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

'Cheap politics': Congress hits back at BJP over its 'Rahul encourages violence'

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Monday slammed the BJP for accusing Rahul Gandhi of promoting violence against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that "cheap politics" should not be played when it comes to the security of leaders. The BJP had targeted the leader of opposition on Sunday following the assassination attempt on former US president Donald Trump. BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya said, "Third Time Fail Rahul Gandhi has often encouraged and justified violence against Prime Minister Modi, who he has lost election to, several times now. How can India ever forget how Punjab Police, then under the Congress, deliberately compromised PM's security, when his convoy was left stranded on a fly-over."



'Will deport those who came after 2015': Assam CM Himanta Biswa

NEW DELHI: Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday that those who came after 2015 would be deported as per the Citizenship Amendment Act rules. "Only two people have applied so far. Anybody (according to CAA) who has come to India before 2015, they have the first right to apply for citizenship," he said. "If they don't apply we will lodge a case

for them. So this is a statutory instruction. We will deport those who have come after 2015," he added. This comes after Sarma had said in March that CAA would be "completely insignificant" as there would be least applications in the state. "Only two persons have applied so far who came before 2015. Out of five applications, three were not

In response, Pawan Khera, head of

Congress' media and publicity department, stated that the Congress party has suffered losses due to terrorism, including Mahatma Gandhi, two prime ministers, and their entire Chhattisgarh leadership under the BJP government's watch. "Cheap politics should not be played on the issue of security of leaders. The Congress party lost Mahatma ji to Right Wing terrorists. We lost two prime ministers at the hands of terrorists. We lost our entire Chhattisgarh leadership to Left Wing terrorists, under the watch of the BJP government," he said. The assassination attempt on Donald Trump occurred when a young gunman fired multiple shots at the former US president during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, injuring his right ear.

Elgar Parishad case: SC refuses to grant interim bail to jailed activist Jyoti

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant interim bail to activist Jyoti Jagtap, who is in jail in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case. A bench comprising justices MM Sundresh and Aravind Kumar also adjourned the hearing on the main bail plea of the activist. "We are not inclined to give interim bail", Justice Subdresh said. Jagtap has moved the apex court challenging the October 17, 2022 order of the high court that refused to grant her bail, saying the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) case against her was "prima facie true" and that she was part of a "larger conspiracy" hatched by the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit. The high court had said Jagtap was an active member of the Kabir Kala Manch (KKM) group, which during its stage play at the Elgar Parishad conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017 gave not only "aggressive, but highly provocative slogans". The 2017 Elgar Parishad



SC dismisses deputy CM's plea to quash disproportionate assets case against him

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed Karnataka deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar's petition which challenged the CBI's FIR against him in the disproportionate assets case. Justices Bela M Trivedi and S C Sharma, who were part of the bench, expressed their unwillingness to

interfere with the Karnataka high court's order. The bench simply said, "Sorry. Dismissed." Shivakumar had approached the top court to contest the high court's decision from October 19, 2023, which had rejected his plea. The high court had also instructed the CBI to complete the investigation. been lodged at the Byculla women's prison in Mumbai since then. According to the investigators, provocative speeches that were allegedly made at the conclave triggered violence at Koregaon-Bhima on the outskirts of Pune on January 1, 2018.

Musk criticizes NYT for Trump-related opinion page after assassination attempt

Elon Musk on Monday criticised New York Times opinion page that asked voters to "reject" Donald Trump in the upcoming Presidential elections. The Tesla CEO called NYT "callous and despicable" for propagating anti-Trump views a day after the former US President got injured in a foiled assassination attempt at a rally in Pennsylvania. "The New York Times just published this about Trump today. They are truly callous and despicable human beings. Not a shred of empathy," he said in a post on X with a pictures of the NYT opinions page. "He failed the tests of leadership and betrayed America. Voters must reject him in November," the NYT opinions page said.

IAS Puja Khedkar's gun-toting mother, father 'on the run' after FIR



NEW DELHI: The parents of IAS officer Puja Khedkar are on the run following the filing of an FIR against them for allegedly threatening a farmer. The development comes amid heightened media scrutiny of Khedkar, who recently sparked controversy with her demands for a separate cabin and staff during her posting in Pune. Puja is also accused of using a private luxury car with a VIP number plate and red-blue beacon, during her tenure at the Pune collector's office. Separate teams of Pune police visited the Baner bungalow of Puja's mother, Manorama Khedkar, on Sunday, but received no response despite repeated attempts to make contact. Pune Rural SP Pankaj Deshmukh stated, "The accused are on the run. We are trying to contact them, but their phones are switched off. We have also visited their residence, but they were not available. Several teams, including local crime branch officials and local police stations, are searching for them in Pune and nearby areas where they have other residences and farmhouses." The case was filed on Friday night after a video surfaced showing Manorama Khedkar, accompanied by private bouncers, brandishing a pistol on June 5, last year, during an argument with farmers over a land ownership dispute. On Saturday, police recorded statements from witnesses in Dhadawali and conducted a spot panchnama. At 7 am on Sunday, officials from the Paud police and the Rural police's local crime branch arrived.

Google reportedly set to make its biggest-ever acquisition with this US-Israeli company

Alphabet is in discussions to acquire cybersecurity start-up Wiz for approximately \$23 billion, marking a potential game-changer in their security offerings. The deal, if finalized, would be a significant move for Alphabet into the cybersecurity realm, enhancing their cloud protection capabilities. Both companies are yet to comment



on the ongoing talks. Google reportedly set to make its biggest-ever acquisition with this US-Israeli company, Alphabet, Google's parent company, is reportedly in talks to acquire cybersecurity start-up Wiz for about \$23 billion, in what would be the largest acquisition in the company's history. According

to a report in Wall Street Journal (WSJ), the discussions are still in process and could fall through, with a number of details still needing to be ironed out. If through, the deal would be a major test for antitrust regulators, who have been increasingly scrutinizing acquisitions by tech giants in recent years.

Deepinder Goyal is now a billionaire as Zomato shares rally 300% in just 2 years



Zomato's co-founder Deepinder Goyal's entrepreneurial journey began while working as a management consultant at Bain & Company, where he noticed the daily inconvenience faced by people in the pantry when ordering food. Deepinder Goyal is now a billionaire as Zomato shares rally 300% in just 2 years. Zomato, once criticized as a loss-making startup, has experienced a remark-

able turnaround. Deepinder Goyal, the co-founder and CEO of Zomato, has recently joined the elite group of billionaires in India. This achievement is a result of his 4.2% stake in the company, which has seen its shares skyrocket by over 300% in just two years. Goyal, who studied at IIT Delhi, owns approximately 36.95 crore shares in Zomato, which are now worth around Rs 8,400 crore, making him a billionaire in US dollar terms, according to an report. Driven by an increase in platform fees, the new-age stock surged over 4% on Monday, reaching a fresh all-time high of Rs 232.

Arvind Kejriwal only lost 2kg in prison, says Tihar jail after AAP's 'unexplained weight loss' claim

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: The Tihar jail administration and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are engaged in a tense dispute regarding the well-being of Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal during his imprisonment.



The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday alleged an "acute" health risk to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal while in judicial custody. Delhi cabinet minister Atishi stated that Kejriwal, a severe diabetic, has experienced dangerously low sugar levels and significant weight loss. 'Arvind Kejriwal suffering from serious ailment, lost 8.5kg since March 21' At a press conference in New Delhi, Atishi said, "The BJP has con-

spired to put Kejriwal in jail in a fake case. There is an acute danger to his health. His weight has declined by 8.5 kgs and his sugar levels have fallen below 50 five times in sleep. This is a worrying situation especially for a diabetic." In response, Tihar Jail administration dismissed the Aam Aadmi Party's claims about Arvind Kejriwal's well-being on Monday, asserting that the Delhi Chief Minister's vital signs were within normal

ranges. Tihar jail administration has released a comprehensive update on the Chief Minister's health condition, addressing the concerns raised about his alleged 8.5 kg weight loss. Tihar jail sources stated that Kejriwal had only lost 2 kg and was under regular monitoring by an AIIMS medical board. According to Kejriwal's health report provided by Tihar sources, he weighed 65 kg upon his initial arrival at the

prison on April 1 and maintained a weight of 66 kg between April 8 and 29. When he returned to prison on June 2 following a 21-day bail, his weight was recorded at 63.5 kg. As of July 14, his weight had decreased to 61.5 kg, indicating an effective weight loss of 2 kg. The prison administration has written to the Delhi government's Home Department, rejecting the AAP's allegations regarding Kejriwal's health.

Vikram Misri assumes charge as Foreign Secretary of India

NEW DELHI: Vikram Misri assumed the charge of foreign secretary of India on Monday. The ministry of external affairs (MEA) expressed warm regards and best wishes to foreign secretary Misri for a successful tenure ahead. "Shri Vikram Misri assumed charge as foreign secretary today. #TeamMEA extends a warm welcome to foreign secretary Misri and wishes him a successful tenure ahead," said MEA spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal in a post on X. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal made by the ministry of external affairs for appointing Vikram Misri as the next foreign secretary, succeeding Vinay Mohan Kwatra as foreign secretary.

Messi, Rohit and now Messi again - The trophy walk version 3.0



Vatika Times
Rohit Sharma's 'Lionel Messi-esque' celebration following India's victory in the T20 World Cup 2024, held in the Americas at a packed Kensington Oval in Barbados, remains vivid in the minds of cricket fans. This slow-walk gesture, reminiscent of football star Lionel Messi, gained popularity when Messi celebrated in a similar fashion after leading Argentina to the FIFA 2022 title in Qatar. Messi delighted his fans once again with another slow-

walk celebration after Argentina clinched their record 16th Copa America title. They defeated Colombia 1-0 with an extra-time goal from Lautaro Martinez, overcoming delays caused by thousands of ticketless fans attempting to enter the stadium. During a conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rohit Sharma revealed that spinners Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav suggested the distinctive walk to make their podium moment.

Organization and workers paramount, laudable statement:

Pawan Srivastava

A wonderful statement that prioritizes the organization and its workers

Prayagraj: While praising the energetic address of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya at the Bharatiya Janata Party State Working Committee B held on Sunday in Lucknow, senior leader and councillor of Bharatiya Janata Party Pawan Srivastava, The statement given was described as a statement of upliftment and respect for the organization and the workers and further, while reviewing the Lok Sabha elections of the year 2024, he cited the absolutely true reason. At present, the fabric of social harmony in the entire state is not being maintained by the government officials. The medium has deteriorated and due to this the officials have become uncontrolled and are neglecting the workers. He further said that the worker who has dedicated his entire life to the organization and the party is being mentally tortured today, which the Deputy Chief Minister has seen and understood closely. In the present government, the government posts which the workers should get and all the government posts are teasing the workers; this is not fair at all.



Free medical camp organized for azadars of Hussain

Prayagraj: A free medical camp was organized for the azadars of Hussain who celebrated Mahe Moharram in the memory of the famous poet late Shams Allahabadi.



A free medical camp was organized under the supervision of senior journalist Shams Taj in which Dr. Shabi Ahmed, Dr. Alok Chandra, Dr. Naz Fatma, Dr. Asad Mahmood, Dr. Abhishek Kanojia Dr. Zafar, Dr. Jamshed Ali, Dr. Naved Shaikh, Dr. Shoaib Rafat, Dr. Shifa Dr. Mamun and other staff and nurses examined gynecology, ear, nose, throat, eyes, dental. Along with free testing of blood sugar and blood pressure etc., free medicines were also distributed.

