

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Sunday, 11 August 2024

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

Memory of past year imprinted': CM Soren reveals prisoner's stamp on hand on his birthday

NEW DELHI:

Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren marked his birthday on Saturday by sharing a poignant reflection on social media. He posted an image of a prisoner's stamp on his hand, describing it as a symbol of the ongoing challenges faced by democracy. Soren explained that the stamp was placed on his hand by jail authorities upon his release from prison. "Today, on the occasion of my birthday, the memory of the past one year is imprinted in my heart - that is the prisoner's stamp - which was put on my hand when I was released from jail. This mark is not just of mine, but a symbol of the current challenges of our democracy," Soren



J&K Police release sketches of 4 terrorists, offer Rs 5 lakh reward for info.

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday released sketches of four terrorists spotted in 'dhoks' (mud-houses) in the higher reaches of Kathua district. The authorities have

wrote in his post. Soren was released from Birsa Munda Jail in Ranchi on June 28 after being granted bail by the high court in connection to a money laundering case related to a land scam. "When an elected chief minister can be

announced a cash reward of Rs 20 lakhs for credible information leading to their capture. This follows a deadly ambush on July 8, when terrorists attacked an army patrol in the remote forest.

put in jail for 150 days without any proof, complaint or crime, then what will they do with the common tribals, Dalits, oppressed people - I don't need to say this," he added. As the executive president of the

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on January 31, shortly after resigning as chief minister. "Today, I am even more determined and I strengthen my resolve to fight for the rights of every exploited, deprived, Dalit, backward, tribal, and indigenous persons," he declared. The chief minister expressed his commitment to advocating for individuals and communities who face oppression, injustice, and harassment based on their ethnicity, customs, or attire. "We have to unite and build a society where the law is equal for all, where there is no misuse of power," he said.

India to introduce UPI services in Maldives: External affairs minister S Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Sunday announced that India and Maldives have signed an agreement to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the archipelago nation. This comes as Jaishankar is in three-day official visit to the Maldives. Taking to X Jaishankar said, "Witnessed signing of MoU between (the) National Payments Corporation of India and (the) Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Maldives on (the) introduction of (a) digital payment system in the Maldives." Earlier, Jaishankar also held a media briefing following "productive discussions" with Maldivian counterpart Moosa Zameer and highlighted how India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has "revolutionized digital transactions." "We see this revolution, every day in our lives. I am pleased to note that with the signing of the MoU today, we have taken the first step towards bringing this digital innovation to



'Bharat's Space Launch Arsenal': Isro shares special video ahead of National Space Day

NEW DELHI: Isro on Saturday released a video for the upcoming National Space Day just as the Central government also announced a slew of activities ahead of the first celebration to honour the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mis-

Maldives," he said. "I wish the very best to stakeholders on both sides and hope that we will soon see the first UPI transaction here. I should mention that it will have a very positive impact on tourism," he added. Meanwhile, Maldivian Foreign Minister Zameer said, "India has always been one of our closest

sion that helped India go down in history as the first country to land on the south pole of the moon. Isro shared an informative video related to National Space Day on the social media platform X, touching upon the type of launchers.

friends and a vital development partner." He said the "enduring friendship" was built on a foundation of mutual trust and respect and has continued to flourish over the years. "High-level exchanges between our countries have deepened our dialogue and cooperation in areas of shared interest.

Bengaluru techie couple loses Rs 1.53 crore in trading scam

A Bengaluru couple recovered Rs 1.4 crore out of the Rs 1.53 crore lost in an online trading scam, thanks to swift action by the East Division Cybercrime Police. The scammers, operating from the UK, had used mule accounts in North India to execute the fraud. Police investigation and coordination with banks were instrumental in recovering the funds. A tech industry couple from Bengaluru successfully recovered a substantial portion of the money they lost in an online trading scam, thanks to the prompt response of local police. The East Division Cybercrime Police in Bengaluru were able to retrieve Rs 1.4 crore of the Rs 1.53 crore that had been defrauded from the software engineer couple in an online investment scam. According to a report, the couple, residing in Banaswadi, fell victim to the fraudsters who lured them with promises of high returns on investment.

Kolkata's PGT doctor found dead in RG Kar: Parents demand justice, allege rape and murder



KOLKATA: The brutalised body of a second-year post graduate trainee (PGT) doctor of respiratory medicine at RG Kar Medical College was found inside a seminar hall on the third floor of the hospital's emergency building around 7.30am on Friday, putting the campus on the boil and prompting the administration to rush the city police chief and health secretary to the spot. A senior police officer said in the evening that a judicial inquest had found injuries all over the body, including the private parts, blood stains on the face and a broken collar bone, indicating she was strangled. Police have formed a Special Investigation Team to probe the murder and are awaiting a formal report by the three-member autopsy team to add sexual assault charges to the FIR. Forensic experts said they had found blood stains and human hair all over the mattress on which she was lying and a broken spectacle next to the body. .CM Mamata Banerjee called up the doctor's father — who alleged his daughter was raped and murdered — and assured him of all help to ensure justice. "She has assured us of all help. But we have lost our daughter. Unless we get justice we can never be satisfied. I suspect my daughter was raped and murdered but the authorities initially tried to cover up facts,"

UK govt mulls curbs on visas for techies to bring down migration

LONDON: Britain's govt is considering tightening visa rules for hiring foreign IT, telecom and engineering professionals to fill jobs in the UK as it tries to bring down high levels of migration. Thousands of Indian IT and engineering professionals travel to work in these sectors in Britain every year, filling crucial gaps in the labour market. Changes could



include raising the minimum salary threshold in these sectors or restrictions based on different regions of Britain. UK home secretary Yvette Cooper has written to Brian Bell, chair of the Migration

Advisory Committee (MAC), asking him to review the reasons behind the reliance on international recruitment in the sectors of "IT and telecommunications professionals and engineering professionals." "These sectors feature in the top 10 of those sectors which have been reliant on international recruitment and the govt would like MAC to set out the

reasons behind this. The high levels of international recruitment reflect weaknesses in the labour market, including persistent skills shortages in the UK," she wrote. She asked MAC to find out what is driving the labour shortage and "how have the sectors sought to respond to these shortages, beyond seeking to recruit from overseas?"

It took 17 months but honesty and truth have won, says Manish Sisodia

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court granted bail to Manish Sisodia, a senior member of the Aam Aadmi Party and former deputy CM of Delhi, in the corruption and money laundering cases related to changes in Delhi's excise policy on Friday. This decision allows him to be released from jail after 17 months of imprisonment following his arrest. Sisodia arrived at Hanuman Mandir in



Connaught Place on Saturday morning where he offered prayers, a day after he was released from Tihar Jail. Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan, who presided over the case, noted that the trial has

not even begun and is unlikely to conclude within 6-8 months. The CBI arrested Sisodia on February 6, 2023, and the ED subsequently took him into custody on March 9. We are just horses of a chariot but our real 'saarathi' is in jail, he will come out soon: Manish Sisodia AAP supremo and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. She protested against your leader, we saw what happened at Olympics.

Trump recounts near-death helicopter crash, ex-mayor Willie says 'it never happened'

Donald Trump claimed he nearly died in a helicopter crash with Willie Brown and that Brown shared negative remarks about Kamala Harris. Brown denied the incident and Trump's claims about Harris. Reports indicate Trump toured California by helicopter with Jerry Brown, not Willie Brown. Donald Trump recounts near-death helicopter crash, ex-mayor Willie Brown says 'it never happened'



ence recounted a story about nearly dying in a helicopter crash with former San Francisco mayor Willie Brown. Trump claimed that during the incident, he and Brown thought it might be "the end" and that the landing was unpleasant, leaving Brown "a little concerned." The former president also alleged that Brown had shared "terrible things" about Democratic

dential candidate Kamala Harris. "I went down in a helicopter with him," Trump said. "We thought maybe this is the end. We were in a helicopter going to a certain location together, and there was an emergency landing. This was not a pleasant landing, and Willie was, he was a little concerned," he added. However, Willie Brown, a longtime Democratic

broker who briefly dated Harris several decades ago, denied ever being in a helicopter with Trump. Brown told the San Francisco Chronicle, "You would have known if I had gone down on a helicopter with Trump." He also refuted Trump's claim that he had spoken negatively about Harris. NBC News reports indicate that while president, Trump did tour fire-ravaged areas of California by helicopter in 2018, but he was accompanied by then-governor Jerry Brown, not Willie Brown. A representative for the former governor confirmed that there was no emergency landing during the flight and that Harris was not a topic.

Shocking! Nehwal didn't know there's an event called javelin until Neeraj won Olympic gold

Saina Nehwal's bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics led to a badminton revolution in India, especially among the women trying to make it big in the sport, which makes her one of the icons of badminton in the country. The 34-year-old from Haryana, who recently turned to politics, is a three-times Olympian besides being a Commonwealth Games (CWG) gold medallist on three occasions and winner of two bronze medals at the Asian Games. However, her recent comment about the track-and-field event javelin throw is in shocking contrast to her multiple appearances at global multi-disciplinary events since the 2006 CWG. Appearing on a podcast.

Iran set to 'harshly punish' Israel amid rising tensions: Report

Israel at Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's order, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) deputy commander was quoted as saying by local news agencies. "The supreme leader's orders regarding the harsh punishment of Israel and revenge for the blood of martyr Ismail Haniyeh are clear and explicit ... and they will be implemented in the best possible way," Al Jazeera quoted Ali Fadavi as saying. However, media reports also suggest that IRGC authorities are not able to strike a consensus on the ways to respond to the Jewish state's "aggression", with few of them staunchly rooting for a direct strike on prominent cities of Israel. Meanwhile, outgoing US president Joe Biden and the White House have insisted that the US is

ready to defend Israel with plenty of resources in the region. "When we hear rhetoric like that we've got to take it seriously, and we do," National security spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday. The vice president and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris vying to take over the reigns from President Biden also has reiterated Israel's right to self defense on multiple occasions and on Friday urged a ceasefire deal at the earliest in the interest of releasing hostages from captivity. Iran's mission to the United Nations on Friday reiterated that Tehran's response to the assassination of Haniyeh by Israel as "unrelated" to ongoing efforts to broker a ceasefire in the 10-month conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

VBPS Football Team announced for Pre Subroto U15 National

Prayagraj: Vishnu Bhagwan Public School Jhalwa Prayagraj announced his 16 member Football team for the upcoming prestigious Pre Subroto Cup U15 Na-



tional Football Championship 2024-25 which is going to held at Delhi Public School Rau, Indore from 10 Aug. According to the Principal Dinesh Kumar Srivastava the selected 16 players are as follows - Nishant, Shaurya, Shivansh, Aditya Upadhyay, Aditya Singh, Veer, Utkarsh, Ayan, shaksham, Prakhar Tripathi, Kartik, Akshat, Raunak, Rudransh Jaiswal, Kumar Ansh, Abhay. Head Coach- Indranil Ghosh and Trainer-Mitesh Gupta.

