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

Doctor Rape-Murder : 'Absolute failure of state machinery', Calcutta HC

NEW DELHI: Bengal is bracing for a tense Friday with a potential shutdown on the horizon, as CM Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and opposition parties BJP and CPM plan separate protests focused on RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The recent rape and murder of a postgraduate resident doctor on August 9 has triggered national outrage. So far, Kolkata police have arrested 19 people in connection with the vandalism at RG Kar Hospital, while the IMA has announced a 24-hour closure of non-emergency services. Stay updated with TOI for the latest developments. Her statement shows her vote bank politics. Her official political strategist in the Vidhan Sabha elections of 2021 said that we are counted among the 30% population. We all know what is the meaning of being counted in the '30% population'. We can find out for whom she



'Bam and Ram want to create unrest ...': West Bengal CM Mamata

NEW DELHI: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the Left and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of collaborating to create unrest in the state. This accusation came after vandalism at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata on Wednesday night, where a mob caused damage to the protest site, vehicles, and public property. Banerjee claimed that the individuals involved were

not connected to the student movement and alleged they were affiliated with the BJP. She further alleged, "The people who vandalised RG Kar Hospital yesterday and created this ruckus are not connected to the student movement. The court questioned how doctors could continue working fearlessly under such conditions, citing the "absolute failure of state machinery" in preventing the attack.

Shift patients from RG Kar Hospital: Calcutta high court

The high court's comments highlight increasing concerns about the safety and security of medical personnel in the state, particularly after such violent incidents. The judges stressed the urgent need for effective measures to ensure that doctors and hospital staff can carry out their duties without fear of future attacks. Calcutta high court questions state's failure: How can doctors work without fear amid hospital vandalism? In response to the recent vandalism at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, the Calcutta high court sharply criticized the state's handling of the incident.

The court questioned how doctors could continue working fearlessly under such conditions, citing the "absolute failure of state machinery" in preventing the attack.

PM Modi interacts with Olympians, asks them what they did off field in Paris

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Indian Olympic contingent at his residence upon their return from the Paris Olympic Games, where they secured six medals. In his interaction with the Olympians, PM Modi said that in sports, no one truly loses; everyone learns and praised the athletes for their dedication and achievements. Among the athletes present were India's youngest Olympic medalist Aman Sehrawat, shooters Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kusale, and members of the Indian men's hockey team. PM Modi shook hands with the players and clicked pictures with them to commemorate the event. "First of all, remove the thought from your mind that you have returned to India after losing the Olympics. You have returned with the country's flag held high. You have also gained some valuable experience, and sports



'Matter of great pride...': PM Narendra Modi lauds Vinesh Phogat

NEW DELHI: Wrestler Vinesh Phogat got accolades from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for her remarkable performance at the Olympics in Paris and for becoming the first female grappler from India to go to the final. On Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a meeting and recep-

tion for Indian athletes and gold winners from the just finished Paris Olympics at his residence located at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in the capital city, as per IANS. PM Modi noted Vinesh's achievement and said, "Vinesh became the first Indian (women) to reach the finals in wrestling. They are truly courageous and despicable human beings. Not a shred of empathy," he said in a post on X with a picture of the NYT opinions page. "He failed the tests of leadership and betrayed America. Voters must reject him in November," the NYT opinions page said.

is the one field, my friends, where no one ever truly loses; everyone learns," said PM Modi during a conversation with the sports persons. The PM asked the athletes about their experiences off the field, encouraging them to share what they learned and whom they met at the Games. "The world has seen what you did on the field. Now, tell me what you did off the field. You must have made friends with athletes from around the world and learned a lot" he.

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

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

Isro's SSLV-D3 mission successful, EOS-08 and SR-0 Demosat satellites placed in orbit



SRIHARIKOTA: Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has set foot in the global small satellite launch market with the successful launch of the third and final developmental flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D3) from Sriharikota on Friday morning. This completes the SSLV development project and enables operational missions of the rocket by Indian industry and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL). SSLV-D3 carrying earth observation satellite EOS-08 and SR-0 Demosat passenger satellite lifted off from the first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 9.17am on Friday. Around 13 minutes after liftoff, the rocket injected the 175.5kg EOS-08 satellite into a 475km circular low earth orbit. The rocket placed the 0.2kg SR-0 Demosat, developed by Space Kidz India, into the same orbit around three minutes later. Isro chairman S Somanath said, "The rocket has placed the satellites into precise orbit. With this, we declare that the SSLV development process is completed. Isro is in the process of transferring the technology to the industry." The successful launch marks a significant milestone in the country's space capabilities. Isro now has a rocket that can offer a cost-effective and flexible solution to meet the growing demands in the small satellite launch market. Mission director S S Vinod said, "With the successful launch, Isro is moving into the operational phase of SSLV." SSLV, which is a three-stage rocket with all solid propulsion stages and liquid propulsion.