Meeting of Pari Akhara held

Prayagraj: The meeting of Pari Akhara was held in the courtyard of Pari Akhara on Sangam Ghat Road, in front of Akshay Vat, near the new Yamuna bridge, under the chairmanship of Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Sri Sri 1008 Nutne Shwari Dr. Rekhamani Pari Ji Maharaj with vari-



ous officials. In the meeting, various aspects of efficiently conducting the upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela 2024 were discussed. In this meeting, Jagatguru Dr. Kiran Triveni Ji Maharaj urged the administration to demand land and all other facilities at the main site of the Kumbh Mela. So that all the religious rituals of the Akhara can be completed on time. The officials present brainstormed on whether these facilities should be provided on time - Sadhvi Lakshmi, Sadhvi Vara, Sadhvi Ritambhara, etc attended.

Sai Life Sciences Limited files DRHP with SEBI

Varanasi: Sai Life Sciences Limited ("SLSL" or "The Company"), has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). Sai Life Sciences provides end-to-end services across the drug discovery, development, and manufacturing value chain, for small molecule new chemical entities ("NCE"), to global pharmaceutical innovator companies and biotechnology firms. The Company plans to raise funds through offer of equity shares (face value ₹ 1 each) through initial public offerings. The offer comprises of fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating up to Rs. 800 crores and offer for sale up to 61,573,120 equity share

by Selling Shareholders. Sai Life Sciences proposes to utilize net proceeds from fresh issue towards- (i) Repayment/ prepayment, in full or part, of all or certain outstanding borrowings availed by Company to ₹ 600 crores and (ii) for General corporate purposes. The Equity Shares that will be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"). Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, IIFL Securities Limited, Jefferies India Private Limited and Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the issue.

Prof Avanish Kr Dubey elected as Chairman & Er. UP Srivastava, Honorary Secretary of Institution of Engineers (India) All India Centre

IEI established in 1920 with its Headquarter located in Kolkata

Prayagraj: Dr. Avanish Kumar Dubey from MNNIT Allahabad, Prayagraj has been elected as Chairman for the Institution of Engineers (India) - IEI Allahabad Local Centre. Dr. Dubey is a senior Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at MNNIT Allahabad. He is President of MNNIT Teachers' Association and Working President of MNNIT Alumni Association, as well. He has also represented the State Centre Committee of IEI from Production Engineering Division. Dr. Dubey is a well known academician and researcher and has appeared in the world's top 2% scientists during year 2021 and 2022. He has served as Governing Council

member of PAN NIT Alumni Forum. In the meeting of Executive Committee of IEI Allahabad Local Centre held on July 14, 2024 Er. U. P. Srivastava has been elected as Honorary Secretary, as well for the tenure 2024 - 26. Er. Srivastava, an Ex. Workshop Superintendent of IERT, Prayagraj has been the President of IERT Teachers' Association. Er. V. B. Singh (IEI National Council Member), Er. V.P. Singh (Honorary Secretary, IEI U. P. State Centre), Er. R. P. Upadhyay (Chairman, IEI Allahabad Local Centre), Er. G.C. Dubey (Ex. Director, U. P. Jal Nigam), Prof. L. K. Mishra (Dean Academics,



MNNIT Allahabad), Er. Vikas Rai and other Executive Committee members have congratulated the new office bearers.

The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI) is the largest multi-disciplinary professional body of engi-

neers, established in 1920 with its Headquarter located in Kolkata with the responsibility to promote the general advancement of engineering amongst its members and persons attached to the Institution. The Institution has been

serving the engineering fraternity for over a Century with its national and international presence through 124 Centres spread all over India, 6 Overseas Chapters, 7 Fora and an Organ namely Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad. The Institution encompasses 15 (fifteen) engineering disciplines with a Corporate membership of over 2 lakhs. IEI has been recognized as Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and besides conducting its own research, provides Grant-in- Aid to UG/PG/PhD students of Engineering Institutes & Universi-

ties. The Institution of Engineers (India) is the first professional body to represent India in several International Bodies, such as the World Mining Congress (WMC), the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the Commonwealth Engineers' Council (CEC), the Federation International du Beton (fib), and the Federation of Engineering Institutions of South and Central Asia (FEISCA). It also has bilateral agreements with a number of professional societies across the globe. Prof. Dubey and Er. Srivastava will take over the charges during General Body Meeting to be held in October, 2024.

Budha Tajiya of Kareli: Symbol of 25 years of tradition and reverence

Prayagraj: Budha Tajiya of Kareli was lifted with great pomp and reverence on the 7th of Moharram, from the Imambara at Karamat Chowki in Karali, Prayagraj. Amidst the resounding chants of 'Ya Ali Ya Hussain', this tazia came out of Karamat Shah Baba's street, passed through its Kadimi route, moved towards 60 feet road via Abubakar Masjid, 16 Market, Labor Square and finally brought back to its Imambara. The tradition of lifting this Tajiya was carried out under the patronage of Sabir Paanwala. According to the local people, this Budha Tajiya has been raised continuously for the last 25 years, and this tradition is performed every year with great devotion and gaiety. The specialty of the Budha Tajiya is its historical significance and its emotional connect with the local people.

There is wide participation of the local community to raise it on the occasion



of Moharram. People come out of their homes and walk on the streets with Tajiya and show their respect by joining the prayers of 'Ya Ali or Hussain'. This scene becomes a symbol of social and religious unity in Kareli. Every year, special care is taken for decoration and lighting along the Yatra route of Tajiya. Tajiya is decorated with roses and jasmine flowers. During the procession, focus light is shown on the Tajiya, due to which a wonderful view of the light falling on the Tajiya is seen. Water, sherbet and tabruk (prasad) are organized by the local people at every place located on the route of Tajiya. This is an example of social service, where everyone together makes this religious journey successful. The residents of Kareli see this tradition not only from a religious point of view, but also as a symbol of social unity and brotherhood.

Teachers' group should become architects of change: BSA

Prayagraj: He said the above things in the meeting of development block level teachers' group, District Basic Education Officer Praveen Kumar Tiwari. During this, he also said that whatever online arrangements are there, they have been made for departmental cooperation and convenience of teachers. The work of teachers will gradually be-



come easier with the online system. A teachers' group meeting was organized on BRC in development block Kaurihar, in which Block Education Officer Kshamashankar Pandey along with all the teachers' groups of Nyaya Panchayat including ARP Jai Singh, Prabhashankar Sharma, Vishnu Kumar Mishra and Ajmal Amin Ansari were present.

Ankita secured 4th position in first attempt in CA exam result

Prayagraj: In the declared results of Charter Accountant (CA) final exam, Ankita Verma achieved a big position by securing fourth position in her first attempt among only twenty passed candidates from entire Prayagraj, have achieved. On this success of Ankita, there is a wave of happiness among the family members as well as the relatives who know her. There is a rush of people congratulating at home. Let us inform you that Ankita's mother Sunita Verma, originally a resident of Vishujan village of Meja, resident of Hal Muqam ADA Colony, Naini, is educated till graduation and helps in running

a skilled household along with helping her husband in his business. He is a maker and his father is NK Verma,



a well-known senior advocate of the Income Tax Department with a friendly and cheerful nature, who always helps the needy and

actively participates in social causes. Ankita is the eldest among her siblings, who was born in Was very bright right from the beginning. After completing her studies from Bethany Convent School Nanny to Intermediate with good marks in the year 2020, she started studying CA and has achieved this success in her very first attempt. Ankita's younger sister Priyanka is a final year B.Tech student from an engineering college in Gwalior and the youngest brother Arpit is studying Intermediate from St. John's School and he also wants to become a CA in the footsteps of his elder sister.

Ayub Khan prepared stage for new artists

Prayagraj: Social worker Ramkumar Pal and business tycoon Nikesh Jain Madhani honored Ayub Khan Prayagraj: Noted Film Producer Director Ayub Khan, a native of Prayagraj is an award winning director, he has won several International Film Awards

Majnu fame) in dual roles. Ayub Khan is also associated with the TV show 'Banegi Apni Baat', interestingly, R Madhavan made his debut in the film industry with this show. After this he worked with Mr. Swaroop Kumar in the films "Andha Interekram" and

"Zameer Ki Awaaz". 'Agni Morcha', which featured veteran actors like Dharmendra, in the year 2000, he made films like "Jahan Tum Le Chalo" as a production designer, "Be- Laagam" as story and executive producer, "Musa The Most Wanted" - As the Creative Director Mr. Khan realized that he should also upgrade his process and working techniques to flow with the system. The company has released films like Murder Madhuri, Yeh Toh Bahut Hoga and Dare You and has many more films in the pipeline, including 3 Dev starrer KK Menon, Prosenojett, Kar etc.

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Adani Group to provide 11 lakh saplings for Indore, as part of its vow to plant 100 mn trees

51 LAKH TREES TO BE PLANTED IN INDORE

Lucknow: As part of its pledge to plant and nurture 100 million trees by FY30, the Adani Group has joined forces with the Madhya Pradesh Government and will be providing 11 lakh saplings, out of 51 lakh trees to be planted in Indore. The green drive is in line with the group's commitment to a sustainable future.

Expressing concerns over the rising temperatures recorded this year, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav and Cabinet Minister, Madhya Pradesh, Kailash Vijayvargiya had taken a pledge to plant 5.5 crore trees across 55 districts in

the state. This is part of the larger 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign initiated by the Prime Minister with a target to plant 1.4 billion trees across the country.

Of the 51 lakh trees that would be planted in Indore, the Adani Group will provide 11 lakh saplings. The saplings would be of 25 different species that would help create biodiversity in the city's green zone.

About Adani Group's 100 million trees pledge: The Adani Group has pledged to grow 100 million trees by 2030 on It.org, the World Economic Forum's "Trillion Trees Platform". This commitment makes it one of the most ambitious



corporate commitments ever made on It.org so far. This includes 29.52 million trees which the group has already planted and has pledged to conserve. As a responsible business group, Adani aims to contribute to the global sustainability agenda. This pledge will support Adani Group's action towards addressing climate change and its ambition to transition to a low-carbon and subsequently carbon-neutral and net-zero business. It recognizes that trees are an important carbon sink, they enhance biodiversity and are essential for a healthy planet and healthy people. The pledge is

aligned with India's nationally determined contribution (NDC) commitment under the Paris Agreement where the country has committed to create an additional carbon sink to sequester 2.5-3.0 billion tons of CO2.

Curtains to be drawn over Rath Yatra Mahotsav today

Prayagraj: Rath Yatra Mahotsav closing program will be organized by Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust on 16th July at 5:00 pm at Lord Jagannath Ji's Dham in Kashiraj Nagar Prayageshwar Nath Temple.

Youth should focus on polishing their inner abilities and developing new identity: Kapil Dev Aggarwal

IMMENSE POSSIBILITIES FOR SKILLED YOUTH IN EVERY FIELD

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Skilled youth have immense potential in every field. Skilled youth can provide employment to other people by starting self-employment through their skills. The youth need to update their skills according to the changing environment, so that their skills can get proper recognition. These things were said by the state's Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Kapil Dev Aggarwal. The Skill Development Minister inaugurated the program organized at Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission, Lucknow on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day on Monday by lighting the lamp. While congratulating the youth on World Youth Skills Day, the Skill Development Minister said that the various employment opportunities arising as a result of the important schemes being run by the state government under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the

leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, have made available to skilled youth. Special emphasis is being laid on skill training. Being an agricultural state, he informed the youth about the jobs available in the field of sugarcane production and the huge demand in the market for people having knowledge of foreign languages as translators and interpreters. He also appealed to the youth to do whatever work they do with full dedication so that they can achieve higher economic achievements in their life. He said that Yogi government is running various types of courses to make the youth skilled. Work to improve your skills by taking admission in these courses as per your interest. Work is being done to skill the youth, improve the skills of the youth and upgrade the skills of the youth.