Electricity Contract Employees Federation UP statewide satyagrah prog postponed

Prayagraj: The Satyagrah program to be organized in every district of the state on 9th August 2024 by the Electricity Contract Employees Federation Uttar Pradesh has been postponed. Provincial president of the federation, senior labor leader RS Rai said that this decision was taken by the president of energy corporations Ashish Kumar Goyal, IAS. This has been taken after the assurance that the demands of the contract workers will be resolved by holding a meeting with the federation in the next week. Shri Rai has said that the main objective of the federation is to solve the problems of the contract workers and to stop their exploitation and injustice. We hope that a meaningful and positive solution to the problems of the contract workers will be found in the upcoming meeting. Vimal Chandra Pandey, media in-charge of the federation and provincial president of the Electricity Workers Organization, Uttar Pradesh, has also informed that the state in-charge of the federation, Puneet Rai and the Production Corporation Organization President Satish Tiwari met yesterday at the residence of State Energy Minister AK Sharma and appealed for positive cooperation to resolve the major demands of the contract workers in the interest of the state. The above information was given by Prayagraj Zonal President Ashish Singh Vidyt Samvida Mazdoor Sangathan.

Inquiry on Phogat matter demanded: Kishore

Prayagraj: UP Congress Committee former Spokesman Kishore Varshney, UPCC members duo Fuzail Hashimi and Harikesh Tripathi, Parvej Siddiqui have demanded the inquiry of Vinesh Phogat's disqualification ahead of final at Paris Olympic. They sent a letter to the Union Sports and Youth affairs Minister Mansukh Mandaviya urging the inquiry and appropriate action in the matter. They said entire nation was shocked in the wake of her exit. Congress showed disappointment and added that this could not be more painful for all of us. We stand strong with her along solidarity.

Salesman caught red handed stealing saree

Prayagraj: The salesman of the city's prestigious shop Yash Shree Collection Kotha Parcha was caught red-handed. While closing the shop at night, the shop owner Shubham noticed that Saurabh Das's waist was swollen. After that, after searching the salesman, it turned out to be an expensive saree. After this, Saurabh, a resident of ADA Colony, Naini told the police that he had been continuously stealing expensive sarees for months. Along with this, he used to give the sarees to his female relatives, who used to sell those sarees. Yash Shree's owner Shubham told that Saurabh had stolen sarees worth lakhs. After this, Subham gave Saurabh to the police for legal action.



DCB Bank & ASG Hospital organised free eye check-up camp

Prayagraj: On behalf of DCB Bank, in collaboration with ASG Hospital, a free eye check-up camp was organized at DCB Bank Kareli today under the courtesy of Branch Manager Sarfaraz Khan, in which all the employees of the bank, account holders and family members of the bank got free check-up at the camp conducted, in which almost 200 people were examined. The doctor prescribed medicine for their eyes and also worked on understanding them. The doctor also explained about their safety. Free eye examination was done courtesy of Branch Manager Sarfaraz Khan, in which people from all the areas of Kareli region and their families were present on the spot. Bank employees Tabrez Mohit Sajid Rohit Ashok Sharma Abdul Hadi Deepak Durgesh Vidyansh Dhamraj Muzaffar were present in it. Customer RB Singh was present in the eye check up camp, which lasted till 5.00 p.m. The attendance of Engineer. Mohammad Farooq Naseer at this event was remarkable, who helped in ensuring no-holds-barred success of the event.



Rotary Platinum takes up responsibility of year-round education of 5 kids

Prayagraj: Rotary Prayagraj Platinum Club handed over the annual education fee of 5 students of Allahabad Vidya Niketan located at Zero Road through a cheque to the Principal, Mrs. Twinkle Aggarwal. Club President Mr. Shashank Jain said that this assistance has been given under the project 'KG to PG' of Rotary District 3120. Under this project, the club has decided to take up the responsibility of the education of 15 children from three schools, whose

parents cannot continue their education due to financial constraints. Media in-charge Manish Garg said that the funds collected by the club members Handed over to the school principal through cheque. Literacy President Gaurav Virendra Aggarwal assured that the club will continue similar cooperation in the coming years.

On this occasion, the school students presented Saraswati Vandana and garlanded the statue of Goddess Saraswati. Former



President Piyush Ranjan Aggarwal welcomed all the attendees.

Chief guest, DGRH Rotarian Pankaj Jain told that Rotary Club is setting up a computer lab for computer education in schools without financial aid. The teachers, parents and Agarwal Jatiya Parishad of the school expressed gratitude to Rotary Prayagraj Platinum for this initiative. Rotarians Deepak Gupta, Prameya Mittal, and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

MP Ujjwal raises his voice in Lok Sabha for kicking off Prayagraj Metro Rail

MP Ujjwal met RaGa and discussed political, social and development issues

Prayagraj: MP Ujjwal Raman Singh demanded in the Lok Sabha to prepare an action plan on Prayagraj metro rail soon. He said that light metro will not work. Giv-

ward on metro, rather there is talk of light metro instead of full metro, which is wrong. In a dense population of around 70 lakhs, there are traffic jams everywhere. Prayagraj



ing this information, SP state secretary Vinay Kushwaha said that the MP said in the House that in the Akhilesh government DPRO was ready for full metro rail but for almost seven years under the BJP government, Prayagraj has not taken a step for-

ward on metro, rather there is talk of light metro instead of full metro, which is wrong. In a dense population of around 70 lakhs, there are traffic jams everywhere. Prayagraj is also the center of religious activities and its surrounding districts, hence full metro rail is required here. He said that crores of people visit the Magh Mela every year including the High Court, hence considering the mythological and religious importance of Prayagraj, The construction work on the full metro rail project should be started as soon as possible. It will take time to complete it, till then the problem of traffic jam in Prayagraj will become worse, hence the work should be started as soon as possible. He said that in New Delhi, MP Ujjwal Raman Singh met Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and discussed present and future politics and also exchanged serious views on social issues and Prayagraj being the ancestral city of Rahul Gandhi, its development was also discussed.

Audience became emotional after watching "Satvik's" drama presentation Kakori train action

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Kakori Train Action, Satvik Sanstha's theatrical presentation Kakori the train action was staged at

Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal. It is noteworthy that freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and

played the role of Pandit Ram Prasad Bismil, Zaid played the role of Ashfaq Ullah Khan, Chandan Sharma played the role of Roshan Singh, Shivansh



Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park today. The Kakori Train Action was a train robbery committed by revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement against the British Raj on August 9, 1925, in a village called Kakori, near Lucknow. This robbery operation was carried out by 10 revolutionaries including Hindustan Republican Association revolutionaries Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan,

Roshan Singh were arrested. He was hanged on December 19, 1927 for his involvement in the Kakori dacoity. Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has changed the name of 'Kakori Incident', an important chapter in the history of India's freedom struggle, to 'Kakori Train Action'. The program was organized by the Culture Department of Uttar Pradesh and District Administration Prayagraj. In the play, Madan Kumar

Divedi played the role of Rajendra Lahiri, Sushant Shukla played the role of newspaperman and Dheeraj. The theatrical presentation was conceived by Monu Khan and directed by Sachin Chandra. The guests present were thanked by Ghulam Sarwar Manuscript Officer/Incharge Regional Archives, Prayagraj. On this occasion, artists and secretary of Satvik Sanstha, Mohd. Afzal was honored.

CISCE UP & UK Regional AQUATICS Championship Day 1

Prayagraj: "Swimming is the dance of the water and the swimmer. It's about creating beauty in a space where gravity doesn't exist." The CISCE Regional Aquatic Championship aims to foster the development of swimming skills and promote physical fitness among students from various schools under the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE). The morning of 9th August 2024 dawned with refreshing breezes setting the perfect tone for a tournament which saw the best competing with the best in an arena nobody knew better than them, that is the swimming pool. St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj played host to the three-day long CISCE Regional UP and UK Swimming Championship across three categories of U-14, U-17 and U-19 for both boys and girls.

True to her exuberant style, Mrs. Madhulika D'Souza gave a grand welcome to the Chief Guest, Col.(Dr.)Arvind Jha and the Guest of Honour, Mrs. Divya Raj, former teacher of St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj, as they were ushered in the gymnasium by the Principal, Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva, the Middle School Coordinator, Rev. Deacon Gladwin Fernandes, the Additional Administrator, Mr. Aubrey Mc Gowan and the Senior Staff Coordinator, Mr. Jyoti Dube, to the accompaniment of the school band under the expert guidance of Capt. A. B. Singh and the NCC Cadets under Lt. Azhar Usmani. The mega event started

with seeking God's blessings. Dr. (Mrs.) Sheetal Sebastian led the gathering with a Reading from the Holy Bible and a special award for the good health of the participants so that they may give their very best.

Post a mellifluous prayer song by the talented school Choir under the tutelage of Mr. Saubhagya Naik, it was time for the introduction of both the distinguished Guests for the Day. Col. (Dr.) Arvind Jha's service of 28 years was governed by his motto that one's happiness in life is directly proportional to the service one renders to others. As an open candidate for N.C.C.1985 to 1987, Col. (Dr.) Arvind Jha has the distinction of representing the country at the 1982 Asian Games. Armed with a PhD in Sports Psychology, Col. (Dr.) Arvind Jha has imparted psychological training to more than 1000 athletes in different fields such as Archery, Fencing, Boxing, Swimming, to name a few. Australia (2014), Singapore (2015), UAE (2015) and Malaysia (2023) Athletics teams benefitted from his expertise as did the one for Rio Olympics in 2016. His impressive list of achievements boasts of the recent victorious run of the 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 3 Bronze medals got by the UP Athletics team in June 24 at the 63 Interstate Athletics at Panchkula. Currently, he provides psychological assistance to elite athletes like Avinash Sable, Gulveer Singh, Kartik Kumar, Gopi T, Jinson Johnson and Shrinu.

The Guest of Honour was Mrs. Divya Raj, a sprinter, a hurdler, an ardent swimmer, a deserving recipient of Fr. Rego Mentor award to name a few of her various accomplishments, besides being a nominee of National Dorizo award by the ICSE Council. A proud mother to a former College Captain, Yashasvi Raj, Mrs. Raj has been instrumental in nurturing his phenomenal balance of both academics and extra-curricular



activities, leading to his winning a grand total of eight medals at the National level in Swimming. Nothing makes a person feel more warmly welcomed than the presentation of a lovely bouquet. Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva extended his hospitality towards the dignitaries by presenting bouquets to both Col. Dr. Arvind Jha and Mrs. Divya Raj.