Major reshuffle: IGPs, DIGs among several senior J&K police officers transferred

NEW DELHI: Several senior police officers in Jammu and Kashmir, including IGPs and DIGs, have been transferred, with many districts to get new police chiefs. This reshuffling of top police brass comes in the wake of the Election Commission's announcement that it will declare the



poll schedule for Jammu and Kashmir's legislative assembly on Friday, marking the first assembly election in the Union Territory since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. In December 2023, the Supreme Court directed the central government to complete the election process in the Union Territory by

September 30, 2024. These upcoming elections will be the first in Jammu and Kashmir in a decade, following the last assembly election held in 2014. The previous PDP-BJP coalition govt collapsed in June 2018 when the BJP withdrew its support from then-chief minister Mehbooba Mufti.

PM Modi, President Murmu pay tribute to Vajpayee on his death anniversary

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu, PM Modi and other BJP leaders on Friday paid tribute to ex-PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary at the 'Sadaiv Atal' memorial in the national capital. Union home minister Amit Shah, Union defence minister Rajnath Singh and BJP chief JP Nadda among other party stalwarts were also present at the memorial. One of the prominent leaders



of the country and founding member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Vajpayee died on August 16, 2018, at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after a prolonged illness. He was 93. Vajpayee served as Prime Minister thrice -- briefly in 1996, and then for two terms between 1998 and 2004. His birthday, which falls on December 25, is celebrated as 'Good Governance Day'.

Pakistan detects first mpox case of 2024; China to screen arrivals:

NEW DELHI: Pakistan has confirmed its first mpox (earlier known as monkeypox) case of the year after a 34-year-old man who recently returned from Saudi Arabia tested positive for the virus, reported ARY News. The individual, a resident of Mardan, arrived in Pakistan on August 3 and began showing symptoms shortly after reaching Peshawar. The diagnosis was confirmed by Khyber Medical University in Peshawar, and the positive result was verified on August 13, marking the first report of monkeypox in Pakistan for 2024. Health officials have begun contact tracing efforts to identify and monitor individuals who were in



close contact with the patient, including fellow passengers on his flight from Saudi Arabia. Earlier in 2023, three passengers were diagnosed with monkeypox at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport. All three were Pakistani citizens aged between 30 and 45. The passengers were admitted to the infectious disease hospital. **China to monitor arrivals** China will monitor

sealing off areas during an outbreak. Category B infectious diseases in China currently include Covid-19, AIDS, and SARS. Which countries have confirmed mpox virus cases? The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that over 14,000 cases and 524 deaths from mpox have been recorded in Africa this year, surpassing last year's figures. More than 96% of these cases and deaths have occurred in Congo, where a new, potentially more transmissible variant is causing concern among scientists. Sweden's public health agency announced on Thursday that the new mpox.

Vikram Misri assumes charge as Foreign Secretary of India

Vikram Misri, 59, became the new Foreign Secretary of India, succeeding Vinay Kwatra. Jaishankar praised Kwatra's strategic acumen. Misri served three Prime Ministers and was key in India-China discussions post-2020 Galwan Valley clashes. Misri assumed charge as Foreign Secretary of India on July 14. Vikram Misri assumes charge as Foreign Secretary of India (Picture credit: ANI) **NEW DELHI:** Vikram Misri assumed the charge of foreign secretary of India on Monday.

Akhilesh meets Lucknow harassment case accused

NEW DELHI: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday met Pawan Yadav, one of the accused in the Lucknow harassment case, whose name UP CM Yogi Adityanath mentioned in the assembly while vowing strict action in the matter. After meeting Akhilesh, Pawan Yadav said he was thankful to the Kannauj MP and that he "felt much better" after meeting him. "I am thankful to Samajwadi Party and Akhilesh Yadav. I was not there when the incident happened. I was not involved in the video. CM Yogi Adityanath must have been given the wrong information. after which he took my name," said the Gomti Nagar molestation case accused told news agency ANI.



Pawan Yadav further said: "Maybe he took my name because my name is 'Pawan Yadav'. Akhilesh ji has said that I don't have to be afraid if I have not done anything wrong. I felt much better," he added. Earlier, Yogi Adityanath said that ensuring women's safety is one of the main priorities of his government and assured that culprits behind the Gontinagar harassment incident will be punished severely. The chief minister's statement in the Assembly came a day after a video showed revellers harassing.

I-Day celebrations at Bishop's Office

Prayagraj: Independence Day was celebrated with prayer and message by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Morris Dan of Lucknow Diocese (C.N.I.) at Bishop's Office. Rev.



Manish Zaidi, the Diocesan Secretary also offered prayers for the country. Mr. Arun Paul, the Treasurer and Amar Rockwell Moses, Secretary-LDTA were also present to grace the function.

We take pride in our independence: Saroj Singh

Prayagraj: We are proud of our freedom. It was achieved after a tough struggle against the British for two hundred years. Today is a very historic day. It is a symbol of patriotism, dedication and unity for all of us. These things were expressed by renowned social activist Saroj Singh. She was speaking as the chief guest at a function organized on the occasion of Independence Day at Samdariya School in Dandapur.

