

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Thursday, 29 August 2024

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

Cabinet approves setting up of 12 industrial smart cities; gives nod to 4 other major projects

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday took five big ticket decisions among which the government approved setting up of 12 industrial smart cities with an investment of Rs 28,500 crore under National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP). The move is set to generate employment of around 12 lakh direct jobs and 20 lakh indirect jobs.



These cities will be equipped with advanced infrastructure

The government's approach ensures these cities will be equipped with advanced infrastructure that supports the seamless movement of people, goods, and services. Generate employment The projects will create

other major projects These projects aim to create robust and sustainable infrastructure, fostering investments and promoting balanced regional development," said a press release by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The smart cities will be developed ahead of demand and

advanced greenfield smart cities featuring modern infrastructure and multimodal connectivity, aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, and are expected to generate around 1 million direct and up to 3 million indirect jobs.

feature modern amenities designed to attract both domestic and international investments. The 'plug-n-play' concept implies that the necessary infrastructure will be readily available, making it easier for businesses to set up operations quickly. Meanwhile, the 'walk-to-work' concept

To drive investments

Designed to foster a vibrant industrial ecosystem, these projects aim to achieve \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. NICDP is an initiative that seeks to attract investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These industrial nodes will act as catalysts for boosting exports, thereby reinforcing India's position in the Global Value Chains (GVC). By providing developed land parcels ready for immediate allotment, the projects facilitate easier setup of manufacturing units for both domestic and international investors. The newly approved industrial cities will be developed as greenfield smart of global standards.

emphasizes creating residential areas close to workplaces, thereby reducing commute times and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Eleventh: Palakkad In Designed to foster a vibrant industrial ecosystem, these projects aim to achieve \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. NICDP is an initiative.

ED slaps fine of Rs 908 crore on DMK MP for violation of foreign exchange rules

NEW DELHI: DMK MP S Jagathratchakan on Wednesday was slapped with a penalty of Rs 908 crore in a case related to the violation of foreign exchange rules. The Enforcement Directorate statement said that properties worth Rs 89.19 crore seized in September 2020, have been confiscated following an adjudication order under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (Fema) issued on August 26. The federal agency acted on a complaint initiated by a business man from Tamil Nadu.

The investigation led to a seizure order dated September 11, 2020, under Section 37A of Fema, for various movable and immovable properties belonging to DMK MP S Jagathratchakan and his family members. These properties are valued at Rs 89.19 crore

This investigation, it said, resulted in the passing of seizure order, dated September 11, 2020 under section 37A of Fema for various movable and immovable



BJP MP and former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh moves Delhi HC seeking quashing of FIR, charges in sexual harassment case

NEW DELHI: Former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has moved the Delhi high court on Wednesday seeking to quash the FIR and charges framed against him in a sexual harassment case filed by six female wrestlers. Singh's petition challenges the FIR, the chargesheet, and the trial court's order framing charges against him. He is contesting the legal proceedings

properties in the name of the MP and his family members. There are valued at Rs 89.19 crore. "The properties worth

initiated based. on the allegations of sexual misconduct made by the wrestlers. Earlier this year in May, Singh was formally charged with sexual harassment, intimidation, and outraging the modesty of women. When asked to enter his plea before Additional chief metropolitan magistrate (ACMM) Priyanka Rajpoot, Singh opted for a trial, stating, "Why will I plead guilty when I am not guilty?"

Rs 89.19 crore which were seized in terms of section 37A of Fema were also ordered for confiscation.

Telegram CEO Pavel Durov released from police custody

Telegram CEO Pavel Durov has been released from police custody in France and transferred to court for further questioning, days after his arrest at a Paris airport, according to CNN. As per the Paris prosecutor's office, the Russian-born billionaire will now face "initial questioning and possible indictment" at a court in the French capital. Notably, being placed under formal investigation in France does not imply guilt or necessarily lead to trial. However, it does indicate that judges consider there is enough to the case to proceed with the probe. Durov was placed in custody for up to 96 hours – or four days – which is the maximum amount of time someone can be held under French law before being charged, news agency Reuters reported.

'Rs 8 lakh per month to influencers': UP government proposes new digital media policy

NEW DELHI: The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed a new digital media policy to disseminate information about various developmental and public welfare schemes to the state's residents through social media platforms, as per an official document.

Under this policy, the state government will pay influencers and account holders on platforms such as Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube up to Rs 8 lakh per month, depending on their followers and subscribers for promoting government schemes. However, the policy also includes penalties for creating content deemed anti-national, obscene, or objectionable.

The government has said that it will take legal action against social media operators, influencers, firms, or agencies if "objectionable content" is uploaded.

"In case of uploading objectionable content on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and YouTube, legal action has been arranged against the concerned agency/ firm as per rules. Under no circumstances should the content be indecent, obscene and anti-national," said the note signed by Principal Secretary Sanjay Prasad. The digital media policy categorizes X, Facebook, Instagram.

140 crore Indians rooting for your success: PM wishes Team India ahead of Paris Paralympics

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his heartfelt wishes to the Indian contingent participating in the Paris 2024 Paralympics, underscoring the nation's support for its athletes.

"140 crore Indians wish our contingent at the Paris #Paralympics 2024 the very best. The courage and determination of every ath-



lete are a source of inspiration for the entire nation. India's participation in the Paris 2024 Paralympics represents a historic chapter in the country's sporting journey.

With a record-breaking contingent of 84 athletes, including 32 women, this marks India's largest-ever representation at the Paralympic Games. The significant growth in the number

of participants, especially female athletes, underscores the increased support and opportunities for differently-abled athletes in the country. The remarkable performance of the Indian team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, where they secured 19 medals -- five gold, eight silver, and six bronze -- has set high expectations for Paris 2024.

Encounter breaks out between forces & terrorists in J&K's Kupwara

NEW DELHI: An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday. The operation is under way in Kupwara's Tangdhar area.

The exchange of firing began at the Khushal Post in the Tangdhar area, near the Line of Control, security forces told news agency PTI. There are no reports of any casualties so far, the officials said. 1x1 polls This comes days after an exchange of gunfire took place between security forces and



terrorists in Sopore's Watergam area in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the elimination of one terrorist. Following the gunfire the alert security personnel promptly retaliated to the firing and the area was cordoned off by the security forces. Sharing a post on X, the Chinar Corps, Indian Army had said: "One ter-

rorist eliminated and war-like stores recovered. Operation is continuing." Last week, the security forces also busted an underground terrorist hideout in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri. The forces said that a large amount of daily use items including cooking gas, blankets and utensils were recovered.

Further, the security forces also uncovered a cave-like hideout in the Balotha area of Basantgarh in Udhampur district as part of an ongoing anti-terrorism operation. The search operation in Basantgarh was escalated on Monday following a terrorist attack on a joint patrol party of CRPF and police, which resulted in the death of an inspector-rank officer from the paramilitary force. The recent killing has raised the total number of terror-related fatalities in Jammu and Kashmir this year to 74.

'Modi ka tairta hua Gujarat model': Congress mocks BJP amid flood woes

NEW DELHI: As Gujarat grapples with the devastating impact of relentless rains, Congress mocked PM Modi and BJP government's much-touted 'Gujarat Model'. Taking to X, Congress shared a video that captured a flooded city in Gujarat and a house-like structure being swept away by floodwaters. The video included a text message that read, "Modi ka tairta hua Gujarat model," while the caption said, "Aa



jaaye...Modi nu Gujarat model." Earlier today, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, expressed their concern over the flood situation in Gujarat. They urged the govern-

ment to take all necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the natural disaster. Kharge, in a post on X, emphasised the severity of the situation, offering condolences to the families who have lost loved ones and highlighting the urgent need for food and medical assistance for those affected. The death toll from rain-related incidents in Gujarat risen to 16 over the past two days, with an additional 8,500 people.

Jai Telangana', chants a spirited K Kavitha on Hyderabad return

NEW DELHI: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha arrived at Hyderabad Airport on Wednesday, raising 'Jai Telangana' slogans. She was given a warm welcome by party workers and supporters. Daughter of BRS president and former chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Kavitha walked out of Tihar Jail on Tuesday night after more than five months, having been granted bail by the Supreme Court in connection with the cases filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) related to the Delhi excise policy. Upon her arrival at Hyderabad Airport, K Kavitha chanted 'Jai Telangana.' A large number of BRS leaders and workers had gathered at the airport to welcome Kavitha. Amid the beating of drums, they raised slogans in her support.

Kolkata doctor rape-murder case: IMA suspends Sandip Ghosh's membership



NEW DELHI: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Wednesday suspended the membership of Dr Sandip Ghosh, who is the ex-principal of Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital, where a trainee doctor was raped before being brutally killed. The disciplinary committee duly constituted by the National President Dr RV Asokan, IMA HQs has unanimously decided to suspend the membership of Dr Sandip Ghosh, vice president, IMA Calcutta Branch, reported news agency ANI.

This comes days after the CBI conducted a polygraph test on Sandip Ghosh as part of its investigation into the rape-murder of a postgraduate resident doctor at the hospital on August 9. A team of experts from New Delhi reached Kolkata to conduct the procedure, also known as lie detector tests, after receiving court approval Friday. A civic volunteer who accompanied Roy to two neighbourhoods in the city before the alleged crime said CBI has called him in for the polygraph test.

Apply for State Level Award-2024

Awards will be given in 12 categories on World Disabled Day

Lucknow: State Minister of State for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Independent Charge) Narendra Kashyap said that applications have been invited for the State Level Award-2024. These awards will be given in various categories on the occasion of 'World Disability Day' on December 03, 2024. This year, awards will be given in 12 categories, which include skilled disabled employee/self-employed disabled person, best employer, best placement officer or agency, best individual/organization, source of inspiration, creative disabled boy/girl, disabled sportsperson, for creating a barrier-free environment for disabled people. The best districts providing best work and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities are included. The prize money has been fixed at Rs 25,000. Director Disabled Empowerment Bhubendra S. Chaudhary said that the last date of application for state level awards has been fixed as August 31, 2024. Interested persons will have to submit their applications along with all the necessary forms to the office of the District Disability Empowerment Officer at the district level. After review of these applications, they will be sent to the Directorate, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Lucknow along with the recommendation of the District Magistrate. Detailed information related to the awards is available on the official website of the department www.uphwd.gov.in or you can contact the helpline number 1800-180-1995.

If BJP grows stronger, so will India: Rajesh Kesarwani

Prayagraj: A big meeting of the workers of BJP Muthiganj Mandal regarding the membership campaign was organized in Muthiganj Narayan Vatika. The main speaker of the meeting, District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani told the workers that the famous Prime Minister of India Narendra Under the leadership of Modi ji and National President JP Nadda, Bharatiya Janata Party is going to start a nationwide membership campaign from 2nd September, which will be held in two phases, the first phase will run from 2nd September to 25th September and the second phase will run from 1st October to 15th October and will end on 16th October. There will be a campaign for active membership from 100 to 31 Octo-



ber. The worker who makes 100 primary members will become an active member and will become an office bearer in the future and said that in 2014 and 2019, only on the strength of us workers, Bharatiya Janata Party became the largest political party in the world with 22 Crore members were formed, the result of which was that we could form a strong government with full majority in the center and state and India became strong in the world. We could remove Article 370, build Shri Ram Temple, implement triple talaq, implement the Citizen Amendment Act. He could implement the Nari Shakti Vandan Act and take revenge by killing the enemies of the country by entering their homes and was successful in making India the fifth largest economic power in the world and said that there was a time when Congress was ruling this country. There was the UPA government and India's status kept falling in the world but when the Bharatiya Janata Party government was formed at the center, India has stood strongly on the world stage today and this is the reason why when the BJP is strong, India becomes strong, hence when the BJP if India becomes stronger, it will become stronger and said that even today, people who hate this country and its culture are engaged in disintegrating India and their support is given by Congress, SP, TMC and other opposition parties only for their vote bank and power. In such a situation, every worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party has an additional responsibility to strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party and connect them with the BJP's membership campaign by going door-to-door.