A magnificent example of team work, discipline and practice was evident in the swim pass by the talented swimmers of the Prayagraj zone courtesy the training by Mr. K. C. Biswas.

The Chief Guest, in his subsequent address, felt it was homecoming to an august institution even though he may not have been a bonafide student of the College. His two years

stint in the Naval Wing of N.C.C., laid the foundation for his future endeavours thus he was deeply grateful to the College for the values he imbibed here. He encouraged the swimmers to keep pushing their limits as success is never final and failure never definitive. Mrs. Divya Raj reflected on her service of 31 long years, congratulating the swimmers for clearing the zonal, asking them to be confident as swimming is one sport

which gives the poise to handle life's ups and downs with equanimity. She also stressed upon the need to have a balanced and nutritious diet as highly imperative for success in life.

An avid sports person in his school days with participation in Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Badminton and Swimming besides athletics, Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva, thanked the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour for sharing nuggets of wisdom from their world of experience, applauding all the mentors and coaches especially Mr. Mohd. Shabi Rafique, Mr. K. C. Biswas and Lt. Azhar Usmani for their concerted efforts. He further thanked Mr. Gaurav Agarwal and Mrs. Saumya Agarwal for their superb gesture of letting their Prayagraj Swim-

ming Pool be used as a parallel arena for the swimmers to prove their prowess. He was immensely appreciative of the selfless dedication shown by all the teachers and the support staff in their round the clock presence and contribution. Last but certainly not the least, he thanked Mr. Dennis Joseph for the thoughtfully prepared food served throughout the day, ensuring that quality meets quantity. The three-day tournament was declared open once Col. (Dr.) Arvind Jha, administered the oath to all the participating champions. The opening ceremony ended with the National Anthem.

The championship saw around 400 ace swimmers from 13 zones which included Agra, Bareilly, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur North, Kanpur South, Lucknow-A, Lucknow-B, Meerut, Prayagraj, Uttarakhand, Varanasi vying with one another to come on tops and bag as many medals as possible, to their credit. What is more, the vibrant personality of Ms. A. J. D'Cruz shone through her announcing for various events such as 1500 Mt. Free Style, 200 Mts. Back Stroke, 100 Mtr. Breast Stroke, 200 Mtr. Butter Fly, 100 Mtr. Free Style, 50 Mtr. Back Stroke, 4x100 Free Style Relay. The cries of encouragement by the team mates and the coaches spurred the swimmers to outdo themselves, thus adding more zing to nail-biting tournament. All the events took place on time trial basis necessitating the

fastest performance by every swimmer at one go.

The tournament was graced by the benign presence of the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allahabad, His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly and the Diocesan Educational Officer and the Manager of St. Joseph College Prayagraj, Rev. Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, besides Dr. (Ms.) Zareen Rizvi, the Principal of St. John's Academy, Karchara and the Zonal Coordinator of ASISC. It goes without saying that the prize distribution at periodic intervals saw the prizes being given out by the various dignitaries including Col. Dr. Arvind Jha, Mrs. Divya Raj and Rev. Fr. Walter D'Silva.

The present sporting extravaganza could not have seen the light of the day without the invaluable sports acumen of its Organising Secretary and the Sports Coordinator of St. Joseph's College, Prayagraj, Mr. Mohd. Shabi Rafique and the brilliant former Sports teacher of St. Joseph's College and present coach of Sports Authority of India, Mr. Yashwant Singh, who is also the Sports Coordinator of Primary School, Jalalpur. The event was smoothly conducted with the support of some unsung heroes whose contribution behind the scenes made this event a gala success: they are Lt. Azhar Usmani, Mr. Danny Ekka, Ms. Poonam Singh, Mr. Utkarsh Sharma, Mrs. Pratibha Shukla, Mr. Harshit Gladwin, Mr. Shubham Chandra and Mr. Zaheer Abbas.

Prayagraj was the epicenter of freedom movement: Keshav Prasad Maurya

PAID TRIBUTE TO IMMORTAL MARTYRS

Prayagraj: While addressing the crowd, State's Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya said, "On this day, the incident that happened 100 years ago in Kakori, Lucknow, shook the British government. This work was done by the revolutionaries, who will always inspire the young generations in their dedication towards the nation. The soil where great sons of the country sacrificed their lives is like sandalwood. Prayagraj has been the center of the freedom movement." State's Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, who came to attend the program organized at Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park on the occasion of Kakori Train Action centenary celebrations, paid tribute to the immortal martyrs of Kakori Train Action by paying floral tributes.

Deputy CM said that the statues of great sons like immortal martyr Chandrashekhar Azad,

Madan Mohan Malviya, Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar, Shaheed Roshan Singh are there in this city. When the wealth of the country's poor was being looted by the British, the great brave



sions carried out the Kakori Train Action for the freedom of the country. Deputy CM said that the Uttar Pradesh government has written 'Kakori Incident', an important chapter in the history of India's freedom struggle and has been renamed as 'Kakori Train Action'. Its name was changed

because the word 'scandal' reflects the sense of humiliation of this incident as part of India's freedom struggle. He said that every countryman will have to take a pledge to never let the

leadership of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The tricolor should be hoisted in every house from 13 to 15 August.

The country will respond to its opponents by waving the tricolor flag. People are appealed to hoist the tricolor at their private establishments also. Upload your photo on the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan portal. The desire for patriotism is now in our hearts, we have to see how much strength the killer has in his arms.

The desire to make the country self-reliant and developed is in our hearts. He also visited the exhibition at the centenary celebrations organized on the completion of centenary celebration of Kakori Train Action at the venue. While addressing the media, on the question of Waqf Bill, the Deputy CM said that those opposing the Waqf Bill are doing disgusting politics of appeasement. This bill is to

provide benefits to poor Muslims. Bill is good. Now the bill has been sent to JPC. On the developments in Bangladesh, he said that the Central Government is keeping its full eye on it. In this situation, strong BJP, strong India is necessary. India is moving forward as a super-power today.

Those who are unable to digest self-reliant India are creating various kinds of obstacles. But still we have to overcome these and move ahead. Before this, Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, District Panchayat President Dr. VK Singh, Gangapar District President Kavita Patel, Yamunapur District President Vinod Prajapati, Avadhesh Chandra Gupta, Ravi Kesarwani, were present at Bamrauli Airport. Rajesh Gond, Manoj Kushwaha, Rakesh Bharti, Prashant Shukla, media in-charge Vivek Mishra welcomed the Deputy CM.

honour and glory of the Tricolour be tarnished. Everyone should unite in programs organized in memory of great men.

Keshav Prasad Maurya said that the aim is to move the country forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state under the

Career Counselling Workshop for Defence Services held

Prayagraj: On Friday, Ganga Gurukulam organised an empowering session of career counselling on Defence Services for the students of classes 11 and 12 which was conducted by Mrs. Archana Jha, founder of Edify Institute of English, Director at Col. Roy Defence Academy, along with defence aspirants and NCC cadets.

Ms Priyamvada Singh, Mr. Shashank Singh and Mr. Vikas.

The commencement of the session was with the lighting of the lamp accompanied by Saraswati Vandana. Thereafter the guest speaker and the other members were welcomed by the school counsellor Mrs. Shruti Vig and the Principal of the school Mrs. Madhuri Srivastava handed over the potted plants as a token of gratitude.

The workshop aimed at

familiarizing classes XI and XII students with the possibilities of pursuing careers in defence forces after completing classes XII and also to educate and motivate the students about joining the Indian Armed Forces. The students were made to know about all the three

branches of the Indian Armed Forces - Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy by the resource person Mrs. Archana Jha. They were made to know that an aspiring candidate cannot join Indian Armed Forces after 10th standard but a candidate can start prepar-



Students of the school interacted with the resource person and asked questions related to different branches of the Armed Forces. It was a fruitful session for the Gurukulites. The session was concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the counsellor Ms. Samridhi.

Branches of Indian Armed Forces - Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy by the resource person Mrs. Archana Jha. They were made to know that an aspiring candidate cannot join Indian Armed Forces after 10th standard but a candidate can start prepar-

Five-day farmer training program ongoing under ATMA Yojana

Naini, Prayagraj: The training of the first group of farmers of the five-day farmer training program under the "Sub Mission on Agriculture Extension (ATMA) Scheme" sponsored by the Deputy Agriculture Director of Extension, Mirzapur at the Directorate of Extension, SHUATS, Prayagraj, was completed on 09 August in the Auditorium, Directorate of Extension. Director Extension Dr. Praveen Charan said that sowing of impure seeds increases the possibility of diseases and pests and also results in less production, hence it is necessary to use pure seeds for sowing, for which good varieties of seeds are used. Production is also necessary.



Deputy Director of Seeds, Prof. Vikram Singh urged the participating farmers to adopt the latest agricultural technologies. He provided certificates and training literature to the farmers present in the program on this occasion. Dr. AK Chaurasia, Joint Director of Extension, said that in view of climate change, we should select such species which provide good production while adjusting to the conditions of climate change. Coordinator Dr. Arun Kumar Yadav, present in the concluding program, gave detailed information to the farmers about how to get more production at less cost. The program was concluded by training coordinator Dr. Madan Sen Singh by thanking the chief guest and the farmers. On the concluding occasion of the program, Dr. Yogesh Chandra Srivastava, Dr. Sarvendra Kumar, Dr. Shailendra Kumar Singh and all the employees of the Directorate of Broadcasting were present.

Rudrabhishek performed on b'day of Employees Union Prez

Prayagraj: On the birthday of Diocese of Lucknow Church of North India Employees Union President Sunil Kumar Verma, the employees of Lucknow Diocese, under the leadership of Sunil Verma and his wife Renu Verma, performed Maharudrabhishek and Sahastrarchan chanting of the mortal remains Shivalinga in the mythological Someshwar Mahadev Temple on Friday. The worship was performed under the guidance of Yagnik. After this, the mortal Shiva Linga was bathed with Panamrit milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar. After the consecration of the mortal Shivalingas, they were decorated with Angavastram and fragrant flowers, fruits and sweets. After performing the Aarti, prayers were offered to God for



world welfare and happiness, peace and prosperity in human life. On this occasion, the employees worshiped Lord Shiva with milk and Belpatra. The entire temple courtyard became filled with Shiva due to the echo of chanting of mantras. Sunil Verma told that Maharudrabhishek has special significance. By worshipping the earthly Shivaling, all kinds of desires are fulfilled. Rakesh Kumar, Akash Tripathi, (District President) Renu Verma, Ayush Akshat Sarju Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Sanjay, Abhishek Singh, Ramchander etc. were present on this occasion.