Director Dr. Mani Shanker Dwivedi discussed in detail the sacrifices and struggles of the revolutionaries. During the flag hoisting children gave salute by playing the band and presentations of folk dance, rangoli and conversation etc. were captivating. Rupa Chaturvedi conducted the program and vote of thanks was given by Kadambari Dwivedi. Dr Rama Singh, Neetu Singh, Mrinal Jatin, Neha, Aneeta, Chetna Tripathi, Sandhya Rai, Sangeeta, Vinod Yadav, Rajesh, Dharmendra etc, were present on this occasion.

Teachers learned intricacies of NCERT books

Prayagraj: Classes 1 and 2 will be taught from NCERT books. English books have been implemented from class 1 in council government schools. Four-day basic language and mathematics training for teachers was completed at BRC Kaurihar Nawabganj. In this training, teachers understood session-wise plans of NCERT based language, mathematics and English. The training was inaugurated by Block Education Officer Kshama Shankar Pandey. Whereas on the concluding occasion, SRG Prashant Kumar Ojha discussed various session plans with the teachers. During the training, the teachers developed their understanding on NCERT's Hindi language book Sarangi, 'Anandmay Mathematics' and the English book 'Mridang'. In the first cycle, the number of teachers was 50-50 in two batches of training. In which master trainers were ARP Vishnu Kumar Mishra, Jai Singh, Prabhashankar Sharma, Ajmal Amin Ansari and KRP Avinash Kumar.



Kolkata rape murder: BJP Mahila Morcha takes out silent candle march

Prayagraj: Due to the painful incident with the lady doctor in Kolkata, doctors across the country have taken to the streets. Now BJP Mahila Morcha has also come out in support of the doctors. State General Secretary of Mahila Morcha Dr. in Naini on Friday. Silent Candle Yatra was carried out under the leadership of Kirtika Aggarwal. This journey, which started from Sargam intersection, went to the site of the statue of Bhimram Ambedkar. In this, all the women were walking with black bands on their mouths and candles in their hands. Here questions were raised



on the functioning of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. State General Secretary Dr. Kirtika, who was present in the room of the chief guest, said, "A very disgusting act has happened with the lady doctor. We all women oppose this. A woman has no caste, a woman has her own honour. There is anger among women across the country due to this incident. Under the leadership of National President of Mahila Morcha, Vanati ji, we take out a silent candle march across the country and demand justice for the victim's family. On this occasion District President Savita Mishra, District Vice President Kalpana Tiwari, District Vice President Shobha Dwivedi District Vice President Shalini Srivastava, Aastha Pandey, Suman Gautam, Mandal President Mithilesh Singh, District Media Incharge Aarti Singh, District Minister Sharmila Singh, Vibha Singh, etc. were present.

Nano fertilizer becoming more popular, significant milestone in future: RP Singh

Prayagraj: 78th Independence Day celebrated at IFFCO Ghiyanagar Phulpur. The chief guest in the program was RP Singh, Director, HR and Legal and special guest was Shobha Singh. Chief guest R.P. Singh hoisted the flag and the national anthem was sung. IFFCO security guards, PAC band personnel, Kendriya Vidyalaya scout-guide children took part in the march past. PAC band gave a beautiful presentation on patriotic tunes which was led by Havildar Keshav Singh. R.P. Singh said that today we are celebrating our 78th Independence Day. We got this not after 200 years of British slavery but after 1000 years of slavery. Our salute and tribute to those who have sacrificed and struggled for freedom and they are also our inspiration. He explained in detail about India's independence journey. He said that getting independence is one thing, but maintaining it is an even

bigger thing because we and our neighboring countries got independence almost at the same time but we see in that country ongoing political instability,



military rule, lack of democracy, violation of fundamental rights, Violence is a matter of concern today. He said that when we got independence, the biggest crisis for us was the food crisis. But due to the Green Revolution and the use of modern fertilizers, today we are self-reliant country in agriculture. But at present there is another crisis like problem of environment,

soil health, global warming and etc. IFFCO brought Nano Urea Plus and Nano DAP which are helpful in meeting these challenges. Nano fertilizer is a demand

with time and it will prove to be a milestone in future. Children of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Om Bal Vidya Mandir presented wonderful cultural programs. Under the Suggestion Scheme winning employees, meritorious students and local gram panchayat head were honoured. The program was conducted by Sharad Agnihotri. Apart from this,

Chief Guest R.P. Singh visited the Nano plant. On becoming a member of the Cooperative Law Committee (CLC) of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and on his arrival at the Phulpur unit, he was given a grand welcome in the office of IFFCO Officers Association and IFFCO Employees Union. During this, Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia, GMs respectively Sanjay Vaish, M.D. Mishra, A.P. Rajendran, Sanjay Bhandari, P.K. Singh, JGMs respectively Dr. Anita Mishra, P.K. Patel, Ratnesh Kumar, Arun Kumar, Arvendra Kumar, S.K. Singh, A.K. Gupta, HOD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, IFFCO Officers Association President Anurag Tiwari and General Secretary Swayam Prakash, IFFCO Employees Union President Pankaj Pandey and General Secretary Vijay Kumar Yadav and a large number of people were present.

