

A close-up portrait of Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, India. She is wearing black-rimmed glasses and a white shawl over a blue garment. Her expression is one of intense anger or determination, with her mouth open as if shouting or speaking forcefully. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

TNATIONAL AWARENESS TIMES

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**BJP PERSECUTING
BENGALI SPEAKERS IN ASSAM CLAIMS
MAMATA BANERJEE**

A woman with dark hair and blue eyes is leaning against a white rectangular block. She is wearing a black leather jacket over a red and black plaid shirt, a black and red plaid skirt, black tights, and black high-heeled shoes with red soles. The word "ALDO" is written in large red letters across the middle of the image.

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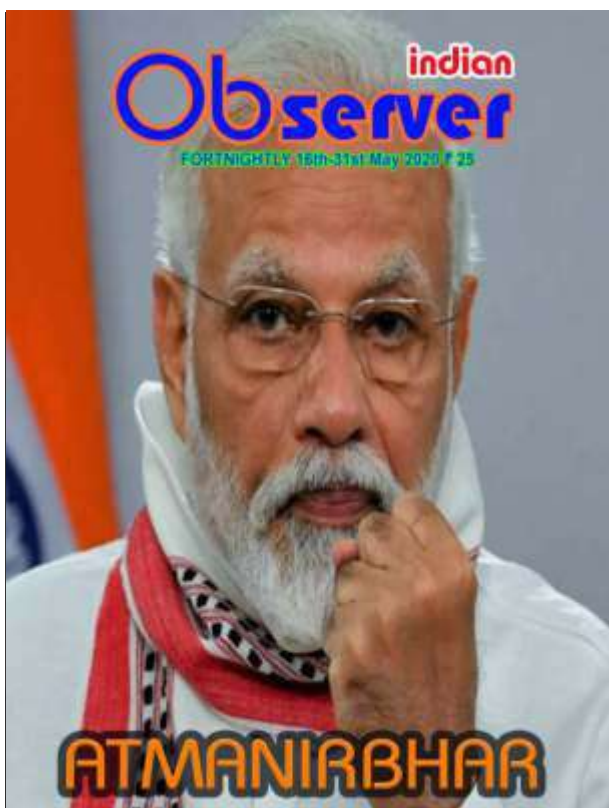
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CHIEF EDITOR DESK



Dear Readers,

On behalf of National Awareness Times (India's National Weekly), the editorial board and the team of our journal would like to wish all the readers a wonderful week ahead to all.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured that Bengali language and identity is paramount to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), West Bengal Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed that the BJP was persecuting Bengali speakers in Assam.

Samudra Prachet, the last of the two indigenous Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) was launched for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Goa.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) organised a half-day workshop on its Framework for Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity at TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi.

The Youth Spiritual Summit on the theme Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat culminated today at the Rudraksh International Convention Centre in Varanasi with the formal adoption of the Kashi Declaration.

Deepak Singh,
Chief Editor

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BJP PERSECUTING BENGALI SPEAKERS IN ASSAM CLAIMS: MAMATA BANERJEE

By Editor – Gaurav Singh



A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured that Bengali language and identity is paramount to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee claimed that the BJP was persecuting Bengali speakers in Assam. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma hit back stating that the West Bengal Chief Minister has “compromised Bengal’s future — encouraging illegal encroachment by a particular community appeasing one religious community for vote banks and remaining silent as

border infiltration eats away at national integrity — all just to stay in power.”

West Bengal Chief Minister in a social media post highlighted that Bengali (Bangla) is the second most spoken language in the country and also in Assam and to “threaten citizens, who want to coexist peacefully respecting all languages and religions, with persecution for upholding their own mother tongue is discriminatory and unconstitutional.”

The Trinamool Congress chairperson said that this “divisive agenda of the BJP in Assam has crossed all limits

and people of Assam will fight back.” Ms. Banerjee said she stands with “every fearless citizen who is fighting for the dignity of their language and identity, and their democratic rights.”

Refuting the West Bengal Chief Minister’s charges, Assam Chief Minister emphasised that in his State, the government was not fighting its own people but “fearlessly resisting the ongoing, unchecked Muslim infiltration from across the border, which has already caused an alarming demographic shift.”

“In several districts, Hindus



are now on the verge of becoming a minority in their own land. This is not a political narrative — it's a reality," he said in a social media post.

