard the interests of stakeholders, including employees and investors. The government has emphasised the need for a transparent and fair approach to executing these sales.

- **Impact on the Economy:** The revised privatisation policy is expected to contribute significantly to India's economic growth by encouraging private investment, enhancing efficiency, and generating revenue for the government. Including private sector companies is seen as a critical step toward developing a more competitive and diversified economy.

Future Outlook:

- **Continued Focus on Strategic Sectors:** The government will continue focusing on strategic sectors where public sector participation is essential while gradually reducing its role in non-strategic areas. This approach aims to foster a balanced and resilient economy.
- **Revenue Targets:** Achieving the disinvestment and privatisation targets is crucial for the government's fiscal management, especially considering economic recovery efforts post-pandemic. The proceeds from these sales are expected to play a vital role in funding infrastructure and development projects across the country.

In summary, the government's revised privatisation policy represents a significant shift in its approach to managing public sector enterprises. By encouraging private sector involvement and focusing on strategic disinvestment, the government aims to build a more robust and efficient economic landscape in India.

"Fulfilment of Promises Made the State a Desirable Destination"



The state government's distribution of ₹1,300 crore in incentives to 32 investors and various companies under the "Ease of Doing Business" initiative is seen as a significant step in boosting the investment climate. The government's commitment to improving the law-and-order situation has helped eliminate the fear among entrepreneurs and traders, making the state more attractive for investments.

NOCs and Licenses:

- Over 1.54 million applications for NOCs and licenses have been processed through the Nivesh Mitra Portal, which has provided timely approvals for 368 services. To support investors and businesses, the 'Nivesh Sarathi' chatbot offers solutions to investment-related queries and resolves issues promptly.

Reduction in Crime and Accelerated Development:

- Between 2016 and 2024, the state saw a significant reduction in crime rates, fostering a more secure environment for businesses and residents. Establishing Special Security Forces (SSF) and opening integrated control rooms have bolstered security measures.

Economic growth has also accelerated, with industrial development taking place rapidly. The state's infrastructure has been significantly upgraded, supporting a conducive environment for industrial and commercial activities.

The initiatives have provided a sense of security to investors, thereby boosting their confidence in the state's governance. This has attracted investments and paved the way for more robust economic development. The state attracts more businesses and industries by fulfilling promises and ensuring a secure and efficient environment, contributing to its growth and prosperity.

“Uttar Pradesh: Paving the Way for Industrial Growth and Job Creation”

- ▶ Defence Corridor to Propel UP Towards a \$3 Trillion Economy
- ▶ Unlocking New Opportunities: How UP's Defence Initiatives are Boosting Industries and Employment



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a three-day military and weapons display event, emphasising Uttar Pradesh's pivotal role in strengthening national defence. Highlighting the state's commitment to self-reliance and innovation in defence production, the Chief Minister reaffirmed that Uttar

Pradesh will continue to enhance India's security.

Event Highlights:

- The event featured various military displays, including aerial demonstrations and advanced weaponry, showcasing India's growing defence capabilities. The

Chief Minister praised the Indian Army's readiness and technological advancements, noting that the country's defence strength is now recognized globally.

- A significant focus was placed on developing the Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor, which is set to attract substantial investments in



defence manufacturing. This initiative is expected to boost India's defence capabilities by promoting indigenous production and reducing reliance on imports.

Key Messages:

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath emphasised that Uttar Pradesh is committed to economic growth and contributing significantly to national security through support for local defence production.
- He commended the dedication of the armed forces and assured them of the state's unwavering support in safeguarding the nation.

Defence and Economic Initiatives:

- The Lucknow node of the Defence Corridor is a key project that aims to boost local manufacturing and integrate advanced technologies, such as drones and robotics, into defence strategies.
- This corridor will enhance India's defence capabilities and create numerous job opportunities, positioning Uttar Pradesh as a significant industrial hub.

Economic Prospects:

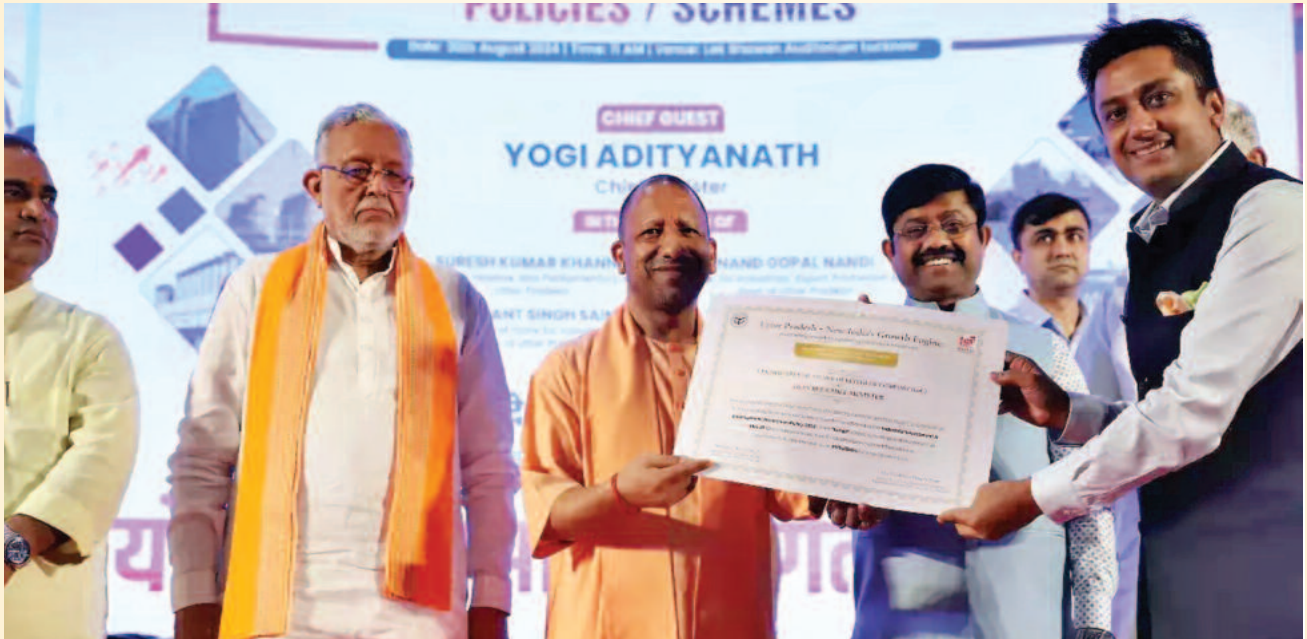
- The Defence Corridor is expected to drive economic growth in Uttar Pradesh, propelling the state towards becoming a \$3 trillion economy shortly. The influx of

industries and investments will significantly boost the state's economy, generating employment and elevating Uttar Pradesh's status as a leading contributor to the national economy.

This initiative underscores Uttar Pradesh's strategic importance in India's defence landscape and its alignment with national priorities. It marks a significant step in the state's journey to becoming a powerhouse in both the defence and economic sectors.

No Business-Friendly Environment in Uttar Pradesh Before 2017: Yogi Adityanath

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Friday that before 2017, the state lacked a conducive environment and government vision for establishing businesses.



Speaking at an event at Lok Bhawan (Chief Minister's Office) related to cash incentives for industrial units, Yogi said, "It is true that before 2017, there was no environment in Uttar Pradesh that could encourage entrepreneurs to set up industries here. The previous government lacked any vision for this."

He added, "Their (previous governments') interests and limitations were narrow. They lacked a vision for the development of Uttar Pradesh."

The Chief Minister claimed that previous governments were solely focused on retaining power, which led to an identity crisis for the state and its people.

Yogi Adityanath became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh after the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the state assembly elections in 2017. He remarked, "The atmosphere in Uttar Pradesh seven years ago and today is vastly different."

He emphasised that "today, Uttar Pradesh is emerging as the best destination for investment. A business-friendly environment has been established, policies have been formulated, and law and order have been improved."

According to an official statement, Yogi, in his address, jibed at the opposition, stating, "Those who once thought investing in Uttar Pradesh was impossible can now see that our government has turned the impossible into possible."

The Chief Minister highlighted that

through the Global Investors Summit held in February 2023, the state received investment proposals worth over ₹40 lakh crore. Of these, proposals worth more than ₹10 lakh crore have already been grounded through groundbreaking ceremonies led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the event, the Chief Minister disbursed ₹1,333 crore in incentives to 32 industrial units and distributed Letters of Comfort to 10 industrial units for investments worth over ₹4,500 crore.

He also pointed out that during previous governments' tenures, the state frequently witnessed riots and prolonged curfews. "When people in the state are not safe, how can capital be safe?" he questioned.

"The World is Amazed by Our Fintech Diversity"

P rime Minister Narendra Modi poked fun at leaders who raised questions about the fintech revolution in India. He said, "Ten years ago, people in Parliament used to ask how a fintech revolution would be possible in a country where most people didn't even have bank accounts, and many villages did not have electricity. Those same people who raised such questions proudly stand with digital devices in their hands."

Prime Minister Modi made these remarks during the Global Fintech Fest held in Mumbai, where he reviewed various fintech exhibits. The Governor of RBI, Shaktikanta Das, was also present at the event.

- ▶ Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticised leaders who questioned India's fintech revolution.
- ▶ He said that ten years ago in Parliament, people mocked and questioned how a fintech revolution would occur in such conditions.
- ▶ Now, those same individuals proudly use the digital platforms developed in India, with over 600 crore digital transactions worth ₹94 crore made in a day.

He emphasised that no Indian today lacks a bank account. Over 53 crore individuals have joined the Jan Dhan scheme, connecting them to the banking system in just ten years. Today, India is a global leader in digital



payments, gaining technological momentum as well. He noted that regulatory and innovative efforts are helping India advance in its fintech journey.

The Prime Minister highlighted the rapid growth of India's fintech industry over the last decade, with more than 31 unicorns emerging and over 500 startups created annually. Prime Minister Modi also mentioned that the world should look to India for inspiration when discussing financial inclusion, digital payments, and street vendors.

He concluded by saying that the same way the world once appreciated India's cultural diversity, it is now amazed by India's fintech diversity.

"Final Hurdle Cleared for Vistara's Merger with Air India"

T he government has approved a foreign investment proposal of ₹2,058.5 crore to allow Singapore Airlines to acquire a 25.1% stake in Air India. This decision is part of the process to advance the merger of Vistara into Air India, a joint venture between Air India and Singapore Airlines.

According to the company, the Vistara and Air India merger will be effective from November 12, 2024. Vistara's flight services will continue until November 11, 2024. Singapore Airlines stated that the entire merger process will be completed by the end of this year, and starting September 3, 2024, the airline will stop booking flights for three airlines. All bookings will be managed through Air India's website, and routes currently operated by Vistara will be transferred to Air India. The integration of employees from



Air India and Vistara is almost complete. The merger will impact around 600 employees, who will be reassigned to other companies within the Tata Group. Currently, both companies employ about 23,000 workers together.