Musical Drama 'Taare Tare Na Lekh' mesmerizes audience

Prayagraj: On the 5th day of the 'Celebrating Nautanki Festival' the musical drama 'Taare Tare Na Lekh' was presented at NCZCC Auditorium, Prayagraj. This Drama featuring melodious voices of folk artists during the presentation the Rhymes and Rhythms of the play succeeded in captivating the audience attention. It took us in childhood memories when such folk tales was told by mother or grandparents and it always bore a meaningful message designed to shake the life and strengthen the moral values. Eminent theatre director Atul Yadavshi Conceptualized, Designed & Directed the play.

The history of 'Taare Tare Na Lekh' revolves around three different incidents happening over considerable period of time. Thereby making us realize the divine plans and destiny. A parrot couple some were decides to go to Prayagraj for a dip in the Sangam during Kumbh. On the way when the above

relaxing on a pond side a frog got into their conversation and requested them to take him to Prayagraj. Parrot denied but on the insistence of his wife he agreed and the couple par-



rot held a twig in their beak on which frog clanged to it. When they reached Sangam they were very tired and fell into the Sangam area and died. Frog survived and pledged to return this favour by taking them to all the pilgrimage some day. In the next worth frog became Shrawan Kumar whose parents were the same couple parrot from their last birth. One day when Shrawan

Kumar was carrying his parents to the pilgrimage king Dashrath accidentally short and arrow due to which Shrawan died and on hearing this news his parents cursed king Dashrath

that one day he will also die due to the separation from his son. And story enters into Ramayan where king Dashrath suffered immense pain and agony when Rama was exiled for 14 years. In the play artists sang and acted well viz Sutrardhar-Kanchan Lal Yadav, Abhay Raj Yadav and Manoj Kumar, Sugga-Deshraj, Suggi-Ashok Kumar, Medhak-Gyanendra

Gautam, Udyan Rishi-Ram Surat, Chandra Kala- Km. Soni, Shrawan Kumar-Neeraj Agrawal, Vidyawati-Ananya Mohile, Raja Dashrath-Rajendra Kumar, Kaikeyee-Priya Mishra, Manthara-Shivani Kashyam, Ravan-Sanjay Yadav, Lord Shankar-Aijaz Khan, Kaushalya-Shradha Deshpandey, Sumitra-Preksha Deshpandey, Ram-Neeraj Agrawal, Sita-Ananya Mohile, Lakshma-Sahil Kesarwani, Group of Women-Shradha Deshpandey, Preksha Deshpandey, Ananya Mohile, Shivani Kashyap, Km. Soni. Among the Musicians Gulab Chandra Maurya, Santosh Kumar, Dilip Kumar, Mohd. Sajid, Nagina, Gyanendra Gautam, Basant Lal Tyagi played well. Costume designe was by Shilpi Yadavshi, Make-up man Mohd. Hamid and Light Direction was done by Sujoy Ghoshal. The play was dramatized by Rajkumar Srivastava and Lyrics were penned down by Ram Singh Yadav. The program was well compeered by Ritika Awasthi.

Minister to conduct on-site inspection and meeting of under-construction Ganga e-way Target is to complete construction work by Dec 2024 before Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi will conduct on-site inspection of the works of the under-construction Ganga Expressway between Prayagraj to Meerut on Saturday.

He will also hold a review meeting with officials at the Circuit House. In which the Minister Nandi will check the progress of construction of Ganga Expressway as well as the quality of the works.

A target has been set to complete the 594 km long expressway connecting Prayagraj to Meerut by December 2024, before Mahakumbh-2025. Keeping this goal in mind, Ganga Expressway is being constructed. To check whether the work is being done as per the set target or not, Nand Gopal Gupta

Nandi, Industrial Development Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, will visit the under-construction Ganga Expressway from NH Chainage 601 on Saturday, August 10, from 10:30 am to 1 pm. He will inspect the construction work between 565 kilometers. After the on-site inspection, the Minister Nandi will hold a review meeting of the Ganga Expressway project with officials of Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEDA) at Circuit House Prayagraj.

Ganga Expressway will pass through 12 districts and 518 villages of Uttar Pradesh, which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 36, 230 crores. The expressway is initially being made of six lanes, which will later be expanded to eight lanes.

Curtains draw over Dangal Mahotsav at Loknath Vyamshala

Prayagraj: Dangal Mahotsav concluded on Friday on the auspicious occasion of Nag Panchami by Shri Loknath Vyamshala Committee. After worshipping Lord Hanuman, gym wrestling was concluded in which the participants of power lifting and bat lifting were rewarded. Dangal and wrestling at 9 am. Mud wrestling started from 12:00 pm, vigorous wrestling was concluded between the wrestlers of Jhansi, Kalyani Devi, Loknath Akhara, Mohitsim Ganj. The chief guest of this wrestling gathering was Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani. The guests were former Registrar of



Kashi Hindu University, Girish Tripathi, Pramod Shukla. On behalf of the Vyamshala Committee, Shri Ram Ji Kesarwani welcomed the guests by dressing them in body clothes and garlands. The Mayor welcomed Allahabad's champion Mukesh Pehalwan and Arvind Tiwari by wearing body clothes and garlands. Wrestler Dheeraj Yadav, Kata wrestling was completed between Kamal Sardar, Amit Mishra, Amit, Suraj, Praveen, Veer Dubey, Sulabh and Ajit Singh and the victorious wrestlers were honored with cash prizes on behalf of the Gymnasium Committee. It was conducted by Gymnasium Minister Ravindra Pandey. It was presided over by Ram Ji Kesarwani in which Gopal Malvi, Shiv Nandan Pandey, Amit Mohle, Sunil Vaish, Rakesh Kesarwani, Shri Ranjan Chaurasia, Rakesh Kesarwani, Shiv Lal Yadav etc. were present.

Sai brothers prepared song 'Har Ghar Tiranga Saje'

Chief Public Relations Officer NCR Shashi Kant Tripathi released the song

Prayagraj: Like last year, this year also the campaign to decorate every house with tricolor has started. In this sequence, two small children of Prayagraj have composed a patriotic song dedicated to the honor of the patriots and all the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country. This song was released today by Shashi Kant Tripathi, Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railway, CPRO himself was surprised to hear the song composed by such young children. Let us tell you that in this patriotic song, an appeal has been made to all the citizens that the festival of Independence Day should be celebrated with great pomp and tricolor should be hoisted at every house. This song will further awaken the feelings of patriotism in the hearts of all patriots. These children have already shown their talent by performing on many big stages. But this time the patriotic song pre-

pared by the children is heart touching.

Famous child artists of Sangamnagar, Sai Brothers have themselves written this patriotic song and com-



posed its lyrics through music. Through this patriotic song, an appeal has been made to hoist the tricolor flag in every house. In the past too, Sai Brothers have composed many songs, including voter awareness songs in the ma-

different districts of the country. Ashit secured first position in the classical music competition organized at Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy in which Padmashree Malini Awasthi honored Ashit. Along with Padmashree Malini Awasthi, many politicians and IAS IPS have been honored. Along with this, Ashit has been honored in many big honor ceremonies like Kala Sanskriti Samman, Prayagraj's Bal Shree Samman, Harihar Ganga Ratna Samman. Ashit is a folk singer and bhajan singer. Along with this, he has expertise in guitar, mandolin and synthesizer. This talent of Ashit is also visible in his younger brother Aarav, who is 6 years old. Now the dream of Ashit as well as his family members is that the government should take forward this skill of Ashit and also want to showcase his art in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister of the state Yogi Adityanath.

major assembly elections 2022 and Lok Sabha elections 2024, traffic rules awareness songs, for which the DM of Prayagraj, apart from MPs and many ministers have

received special respect in

Editorial

Landslide is wake up call

The recent landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, which have left at least 282 people dead, more than 200 injured, and 240 still missing, serve as a stark reminder of the fragile balance between human development and environmental sustainability. As rescue operations enter their third day, with over 1,000 people saved, the immediate focus is on providing relief and finding the missing persons. However, the broader implications of this disaster call for a critical evaluation of our approach to development and environmental management. Kerala, with its unique geographical and climatic conditions, is no stranger to landslides. Districts like Idukki, Kottayam, Malappuram, and Wayanad have long been recognised as landslide-prone areas. According to a study conducted by the Geological Survey of India, around 14.5 per cent of Kerala's total area is prone to landslides. The heavy rains during the southwest monsoon are a yearly phenomenon, yet the scale and frequency of deadly landslides in recent years are alarming. This tragic event underscores the urgency of addressing the root causes of such disasters, which include both natural and anthropogenic factors. The Madhav Gadgil report, submitted by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel in 2011, provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and mitigating these risks. The report emphasises the importance of preserving the ecological integrity of the Western Ghats, advocating for the restoration of denuded flora and the rehabilitation of people in vulnerable areas. The Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are a biodiversity hotspot and play a critical role in regulating the climate and hydrology of the region. However, the report highlights that climate change is exacerbating weather patterns, leading to unprecedented and unpredictable natural disasters. The panel warned that unchecked development and deforestation in the Western Ghats would lead to increased landslides and other ecological disasters. One of the key recommendations of the Gadgil report is to halt engineering projects in ecologically sensitive areas. This includes limiting quarrying, construction activities, and monocropping, all of which compromise the ecosystem's ability to cope with natural changes. Unfortunately, these recommendations have often been overlooked in favour of short-term economic gains. The Chaliyar River's devastating impact this year, intensified by increased rainfall and upstream deforestation, is a direct consequence of such oversight. The river, originating from an altitude of around 2 km, has brought fast-moving waters laden with debris, devastating villages in its path. The recurring nature of these disasters reveals a significant gap in warning systems and emergency preparedness. Despite landslide risk maps clearly identifying vulnerable areas, the state has been repeatedly caught off-guard. According to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, there were over 400 landslides in the state between 2018 and 2020 alone. The lack of proactive measures to mitigate risks and enhance resilience has resulted in avoidable loss of life and property. This calls for the establishment of well-equipped, staffed, and empowered expert committees to assess the feasibility of development projects in sensitive areas, ensuring that environmental concerns are not sidelined. In addition to structural measures, there is a need for a paradigm shift in public policy. Sustainable development should not be viewed as an obstacle to economic growth but as a foundational element of long-term prosperity. Kerala's focus must shift from reactive disaster management to proactive risk reduction. This involves integrating climate resilience into planning and development processes, investing in green infrastructure, and promoting community-based natural resource management. The Gadgil report's findings were stark.