Mr. Biswa Sarma said that even the Supreme Court of India has termed such infiltration as external aggression. "And yet, when we rise to defend our land, culture, and identity, you choose to politicise it. We do not divide people by language or religion. Assamese, Bangla, Bodo, Hindi — all languages and communities have coexisted here. But no civilisation can survive if it refuses to protect its borders and its cultural foundation," he added.

There have been several reports of migrant workers from West Bengal being targeted in various BJP ruled

States and the West Bengal Chief Minister has hit the streets on June 16 threatening protests all across the country if the persecution does not stop. Earlier this month Assam Chief Minister has said people who seek to replace Assamese with Bengali in the electoral rolls would help the government get an idea about the number of "foreigners" in the State.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public rally in West Bengal on July 18 has said that for the BJP, Bengali 'ashmita (identity and pride)' is paramount and wherever there is a BJP government, Bengalis are respected, Bengali language is respected.

Assam Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker and BJP leader Numal Momin has

lashed out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, calling her a 'half-Hindu' after she alleged that the BJP government in Assam was persecuting Bengali-speaking citizens for asserting their linguistic identity.

Momin said, 'Mamata Banerjee is giving a statement that is very much condemnable, and not a single Assamese person will support this statement. She wanted the coexistence of Bangladeshi infiltrators... That is not acceptable at any cost. She is a half-Hindu, which is why she is making such statements against Hindus. What did she want to prove...? She wanted to make Bengal, Assam, and the Northeast into an Islamic state.'

He further accused her of ignoring the condition of Hindus in West Bengal and urged her to focus on her own state instead of commenting on Assam.

'She never had sympathy for Hindus. In West Bengal, the Hindus are suffering a lot. Instead of commenting on Assam's internal matter, she should concentrate on West Bengal...', he said.

Earlier, Mamata Banerjee had stated X, saying, 'The second most spoken language in the country, Bangla, is also the second most spoken language of Assam. To threaten citizens who want to coexist peacefully, respecting all languages and religions, with persecution for upholding their own mother tongue is discriminatory and unconstitutional. This divisive agenda of the BJP in Assam has crossed all limits, and people of Assam will fight back.'

She also extended her support to those defending their cultural

and linguistic identity, saying, 'I stand with every fearless citizen who is fighting for the dignity of their language and identity and their democratic rights.'

Her comments came after a protest march in Siliguri organised by the Indian National Trinamool Trade Union Congress (INTTUC), affiliated with the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), against the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The protest was held over the alleged harassment and pushback of Bengali-speaking individuals from several BJP-ruled states.

According to the union, many Bengali-speaking migrants have been wrongly labelled as 'Bangladeshis' and targeted under the pretext of removing illegal immigrants.

INTTUC leader Nirjal Dey said, 'Bengalis have made the biggest sacrifices for the country. Today, this is a question of the existence of Bengalis. Today, Bengali-speaking individuals are being sent to detention camps. We are residents of Bengal and speak Bengali. We are proud of it. In Bengal, members of all sections of society live in harmony... But in Odisha, 400 Bengalis have been sent to detention camps. Their nationality is being questioned. Their only crime is that they speak Bengali; they are being branded as foreigners. This is the biggest issue... Arrest Rohingyas, but why will you arrest Bengali-speaking Indians? That is our question.'



EVENTS



The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare & Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan planting saplings at the premises of 97th Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), along with the Awards Ceremony and the Viksit Krishi Exhibition, in New Delhi.

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presents Swachh Survekshan awards at a function organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in New Delhi.



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addresses the felicitation ceremony of 613 medal winners and Indian contingent for the '21st World Police and Fire Games-2025', in New Delhi.



PM at the foundation stone laying and inauguration of various projects at Durgapur, in West Bengal.

The Union Minister of Minority Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju interacting with media ahead of his meeting with floor leaders of Political Parties at Parliament House, in New Delhi.



The President, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Scouts/Guides/Rovers/Rangers Award ceremony for the years 2018-2021 in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

INDIGENOUS POLLUTION CONTROL VESSEL 'SAMUDRA PRACHET'



Samudra Prachet, the last of the two indigenous Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) was launched for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Goa. With 72% indigenous content, the project has significantly contributed to national capability-building, employment generation, and skills enhancement, through active engagement of the local industry and MSMEs. These ships have been fitted with state-of-art Response Equipment and these vessels will help ICG in quick and effective response to any oil spill in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

With a length of 114.5 metres, a breadth of 16.5 metres, and a displacement of 4,170 tonnes, the ship will be manned by 14 officers and 115 sailors. It is equipped with two side-sweeping arms capable of collecting oil spills while underway, as well as a modern radar system for detecting oil slicks. The vessel is engineered to recover oil across the full viscosity spectrum, pump in

contaminated water, analyse and separate pollutants, and store recovered oil in dedicated onboard tanks.