Alliance of Cong & NC means restoration of Article 370: Amit Shah

New Delhi: As the time for Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections is approaching after 10 years, activities are intensifying in the political corridors. In the greed for power, Rahul Gandhi's Congress party has formed an alliance with the Abdullah family's National Conference. National Conference has always supported Article 370, separate flag in Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism, separatism and Pakistan. Talking with Pakistan in exchange for the youth of Kashmir, giving jobs to the relatives of terrorists and promoting separatism has been the politics of National Conference. In such a situation, should it be assumed that Congress is supporting a separate flag in Jammu and Kashmir? Congress has played a major role in the partition of the country and in this election, the alliance has once again brought the intentions of Congress in front of the country. Amit Shah, the politician who gave a new identity to Indian politics and made Jammu and Kashmir an integral part of India, has put Rahul Gandhi in the dock and fired arrows of his questions. Shah has strongly attacked the alliance of the power-hungry Congress party and the separatist National Conference, which is breaking the unity of the country, and has put Rahul Gandhi and the Congress in the dock.

UP no. 2 economy, all set to achieve top slot soon: Yogi

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji said that under the able guidance and leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, a new scenario has been seen in the country after the year 2014. Under the able guidance of the Prime Minister, Uttar Pradesh has moved in a very good direction. The progress of Uttar Pradesh remains a matter of curiosity and surprise for the world. The state which was facing identity crisis is now in front of everyone as a leading state. The Chief Minister was expressing his views today in the mega employment fair and loan distribution program organized in Khair tehsil of Aligarh district. It is known that in the employment fair, more than 63 companies distributed appointment letters to more than 05 thousand youth. In the program, tablets were distributed to more than 1500 students and loans worth more than Rs 35 crore were also distributed to various youth and entrepreneurs. On this occasion, the Chief Minister distributed appointment letters, symbolic loan checks to the youth, tool kits to the beneficiaries, Swami Tablets to youth un-

der Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme, Rs 04 crore 47 lakh to women members of 298 self-help groups under Community Investment Fund, symbolic check of Rs 11 crore 26 lakh to women members of 751 self-help groups under Cash Credit Linkage. On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 305 development projects of the district costing more than Rs 705 crore. This includes inauguration of 113 projects costing more than Rs 209 crore and laying of foundation stone of 192 projects costing about Rs 496 crore. The Chief Minister visited the employment fair and obtained information from the candidates about the application process, interview and placement etc.

The Chief Minister said that the progress of the state should not be allowed to stop. Before 2017, Uttar Pradesh was the sixth/seventh economy of the country. Today it is the number two economy. In the next three-four years, it will be in front of everyone as the number one economy of the country. If our state moves forward on the path of progress, then the hands of

the youth will get work. There will be happiness on the faces of Annadata farmers. Sister and daughter will be happy. There will be water in every field. Every hand will find work. Work is being done with full com-

proper arrangements to live a respectable life. Today more than 63 companies have come here for the employment fair. This employment fair is being organized with the cooperation of the state government. A loan



mitment to establish India as the largest economy in the world. We all are seeing good results from it. The Prime Minister is working to take forward the development plans without any hindrance. The country is achieving new heights every day. Earlier youth used to go to other states and cities in search of employment. Today, companies, in collaboration with the government, are coming to the youth to provide them employment as per their capacity and capability and

fair has also been organized for the entrepreneurs and youth here to set up their own enterprises. A program of distribution of tablets is also being conducted to make the youth technically competent and to fulfill their aspirations. Aligarh, which was waiting for development for years, is today being gifted development projects worth Rs 705 crore.

The Chief Minister said that the district Aligarh, associated with the tradition of Swami Haridas, famous as the Karma Bhoomi of

Baldau and earlier known as Hari Bhoomi, is now the land of Tala and Talim as well as defense equipment to be built in the Defense Corridor on the land of Khair, which is moving towards writing new records on the world stage. There can be no alternative to development. Employment goes hand in hand with development. But for this security is most important. Without security, good governance cannot be established, nor can the dreams of the youth be given wings. We all have seen post-independence India. Development was happening at a slow pace here. People were being divided in the name of caste. The social fabric was being torn apart. Benefits of development schemes were being provided considering caste, creed, religion, region and language etc. If there was no discrimination in the development plans, the development being discussed here would have happened even before 2014. Today development is visible in every sector. There is no discrimination in providing benefits of various government schemes. 6.5 lakh youth of the state were given jobs in the state. By

investing in the private sector, employment was provided to more than 2 crore youth in the state. Work has been done to connect more than 75 lakh youth and entrepreneurs with self-employment. Arrangements for housing, electricity, Ujjwala LPG connection, water etc. were made for all the needy. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, work has been done to provide one house each to 56 lakh poor people in the state.

Before this, the Chief Minister served food to the children and gave gifts. On this occasion, a short film related to Mission Employment was screened. The program was inaugurated by Sugar Industry and Sugarcane Development Minister Shri Lakshmi Narayan Chaudhary and Minister of State for Basic Education (Independent Charge). Shri Sandeep Singh also addressed. On this occasion, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education and Skill Development, Shri Kapil Dev Aggarwal along with other public representatives, beneficiaries, youth, senior officials of government and administration and other dignitaries were present.

Memo submitted over lateral entry & recovery of dues

Prayagraj: 63 people appointed till now through lateral entry should be removed from their posts since 2019 and their salaries should be recovered. Arshad Ali Minority Congress City and District Yamuna, District Ganga Par submitted a joint memorandum of City President Arshad Ali. Under the chairmanship, a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister of India on the lateral entry issue to the Government of India through ACM I Avinash Singh Yadav. On this occasion, City Arshad Ali said that recently on 17th August 2024, 45 appointments have been made by the BJP government for the post of Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Director. Advertisement was released, after which Jannayak Shri Rahul Gandhi ji had demanded to cancel these ap-

pointments on August 19, calling them an attack on the constitutional rights of reservation given to back-



ward classes, Dalits and tribals. Arshad said that Rahul Gandhi ji's demand After this, on the second day on August 20, the welcome work of withdrawing the advertisement issued by Modi ji's government for lateral entry citing the ab-

sence of provision for reservation, but the question is that since 2019 till now, the 63 people whose Why

found unconstitutional, then logically the appointment of people who had earlier got jobs through this unconstitutional scheme is also automatically illegal. It happens. Minority Congress asks that these people be immediately removed from their posts and the salary and other allowances given to them should be recovered. On this occasion, City President Arshad Ali, District Ganga Par Etisham Ahmed, District Yamuna Par Shahzadul Haq, Mahfooz Ahmed, Talib Ahmed, Mukhtar Ahmed, Zahid leader, Laiq Ahmed, Ghulam Waris, Advocate Shahjadul Haq District President Congress Minority Department Yamunapur, Advocate Narendra Adivasi, Advocate Anil Kushwaha, Sultan Sheikh, Zaid Sheikh, Wasi Abbas, Ghulam Ansari, Asad Siddiqui, Ghulam Waris, Mohammad Shahid etc.

Ekart transforms logistics with advanced E2E supply chain solutions

Varanasi: Ekart, one of India's leading 4PL supply chain companies, is redefining logistics and supply chain management in India with its comprehensive end-to-end (E2E) supply chain solutions. Designed to cater to a diverse range of parcel sizes and business requirements, Ekart's E2E solutions are powered by cutting-edge technology and strategic partnerships. Ekart's E2E solutions are tailored to accommodate both large and small parcels, ensuring seamless and efficient logistics operations.

Mani Bhusan, Chief Business Officer, Ekart, said, "At Ekart, we are committed to driving innovation and efficiency in supply chain management. Our end-to-end solutions are designed to meet the unique needs of each brand, leveraging advanced technology and strategic partnerships to deliver unmatched value.

By continuously evolving and adapting to industry challenges, we empower our partners to achieve their business goals and enhance the customer experience."

Its optimized last-mile delivery networks ensure timely and secure delivery to customers across diverse geographic locations across 15,000+ pincodes, leveraging its vast infrastructure of 50 million cubic feet of warehousing space and a fleet of more than 7,000 trucks. This robust network is supported by state-of-the-art technology, including route & delivery address optimization algorithms and GPS tracking systems, enhancing delivery efficiency and accuracy. Ekart leverages innovative technology to provide real-time tracking updates, automated delivery scheduling, and advanced inventory management. Some of the key solutions include:

Route & Delivery address optimization algorithms: Ensuring the most efficient delivery routes for minimizing delays, and improving overall delivery times. **Returns & Exchange Management:** 3 way quality checks before delivering returned products back to brands, ensuring hassle free re-inventorization. **Multipart / Unit Delivery:** Multiple parts of the same product are delivered in pristine condition at the same time to the customer's doorstep

Customized Network Optimization: Developing bespoke solutions to optimize supply chain routes, distribution centers, and transportation methods. Leveraging advanced analytics for improved supply chain visibility and agility. **GPS tracking systems:** Providing customers with real-time tracking updates for enhanced transparency and reliability

Inventory Management and Product Refurbishing: Implementing re-inventorization strategies for accurate and efficient inventory management with a focus on refurbishing products to extend their lifecycle and enhance value. **Innovative Open-Box Services:** Introducing open-box deliveries and pickups, which optimize customer experience and bring transparency into the product quality and returns process

Ekart has partnered with over 300 leading brands for B2B, Warehousing and Dropship services, providing customized E2E solutions for industries across D2C, Retail, Apparel and Fashion, Fin-tech, Telecom, etc. Furthermore, Ekart's approach to providing customized solutions involves a thorough assessment of each brand's unique requirements, challenges, and goals.

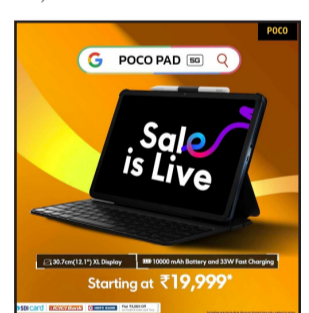
POCO Pad 5G Hits the Market: Sale Starts Today At 12 PM

Varanasi: POCO, a brand synonymous with rapid growth in India's consumer tech space, today commenced the sale of the POCO Pad 5G in India, available on Flipkart, starting 12 PM. With this device, POCO India has marked its entry into the tablet market, bringing its signature combination of cutting-edge technology and unbeatable value to a new product category.

The POCO Pad 5G is designed for immersive entertainment at comfortable portability. The device delivers a stunning visual experience with 2.5K resolution and 120Hz AdaptiveSync refresh rate. Equipped with Dolby Vision® and Dolby Atmos®, it perfectly balances entertainment, productivity, and creativity on the go. Powered by Snapdragon® 7s Gen 2, this next generation Pad boasts a powerful 10000 mAh battery with 33W fast charging support. The device comes with the POCO Smart Pen, POCO Keyboard and a back case. Additionally, the POCO Pad offers 2 years of Android updates and 3 years of security updates.

The POCO Pad 5G is available in two color options; Pistachio Green and

Cobalt Blue. Buyers making payments through SBI, HDFC and ICICI bank cards will be eligible for a discount of INR 3000 to make the device even more lucrative for Zillennials. On top of that, POCO is offering an additional INR 1000 discount for students on the first day of the sale, leading to an effective price of INR 19,999 for the 8GB+128GB storage variant and INR 21,999* for the 8GB+256GB



storage variant.

What's more? To truly empower its users with a seamless entertainment and productivity experience, the POCO Pad 5G comes with a free 1-year Times Prime membership for first 1500 customers and a free 6-month subscription to MS Office 365 (available to all buyers). It can be added as a bundle for INR 1 at the time of purchase. No cost EMIs are available with all leading banks for 3 months and 6 months.