10 Companies to Invest ₹250 Crore in Social Initiatives Under CSR

Lucknow:

In alignment with the state government's industrial policies, major corporate groups have committed to spending ₹250 crore on various social initiatives in Uttar Pradesh under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework. The funds will focus on education, health, sports, renewable energy, and infrastructure development.



Key Highlights:

- **Focus Areas:** The investments will be directed towards initiatives in primary education, health care, sports facilities, renewable energy, and foundational skills development. These efforts aim to uplift rural and underserved communities across the state.

Major Projects Under CSR:

- **Smart Classes and Labs:** Smart classes and physics labs will be

established in schools in Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, and Meerut to enhance the quality of education.

- ▶ **Lighting in Villages:** Signify will provide lighting solutions in over 100 forest villages, improving safety and quality of life.
- ▶ **Empowerment Programs:** Smart MIND Foundation will launch "Project Shakti" to transform women inmates' lives in 71 districts.
- ▶ **Educational Upgrades:**

Companies like United Breweries, Engineers India Limited, and Exide are investing in educational infrastructure, with United Breweries spending ₹71.09 crore on upskilling teachers, smart classrooms, and developing educational institutions.

- **Rural Development:** Various companies are contributing to the rural development initiatives, including setting up street lighting in over 83.62 crore rural areas and

executing renovation projects in villages to enhance living conditions.

- **Specific Contributions:**

- ▶ **Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC:** A combined expenditure of ₹187.35 crore is planned for upgrading technical and vocational education, focusing on building future-ready skills among youth.

- ▶ **Integrated Village Development:** In Varanasi, initiatives are underway for the integrated development of villages under the leadership of the Pidilite Foundation, addressing essential needs like sanitation, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Community Impact:

- The collective efforts of these companies are expected to make a significant difference in the lives of millions, particularly in marginalised and rural communities. By investing in education, health, and infrastructure, these CSR initiatives are fulfilling corporate responsibilities and contributing to the state's overall development.

Future Plans:

- The companies plan to continue their CSR efforts, focusing on sustainable and impactful projects that align with the state's developmental goals. Regular assessments and reports will be published to ensure transparency and effectiveness of the funds utilised.

This substantial investment reflects the corporate sector's commitment to fostering positive social change and supporting the government's mission of inclusive growth in Uttar Pradesh.

"Government to Increase Public Participation in Panchayat Development Through Playful Activities"



Gram panchayats' development plans are designed to meet the aspirations of all rural voters. However, villagers' actual participation in developing their village seemed lacking, with Gram Sabhas often being mere formalities. To address this gap, the government plans to launch a new initiative encouraging genuine public involvement in Panchayat's development through playful activities.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing a pilot project in the Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh involving 10 Gram Panchayats. This initiative actively engages rural communities in development projects and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using simple language and interactive methods. A private company has been tasked with developing games to help people understand development plans easily.

Key Points of the Initiative:

- Development plans will be

explained through games to engage rural participants.

- A pilot project is being launched in 10 Gram Panchayats in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh.
- Games will be designed to address local development needs, involving youth and community members in the planning process.

This approach aims to actively involve rural communities and promote SDGs by making them stakeholders in project planning and execution.

The government believes this initiative will enhance the effectiveness of Gram Panchayat development plans by making the planning process more inclusive and participatory. The project seeks to simplify complex planning processes by integrating playful methods, allowing every community member, including women and youth, to contribute meaningfully. The outcomes from these pilot projects will guide the broader implementation of this model across other regions.

Construction of Interchange Connecting Film City to Expressway to Begin This Month

Greater Noida, Sector-21: The construction of a 75-meter-wide interchange to connect Film City with the Yamuna Expressway is set to commence this month. The necessary approval from security agencies has been received, and the tender process is expected to start within the next 10 to 15 days.



Key Highlights:

- **Interchange Details:** The interchange will facilitate easy and direct access between Film City and the Yamuna Expressway, enhancing connectivity for heavy vehicles and general traffic. The project will include slip roads on both sides to accommodate traffic flow efficiently.
- **Approval and Safety Measures:** Yamuna Authority has completed all the required formalities, including approvals from security agencies. The interchange design emphasises safety and traffic flow, ensuring that large vehicles such as trailers and trucks can navigate easily.
- **Project Timeline:** The tendering process will start within the next two weeks. Once the tender is awarded, the interchange

construction will proceed rapidly. This project is part of a broader plan to improve infrastructure around the Yamuna Expressway and connect key commercial and entertainment hubs like Film City.

- **Enhanced Accessibility:** The interchange will facilitate smoother travel to nearby areas, including sectors 18, 19, and 20, and significantly reduce commuters' travel time. This is expected to boost the local economy by improving access to Film City and other attractions in the area.
- **Additional Features:** In addition to the interchange, the project will include a flyover and slip lanes to further streamline traffic flow. Construction will consider future traffic projections to alleviate congestion and support the region's

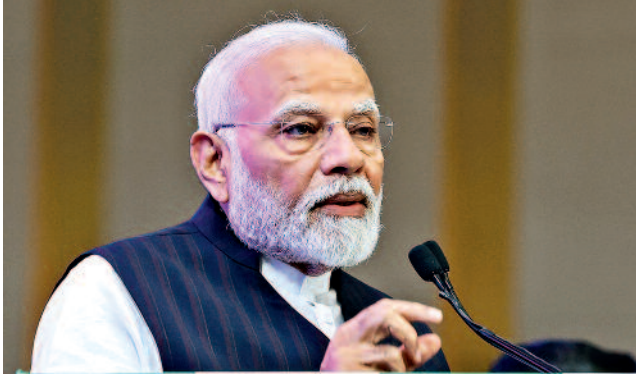
development.

Project Impact:

- **Economic Boost:** By connecting Film City directly to the expressway, the project is expected to attract more visitors and investors, bolstering the entertainment and tourism sectors.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The interchange is part of the ongoing infrastructure improvements in the region, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing connectivity and supporting growth in key sectors.

Construction is set to begin soon. The interchange project will be pivotal in transforming Film City's accessibility, making it a more connected and accessible destination for business and leisure.

"Removal of Angel Tax and Other Changes to Boost Fintech Sector: Modi"



P rime Minister Narendra Modi stated that the government is making necessary policy changes, such as removing the angel tax, to promote the fintech sector. He urged regulators to take additional measures to prevent cyber fraud, especially in saving startups from scams. Highlighting the importance of technology in finance, Modi pointed out that in the past ten years, India has seen \$31 billion in investments in fintech, which has been crucial in shaping the country's parallel economy.

Warning of Parallel Economy Risks Globally:

- Modi alerted the world about the dangers of parallel economies and noted that fintech plays a crucial role in eliminating such threats. He stressed that while

traditional businesses have their place, fintech offers a new frontier that must be navigated carefully.

Fintech Expansion and Security:

- Modi mentioned that traditional systems often fail to reach remote areas and emphasised the importance of fintech in providing financial inclusion through digital solutions. He highlighted how the integration of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and mobile technology has broken the mindset of "cash is king," driving India towards a more digital-first approach to financial transactions.

Global Leadership:

- Praising India's leadership in fintech, Modi explained that India is now setting an example with innovations that combine convenience and security. The Prime Minister underscored the potential for fintech to transform financial services globally and urged stakeholders to continue expanding secure digital networks.

By removing obstacles like angel taxes, India aims to foster a more conducive environment for fintech growth, targeting untapped potential and ensuring broader access to financial services. The government is committed to refining policies and regulatory frameworks to support these advancements, ensuring that fintech continues to grow robustly and securely.

"Resolve Issues Related to Jewar Airport Immediately: Manoj Kumar"



C hief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh reviewed the progress of development works at Noida International Greenfield Airport in Jewar. He instructed the concerned departments to resolve any issues related to the Jewar Airport immediately. The Chief Secretary also emphasised that all pending tasks should be completed before the next meeting.

The seventh meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee, formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, was held in his office. During the meeting, the representatives of Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), responsible for the airport's

development, presented the project's progress according to the development plan. They informed us about the construction of the terminal building, ATC tower, and runway, among other things.

Discussions were also held on issues related to CISF, customs, immigration, the Airport Authority of India, and security concerning the Jewar Airport. Officials from relevant central agencies participated in the meeting, attended by the Additional Chief Secretary of Civil Aviation, SP Goyal, the CEO of NIAL, Dr Arunvir Singh, the Director of Civil Aviation, Kumar Harsh, and others.

Good News for Workers: Labor Department Portal to Reopen This Month in Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad: The district's workers have positive news as the Labor Department's portal is set to reopen this month. The portal shut down completely in January of this year following a hacking incident at the Kanpur headquarters. It has undergone a comprehensive upgrade and is now ready to resume operations.



Background:

- **Portal Closure:** The portal was closed after a hacker breached the security at the Kanpur headquarters in the last week of January, compromising the system and withdrawing crores of rupees from the accounts of the Additional Labor Commissioner. The Labor Department shut down the portal for security enhancements in response to this breach.
- **Impact on Workers:** The portal closure caused inconvenience to numerous workers who regularly visited the Sub Labor Commissioner's office at Lohiya Nagar to avail of various benefits under the Labor Department's schemes. Many had to return empty-handed due to the unavailability of the online services.

Reopening Plans:

- **Portal Upgrade and Security:** According to the Additional Labor Commissioner Anurag Mishra, the portal is expected to reopen by the end of this month. The upgraded portal aims to provide enhanced security features to prevent future breaches and ensure the safety of the workers' data and funds.
- **Resumption of Services:** Once the portal is live, workers will again be able to access various welfare schemes offered by the Labor Department. This will make it easier for them to apply for benefits and receive support directly through the online system without the need to visit the office in person.

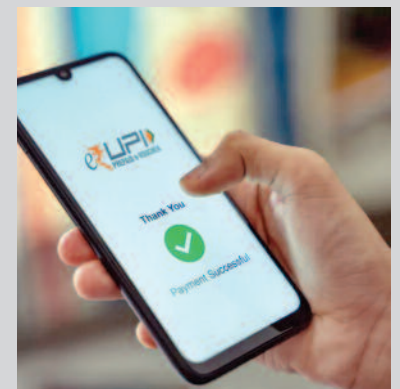
The reopening of the Labor Department's portal will restore access to essential services and benefits for thousands of district workers, helping them fully utilise the welfare schemes designed for their support. This move will significantly improve the ease of accessing labour-related services in Ghaziabad.

"Convenience: Now 5 People Can Make Payments from One UPI Account"

Up to five people can now use a single UPI account to make payments. This means that one account can be used across five different mobile phones. The Reserve Bank of India has introduced a new UPI feature, enhancing the facility for shared or delegated payment services.