Fabulous Celebration of I-Day by Patanjali Nursery School



Prayagraj: Patanjali Nursery School celebrated 78th Independence Day in school premises where children and all the school staff members paid tribute to the Nation. The celebration started with flag hoisting followed by the National Anthem. Ms Saumya Jauhari welcomed all the guests. Mr Yashovardhan Gupta, Director delivered an inspiring speech. The stage presentation by the little ones warmed the hearts of everyone present with the feeling of honour for freedom fighters. Children rocked the stage on ONE INDIA MASHUP and DESH RANGEELA Songs with their energetic moves on the joyous music. Then

melodious songs EK BAAGH HAI DUNIYA and SAARE JAHAN SE ACHCHHA were sung by the little ones which evoked the strong sentiments of patriotism of the audience. The program concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Headmistress ma'am Ms Vibha Srivastava. She said that Freedom is not just a word but it's a feeling which unites all of us. She further especially thanked the parents for taking out their precious time to make the program a success. The theme of the program was VIKSIT BHARAT which manifested itself in various activities conducted during Swaraj Week eg Rally of Scientists and Players etc.

Mayor flagged off grand Tiranga Yatra

Prayagraj: Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani flagged off the grand Tiranga Yatra from Kalyani Devi with sky piercing slogans of Maa Bharati. The Yatra started from its place in front of Atarsuiya (Kalyani Devi) Power House, Kalyangarh Square, Kalyani Devi Square. Atarsuiya Square via Kotwali, Chowk Loknath Square, Sulaki Square, from Kotha Parcha to Triveni Road via Keedganj Police Station Road, concluded with a grand welcome at Shri Gyan Library, Keedganj. Chief Guest - Shri Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani, Honorable Mayor Prayagraj, Shri Rajendra Mishra ji, Bharatiya Janata Party Metropolitan District President was present.

The coordinator of the program was former councillor Giri Shankar Prabhakar. Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani told that the Tiranga Yatra will pass through Pajava Ramlila Committee Atarsuiya via Kalyani Devi, Rani Mandi, Kotwali, Uncha Mandi, Ram Bhawan, Bahadurganj, Kotha Paracha and end at Kidganj Mayor Camp Office. On this occasion, Cabinet Minister Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, former councillor Giri Baba, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Devesh Singh, Ramesh Pasi, Councillor Kiran Jaiswal, Councillor Sunita Chopra, Dnyaneshwar Shukla, Murari Lal Aggarwal, Padum Jaiswal, Vivek Aggarwal, Pramod Modi, Raju Pathak, Girjesh Mishra, Brijesh Mishra, Rajan Shukla, Neha Gupta, Shiv Ratan Gupta, Manoj Mishra, Munna Daryabad, Gopal Malviya, Ajay Agrahari, Ajay Srivastava, Neeraj Gupta, Amit Gupta, Mukesh Kasera, Rakesh Nishad, Raju Pathak Hundreds of BJP workers like Vishnu Tripathi, Rajesh, Shivendra Mishra, Kamlesh Kumar, etc. were present.



Independence Day celebration in Ganga Gurukulam

Prayagraj: MPVM Ganga Gurukulam celebrated the 78th year of our nation's independence with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor. The event was organized to pay homage to those who lost their lives in the struggle for independence and to instil a sense of national pride among the students. The celebration commenced with the solemn flag-hoisting ceremony. The Indian tricolour was hoisted by Dr Krishna Gupta, Secretary MPVM Group of schools, accompanied by the national anthem, filling the atmosphere with a feeling of unity and pride.

The Programme began with a presentation of patriotic song "Ouncha Khada Himalaya" by the students of class 5th and



6th which kindled the spirit of patriotism. A thought provoking speech on the theme 'Viksit Bharat' was delivered by Jagriti of class 11th. Students of Bal Gurukulam filled the heart of the audience with their captivating performance on the action song 'Kesariya Bharat'. Principal, Mrs Madhuri Srivastava addressed the students and urged them to do their best

and feel proud to be Indian. Students of classes 3 and 4 presented an action song 'Ae Watan mere Watan' marvelously depicting unity in diversity. To mark the occasion students of classes 9th to 11th presented a ppt to pay a tribute to Indian defence Services. Students from classes 6th to 10th set the stage on fire with their scintillating dance performance on 'Maa tujhe salaam

'. The Women of MSPK presented a mesmerising dance 'Shubh Aagman'. Dr Krishna Gupta, our mentor, addressed the assembled students, faculty and staff with heartfelt speech about the significance of the day, emphasizing the values of unity and responsibility. This was followed by a musical parody 'Jai Jawaan' by the Gg beats that awakened everyone's feelings towards our motherland. These highly enthralling performances with a melodious and patriotic essence celebrated the joy of freedom and depicted its importance. The well-rehearsed and enchanting performances left the audience mesmerized. The celebration came to an end by singing the national song 'Vande Matram'.