Airtel Payments Bank collaborates with Noise and NPCI

Varanasi: Airtel Payments Bank in collaboration with Noise, India's leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), announced the launch of its upcoming cutting-edge NCMC (National Common Mobility Card)-enabled Smartwatch, integrated with the RuPay chip. The Bank showcased the prototypes of this state-of-the-art smartwatch at the Global Fintech Fest 2024. This innovative smartwatch, conceptualized by Noise, brings the future of payments to the user's wrist, blending advanced lifestyle features with the convenience of NCMC-enabled Tap and Pay transactions. This launch marks the second phase of the successful partnership between Airtel Payments Bank and Noise, building on the initial efforts to redefine on-the-go payments directly from their smartwatches. Elevating the experience further, this NCMC-enabled smartwatch is set to augment the potential of smart wearables by integrating seamless transactions into daily lives and redefining the future of connected living. The Airtel Payments Bank Smartwatch is engineered to revolutionize payments, offering unparalleled ease and accessibility. With NCMC integration, users will enjoy the convenience of Tap and Pay transactions at merchant locations as well as NCMC-enabled transit payments across metro systems, buses, parking facilities and more nationwide.

Minister Nandi shoots off letter to Municipal Commissioner on plight of roads

Prayagraj: During the rainy season, people are facing a lot of problems due to the widening work going on on many major roads in Sangam city Prayagraj for Maha Kumbh 2025 and potholes at many places on the damaged roads. There is severe traffic jam at many places in the city. Taking the problems and complaints of the general public seriously, Cabinet Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government and MLA of Prayagraj City

Southern Assembly Constituency Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi has written a letter to the Municipal Commissioner Prayagraj on the plight of the roads of Prayagraj. In which Minister Nandi has given instructions to get the bad and potholed roads repaired by conducting an immediate survey. Minister Nandi has written in the letter directed to the Municipal Commissioner that during his visit to various areas of



Prayagraj city southern assembly constituency in the month of August, There have been complaints of

poor condition and damage. The condition of roads in Prayagraj is very bad. Most of the roads are damaged. Kazipur Road, Sabzi Mandi Road, Jital Chouraha Road, Daryabad Main Road, New Bairaahna Road, Rani Mandi Road and surrounding roads in Naini, Sai Mandir Road in Sadiyapur as well as Stanley Road of City North and City West assembly constituencies. Rajapur Tiraha Road, Mumfordganj Road, Sardar

Patel Marg-Rajapur Connecting Road, Alopibagh, Tagore Town as well as the condition of the roads in the old city is in a bad condition. Roads have been damaged at many places. In the name of widening, pits are being dug and abandoned. Due to lack of speedy work, people are facing a lot of problems in transportation. The road at UPPSC Crossing, Stanley Road, Balsan Crossing is also in bad condition. Due

to rain, potholes have formed at many places on the roads. Due to which people are facing a lot of trouble in transportation. Driving people's vehicles is also risky due to bad roads. Due to which the possibility of accidents remains high. In view of the problems of the people, Minister Nandi has directed the Municipal Commissioner Prayagraj to conduct a quick survey of the roads and get quality repairs done.

Assault on Dr. OP Gupta flayed by top counterparts

Prayagraj: Allahabad Medical Association strongly condemned the incident of assault on Dr. OP Gupta, former Head of the Department of Medicine of Motilal Nehru Medical College, senior and respected member of Allahabad Medical Association, and Director of Ganga Nursing Home. They strongly condemned the incident of assault by the patient's family members. Terming this misbehaviour as extremely condemnable and worrying, the association has expressed its deep concern over the increasing violence against medical service profession-



als in the society. Today A delegation led by Allahabad Medical Association President Dr. Kamal Singh, former President Dr. Sujit Singh, and Joint Secretary Dr. Santosh Singh in protest against this incident met Prayagraj Police Commissioner, Shri Tarun Gaba. The delegation demanded strict action against the culprits involved in this incident. Taking the matter seriously, the Police Commissioner has instructed his subordinates to take prompt and strict action. Dr. Kamal Singh said on this occasion, "Dr. OP Gupta is a respected professor and doctor, who has benefited millions of people with his medical knowledge. We consider this barbaric incident that happened to him as unbearable and demand immediate action on it, so that such incidents do not recur in the future." Former President Allahabad Dr. Sujit Singh said, "While fulfilling its responsibility towards the society, Allahabad Medical Association has always worked for the protection of the interests of its members and will continue to do so. He has strongly condemned this incident and demanded strictest action against the culprits.

World Modern Sotokan All India Karate Competition 13 players of Kaushambi from Uttar Pradesh team won medals

Prayagraj: Brother sister pair (Jhanvi, Shashwat) again repeated history by winning medals. District with 4 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 7 bronze medals. Gave pride to World Modern Sotokan All India Karate Competition held at Chowk Stadium, Lucknow for two days from 24th to 25th August. In this competition from Kaushambi, Jhanvi Sharma got bronze medal, Shashwat Sharma got gold medal, Aarohi Mishra got silver medal, Stuti Gautam got bronze medal, Harshit Sonkar got bronze medal, Devank Sony Gold Anuj Kumar Bronze Raunak Sonkar Gold Naitik Sonkar Silver Manav Sonkar



Bronze Sambhav Singh Gold Aditya Kesharwani Bronze Abhishek Bronze This competition was organized by Jaspal Singh, Secretary of World Modern Sotokan Association India. Teams from many states were included in this competition. Under the auspices of coach Atul Sonkar. Kaushambi's team participated in the competition on behalf of Uttar Pradesh and performed brilliantly. All these players receive training from trainer Atul Sonkar. Karate Association Sachin Atul Sonkar, President Reena Sharma and Vice President Narendra Kesarwani congratulated the children.

SHUATS signs MoU with NovosEdge to enhance crop growth with high yield

To extend support to IoT based agri-tech Start-up Company

Prayagraj: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was executed between SHUATS and NovosEdge, a start-up company founded by Mr. Shashwat Raj and Mr. Shashi Ranjan in the year 2023. It is an innovative agritech start-up focused on revolutionizing agriculture through advanced IoT based solutions to enhance crop growth with high yield. AgriDoot, one of their flagship products offers farmers, data-driven insights, precision farming tools, and expert guidance to optimize crop production and enhance agricultural outcomes. This represents a paradigm shift in traditional agricultural practices, aiming to make farming more sustainable, efficient, and productive. It is a multisensory IoT device strategically installed in farmlands, collecting real-time crop-specific atmospheric and soil parameter datasets. These datasets are then forwarded to a dedicated cloud server, where proprietary algorithms analyse them in reference to crop stage and microclimatic forecasts. The outcome provides valuable insights, including pest predictions and crop growth stage-specific actionable suggestions to farmers throughout the entire crop production cycle. NovosEdge innovative approach signifies in leveraging technology for the betterment of the agricultural industry.

SHUATS Director IPC Prof. Derrick M. Denis along with the team initiated the talks with the company for the

installation of the IoT and sensor based tower in the farm of SHUATS. The tower will receive real time data over their AgriDoot app and provide valuable suggestions to the farmers for soil health, irrigation, disease detection etc. The data will be communicated in multiple regional languages. Presently SHUATS is involved in providing 5G based technologies to start-ups so as to fine tune and validate their technology. This technology will be helpful to farmers all over the country.



SHUATS professionals are providing the basic data sets for 158 agricultural products including cereals, fruits, vegetables and spices with the emphasis on promoting highly economical exotic variant of fruits and vegetables. This technology can be used by the farmers, FPOs, FPCs, government organisations, students, scientists and researchers all over the country and the world. Any individual can Geo-tag their field/farm and will receive soil, water, plant and climate information during and between satellite pass.

This is an effort of the SHUATS VC Prof. (Dr.) Rajendra B. Lal to train the students to evolve, adopt, practice and propagate the latest technologies available worldwide. This will help the farmers to have a better control on the prevalent situation and help in decision making. The overall effort it to get high price for all the produce of the farmer and increase the income of the farmers.

Majlis organized at Qadri House

Prayagraj: On behalf of the newly formed Anjuman Gulzar-e-Qasimi, a majlis was organized at Qadri House in Kareli in memory of the martyrdom of Kareli Imam Hussain. While inaugurating the Majlis, Maulana Raza Abbas Zaidi read out the Masaibs of Hazrat Abbas Alambardar, after which the members of the Majlis visited the Alam (mark of Anjuman) brought from Najaf (Iraq). When Naukhawans of Anjuman Gulzar-e-Qasimi recited Nauha and presented the condolence, tears came to the eyes of all the devotees. Hundreds of Azadars from different areas of the city participated in the Majlis. Faraez Kamran Rizvi and Asad Ali of Sozakhwani carried out the execution in Majlis. Peshkhawani was done



by Ishaan Koralvi, Azhar Allahabadi, Daniyal Allahabadi and Shaheer Ralvi, Aftab Nizam (moderation) was done by Najeeb Allahabadi. Nauha Khawani and Matam's Faraez Anjuman Gulzare Qasmi, Allahabad's Shadab Zaman, Askari Abbas, Shabih Abbas Jafri, Zaheer Abbas, Yasir Zaidi, Ikhlaiq Raza, Shabih Rizvi, Ejaz Rizvi, Asad Ali, Kamran Rizvi, Kumail etc. were executed. After the Majlis, Nazre Maula was also taken care of for everyone. Nasir Zaidi, Tashu Rizvi, Akhtar Mehdi, Javed Rizvi Karravi, Maulana Ali Gauhar, Maulana Jabir Abbas Mahmood Zaidi Qamar Abbas Rizvi, Khushnood Rizvi Asif Raza, Firoz Abidi, Dr. Azadar, Hasan Mustafa Rizvi etc. were present in the Majlis.

Addressing growing concern: Increased cases of heart attack among youth

Prayagraj: In recent years, there has been a concerning trend emerging in healthcare: an alarming increase in the incidence of heart attacks among young adults and adolescents. Once considered a health issue predominantly affecting older individuals, heart attacks are now affecting a growing number of young people, with one in every five heart attack patients under the age of 40, sparking concerns among healthcare professionals and communities alike. Dr D K Agarwal, Chief Consultant Cardiologist, Saraswati Heart Care & Multispecialty Hospital, Prayagraj, pinpoints that "Sedentary lifestyles and poor dietary habits, including the consumption of processed foods high in saturated fats and sugars, are significant contributors to the rising prevalence of heart attacks among the youth. Additionally, lifestyle factors like smoking and alcohol con-

sulting and increasing rates of obesity, hypertension, chronic stress, and diabetes among young adults further elevate their risk of experiencing a heart attack."

Early detection and prompt treatment are critical in addressing heart attacks in youth. Recognizing the warning signs, such as chest pain, shortness of breath, and dizziness, and seeking immediate medical attention can significantly improve outcomes. Treatment options may include medications to manage risk factors such as hypertension and cholesterol levels, lifestyle modifications, and, in severe cases, interventions such as angioplasty or bypass surgery. According to Dr. Agarwal, "Angioplasty stands as a lifesaving intervention for heart attacks in youth, offering renewed hope and a chance for a brighter future. It is associated with shorter recovery times and reduced

risk of complications compared to traditional open-heart surgery, making it an ideal treatment option for young patients."

Angioplasty, or percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), is a minimally in-



vasive procedure that involves widening narrowed or blocked arteries to restore blood flow to the heart muscle. During angioplasty, a thin catheter with a balloon at its tip is threaded through a blood vessel to the site of blockage. The balloon is then in-

flated to compress the plaque buildup and widen the artery, allowing blood to flow freely. Nowadays, there are drug-eluting stents which release medication to help heal the stressed arteries post procedure. There are USFDA-approved, drug-eluting stents today, which are well-studied for safe use in patients with complications or those who might have to interrupt medication a month after angioplasty.

It is important to remember that prevention is key in mitigating the risk of heart attacks among the youth. Adopting heart-healthy habits along with apt education and awareness are fundamental in empowering youth to take charge of their heart health. Together, through proactive prevention efforts and prompt treatment strategies, we can combat the rising prevalence of heart attacks among the youth and ensure a healthier future for generations to come.