The vessel was launched by Guest of Honour Smt Priya Paramesh, in presence of the Chief Guest Director General ICG (DGICG) Paramesh Sivamani. In his address, DGICG highlighted the

importance of PCVs for ICG in maritime domain. He appreciated the efforts put in by GSL and industry in ensuring that major ship building requirements of ICG are fulfilled indigenously. Further, he exhorted all present to ensure that the march towards Aatmanirbharta in Defence Production is pursued in the right earnest.

Also speaking on the occasion, Chairman & Managing Director of GSL, Mr. Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, underscored the critical importance of this platform in advancing India's maritime environmental preparedness. He also commended the dedicated efforts of Team GSL for achieving the exceptional indigenous content, a significant contribution to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The ceremony was also attended by senior officials from Ministry of Defence, ICG and GSL.

The First Pollution Control Vessel was launched on August 29, 2024 and is expected to be delivered soon.



TRAI ORGANISES WORKSHOP FOR DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today organised a half-day workshop on its Framework for Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity at TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi. The workshop brought together around 100 senior officers from key Central Government Ministries and Departments, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), CPWD, Town and Country Planning Organisations, School of Planning and Architecture, NBCC and other infrastructure development agencies.

The event aimed to build awareness about importance of planning digital connectivity infrastructure as a part of property or infrastructure development plan and promote institutional adoption of the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024, notified by TRAI on 25 October 2024. The regulation introduces a voluntary, performance-based star rating system, similar to green building or energy efficiency ratings, to assess how digitally ready a property or infrastructure is for delivering high-quality broadband and mobile connectivity. The property or infrastructure includes residential buildings, commercial complexes,

government offices, airports, highways, stadiums, and railway stations, among others.

In his inaugural address, Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairperson, TRAI, highlighted that robust digital connectivity has become as essential as water, electricity and structural safety, especially since an estimated 70-80% of mobile data traffic is now consumed indoors. He emphasised the need for Digital Connectivity Infrastructure (DCI); the civil, physical and technological components that enable seamless access to telecom networks; to be planned and embedded at the design stage, rather than added as an afterthought.

The Chairperson noted that the new rating framework provides a clear, transparent and technology-neutral approach for property developers, infrastructure providers and government agencies to plan, implement, evaluate and improve digital connectivity readiness across various types of premises viz. homes, offices, schools, hospitals, transport hubs and smart urban spaces. He urged Ministries, Departments and institutions to integrate DCI requirements into

project guidelines, model tender documents and training curricula, so that India's built environment is future-ready by design.