Everyone wants to know whether Iran will respond to Israel

In 1997, he was injected with poison by Israeli agents in the Jordanian capital of Amman. But the mission was botched, the agents were captured and the then-king Hussein was so furious that he threatened to hang the agents, and scrap Jordan's peace deal with Israel unless it shared the antidote. Under Netanyahu, who was in his first term at the time, Israel agreed to hand over the antidote and Meshal was saved. If he returns to the paramount position in Hamas, he will surely need to watch his back or perish like his predecessor. Coming back to Haniyeh's death which has caused serious embarrassment for Iran. Everyone wants to know whether Iran will respond. After all, all its proxies and its own sovereign territory are under attack. Israel's message is pretty clear. No one is safe. So, will Iran sit back down, take the loss and lose face as a result—or will it strike back? If you go by the reactions of Iran's leaders, then revenge is right around the corner. President Pezeshkian said, "I raised his victorious hand and today I have to bury him on my shoulders. Iran will make the terrorist invaders regret their cowardly action." Meanwhile, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "The criminal, terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest in our territory and has caused grief, but it has also prepared the ground for a severe punishment... It is our duty to take revenge." Khamenei has even ordered a direct attack on Israel, according to reports. But it's not as simple as it looks. Iran's words are failing to match its actions.



In April this year, Israel attacked the Iranian embassy in Syria and killed several IRGC officers. Iran retaliate but it seemed like it did not want a war. It rained down missiles over Israel, almost all of which were intercepted by the Iron Dome air defence systems. The damage was little and by no means a major escalation. Moreover, reports said that Iran had notified countries in the region, indirectly tipping Israel off about the attack and letting it prepare its defences in advance. Could it be that Iran does not want to be dragged into an all-out war with Israel, even though Israel is baiting it for confrontation every now and then? 39,000 Palestinians have been reported dead in Gaza, while over 100 Israeli hostages remain in captivity with no end in sight to the Israel-Hamas war. Israel has made a solid show of force in the last ten months, training its guns at Iran and Iran's proxies, all at the same time. But Iran is avoiding an all-out war. Iran's economy, already devastated by sanctions, is threatened not just by Israel but the United States. The US

has been sending billions of dollars in military aid to Israel at a time when it is already funding a bigger war against Russia in Ukraine. It has the resources and the political will to back Israel in a war. Israel has deep pockets and can play the game overtly but Iran does not, and it must use its funds tactically, which is what it has been doing by moving in the shadows with its proxy groups so far. Iran's 'Axis of Resistance' is in a crisis. If Iran is the mother-ship, the Houthis, Hamas and Hezbollah are its proxies, extending far and wide into the West Asian region. These extensions of Iran have allowed it to project power across the Middle East, tackling its enemy Israel and keeping Arab powers in check. But Israel attacked all three of these heavily armed militant offshoots within days, and it has not even spared Iranian territory in the process. News of the assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital of Tehran has sent shockwaves across the world and has embarrassed Iran. After all, he was a guest of Iran to attend

the inauguration of its new President Masoud Pezeshkian, when he was killed in a blast. Before this, Israel struck a building in another capital city, Beirut in Lebanon, eliminating Fuad Shukur, Hezbollah's most senior military commander and a right-hand man to the Shia militant group's leader Hassan Nasrallah. This was apparently in response to a rocket attack by Hezbollah which killed 12 children in the Golan Heights, a Syrian territory controlled by Israel since the 1967 war. Israel also declared that Mohammad Deif, the military leader of Hamas in Gaza, was also killed in an air raid last month. And this is not it. The Houthis also got a taste of Israeli retaliation when a crucial Yemeni lifeline, the Hodeida port, came under attack. The massive air strike on this Red Sea Port was an answer to a drone attack by the Houthis. Israel is prepared for any further escalation, it says, and is on high alert anticipating a response from Iran. Meanwhile, Iran is trapped in its own web. Israel has killed one of Iran's dearest guests in its capital city. Haniyeh was a guest of the Iranians. He attended the inauguration of the new Iranian President, met Supreme Leader Khamenei with a warm hug and posed with the victory sign with other Iranian leaders. That was the last the world saw of him as he was killed before dawn in his special residence in Tehran. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) reported it as a "Zionist raid" that took his life. It was initially theorised that it was an Israeli missile attack,

and it raised serious questions about Iran's air defence capabilities. But it is now being reported that it was actually a bomb placed inside the guest-house where Haniyeh was staying. And it was placed almost two months before the attack. For two months, the security apparatus in Iran failed to track this bomb. When Haniyeh was finally inside, the bomb was detonated remotely. This raises serious questions about Iran's security and intelligence capabilities. This was a lapse at many levels, if it was a lapse at all. After all, how could it be so easy to take Haniyeh out? This Hamas leader had been evading the Israelis for decades, enjoying safe haven in Qatar. Israel had been trying to take him out for years. Haniyeh was no small target—he was the political chief of Hamas since 2017, representing the group in diplomatic conversations with Arab and Western leaders. He shuttled from Turkey to Qatar and Iran to secure funding for Hamas. This is why some media reports will tell you that he was seen as a so-called "moderate" face of Hamas. This is not because he did not subscribe to the radical extremist ideology of Hamas but because leaders engaged with him behind closed doors to keep tabs on the Palestinian movement in Gaza. The truth is that Haniyeh was responsible for the intense militarisation of Hamas during his time in Gaza and was even accused of diverting humanitarian aid to the Hamas armed wing. He is also believed to have amassed a wealth of \$4 billion while being a leading face.

BJP wants to partition Bengal again

The next day, Nishikant Dubey, BJP MP from Jharkhand's Godda, fanned the flames with an uninterrupted three-minute diatribe on West Bengal in the Lok Sabha. He claimed that Jharkhand's tribal population had fallen to 26 per cent from 36 per cent in 2000, when the state was formed; at the same time, he claimed that the Muslim population went up by some astronomical percentage in some areas of the state. If that wasn't enough, he added that 'ghuspetiya' or infiltrators from Bangladesh were marrying tribal women and settling into tribal villages, and that Muslims from Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal were overrunning Hindu villages in Jharkhand and changing the state's demography. At no point did Dubey reveal where he got his data from, especially about Jharkhand's tribal population. The Census survey hasn't been conducted since 2011. In 2001 and 2011, the Census stated that Jharkhand had 26 per cent tribal population. But no one has yet questioned Dubey's claims or the fine points of his data because the

demand he raised next in Parliament was stunning: he reeled off a list of districts at the Bengal-Jharkhand-Bihar border that are apparently getting dominated by Muslims that he demanded be merged into a Union Territory—ostensibly, a place where the Centre could conduct NRC exercise without political opposition. Following this, a BJP MLA from Murshidabad, Gauri Shankar Ghosh, cited an 'infiltration problem' and said Malda and Murshidabad should be turned into a Union Territory. Fellow BJP MLA Subrata Maitra from Baharampur went a step further: he wanted parts of Nadia and South Dinajpur districts added to the imagined Union Territory comprising Murshidabad and Malda. BJP Rajya Sabha MP Nagendra Roy aka Anant Maharaj joined the chorus and demanded the district of Cooch Behar be expanded to Greater Cooch Behar and granted Union Territory status. Is there some method to this madness? Or is this chorus for Union Territories and the carving up of West Bengal a sign of the BJP's impoverished politics.

If you want an efficient all-India service, allow them to open their mouth freely—Sardar Patel

The Heads of the Departments of the Police in every province are covered under this guarantee. Are you going to change that? Are you going to put your Congress volunteers as captains? What is it that you propose to do? I am grieved to find that in a Parliament of this kind, Members, senior Members, speak in this strain. I would refer you to the Indian Independence Act which gave birth to this Parliament, and you find that the guarantees have been included there. When the Indian Independence Act was to be passed in Parliament, the draft was sent here. The leaders of the nation were called for; the Cabinet was there, the Congress President was there, your President was there, and your Leader today was there. Mahatma Gandhi was also present. Every section was scrutinised and the draft was approved. After that, it was passed in Parliament. Now, these guarantees were circulated before that to the provinces. All provinces agreed. It was also agreed to incorporate these into the Constituent Assembly's New Constitution. That is one part of the guarantee. Have you read that history? Or, you do not care for the recent history after you began to make history? If you do that, then I tell you we have a dark future. Learn to stand upon your pledged word, and, also, as a man of experience I tell you, do not quarrel with the instruments with which you want to work. It is a bad workman who quarrels with his instruments. Take work from them. Every man wants some sort of encouragement. Nobody wants to put in work when every day he is criticised and ridiculed in public. Nobody will give you work like that. So, once and for all, decide whether you want this service or not. If you have done with it and decide not to have this service at all, even in spite of my pledged word, I will take the Services with me and go. The

nation has changed its mind. The Services will earn their living. They are capable people. They were trained in a different setting. I know a senior Member of the Service with about twenty-five years' service who went to England for higher education and training in the Civil Service, and spent about fifty thousand rupees. He took a loan; he did not have the money. But there is a glamour for the Civil Service on the part of the Indian youth. He went there, he passed with distinction and came here. He served very ably, very loyally the then Government and later the present Government. His business is to serve the Government—that he is serving. He had a sense of patriotism. Often he came into difficulties with the then Government when he had to carry out orders against the Congress people, putting them in jail and otherwise. But he could not go beyond a certain limit. Now all his balance today at the end of twenty-five years' service is ten thousand rupees, and his wife and children, when he dies, will get some provident fund. These were the circumstances in which many of the service people took their training, came here, and served. Now we can say, "Very well, they did it with open eyes, let them suffer." Then you make up your mind to prepare for a substitute. We already have a substitute. We have started a training school here in India; we have fixed the cadre, proposals for which have been approved by Provinces—you know all that. If you want an efficient all-India service, I advise you to allow the services to open their mouths freely. If you are a Premier, it would be your duty to allow your Secretary, or Chief Secretary, or other services working under you, to express their opinion without fear or favour. But I see a tendency today that in several provinces the services are set upon and told, "No, you are servicemen."

Is Third-Gender Olympics the Answer?

No one has to then gatecrash women's events and bathrooms. Rabbi David J Meyer writes: An entire tractate of Talmud, in fact, is devoted to the laws and rituals of bringing the First Fruits, detailing the ornamentation of the offerings, and how the gifts would be offered by the men and women. During the course of this discussion, the text poses a question that many today might find quite stunning. While reviewing the differing obligations of men and women when it comes to offering the first fruits of Shavuot, the rabbis pondered the circumstances for those who fall outside the norma-

tive identities of male or female. Here's how the discussion begins: Jewish legal tradition identifies no fewer than six distinct "genders", certainly assuming as normative the male and female, but including designations which we now refer to as "intersex" identities. To use the Hebrew terms: the androgynous, one who has both male and female characteristics, the tumtum, one whose biology is unclear, the ayilonit, who identified as female at birth, but at puberty, develops male characteristics, and the saris, who appears as male at birth, but later takes on more typically female biology. Even in

Christian scripture, there are many affirming passages for trans and gender non-conforming people. There are women warriors, Jesus's kind words for eunuchs, and a passage in Isaiah about eunuchs being given a name and a family. To fit Eliot into the free-for-all boxing ring of gender identity that the Paris Olympics has descended into, one might rephrase him: 'Between XX and XY, falls the shadow.' From Elon Musk to Rowling, from Emmanuel Macron to Georgia Meloni, everybody is throwing punches at the torrid global debate on whether those with male hormones, genetic makeup,

or genitalia should compete with women. The parody of the Last Supper and trans performances at the Games opening kicked off the controversy. But the real gender fist-fight began after Algeria's Image Khelif, who was ruled out of some previous competitions for having XY chromosomes and male hormones, clobbered Italy's Angela Carini in women's boxing, a sport which involves heavy physical contact. The International Olympic Committee and organisers in France vocally defended Khelif, saying no rule was violated. But Italian PM Meloni stood by Carini, and the Western Right.