Exciting final to mark National Sports Day at KPS today

Prayagraj: Hockey magician Major Dhyani Chand's birthday is being celebrated as National Sports Day across the country. Like previous years, this year also National Sports Day is being organized at Khelgaon Public School (KPS). For this, a three-day inter-school sports competition is being organized which started from 27th August and will continue till 29th August. Director of the school, Dr. R.C. Srivastava said that various sports competitions will be organized on 29th August. On the last day of the Sports Day celebrations, finals will be held. He further said that about 30 schools from the city are taking part in the inter-school under-14 age group competitions in 14 sports events. Around 1200 participants will be given "Certificate of Participation" for their participation, while the winners in various events will be given certificates. The participants will be honoured with "Certificates of Merit". The results of all the competitions will be declared tomorrow, Thursday, August 29, on the occasion of Sports Day, after which prizes will be distributed. A cultural program will also be organized during this time.

Congmen express condolence

Prayagraj: The condolence meeting of prominent Congressmen of the city and district was held at Civil Lines under the chairmanship of former UP Congress Committee spokesperson Kishore Varshney. In the meeting, grief was expressed over the demise of Sheela Devi, mother of Sanjay Singh, former General Secretary of City Congress and convener of Hathoda Baraat. He said that she was a very religious and social woman. She was a cancer patient who died late on Tuesday evening during treatment at Kamala Nehru Hospital. During this, two minutes silence was observed for the peace of the departed soul. Former Mayor Chaudhary Jitendra Nath Singh, AICC members Shekhar Bahuguna, Abhay Awasthi, Rajesh Rakesh, Rajendra Agarwal, Rakesh Srivastava, Dr. Satya Pandey, Ajay Srivastava, Rajendra Jaiswal, Ajay Mishra, Vijay Yadav, Satyendra Singh, Arun Gupta etc.

Cong leaders lodge complaint with police

Prayagraj: Siddharth Jindal was cutting the government telephone (BSNL) pole near the office of Jawahar Square Chowk Congress Party with a cutter. When he saw the party's office secretary passing by, he refused to do so, on which Jindal angrily scolded him. Said to run away from here otherwise they will cut you too with this cutter. Being afraid, the office secretary gave all the information to city president Pradeep Mishra Anshuman on phone. Anshuman ji told city secretary Mr. Irshadullah ji on phone to go and see Siddharth Jindal, why is this so? When Irshad Ullah asked the city president to talk about Siddharth Jindal, he said that there was nothing like that, then Anshuman ji asked the office secretary and the city secretary to leave, but after they left, Siddharth Jindal started talking to the government telephone poles. The city president has informed the senior police officers and a complaint has also been filed for FIR. The police officials have assured to take appropriate action and the Indian Telecom Department has also been informed about this.

BJP Yuva Morcha's worker gathering on Sept 2

Prayagraj: On the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the youth of the country to join politics, Metropolitan President of BJP Yuva Morcha Pappu Pandey congratulated Yuva Morcha for its successful 3-year tenure. But to connect the youth of Prayagraj with the Bharatiya Janata Party, on September 2, BJP Yuva Morcha will organize a workers' gathering ceremony and joint banquet and Sunderkand recitation at 11:00 am in the courtyard of Green Garden Fire Brigade Civil Line. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that On this occasion, a membership campaign will be run for the youth to join the Bharatiya Janata Party and senior leaders of the party will also motivate the youth. More and more youth are being invited to the program.

Crown worship of Lord Krishna Baldau

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of Sulem Sarayan Dadhikando Mela Committee, the crown of Lord Shri Krishna and Baldau was worshipped with much fanfare in the temple premises by Sulem Sarayan Stiti Thakur with Vedic chanting. Chairman of Dadhikando Mela Committee, Rajesh Gupta said that according to hundreds of years old religious tradition, the crown worship of the Lord was completed with the chanting of Vedic mantras. Everyone prayed to Lord Shri Krishna Baldau that the Dadhikando fair to be held on Sunday, 01 September as the sixth festival of the Lord, should be completed smoothly with full divinity and grandeur. After the Mukut puja, the Lord's crown procession ended with Thakur leaving the temple and passing through Sulem Sarai intersection. On this occasion, the devotees kept chanting Lord Krishna Baldau, elephant, horse and palanquin, Jai Kanhaiya Lal. During this, a large number of regional people including fair committee officials were present.



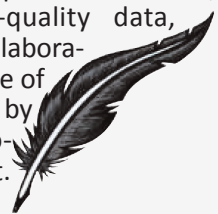
Editorial

AI is central to the future of climate finance, can attract investors

The report recommends a \$3 trillion annual increase in multilateral development banks' (MDBs) spending by 2030—including \$1.8 trillion toward climate action. However, MDBs offer concessional loans and add to the global debt, which hit a record \$307 trillion in 2023, a whopping 336 per cent of the GDP. Private sector engagement is crucial, yet its capacity to finance green projects is limited. Between 2016 and 2021, only \$120.8 billion was mobilised from the private sector, further highlighting the gap. In this context, artificial intelligence (AI) emerges as a transformative tool for climate finance, offering solutions for better decision-making, resource optimisation, and enhanced financial mechanisms to support sustainable initiatives. It can analyse vast datasets to assess climate risks accurately, aiding insurers and financial institutions in pricing risk and making resilient investments. Thus, AI can drive climate finance by exponentially improving risk assessment and management. AI algorithms can also help optimise investment portfolios by prioritising green investment opportunities over high-risk, carbon-intensive assets, balancing financial returns with environmental impact. Through its analysis of data trends, AI can uncover high-potential, underfunded areas for investment. Financial institutions worldwide need to be more efficient, and AI can help by streamlining operations and reducing costs. This will ultimately speed up the approval of climate finance proposals. One of the most critical areas of climate finance is risk pricing. AI can develop accurate pricing models for climate risks to reflect financial products' actual costs. Green bonds and sustainable finance require a greater push to increase funds flow. AI can raise investor confidence by automating compliance and reporting processes.

and ensuring that funds are used for their intended purposes. Considering the need to design and promote innovative financial instruments to direct retail investments into climate finance through capital markets.

AI can be most beneficial in promoting structures like infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs). Straddling the capital markets and institutional finance regulatory universe, InvITs are designed to unlock investors' investment appetite through the instrumentality of capital markets in the form of debt and equity. AI can optimise pricing for units of structures like InvIT, facilitating a smooth transition between debt and equity or public and private finance. It can also provide comprehensive real-time information on the performance (including financial) of projects held by these structures for robust forecasting and transparency. This can help tap into the vast global retail investor market. With a creative and attractive tax structure and robust risk matrix, InvIT-type structures can create circularity between public and private finance, as well as debt and equity, which is one way to bridge the green resource gap in the foreseeable future. Impact measurement and reporting are other areas in which AI can contribute significantly. It can enhance the measurement of climate finance initiatives' impact, attracting more investors through transparency and accountability. It can ensure funds are used effectively by monitoring and verifying the impact of investments. Similarly, compliance with fraud detection and climate finance regulations can also be improved with AI. Leveraging AI for climate action also poses several challenges. Reliable AI models depend on accurate, comprehensive, and high-quality data, necessitating stakeholder collaboration. It is also vital to be aware of the ethical and bias concerns by ensuring that the AI algorithms used are transparent.



The video was taken off all streaming services, and everyone involved received legal notices

The backlash was enormous. The video was taken off all streaming services, and everyone involved received legal notices. This, of course, was counterproductive; everyone who wanted to watch the episode could easily access the pirated version. If the disproportionate reaction was magically erased from public memory, what would remain is this: the jokes were in extremely poor taste. That's not necessarily on the comedians and writers; it's what's mandated by the

form. The roast essentially replicates a schoolyard bullying scene. There's the bully, the one being bullied, and, of course, those who are complicit — the voyeuristic and the bystanders. As audience members and consumers of entertainment, we take on this role wholeheartedly and without guilt. Charlie Sheen's 2011 roast was Comedy Central's most watched, drawing in 6.5 million viewers. A 2015 roast of Justin Bieber was watched by 4.4 million people. Both were at their peak — Sheen in

terms of his infamy, and Bieber, who has always been equal parts adored and hated. The personal lives of celebrities are always public fodder and always will be. The rise of influencers testifies to the extent to which you can commercialise and commodify your life. The avalanche of hate is neutralised by the money that flows in. Roasts can be viewed from the same lens. However, comedic trends have always ranged from self-deprecating to self-hating to just hating everyone. And trends are

framed by what appeals to the public, which, in this case, is unkindness. Not to sound preachy or moralistic, but there is something concerning about the staggering popularity of roasts and the craze that surrounds them. There's no nuance, not much thought that goes into the jokes. It's a low-quality, easy-money endeavour. And perhaps that's why they continue to be made. Social contexts have changed. As a whole, society is more politically correct, more mindful of language.

The defence services allocation includes the budget for the three services

Out of the total Rs 6.22 lakh crore, Rs 4.55 lakh crore has been allotted to the defence services, Rs 1.41 lakh crore for defence pensions (including defence civilians), and Rs 25,563 for MoD (Civil). The Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Defence Public Sector Undertakings. MoD (Civil) expenditure covers its secretariat expenses and those of organisations such as the Coast Guard, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Defence Accounts Department (DAD), and the Defence Estate Organisation. Out of the defence services budget, Rs 1.7 lakh crore (27.66 per cent) is earmarked for capital expenditure, while Rs 2.8 crore is allocated for revenue expenditure, including Rs 1.63 crore for pay and allowances and Rs 92,088 for stores (covering repair, maintenance and operational cost of the equipment in inventory). The capital expenditure of Rs 1.7 lakh crore for military modernisation did register a 5.8 per cent hike over last year's budgetary estimates and 9.4 per cent over revised estimates. The latter increase was due to Russia's inability to supply contracted weapons and equipment. The real increase is barely adequate to account for inflation and the rising dollar rate. A heartening feature of the current budget is the 30 per cent increase in the allocation for the Border Roads Organisation. The gap between projections made by the Armed Forces and allocation has been 17-23 per cent. In a nutshell, the



defence budget is disappointing and barely adequate to maintain the current capability. Unfortunately, this has been the norm since 2010 and is a cause of grave concern. Even with a modest GDP growth of about 7 per cent, India is projected to be a \$21 trillion economy by 2047. The BJP-led government has itself defined the national goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, implying a status of a great power or at least the third pole in the international arena along with the US and China. Achieving this goal requires a transformed military to safeguard national interests and maintain absolute strategic autonomy. Time is running short. China, with an economy five times larger than ours, set a goal in 2015 to transform its military by 2035 and make it the best in the world by 2049. Nine years into this transformation, its declared defence budget in 2023, as per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) was \$296 billion, three and a half times larger

than ours, which was assessed at \$83.6 billion. Pakistan's actual defence budget is approximately \$10 billion. India has to be prepared for a 2.5 front war—against China, Pakistan and Pakistan's proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir. And we are setting out to do so with a defence budget of \$ 83.6 billion! The situation is bizarre. With a niggardly defence budget, the politicians, carried away by their own rhetoric, dream of capturing the territories usurped by Pakistan and China. The military hierarchy instead of firmly advising the government about the shortcomings in preparedness says that it is prepared to fight and win the 2.5 front war. Neo-nationalism has further compounded the problem. An emotional and gullible public believes that India can defeat both China and Pakistan. If India followed the time-tested national security planning procedure of conducting an ethical strategic review, and a government-owned and monitored national defence policy to

transform the military, it would be clear that an allocation of 3 per cent of the GDP is essential. All these prerequisites lie within the political domain, and successive governments have wished the problem away. The military has compounded the issue by failing to implement in-house reforms to optimise, restructure, reorganise and modernise with the limited budget available.

High-technology wars of the 21st century cannot be fought with a military of the 20th Century. Two decades back, the eminent economist and former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, said, "The government can allocate about three per cent of the GDP for defence needs provided the economy grows at an annual eight per cent." Today our economy is growing at approximately 7 per cent. Surely, the government can provide 2.5 per cent of the GDP if not 3 per cent. With all other requirements remaining constant, an increase of 0.5 per cent of GDP will double the capital defence budget.

India is forecasted to achieve a \$4 trillion economy by the end of this year, and \$8 trillion by 2035. And this is the decade in which our military must transform itself to reduce the capability differential vis a vis the People's Liberation Army. It is time for the government to think like a great power and begin the transformation of its Armed Forces. And for this, an allocation of 2.5-3 per cent of GDP is inescapable.