With this facility, up to ₹5,000 can be transferred daily, and a maximum of ₹15,000 per month. This new feature will benefit those who do not have their bank accounts. There are two types of users: primary and secondary. The primary user must have a bank account, and payments made by secondary users will be completed only when approved by the primary user via UPI PIN.

This feature can be activated through mobile phones. It allows users to link five people to a single UPI account, providing convenience and accessibility to those without their bank accounts.



Microplastics Found in the Human Brain: A Growing Health and Environmental Concern

Scientists have found evidence of microplastics in the human brain, raising serious concerns about the extent of plastic pollution in the human body. Previously, microplastics had been detected in various human tissues, including blood, lungs, spleen, placenta, liver, kidneys, and reproductive organs. This latest discovery adds the brain to the list, highlighting a growing threat to human health and the environment.

Study Findings:

- **Presence in Brain Tissue:** The study, conducted by researchers from the University of New Mexico, the University of Auckland, and other leading institutions, analysed samples collected between 2016 and 2024. Microplastics were found in the brain samples of both male and female subjects, with a higher concentration in 2024 compared to 2016.
- **Increased Microplastic Levels:** Analysis revealed that the concentration of microplastics in the brain was 10 to 20 times higher than in other body tissues. This is alarming as it indicates a significant accumulation of these tiny plastic particles in a critical organ responsible for primary bodily functions.
- **Comparison Over Time:** The study noted that in 2024, the amount of microplastic in brain samples was notably higher than that found in 2016 samples. For example, one 2024 brain sample contained 24 microplastic particles per cubic millimetre, compared to an average of 0.5 particles in 2016 samples.



Health and Environmental Implications:

- **Impact on Cellular Functions:** Microplastics are known to

interfere with cellular processes and disrupt cell normal functioning. Their presence in the brain could potentially impact neurological health, although the full effects are not yet fully understood.

- **Wider Environmental Challenge:** The study underscores a broader environmental issue, as microplastics are pervasive pollutants in water, air, and food. Their infiltration into the human body, including critical organs like the brain, poses a significant challenge to both public health and environmental sustainability.
- **Global Concern:** The presence of microplastics in the brain adds to the urgency of addressing

plastic pollution worldwide. As microplastics continue to be found in more human tissues, the need for stringent measures to reduce plastic use and contamination becomes ever more critical.

Conclusion:

The discovery of microplastics in the human brain is a wake-up call for urgent action to combat plastic pollution. It highlights the deep penetration of plastics into the human body and raises questions about the long-term health impacts. Scientists and health experts are calling for further research to understand the full implications of microplastics on human health and to develop strategies to mitigate this emerging threat.

Illegal Tree Cutting Along River Ganga Canal for Kanwar Route: Allegations by Environmentalist Satendra Singh

Environmentalist Satendra Singh Accuses Authorities of Violating NGT Orders by Illegally Cutting Trees for Kanwar Route



Ghaziabad: Satendra Singh, a member of the District Ganga Conservation Committee and an environmentalist, has accused authorities of defying National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders by continuing illegal tree-cutting along the River Ganga Canal to construct the Kanwar route. He claimed that nearly 1.25 lakh trees are being sacrificed unnecessarily for the project.

Key Allegations:

- Singh stated that widening the Kanwar route leads to removing trees beyond the approved count. He emphasised that the NGT had mandated satellite images to verify the number of trees being cut; however, this directive is

allegedly being ignored.

- Singh pointed out that the current road width of 5 meters is being expanded to 25-30 meters unnecessarily, whereas the need was only to increase it to 20 meters. He questioned the rationale behind this extensive widening, mainly when a sufficient road exists.

Project Overview:

- **Route:** The two-lane road will run along the Upper Ganga Canal to alleviate traffic on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway during the annual Kanwar Yatra to Haridwar.
- **Length:** 111 km
- **Forest Area Impacted:** 222.9

hectares

- **Trees to be Cut:** 1.12 lakh
- **Estimated Cost:** ₹628 crore

Environmental Impact and Legal Concerns:

- The environmentalist argued that large-scale deforestation could lead to severe environmental consequences, such as disruption of local ecosystems and negative impacts on wildlife habitats.
- The NGT has been urged to intervene and enforce compliance with environmental norms. Singh and other activists demand that authorities stop the unlawful cutting and reassess the project's requirements

considering the ecological damage.

NGT Cracks Down on Kanwar Marg Project Over Environmental Violations

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has intensified its scrutiny of the Kanwar Marg project along the Upper Ganga Canal in Uttar Pradesh, ordering a halt to unauthorised tree felling and seeking satellite imagery to assess the extent of deforestation. Here are the key details:

Overview of the Kanwar Marg Project

- **Purpose:** To facilitate the annual Kanwar Yatra pilgrimage, the project involves constructing a 111-km road along the Upper Ganga Canal from Ghaziabad's Murad Nagar to Purkazi near the Uttarakhand border.
- **Objective:** The road aims to reduce congestion on existing routes, bypassing light vehicles during the Yatra.
- **Key Issues Raised**
- **Environmental Concerns:** The project involves cutting down 1.12 lakh trees across protected forests in Ghaziabad, Meerut, and Muzaffarnagar.
- **Excessive Deforestation:** The NGT highlighted that tree cutting has exceeded the approved limits, with allegations that felling extended up to 40 meters in some areas, far beyond the sanctioned 20 or 15 meters.
- **NGT's Actions**
- **Satellite Imagery Request:** The NGT has directed the Survey of India to provide satellite images of the affected areas to ascertain the exact number of trees cut on both sides of the canal.

- **Compliance Orders:** The UP government has been ordered to stop any illegal tree felling and strictly adhere to the approved road widths of 20/15 meters.

- **Legal Review:** The tribunal is investigating compliance with environmental norms, noting discrepancies between the approved deforestation limits and the actual tree-cutting observed.

Stakeholder Concerns

- **Environmental Advocacy:** Environmentalists, including Satendra Singh and former municipal councillor Rajendra Tyagi, have accused the UP government of violating NGT directives, leading to severe environmental degradation.

- **Public and Legal Appeals:** Activists argue that the project's environmental costs outweigh its benefits and have called for a reassessment of the road expansion plans to minimise ecological impact.

Government's Stance

- **Defence of the Project:** The Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department (PWD) argues that the expansion is necessary to manage increased traffic during the Yatra and will provide a safer

and more efficient route for pilgrims.

- **Need for Balance:** While acknowledging the need for better infrastructure, environmental advocates stress the importance of balancing development with ecological conservation.

Next Steps

- **Awaiting Satellite Data:** The Survey of India is expected to submit satellite imagery confirming the extent of deforestation along the route.

- **Upcoming Hearing:** The NGT will review the findings in its next hearing, scheduled for July 25. At that hearing, further decisions will be made based on compliance with environmental regulations.

Conclusion

The NGT's intervention underscores the critical need for sustainable infrastructure development that respects environmental boundaries. The tribunal's actions will be crucial in ensuring that the Kanwar Marg project proceeds in a manner that minimises harm to protected forest areas while addressing the transportation needs of the Kanwar Yatra.



Noida Clears Encroachments, Pushes for Wetland Status for Five Ponds

The Forest Department in Noida has initiated efforts to designate five water bodies in the city as official wetlands, aiming to enhance their protection and ecological significance. Surajpur is the only recognized wetland in Noida, while the process of securing Dhanauri's wetland status has been ongoing for years.



Key Developments:

- **Encroachment Removal:** The Noida Authority recently cleared encroachments from five ponds, each larger than 2.25 hectares, in sectors 54, 91, 137, 167, and 168. These ponds are now eligible for wetland designation, which will ensure their conservation and proper management.
- **Official Submission:** The Noida Authority has requested district forest officials to compile detailed briefs on these water bodies, including their area, catchment,

and influence zone, along with recommendations on permitted activities. These reports will be submitted to the UP-State Wetland Authority for consideration and potential designation as official wetlands.

- **Importance of Wetland Status:** Designating these ponds as wetlands would provide legal protection under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, preventing further encroachment and degradation. Wetlands play a crucial role in

supporting biodiversity, regulating water cycles, and providing habitat for migratory birds and local wildlife.

Environmental Significance:

- **Biodiversity and Conservation:** Environmentalists emphasise the need to conserve not only large water bodies but also smaller ones under 2.25 hectares, which are vital for local ecosystems, climate resilience, and groundwater recharge. Jaswinder Waraich, a Noida-

based environmentalist, stressed the importance of protecting wetlands like Dhanauri, which are rich in biodiversity but face threats from neglect and apathy.

- **Call for Comprehensive Conservation:** Experts advocate for a broader approach to regional wetland conservation. Dr Pranab J Patar, an environment and sustainability expert, highlighted the necessity of protecting all water bodies in Gautam Budh Nagar, as outlined in the Integrated Wetland Management Plan. This includes safeguarding even smaller ponds, contributing significantly to ecosystem health.

Next Steps:

- **Assessment and Decision:** After receiving the detailed reports, the UP-State Wetland Authority will assess the ponds' eligibility as wetlands. If designated, these ponds will be granted legal protection and managed according to the guidelines set under wetland conservation rules.
- **Community Involvement:** The move to designate these ponds as wetlands has garnered support from environmentalists and local communities, which recognize their ecological and recreational value. There is a strong emphasis on involving stakeholders in the ongoing efforts to conserve and sustainably manage Noida's natural resources.

The designation of these ponds as wetlands is expected to significantly boost conservation efforts in Noida. It will ensure that these critical water bodies are preserved for future generations while supporting the region's biodiversity and ecological balance.

Why UP Wants Galand Villagers to Visit Indore for Waste Management Insights

The state government has suggested that villagers from Galand, who have opposed establishing a waste treatment plant in their area for several years, should visit similar facilities in cities like Indore and Delhi. The aim is to demonstrate the benefits of generating energy from waste and how such projects contribute to a cleaner environment.

The proposed waste-to-energy plant in Galand, initially planned in 2018, has faced a six-year delay due to persistent protests from residents. Officials have arranged for videos demonstrating the plant's operations and environmental benefits to address their concerns. Similar plants are successfully operating in cities like Indore, Ghazipur, and Bhubaneswar, highlighting the potential positive impact on waste management.

The waste plant, located on 44 acres in Galand, Hapur, is designed to generate 50 MW of power by processing approximately 1,400

metric tonnes of daily solid waste from Ghaziabad. In 2020, the Ghaziabad Development Authority allocated land for the plant, but protests have stalled progress. Despite efforts by the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) to erect a boundary wall in 2021, opposition from local farmers and villagers led to the wall's demolition. GMC officials believe visiting operational plants in Indore and other cities could help villagers understand the project's benefits and dispel concerns about potential negative impacts. They also noted that the project aims to address Ghaziabad's daily waste processing needs, which are currently met by a site on the pipeline road, after shifting from Morta due to resistance from nearby educational institutions. The government hopes that educating the villagers on waste-to-energy technology will renew support for the project, enabling Ghaziabad to manage its waste effectively and generate renewable energy.