Celebration of 78th I-Day organized at Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya

Prayagraj: Principal Professor Ranjana Tripathi hoisted the flag. In his address, he said that we got independence after a long struggle and today India has its own identity in the world. Indian culture and ideology are being adopted in many countries. In today's time, it is our responsibility and especially the youth's responsibility to contribute honestly in nation building so that India can achieve the goal of becoming a developed country in 2047. On this occasion, the students gave mesmerizing presentations of patriotic poetry, songs and dance as part of cultural programmes. The Principal gave certificates to the girl students who participated regularly in the National Service Scheme. A large number of students and non-teaching staff including Professor Neelima Singh, Professor Namita Yadav, Dr. Renu Anand, Dr. Shamnaz, Dr. Yashasvi Pandey, Dr. Anil Yadav, Dr. Anamika Tiwari, Dr. Abhishek were present in the Independence Day function.



I-Day celebrated at CORE HQ, GM emphasises on safety & security during electrification

Directs completion of electrification project on schedule

Prayagraj: The 78th Independence Day was celebrated with tremendous excitement at the Central Railway Electrification Organization's (CORE) headquarters in Prayagraj. The National Flag was hoisted by Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager CORE, and the RPF saluted the guard.

The General Manager conveyed his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the whole CORE family on this important occasion of Independence Day. Verma stated that in the current fiscal year, 106 route kilometers, 09 traction substations, 46 SP and SSP, 09 tower wagon sheds, 04 O.H.E. Depot, and 210 staff quarters have all been electrified, as well as 33 vendors were also developed.

The General Manager placed a special priority on all issues of safety and security during electrification activities, as well as the promotion of Hindi. In his speech, he praised the CORE for taking the necessary efforts to complete the electrification project on schedule. Respected members of the Railway Electrification Women's Welfare Organization (REWVO) also attended. The national flag was also flown above several railway electrification projects, and the General Manager's Independence Day address was given.

Flag hoisted in campus of G Singh Law College

Prayagraj: Like every year, this year also the college director Pradeep Singh hoisted the flag and college children and college professors were present there. After the flag hoisting, the name of the country and Gave a message to the children, he said that these children are the future of tomorrow and they have to take charge of the



country in the future. Our college in the surrounding area organizes many social programs from time to time and also takes the children on educational tours and in the end he Saluted the name of the country and those brave soldiers and gave a message "Let us bow down and salute those, to whom this position comes, lucky is the blood which is useful for the country." College Principal PC Saroj was present there. Vice Principal Ashutosh Shukla Faculty members Ruchi Narayan Vijay Kumar Vivek Kumar Pradeep Kumar and all the members of the group were present Vinod Kumar Sharma Rishabh Mishra, Preeti, Krishna Kumar, Shivjit Yadav, Sakshi, Shivam and other children were present Conclusion of the program. After that, there was a provision for small meals for the children.

Congmen hails Salman Khursid election

Prayagraj: The Prominent Congressmen of City and District hailed the election of former Union minister and senior lawyer, Supreme court, Salman Khursid who won the battle for the soul of Indian Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi's prestigious president post. A meeting of partymen in this regard held at camp office, Himmat ganj on Friday with UPCC member Fuzail Hashimi on chair. They said the upcoming election of IICC has generated significant interest in the Muslim political sphere and elite circles. The centre's management and election process currently were under the direct supervision of High Court appointed observer. Ex.MLA Vijay Prakash, Mukund Tiwari, Kishore Varshney, Harikesh Tripathi, Sudhakar Tiwari, Parvej Siddiqui, Anil Pandey, Arshad Ali, Haseeb Ahmed, Deep Chandra Sharma, Sartaj Mohammed, Mohd.Zaved, Ajay Srivastav were present. They exchanged sweets each others.



From Kashmir to Kanyakumari is undivided India: AK Dwivedi Chief Engineer PWD

Prayagraj: Chief Engineer of Public Works Department, Engineer AK Dwivedi, on the occasion of Independence Day while addressing the employees after the flag hoisting, he said that independence has given us duty along with freedom. A small piece of land is not called India, there is a united India from Attock to Cuttack and from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, which our wise people need to keep intact. Thousands of years ago, India has created an eternal religion by composing the hymns of the Vedas. Those who addressed the flag hoisting program included Engineer Mrs. Kamini Kaushal, Executive Engineer, former Executive Engineer Rakesh Kumar, Junior Engineer Mrs. Radharani and operations staff leader Ravi Shankar Mishra. On the above occasion, circle office administrative officers Dinesh Singh, Vinay Singh, Manoj Kumar, Lucky Mishra, Ashish Srivastava, Premnarayan Sharma, Uddhav Shyam, Vikas Kesharwani, Jitendra Kushwaha, Pankaj, Sumit, Sachin Maurya, Harikesh etc. were present.