Gujarat judge, investigating officer draw SC ire, held in contempt

NEW DELHI: Acting tough against an additional chief judicial magistrate and investigating officer of Gujarat Police for not honouring its order and taking a person in custody despite its order granting him anticipatory bail, Supreme Court Wednesday convicted both for contempt of court and directed them to personally appear before it for deciding punishment. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta refused to accept their defence that they did not intend to violate the order, that it was done due to a misunderstanding of the order, and because of a prevalent practice in Gujarat permitting custody even after bail is granted.

SC patiently heard the duo but came to the conclusion that the action of the investigating officer



seeking custody of the accused, and of the judicial magistrate granting custody, are clearly in the teeth of its order and held them guilty of contempt of court.

Though SC had issued notice to brass of Surat Police, including the commissioner along with the judicial magistrate and additional chief secretary of Gujarat's home department for contempt, it convicted only the investigating officer who filed an application seeking custody and the magistrate who allowed the plea, and let off the rest

saying they were not involved.

"The portrayal made by the investigating officer in the remand application to claim the accused-petitioner was not cooperating in the investigation was totally cooked up and a clear attempt to draw wool over the court's eyes... We are, therefore, inclined to hold that there was not even a shred of bona fide in the actions of the investigating officer while seeking police custody remand of the accused on the purported ground of non-cooperation in investigation," the bench said.

Govindarajan Padmanabhan to receive first Vigyan Ratna award

NEW DELHI: Celebrated biochemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan was selected for the first 'Vigyan Ratna' award, the top-most science award in the country, while Isro's Chandrayaan-3 team was selected for the first 'Vigyan Team' award with the govt on Wednesday announcing 33 names for the 'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar' 2024 under four categories. Padma Bhushan awardee Padmanabhan is an honorary professor at IISc, Bengaluru.

Phogat 'victim of BJP', claims Congress while TMC alleges 'Conspiracy' behind

NEW DELHI: The Parliament session on Wednesday was all about Vinesh Phogat's disqualification at the Olympics. It turned into a political storm in the House, with opposition parties talking about sabotage and questioning officials for their alleged failure to save the wrestler from slipping up on the protocol and challenge her sub-

sequent disqualification. Both Houses witnessed heated exchanges between opposition and treasury benches over Vinesh, while Parliament's corridors resonated with disappointment and conspiracy theories on how the govt did not do enough for the celebrated wrestler, who had embarrassed BJP last year by accusing nation-



Suspicion shouldn't replace proof: Uttarakhand HC acquits two sentenced to death in murder case

NAINITAL: The Uttarakhand High Court has acquitted two persons who were sentenced to death by a lower court in connection with the murder of a woman during a robbery at her house, saying that "vague estimates" and "definite conclusions" must be distinguished during a trial. Admonishing the lower court in the order passed on Tuesday, a division bench of the high court headed by Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and comprising Justice Alok Kumar Verma said that suspicion, no matter how strong, should not take the place of proof during trial. The bench acquitted Satyesh Kumar alias Sonu and Mukesh Thapliyal of charges of robbery and murder and ordered their release. The court said the statements of the witnesses raise serious doubts. Suspicion, however strong it might be, can never take the place of proof. It is the duty of the court to ensure that mere conjecture or suspicion does not take the place of legal proof before convicting an accused, it said. The distance between could be and should be must be kept in mind, it added.

The bench also said that "vague estimates" and "definite conclusions" in a criminal case must be distinguished during a trial. According to the FIR registered in the case on a complaint by the victim's son in June 2017, Kumar and Thapliyal robbed the house of Sarojini Devi, a resident of Liswalata Patti Kot Bangar village in Rudraprayag district, killed her and hid her body behind the house. While there were no eyewitnesses, some of the looted jewellery and money were recovered from the two.

'Draconian, attack on freedom of religion': Oppn targets Centre over Waqf Bill

NEW DELHI: The Opposition led by the Congress party on Thursday launched a fierce protest against the Modi 3.0 government's proposal to amend the Waqf Boards Act.

As minority and parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju sought to table the Bill to amend the Waqf Act, Congress's KC



Venugopal disrupted the proceedings and built the case that the

bill was "unconstitutional", sternly demanding that the

bill be withdrawn in the interests of saving the "federal system" of the country. The Allapuzha MP, who earlier in the day initiated a notice to oppose the introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha, rose up and said that allowing non-Muslims to be members of the Waqf Board is attack on the "freedom of religion".

'Adivasi' is not just a word, it's a culture: Jharkhand Governor

Ranchi Ranchi, Jharkhand governor, Santosh Kumar Gangwar, said on Thursday that 'Adivasi' is not just a word but a culture. The governor was speaking to reporters after participating in a function organised on the eve of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples at Ranchi Women's College.

"Adivasi is not just a word, it's our culture. If we forget our culture and tradition, we will cause damage to our society and the country. We need to preserve our culture," he said.

Appreciating the tribal tradition, Gangwar said, "I came to know here that there is no tradition of giving money (dowry) in the marriage of a girl in tribal society. This is a very good practice and we have to understand how to adopt such good things." Earlier, speaking at the function at Ranchi Women's College, he said that tribal communities have been an important part of Indian civi-



lization and culture since ancient times. "Their art, culture, folk literature, traditions and customs are renowned globally," he said.

The governor said that the tribal population constitutes about 27 per cent of the state's population of over 3.28 crore, besides there are 32 types of scheduled tribes in the state including eight kinds of particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).

"The government is running several welfare schemes for the development of scheduled tribes. Our tribal broth-

ers and sisters need to be aware of such schemes so that they could be benefited," he said.

The governor said that tribal communities are becoming aware about education. "I would like to say that they need to be more aware of education. Knowledge plays an important role in the socio-economic progress of any nation.

It is said that 'knowledge is power'. Therefore, everyone should be educated, be it a boy or girl," he said.

UAPA tribunal notifies LTTE of show cause

Delhi: An Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) panel has issued a show cause notice to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to adjudicate its five-year ban. According to the Union ministry of home affairs' June 14 show cause notice, justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora's Delhi high court tribunal has given LTTE 30 days to respond to "why the organisation should not be declared as unlawful".

LTTE has 30 days to object or respond to the show cause notice. The MHA extended the ban on LTTE and stated that the organisation is "clandestinely" accumulating funds and spreading propaganda and that its residual leaders are seeking to revive it. The central government believes the LTTE is still threatening national security.

BJP slams Khurshid's reported remark, says it exposes Cong intent

NEW DELHI: BJP on Wednesday launched a fierce attack on Congress over former Union minister Salman Khurshid's reported remark about the possibility of India facing a situation similar to one unfolding in Bangladesh. Former Union minister Anurag Thakur said the Congress neta's remark had laid bare

Congress's wish and intent to create anarchy. "Their actions and words inside Parliament and outside it have exposed their frustration over the third consecutive defeat. They are hell bent upon creating unrest and push the country into anarchy," Thakur said.

At a book release function on Tuesday evening, Khurshid

was quoted as saying that though "everything may look normal on the surface, what is happening in Bangladesh could happen in India".

"Congress has been repeatedly trying to create a crisis in the country, sometimes before the elections and sometimes post-elections. They are frustrated and will do

anything to push the country, a bright global spot, backwards due to political vendetta. The statement is an invitation to anarchy and shows the anti-democratic outlook of the party which talks about the Constitution," Thakur told reporters. His colleagues, Rajiv Pratap and Sambit Patra also joined in the attack.

Dhankhar, Kharge spar in Rajya Sabha, opposition walks out

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha saw a verbal spat between Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and leader of opposition (LoP) Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday when the latter sought to raise an "emergent issue" (disqualification of wrestler Vinesh Phogat) during the discussion on Appropriation Bill, but it was turned down by the Chair. When Kharge

and Congress members asked why the Chair was not allowing him to speak, Dhankhar charged the Congress chief of questioning him at the drop of a hat. As Dhankhar insisted the LoP and Congress MPs to take recourse to rules and declined to accept their demand to intervene when the discussion was on, opposition members walked out of the House.

Sheikh Hasina's associates have started leaving India: Report

NEW DELHI: Sheikh Hasina's associates including her sister Sheikh Rehana, who had reached India with the former Bangladesh PM on August 5 have now started departing from India and moving to their next destinations, according to an ANI report citing sources.

The former PM along with her associates had to flee to India after violent protests in Bangladesh against government quota system in jobs. Many of the associates didn't carry their clothes and other essentials as they were in a hurry to save their lives. The Indian protocol officials helped the associates in buying clothes and other



● **Sheikh Hasina's entourage members who are double digits in numbers were very shocked after witnessing**

items, according to ANI. Associates in shock

According to the sources, Sheikh Hasina's entourage members who are double digits in numbers were very shocked after witnessing the scenes of

violent protests happening in Bangladesh since last few days. Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor also met Sheikh Hasina on August 5 when she landed in Delhi. The entourage members were taken to a safe location when they reached to India, according to ANI. After Sheikh Hasina's resignation, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus is all set to take oath as Bangladesh's interim government head on August 8.

BSF holds coordination meeting with villagers at Indo-Bangladesh border

NEW DELHI: In order to create a sense of security among locals at the India-Bangladesh border, the Border Security Force (BSF) held a coordination meeting in border villages on Thursday.

"We organised village coordination meetings at various villages located near border outposts to sensitize present situation in Bangladesh and other border issues in presence of prominent locals, Sarpanch and Pradhan in



order to create a sense of security," said a senior BSF officer. On Aug 07, Bangladeshi nationals were observed gathering near the International Boundary (IB) in two sec-

tors. These gatherings were prompted by fears of attacks by protestors within Bangladesh. BSF personnel, demonstrating exceptional vigilance and proactive measures, swiftly

responded to these situations, ensuring the security of the border and the safety of the gathered Bangladeshi nationals. In one sector, efforts made by BSF, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and local civil authorities to reassure and return the gathered individuals to their homes, approximately 35 civilians returned to their home. BSF has deployed additional forces to manage the situation effectively.