No Building Certificate Without Rainwater Harvesting: Delhi Government's New Directive

New Delhi: The Delhi government has mandated that buildings on plots more significant than 100 square meters must have rainwater harvesting systems installed; otherwise, building completion certificates will not be issued. This move is part of the government's strategy to address the city's water scarcity and promote sustainable water management practices.



Key Highlights:

- **Mandatory Rainwater Harvesting:** The directive applies to new buildings and those undergoing major renovations. Buildings that fail to implement rainwater harvesting will not receive the necessary occupancy or completion certificates from the Urban Development Department.
- **Current Water Demand:** Delhi's current water demand stands at 1,150 million gallons per day (MGD), but the city's supply falls short by about 300

MGD. Implementing rainwater harvesting is expected to alleviate some of this pressure by increasing groundwater levels and making more water available for daily use.

- **Potential Impact:** If implemented correctly, the initiative could save up to 6 lakh litres of water annually. In a city with around 3,687 schools and numerous other institutions, adopting rainwater harvesting can contribute significantly to meeting water needs.

Benefits of Rainwater Harvesting:

- **Water Conservation:** By capturing and reusing rainwater, buildings can significantly reduce their dependence on the municipal water supply, especially during the dry season.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** The collected rainwater can help replenish groundwater levels, which have been depleting rapidly in many parts of Delhi due to over-extraction.
- **Environmental Impact:** This initiative supports sustainable urban development and aligns with broader environmental goals to reduce water wastage

and promote responsible resource management.

Government Action and Compliance:

- **Guidelines and Monitoring:** The Delhi government will provide guidelines for setting up rainwater harvesting systems and will monitor compliance through inspections. Existing buildings will also be encouraged to retrofit their properties with harvesting systems to comply with the new regulations.
- **Strict Enforcement:** Buildings without these systems will face strict consequences, including denial of essential certifications required for legal occupancy. The government aims to enforce these measures through integrated management cells, which will oversee the implementation process.

Summary of the Meeting:

- The Integrated Management Cell of the Urban Development Department emphasised the importance of water conservation in its recent meeting. It directed relevant authorities to ensure compliance with rainwater harvesting mandates and issued instructions for effective monitoring.

This policy aims to make rainwater harvesting a standard practice in urban development, ensuring that every drop of rainwater is used efficiently to address Delhi's growing water challenges. The move is a step towards a more sustainable future, encouraging residents and developers to participate actively in water conservation efforts.

NGT Fines Ghaziabad DM ₹25,000 for Failing to Address Pond Encroachment



The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has fined the Ghaziabad District Magistrate (DM) ₹25,000 for not taking action against the encroachment of a pond in Shalimar, Rajendra Nagar. The decision on August 27 came from a panel including NGT Chairperson Prakash Shrivastava, judicial member Arun Kumar Tyagi, and expert member A Senthil Vel. The tribunal stated that the DM failed to comply with its orders and repeatedly ignored the issue, mandating the fine be paid within two weeks.

The case originated from a petition by the NGO Society for Voice of Human Rights and Justice, which alleged illegal construction on land designated as a waterbody in official records. On March 3, the NGT instructed the DM to verify the land's status and report on any construction

after filling the water body.

However, the DM's report, submitted on May 8, was found to be vague and lacking clarity on the land's classification. The DM was directed to attend a hearing on August 1 but failed to adequately address the tribunal's questions.

During a virtual appearance, the DM noted that a writ petition related to the land was pending at the Allahabad High Court but did not provide specific details regarding the nature of the land. The NGT found the DM guilty under sections 26 and 28 of the NGT Act, 2010, for not responding to its directives. The next hearing is scheduled for December 5.

In response, an official from the DM's office acknowledged the pending court case and confirmed that the NGT had been informed, assuring compliance with the NGT's orders.

"Yamuna Cleaning Projects Far from Target: Deadlines Extended"

Despite tall claims of making the river pollution-free, it seems that the reality is far from expectations as most of the projects related to cleaning the Yamuna river in Delhi have been delayed. The full completion of these projects has not been achieved, and the targets set for the various areas have been missed, leading to an extension of deadlines. This situation has been highlighted once again in the latest report by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC).

Highlights:

Only 2% of Delhi's sewage is untreated; however, due to the high population density along the Yamuna's banks, 76% of the river's pollution originates from untreated sewage.

- The ongoing initiatives include enhancing sewage treatment capacity, extracting silt, and other related actions to prevent untreated water from entering the river.

Status of Seven Key Projects:

- **Sewage Treatment Capacity:** Target 964.5 MGD (Million Gallons per Day); Achieved 712 MGD; New Deadline: December 2024.
- **Drain Trapping (All Drains):** Target 76; Achieved 50; New Deadline: December 2024.
- **Sewer Network for Unauthorized Colonies:** Target 1,052; Achieved 421; New Deadline: December 2024.

- **Sewer Network and Water Reuse for J.J. Clusters:** Target 58; Achieved 55; New Deadline: December 2024.
- **Treatment and Reuse of Treated Water:** Target 118 MGD; Achieved 55 MGD; New Deadline: December 2024.
- **Projects on Landfill Sites:** Target 1,658.25 hectares; Achieved 586.5 hectares; Final Deadline: December 2024.
- **Desilting of Drains:** Target 200 km; Achieved 85.38 km; New Deadline: December 2024.

Despite defining the scope of these projects and setting clear goals, the DPCC report for July suggests that all projects are lagging behind schedule. The high-level committee formed for Yamuna cleaning has set new timelines to complete these projects by next December, acknowledging that the current progress remains significantly behind the targets.



Homebuyers Entitled to Refunds if Promised Amenities Are Missing: NCDRC

In a significant ruling to protect homebuyers, the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has stated that buyers are entitled to seek refunds if amenities are promised when booking flats are not provided. This verdict addresses instances where builders hand over possession without fulfilling commitments like clubs or shopping complexes as advertised in brochures.

The commission noted that builders often prioritise meeting completion deadlines and offering possession, neglecting the promised amenities such as clubs, gyms, and green areas. The NCDRC ruled that homebuyers can reject possession and request a refund if the promised amenities are absent.

This decision came in response to a plea by a homebuyer who had booked a flat in the M3M Woodshire project in Sector 107, Gurugram, back in December 2012, with possession expected by October 2016. Despite obtaining the occupation certificate in April 2017 and offering possession, the buyer refused, citing the lack of promised amenities. The homebuyer's



lawyers, Aditya Parolia and Ishita Singh argued that several amenities, including green spaces and a planned road, were significantly reduced or missing, contrary to the project's sales brochure. The builder, however, contested these claims, arguing that any delays were not substantial and that the buyer was not entitled to a refund. After reviewing the documents, the NCDRC sided with the homebuyer, directing the builder to refund the purchase amount with 8% interest, upholding the buyer's right to the amenities as advertised at the time of booking.

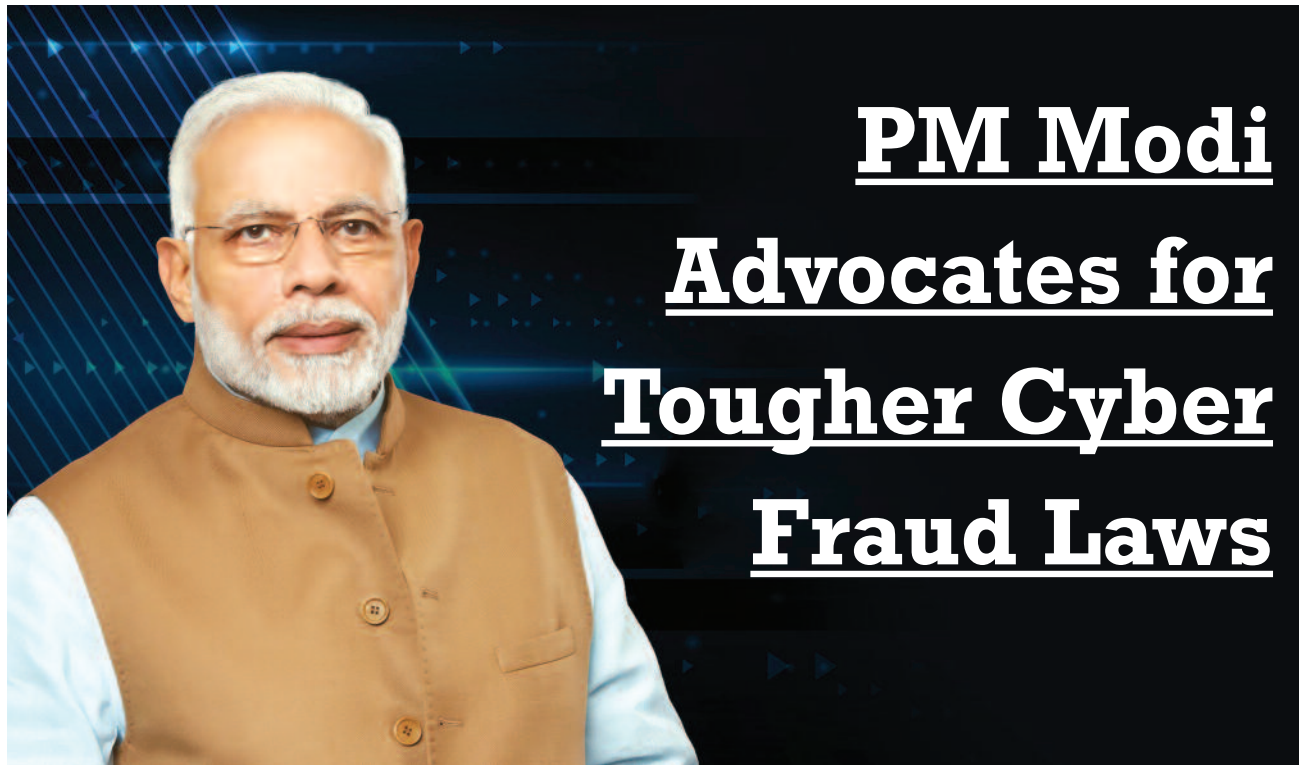
August Rainfall Expected to Lower Food Prices and Inflation

In August, increased monsoon activity across India will likely bring down food prices and provide much-needed relief from food inflation pressures. As of August 29, monsoon rainfall was 7% above average, with August showers alone being 18% higher than average, according to data from IDFC First Bank. About 51% of the country received average rainfall, while 33% experienced excess to significant excess rain, except for the eastern and northeastern regions, which recorded a deficit.