ITOT, ITI trainees who performed excellently in skill competitions and other important examinations were also rewarded by the Skill Development Minister. On



this occasion, saplings were also planted in the Mission premises by the Skill Development Minister and other guests present and officials of the Mission. Principal Secretary M. Devraj said that the State Government is working to connect the youth with employment along with education. For this purpose, along with education, children are also being provided with skill training. He asked the youth to give place to skillful courses also

in their education. Employment and self-employment opportunities will be available through the certificate obtained from doing a skilled course. Giving examples of special schemes currently being run by the department, the youth present were motivated to acquire skills and learn foreign languages.

AKTU Vice Chancellor Prof. JP Pandey is providing support in various special projects with the mission. He described the role

of skill development as the most important in the innovative efforts being made to become a 5 trillion economy at the national level. He also expressed happiness over the mission becoming an assessment agency and awarding body and expressed the possibility of it removing the obstacles in evaluation. Rajneesh Arora, Director of the Regional Center of Central English and Foreign Languages University, while explaining the usefulness and impor-

ance of foreign language in the present scenario, inspired them to get training in various foreign languages through the Mission so that they can become capable and get employment in foreign countries also.

Prominent scientist from Indian Sugarcane Research Institute, Prof. Dilip Kumar highlighted the potential of skills in various industries related to sugarcane production and in this regard, informed how the institute will help in making them self-reliant by training in sugarcane related skills. In the welcome address, Mission Director Abhishek Singh gave brief description of the need for skill development and the work being done by the Mission was presented by Priya Singh. The program was conducted and the vote of thanks was given by Additional Mission Director Priya Singh. On this occasion, other officers and employees of Mission, ITOT, SCVT and trainees and students were also present.

Newly constructed cowshed inaugurated in Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi, entry of cow progeny

Prayagraj: On the third day of the three-day ritual for the inauguration of the cowshed in Shri Baghambari Gaddi, the entry of the cow progeny was done. Before this, the newly constructed and modern cow shed was inaugurated by Mahant Balveer Giri Ji Maharaj of Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi, Chief Guest Niranjani Akhara Mahamandaleshwar Maheshanand Ji Maharaj, Mahant Hargobind Puri Ji Maharaj, Mahant Keshavpuri Ji Maharaj,



Mahant Naresh Giri Ji Maharaj, Mahant Onkar Giri Ji Maharaj, Mahant Radhe Giri Ji Maharaj did it. In the morning, idol consecration, cow worship and consecration havan were performed. The three-day ritual for the cow shed at Shri Baghambari Gaddi was formally inaugurated by Mahant Balveer Giri Ji Maharaj of Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi on July 13. During this time, apart from the sages and saints of Niranjani Akhara, Brahmins from North and South were also present. On July 15, idol consecration, cow worship, Pratishta Havan Purnahuti took place in the morning and Maha Sudarshan Havan, Digbali Puja took place in the evening. After the inauguration of the cow shed in the afternoon, the cows were garlanded and entered into the cow shed after performing aarti. At the same time, on 16th July in the morning, Lakshmi Narayan Hridaya Havan, couple worship and Brahmin worship will be performed. Mahants and Khadarshan Sadhus of Niranjani Akhara, Juna Akhara, Mahanirvan Akhara, Atal Akhara, Aavahan Akhara, Anand Akhara, Panchagni Akhara, Nagpanthi Goraknath Akhara, Vaishnav Akhara, Udasin Panchayati Bada Akhara, Udasin Naya Akhara, Nirmal Panchayati Akhara and Nirmohi Akhara participated in the program. Sadhus of the society were also present.

People troubled by unannounced power cuts: MP Ujjwal

15-18 hours power missing in Jamunapar

Prayagraj: Allahabad MP Ujjwal Raman Singh said that the public has been troubled by the unannounced power cuts. The MP has repeatedly visited Jamunapar areas and observed that electricity remains missing for 15-18 hours in the entire Jamunapar due to which there is a lot of anger among the public and they keep filing complaints. It is being said that in this scorching heat it is becoming difficult to survive without lights and at the same time it is the time of transplantation of paddy, there is no rain, electricity is not available for irrigation, due to this the sowing is also lagging behind and in the months of Moharram power cuts are extremely painful. SP State Secretary Vinay Kushwaha said that taking the public's complaint seriously, MP Ujjwal Raman Singh immediately spoke to the Energy Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government AK Sharma on telephone and said that when Kunwar Revati Raman Singh was the Electricity Minister, he had declared the entire Jamunapar as Bundelkhand due to which electricity was

supplied for 20 hours. But today the situation has become such that there are many villages where electricity remains missing for 20 hours. He told the Minister that Jamunapar should be declared at par with Bundelkhand. In relation to the fact that



the Jamunapar area should be devoid of unannounced power cuts, the Minister told the MP that there is a huge difference between demand and supply due to which cuts are being made and there will be improvement soon.

Upendra Chandra Joshi assumes charge of GM, North Central Railway

Joshi holds meeting with Officers and outlines priorities- Safety, punctuality and customer satisfaction

Prayagraj: Upendra Chandra Joshi, officer of Indian Railway Traffic Service, assumed the charge of General Manager of North Central Railway. Earlier he was working as Principal Chief Operations Manager Northern Railway. The new General Manager is a 1988 batch officer and has served Indian Railways in various capacities.

Apart from his vast experience in traffic related issues, he also has a vast experience in general administration. Joshi started his Railway Service as Asstt. Operations Manager, Samastipur, thereafter worked as DOM & DCM Lucknow followed by posting as Sr. DOM Varanasi & Izzatnagar Divisions respectively. He has also served as the Dy Chief Operations Manager and Dy. Chief Commercial Manager at Northeast Frontier Railway. Then he also worked as Dy. Chief Operations

Manager at NWR headquarter and as Sr. DCM Jodhpur.

Upendra Chandra Joshi served as CCM/IT in Northern Railway and also worked in CRIS, where he had immense contribution as project head in implementation & integration of Control Office Application (COA) resulting in automation of control offices which are known as the nerve center of Railway operations. COA is the base of National Train Enquiry System which gives real time online train running information to Indian Railway passengers. He also held important positions as EDPM in Railway Board, Divisional Railway Manager, Kota and Joint Secretary in Ministry of Mines.

Joshi original descendant of Almora, Uttarakhand had early education from Ranikhet Almora followed by Bachelor and Masters degree in

Chemical Engineering from prestigious IIT, Kanpur. IR is directly connected



to public through its services, so to facilitate the public through our actions & deeds derives inspiration to Joshi. He also wishes to contribute in qualitative improvement in transport section.

Today after formally taking the charge Upendra Chandra Joshi held meeting with all the Principal heads

of departments. All the Divisional Railway Manager also joined the meeting

through video conferencing. While addressing the meeting Shri Joshi outlined his priorities. He said there has been quantum jump in infrastructural and passenger amenities fronts in last 10 years. Due to public orientation of these efforts, there is mark improvement in customer interface. There is also improvement in staff orientation, earlier they used to work for railways only, now our frontline staff work to provide best services to esteemed customers. Presently we have a challenge to provide real time response to our customers, all of us should strive to achieve overcome the challenge & ensure timely

redressal of the queries and grievances.

We should also ensure Safe operations and instill confidence in public. He also emphasized on punctuality as its not just timetable but is our commitment to passengers to make them reach their destinations in time. He also said he should build infrastructure as it's the source to fulfill people's aspirations. He said we have to focus on Amrit Bharat Stations and fulfilling demands of freight customers. While talking about the ensuing Kumbh Mela, he said it is required to deliver as team in coordination with state, civil and mela authorities. He also desired that all the Kumbh related infra works must be finished in proper time frame and adequate number of additional special trains should be run, so as to avoid any inconvenience to pilgrims coming to Prayagraj.

Inter-House Aquatic Meet 2024-25 held at St. Joseph's College

Prayagraj: "Confidence comes from what you do in practice every single day so you have just got to let your swimming do the talking and have fun." - Jordan Milivovsky. Can you think of a hobby, a passion, a sport where every fibre of your being resonates with joy at the prospect of not just cooling it off in adverse weather conditions but also the thrill that accompanies every time you compete against likeminded people?

An art, a dance, a skill, a science, a way of life: swimming is the magic of buoyant limbs practising Archimedes' principle every time they test their mettle in a blue expanse. Naturally, the afternoon of 15th July, 2024 saw the students of St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj prove their prowess in the swimming pool, in the Inter-House Aquatic Meet 2024-25.

The contest compered by the incomparable commentators in the form of Dr. Vishnu Deb and Mrs. Madhulika D'Souza kicked

off with the arrival of the Chief Guest and the College Principal, Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva and the Additional Administrator, Mr. Aubrey Mc Gowan. The programme started with Mrs. S. Lyall leading the gathering of teachers, students and support staff in a Reading from the Holy Bible and a



prayer for all the students to give their best while not incurring any injuries.

Once Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva had declared the meet officially open, the O Division butterfly stroke athletes set the pace of the first sporting event of the year with their masterful strokes. Spread across a variety of events such as freestyle, back stroke,

breast stroke, butterfly stroke and relay, the students of all the four houses, Red, Green, Blue and Gold, the swimmers of O, A, B, C and D divisions simply outdid themselves both for the sake of their individual glory and their House colours.

Aided by the encouraging shouts of their mentors and their peers, the champions epitomized resilience, self-motivation and self-discipline. The dance of limbs weaving through the crisp and cool waters came to its fitting finale in the form of the first segment of Prize Distribution where Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva awarded the deserving champions, lauding them for their heroic efforts in the pool. Sharing anecdotes about his swimming days, Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva congratulated the students for excelling in the best exercise and was deeply appreciative of the teachers for

their commitment to their vocation. It was the turn of Mr. A. Mc Gowan to bless the winning sportsperson as they received awards from him for the amalgam of their constant efforts and skills. The Blue House came out on tops with a new record to boot, 1.12 in Relay, followed by Red House, Green House and Gold House in that order. The third segment of the Prize Distribution saw Mrs. Brenda Neogy, one of the seniormost teachers in the Junior Section, being asked to give away the awards to the Relay team of each House.

While many basked in the glory of their feats, it was Stavaya Agarwal of the Blue House who made a clean sweep with five Gold medals for each of the five events of the Annual Aquatic Meet. The events finally wrapped up with the overall results being announced where Red House, Blue House and Gold House came in the first, second and third place respectively.

Vijay Vaish to submit memo today

Prayagraj: Regarding public problems, on July 16 at 12:00 pm, BJP leader Vijay Vaish along with businessmen will submit a memorandum to the officials of Prayagraj Development Authority at Indira Bhawan Civil Line Prayagraj Development Authority office.

Procession taken with great pomp and show

Prayagraj: Seventh Moharram procession of Chakia Chak Niratul was taken out with great pomp and show. Peace Committee Chairman Chand Mian and Councilor Mohammad Azam, Parvez Siddiqui with Bharat Sindh, Mohammad Zaved Wasim with Ladley Mohammad Naseem accompanied the procession, leaving Chak Niratul from Himmatganj, Khulabad, Nakakohna Chowk, Johnstonganj, via Bada Tajija, Niranjan Talkies. By the same route back to Chakaniratul, the police administration was moving together, there was a lot of cooperation from the administration.