China, our principal adversary, has been at the gates since April 2020, and its colossus partner, Pakistan, has stepped up terrorism through the back door. However, in the defence budget 2024-2025, "butter has got the better of the guns". With a budgetary allocation of Rs 6,21,940 crore, there is an increase of Rs 28,402 crore over the allocation of Rs 5,93,538 in 2023-2024, but a marginal decrease of Rs 1,949 crore compared to the revised budget estimates of Rs 6,23,889 crore. This year's allocation, which is 1.9 per cent of India's GDP and 12.9 per cent of annual national expenditure, is the lowest since 1960 as percentage of GDP. It is pertinent to mention that, despite economic constraints, past governments allocated the universal norm of 3 per cent or more of the GDP for defence from 1963 to 2010. However, in the last decade, our defence budget has been hovering around 2 per cent of the GDP. Since 2014, the defence budget has been barely adequate to sustain the military capability with incremental modernisation to maintain the dissuasive deterrent against China and offensive deterrent against Pakistan. However, it is grossly inadequate for transforming the Armed Forces to pose a challenge to China and to give a clear edge in the offensive deterrent against

Pakistan. Consequently, we have been unable to compel China to restore the status

Who will the Jats of the West support in the assembly elections?

The Jats of Muzaffarnagar riots believe that the farmers' movement has benefited SP before the 2022 elections. SP's seats also increased due to the farmers' movement, but still SP did not give any significant share to the Jats. This time, by giving tickets to Jats in the Lok Sabha, SP considered its responsibility towards the Jats fulfilled.

The Muzaffarnagar candidate won, but behind this too, the Jats' love for SP candidate Harendra Malik was less and their resentment with Sanjeev Baliyan was more.

In the name of Jat leader in SP, there is an elderly Ghaziabad resident and another Jat leader from Haryana who do not have any special existence or influence among the Jats of West UP.

The Jats have not yet forgotten the SP government's conspiracy to break the Jat-Muslim unity through this. The Jat community also blames the SP for getting the

Jat reservation cancelled in the Supreme Court. The SP has been the biggest hurdle in the dream of making West UP a separate state.

All political parties in UP have their eyes set on the 2027 elections. Its semi-final is being considered to be the by-elections of 10 assembly seats. BJP is worried about losing 29 seats in the Lok Sabha elections in UP, while the All India Alliance wants to maintain its lead in the by-elections as well. The 2027 election is also a do or die election for Akhilesh. If at least 80 seats are not won from West UP, the path to Lucknow will not be easy. West UP is called Jat land and there are not many Yadav voters here. In such a situation, it will be a big challenge for SP to woo the Jats.

Right now the Jats are voting for RLD, BJP and SP, BSP after seeing the Jat candidate. But no special strategy of SP is visible to attract the Jats.

Budget shows Modi govt's priority areas have changed after election

Rs 2000 crore for a new internship programme to be implemented by the department of consumer affairs. The government has also allocated Rs 1,000 crore for a new ITI upgradation scheme. The other areas of priority mentioned in the budget speech are productivity and resilience in agriculture, inclusive human resource development and social justice, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy security, infrastructure, innovation, research and development, and next-generation reforms. These have either not translated into any change in allocation (perhaps because the allocation in the interim budget was deemed adequate) or have led to relatively small changes. Under the priority area of energy security, the government has allocated Rs 6,250 crore for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which was launched earlier this year. For urban development, there is an additional allocation of Rs 4,000 crore for housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). While the first area that Sitharaman had emphasised in her budget speech was agriculture, the only major change in allocation towards this sector is Rs 4,700 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojana, under which remunerative prices are supposed to be provided to farmers. Further, while the government has continued the emphasis on infrastructure expenditure, the only major change in allocation from the interim budget is an additional allocation of Rs 6,000 crore for road works. Overall, most of the allocations in the Union budget are same as those in the interim budget. The only major deviations are in additional allocations for special assistance to states, which will likely be used for states ruled by BJP allies at the Centre, an acknowledgement of the need to do

more for employment creation, and in an allocation for price stabilisation. Since the Union budget envisages additional expenditure of Rs 54,744 crore over the expenditure budgeted in the interim budget, most of the additional allocations to the purposes and schemes discussed above did not require a reduction in allocations in other areas. Since the 2024 Lok Sabha election results were contrary to the government's expectations, there was a chance that the government may opt for major changes in allocation. However, the overall thrust of the expenditure strategy remains the same. Even the allocation for capital expenditure is the same. Beyond the allocation, the approach to using instruments of fiscal policy for addressing development problems also remains largely the same. On employment, for instance, the focus is on subsidies and direct benefit transfers, which have been the government's preferred instruments for most policy problems. The design of these schemes needs to be tested though. For instance, the direct benefit transfer to the first-time workers comes with the condition that if the worker is fired in the first year, the employer will have to reimburse the subsidy to the government. Since the benefit goes to the employee while the consequence of firing is on the employer, on the margins, this places an additional burden on the employer rather than reducing the cost of hiring. On the receipts side, the only major change is in the non-tax revenue. On account of a much larger dividend from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) than was budgeted in the interim budget, the budgeted receipt on non-tax revenues is about Rs 1.46 lakh crore higher than in the interim budget. While there are some major changes in the direct tax regime — the most important being the changes in the rate.

BJP-ruled UP, MP, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha give Agniveers job quota

Delhi: As the opposition cornered PM Modi-led NDA over the Agniveer plan on Kargil Vijay Diwas, Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled states provided job reservations to ex-servicemen. In back-to-back remarks, the chief ministers of Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha supported the initiative and offered job reservations for Agniveers in state jobs. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath criticized the opposition for misrepresenting the Agniveer plan, emphasizing national security. He said his



government will provide Agniveers police and PAC posts on "priority basis". CM Yogi wrote on X, "When Agniveers return, Uttar Pradesh would prioritize police service, PAC adjustment for them. Uttar Pradesh Police would offer them reserva-

tion." Just days before, the BJP-led Haryana government announced 10% reservation for Agniveers in direct recruitment to constable, mine guard, forest guard, jail warden, and SPO positions. UP, Madhya Pradesh, and

Chhattisgarh announced Agniveer job quotas. Madhya Pradesh state minister Mohan Yadav declared that his administration will give Agniveers reservations in police and armed forces recruitment following their service.

K'taka Cabinet renames Ramanagara Bengaluru South

Delhi: Despite BJP and JD(S) opposition, the Karnataka Cabinet renamed Ramanagara District Bengaluru South. After the Cabinet meeting, Law Minister HK Patil told reporters, "Ramanagara District would become Bengaluru South District." Minister Patil questioned, "How will the real estate mafia step in here and benefit from it?" Despite BJP and JD(S) objections.

Ekmi-Shobhan Bypass Construction Set to Begin Soon After Centre Approval

Delhi: Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha announced that the construction of AIIMS Darbhanga at Ekmi-Shobhan Bypass in Bihar had been approved by the central government. According to the lawmaker, the project is about to get underway soon after the Union Health Ministry informed the Bihar Health Department's Additional Chief Secretary Pratyaya Amrit of this decision in a letter dated July 25. The planned location at the Shobhan-Ekmi bypass was inspected by a Central Government technical team on March 18 and 19, 2024, and they found it to be suitable for building. A major milestone in the project's realization has been reached with the clearance of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, according to Sanjay Kumar



Jha's post on X. As an example of their meticulous approach to implementing AIIMS Darbhanga, the Bihar government has promised to give the Centre more than 150 acres of land for free, as well as to provide water and power and to construct a four-lane road to ensure easy connection. We are of the belief that the construction of AIIMS close to the Shobhan by-pass

on the fringes of the city will cause a surge in development there and the creation of jobs," Jha commented. Jha also brought attention to the fact that Darbhanga Medical College Hospital is now undergoing renovations. A 2,750-bed hospital with an estimated cost of Rs 27,42.04 crore is being planned by the state government.

BJP will choose national president by December

Delhi: BJP National President JP Nadda's term has ended. Although his term was prolonged, he was given important government duties. Thus, the BJP seeks a new president. The BJP wants a new national president by December. The election for this job begins on August 1. Before the national president is elected, a membership drive and district and state strengthening will occur. New BJP national president elections will commence. First, a membership drive will



be initiated, followed by an active membership campaign and verification. The BJP constitution requires members to renew every nine years. This year's membership campaign requires the Prime Minister, party president, and other

leaders to renew. BJP sources say state and central council members will be elected after Mandal and district president elections. State presidents will be chosen after these elections. State president elections begin December 1.

In FY24, Ola Electric's sales hit Rs 5,000 crore, losses rise 8%



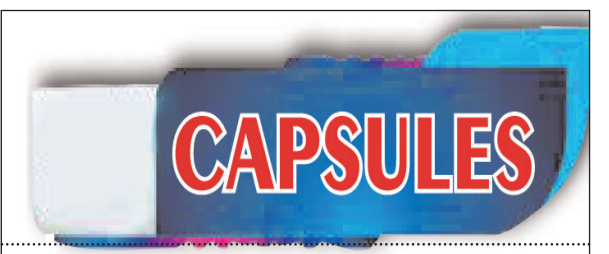
Delhi: According to the company's July 27 Red Herring Prospectus (RHP), IPO-bound Ola Electric FY24 operating revenues rose 90% to Rs 5,009 crores due to e-scooter sales, which have solidified the company's market share of over 50%. Sales rose, but losses rose 8% to Rs 1,584 crores.

The firm's net loss was Rs 1,472 crore in FY23 due to rising expenses. Operating income was Rs 2,782 crore. Ola Electric's prospectus internal risk disclosure states that it may continue to incur operational losses as it invests in the company and expands. "For example, the expansion of our product portfolio and our strategy of expanding our sales

footprint across international automotive markets could result in an increase in our operating costs," the company said. As scooter sales increased, our total expenses rose to Rs 62,774.11 million in Fiscal 2024 from Rs 38,833.75 million in Fiscal 2023 due to rising material costs and other expenses "The firm's RHP stated. The company's total expenses as a proportion of income were 119.72% in Fiscal 2024, up from 139.55 percent in Fiscal 2023. The firm spent Rs 79 crores on R&D in FY24 and plans to use 1,600 crores from the IPO. R&D consumes 7.69% of income. The firm's overall personnel cost—salaries, bonuses, and other costs—rose 3% to Rs 438 crores in FY24.

Odisha's FY25 budget is Rs 2.65 lakh crore

Delhi: The Odisha government submitted a Rs 2.65 lakh crore 2024-25 budget focused on agriculture and irrigation in the state parliament. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented the BJP government's maiden budget and proposed an outlay of Rs 33,919 crore for agriculture, 36% more than the previous year. He said program cost was estimated at Rs 1.55 lakh crore, administrative expense at Rs 97,725 crore, and Disaster Risk Management Funds at Rs 3,900 crore. The "Samrudha Krushak Yojana" for farmers received Rs 5,000 crore from the chief minister. He also proposed a Rs 1,935 crore state budget initiative for farmers called 'CM Kisan'. Majhi called the paper a "people's budget" and stated the government consulted stakeholders.



Bihar and Rajasthan have new state chiefs appointed by the BJP



Delhi: New leaders for the states of Bihar and Rajasthan have been announced by the Bharatiya Janata Party. The party has also named new state in-charges and co-in-charges with this. The BJP has tasked Dilip Jaiswal with leading Bihar and Madan Rathore with leading Rajasthan. Rathore is a member of the Rajya Sabha. Assam will be overseen by Harish Dwivedi, Chandigarh by Atul Garg, Lakshadweep by Arvind Menon, and Radha Mohan Das Aggarwal by Radha Mohan Das. To the state of Rajasthan Arvind Menon will be responsible for Tamil Nadu, with Sudhakar Reddy serving as his co-in-command, while Vijaya Rahatkar will be in charge of Rajasthan. Rajdeep Roy has been named by the party as the representative for Tripura in the northeastern region.