This favourable distribution has led to increased planting of Kharif crops compared to last year and improved reservoir levels, both of which are expected to help reduce persistent high food prices. While adverse weather conditions had previously caused vegetable prices to rise over the past two months, the trend is reversing, with inflation measured by the headline consumer price index easing to 3.54% in July

and food inflation dropping to 5.1%. In August, the rise in vegetable supplies has already begun to lower prices, showing a 10% month-on-month decrease. Additionally, prices of pulses and cereals, which usually face consistent price pressures, have also seen reductions of 1.1% and 1.7%, respectively, according to the IDFC First Bank report.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained the repo rate at 6.5% in its August policy meeting amid ongoing concerns about food price shocks contributing to persistent inflation. As the monsoon season concludes, further clarity on food inflation risks is anticipated, which may influence future monetary policy decisions. With the end of the sowing and monsoon season approaching, attention will shift to the harvest season. However, reports caution that excessive rainfall could damage crops, as noted in a Bank of Baroda report dated August 28.



P rime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need for stricter regulations in India's financial sector to combat cyber fraud and enhance digital literacy. Speaking at the Global FinTech Fest in Mumbai, Modi highlighted that cyber frauds should not obstruct the growth of India's startups and technology companies.

Modi noted that India reported 117 million cyber fraud cases amounting to ₹7,489 crore in 2023, underscoring the urgent need for action. He stated that the government is committed to implementing policy changes to support the fintech sector, such as withdrawing the angel tax and facilitating innovation through the proposed Digital Personal Data Protection Act.

The prime minister also mentioned recent measures introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, including an anti-money laundering angel tax in

the 2024-25 budget. He stressed the importance of India's fintech ecosystem in promoting a high-quality lifestyle, asserting that the sector is essential for the country's future. Modi highlighted vital government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, which aims to provide universal access to banking and significantly boost digital transactions in India. He praised the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for democratising

financial services, citing a substantial increase in UPI transactions in recent years.

The prime minister also referenced the PM SVANidhi scheme, which supports street vendors by offering collateral-free loans. He noted India's digital finance revolution's positive impact on quality of life and underscored the growing international recognition of India's fintech advancements.



Consumer Affairs Ministry Addresses Airline Refund Delays

India's Consumer Affairs Ministry is entering the civil aviation sector to tackle the persistent issue of delayed refunds for air passengers. Many travellers with valid refund claims face challenges in reclaiming their money due to the complexities involving airlines and ticketing agencies. To address this, the ministry aims to hold airlines accountable and enforce penalties under the Consumer Protection Act 2019.

Previously, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) facilitated refunds totalling ₹1,453 crores on air tickets booked through various travel aggregators, including Yatra, MakeMyTrip, Clear Trip, MakeMyTrip, Ixigo, and Thomas Cook.

The ministry is planning discussions with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to expedite the refund process. According to DGCA guidelines, airlines must issue refunds within seven working days for tickets purchased using credit or debit cards and within 30 working days for cash transactions.

This move follows mounting complaints about delayed refunds, which were brought to the ministry's



attention through the National Consumer Helpline, a government platform that assists consumers in resolving grievances.

Passengers can also file complaints through Air Sewa, an online platform managed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. While the specific number of complaints against airlines was not disclosed, officials indicated that the issue was significant.

"Employees Should Not Hesitate to Declare Their Property Details"

The Personnel Department has instructed all government employees to declare their property details. Employees are required to submit this information online through the Human Asset Portal. Saturday is the final day for providing these details. However, 58 per cent of employees have still not submitted their information. It has been warned that their salaries will be withheld if they fail to comply.

The employee unions have appealed to all employees to declare their property details without hesitation. Not claiming this information due to a few dishonest employees can lead to suspicion of all employees, which is incorrect.

Satish Pandey, President of Jawahar Bhawan-Indira Bhawan Employees Federation, stated that employees should comply with government instructions and



provide complete information related to their properties within the stipulated time frame.

“Deficiency of Calcium and Iron Among Indians”

More than half of the world's population, including India, is not consuming sufficient essential nutrients like vitamins, calcium, and iron. A recent study by The Lancet Global Health found that almost 70% of the world's population does not get enough vitamin E and calcium from their diet. The study also highlighted that Indians, like many others worldwide, suffer from deficiencies in iron, calcium, folate, and other essential nutrients.



Key Findings:

- **Iron Deficiency:** This is a leading cause of anaemia, particularly affecting pregnant women, which can have a lasting impact on the child's health.
- **Calcium Deficiency:** This severely affects children, impacting bone health and overall growth.
- **Vitamin A and Zinc:** play crucial roles in immune function, and deficiencies can lead to weakened immunity.
- **Iodine Deficiency:** Essential for brain development, iodine is essential for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The study found that 185 countries, including India,

showed insufficient intake of 15 essential micronutrients. In India, iron and calcium deficiencies are significantly higher among women than men. This alarming nutritional gap affects 70% of the world's population, highlighting a global need for improved dietary intake.

The study suggests that addressing these deficiencies requires urgent attention, especially in vulnerable groups like children, pregnant women, and those with limited access to nutrient-rich foods. Enhanced dietary guidelines and public health initiatives are needed to ensure that populations receive the essential nutrients for overall health and well-being.

Donations from Deceased Make Southern States Leaders in Heart Transplants

According to data from the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), southern states in India are leading the way in heart transplants. In 2023, out of 1,099 organ donations, 221 heart transplants were performed nationwide. Tamil Nadu topped the list with 70 transplants, Karnataka with 35, Maharashtra with 33, and Telangana with 29.

Southern states have shown a notable increase in heart transplants due to increased donations from deceased individuals. In contrast, other regions, such as Delhi-NCR and Andhra Pradesh, reported only 14 transplants, highlighting the disparity in organ donation and transplant rates across the country.

Experts attribute the success in southern states to greater awareness and better-organized donation systems. Dr Y K Mishra, Head of Cardiac Sciences at Manipal Hospitals, noted that southern states are more proactive in promoting organ donation, resulting in

more transplants for patients with end-stage heart conditions. Heart transplants involve replacing a damaged or diseased heart with a healthy donor heart. While living donors can donate organs like the liver and kidneys, hearts must come from deceased donors who are on life support. The scarcity of donors remains a significant barrier, with private hospitals charging between ₹20 to ₹25 lakh for a transplant and government hospitals offering the procedure at a fraction of the cost but with long wait times.

India's first successful heart transplant took place at AIIMS in 1994. Since then, advancements in the field have continued, but challenges remain, including the need for legal amendments to encourage organ donations and better coordination between hospitals. Dr Sudhir Gupta, Professor of Forensic Medicine at AIIMS, emphasised the importance of declaring brain death promptly and registering patients for transplants to improve the system's efficiency and save more lives.

"New Technology Will Detect TB in Just Two and a Half Hours"

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed a new, more efficient technology to fight tuberculosis (TB) that can diagnose the disease in just two and a half hours. This rapid detection system can identify the presence of TB bacteria in over 1,500 samples at once, with each test costing only ₹35 per patient. Currently, diagnosing TB can take up to one and a half months.

Key Features of the New Technology:

- The technology, called the 'Diagnosis with Detection System,' can perform molecular tests to identify the presence of TB bacteria quickly and accurately.
- It provides results in just two and a half hours, significantly improving it over existing diagnostic methods that take much longer and are more expensive.
- This system is not only fast but also highly sensitive and effective, helping in the timely treatment of TB, especially in high-risk and remote areas.

The technology was developed as part of ICMR's



initiative to enhance diagnostic capabilities in regions with high TB prevalence. This system's affordability and speed are expected to be game changers in the TB control program, making it easier for healthcare providers to manage the disease effectively.

This breakthrough aligns with the ongoing efforts to improve TB diagnosis and treatment in India, which has one of the highest burdens of the disease in the world. The new system aims to make TB detection accessible, efficient, and affordable, significantly impacting the national TB elimination goals.

Monkeys Call Each Other by Names Similar to Humans, Study Finds

New Delhi: Monkeys, like humans, use specific sounds to call each other by distinct names. Each monkey has a unique call, known as a "fee call," which helps them recognise and communicate with one another. This fascinating discovery was made through a study conducted by researchers from the University of Zurich and published in the Science Journal.



Key Findings:

- **Distinctive Calls:** The study focused on marmoset monkeys native to South America. It found that these monkeys use specific sounds to identify and call each other by their names, similar to how humans use names. Each call is unique, allowing individual monkeys to distinguish themselves within their group.
- **Understanding Language Development:** Researchers believe this discovery could help us understand the evolution of human language. According to lead researcher David Omer from the University of Zurich, the way these monkeys communicate mirrors the early stages of human

language development. This behaviour suggests that, like humans, marmosets have evolved to overcome complex social challenges through communication.

- **Research Methodology:** The team used a computer system to record and analyse the specific calls of marmoset monkeys. By studying these calls, researchers could observe how the monkeys responded when their names were called, demonstrating clear recognition and communication within their social groups.

Implications of the Study:

- **Evolution of Communication:** The research provides insights into how communication methods may have evolved in

primates, including humans. Marmosets' ability to use specific calls to identify each other highlights their social intelligence and parallels early human communication techniques.

- **Comparison with Other Species:** Similar capabilities have been observed in other intelligent animals, such as dolphins and elephants, which use unique sounds to communicate within their groups. This study adds to our understanding of how complex communication systems have developed across different species.
- **Broader Understanding of Social Behaviour:** By studying marmosets' communication methods, researchers hope to better understand early human ancestors' social structures and behaviours. The findings suggest that the need to navigate social challenges may have driven the evolution of language.

This study opens new avenues for exploring the origins of language and communication in humans and other species, shedding light on the complex and fascinating ways animals interact within their social groups.



Frontfoot Leadership

How Sanjeev Sharma is Batting for BJP's Success in Ghaziabad

Interview with Ghaziabad BJP Metropolitan President Sanjeev Sharma

We learn how Sanjeev Sharma, the BJP Metropolitan President of Ghaziabad, plays his political innings. He is batting confidently on the front foot, hitting sixes and fours, and continues to hold his position as President.

Satendra Singh: First, please tell us a little about yourself. How did you enter politics? How did you start your political journey? Were you active in politics during your student life?

Sanjeev Sharma: Yes, I was active

during my student life. I studied at SSV College, Hapur, and we led movements for student union elections, consistently working for students' rights. After that, I moved to Delhi to further my studies. Later, I became the Metropolitan President

of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, served as the party's General Secretary, and was the state's Convenor of the Information and Employment Cell. I was also the General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party and then became the

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President of the BJP twice, as the party gave me another opportunity.

Satendra Singh: Have you been with the BJP from the beginning, or were you part of another party before joining the BJP?

Sanjeev Sharma: I was initially with another party, but I was drawn to the ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party, so I joined BJP.

Satendra Singh: You have accomplished all the tasks assigned by the high command. How do you successfully complete them, receiving praise from both the national and state leadership?