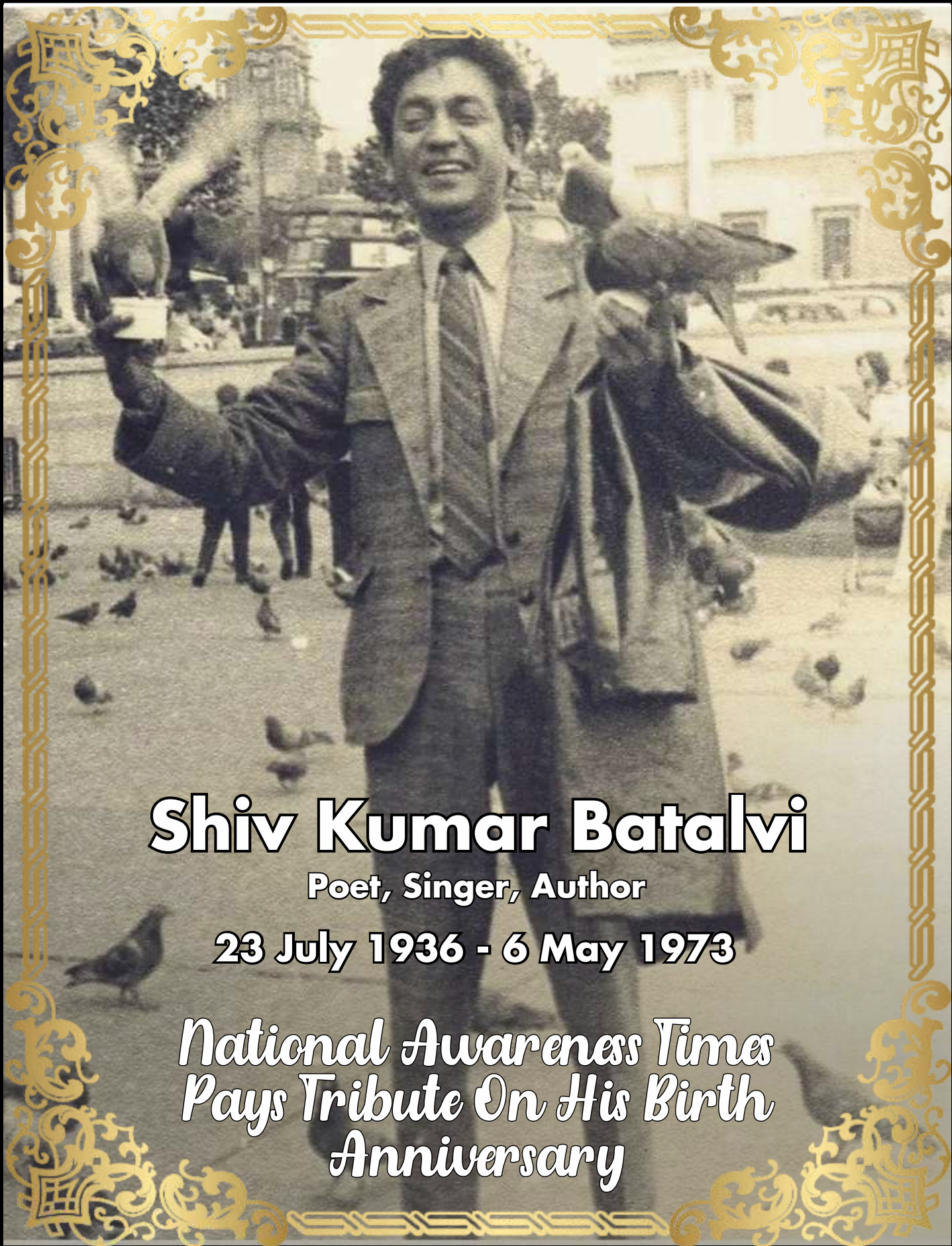
The technical session included a presentation by Shri Tejpal Singh, Advisor (QoS-1), TRAI, who detailed the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024 and the associated rating manual for the reference of registered Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs), property managers, architects and service providers. Participants were familiarised with key rating parameters such as fibre entry points, indoor signal strength, rooftop access for antenna installations, readiness for Wi-Fi and 5G, and ease of access for operators to deploy or maintain services.

Representing the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Shri Abhishek Sharma, Scientist 'B', spoke on the key revisions proposed in the National Building Code (NBC) 2016 related to Information and Communication Enabled Installations, emphasising the importance of harmonising building standards with emerging telecom infrastructure needs.

The workshop featured interactive discussions and a dedicated Q&A session where senior officers and technical experts exchanged insights on aligning planning, policy and implementation to address indoor connectivity gaps and ensure consistent quality.

This framework aligns with flagship national programmes such as Digital India and Smart Cities Mission, supporting the long-term goal of inclusive, high-quality digital access for every citizen.

TRAI will continue its stakeholder engagement through such workshops, consultations and capacity-building initiatives to facilitate the creation of robust digital connectivity infrastructure in the country.



Shiv Kumar Batalvi

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BCCL PIONEERS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN HEALTHCARE AND TECHNICAL DOMAIN



The Youth Spiritual Summit on the theme Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat culminated today at the Rudraksh International Convention Centre in Varanasi with the formal adoption of the Kashi Declaration. Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Summit brought together more than 600 youth leaders, representatives from over 120 spiritual and socio-cultural organizations, academicians, and domain experts. The event marked a defining moment in Bharat's journey toward a drug-free society by 2047.

This gathering represented a national convergence of youthful energy, spiritual vision, and institutional resolve. The Summit featured four focused plenary sessions exploring key dimensions of substance abuse: its psychological and societal impacts, the mechanics of drug trafficking and supply chains, strategies for grassroots awareness campaigns, and the role of spiritual and cultural institutions in rehabilitation and prevention. These deliberations formed the foundation of the Kashi Declaration which is a visionary commitment to collaborative action against drug addiction, rooted in India's civilizational wisdom and youth leadership.