The state of Telangana has unveiled its 2024-25 budget

Delhi: With total revenues of 2.21 lakh crore and capital expenditures of 33,487 crore, the Telangana government tabled a budget of 2.91 lakh crore. The expected total revenues were 2,90,814 crore Indian rupees, which includes more than 57,000 crore rupees in Open Market Loans. State government plans to invest

72,659 crores rupees in agriculture, according to Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Portfolio Head Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who presented the budget to the Assembly. A further Rs. 21,292 crores would go toward education, while Rs. 22,301 crores would go toward irrigation, according to the government's plans.

Our recommended allocation for Panchayath Raj and Rural Development in this budget is 29,816 crores rupees. Debt in Telangana has surpassed 6.71 lakh crore rupees. Bhatti noted that the state government's debt has multiplied by ten in the past decade despite a corresponding lack of development.

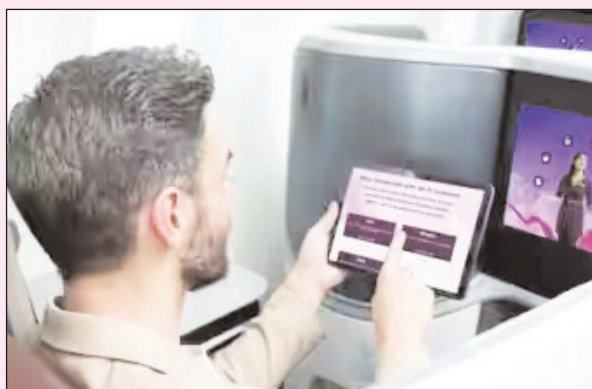
Why Muslims oppose Vande Mataram

Delhi: After the Muslims refused to sing this song, Hindutva ideologues accused them of being anti-national without giving them a chance to respond. Thus, Muslim objections to Vande Mataram must be examined. As a monotheist religion, Islam condemns the apotheosis of all deities except God, the supreme creator. Ascribing divinity to Prophet Mohammad is blasphemous, defeating Islam's goal of uniting humanity through worship of a common creator. Those who disagree with Islam should know that Vande Mataram con-

tains verses that contradict Islam. In the hymn, the fourth line praises India as "Thou art Durga, Lady and Queen, with her striking hands and shining swords, Thou art Lakshmi lotus-throned..." A Muslim must deify India by comparing it to Durga and Lakshmi when singing these lines. This contradicts tawheed, which states that Muslims can only pray to God. Since non-Muslims cannot be forced to read the Quran in their gatherings, it would be unfair to force Muslims to break their scriptural injunctions in the sake of patriotism.

Vistara is the first Indian airline to offer free 20-minute international Wi-Fi

Delhi: Vistara, a TATA-Singapore Airlines joint venture, stated that its international flights on Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and Airbus A321neo aircraft now offer 20 minutes of free Wi-Fi. "The complimentary 20-minute Wi-Fi access will enable passengers across all cabins to stay connected and is also ideal for those who wish to purchase extended Wi-Fi plans using Indian credit/debit cards," Vistara said. Customers can receive one-time passwords via email to purchase extended wireless services during the



active session. "delighted to lead the way and become the first Indian airline to offer complimentary Wi-Fi on international flights across all cabins." "We are confident that customers will appreciate this value addition that aims to make their

Vistara journey more convenient, productive, and seamless," Rajawat said. Club Vistara members of any tier and cabin will have free chat during Vistara international flights under the internet connectivity package. Chatting on Whatsapp, Facebook

Messenger, etc. with unlimited bandwidth costs Rs 372.74 plus GST. To access the internet on these flights, the airline charges Rs 1577.54 + GST for embedded audio and video streaming from social media, online, etc. It stated unlimited data for all streaming protocols costs Rs 2707.04 plus GST. "Vistara's international flights on Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and Airbus A321neo use Panasonic Avionics' sophisticated wireless connectivity to allow Wi-Fi-enabled devices to access the internet at 35,000 feet.

RBI data shows a double-digit rise in digital payments in India

Delhi: India's digital payments have increased 12.6% year over year; at the end of March 2024, the RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) was at 445.5, up from 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023. The RBI stated that "over the period, there has been significant growth in both payment performance and payment infrastructure across the country, driving an increase in the RBI-DPI index across all parameters."

"Since January 1, 2021, the Reserve Bank has been releasing a composite RBI-DPI index, which uses March 2018 as its base month to reflect the level of digital payment adoption nationwide. The five basic factors that make up the RBI-DPI allow the penetration of digital payments in the nation to be measured over a range of time periods.



The EV scheme expired last year, Delhi car purchasers have been without the incentive for six

Delhi: Since the EV scheme expired last year, Delhi car purchasers have been without the incentive for six months. The policy, which gives EV buyers financial advantages, expired on December 31, 2023, and was supposed to be extended in January. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said bureaucratic hurdles prevented the extension, depriving the public of subsidized benefits for six months. "This should be expedited so that the people can benefit and Delhi can continue to be the No. 1 state in terms of EV penetration," Gahlot added. The state cabinet approved the



executive order for the policy extension, but the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections prevented its implementation, a transport department official said. "We have now sent the extension

proposal again for approval," the person said, expecting approval in a week. The bank managing the EV subsidy webpage had difficulty, the spokesman said. "The portal hadn't used the vehicle num-

ber as a unique ID number, which may have led to discrepancies," stated. "The bank caused the delay. But now the portal is fixed." Electric two-wheelers receive a Rs. 5,000 subsidy per kWh of

battery capacity (maximum Rs. 30,000) under the EV program. A Rs. 30,000 subsidy is given to three-wheelers regardless of cost or battery capacity. The four-wheeler incentive was just for the first 1,000 EVs registered in Delhi under that plan, thus it no longer applies. After the present policy expired in August, the administration sought to create EV Policy 2.0 in October.

It even consulted stakeholders, but that failed, extending the previous policy again. After CNG from petrol and diesel, EVs are the biggest change in capital automobile use.

Patnaik's Party MP: "No More Support To BJP, Only Opposition"

Delhi: BJD president Naveen Patnaik met with his party's nine Rajya Sabha MPs and urged them to form a "vibrant and strong" opposition in the Upper House. Mr. Patnaik also asked parliamentarians to properly raise state interests during the meeting. After the meeting, Rajya Sabha leader Sasmit Patra told reporters, "The BJD MPs this time will not be confined to speaking on issues only, but are determined to agitate if the BJP-led government at the Centre

ignores Odisha's interest." In addition to demanding special status for Odisha, BJD MPs will discuss issues including inadequate mobile connectivity and low bank branch density, he said. "The Centre has disregarded Odisha's coal royalty request for 10 years. Losing their just share, state residents are suffering," he added. Mr. Patra said Naveen Patnaik has ordered the nine Rajya Sabha MPs to fight for state citizens' rights in Parliament,

forming a powerful opposition. He remarked, "No more support to BJP, only opposition." BJD previously supported the BJP-led administration on issues. For Odisha's interests, we'll do everything." Later, Mr. Patra told PTI, "BJP support is impossible. The BJD president urged us to form a robust resistance if the NDA ignores Odisha's legitimate demands."

The BJD has nine Rajya Sabha MPs but failed to win a Lok Sabha seat for the first time since 1997.

Andhra, Chhattisgarh want new capitals, Kerala a special grant



Delhi: Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh requested help building new state capitals, while Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Odisha requested project-specific funding. Kerala requested a Rs 24,000 crore special package to address a financial issue. With TDP, a key constituent of NDA govt at Centre, back in power in Andhra, a special package for the state was widely expected, but sources said the state finance minister only sought support for several projects, including a new capital in Amravati and Polavaram dam project. In contrast, Kerala made the demand to Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman before the Budget. "Considering the state's contribution in varied spheres in keeping up national pride,

including HDI, SDG, start up and innovation, a special package of at least Rs 24,000 crore may be announced in Union Budget 2024-25 to tide over the current liquidity stress by scheduling it over two years from 2024-25," Kerala finance minister K N Balagopal said in a speech, urging centre to review market borrowing cap. To secure domestic supply, states like Chhattisgarh advocated easing rice and other farm product export restrictions. While seeking district mineral fund spending norm changes, the BJP-ruled state demanded Kerala state demanded Raipur monies. Capex funding has been requested by several states from the Centre. Haryana FM Jai Prakash Dalal requested special assistance from the Centre.

Self-declaration for ads: Rules are unclear

Delhi: Concerns about advertising self-declarations will persist. The Supreme Court ordered advertisers to attest that their advertising does not make false claims last month. What this means is understandably feared. The marketing head of an FMCG firm thinks self-declaration follows multiple food and beverage advertising issues. "A lot of brands had to deal with the regulators and it is possible that self-declaration is a result of that." How it will unfold is uncertain. "The government has not publicly policed or penalized erroneous declarations. Uploading is good, however the backend needed to verify submissions should have been implemented first. Who assesses claim merit?" He asks. According to ASCI Secretary General Manisha Kapoor, mis-



leading assertions in advertising are complex. Technical accuracy is important, but so is knowing how an ordinary consumer could view the commercial given its clues and context. ASCI's impartial jury debates and recommends each ad," she says. Advertisers generally assume their advertising is not misleading, she says. They may leave some remarks and depictions to artistic freedom. Creative freedom is their right and what makes advertising attractive, yet it can become deceptive," said.

Centre will lend Rs 75,000 cr interest-free under Viksit Bharat

Delhi: The Union government will lend Rs 75,000 crore interest-free for 50 years to States to implement 'Viksit Bharat' reforms. The government wants to build India by 2047. Finance Minister proposed this in her Lok Sabha Budget address. To achieve 'Viksit Bharat', states require more economic and development-enabling reforms.

More than 40 Telangana IAS officers were transferred

Delhi: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's Telangana State Government transferred nearly 40 IAS officers in the first major upheaval. June 24, 2024 IAS officer reshuffle. The government has been discussing transferring IAS personnel for some time, but after the Lok Sabha election 2024 announcement, it did

not act. The Chief Minister met with senior officials led by Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari to finalize the transfer list. The Chief Secretary ordered Energy Department principal secretary Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi to be transferred to the Commercial Taxes and Excise department and replaced by Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) commissioner D. Ronald Rose, who was also appointed chairman and managing director of TG Transco and Genco. Kata, HMDA metropolitan commissioner, is now GHMC commissioner. Transport Commissioner Jyoti is now Registration, Stamps, and Housing secretary.

BJP rejects leadership change in Maharashtra

Delhi: Following the party's dismal performance in the most recent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP ruled against changing the leadership of the state of Maharashtra. The choice was made after a meeting of the Maharashtra BJP core committee that included Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda. Reporters were informed by Union Minister Piyush Goyal at the BJP headquarters that "there will be no change in leadership in Maharashtra." State BJP chairman Chandrashekar Bawankule, along with senior leaders Sudhir Mungantiwar, Chandrakant Patil,

Pankaja Munde, and Vinod Tawde, were present at the meeting. In the most recent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP secured nine seats in Maharashtra, a decrease from its 2019 total of 23 seats. Devendra Fadnis, the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, had made the offer to leave the MahaYuti administration of Shiv Sena, BJP, and NCP in order to concentrate on leading the party to victory in the September-October assembly elections. During the meeting at the BJP headquarters, the party's showing in the Lok Sabha elections was also a topic of discussion.

TMC and Congress to work together against BJP in Parliament

Delhi: After a contentious general election season in West Bengal and sharp comments from both sides, the two key INDIA bloc allies have reached out to each other to jointly formulate issue strategies and bolster the Opposition's united offensive against the government in the upcoming Parliament session, sources said. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee pulled out of the alliance in West Bengal amid repeated barbs by Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Weeks after the latter lost his home seat of



Baharampur to the TMC, former Union minister P Chidambaram met Banerjee to improve relations. According to the sources, the two leaders discussed the enormous number of measures passed in the past decade that needed reconsideration and greater coordination in Parliament. The Congress even requested Banerjee to campaign

for Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is running in her first election in Kerala's Wayanad, which her brother Rahul Gandhi deserted this week for Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. In the last INDIA meeting before elections, Banerjee advised Priyanka Gandhi to face Modi in Varanasi. The TMC also wants the Opposition alliance to downplay the Left.