Sanjeev Sharma: Whenever a program is announced, we take it seriously. We plan it by sitting with our office bearers and workers, deciding who will handle which responsibility. We make detailed plans, assign tasks to everyone, and execute them accordingly. This is also the working style of the Bharatiya Janata Party: we plan, manage, and review every program. We analyse what went well and what didn't and strive to improve any shortcomings in future events. This approach ensures the success of our programs. During my tenure, I've completed five years, during which the National President has visited seven times, the State President and even the Honorable Prime Minister have visited multiple times, and their programs have been well-received.

Satendra Singh: Politics involves people of all ideologies, and you must work with everyone. How do you manage this?

Sanjeev Sharma: We have 2,100 booths, each with ten members, making it about 40,000 workers, each with their own temperament. Some are aggressive, some are calm, some are dedicated to the party, and new members want quick results. Building relationships and caring for



everyone is essential. I regularly sit at the party office, and any worker, even the most active booth president, can meet me anytime. If they face any problems, I try to resolve them by myself or our representatives. This approach keeps people connected to the BJP.

Satendra Singh: The opposition in Ghaziabad seems almost non-existent. What do you have to say about this, and what strategies did you employ to achieve this?

Sanjeev Sharma: It seemed like the opposition was finished at one point. However, during the last Lok Sabha elections, they tried to spread falsehoods, misleading the public by saying that the BJP would abolish the Constitution. But now, people understand their lies and are unwilling to associate with them. Opposition parties often make promises, knowing they will never come to power, so they don't have to fulfil them. Their deceit has distanced them from the public, and people do not appreciate this.

Satendra Singh: A personal question: You are so busy with politics; how do you find time for your family? Does your wife ever get upset with you?

Sanjeev Sharma: No, she doesn't get upset. When we got married, I

was already involved in politics, and I had told her that I might not be able to give much time. She was okay with it, and she is a teacher herself. However, I make time for my family whenever possible, and we try to take a short trip for a day or two once a month.

Satendra Singh: You often organise religious events. What inspires you to do this, and what is the purpose behind these events?

Sanjeev Sharma: I have been spiritual and religious since the beginning. My parents were very religious, and I learned a lot from them. People say everyone becomes spiritual in old age, but I believe that our work and faith are essential throughout life. Spirituality and serving others by taking the name of God are paramount.

Satendra Singh: With BJP's by-elections approaching and many contenders in the fray, what preparations have you made?

Sanjeev Sharma: A BJP worker is always ready because we constantly engage in campaigns or initiatives. Currently, there is a membership campaign running very actively. Our launch was just two days ago, and we have already made 50,000 new members in Ghaziabad. We aim to reach 100,000 members, which will

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secure those votes in the upcoming Ghaziabad city assembly. People willingly give missed calls from their phones, fill out forms, and receive their membership cards. We will then connect with them and share the work done by our Chief Minister and Prime Minister. As for the candidacy, many people are interested, and everyone has the right to contest. So far, no formal applications have been submitted, and there is no directive to accept them.

Satendra Singh: The opposition is quite aggressive regarding our Chief Minister Yogi Ji's bulldozer policy, claiming it's wrong. What are your thoughts, especially regarding the recent Supreme Court decision?

Sanjeev Sharma: Our legal system often allows big mafias to get away with crimes, thinking they'll only receive minor penalties or bail without significant financial repercussions. Yogi Ji introduced a new policy to hit them where it hurts—their finances. If their properties are seized or demolished, it creates a sense of fear among

offenders, making them think twice before committing crimes. This approach has been appreciated by the people of the state and the entire country. We hope that God continues to give Yogi Ji the strength to eliminate all mafias.

Satendra Singh: According to the Supreme Court ruling, demolishing houses wrongly is illegal, but it hasn't declared any such actions illegal specifically in this context. Most demolitions were of unauthorised constructions that didn't comply with municipal or authority norms, right?

Sanjeev Sharma: The demolitions targeted illegal constructions, not authorised ones. This isn't new; it's necessary where unauthorised structures exist, be it due to land encroachment or unapproved plans.

Satendra Singh: What is the Chief Minister doing to promote industries in Uttar Pradesh? Is Uttar Pradesh now a safe place?

Sanjeev Sharma: The Chief Minister has taken significant steps to promote industries in Uttar

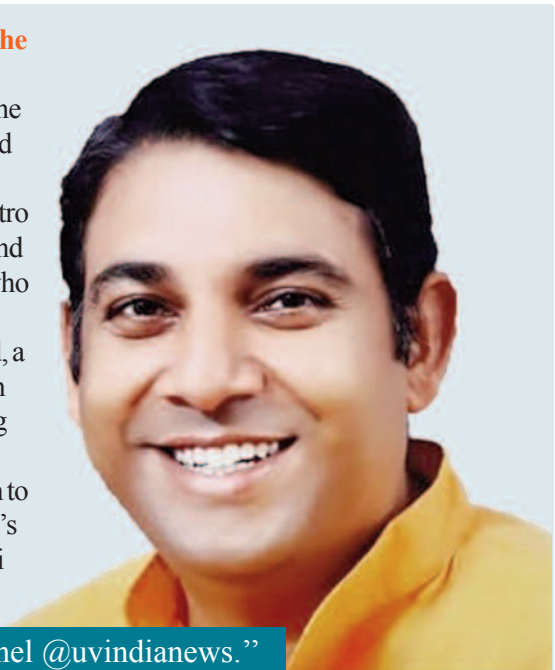
Pradesh by improving the business environment and addressing safety concerns that previously deterred investors. The state government has introduced policies to provide all necessary facilities and incentives to entrepreneurs and industrialists willing to invest in the state.

One of the fundamental changes is the enhancement of law and order, which has instilled confidence among business owners. Earlier, there was a widespread perception of poor safety, which discouraged industrial growth. However, the current administration has effectively managed these issues, making Uttar Pradesh a favourable business destination. We now see a substantial influx of investments, and many large projects are underway, such as the recent announcement of a Rs. 98,000 crore hydrogen plant in Urai.

Overall, Uttar Pradesh has transformed into a secure and thriving hub for industries, and the state is progressing rapidly under the leadership of our Chief Minister.

Satendra Singh: Lastly, what message would you like to give to the people of Ghaziabad regarding the membership campaign?

Sanjeev Sharma: Our membership campaign runs from the 1st to the 25th of September. Various methods, including missed calls, are used for registration, and people receive their identity cards upon completing the process. Our volunteers set up camps in markets, metro stations, railway stations, and bus stands and even engage vendors and market sellers. We are also going door-to-door, encouraging those who willingly wish to become members of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Within two days, we have made over 50,000 members in Ghaziabad, a significant achievement. We have set a target of 500,000 members in the Ghaziabad metropolitan area and 250,000 in the district, totalling 750,000. It gives us great joy to announce that on the first day, we ranked third in Uttar Pradesh, and as our membership grows, we aim to reach the top spot. I request everyone to join the BJP to support India's development, strengthening the hands of Narendra Modi Ji and Yogi Adityanath Ji for a stronger nation.



“You can watch the full interview on our YouTube channel @uvindianews.”



Walls of Shri Ram Temple to Depict Ramayana through Mural Art

Devotees visiting the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya will soon witness the life stories of Lord Ram depicted on the temple's surrounding walls, much like the famed illustrations of Geeta Press. The construction of the temple's perimeter, including an approximately 790-meter-long and 7-foot-wide walkway, is underway. The walls will be adorned with mural art, vividly illustrating various episodes from the Ramayana.

Key Attractions:

- **Mural Art on Perimeter Walls:** To provide a spiritual experience for visitors, detailed mural paintings will narrate the life and teachings of Lord Ram

on the walls of the under-construction perimeter (parakota). This artistic endeavour aims to make the temple a visual and spiritual feast for devotees.

- **Inspiration from Geeta Press:** Drawing inspiration from Geeta Press's artistic traditions, the murals will resemble the Leela paintings often seen in its publications. The construction and artwork are managed by the FLTDC (a technical and design firm), which has collaborated with other prestigious institutions in temple artwork.
- **Enhancing Devotee Experience:** The murals are not just paintings but a spiritual

journey for the devotees. They are meticulously designed to enhance the spiritual journey of devotees, allowing them to connect more deeply with the stories of Lord Ram. The illustrations will cover various aspects of his life, including significant events and teachings, making the temple walls structural and narrative and inviting the devotees to embark on a spiritual journey as they walk along the perimeter.

- **Artistic Details and Timeline:** The perimeter wall will feature intricate designs reflecting key episodes such as Lord Ram's exile, his encounter with Hanuman, and the battles fought for righteousness. The

murals, a testament to the dedication and skill of the artists, are set to be completed by a specific timeline, aligning with the ongoing construction of the temple. This timeline ensures the project's timely completion and creates a sense of anticipation and excitement for the unveiling of these masterpieces.

- **Cultural and Spiritual Integration:** These murals will integrate cultural and spiritual elements, providing a comprehensive experience for visitors. The depictions will include scenes that resonate with different phases of Ram's life, offering visual appeal and spiritual reflection.
- **Visitor Engagement:** During their visit, devotees can engage with these artistic representations, creating a deep connection with the temple's divine atmosphere. The project adds to the aesthetic appeal and serves as a medium for imparting moral and spiritual values.

This initiative is a step towards making the Shri Ram Temple a vibrant centre of faith, culture, and art, where the walls themselves will echo the timeless stories of Lord Ram, enriching the spiritual ambience for millions of devotees.



Language Won't Be a Barrier at Maha Kumbh 2025: Multilingual Security Personnel to Assist Devotees

As the country prepares for the Divya and Bhavya Maha Kumbh 2025, authorities are taking measures to ensure that language barriers do not hinder the experience for millions of devotees, pilgrims, and tourists. To facilitate seamless assistance and enhance security services, multilingual security personnel proficient in regional languages, including English, Gujarati, Tamil, and other Indian languages, will be deployed throughout the Maha Kumbh area.



Key Initiatives:

- **Multilingual Assistance:** Security personnel with knowledge of various regional languages will be stationed across the event to assist visitors who do not speak Hindi. This initiative aims to improve communication and ensure that all visitors receive adequate support, regardless of their language.
- **Enhanced Security Measures:** The police and security teams are recruiting personnel fluent in multiple languages to help foreign tourists and pilgrims navigate the event smoothly. This strategic deployment is expected to make Maha Kumbh more accessible and visitor-friendly.
- **Meeting of Religious Leaders:** A meeting held at Daraganj's Rishikesh Vaishnav Ashram, chaired by Acharya Bada and attended by prominent saints, including Swami Ramdevacharya and Swami Adhiradeshwaracharya, centred on the requirements for the Mahakumbh. Acharya Bada requested 350 bighas of land within the fairgrounds to accommodate the influx of pilgrims and saints.
- **Support for Saints and Pilgrims:** Acharya Bada emphasised the need for adequate facilities for saints and pilgrims during the Mahakumbh, highlighting the importance of proper accommodations and services. A proposal regarding land allocation and other logistical needs was approved during the meeting.
- **Focus on Devotee Experience:** The committee, led by Chairman Swami Achyutanand, stressed the importance of providing comprehensive support services to all attendees, ensuring that language does not become a barrier to their spiritual journey.