Speaking at the Summit, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, emphasized: "We have reflected deeply over the last three days across diverse thematic sessions. Based on this collective chintan, the Kashi Declaration is born, not just as a document, but as a shared Sankalp for the Yuva Shakti of Bharat."

These deliberations laid the intellectual and moral foundation of the Kashi Declaration, uniting diverse voices into a common national direction. The Kashi Declaration, formally adopted today, affirms a national consensus to treat substance abuse as a multi-faceted public health and societal challenge, and calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. It emphasises the integration of spiritual, cultural, educational, and technological efforts to prevent addiction, support recovery, and foster a national culture of sobriety. It proposes institutional mechanisms for multi-ministerial coordination, including the formation of a Joint National Committee, annual progress reporting, and a national platform for linking affected individuals to support services.

Building on the spiritual foundation of the summit, Dr. Mandaviya added:

"Bharat's Spiritual strength has always guided Bharat through its crises. This is why spiritual institutions must now lead the charge in creating a Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat. They will serve as the backbone of this MahaAbhiyan."

Echoing this spiritual ethos, Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, reflected on the cultural sanctity of the venue: "This sacred land of Kashi is the cradle of Sanatan Chetna (eternal consciousness), where discipline and values guide life's journey towards moksha. We are not just gathering; we are sowing seeds that will one day grow into a strong tree of national transformation."

He further cautioned: "If a nation where 65% of the population is youth falls prey to addiction, only those who break free from it will be able to build the future."

The culminating session of the Summit was marked by the presence of several distinguished dignitaries. The keynote address of Session 4 of Day was delivered by Shri Nitin Agarwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Excise and Prohibition, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Several dignitaries, including Dr. Virendra Kumar (Social Justice and Empowerment), Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Culture and Tourism), Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shri Anil Rajbhar, Minister of State, Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse (Youth Affairs and Sports), and Shri Girish Chandra Yadav (Sports Minister, Uttar Pradesh), participated in sessions for day 1, contributing valuable insights. Smt. Raksha Khadse highlighted the misuse of digital platforms targeting school children and reiterated the government's zero-tolerance policy under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's leadership.

Ajay Devgn-starrer Son Of Sardaar 2 postponed; to now release on August 1



Yash Raj Films Saiyaara has taken a surprise gigantic opening on the day of its release, July 18. The reports of the film are extremely positive, and hence, it will do better on Saturday than Friday. Meanwhile, Sunday will be huge and it'll also stay strong in the weekdays and the second week as well. In such a scenario, having a big film like Son Of Sardaar 2 just a week later will not be good for the business for both films. Hence, Ajay Devgn, Jio Studios and others took the decision of moving a week ahead with their film's release."

A trade expert commented, "It is a very wise and correct decision by the team of Son Of Sardaar 2. Saiyaara is unstoppable and with SOS 2's postponement, it'll get a healthy two-week run. Then, Son Of Sardaar 2 will arrive on August 1 and

take over. This way, it'll be a win-win situation for both the movies and also the exhibition sector at large."

The trade expert also said, "July has truly emerged as a great month for the industry. After Jurassic World: Rebirth, Metro...In Dino and Superman, now Saiyaara is killing at the box office. August, meanwhile, will also be exciting thanks to Son Of Sardaar 2 followed by War 2. Cinemas are back."

Besides Ajay Devgn, Son Of Sardaar 2 also stars Mrunal Thakur, Ravi Kishan, Neeru Bajwa, Deepak Dobriyal, Kubbra Sait, Chunky Panday, Sharat Saxena, Vindu Dara Singh, Roshni Walia, Sanjay Mishra, Ashwini Kalsekar and late Mukul Dev. It is backed by Jio Studios and Devgn Films, produced by Ajay Devgn, Jyoti Deshpande, N R Pachisia and Pravin Talreja and directed by Vijay Kumar Arora.

Saiyaara Off to a Strong Start This Week



Saiyaara is heading for a massive weekday performance, with Monday's advance bookings showing exceptional strength. Breaking norms, YRF has embraced the Tuesday ticket offer (Rs. 99/149/199), unlike recent hits Raid 2 and Sitaare Zameen Par. A trade expert noted, "Saiyaara's hype is immense. Even without discounts, Tuesday would've seen packed houses. YRF's decision makes the film more accessible without denting collections." Despite skipping the Rs. 99 pricing for front-row seats, the buzz is undeterred. Monday morning shows in cities like Mumbai, Jaipur, Bengaluru, and

Ahmedabad have reported near-full occupancy—rare for non-weekends. Theatres in Purnia, Bihar, are completely sold out. With this momentum, Saiyaara is expected to record double-digit figures on both Monday and Tuesday, potentially defying the usual Wednesday drop. A Mumbai multiplex manager added, "This feels like the pre-pandemic rush—morning shows packed with students and fans."