Independence Day celebrated in Kriyayoga Ashram



Jhansi: Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm as an important, great and mandatory festival at Kriyayoga Ashram and Research Institute, Jhansi on Thursday. On this occasion, places like

Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad, Karnataka, Nepal etc. as well as

America, Canada, Europe, Brazil, Singapore, Switzerland participated with full enthusiasm.

On this occasion, the flag was hoisted by Gurudev Swami Shri Yogi Satvam Ji Maharaj and the

national anthem was sung. Explaining the real nature of Independence Day, Swami Shri Yogi Satvam Ji said that human existence is made for experiencing Kaivalya.

The unity of the soul with the Supreme Being is

called Kaivalya. In this state the separate experience of human existence ends, and the feeling of completeness appears.

This feeling of completeness is called true freedom. Sages and sages

have discovered that to attain true freedom, 10 lakh years without disease are required, but by practicing Kriya Yoga, the experience of true freedom can be easily achieved in a few years.

Narainji Gopal felicitated in Youngsters Club event

Prayagraj: Mohd. Shahid, General Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Football Association, honoured Narainji Gopal, President, Allahabad District Football Association and Youngsters Club for recognition



of his great contribution in Football activities at the Diamond Jubilee Function of Youngsters Club, held at Dr. BR Ambedkar Sports Complex, Lalpur, Varanasi. Before the function, a football match was organised between DFA, Varanasi and DFA, Allahabad in memory of Keshri Nath Tripathi/Mohd. Shamsuddin informs Dr. Jully Ojha, General Secretary, Youngsters Club.

Khelgaon Public School remembered the brave sons

Prayagraj: Independence Day celebration was organized at Khelgaon Public School with the resolution of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and "Har Ghar Tiranga". Like previous years, this year also the immortal martyrs and freedom fighters were remembered on the occasion of Independence Day in Khelgaon Public School. The program was started by hoisting the flag. Chief guest Dr. U.K. Mishra, Chairman, Khelgaon Public School and Director Dr. R.C. Srivastava hoisted the flag. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. U.K. Mishra, Chairman, Khelgaon Public School, said that through education, we can establish ourselves as vigilant sentinels of the nation by sacrificing social evils, mutual animosity and narrow-minded ideas like caste and religion. He said that fulfilling one's duties towards the country would be the true tribute to the immortal martyrs.

School Director Dr. R.C. Srivastava said that it is true that not everyone can show their patriotism by going to the border but they can show their love for the nation by discharging their responsibilities. He further said that by removing the social and religious evils inherent in the society, we can express our loyalty towards the country. On the auspicious occasion of Independence Day, students presented many cultural programs in which solo song - Teri Mitti Mein... Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo... Group song - Sab Mera Tujh Pe Fide... Mash Up Dance - Vande Mataram... etc. presentations were the center of attraction which was appreciated by all present. On this occasion, the teacher of the school - Teachers and students expressed their views. At the end of the program, school coordinator Dr. Ashutosh Tiwari expressed his gratitude to all the attendees. The program was conducted by school teachers Aakriti Mishra and Sara Afsar.



Photo Perfect: Abhilasha Nandi unveils Indigo 5500 at BR Tandon Reconfiguring photography business

Prayagraj: The Indigo 5500 was unveiled at BR Tandon for the first time in photographic history. As a new milestone in Prayagraj's picture industry, BR Tandon & Company, Tandon Studio, installed an Indigo 5500 machine in its studio today to commemorate its 102nd anniversary. A new accomplishment has been presented. This machine may be used to withdraw 8500 seat 90 for a four-day, three-night travel to Bangkok-Pattaya. Previously, getting a photo printed using such machines required traveling to places like as Delhi, Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, and Mumbai. Such album



picture prints are now readily available at the BR Tandon Studio in Prayagraj's Civil Lines. This machine was inaugurated by Avantika Tandon, President of Civil Lines Vyapar Mandal, Vicky Tandon, Proprietor of Shop, Mayor Prayagraj Umesh Ganesh Kesharwani, while the machine was unveiled by the former popular Mayor of Prayagraj, Abhilasha Gupta Nandi. On this occasion, Prayag Vyapar Mandal President Rana Chawla, Civil Lines Vyapar Mandal President Sushil Kharbanda, General Secretary Shiv Shankar, District Vice President Arun Kesarwani, Allahabad Guest House Association Zonal Incharge Akash Jaiswal, Dhananjay Singh, Sahil Arora, Channi Arora, Joint Secretary Vandana. Tripathi, Treasurer Hina Khan, Sachin Pallavi Arora, Ragini Chandel, Rishu Mishra, Soumya Chaturvedi, Advocate High Court Prayagraj, Shivendra Singh, Piyush Agarwal, Ritesh Singh, Rajneesh Pasi, senior SP leader Vishal Kanojia etc. were present. "We get the rates we quote because we deliver a great degree of versatility and customisation in the execution of every job across a spectrum of different materials," said Vicky Tandon, Proprietor of Shop prior to signing off.