The proactive steps taken by the Mahakumbh organisers, including the deployment of multilingual security personnel, are set to make the 2025 event a genuinely inclusive and enriching experience for millions of devotees from across India and the world.



"Explore Kufri in a New Way: Give Tourism a New Dimension"

People travelling to Shimla often visit Kufri, but they usually return after seeing a few scenic spots. If you want to experience Kufri's unique nature truly, consider extending your trip. The area's natural beauty, historical significance, and wildlife will provide a memorable experience.

Key Attractions:

- **Rashtrapati Bhavan:** One of the most iconic places near Kufri is the Presidential Retreat, about seven kilometres from Kufri. Built amidst dense forests, it serves as a serene escape and offers a close encounter with nature.
- **Wildlife Sanctuary:** The retreat is surrounded by a forest sanctuary that is home to various species of flora and

fauna. You can explore this area in an eco-friendly way using battery-operated vehicles, which are available for tourists.

- **Nature Trails:** The retreat also has several nature trails that lead through the forest, offering an immersive experience of the

Himalayan biodiversity. These trails are suitable for guided walks and nature exploration.

Travel Options:

- **Air, Rail, and Road Connectivity:** Kufri is accessible by air, rail, and road.



Wanderlust Window

The government is promoting Kufri's unique offerings to boost tourism by enhancing the visitor experience with better facilities and sustainable practices. Whether you are looking for a peaceful retreat in the lap of nature or an adventurous escapade, Kufri has something for every traveller.

Direct flights are available from Delhi to Shimla, and from Shimla, you can take a taxi or bus to Kufri. Rail routes are also available, with Kalka being the nearest railhead. From Kalka, a toy train service takes you through scenic routes to Shimla.

- **Local Transport:** From Shimla, taxis and buses are available to reach Kufri. The journey offers picturesque views of the surrounding hills and valleys.

Other Highlights:

- **Adventure Activities:** Kufri offers opportunities for adventure sports like horse riding, tobogganing, and hiking. In winter, the area becomes a hub for skiing and other snow-related activities.
- **Accommodation and Dining:** Kufri provides a range of accommodation options from budget to luxury stays, along with a variety of dining options that offer local and international cuisines.

The government is promoting Kufri's unique offerings to boost tourism by enhancing the visitor experience with better facilities and sustainable practices. Whether you are looking for a peaceful retreat in the lap of nature or an adventurous escapade, Kufri has something for every traveller.



Mango Tourism in UP: Reaping the Benefits of Orchard Visits

As the mango season dawns, a unique form of tourism is gaining momentum-Mango Tourism. Orchards in regions like Lucknow are seizing this opportunity, inviting visitors to partake in an exclusive experience. This includes learning about diverse mango varieties, relishing fresh produce, and engaging in activities like tree climbing and fruit picking.

Key Highlights:

- **Mango Tourism Boom:** This new form of tourism attracts locals and visitors from other states and even abroad. Tourists are willing to pay for the experience of picking mangoes directly from the trees, turning mango orchards into vibrant tourist spots.
- **Preserving Traditional Mango Varieties:** Efforts are being made to preserve indigenous varieties like 'Dussehri,' celebrated for its unique taste and heritage. Farmers are combining traditional farming methods with modern tourism strategies to enhance the appeal of their orchards.
- **Enhanced Agricultural Practices:** In addition to showcasing mangoes, many farmers also use this opportunity to educate visitors on sustainable



farming practices. These include the use of organic methods, the importance of crop diversity, and the role of traditional horticulture in maintaining ecological balance.

- **Reinventing Horticulture:** Mango farmers are not just focusing on the fruit itself but also reinventing how orchards are managed and marketed. By integrating leisure and education, they are offering a more immersive experience that includes guided tours, tastings, and even culinary demonstrations using mangoes.
- The economic impact of Mango Tourism is not to be underestimated. This innovative approach has injected a significant boost into the local

economy. By transforming their orchards into tourist hotspots, farmers can supplement their income, particularly during the high-demand mango season.

- Mango Tourism is not just about the fruit; it's about fostering a cultural connection. It brings people closer to the land and its produce, offering a firsthand look at the meticulous process of mango cultivation. This deepens the visitors' appreciation for one of India's most beloved fruits.

This new wave of Mango Tourism promotes local agriculture and offers a fresh and engaging way to celebrate the king of fruits. It exemplifies how traditional farming can be blended with modern tourism to create enriching experiences for both farmers and visitors.

China Is Not Just Our Problem, It's a Global Concern: Jaishankar

Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar stated that China is not just a problem for India but a global concern being debated worldwide. Addressing the current challenges in relations with China, Jaishankar emphasised that the world must review investments and engagements with Beijing, considering the ongoing tensions and the situation at the border.

Key Points from Jai Shankar's Statement:

- **Global Issue:** Jaishankar highlighted that China is not an isolated issue for India alone. It poses a unique challenge that is being discussed globally. He stressed that China's behaviour and its implications on international relations concern many countries, not just India.
- **India's Cautious Approach:** In the past four years, Jaishankar noted that India's relationship with China has been strained due to border disputes and other issues. He underscored that India has responded with caution and a responsible approach, emphasising the importance of reviewing investments and economic ties with China in light of the security challenges.
- **National Security Focus:** Jaishankar pointed out the need to redefine national security in the current geopolitical landscape. He argued that national security extends beyond military defence to economic stability and international engagements. He stressed that



India's stance towards China reflects a broader understanding of security, including safeguarding the nation's financial interests.

- **Strategic Vigilance:** The Foreign Minister also stressed the need for the world to pay attention to the risks associated with China's actions. He referred to the global economic and security landscape and urged nations to assess the long-term impacts of their relationships with China carefully.
- **Relations and Diplomacy:** Jaishankar reiterated that India's diplomatic strategy towards China is guided by careful assessment and national interest. He emphasised that while maintaining caution, India remains firm in safeguarding its borders and upholding its sovereignty.
- **International Perspective:**

Reflecting on the global scenario, Jaishankar stated that many countries are now more vigilant about China's moves and are reassessing their diplomatic and economic ties with Beijing. He called for a unified global approach to addressing the risks of China's expanding influence.

Conclusion:

Jaishankar's remarks underline the complexities of dealing with China for India and the international community. His call for a careful review of investments and engagements with China reflects a broader strategy to protect national and global security interests in an increasingly interconnected world. The Foreign Minister's insights highlight the importance of collective vigilance and strategic planning in navigating the challenges posed by China on the global stage.

Need for Another Balakot-Like Message to Tackle Terrorism: Former BSF Chief Prakash Singh

Prakash Singh, former Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), has emphasised the need for India to send a strong message, like the Balakot airstrike, to counter terrorism effectively. In an interview, Singh highlighted the importance of a robust security system and suggested that India's response to cross-border terrorism should be decisive and assertive.



Key Points from the Interview:

- **Necessity of Strong Actions:** Prakash Singh stressed that repeating the Balakot-like response is essential to curb terrorism. He mentioned that if terrorist activities continue to escalate, India should not hesitate to take stringent measures, similar to the previous airstrike, to deter further threats.
- **Security at the Bangladesh Border:** Singh also addressed

concerns about the changing conditions at the India-Bangladesh border, where issues have arisen due to the continuous influx of illegal migrants and smuggling activities. He suggested that security forces should have flexibility in using

force to handle these challenges effectively.

- **Role of State Police and Paramilitary Forces:** Emphasizing the need for cooperation between state police and paramilitary forces, Singh pointed out that security

Beyond Borders

responsibilities should not solely rely on the central forces. He recommended that state governments, particularly in border regions like Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, and Nagaland, empower local police forces to maintain security proactively.

- **Concerns Over Increasing Religious Structures:** Singh noted the increasing number of mosques near border areas as a potential challenge, like issues observed along the Nepal border. He suggested monitoring these developments closely and adjusting strategies accordingly, which is vital to maintaining national security.
- **Recommendations for Intelligence Agencies:** Highlighting the role of intelligence agencies, Singh stressed that keeping intelligence personnel away from administrative duties and



focused on counter-terrorism efforts is crucial. He warned that any lapses in intelligence could lead to severe consequences,

urging continuous vigilance and proactive measures.

- **Empowering Security Forces:** Singh advocated for granting more operational freedom to security forces at the borders, emphasising that stringent action should be taken against cross-border activities that threaten national security. He reiterated the importance of vigilance against any movements that could risk India's security framework.

Conclusion:

Prakash Singh's insights call for more robust, decisive action against terrorism and cross-border threats. His recommendations underscore the importance of a well-coordinated security apparatus involving central and state forces and the need for ongoing vigilance and adaptability in responding to evolving security challenges.





Suhas Yathiraj: Silver Streak Continues at Paris Paralympics

Suhas Yathiraj: IAS Officer-Turned-Para Shuttler Shines Again, Wins Consecutive Silver Medals

Introduction...

Indian para-shuttler Suhas Yathiraj has continued his remarkable streak at the Paralympics by securing a silver medal in the Men's Singles SL4 category at the Paris 2024 Paralympics. The SL4 category is designated for athletes with impairments in one or both lower limbs and minimal impairments in walking or running balance. In a fiercely contested final against France's Lucas Mazur, Suhas clinched his second consecutive silver medal, building on his success from the Tokyo Paralympics 2020. This achievement makes him the only Indian shuttler to win medals at both the Tokyo and Paris Paralympics, further cementing his legacy in para-badminton.

A Stellar Career: Suhas L. Yathiraj

Suhas L. Yathiraj, currently ranked World No. 1 in the Men's Singles SL4 category as of September 3, 2024, is no stranger to success. An IAS officer of the 2007 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Suhas has served as the District Magistrate of Gautam Buddha Nagar. His exemplary achievements in para-badminton have earned him the prestigious Arjuna Award.

Born on February 7, 1983, in Shivamogga, Karnataka, Suhas faced challenges early in life due to a congenital deformity in his left ankle. Despite these physical limitations, he pursued his academic aspirations with unwavering determination. He completed his early education in Dudda near Hassan district and later attended DVS Independent College in Shivamogga for his secondary schooling. Suhas excelled academically and earned a degree in Computer Engineering from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Surathkal, before being selected into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Suhas's journey into para-badminton began later than most athletes, but his rise in the sport has been nothing short of meteoric. Dominating the national scene, he secured numerous national titles, establishing himself as one of India's top para-badminton players. Balancing his professional career with his passion for badminton, Suhas has served as an IAS officer with unflinching dedication. His ascent in para-badminton is marked by perseverance and intense training, making him the only Indian IAS officer to have received both an Arjuna Award and a Paralympic medal. His remarkable journey also includes a top podium finish at the Asian Para Games



Prime Minister Congratulates Suhas Yathiraj on Paris Paralympics Silver

In recognition of his achievements, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Suhas Yathiraj for winning the silver medal in the Men's Singles SL4 Badminton event at the Paris Paralympics. The Prime Minister stated, "A spectacular accomplishment as Suhas Yathiraj wins the prestigious silver medal in the Men's Singles SL4 Badminton event at the Paralympics 2024! India rejoices at his success. We are proud of his tenacity and commitment to sports."