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**PIC OF
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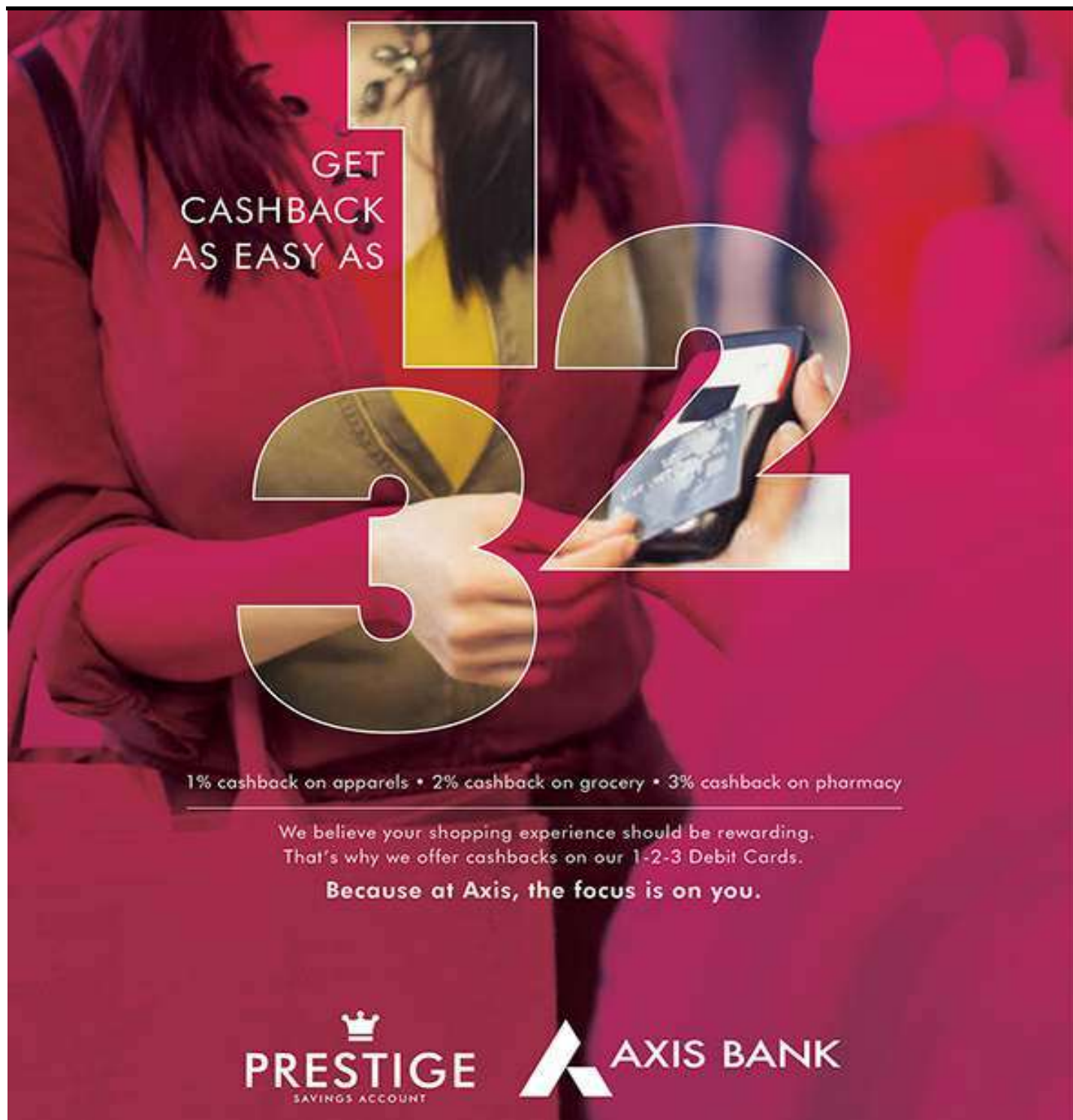
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