Congress has 125 MPs in both Houses of Parliament, followed by TMC's 42 and Samajwadi Party's 41. "There is a large section of the Congress leadership that wants a good relationship with the Trinamool," said Derek O'Brien, TMC Rajya Sabha leader. The Lok Sabha defeat of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury eliminated a key "roadblock" in the TMC-Congress alliance, according to TMC leaders. In the session starting June 24, the Opposition will attack the government over the NEET and UGC NET issue.

NCP's Amol Mitkari Attacks Mahayuti

Delhi: The BJP and Shiv Sena are fighting for Mahayuti alliance domination, while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) is being marginalized. Ajit Pawar adviser proposed he form an alliance with Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) president Prakash Ambedkar for the assembly elections, fueling the flames. This proposal has raised concerns about the NCP leaving Mahayuti. NCP spokesperson Amol Mitkari openly criticized Mahayuti and hinted at internal discord. "Some want Ajit Pawar to leave Mahayuti. He is being singled out for the alliance's Lok Sabha performance. According to a viral video, Mitkari said this will revolutionize Maharashtra politics. His comments have raised suspicion about Ajit Pawar leaving the Mahayuti to run in the assembly elections alone.



BJP names in-charges for the upcoming elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, J'khand, and J-K

Delhi: The party's election in-charges and co-incharges for the assembly poll-bound states of Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Jammu & Kashmir were named by BJP President JP Nadda on Monday. According to a party announcement, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will serve as the state's co-incharge and senior BJP leader Bhupender Yadav has been named as the incharge for Maharashtra. The BJP has appointed former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb as co-incharge of the state's elections, replacing Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, according to the statement. According to the statement, Jharkhand's election in charge is Union Minister and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while Assam's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is the state's co-incharge. It added that G Kishan Reddy, a union minister, has been named the new leader for Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir elections must be held by September, per the Supreme Court's directive to the Election Commission, while assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, and Jharkhand are scheduled for later this year.

Congress would run CM Sukhu's wife in Dehra assembly byelection

Delhi: Congress nominated Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur for Dehra assembly bypoll against BJP's Hoshyar Singh. AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal announced that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had accepted Kamlesh's Dehra bid after she topped two party surveys. Independent Hoshyar Singh won the seat in 2017 and 2022 after BJP won in 2012. He is running for BJP this time. Kamlesh, born April 2, 1970, in Nalsooha village, Dehra subdivision, Kangra district, has been active in politics, especially in Nadaun, represented by Sukhu. Her master's in political science is from Government College Chandigarh. Social service, especially women empowerment, has been her focus. She has been involved in the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee for 20 years, keeping strong party links. The by-election will make Kamlesh and his wife the first husband-wife assembly members in Himachal Pradesh. Former chief minister Virbhadr Singh and son Vikramaditya Singh were together in the legislature. The bypolls were needed after Hoshyar Singh and two other independent MLAs resigned in March and joined BJP.

President Murmu receives Timor Leste's highest civilian award

Timor-Leste President Droupadi Murmu was honored with Timor-Leste's highest civilian award, the Grand-Collar of the Order. Her visit marked the first presidential visit from India to Timor-Leste. Murmu discussed strengthening bilateral relations with President José Ramos-Horta and explored Timor-Leste's potential joining of the International Solar Alliance. She will also meet Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão and attend a community reception.

Murmu receives Timor Leste's highest civilian award

President Droupadi Murmu receives Timor Leste's highest civilian award (X/@rashtrapati-bhvn) **President Droupadi Murmu** received the highest civilian 'Grand-Collar of the Order' award of Timor Leste on Saturday. "President José Ramos-



Horta of Timor-Leste conferred the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award, upon President Droupadi Murmu. The award is in recognition of her achievements in public service and dedication to education, social welfare and empowerment of women. President Murmu said that the honour is a reflection of the ties of friendship between India and Timor-Leste. "President's office said in a tweet. President Murmu arrived Dili on the first-ever presidential visit from India to

Timor-Leste, as the two nations seek to enhance their bilateral ties further. During her visit, she met her counterpart Jose Ramos-Horta and highlighted that India and Timor-Leste share warm and friendly relations based on a shared commitment to the values of democracy and pluralism. "President Droupadi Murmu held bilateral meeting with President Jose Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste. Underlining the strong connect between the two democratic nations, both leaders discussed opportunities for enhancing the bilateral cooperation.

Maharashtra CM Shinde defends 'Ladki-Bahin' scheme

NEW DELHI: Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde has criticised the opposition parties for spreading rumours about his government's 'Ladki-Bahin' scheme, which offers Rs 1,500 monthly assistance to eligible women. Attacking opposition, Shinde, addressing in Thane, asked people to be cautious of "step brothers," and said his government's focus is on public welfare, not elections, and pledged to ensure the scheme's longevity, reported PTI.

Will junk NH projects in Punjab if law & order remains poor: Gadkari

NEW DELHI: The NHAI will have "no option but to cancel/ terminate" eight more "severely affected" highway projects in Punjab costing Rs 14,288 crore, if the law and order situation doesn't improve, road transport minister Nitin Gadkari wrote to Punjab CM Bhawant Mann on Friday. The minister's ultimatum comes amid reports of untoward

incidents on the under construction Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, including engineers and employees of contractors being beaten up in Jalandhar and miscreants threatening to burn the project camp and staff alive in Ludhiana. The minister said that since these are greenfield corridors, even cancelling one package will render the

entire stretch "useless". Gadkari, in his letter, highlighted serious safety concerns for NHAI officers, contractors and their staff as well as issues related to pending land acquisition. He attached photos of assaults in his communication to Mann. Referring to a recent review meeting of NH projects on July 15 that he chaired.

Minorities of Bangladesh assembled in borders along Tripura seeking entry; Right bodies seek action from India

AGARTALA: The BSF has intensified the vigil along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura following the report of the gathering of a large number of minorities in Bangladesh across other sides of wire fencing in several places in two days.

According to the report, hundreds of non-Muslim families and Awami League supporters have been facing atrocities and attacks allegedly by the miscreants in and around Dhaka, Patuakhali, Sylhet, Srimangal, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Noakhali, Feni and Chittagrame soon after Sheikh Hasina resigned and left the country on Monday. The report claimed houses, properties, and belongings of more than 17000 families in Bangladesh have been destroyed while about a lakh people ran away from their localities seeking shelter in safe places. Allegedly, the protestors issued an open threat to the minorities to leave Bangladesh as it is soon to be declared an Islamic country.



Not only minority communities but even Muslims who supported Hasina and believers in democracy have also allegedly been targeted by the demonstrators and were facing the atrocities, said a businessman of Brahmanbaria belonging to the majority community adding, "We have been identified as India's sympathizer." During Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, a similar situation was created but there was no fencing in those days between India and Bangladesh.

As a result, about 16 lakh

people especially Hindus and Buddhists from then East Pakistan sheltered only in Tripura. Assam, Meghalaya, and West Bengal also witnessed a huge influx and settlement subsequently because the Indian government allowed refugees. The BSF sources said that villagers assembled other sides of the fencing in the isolated pockets in Kailashahar, Kamalpur, Khowai, Simna, Narshinghar, Belabar, Kamalagar, Sonamura, and Sabroom seeking entry into Indian Territory.

'I am a woman like any woman': Imane Khelif

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif secured a historic gold medal at the Paris Olympics on Friday, winning the women's welterweight final against China's Yang Liu, amidst intense scrutiny over her eligibility. The 25-year-old became the first Algerian woman to win an Olympic boxing gold medal, addressing the gender controversy that shadowed her victory with determination and poise. "I am a woman like any woman," declared Khelif during a post-fight press conference. "I was born a woman and I have lived as a woman, but there are enemies to success who can't digest my success. That also gives my success a special taste," Reuters quoted Khelif, as she emphasized her identity and resilience in the face of detractors. The controversy began when Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting were disqualified.

But for my recurring groin injury, I could've thrown 4m further: Neeraj

PARIS: When Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem cleared 92.97 metres with his effortless second throw in the javelin final Thursday night, the pressure was on Neeraj Chopra to better it.

The Indian believed he could do it, but in his desperation to go past his Pakistani rival's mark, he ended up with four

foul throws. Trying to come to terms with his first loss to Nadeem since 2016, Neeraj, who threw 89.45m and bagged silver, said a nagging groin injury has been bothering him.

"When I get ready for my throws, 70-80% of my focus is on my injury as I don't want to aggravate it. My speed drops

and so I start pushing myself. Before the last World Championships, the doctor had advised me to go for surgery. But I didn't have the time. I couldn't do it before Olympics either. But (now) I will have to make a big decision," the current world champion said here after the event, adding that the same throw

could have been four metres further had he been in perfect shape. But for my recurring groin injury, I could've thrown 4m further: Neeraj. Despite the disappointment of not winning back-to-back Olympic gold, many consider Neeraj the greatest-ever Indian athlete. He, though, remains humble.

In one frame, PM Modi and Rahul Gandhi at Om Birla's chambers

NEW DELHI: A photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has gone viral on social media. The two leaders attended a meeting called by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla after the conclusion of the second session of the 18th Lok Sabha. The photo shared by the Lok Sabha on X showed PM Modi, Rahul Gandhi sit-

ting with Om Birla. The meeting was also attended by Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Kiren Rijiju and other leaders. Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Chirag Paswan, Piyush Goyal, Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kanimozhi also attended the meeting which was called at the chambers of Om Birla in the Parliament. Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die.

'Har Ghar Tiranga campaign': Congress takes a dig at PM, shares 'short history' of RSS

NEW DELHI: Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's launch of the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, highlighting historical disagreements between the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Indian national flag.

In a post shared on X (formerly Twitter), Ramesh allegedly pointed several instances from RSS history that he argues reflect the organization's past reluctance to accept the tricolor. Ramesh pointed that in 1947, RSS's second chief, MS Golwalkar, criticised the adoption of the tricolor as the national flag in his book Bunch of Thoughts. Golwalkar reportedly described the flag as "communal" and "a mere case



of imitation." Further, Ramesh referred a 1947 article in the RSS magazine Organiser, which allegedly stated that the tricolor "will never be adopted or respected by the Hindus." The article suggested that the flag's three colors were psychologically harmful and detrimental to the country. Ramesh also cited a 2015 controversy, during which the RSS purportedly argued that "saffron should be the only color on the national flag,"

asserting that other colors represented communal ideology. Additionally, he claimed out that the RSS did not consistently hoist the tricolor at its headquarters until 2001. Ramesh recalled an incident where three youths faced legal action for attempting to hoist the flag on RSS premises. Ramesh accused the Prime Minister of attempting to "usurp" a national symbol that, according to his claims, the RSS had allegedly rejected.



SC stays ban on hijab by Mumbai college, but says no burqa or niqab

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Friday stayed till Nov 18 a Mumbai college's circular banning students from wearing hijab, cap or badge but allowed the educational institution to continue enforcing its circular banning wearing of burqa, niqab or stole in its premises.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar issued notice to the college on a petition jointly filed by three students — Zainab Abdul Qayyum Choudhary, Nasreen Bano Mohd Tanzim Shaikh and Nazneen Mazhar Ansari — appealing against a Bombay HC order upholding the college circular. It said, "In the meanwhile, we stay clause 2 of the circular to the extent that it directs that no hijab, cap or badge will be permitted."

Should it not be left to girls to decide what they want to wear? asks SC

Clause 2 of the Mumbai college circular reads, "You (students) shall follow the dress code of college of formal and decent dress which shall not reveal anyone's religion such as 'no burkha, no niqab, no hijab, no cap, no badge, no stole, etc. Only full or half-shirt and normal trousers for boys and any Indian/western non-revealing dress for girls on the college campus. Changing rooms available for girls." The Justice Sanjiv Khanna-led bench, however, orally clarified that no burqa can be worn by anyone inside the college or classrooms. The interim stay was confined to the ban on wearing hijab, cap or badge.