Battle of Karbala narrated in Majlis

Prayagraj: On the eighth of Mahe Muharram, the incident of bravery and bravery of Lashkar Hussaini's Alamdar Hazrat Abbas and the painful scene of the battle of Karbala was narrated in the Majlis. Maulana Syed Razi Haider Rizvi Saheb organized the eighth Majlis of Ashra at Imambara Deputy Zahid Hussain located at Chak Zero Road. Qibla expressed the thirst of Parcham-e-Abbas and other children. The Majlis started with Sozakhwani

of Manzar Al Hindi. Zuljanah was also taken out along with dozens of Alam. Nauhakwan Hasan Rizvi of Anjuman Haidaria and his colleagues read Purdard Nauha and echoes of Sada Ai or Hussain or Abbas were heard from everywhere. While a sixty year old procession of eighth Moharram was taken out from Daryabad, Maulana Aamir Rizvi gave a sad account of martyrdom. Anjuman Naqvia's Naukhawan Shahrukh Shabi Hasan read out the Kalam of Raunaq Safipuri. When the procession reached Masjid Imam Raza Alaihissalam, the members of Anjuman Naqvia performed the puja with chains armed with sharp knives. The procession concluded late at night by reaching Dargah Hazrat Abbas. Organizer Shabih Abdi thanked the mourners and the people participating in the procession. The

Nazrama of Maula Abbas was celebrated by decorating Dastarkhwan, on the eighth day of Moharram, after getting the permission from Hazrat Abbas, today in Daryabad, Ranimandi, Karailabagh, Bakshi Bazaar, Daira Shah Ajmal, Shahganj, Chak. A round of Nazro Niaz continued throughout the day in other localities including Zero Road. Khichra, Biryani, Korma Nand, Kebab Paratha, Kheer, Halwa, sweets and various types of sherbets were offered

to Hazrat Abbas and the martyrdom of Karbala. People expressed their devotion. Wherever you taste your blessings, pray for peace, relief from disease and halal sustenance. A procession of Duldul and Alam will come out of Mirganj on the ninth of Moharram. According to the spokesperson of Anjuman Guncha-e-Qasimya, Syed Mohammad Askari, on the ninth of Moharram at 8:30 pm, a procession of Duldul and Alam will be taken out from Imambara Late Razi Askari located in Mirganj. Anjuman Mohafizah Aza Qadeem Daryabad and Anjuman Abbasia Rani Mandi will end the procession late night at Mandara Agha Mahmood of Rani Mandi via Mirganj to Loknath Square, Kotwali Chadha Road, while always raising their voices and mourning.



Editorial

How Modi Outwitted His Opponents?

For a third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is returning. Since 1962, no prime leader has been able to pull this off. What is the size of this? For the BJP, what does that mean? What does it signify for the ruling Nehru-Gandhi dynasty and the Congress? Let's consider the major changes in Indian politics that have occurred since 2014 in order to comprehend this. An extraordinary incident happened in August 2017, yet at the time it was mostly overlooked. Sampatiya Uikey, a BJP member from Madhya Pradesh, took the oath of office as a Rajya Sabha member that same month. With that, the 65-year reign of the Congress as the biggest party in the Rajya Sabha came to an end, thanks to the BJP. The strength of a political party in state legislatures across the nation is reflected in the Rajya Sabha, demonstrating the Congress's political dominance in Indian politics. They could occasionally lose out in the Center. However, power was never distant from them. Even in the Lok Sabha election of 1999, which Vajpayee won, the Congress had a healthy 5% higher vote share than the BJP. As one might assume, there was some anti-incumbency sentiment in 2004. Vajpayee lost power with a mere 1% swing against the BJP. It used to be difficult for a non-Congress party to be reelected. This was an advantage that the Congress used to be well aware of. In 2010, P Chidambaram said, "The Congress party is something the BJP is jealous of." He had said, "The Congress party alone has the ability to rule the nation for five years, return to the people, seek a mandate, and win reelection." What has altered since 2014, then? The least we can say, Mr. Chidambaram, is that the BJP has nothing more to be "envious" of the Congress over. This makes three straight elections that the Congress has lost. Its percentage of the vote stayed between 19 and 21 percent in 2014, 2019 and 2024. By contrast, this is a far cry from the 28% that the Congress received in 1999! What changed that way? Currently, the BJP has a significant advantage over the Congress—more than 10%. In 2014, the BJP secured 31% of the vote; in 2019, that number rose to 36%; and in 2024, to 36%. In comparison, such figures have not been seen by the Congress since 1991. A few unsettling parallels exist between 2004 and 2024. Both times, exit polls were incorrect, and the BJP fared much worse than anticipated. The BJP lost roughly 1% of the vote in both elections. However, the BJP's national footprint in 2024 is far greater than the Congress's. They gained new supporters in Odisha, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh to offset the votes they lost in areas like Uttar Pradesh. The BJP's baseline was significantly higher everywhere. They still have twelve seats from the state, despite their defeat in Bengal. Similar to this, the BJP managed to win 33 seats in Uttar Pradesh in spite of setbacks. In total, the BJP had 303 seats heading into the 2024 election, compared to Vajpayee's meager 182 seats in 2004. It's possible that the BJP fell well short of "400 paar." But one thing was certain well before the polls ever started: the Congress would not come close to being the single largest party, which would be the BJP. It's likely that this was the first general election of its kind. Let's examine the Congress's performance in the three states where the party is now in power in order to determine whether or not they can govern for five years and be reelected. The party was defeated in all four Himachal Pradesh seats. They could only win nine of the twenty-eight seats in Karnataka. In Telangana, the Congress and BJP shared eight seats apiece, resulting in a draw. The state administrations controlled by Congress in the final two positions have only been in office for a short while and are already experiencing extreme anti-incumbency. This is a startling bit of information. In a large state, no one has been reelected to the Congress since 2011! Since then, the BJP has won two consecutive terms at the federal level and returned to power. In a number of states, including Uttar Pradesh.

Although the Lok Sabha Speaker election has been postponed, tensions still exist. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have both indicated that they want to carry on with business as usual. The opposition, however, does not appear to be as cohesive as the ruling coalition. As soon as the 18th Lok Sabha convened, the chinks were apparent. Giving Rahul Gandhi recognition as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) as of June 9, the day the Congress Working Committee announced his selection, was among Om Birla's first actions as Lok Sabha Speaker on June 26. On June 26, a different Rahul



Gandhi was evident. Wearing an elegant kurta pajama instead of the carefree white t-shirt that has become his signature look for the last two years, he approached the Treasury Benches with grace and accompanied Prime Minister Narendra Modi in guiding the Speaker to his platform. Compared to Rahul's brilliant gesture in July 2018, when he approached the Prime Minister across the House and gave him a hug, their handshake was very different. But this comradery was merely usual. The gap was shown by body language. After Modi was chosen Leader of the House, the two leaders did not shake hands, and the Congress did not properly congratulate him. Furthermore, the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) did not provide praise for the LoP. To choose significant appointees over the next five years, the PM and the LoP will need to meet together several times. In addition to serving as LoP, Rahul might chair the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which examines and takes action on the reports from the CAG (Comptroller & Auditor General of India). Rahul will remain in charge of the PAC even if he decides to designate a senior member of his party as its leader. Through its nomination of K. Suresh for Speaker, the Congress has signaled its symbolic return to power in Parliament. But the action also sparked criticism from Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC),

which had been at odds with the Congress while declaring its support for the opposition bloc. They both claimed not to have been told of the choice. The INDIA grouping appears to have encountered a communication difficulty already. Additionally, the Congress resolved not to request a division of votes when pro-tem Speaker Bhatruhari Mahtab proclaimed Om Birla as Speaker following a voice vote. But it was obvious that the TMC desired a split of the House. Later, congressional leaders made it clear that they disagreed with the TMC's position on the matter. When Birla read aloud a resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the declaration of emergency, divisions within the opposition were

also evident. In an attempt to get the Lok Sabha to denounce the era, he mentioned the Congress and its leader, Indira Gandhi. The Congress was left out in the cold despite its protests. Congressmen hurried to the Well of the House, but the Samajwadi Party, or SP (37 seats), the TMC (29), the DMK (22) and the Left parties (eight seats), did not accompany them. They didn't move from their seats, suggesting that they approved of the solution. The following day, these allies made a weak attempt to defend Congress, claiming that since it had expressed regret for the Emergency, no resolution was required. Together, these INDIA bloc parties hold 96 seats in the Congress, compared to 99 MPs.

Kalki 2898 AD- It also features computer graphics

Kalki 2898 AD is a story that spans millennia, featuring the largest stars, the most expensive canvas, a tale that begins in mythology approximately 5,000 years ago and ends in an imagined future 874 years hence. It also features computer graphics and visual effects, style and substance, youth, and experience. Will it be able to pull off a Baahubali, an RRR, or a Pushpa, since it is billed as the most expensive Indian film at ₹ 600 crore? Will it take center stage among the Tollywood productions that have shot to international acclaim and financial success? That is the question that is bothering everyone. Nag Ashwin does, after all, have a

reputation. With Mahanati, the biopic on the legendary actress Savitri, he worked magic and took home honors and accolades. And in his ten years as a director, this is only his third movie. It takes a great deal of self-assurance to dream this big. Using computer images and real-world art, Kalki skillfully moves the story over millennia, from the mythical Mahabharata into a technologically advanced distant future, all without causing too much fuss or trouble during the shift. There is even more melancholy to fast-forward into the future if there was war and dead from the battlefield ages ago. When it came to guiding deeds and events,

at least there was a Krishna, an Ashwattama, and a dharm. It's a wait now for a gloomy conclusion. An aging, withered God of The Complex who seeks to extract the life force from unborn children in order to obtain the ambrosia of strength and youth. It appears that women will not have any control over their own bodies in the future. Their sole responsibility is to conceive and raise children; they are not a member of the power system. Thus, even if you go through time a millennium, sexual harassment in the workplace persists. I found that among Deepika Padukone, Disha Patani, Shobana, and Mrunal Thakur,

the young, intelligent Malayalam actress Anna Ben, best known for Kumbalangi Nights, was the most remarkable. I would have preferred the woman who will give birth to God Kalki to have a more resilient personality. I would have delighted to see that movie produced by two young women. Prabhas is not a perfect example of a good-guy superhero. He is selfish, lazy, and only moves or acts when he feels threatened. The only thing that really excites him is the desire to see 'The Complex.' He is also willing to sacrifice even his godfather to defend himself. It's fascinating to note that in our idealistic future, a green environment

with actual fruits, vegetables, and animals is the ultimate goal. However, Prabhas's planet appears to be devoid of color, desolate, and life; it also has poor roads, and the only activity that seems to interest everyone is earning points. A comparison with our world of money. In an apparent attempt to give the rebel world—which is striving for a brighter tomorrow—a worldwide platform, the director purposefully added variety to the populace. Amitabh serves as the link between the past and present, and as could be expected, he gives his part and responsibilities gravity, easily coming out on top in the combat scenes with Prabhas.