Coaching tenders are issued by DDA sports complexes

"While DDA charges a fee for using the facilities at the complexes from members or non-members"



Delhi: Development Authority (DDA) has invited professional sports coaches or coaching firms to instruct interested Delhiites at its sports complexes in various disciplines. Coaching will be revenue-sharing with some restrictions. DDA runs 17 sports centers with over 53,386 members (excluding dependents) and 213,235 monthly users. Chilla Sports Complex, CWG Village Sports Complex, Saket Sports Complex, Siri Fort Complex, Dwarka Sports Complex at Sector 17, and Roshanara Club operate 158 coaching schemes with about

6,175 trainees. Coaching. The complex trains members and non-members in sports. "While DDA charges a fee for using the facilities at the complexes from members or non-members, provision for coaches is also provided after paying additional fees," a rep stated. "The DDA management will determine

coaching days and times based on facility availability. No coach or coaching agency can receive more than two sports complexes "official said. During busy hours like 6am-8am and 6pm-8pm, sports complexes rarely offer instruction. Regular members can use facilities during this period. If the complex secretary finds spare capacity, coaching can be allowed during these hours, with certain requirements "authority].

DDA will supply infrastructure and facilities; coaches or organizations will run sessions. "The coach and DDA would split outdoor coaching fees 60:40. Facilities where

DDA supplies most training aids and interior facilities share 50:50. At least 10% of economically disadvantaged trainees must receive free coaching, according to regulations. "The authority invited tenders on June 23. Officials stressed that coaches or agencies who have not offered free instruction to the necessary number of trainees will not be eligible for contract extensions. "If there is a requirement to impart coaching to EWS sections by more than 10% of trainees, then DDA will pay the coaches their share of the fees over and above the mandatory 10%," a rep said.

City benefits from longer amusement license

Delhi: LG Saxena's unified public entertainment licensing platform, launched earlier this month, has made business easier and helped turn Delhi into a dynamic city, restaurateurs claimed. Restaurant operators may now schedule gigs without worrying about getting a license at the last minute with a long-term license. Before launching the service, they had to file a police license form before hosting singer, band, or percussionist, or stand-up shows. Permissions were slow, so you couldn't book good artists or host last-minute shows. This link lets you apply for a longer license online. Sandeep Goyle, National Restaurant Association of India Delhi chapter head, said this will help many businesses. The manager of a popular restaurant stated even a casual gig required a license and much documenta-



tion before submission. "Permission could take two weeks to a month. It could also be refused. This nearly ended live music and performance in restaurants, which mostly used DJs or recorded music "said. An LG secretariat official said the webpage was designed to streamline, simplify, and standardize the capital's licensing process for amusement parks, auditoriums, and video game parlours. According to the source, the licensing unit of Delhi Police, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and National Informatics Centre created the transformational portal to improve

licensing operations across Delhi. The paperwork and documentation requirements are much reduced, streamlining the application procedure. The site streamlines application processing and cooperation by combining municipal organizations, Delhi Fire Service, and Delhi Police onto a single platform. "The application can be filled out online from anywhere and sent to all agencies simultaneously for quick processing. This allowed public performers, poets, and comedians to perform without having their scripts approved by police before the capital event.

700 parakeets rescued from Old Delhi Market

Delhi: At least 736 birds of six species protected under different Wildlife Act schedules were rescued from at least two shops at Coat market, also known as Kabootar market, in Jama Masjid in central Delhi after a raid by the department of forest and wildlife on . rds lived in metal and plastic cages of various sizes. The shopkeepers packed the cages inhumanely in confined areas. The shopkeepers fled after witnessing the raiders. The officials stated Jama Masjid police officers helped the forest and

wildlife department's raiding squad find and rescue the birds. Anamika, deputy conservator of forests (central division), said the 736 rescued birds included six kinds of Parakeets and Munias. There were 325 Scaly Breasted Munias, 190 Rose Ringed, 123 Black Headed, 39 Red, 37 Alexandrine, and 22 Plum Headed. "The abducted birds are fed and watered in the central forest section. Anamika (one name) stated, "After some observation, they will be released in Asola Bhatti Sanctuary."

After a tip regarding Jama Masjid stores illegally holding endangered species, the central forest division launched the raid, officials said.

A team of wildlife inspectors, foresters, wildlife and forest guards, and animal handlers went to the Coat Market with local police. "Since our team had to conduct the raid and rescue operation in a sensitive locality, we roped in the local Jama Masjid police staff to handle any security and safety issues," stated the DCF."

PUC centers reopen as government promises to evaluate testing fee



Delhi: Petroleum dealers association officials said most pollution-under-control (PUC) checking centre operators at Delhi petrol pumps resumed operations on Thursday after calling off their indefinite strike to demand higher fees. After a meeting between the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association (DPDA) and Delhi transport department officials, who promised to investigate the striking dealers' requests, services resumed. DPDA general secretary Bibek Banerjee said: "The principal secretary, transport, agreed to relook into rate revision based on actual costs involved in the process. The officer will get DPDA's complete reasoning for PUC tariff increases soon. For the greater

good, DPDA has called off PUC centers' petrol pump strikes. The transport agency said PUC centre dealers put off the strike after talking with them. "They will justify raising PUC rates in detail. The transport official, who requested anonymity, said the department will review the findings and take action. The Delhi government reported 945 PUC centers, 600 of which operate from petrol pumps. Around 400 dealers went on an extended strike from July 15 to demand double testing. Following a 13-year gap, the government recommended raising PUC rates by ₹20 to ₹40 last week. Petroleum traders say the raise is insufficient to cover costs while waiting for notification.

HC authorizes MCD to remove illegal construction

Delhi: The High Court ordered the MCD to dismantle an unauthorized structure built by a Mayur Vihar Phase 1 Extension housing society resident. On July 9, the HC bench of acting Chief Justice (ACJ) Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela ruled that MCD, under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, is "fully empowered" to remove unauthorised



construction "even if it happens to be within the four corners of a house or a flat". The housing society's writ case to ensure MCD's statutory responsibility was maintainable, the bench said. After MCD

ignored multiple reminders from 2019 to monitor various residents' encroachments, the society's controlling committee went to court. The petitioner's attorney argued that a resident had built illegally and encroached on society land, then removed it herself. The attorney said just the elevated base remains.

Telemedicine to access specialized doctors

Delhi: State-run hospitals will provide Delhi residents telemedicine from doctors and specialists. Sources stated Delhi health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has authorized doctors from several government hospitals to consult with patients via eSanjeevani. The Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC), which built the Sanjeevani software, agreed to Bharadwaj's request to alter it for the Delhi government. National patients can consult doctors in central government and municipal hospitals in the capital. A six-member committee led by ILBS

chancellor Dr. SK Sarin, created by Delhi High Court to improve health services in state-run and MCD hospitals and dispensaries, also advocated telemedicine. Sources said C-DAC will build a Delhi-only platform with state-run hospital doctors. "Since the government was in the process of hiring more doctors through UPSC and on contract, officials said the facility will be reviewed in due course of time and will be opened to patients from other states also," a rep said. Delhi's health department will hire general practitioners and specialists in surgery, obstetrics and gynae-

MCD will contract out all Karol Bagh municipal park maintenance

Delhi: Senior civic officials stated that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will pilot outsourcing municipal park management to commercial concessionaires to improve their upkeep. The 762-park Karol Bagh zone will host the pilot. A senior MCD official said the horticulture department has produced a project study for outsourcing Karol Bagh maintenance, including upkeep, pruning, rubbish collection, and vegetation. "The sanitation department manages waste in all zones through private concessionaires. We're out-



sourcing Karol Bagh park maintenance to a specialist. It is estimated to cost roughly ₹5 crore annually. The official, who requested anonymity, said the idea may be expanded to other zones if successful. MCD's horticulture department administers 15,226 parks on 5,172.07 acres. Most parks—90%—are "housing area parks"

(HAP) with areas under 5,000 square meters. Besides providing a green lung for Delhi, these parks allow citizens to exercise and play. According to an MCD official, outsourcing park management to experts should save money. "We expect better park maintenance. It will expedite park maintenance concerns from

citizens. The zonal officer would oversee all agency activity, the statement stated. The top MCD official stated that of 762 parks in Karol Bagh, 42 are more than 4,047sqm, 119 are 2,023.5sqm to 4,047sqm, and the rest are smaller.

Reported last year that the corporation had a gardener shortage, citing an MCD study that indicated 56% of gardener positions were vacant as of September 2023. Only 3,446 of 7,872 sanctioned gardener posts were hired, causing trouble in north and east Delhi.

Scrap 'illegal' car, get refund for next purchase

Delhi: Scrapping your old car will get you a discount on your future one. Delhi government sent LG VK Saxena a proposal for approval. Kailash Gahlot, transport minister, said the policy encouraged the destruction of old, polluting vehicles and the adoption of newer, cleaner ones. "By offering tax concessions, we hope to make it easier for vehicle owners to transit to more environment-friendly options," said Gahlot. The government would reduce the motor vehicles (MV) tax for new transport and non-transport cars provided a certificate is submitted confirming an old vehicle was scrapped at a registered vehicle scrapping plant. To qualify for savings, one must acquire a new car in the same category as the scrapped one. New diesel cars will receive a 15% MV tax concession.

Delhi to expand PUC checkpoints

Delhi: The Arvind Kejriwal-led administration stated that it is investigating new locations to open pollution under control (PUC) inspection facilities in Delhi for people's convenience. After the Transport department found several petrol pump PUC checking centres "non-operational", the decision was made. The Transport department has asked DMRC and IGL to open new PUC checking centres at their sites. Advertisement Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "Ensuring vehicles comply with pollution norms is crucial for improving Delhi's air quality. By adding PUC checking centers, we hope to make car testing and certification easier for citizens. We thank DMRC and IGL for their help." Over 900 PUC inspection centers are in Delhi, including 700 at petrol pumps. In 2017, the Supreme Court ordered all state transport departments to set up PUC checking stations at fuel stations. The Transport Department found some PUC checking centres violating this directive recently. Enforcers have been ordered to shut down non-compliant PUC checking centers in the city.