HQ CAC celebrates I-Day, signifying strong spirit of unity and patriotism Children of Air Force School Bamrauli participated

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the 78th Independence Day of our great nation, Central Air Command celebrated the moment with hoisting the national flag in its premises. The event was attended by all the staff of the Central Air Command and Central Air Command (Unit) along with all senior officials, signifying a strong spirit of unity and patriotism. Air marshal AK Bharti, Senior Air Staff Officer, Central Air Command hoisted the tricolour, a proud moment that resonated deeply with



everyone present. Following the flag hoisting, the gathering united in singing the National Anthem. Earlier in the day, Air Marshal AK Bharti, Senior Air Staff Officer led the Tiranga Cycle rally wherein about 35 participants carried the national flag, symbolizing speed, strength and patriotism. To grace the occasion, Children of Air Force School Bamrauli participated in a rally within the station premises to promote "Har Ghar Tiranga" on the eve of Independence Day, informed Shantanu Pratap Singh, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

I-Day celebrated with great enthusiasm, pomp & vigour at Nazareth

Prayagraj: 78th Year of Independence was celebrated with great enthusiasm, pomp & vigour with Tricolour decoration of the premises of Nazareth School of Nursing. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Abhishek Kumar Singh, IAS, SDM Sadar Prayagraj. The program began with a soul-stirring Prayer Song by the Hospital Choir. The welcome address to the Chief Guest and other present was delivered by Rev. Fr. Melwin Wilson D'Souza, Asst. Director, Nazareth Hospital. The Chief Guest was given a floral bouquet by the Nazareth Hospital Director Rev. Fr. Vipin D'Souza and a shawl was given and draped by Rev. Fr.

Isidore D'Souza, Administrator. This was followed by hoisting of the National Flag by the Chief Guest and subsequent rendition of the



National Anthem. The Chief Guest while addressing the present gathering of guests and audience emphasized on

tyrs selflessly and tirelessly fought for the Independence of Bharat and many of them also sacrificed their life's. The whole world acknowledges the excellence and hard-working potential of Indian professional world over. He further requested everyone to be proud of our ancient culture and civilization and values which are recognized throughout the world. Presently India is the 3rd largest economy in the world. A Hospital memento was presented to the Chief Guest on this occasion. This was followed by a beautiful patriotic song rendered by the Hospital Choir. A formal Vote of Thanks to the Chief Guest and the assembled gathering was delivered by Rev. Sr. Roshny CSN, which was very widely appreciated and applauded by all present.

Traders celebrated independence with full enthusiasm REMEMBERED IMMORTAL MARTYRS

Prayagraj: Like the last 25 years, this year too, the 78th anniversary of Independence Day was celebrated with pomp and joy at the historical intersection of Sulem Sarai under the joint aegis of Sulem Sarai Vyapar Mandal, Namaste Bharat Parivar and City West Traders Federation. The flag hoisting was done by the chief guest Phulpur MP Praveen Patel. In this program filled with national anthems, well-known social workers of the city, regional councilors, advocates, doctors, business leaders and businessmen participated with full zeal and enthusiasm as special guests. The members of the organization presented a shawl to MP

Praveen Patel and honored him with flower bunch and memento.

Among the people present in the program, coordinator Narendra Kheda said that our Indian culture and civilization teaches the whole world the lesson of mutual love and unity in diversity. Today, look at our neighboring countries Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka where more than 90 percent people of the same caste and religion live. But due to supremacy of power a coup takes place, military force transfers power. Crossing all limits of inhumanity, committing acts of looting, playing with the honor of sisters and daughters, and committing cruelty



against minorities. On the other hand, our country India is great which teaches the world the lesson of mutual love, harmony and humanity. By weaving all the religions and religions into one garland, it gives an example of unity in diversity. One caste, religion and only

Indian people salute their beloved tricolor by hoisting it in the sky. While congratulating the 78th Independence Day, MP Praveen Patel said that every person should participate in such events enthusiastically. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has

started campaign of tricolor in every house, tricolor should be hoisted in every house, the whole of India should be tricolor, then we will be proud to be an Indian. The organization has been doing a commendable job of organizing such programs for the last 25 years remembering the sacrifices of brave martyrs and great men. The organization deserves congratulations. After the flag hoisting, Tiranga Yatra was also organized. In the Tricolor Yatra, DJ, pipe band, horse and Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Jai Hind, Vande Mataram Jai Ghosh started from Sulem Sarai and ended by reaching the headquarters via

Jayantipur, Pritamnagar. The program was conducted by co-convenor and provincial general secretary Himanshu Nikki Gupta and presided over by coordinator and provincial president Narendra Kheda Mantu. Mainly present in the program were business tycoon Qadir Bhai, Dilip Chaurasia, Atul Kesarwani, Tariq Saeed Ajjju, Dharamchandra Jaiswal, Dhananjay Singh, Rajesh Gupta, Ankur Rastogi, Sunil Kesarwani, Nirankar Sahu, Gulshan Arora, Piyush Jaiswal, Mukesh Total, Krishna Narayan Mishra, Sonu Gupta, Vicky Sahu, Sandeep Jaiswal, Rakesh Kesarwani, Raj Ghanwani etc. were mainly present.