Appearing for 'Chembur Trombay Educational Society', under which the college in question functioned, senior advocate Madhavi Divan said there were 441 Muslim women students pursuing various courses in the college and none of them, except the three petitioners, had any objection to the circular.

Cabinet counters SC, rejects creamy layer in Dalit quota

NEW DELHI: Modi government has rejected the recent Supreme Court ruling asking for exclusion of 'creamy layer' among Dalits from the purview of quotas, saying that doing so would be unconstitutional. "Recently, the Supreme Court gave a judgment on the issue of reservation. The SC has made some suggestions about SC/ST

reservation in it. Today, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, wide discussions were held on this issue. And the well-thought-through opinion of the cabinet is that NDA govt is committed and dedicated towards the provisions of the Constitution of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

And as per provisions of Babasaheb Ambedkar, there is no provision of creamy layer in SC/ST reservation. Cabinet's decision is that SC/ST reservation should be according to Babasaheb's Constitution," I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in what marked a swift rebuttal of the SC's land-

mark verdict.

Quota case Significantly, Modi had signalled his govt's intent hours before the cabinet got down to discuss the issue by telling SC/ST MPs belonging to BJP that the apex court's verdict was only recommendatory and that govt was alive to their "genuine" concerns about it.

To prove a point, opposition plans to seek Vice-President's ouster

NEW DELHI: The antagonism between opposition parties and Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has reached a point where the opposition is considering bringing a resolution for the removal of the vice-president, who also serves as chairman of the upper House, sources said. With the monsoon session ending on Friday, opposition parties are now planning to work



on the modalities for this unprecedented move. Sources said 87 members have signed on the proposal to initiate action against Dhankhar.

The parties have started collating documentary material of instances in the House where Dhankhar has been "partisan in his actions". "He has also

overruled norms and procedures to the advantage of the treasury benches, when the chair should be seen as a neutral umpire who must uphold the dignity of the constitutional post," a senior opposition member told TOI. A source said that about two days ago, leader of the House J P Nadda was informally informed that the opposition may submit a motion.

CBSE recommends stronger internal examinations in schools to reduce theory-practice gaps

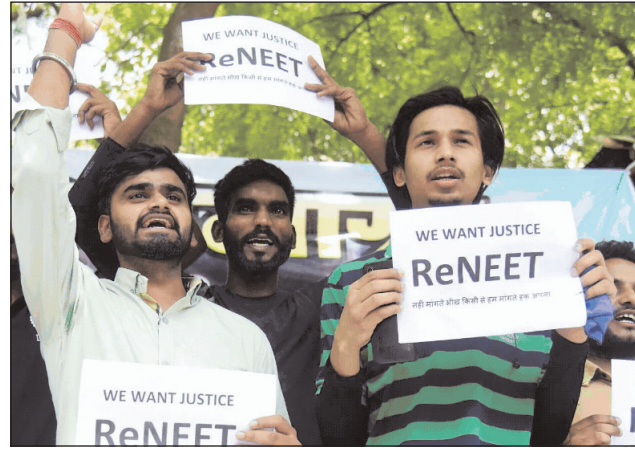
Delhi: The CBSE recently advised schools to review their own assessment systems. After finding a large gap between theory and practical test marks in classes X and XII in over 500 schools. Many students who did poorly in theory tests did well in practical exams. The advice proposes a more robust, transparent, and dependable approach to provide realistic assessment and significant academic value for pupils." The CBSE circular says An anonymous CBSE official said, "We have complete theory and practical mark data for grades X and XII. If all 40 students in a class obtain full marks in practical but just a few get good scores in theory, we can uncover exam disparities." The board has provided guidance before, he says, adding that the CBSE conducts this procedure annually. Says, "Many schools give additional marks in practical tests to boost grades. With practical marks, a student can pass the exam despite low theory marks. This improves school performance and reputation." Teachers and school management should be consistent and ethical while deciding practical marks. "Many times, to



save their jobs, teachers resort to mark inflation," he says. "These discrepancies affect the morale of the bright students who despite all their hard work are positioned together with the non-deserving students." Senior official: "There are a few rules, but officials are striving to establish a more comprehensive assessment system to eliminate irregularities. CBSE will sensitize schools." Former Delhi government school administrator Sangeeta Jay believes, "Familiar environments improve student performance. Students feel comfortable at school since they are surrounded by instructors and friends during internal assessment and no other agencies or examiners are involved. This is why 30%-40% of pupils do well. When students appear for boards that require them to complete papers at different centers, they may be nervous in a new atmosphere. This may hinder student performance.

Candidates want full retakes, thorough investigation of irregularities

Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) informed the Supreme Court that 1,563 candidates who obtained "grace marks" in the 2024 National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) will have their scorecards canceled. These NEET-UG candidates who received grace marks for missing time can reappear. June 23 is the re-examination date, with results expected by June 30. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta heard the NTA's declaration that a committee will review these contestants' results. The Committee canceled 1,563 candidates' scorecards and offered retests. The Supreme Court said it will not stop NEET-UG 2024 counselling, emphasizing that it will proceed. The Supreme Court will hear petitions again on July 8. The Court accepted the NTA's assertion that the 1,563 students' retest will be notified today and the findings



Simple Methods for Writing UK SOPs: Templates & Examples for 2024

Delhi: One of the most well-liked nations for postsecondary education is the UK. The UK has been attracting more and more international students due to its outstanding universities and ongoing efforts to strengthen its educational system. When applying to UK universities, a "Statement of Purpose," or "SOP," is an important document to

take into account. SOP is essential and is thought to give your application at least 30% more weight. The SOP format used in the UK is the same as in other nations. Your SOP needs to include a summary of your accomplishments and strongest points, your academic and personal history, and an overview of your future objectives.

declared before June 30, ensuring that July counselling is not disrupted. Students

nationwide have reacted differently to the Supreme Court's NEET UG 2024 ruling.

DoE steps up efforts to improve facilities at public schools

Delhi: The Department of Education has stepped its efforts to enhance the fundamental facilities and services provided by Delhi government schools. Ashok Kumar, the secretary of education, has issued strict directions to make sure that schools have enough desks, stationery, clean water, and clean bathrooms.

He has also ordered minor repairs and implemented safety precautions. An evaluation conducted on June 6 by the state project director and additional director of education, after unambiguous instructions were given in May, found that a number of institutions had



not yet complied. Authorities suggested disciplinary action against vice principals and principals who neglected to upgrade their schools' infrastructure in order to resolve the non-compliance. But as of yet, no suggestions have been made. The secretary gave regional directors of education (RDEs) until June 11 to identify the schools that lack proper facilities and

suggest disciplinary measures against the district deputy directors of education (DDE) who are in charge of those schools. The RDEs will be subject to disciplinary punishment if they don't comply within the allotted 10-day period. Within seven days, they must also provide ideas for taking action against the relevant district DDEs. All pupils in government schools (classes 1 through 8) received free textbooks from the education department on Thursday for the 2024-25 school year. Before classes resume, all DDEs need to make sure that students have their textbooks.

89% of MCD students have bank accounts post

Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) claimed that the education department opened bank accounts for 89% of its students. The project allows direct bank transfers to students' accounts for numerous objectives. As per the Delhi High Court's orders, MCD is striving to cover 100% of student bank accounts following summer breaks. An official said, "MCD's persistence is getting more students to open bank accounts. We're working to

open 100% of pupils' bank accounts after summer breaks." Students in MCD schools receive funding for clothes, shoes, bags, and stationery. Students need bank accounts to get these funds. MCD ordered zonal deputy commissioners to ensure every student in their zone had a bank account. An official said, "We are holding camps for pupils at its schools to open bank accounts in various banks and post offices. Teachers contact parents to collect

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan textbooks during summer vacations. In April, the court raised concern over MCD's inability to provide uniforms, notebooks, and stationery to 2,00,000 bankless pupils.

The judge stated this could make kids lose interest in school. NGO Social Jurist asked the education department and CD to ensure that all schoolchildren had bank accounts, and the court responded.

IPL company value rises to \$16.4 billion, report shows

Delhi: A recent analysis found that the Indian Premier League's (IPL) brand value rose 6.3% to \$3.4 billion over last year. The American investment bank Houlihan Lokey found that IPL's company value, or what a buyer would pay, had increased 6.5% to \$16.4 billion. IPL relies largely

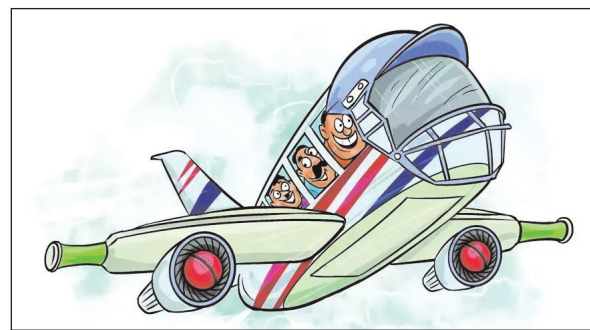


on media rights revenue. Last year, Viacom 18 and Disney Star bought the 2023-27 digital and TV rights for \$6.2bn, increasing corporate value from \$8.5bn to \$15.4bn. IPL championship rights were improved this year as Tata renewed their contract for *2500 crore for five years. The study finds expected results on IPL franchise brand value. In the previous two seasons, MS Dhoni fever has kept Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the top of

brand value and business value indices. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) rank second on both indices despite another failed IPL title chase. A devoted fan base, strong team identity, and Virat Kohli's influence explain RCB's emotional connection with supporters and its sponsorship and ticket sales. RCB's extraordinary run of come-from-behind wins pushed them into the playoffs, where Kohli was again the top scorer and Orange Cap winner as the leading hitter. IPL 2024 winners Kolkata Knight Riders.

Gujarat traffickers sneaking people into US during T20 Cricket World Cup

Delhi: Bat, ball, and kabootar bazi replace "donkey flight" for now. Cricket lovers and Gujarati human traffickers using the T20 World Cup to sneak people into the US are excited about the New York leg. These smugglers pose as cricketers to get their clients into the US. Local cricket clubs sign clients to play mini tournaments in India to attract US club sponsorships. This grants six-month sports visas. Once in the US, they disappear and live illegally. This strategy has supplanted artist visa programs where people impersonated Bollywood or TV actors to enter the US. Smugglers now use cricket due to stricter immigration laws. Kalol man used the scheme successfully. "I played cricket professionally from an



academy in Gandhinagar, participated in leagues organised by a religious group here, and got entry into the US to play a cricket league," stated. He and his brother have lived illegally in the US for eight months. Monty Patel of Gandhinagar disappeared after entering the US last September. Ashish Patel of Navsari succeeded after several failures. Seven years ago, he entered the US as a TV serial crew member but returned. Using a New Jersey tournament

cricketer identity, he entered the US last year after three failed attempts. An Ahmedabad police crime branch officer recognized the trend but said India cannot prosecute overseas offenses. "No such case has been documented. Vikas Sahay, Gujarat DGP, said these contravene visa rules. When Gujaratis were deployed to cricket-loving Russia five years ago, this commotion began. Traffickers began targeting the US 18 months ago due to the increased interest in cricket.

In keeping with global trends, UGC enables biennial entries

Delhi: To meet global norms, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has allowed HEIs with appropriate infrastructure to offer biennial admissions in regular manner commencing with the current academic session. Admissions to universities worldwide are biennial. UGC head M Jagadesh Kumar said adoption will boost international cooperation and student exchanges at our HEIs, increasing global competitiveness. After the commission's approval on July 25, 2023, UGC made the decision on May 15 after receiving positive comments from students in biennial admissions in Jan-Feb and July-Aug open, distance, and online programs. UGC said biennial admissions will help HEIs allocate resources. Large colleges like DU will find it difficult, but we will start with a pilot run and expand if authorized." Previously, HEIs may only enroll students in one 12-month academic session starting in July/Aug. According to SASTRA Deemed University VC S Vaidhyasubramaniam, dual window admissions may not work in India "due to capacity, capability and credibility issues". He said collateral damage will overshadow biennial admissions' modest benefit.