2022 in Hangzhou.

Highlights of a Medal-Rich Journey

Suhas L. Yathiraj's career is a testament to his exceptional talent and relentless drive. His journey to the top began with a significant win at the 2016 Asian Para-Badminton Championships, where he secured the gold medal in Men's Singles. He continued to impress with a bronze medal at the 2018 Asian Para Games.

Suhas's performance peaked at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, where he won a silver medal in Men's Singles. His success continued with a gold medal at the 2022 Asian Para Games, further solidifying his dominance in the sport. Recently, Suhas clinched the gold medal in Men's Singles at the 2024 World Championships and added another silver medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, marking him as one of the world's top para-badminton players.

Key Government Initiatives

The Government of India has been pivotal in Suhas L. Yathiraj's success, providing substantial support through various initiatives. Suhas benefited from foreign exposure, participating in training and competitions in countries including Thailand, UAE, Scotland, England, Bahrain, Brazil, Spain, Japan, and China. A 50-day

training camp at Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University in Lucknow played a crucial role in his preparation. Financial assistance covered his training, competition expenses, and procurement of badminton equipment. Additionally, Suhas received an out-of-pocket allowance under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), ensuring he had the necessary resources to excel in his sport.

Conclusion

Suhas L. Yathiraj's extraordinary journey from an IAS officer to a world-class para-badminton player exemplifies perseverance and excellence. His latest achievement at the 2024 Paris Paralympics adds another silver medal to his impressive list of accolades, highlighting his unwavering commitment and skill. Supported by significant government initiatives and driven by his own relentless pursuit of excellence, Suhas has not only elevated his career but also brought immense pride to the nation. His continued success underscores the importance of balanced support systems and personal dedication in achieving greatness on the global stage. As Suhas continues to inspire with his achievements, he remains a beacon of determination and excellence in both sports and public service.

Source: PIB Delhi

Sumit Antil's Journey to Victory Despite Challenges

Sumit Antil Didn't Sleep for Three Nights Before the Final, Had to Take Pain Medication

In a remarkable display of determination and resilience, Indian para-athlete Sumit Antil overcame severe pain and sleep deprivation to clinch the gold medal in the javelin throw at the Para Athletics Championship held in Paris. Sumit, battling a knee injury, revealed that he could not sleep for three nights before the final due to the intense pain, necessitating pain medication just before the competition.

Key Points:

- Sumit Antil suffered a knee injury a few years ago, which led to ongoing pain and complications. Despite extensive treatment, including sessions with doctors and physiotherapists, the pain persisted.
- The night before his final throw, Sumit's condition worsened, leaving him in severe discomfort. However, his commitment to representing India globally pushed him to compete regardless of his physical state.
- During the final event, Sumit threw an impressive distance of 70.59 meters, setting a new personal record and securing the gold medal for India.
- Sumit credited his victory to his training, mental strength, and the unwavering support from his coaches and medical team. His achievement is not only a testament to his skill but also to his relentless perseverance despite the physical challenges.
- In his post-victory speech, Sumit expressed gratitude to his family, supporters, and the nation. He dedicated his win to those who believed in him and stood by him throughout his journey.

Prime Minister's Engagement: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the Indian para-athletes, including Sumit, for their outstanding performances. He highlighted the significance of their achievements in inspiring millions across the country and emphasised the importance of resilience and hard work.

Comments from Sports Minister Suhas Yathiraj: Indian Sports Minister Suhas Yathiraj praised Sumit's performance, emphasising the importance of mental toughness and resilience. He noted that Sumit's journey to



gold was not just about physical prowess but also about overcoming the mental barriers posed by his injury.

Sumit Antil's story powerfully reminds us of the human spirit's capacity to overcome adversity and achieve greatness, inspiring many to pursue their dreams no matter the obstacles.

Laborer's Daughter Deepti Wins Bronze

Magnificent Achievement

Main Content: Paris, Agency: Overcoming her struggles and turning her challenges into strengths, Deepti Jeevanji made the country proud by winning a bronze medal at the Para Athletics Championships on Tuesday. Deepti became the first Indian woman athlete to secure a medal in the 400 meters event at the Paralympics.

Deepti clocked a time of 55.82 seconds to secure the bronze medal, a remarkable achievement for someone who grew up facing numerous challenges. She was born on 20th April in a laborer's family in a small village in Khargone, Madhya Pradesh, and has had to fight against the odds from a young age. Her father, a laborer, faced difficulties in supporting her sports journey due to financial constraints.

In her early days, Deepti had to run barefoot and practice in local fields because her family could not afford proper facilities or equipment. Despite these challenges, she persisted, and her resilience paid off when she qualified for the national championships and eventually represented India on the international stage.

During the Para Athletics Championships, Deepti's performance was outstanding. She completed her race in 55.82 seconds, while her competitors were also strong. The gold medal was claimed by Omara Durand of Cuba with a time of 54.96 seconds, and the silver went to Sheryl James with a time of 55.16 seconds. Deepti's time of 55.23 seconds was enough to earn her the bronze medal, a significant improvement from her previous best of 55.07 seconds.

Earlier, Deepti had clocked 56.69 seconds in her heat to qualify for the finals. On Sunday, she further improved her timing to 56.18 seconds, securing her place among the top athletes. Deepti's journey from a small village to the world stage is an inspiration to many, demonstrating that hard work and determination can overcome any obstacle. India celebrated Deepti's achievement, marking her as a symbol of perseverance and strength, proving that with dedication, one can achieve greatness against all odds.



अजन्मी बेटी का डर...

नजर आता है डर ही डर, तेरे घर-बार में अम्मा नहीं आना मुझे इतने बुरे संसार में अम्मा



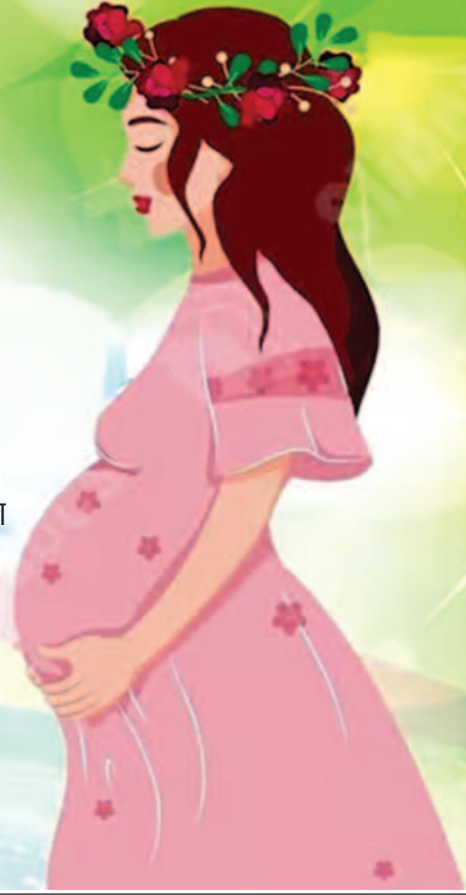
आलोक श्रीवास्तव

यहाँ तो कोई भी रिश्ता नहीं विश्वास के काबिल सिसकती हैं मेरी साँसें, बहुत डरता है मेरा दिल समझ आता नहीं ये क्या छुपा है प्यार में अम्मा नहीं आना मुझे इतने बुरे संसार में अम्मा

मुझे तू कोख में लाई, बड़ा उपकार है तेरा तेरी ममता, मेरी माई; बड़ा उपकार है तेरा न शामिल कर जनम देने की जिद, उपकार में अम्मा नहीं आना मुझे इतने बुरे संसार में अम्मा

उजाला बनके आई हूँ जहाँ से मुझको लौटा दे तुझे सौगंध है मेरी, यहाँ से मुझको लौटा दे अजन्मा ही तू रहने दे मुझे संसार में अम्मा नहीं आना मुझे इतने बुरे संसार में अम्मा

नजर आता है डर ही डर तेरे घर-बार में अम्मा नहीं आना मुझे इतने बुरे संसार में अम्मा



मेरे साथ पराये कम हैं, अपने ज्यादा हैं



राज कौशिक

मेरे साथ पराये कम हैं, अपने ज्यादा हैं इस कारण ही यारो मुझको खतरे ज्यादा हैं

कौन द्रोपदी का रोकेगा चीर हरण बोलो आंखें होते हुए सभा में अंधे ज्यादा हैं

फूल फलों वाली डाली ही झुक कर रहती है बिन पानी के बादल सिर्फ गरजते ज्यादा हैं

खौफ बुरे लोगों को कैसा, किसका खतरा है उनको संभल के रहना है जो अच्छे ज्यादा हैं

कुछ बच्चों का झगड़ा भी ये कितना प्यारा था मेरे मम्मी डैडी सबसे अच्छे ज्यादा हैं

टकराने से राज किसी को लाभ नहीं होता यहां आईने जुड़े बहुत कम, टूटे ज्यादा हैं



स्वच्छ-हरित-स्वस्थ-भारत

Utthan PoSH Academy



POSH stands for Prevention of Sexual Harassment, and POSH training is a type of training that helps employees understand sexual harassment and how to recognize and avoid it in the workplace.

What is POSH Training?

POSH training for employees helps them identify and differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate behavior in the workplace. It also educates participants on the legal aspect under the PoSH (Prevention of sexual harassment) act.

POSH training, or Prevention of Sexual Harassment training, can benefit both employees and employers in a number of ways:—

- ❖ Legal protection: POSH training helps companies avoid costly legal liabilities and protect their reputation from sexual harassment cases.
- ❖ Employee awareness: POSH training helps employees understand their rights and differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate behavior in the workplace.
- ❖ Improved workplace culture: POSH training can help improve employee retention and the quality of workplace culture.
- ❖ Reduced incidents: POSH training can help reduce incidents of sexual harassment in the workplace.
- ❖ Increased productivity: POSH training can help improve employee productivity.
- ❖ Improved morale: POSH training can help boost employee morale.
- ❖ Employee performance: POSH training can help employees identify and differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate behavior in the workplace.
- ❖ The Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act mandates that every organization define their sexual harassment policies, prevention systems, procedures, and service rules for their employees.

Law is not the answer to everything in our life...

1. We need to teach our boys/mens to respect girls/ladies...
2. Control and minimize availability of porn etc.
3. Work on mental health...
4. Reduce gap of inequality of income
5. Early detection of threat behavior and take preventive action (rather than waiting for incidents) .

PoSH Training by Utthan Samiti

UTTHAN SAMITI (A RAY OF HOPE)

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