The Unrealized Promise of Manufacturing

Making India a center for global manufacturing with the potential to generate millions of employment has long been the goal. But given India's size and standing as one of the fastest developing economies in the world, it's puzzling that the manufacturing sector's potential for job creation and expansion has been disregarded for so long. The incoming administration must enact a new industrial policy with strong action to remove the structural limitations that now exist and transform India's manufacturing industry to adapt to changes in global supply chains. This is essential if India is to reach a \$5 trillion GDP and become the third-largest economy in the world by 2027. The fact that 29% of young adults with graduate degrees are unemployed is concerning, especially considering that India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy. Manufacturing was the second-largest employment in India in 2019

after agriculture, but it is currently in fourth place, behind the trade, hotel, and construction industries. Despite its ability to generate a myriad of job opportunities, manufacturing employs just 11.6% of the population, with the majority—45.5%—working in construction, 12.4% in agriculture, and 5.5% in manufacturing, according to data from the National Sample Survey Organization (NSO). About 60 million people are still employed in India's manufacturing sector, but more has to be done to fully realize this industry's promise to create jobs for all. The industrial sector has not expanded much over the last 25 years, which has put a dampener on India's tremendous growth. India's industrial pattern has changed from agriculture to services-driven growth, in contrast to other nations. As a result, manufacturing now contributes only 15–17% of India's GDP, which is much less than in East and Southeast Asian nations.

Nepal-India Relationship Revisited in Kathmandu

Reclaiming India-Nepal Relations by KV Rajan and Atul K Thakur. This book combines the memories and observations of veteran ambassador KV Rajan with policy professional Atul K Thakur's macroeconomic insights for a unique perspective. Rajan served in Nepal for five and a half crucial years, from spring 1995 to March 31, 2001. Nepal democratized as it went from absolute to constitutional monarchy. The unexplained slaughter in Narayanhiti Durbar in June 2001 killed all but one monarchist, heralding the monarchy's downfall. Rajan was so valuable to the establishment that he was invited to advise on Nepal after retiring. Nepal continued to seek his advice after he stopped advising the Indian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, requiring numerous flights to Kathmandu. Rajan's generation is declining, while newer entrepreneurs like co-author Atul K Thakur are emerging, symbolizing a "aspirational new Nepal". Thakur and a greater half of Nepal are wedded to Janakpur. He edited former Nepal Finance Minister Madhukar Rana's book, 'An Alternative Development Paradigm for Nepal' and promoted India-Nepal economic collaboration. The formidable Rajan-Thakur duo takes the reader on a tour of Shangri-La, a Hindu Kingdom turned into a federal democratic republic by the Maoists using bullet and ballot. The book has three parts. First, Rajan recalls his Nepal trip. Transition of the Himalayan Kind, the second, cycles through every problem. Third section: Repurposing India-Nepal Relations. The last two sections, co-authored, combine historical and contemporary perspectives. For India, Nepal is the most important Himalayan neighbor, the former barrier between China and India with geostrategic routes from the

Himalayas to the strategic Indo-Gangetic heartland. India's security concerns stem from it. Consider that India shaped Nepal's turning points. This includes restoring the monarchy and sowing the seeds of democracy in 1950, supporting the 1990s democracy movement, ending the civil war in 2005-06, and facilitating the first Constituent Assembly elections to mainstream Maoists in 2008 that led to Nepal's new constitution in 2015. However, the fight over the rapidly produced constitution has damaged bilateral relations. Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar's attempt to postpone and change the constitution caused an unfortunate episode that the book ignores. It was another sloppy Indian mistake. Rajan says the uneven Koshi and Tanakpur barges made Nepalese wary of hydro-resources collaboration with India. The Tanakpur barrage, built illegally on Nepalese soil, cost GP Koirala his premiership. Rajan's greatest diplomatic achievement was the 1996 mega-Mahakali Treaty with the Communist UML government, signed by the Nepali Congress-led coalition. This pact was ratified by an unusual two-thirds majority in Parliament, according to the 1990 constitution. After arriving in New Delhi in 1996 with a new treaty draft, Foreign Minister Kamal Thapa mentioned the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, a recurring issue in bilateral relations. Non-reciprocalist Prime Minister Inder Gujral rejected this draft. The first major Kalapani dispute agitation, led by UML's Bamdev Gautam in 1999, coincided with Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh's visit, which raised awkward issues. Rajan handled it well. Rajan's "untold story" of the Palace slaughter stands out in the book. It is detailed and fueled by King Birendra's anxieties and his conversations.

Biden was unable to provide a response to that one crucial query

During the presidential campaign, US President Joe Biden had a rough day. Sadly, he was unable to purchase one. The Democratic party's disastrous performance in the US presidential debate has led to party officials becoming extremely concerned about the potential fallout. Republicans, however, were also concerned because Trump turned out to be Trump, lying all along and displaying his dubious morality. At one point, he even claimed that he had never had sex with a porn star—a genuinely

appalling level of political depravity in US presidential politics. Without a doubt, Trump exuded much more energy than Biden. The key distinction between the two candidates was evident, but the issue remains that it did not address the basic dilemma that faces American voters: whether to support an elderly candidate who is long past his prime or to hold their noses and vote for a disgusting hustler. The majority of Americans have already made their decision, and the tiny but significant group of unde-

ecided voters will likely discover that they have not moved closer to deciding. The problem facing the Democrats is that they have made poor decisions. Even Kamala Harris, Biden's vice president, acknowledged the man's sluggish start. There will be increasing calls for Biden to resign. But there are a few things to remember. First, if there are concerns about whether their own presidential candidate can win, neither party will ask them to withdraw. Democrats have portrayed this election as pos-

sibly catastrophic for the republic, but even prominent members of the party will find it difficult to urge Biden to resign. The only recent instance of a sitting president resigning was President Lyndon Johnson, who made the decision to do so after a challenging nomination battle during the height of the Vietnam War. different now that Biden has secured the nomination. In addition, Johnson pulled out at the end of March. Now, there are only four months left until the presidential election.

Paytm shares start flat on bourses after declining 3.74%

NEW DELHI:

Shares of One97 Communication, owner of brand Paytm, were trading flat on BSE and NSE. Shares were trading at 391.00, marking an increase of 0.68% or 2.65 points from its previous close at 09:27 am.

Earlier, shares of Paytm dropped by 3.74% to settle at 380.45 on Thursday, after hitting upper-circuit for four consecutive session.

The stock prices, on Wednesday rose to Rs 395.25 and Rs 395.05 on the BSE and NSE, respectively, defying broader market trends.

This surge follows Paytm's recovery from a recent slump, with its stock rebounding more than 21% from last Thursday.

Reports indicate that Enforcement Directorate (ED) found no significant violations of foreign exchange rules in its ongoing investigation into Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL). However, it came



across some lapses in the company's KYC processes and reporting of suspicious transactions. The scrutiny on Paytm has intensified as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightens oversight on fintech firms globally. Recent actions by the RBI include directing to cease certain operations of PPBL due to non-compliance issues, affecting One97 Communications despite its 49% stake in the banking entity. The RBI's stricter stance comes as concerns over customer due diligence, data privacy, and systemic risks prompt a reevaluation of oversight mechanisms, primarily

focusing on digital customer identification practices. In response, the RBI has increased inspections and meetings with fintech companies, aiming to tighten compliance and ensure the integrity of the financial ecosystem.

The evolving regulatory landscape may lead to higher compliance and capital requirements for fintech firms, potentially resulting in sector consolidation. Industry stakeholders like Ashish Fafadia of Blume Ventures believe this scrutiny will foster compliance and support investment in law-abiding companies.

Premature move on monetary policy front could undermine efforts to check inflation: RBI

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India's job to bring down inflation is not over, and any premature move on the policy front could undermine the success achieved so far on the price situation, according to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. According to the minutes of the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released by the central bank on Thursday, Das had said at this juncture, monetary policy must remain vigilant and "not assume that our job on the inflation front is over". He stressed that the MPC must remain



committed to successfully navigate the "last mile" of disinflation that can be sticky.

Das made the remarks while voting for status quo in the key interest rate earlier this month.

"As markets are front-running central banks in anticipation of policy pivots, any premature move may undermine the success achieved so far," the governor said, as per the minutes.

100% FDI in space sector a game changer: IN-SPACE chairman Pawan

BENGALURU: A day after the union cabinet, in line with the Centre's reforms to open up the space sector, allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route, space regulator and promoter Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre

(IN-SPACE) chairman Pawan Goenka termed it a "game-changing decision that will propel India to new heights in the space sector". Lauding PM Narendra Modi's vision Goenka said the move will boost participation of non-government entities in space research and man-

ufacturing. "By opening doors for massive investment and global collaboration, this move will transform India's space capabilities," he said. Elaborating on the impact, Goenka said that this reform comes at an opportune time when the space sector is witnessing massive growth.

CAPSULES

Byju Raveendran, board to skip 'procedurally invalid' extraordinary general meeting

MUMBAI: A day ahead of the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) which a group of Byju's major investors have called to seek removal of Byju Raveendran from position of CEO as well as a reconstitution of the firm's board, Byju's said that Raveendran and the board members will not attend the EGM which it said is "procedurally invalid." Following the resignation of representatives of Prosus, Peak XV Partners and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative from the board of Byju's in June last year, it has been reduced to a family-run entity, comprising Raveendran, his wife and co-founder Gokulnath and his brother Riju Raveendran. "This EGM is procedurally invalid, contractually in contravention of our AOA (Articles of Association) and SHA (Shareholders Agreement), legally on the wrong side of the Companies Act, 2013," a company spokesperson said in a statement on Thursday. Byju's said that with Raveendran and board members deciding to skip the EGM, it will not have the required quorum and cannot proceed to discuss or vote on the agenda. "As custodians of Byju's, it is the responsibility of the founders to respect the established procedures of law and protect the company's integrity," the company added. The EGM is supposed to take place on Friday morning, according to the EGM notice reviewed by investors claim that they will hold the EGM as per plan but if the resolutions are put to vote, then they will test the law in court, lawyers said.

Indians extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay: Uber CEO

BENGALURU: Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said that Indians are extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay. The Uber top boss was in conversation with Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani in Bengaluru on Thursday at an interactive session on building population scale technology. "India is one of the toughest markets out there. If we can succeed here, we can succeed anywhere," Khosrowshahi said. Uber is also planning to expand to low-cost service segments of two-



and three-wheelers in India. The company will be getting into bus services in some of the geographies. "It is also an extraordinary opportunity for us to expand our services to a wider population. We don't just want to be an upper-middle-class product. We want to be available to everybody."

Khosrowshahi said companies and govts around the world can learn from the scale and ambition of India's digital public infrastructure. He added that as a technology company, Uber views open-source tech stacks with a lot of interest and recognises the opportunities they bring for everyone.

Khosrowshahi said that Uber's approach has changed since the pandemic. As much as the focus is on the customers, he also said there is a growing focus on improving the experience for its drivers. Uber has signed an MoU with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app. Khosrowshahi said that Uber made \$3 billion in terms of profits during the pandemic.

Bank deposits losing sheen? Why more savers are moving to higher-yielding investment

One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. Bank deposits losing sheen? Indian banks are facing a significant challenge as the preference of urban savers shifts towards higher-yielding investment options like mutual funds and direct stock ownership. This trend is eroding the banks' biggest strength - access to low-cost current and savings account deposits. The rise of technology and the increasing familiarity with Dalal Street (the Indian stock market) among rural savers are



further intensifying the struggle for deposits in the banking industry. This democratization of technology is fundamentally changing the dynamics of financial savings, to the disadvantage of traditional high-street banks.

As of September 2023, the collective CASA ratio (current and savings account deposits) of all commercial banks in India stands at 40.5%, down from 43.1% in March 2023 and 45.2% in March 2022. This is a decline of nearly 5 per-

centage points in 18 months, according to report. One of the reasons for the decline in CASA ratios could be the increase in bank fixed deposit rates. State Bank of India's CASA ratio dropped to 41.18% as of December 31, 2023, a decline of 330 basis points compared to the previous year. P R Rajagopal, executive director of Bank of India, highlighted the shift in savings patterns, particularly in urban areas. Digitization has provided savers with access to alternative savings products like mutual funds, reducing their reliance.