Delhi government officers reshuffled

Delhi: The Delhi government's services department dismissed senior IAS officer A Anbarasu from the principal commissioner (trade and taxes) position. Anbarasu, a 1996-batch IAS officer, will remain principal secretary of Public Works Department and Delhi Jal Board CEO. Lieutenant governor VK Saxena ordered



it, officials said. Sources further said the AAP government had noted that the official was overworked with three critical ministries, hampering work. The services department also selected 2002-batch IAS officer Nikhil Kumar as land and building secretary. Kumar was relocated to Delhi from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and was awaiting appointment. He had numerous key roles in Delhi before. The order also named 2008-batch IAS officer Chanchal Yadav secretary (home). In other news, 2009-batch officer KM Uppu was dismissed from the excise commissioner duties. He will now be New Delhi Municipal Council secretary entirely. In anticipation of postings, the services department dispatched 2001-batch IAS officers Arti Lal Sharma and Jitender Yadav to DDA and MCD. Ravi Jha, another IAS officer awaiting posting, is now New Delhi district magistrate, while Marathe Onkar Gopal is in MCD. LG transferred and posted only in his direct control offices, an official said. Tamil Nadu named P Amudha special officer for Mudhalvarin Mugavari and Makkaludan Mudhalvar. She was transferred from the home department after opposition criticism of law enforcement. CS Shiv Das Meena confirmed the appointment. Kerala appointed IAS officer K Vasuki to manage 'foreign collaboration'.

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. President 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, Khawai, 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 welter-weight 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 Rijju 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 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 Vaishnav 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.

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.

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.

69 Indians await release from Russian army: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: External affairs minister S Jaishankar Friday said the govt is awaiting release of 69 Indians recruited into Russian army and that in many cases there are indications that the Indian nationals were misled into joining that country's armed forces. So far, Jaishankar said there are 91 Indian nationals recruited into Russian army. Out of them, eight have passed away, 14 were discharged or in some manner have come back with govt's assistance and "there are 69 citizens awaiting release from Russian army," he said, in response to a question in LS.

Out of the eight who died, the mortal remains of four have been sent back to India and in two cases — one from Haryana and Punjab — DNA samples have been sent to the Russian side.

In one case from Gujarat, the family wants the body to be cremated in Russia and in another case



from UP, the mortal remains are being brought back, Jaishankar said while responding to a Parliament question in the Lok Sabha. According to the EAM, the issue is that Russian authorities maintain these Indian entered contracts for services with Russian army. "We are not necessarily subscribing to that... In many cases there are reasons to indicate that our nationals were misled, that they were told that they were going for some other job and then they were deployed with the Russian

army," he added. The issue of Indians recruited into Russian army was taken up by PM Modi during his meeting with Russian president Putin last month. "We take this issue very very seriously. I have myself raised it numerous times with the Russian foreign minister... When the Prime Minister was in Moscow last month, he raised it personally with President Putin and got the assurance that any Indian national in the service of the Russian army will be discharged and released," Jaishankar said.

On wife's suggestion, CJI arranges screening of 'Laapataa Ladies' to promote gender sensitisation

NEW DELHI: On wife Kalpana Das's suggestion, CJI D Y Chandrachud on Friday arranged for an exclusive screening of acclaimed Hindi film 'Laapataa Ladies' for the Supreme Court judges and staff but prior to that producer Aamir Khan and director Kiran Rao had a privileged preview of CJI's Courtroom proceedings. It was Kalpana, who after watching the film, suggested to CJI Chandrachud for the screening of the film for the entire staff of the apex court as she felt that the movie conveyed a moving message on gender sensitisation. Coincidentally, in the 75th year of its establishment, the SC is observing a year-long gender sensitisation programme. It was a spectacle in the CJI's courtroom, the largest and most ornate among all SC courtrooms. With a dozen seats separated with a barricade tape from areas crowded by lawyers, Khan dressed in a printed kurta and Rao in a blue saree over a white top, along with half a dozen their associ-



ates were seen keenly watching proceedings before the CJI and his colleague judges - J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. Security too was deployed to avoid any lawyer fan mobbing the celebrated actor. None did, as for them the court proceedings were more important. But, courtroom cameras, which usually focus on lawyers representing petitioners and respondents, were glued to Khan and Rao. So much so that, when the petitioner's counsel was arguing, many a time he/she was not visible, though audible.

After an hour or so, Khan either lost interest in the proceeding or to prepare for some pressing engagement, left the courtroom, leaving Rao and two three others to continue sitting in the courtroom till 4 pm. The screening was scheduled from 4.15 pm till 6.20 pm. The SC registry informed that the judges interacted with Khan and Rao after the screening for about 15-20 minutes. Some judges did not attend. Few among them felt that close interaction with the actor and producer would not be ethical as there may be a case in future.

CAPSULES

PM Modi urges citizens to make 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign a 'mass movement'

NEW DELHI: As India gears up to celebrate its 78th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged the citizens of the nation to make the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign a mass movement by hoisting the national flag at their homes. Changing his profile picture on social media to 'Tricolour', PM Modi further urged everyone to change their profile picture to the same. Sharing a link, PM Modi also requested everyone to share their selfies with the national flag while celebrating the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. One can submit their selfies on the website - <https://harghartiranga.com>

In a social media post on X, PM Modi wrote, "As this year's Independence Day approaches, let's again make #HarGharTiranga a memorable mass movement. I am changing my profile picture and I urge you all to join me in celebrating our Tricolour by doing the same. And yes, do share your selfies on <https://harghartiranga.com>.

BJD holds first coordination committee meeting after poll debacle

BHUBANESWAR: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) held the first coordination committee meeting at Shanka Bhavan in Bhubaneswar after the poll debacle. Different state-level issues were discussed in the key meeting. Discussion was held on the restructuring of the party. Speaking about the first coordination committee meeting held.

'Aazaadi ki subah ki pehli chai': Sisodia shares selfie with wife a day after walking out of jail

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party leader and former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday shared a heart-warming selfie on X, capturing a moment of him enjoying a cup of tea with his wife.

This comes a day after Supreme court granted him bail in the Delhi liquor policy case. He had been lodged in Tihar jail for 17 months. "Aazaadi ki subah ki pehli chai ... 17 mahine baad! (First tea on the morning of independence ... after 17 months!)", Sisodia wrote on X.



"The freedom that the Constitution has given to all of us Indians as a guarantee of the right to life. The freedom that God has given us to breathe in the open air with everyone," he added. Upon his release from

Tihar jail on Friday, Sisodia was greeted with a warm reception by AAP leaders and family members, amidst resounding chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai.' Thanking BR Ambedkar, Sisodia said it was only because of the power of

the Constitution that he was out of jail today. "Ever since this order came in the morning, every inch of my skin has been feeling indebted to Babasaheb. I don't understand how we will pay off this debt to Babasaheb," he said.

MHA sets up panel to monitor Indo-Bangla border situation

NEW DELHI: Centre on Friday constituted a committee to monitor the situation on the eastern frontier arising out of the political events in Bangladesh and to maintain a line of communication with the authorities in the neighbouring country to ensure the safety of Indian citizens and minority communities there.

"In the wake of the ongoing situation in Bangladesh, the Modi govt has constituted a committee to monitor the current situation on the Indo-Bangladesh



border. The committee will maintain communication channels with their counterparts in Bangladesh to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals,

Hindus and other minority communities living there," home minister Amit Shah said. He added that the committee will be led by additional director gen-

eral, BSF of Eastern Command and comprise BSF inspectors general in charge of south Bengal and Tripura frontier headquarters. Others in the committee include the secretary of Land Ports Authority and member (planning and development), LPAL. The days after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina govt have witnessed some activity along the Indo-Bangladesh border, including Indian students arriving at landports to return home and Nepalese citizens seeking to transit via India.

Plan to add HPV vaccines to immunisation programme: Nadda



English Daily
AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH
Title Code
UPENG04488
Prayagraj
Printer, Publisher &
Owner Swami Shree
Yogi Satyam for
Yog Satsanga Samiti
Printed at
PARASHAKTI OFFSET
118A/2A Chaukhandi
Kydganj, Prayagraj-211003
Uttar Pradesh
Published from
Kriyayoga Ashram
& Anusandhan Sansthan
Jhansi, Prayagraj-211019
Editor:
SWAMI SHREE YOGI SATYAM
All disputes of news and
publication against the
AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH
are the subject matter of
Allahabad Jurisdiction.
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NEW DELHI: "The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) has recommended for HPV vaccination. But, at the same time, the govt is having an active consideration on it and there are logistical issues which need to be addressed first," Nadda said in the Lok Sabha. He said the first issue was about single dose and double dose. "The

indigenous vaccine we have here is double dose and the vaccine being supported by external agencies is single dose," the minister said, adding that the govt must also ensure the capacity and logistics part to roll out the programme. Some states like Sikkim have initiated the introduction of HPV vaccination as part of their routine immunisation programme. Nadda said the Centre accepted and welcomed it.

LS records 136% productivity in Budget session

NEW DELHI: The Parliament was adjourned sine die on Friday, one sitting ahead of the scheduled end of the session, with the two Houses passing several key pieces of legislation, including the Finance Bill, 2024, and the Appropriation Bill, 2024 — both crucial for the Union Budget. The session gained significance after the introduction of the contentious Waqf Board Bill, which was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee in the wake of opposition parties' strong resistance. "As many as 15 sittings were held during the Session lasting for 115 hours and the productivity of the House during the Session was 136%," said LS Speaker Om Birla in his valedictory



address. Lok Sabha functioned for 123% of its scheduled time and Rajya Sabha for 110%. As many as 12 govt bills were introduced and four bills were passed, during the session. Besides the Finance Bill and Appropriation Bill, the other bills which were passed included the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill and Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024. Speaker Om Birla said 86 starred questions were answered orally during the session. A total of 400 matters of urgent public importance were raised by members

during the Zero Hour and 358 matters were taken up under Rule 377. Birla said during the session, 25 statements were made under Direction 73A and a total number of 30 statements including two statements given by the minister of parliamentary affairs in connection with parliamentary business and three suo moto statements by ministers were given. As many as 1,345 papers were laid on the table of the House. Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die amidst opposition walkouts that disrupted the House

proceedings. Parliamentary affairs and minority affairs minister, Kiren Rijiju on Friday thanked the presiding officers of both Houses and said that the Parliament saw very good business transactions in both Houses along with active participation from the members. "After many years, neither the Budget session nor the entire Parliament session was washed out for a single day, and we saw good business transactions in both Houses along with active participation from the members. On behalf of all the members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and the govt, I want to thank the Chairman of both Houses for their great help in running the Houses," Rijiju said at a press conference.

No alternative plans for political funding: Govt on electoral bonds

The govt on Friday told the Lok Sabha that it had no plans to bring any law regarding electoral bonds for the funding of political parties, while replying to questions on electoral bonds. The govt added it had no plans for an alternative funding proposal to the electoral bonds either, for the political parties. Trinamool Congress MP Mala Roy, in written questions on the contentious electoral bonds, asked "whether the govt has any plan to bring any law regarding electoral bonds for political party funding; if so, the details thereof; and if not, the alternative/substitute being considered for funding of political parties. to contest Lok Sabha / Assam by Elections."