'India to be small aircraft maker ATR's biggest market in 5 years'

NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air.



IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific, said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest mar-

ket. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given the government's focus on regional air transport through ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way India is developing, the actual number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is

Foreigners pursue every avenue to access hot India bond trade

Overseas investors are showing such keen interest in India assets that they are taking proxy exposure to the country even if they don't have the license or physical presence to trade there.

Foreign funds lacking direct access to India's \$1 trillion government debt market are increasing their exposure via instruments such as supranational bonds and swaps ahead of the nation's upcoming inclusion in global bond indexes. There's an "increased engagement from global investors, with momentum picking up this year," said Siddharth Bachhawat, head for markets at Barclays Bank India. "In addition to interest from index-tracking managers ahead of the inclusion, discretionary activity from a



wider investor base has also been notable." Indian sovereign bonds have gained prominence after JPMorgan Chase & Co's move to add them to its global debt indexes from June. The number of issuances by sovereign, supranational and agency entities offering investors an exposure to the country rose to a record in 2023, with the value of such offerings reaching \$3.2 billion, a five-year high, data compiled by

Bloomberg show. "There's been a marked increase in the sales of rupee-denominated supranational, sovereign and agency debt," said Wontae Kim, research analyst at Western Asset Management. Investors such as William Blair Investments and M&G Investments are venturing into supranational bonds. Issued by multilateral agencies like the World Bank and denominated in Indian rupees, these

triple-A rated notes give overseas investors exposure to local debt without having to secure a license to operate onshore. "Given India's disinflation trend and improved technical outlook with impending index inclusion, we favor duration in India," said Johnny Chen, fund manager at William Blair in Singapore. Also, buyers don't have to pay 20% withholding tax as these securities are settled offshore, which results in higher yields, according to Claudia Calich, head of emerging-market debt at M&G Investments in London. "Even if the pretax yield on supranational bonds tends to be lower than on India government debt, the yield is higher on an after-tax basis.

Attach bank accounts of ex-promoters of DHFL: Sebi

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi has ordered the attachment of bank accounts as well as shares and mutual fund holdings of Dheeraj Wadhawan and Kapil Wadhawan - former promoters of Dewan Housing Finance - to recover dues totalling over Rs 22 lakh. This came after the brothers failed to pay the fine imposed on them by Sebi in July last year in a case concerning the flouting of disclosure norms. The pending dues of Rs 10.6 lakh each from the Wadhawans comprise the initial penalty amount, interest, and recovery cost, it added. In July 2023, the regulator imposed a Rs 10 lakh penalty each on Wadhawans, who were promoters of DHFL, for flouting disclosure norms. Kapil Wadhawan was the chairman & MD, while Dheeraj Wadhawan was a non-executive director.

Did Ajit call Pune police commissioner after Porsche accident?

NEW DELHI:

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar on Monday confirmed that he had called the Pune police commissioner after the Porsche accident. Speaking to reporters in Mumbai, the deputy CM said, "As a people's representative, we receive calls regarding such accidents. I police commissioner and told him that the accused boy was from a wealthy family and there was a chance police might be pressured. I told him not to succumb to any political pressure." Earlier, Anjali Damania, a social activist, had claimed that he had called the Pune police commissioner after the Porsche accident.

Blaming the parents of the teen accused in the crash, Pawar said the parents ignored his behaviour which resulted in the death of two young professionals. "The minor's conduct in the Pune accident is highly irre-



sponsible. It happened because the teenager's parents ignored his behaviour. The son is in an observation home and his father and grandfather have been arrested," he said. Asked about his party MLA Sunil Tingare, who had visited Pune's Yerawada police station hours after the accident in the Kalyani Nagar area, Pawar said, "Tingare himself has clarified his stand. He later met me in Pune and presented his version. I have asked police officials to take strict action against cops or doctors who

tried to dilute the probe." Meanwhile, two doctors from Sassoon general hospital, arrested for destruction of evidence against the minor were sent to police custody till May 30. Another arrested employee of the hospital was also sent to 3-day police custody. The arrested individuals include the head of the hospital's forensic department. The accident, which occurred in the early morning of May 19, resulted in the deaths of two IT professionals when their motorcycle was by a speeding Porsche.

Paytm acquires five UPI addresses

Delhi: The parent firm of Paytm, One97 Communications, a prominent fintech business, has partnered with four banks to acquire five UPI handles. State Bank of India (SBI), Yes Bank, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank are these four banks. An update to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) website earlier this week indicated that this calculated step guarantees the continuation of UPI transactions for Paytm users. Of these, the well-known and currently in use @paytm is still up and running, so users can carry on with their transactions as usual. In



addition, in collaboration with Yes Bank, NPCI has approved the creation of the closed user group UPI handle @ptyes. The NPCI has also approved two additional handles: @ptsbi (in conjunction with State Bank of India) and @pthdfc (in association

with HDFC Bank). These handles won't become active right away, though. Users can utilize the @paytm handle without any issues, according to a Paytm representative. This event follows the clearance of Paytm's third-party application.

Badal brother-in-law is fired by SAD for anti-party activities

Delhi: Adesh Partap Singh Kairon (65), the brother-in-law of party president Sukhbir Singh Badal and a former cabinet minister, was kicked out of the SAD for 'engaging in anti-party actions'. Virsa Singh Valtaha, the SAD candidate from the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha con-



stituency, lodged a complaint against Kairon, citing his lack of involve-

ment in party affairs. Parneet Kaur, Sukhbir's sister, is wed to Kairon, the grandson of Partap Singh Kairon, the former chief minister of Punjab. He held three cabinet positions under Parkash Singh Badal's administration.

CAPSULES

TN govt. gives Covid-orphaned children Rs 430 crore

Delhi: Children who lost their parents to COVID-19 will receive Rs 430 crore from the Tamil Nadu government. A state government announcement said 382 Tamil Nadu children had lost both or one parent to Covid and related complications. The statement said it had allocated Rs 219 crore for girl protection. The state government would give 382 youngsters Rs 5 lakh apiece. Once they turned 18, they could withdraw Rs 19.10 crore with interest. The single parents of 13,682 children under 18 and nine Sri Lankan refugee youngsters received Rs 3 lakh each. The total was Rs 437.46 crore.

The statement stated government-announced free public bus travel for differently-abled and transgender people might save Rs 1000 per month. It gives 2.73 lakh girl students Rs 1000 under the 'Pudhumai Pen' scheme.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme helped 18.50 lakh students. Classroom attendance increased after the initiative was implemented, according to a Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission research. The statement added that widows and women abandoned by their husbands filled 25% of Anganwadi slots under the November 9, 2021 directive. The state government reported 1,26,637 ladies receiving Rs 1,047 crore in marriage subsidies. Of them, 68,927 received 8-gram gold coins and financial aid.

No personal coaches, media embargo under NRAI's Olympic shooting guidelines

Delhi: To prepare its players for the quadrennial spectacle, the National Rifle Association of India has imposed severe conditions on Paris Olympic shooters, including a "media blackout" and no personal coaches at the national camp. In its "national team protocol", the federation informs shooters that parents cannot "stay" or "visit" their wards at camps and that Pierre Beauchamp, the High Performance Director (HPD), must make an exception.

According to the NRAI's "NRAI Olympic Team Undertaking and SOP for Paris 2024 Olympic Games - Pistol/Rifle Teams" letter to Olympic-bound shooters, the goal is to "ensure the clarity of the training and readiness plan for Olympic Games Paris 2024 by the shooters and the National Team Coaches and Sport Science support." "It is essential to have effective organization, discipline, planned and dedicated training programmes for the best performance of

shooters participating as National Team India at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games," the note states. The letter states that only NRAI-approved personal coaches and sport science consultants with signed SOPs can assist the "National Training team for the concerned shooter(s) in assisting and/or discussing with the National Training Team under the leadership of the HPD and the chief coach (rifle and pistol)." Personal coaches without NRAI approval are prohibit-

ed. "The NRAI National Team program of the Olympic Games does not allow personal trainers, physiotherapists, nutritionists, or psychologists." Under "Media Blackout", the NRAI says shooters must avoid the media. "During the media blackout, athletes cannot speak to the media save on media-designated days that will be communicated to you (shooters). Before events, athletes will not speak to the media during NRAI Blackouts."

HC overturns JNV's admittance denial

Delhi: The Delhi High Court has ordered the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) to admit students from districts other than their own. Justice C Hari Shankar overturned the order to not admit a pupil to JNV, Mungeshpur, and said the child can be admitted in Class 6 of the 2024-25 academic year and remain there. A youngster who attended Navyug School at Peshwa Road in the national capital until Class 5 petitioned the high court for admission



to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6. The school denied admission to the girl because she was educated in New Delhi, not Mungeshpur, North West. A youngster who attended Navyug School at Peshwa Road in the

national capital until Class 5 petitioned the high court for admission to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, in Class 6. The school denied admission to the girl because she was educated in New Delhi, not Mungeshpur, North West. While

the matter is pending with a division bench, the student in the previous petition was allowed to continue studying at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur, as an interim measure. The high court overturned the petitioner's exclusion from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur. "The petitioner is entitled to Class 6 admission to the JNV (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mungeshpur) in 2024-25.

Uttarakhand will notify parents of children aged 18 to 21 and enlist live-ins online

Delhi: By the end of the year, Uttarakhand is anticipated to have adopted the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), and plans are underway to develop an online registration system for married individuals and cohabiting couples. Notably, this is the first time the government has revealed that live-in registration will be available online. Prior to this year's Lok Sabha elections, the topic of couples needing to register and being subject to government monitoring under the UCC's live-in provisions had been a major talking point among young people. The essential regulations have been drafted by a nine-member team headed by former chief secretary Shatrughan Singh; the document is expected to be fin-



ished by the end of June. By late 2024, according to officials, the Act's provisions will be put into effect. Singh stated to TOI, "Our goal is to simplify the online formality completion process for individuals." But because government employees require formal training, this procedure is complicated. In order to fulfill the deadline, we intend to create regulations and hold training sessions concurrently." He also mentioned that government officials, particularly those working

at the sub-registrar office, will receive training both offline and online, even at the village level. Singh emphasized that by eliminating the need for repeated trips to the registrar's office, the online facility will help government employees as well as couples. Even with the extra time needed, he continued, the strategy would be "comprehensive and fool-proof." "We have nothing against setting limitations or living together. Couples between the ages.

Sanand (Gujarat) headquartered Mamata Machinery Ltd files DRHP

GURUGRAM : Sanand (Gujarat) headquartered Mamata Machinery Ltd, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with stock market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Beeline Capital Advisors Private Limited is the sole Book Running Lead Manager to the Issue (BRLM).

The objects of the Offer are to (i) carry out the Offer for Sale of up to 7,382,340 Equity Shares by the Selling Shareholders; and (ii) achieve the benefits of listing the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges. The company will not receive any proceeds from the Offer, and all such proceeds will go to the Selling Shareholders. Mamata Machinery Ltd manufactures and exports plastic bags and pouch making machines, packaging



machines and extrusion equipment. The company provides end-to-end manufacturing solutions for the packaging industry. The company sells its machines under the brand name "Vega" and "Win" and as of May 31, 2024, the company has installed over 4,500 machines in 75 countries around the world. The company offers comprehensive range of products serving the entire flexible packaging market value chain covering:

(a) bag and pouch making machines - which converts roll of plastic films into bags and pouches; (b) packaging machines - which are used to fill the end products into pouches categorised as horizontal form fill and seal machines ("HFFS"), vertical form fill and seal machines ("VFFS") and pick fill seal machines ("PFS") for smaller volume requirements; (c) co-extrusion blown film machines - which are used for pro-

cessing various polymer granules into co-extruded multilayer films. The films may have mono layer, three, five and seven layers. The customers include Balaji Wafers Private Limited, Dass Polymers Private Limited, Jflexy Packaging Private Limited, Euphoria Packaging Private Limited, Sunrise Packaging. Om Flex India, Chitale Foods, V3 Polyplast Private Limited, Dhalumal Packaging Industries LLC, Laxmi

Gurugram water crisis: Municipal authority to punish people 5,000 if...

Delhi: A 5000 fine will be enforced on Gurugram residents who wash automobiles or courtyards with potable water between 5am and 9am. The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) made the decision to reduce water waste due to water scarcity, said The Times of India. Repeated infractions would result in water connection removal and a 5000 punishment, according to officials. To restore water supply, the MCG charges 5,000 and 1000 for reconnection. After urban local bodies (ULB) ordered water conservation during peak supply hours, the decision was made. Installing motors and pumps directly on the supply line, which lowers water pressure, is a common infringement. Apart from fines, motors and pumps will be confiscated. Also, unlicensed washing centers will be blocked and their water connections cut.

Government should start new rules to combat fraudulent e-commerce reviews



Delhi: Consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said the Union government will use an Indian Standards code to combat fake customer reviews and inflated ratings on e-commerce platforms, a global issue, as online shoppers complain more on the national consumer helpline. Online shoppers are heavily influenced by customer reviews and ratings. E-commerce sellers manipulate ratings and add paid reviews to encourage sales. "The presence of fake reviews online jeopardizes the trust-

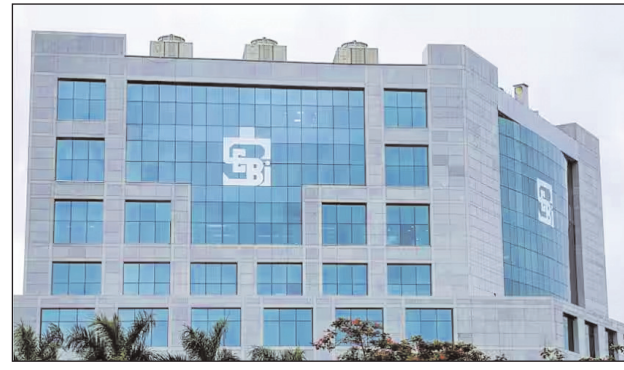
worthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to make wrong purchase decisions," said Khare, who led a stakeholders' meeting with Amazon and Flipkart executives. Mordor Intelligence estimates that India's e-commerce market would expand from \$112.93 billion in 2024 to \$299.01 billion in 2029, a 21.5% CAGR. The new standard (IS 19000:2022) assigns reviewers and administrators particular duties. New regulations compel organizations to identify

review authors in certain ways. E-commerce grievances on the national consumer helpline increased from 95,270 in 2018 (22% of all grievances) to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43% of total grievances). E-commerce platforms in India must create a documented code of practice and share it with management and workers. Khare said they must show how they will follow this constitution and the guiding principles. Amazon and other platforms have acknowledged the issue globally.

Sebi proposes tighter SME listing requirements over misuse worries

Delhi: Sebi and stock exchanges aim to tighten standards for SMEs seeking public listings, according to Reuters. Concerns over exploitation of a 2012 platform to help small firms access financing markets prompted this change. According to sources in the report, the planned modifications might boost the minimum amount of public offerings to Rs 30 crore to Rs 50 crore (\$3.59 million to \$5.99 million).

In response to stakeholder engagements, these new regulations are due later this year. There's no minimum issue size, but corporations listing on this



market must have Rs 25 crore in post-issue capital. One source told Reuters that a minimum offer size will ensure that genuine enterprises can access financial markets, protecting investor interests. During the fiscal year ending March 2024, more SMEs went public due to India's

strong equities markets. On PRIME Database, 205 companies raised Rs 60 billion through public offerings, up from 125 firms raising Rs 2200 crore the year before. Companies with yearly turnovers between Rs 5 crore and Rs 250 crore are Indian SMEs.

Air India, Vistara try to resolve staff issues before merger

Delhi: As the Vistara merger process begins, Air India hopes to resolve employee fitment difficulties. The Vistara-Air India integration committee has identified certain occupations that will be duplicated following the merger. Vistara has 6,500

employees and Air India 17,000. At a recent town hall meeting, employees were notified that the merger may eliminate some positions. The Tata Group will upskill some employees and place others in other group entities to avoid job losses. Prior to the

merger, Air India employed consultants to design the new structure. Some Air India staff would be kept, while others may join Air India Express. Some employees worry about their career advancement and seniority in the new framework.

Joe Biden dramatically raises US tariffs on Chinese EVs and chips

Delhi: US President Joe Biden lambasted Beijing for "cheating" as he raised tariffs on Chinese products such as electric vehicles and semiconductors.

Beijing strongly opposed the sanctions as Biden sought to appear tough on trade ahead of a rematch with Republican Donald Trump in November's US



presidential election. "We're not going to let China flood our market, making it impossible for American automakers to compete fairly," Biden declared in the White House Rose Garden. He said, "We're never going to allow China to unfairly control the market for these cars," before ordering duties. Trump's tariffs have been frequently criticized by Biden. He's been using similar tactics to win over blue-collar voters in swing Rust Belt states. The White House stated EV tariffs will treble to 100% this year and semiconductor duties will rise from 25% to 50% by next year. The sanctions targeted \$18 billion in Chinese imports, including batteries, vital minerals, and medical supplies. Biden said China has substantially supported critical sectors, forcing corporations to produce more than the world can consume and flooding the market with unfairly priced commodities. The president's announcement followed a review of tariffs imposed by then-president Trump on \$300 billion in Chinese imports. The Biden administration maintained tariffs.

Order mandating SpiceJet to pay Sun Group's Kalanithi Maran 270 crore overturned by Court

Delhi: Judge ordered SpiceJet to refund over 1270 crore to Sun Group promoter Kalanithi Maran, but a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court overturned it. SpiceJet and CMD Ajay Singh appealed the single-judge's ruling to a Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja. Appeals are allowed. The July 31, 2023 order is vacated "By the Court. The Division Bench denied SpiceJet's request to postpone the single-judge ruling upholding an arbitral tribunal award ordering the airline to reimburse over 270 cases. The issue between Maran and SpiceJet began in



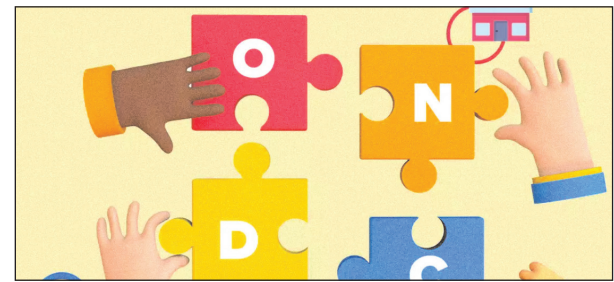
January 2015 when Ajay Singh bought SpiceJet from him. Maran reportedly gave Singh his 58.46% airline ownership. According to the contract,

Maran would receive redeemable warrants for his airline promotion investments. Maran was entitled to 18 crore warrants and 26% SpiceJet shares. No con-

vertible warrants or preference shares were issued to Maran, and he received no money. Maran sought roughly 1,323 crore in damages. Arbitration was ordered by the Delhi High Court. The arbitral tribunal ordered SpiceJet to return Maran 1270 crore in July 2018. The tribunal also ordered the airline to pay 12% interest on warrant payments and 18% on Maran awards if they are late. The tribunal also found no breach of Maran, SpiceJet, and Ajay Singh's share sale and purchase agreement. Thus, Maran's shareholding return and damages claims were denied.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns

Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like Makemytrip, Policybazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the government believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and



businesses without platform fees."It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April "Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh

expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said.

Microsoft, I4C remove 1,000 cybercriminal Skype accounts



Delhi: The Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C) and Microsoft have blocked over 1,000 Skype accounts linked to intimidation, blackmail, extortion, and 'digital arrests' of citizens by cyber criminals posing as police, CBI, narcotics, RBI, or ED personnel. A MHA statement stated I4C helps prevent SIM cards, mobile devices, and mule accounts used by criminals. Many complaints are being reported on the National Cyber Crime

Reporting Portal (NCRP) about how these fraudsters call potential victims and claim they have sent or are the intended recipient of a parcel containing illegal goods, drugs, fake passports, or other contraband. They may also claim that a loved one is in their custody for a crime or accident. Money is demanded to compromise the "case". Some victims face 'digital arrest' until their demands are granted. Many victims have

lost a lot of money to such thieves. The home ministry stated cross-border crime syndicates run this online economic crime. MHA said it is collaborating with other ministries, agencies, RBI, and other organizations to combat these frauds. I4C assists police in all states and Union Territories in identifying and investigating cases. Citizens should be aware of these frauds and disseminate knowledge. image

Airtel partners with Google Cloud to provide Indian businesses cloud and gen-AI solutions

Delhi: Bharti Airtel and Google Cloud are partnering to offer Indian businesses cloud and generative-AI solutions. The telecom company will use Google Cloud products to accelerate cloud adoption and modernization through the agreement. Airtel will offer cloud-managed services to its corporate customers, including over 2,000 large organizations and a million developing businesses. This partnership targets India's big and rising public cloud services industry, which IDC predicts will be worth \$17.8 billion by 2027. Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, "Cloud and AI solutions will drive India's digital transformation. We're excited to collaborate with Google



Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud's generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers.

According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, "Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud and AI adoption in India. We want to develop disruptive solutions to improve Airtel's customer experience through our relationship." Airtel will train artificial-intelligence and machine-learning solutions on its enormous dataset using the two businesses' strengths—connectivity and AI technology.

IFC provides \$500 million to HDFC Bank so that it can offer microloans to female clients



Delhi: HDFC Bank said that it has received \$500 million from the IFC to support low-income women borrowers through onlending. According to an official release, the largest private sector lender in the nation would provide financing for income production, promoting financial inclusion and socio-economic growth. The microloans will be extended to women registered in the lender's

Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) as well as self-help and joint liability groups. Arup

Rakshit, group head of Treasury at HDFC firm, stated that the firm has opted for a longer-term loan facility that will support the bank's endeavors to empower women. According to the statement, banks' wide distribution and cheaper funding costs can be used to provide microloans to women, despite the fact that non-banks now service two thirds of the microfinance market. "Having access to financial services is essential for enhancing the economy and empowering women.

49% increase in average home prices in the NCR over the past five years

Delhi: Anarock, real estate consultants, report a 49% increase in average home prices in the NCR over the past five years. This sharp increase is due to rising building costs and robust sales, according to the research. "The five-yearly jump in average residential prices between H1 2019 and H1 2024 from Rs 4,565 per sq ft to Rs 6,800 per sq ft is a clear indicator of the market's strength," stated Anuj Puri, Anarock Group CEO. The survey also indicated that NCR residential property demand remained high despite the pandemic. After attracting consumers with offers and incentives, developers



raised average prices as demand grew. Sales have increased, reducing unsold inventories by 52% from 182,000 units in H1 2019 to 86,900 units in H1 2024. The inventory overhang dropped from 44 months in H1

2019 to 16 months in H1 2024. "Developers have launched around 172,000 units in NCR between H1 2019 and H1 2024, and 272,000 units were sold during this period," the study said. "The market's growth is supported by

lower unsold inventory and higher absorption. This rise shows the region's real estate potential and post-pandemic economic rebound and GDP growth." "Despite the higher costs, sales continue to surge, driven

by a combination of improved infrastructure, robust economic growth, and a desire for modern living spaces". The survey noted that the NCR housing market revived before the pandemic after price stagnation from late 2016 to 2019. Covid-19 increased sales of larger homes. In prime real estate, the study shows strong demand and growth. The interest is broad, drawing first and second-generation buyers seeking a more luxurious lifestyle. "Latent demand has increased since the pandemic, spurring new project launches. He noted that around 3,000 pre-launch units sold out in days.

"Diversion" of SCPTSP funds is not new and has been done by past govt.



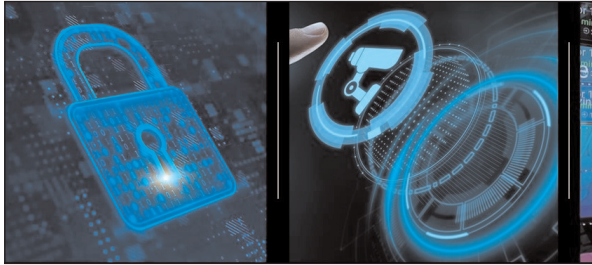
Delhi: The Karnataka government's intention to use SCPTSP funding for the five guarantee projects announced before the 2023 assembly elections is expected to cause a stir. Congress ally Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (DSS) will protest while BJP appeals to the judiciary. Senior government sources said "diversion" of SCPTSP funds is not new and has been done by past governments, but BJP's court case and DSS' "uprising" threat could hurt Congress in upcoming zilla and taluk panchayat elections. Last

week, CM Siddaramaiah said his government has allocated Rs 39,121 crore for SCPTSP, Rs 3,900 crore more than in the previous year due to a rise in budget size and a decision to allocate 24.1% of the budget to SC and ST communities. However, using Rs 14,283 crore of the budget for the five guarantee schemes has caused political unrest. BJP calls it "misappropriation." "BJP is contemplating approaching the court since the decision to re-route SCPTSP funds meant exclusively for the welfare of these

underprivileged communities is being misappropriated," said the MLC. "Redirecting funds by claiming they're being used on SC and ST communities implies that they're getting money while other communities get extra benefits. Giving with one hand and taking with the other." DSS is upset. DSS factions that supported Congress in the assembly and Lok Sabha polls withdrew their support on Saturday, saying Congress is not working "wholeheartedly" for SC & ST populations.

"An electronic or digital record" can be "admissible"

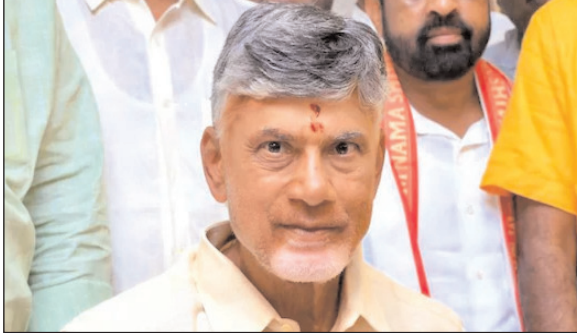
Delhi: Text, voice, and video messages contain what? Post July 1, "digital documents" are admissible as primary evidence, not simply emojis, PPTs, PDFs, group conversations, forwards, or tete-a-tete. The last one is a rewrite of the 1872 Indian Evidence Act and an acknowledgment of digital information's importance today. The 2023 Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam defines and interprets evidence. It states that "an electronic or digital record" can be "admissible" in a case under certain conditions, taking into account technical



improvements and the widespread use of digital communication. Senior counsel Amit Manchanda said protections must be addressed first to prevent misuse given the uncharted field of artificial intelligence and new software to manipulate words, photos, and digital content on a recipient's device. Advocate Mohit

Bhardwaj called Section 57 BSA's "singularly significant" inclusion because it makes digital data, including messages, primary evidence "without much ado," until disputed. For disputed digital records, the new rule mandates a certificate proving authenticity from a specific computer or device.

Andhra Pradesh's request for Centre financial assistance



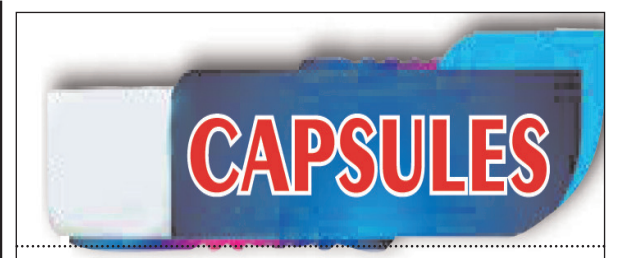
Delhi: Andhra Pradesh's request for Centre financial assistance, including debt restructuring, is expected to cover a projected Rs 11,000 crore deficit this year and leave a meager surplus for development next year. According to sources familiar with the discussions with the Centre, the Chandrababu Naidu government has prepared a blueprint to revisit almost two dozen direct benefit transfer schemes started by the Jaganmohan Reddy administration and start a series of steps to boost revenue, start capital works, and help the needy. Naidu met with finance, defence, and health ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajnath Singh, and JP Nadda. "The treasury needs

income growth and capital funding.

The previous government discontinued vital payments, causing a huge loan burden. We'll need five to six months to fix it and resume the cycle "A source said Andhra will pursue central initiatives and TDP focus areas. Through a series of initiatives, the Naidu administration hopes to raise Rs 37,000 crore by the fifth year of its term for state development. The TDP plans to develop industrial hubs in Visakhapatnam, near Odisha, and Karnataka, with the proposed port in Dugarajapatnam as a key aspect. Central aid for the port was promised a decade ago when Andhra and Telangana split, but nothing has happened.

MP was criticized as footage showed booze being given

Delhi: A BJP public rally to celebrate former minister K Sudhakar's election as Chikballapur MP was criticized as footage showed booze being given. Nelamangala hosted the event. Sudhakar, Opposition Leader R Ashoka, and JD(S) leaders attended. Sideline videos showed cops giving out booze packages and bottles to people in a long line. Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar criticized BJP. In Nelamangala, liquor was distributed publicly. BJP National President JP Nadda must explain for registering a case. How could the MP distribute alcohol? "Said Shivakumar. "More than local leaders, it is important for the BJP's national leaders to tell citizens how their party is upholding culture by distributing liquor at public meetings," he said.



Ghaziabad Residents Drink Nearly Rs 400 Crore in Beer During Heatwave

Delhi: The excise agency reports that Ghaziabad residents have consumed approximately Rs 400 crore in beer due to the past three months' scorching. Officials credit high heat and consistent prices for this record sales result. People in Ghaziabad and the National Capital Region sought ways to cool themselves due to extreme heat. In addition to lemonade, lassi, and buttermilk, many Ghaziabad inhabitants chose alcoholic beverages, especially beer, which generated large excise money. Ghaziabad beer drinkers spent Rs 397.16 crore during April to June 2024, up 106% from the previous year. Even more, beer can sales rose 116%. Over 13.3 million cans were sold this year, up from 11.5 million last year. Beer helps many cope with soaring temperatures. Due to this tendency, the excise department saw significant income growth throughout these three months. District excise inspector Rakesh Kumar said the severe heat and stable beer pricing drove record sales. said, "The data clearly shows that the intense heat and no price hike were the primary reasons for the exceptional revenue of Rs 397 crore." Beer sales during the heatwave generated significant excise department money, showing how extreme weather can affect consumer behaviour and local economies.

IN just four months, at least 1,068 farmers committed suicide

Delhi: With the government reeling under an enormous debt of Rs 7.9 lakh crore and the state's struggling farmers taking their own lives, Mahayuti government's Rs 11 crore gift for India's T-20 champion squad has drawn criticism from Congress's Vijay Wadettiwar, the head of Maharashtra's opposition. "In just

four months, at least 1,068 farmers committed suicide, but they get no assistance." The Maharashtra government gave wealthy cricket players an unjustified gift in order to further its own agenda, according to Wadettiwar. "We should support players but within our means and must give due weightage considering

the broader picture," Wadettiwar said. The opposition MVA coalition's unity and preparedness for this year's assembly elections in October and November was reiterated by the Bramhapuri MLA. "Shiv Sena (UBT), the National Congress Party (led by Sharad Pawar), and the other three opposition allies

Traffic Police reported that 12,000 people were penalized

Delhi: Delhi Traffic Police reported that more than 12,000 people were penalized for DUI from January 1 to June 30, up 27% from

last year. Rajouri Garden had the most drunk driving violations in the past six months, 770. Samaypur Badli had 514 instances, Rohini 441. Traffic police released data on Saturday showing that police penalized 12,468 intoxicated drivers through June 30 compared to 9,837 last year. Punjabi Bagh (387), Mehrauli (367), Mayur Vihar (364), Narela (364), Kalkaji (344), Karol Bagh (342) and Sadar Bazar (342) also had high drunk driving rates in the first half of the year. The traffic police also examined the top 10 traffic circles with the most drunk.

IMC held a seminar to condemn cow vigilante attacks

Delhi: Minority organization Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IMC) held a seminar to condemn cow vigilante attacks and seek a ban on beef export from India and illicit slaughter to end cattle suffering. They also sought to clarify that "beef"—associated with cows—was being misused to characterize buffalo meat export, thus the government should clarify. At a full Mavalankar Hall in Constitution Club, Muslim and dalit representatives approved the memorandum to Union home minister Rajnath Singh. There were also threats that demonstrators would go to the streets and Ramlila Grounds if the administration did not meet



these demands. "We are concerned about Muslim minority atrocities, suppression, and discrimination under the guise of cow protection, beef eating, terrorism, national security, etc. The IMC said vigilante cow defender groups had grown since a Dadri man was beaten

to death for consuming meat last September. "After a long silence, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, finally joined the fray, condemning attacks by Hindu cow protection squads and vowing to investigate those engaged in violence," the report added.

"There have been several instances of religious violence against Muslims in the recent past, frequently in the form of violent attacks on Muslims by Hindu mobs that form a pattern of sporadic sectarian violence between Hindu and Muslim communities," it said.

MC demands "India should abolish cow and calves slaughter. The Supreme Court of India upheld state-enacted anti-cow slaughter regulations in a landmark ruling. 24 of 29 Indian states ban cow slaughter and sale. Cow slaughter is legal in Kerala, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, and

Swami Avimukteshwarananda, defamed Rahul

Delhi: Swami Avimukteshwarananda, the 46th Shankaracharya of Jyotir Math, defended Rahul Gandhi days after his Lok Sabha speech. Rahul Gandhi accused BJP leaders of communally dividing people during the debate on the President's address Motion of Thanks.

Narendra Modi denounced the speech, saying Rahul Gandhi called the "entire Hindu community violent." Parliament heatedly debated this claim, and the Speaker removed some disputed statements from the records. Hindu revered Shankaracharya provided a different view. Our attention was on Rahul Gandhi's entire address. Shankaracharya stressed that Hinduism opposes violence. The pontiff blasted the selective spread of Mr. Gandhi's statement in a viral social media video, calling for accountability for fact-skewers. He said, "Presenting only fragments of Gandhi's statement is misleading and unethical," and those guilty should be penalized. In addition, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi has supported Rahul Gandhi against the claims. "Rahul can never criticize Hindus." He addressed BJP and its leaders," she claimed.