GHS principal promotes concept of sustainability & human dignity while preserving nation's pride

Prayagraj: Girls' High School & College, Allahabad, celebrated the 78th Independence Day with unparalleled enthusiasm and a special focus on the theme of Climate Change. The school campus was adorned with eco-friendly decorations, embracing the tricolour in every corner, while the air resonated with the soul-stirring notes of 'Vatan Mere Vatan'. The chief guest Dr. R. Chogdaar along with the Principal, Rev. Dr. Vinita Eusebius, hoisted the national flag, followed by the harmonious singing of the national anthem, filling every heart with pride and determination. Rev. Dr. Vinita Eusebius, in her address, urged the students to grasp the significance of August



15, particularly in a time when the country, and indeed the world, faces numerous challenges. She reminded everyone that just as the fight for freedom required unity and determination, so too does the fight against climate change. She emphasized that as the world's largest democracy with a rich cultural heritage, India must lead by example in the global arena, not just in terms of social, political, and religious stability, but also in environmental stewardship. The dawn of every Independence Day, she noted, is a call to every citizen to renew their commitment to the nation's glory and to uphold the values of sustainability and human dignity.

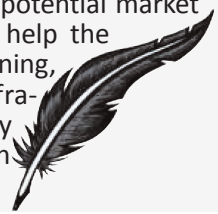
Appeal to ensure max participation in ANHA's candle march

Prayagraj: The incident of heinous crime of rape and then brutal murder of a female doctor in Kolkata Medical College has shocked the entire country. This type of act brings shame to the entire humanity. It is very sad that our girls are still so unprotected. The Indian Medical Association has gone on strike across the country on 17th August to protest against this shameful incident. All India Industry Trade Board Prayagraj, Prayag Chemist Association strongly condemn this whole brutal incident and demand immediate arrest of the culprits and death sentence to them. Allahabad Nursing Home Association (ANHA) has been their old associate organization and they have been supporting each other in each other's sorrows and joys. In this sequence, Allahabad Nursing Home Association has expected cooperation from their organization. President Elect Dr. Piyush Dixit is in constant phone contact with them.

Editorial

New disability quota rules can make life harder for PwDs, burden govt medical systems

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment released a draft notification on 29 July proposing an amendment to disability certification as laid down in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules 2017. The amendment comes after former trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar was exposed for misusing the disability quota to enter the civil services. Over the last month, the disability rights movement has faced a huge backlash, with some civil servants, including Smita Sabharwal from the Telangana Cadre, talking about the need to remove the quota altogether. We in the disability community are all for increased transparency and stricter regulations to ensure that persons who are faking disabilities do not take away benefits meant for the disabled. As per the amended rules, only medical authorities can issue a Unique Disability Identification (UDID) card. This removes 'other notified, competent authorities' like blind schools and hospitals from the equation, which have historically had good infrastructure to assess a person's disability. It is important to note that Khedkar was also certified by multiple medical authorities as defined in the RPwD Act. Another significant change is the introduction of colour coding in UDID cards with white signifying below 40 per cent disability, yellow meaning 40 per cent to 80 per cent disability, and blue cards signifying above 80 per cent disability. While the government proposes to amend how one acquires a UDID card, now is the opportunity to explore what the card means—what it can do, how can one obtain it, and whether there are any alternatives. Governments issue two kinds of IDs. The first is foundational IDs, like an Aadhaar card, which are almost like proof of a person's existence. The second kind of ID is a functional one. For example, a PAN is for income, a driving license is for driving, and a passport is for international travel. UDID comes under this category. In the wake of the new rules being proposed, the chief architect of Aadhaar and co-chair of the Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure, Dr Pramod Varma, said we need to change how we look at UDID. "It's not about yet another difficult-to-obtain ID card, it should be about levels of attestations that a person can obtain from self-declaring to societal attestations to more authority-driven ones. We must not assume one size fits all and must allow differentiated digitally verifiable attestations that can be accepted for variety of both public and private sector use cases. Applying DPI (digital public infrastructure) thinking to design this and leveraging Aadhaar and Digilocker is essential," he said. Let us not forget that DPI has enabled India to do the unthinkable—financial inclusion of more than 80 per cent of the country's population by using UPI. The UDID card should be more than just a government certificate for accessing benefits. People with Disabilities (PwDs) need not only quotas in government colleges and jobs but also opportunities to contribute to the country's economy. If the government decides to go ahead with colour coding, it should be based on the level of accreditation instead of the level of disability. For example, white coding for those who are self-accredited or self-attested as PwD. While this accreditation would not provide any government benefits, it would help the private sector, manufacturers of disability aids, and industry to know the size of the market for disability-related products. A wheelchair manufacturer, for instance, doesn't care if you have government proof of disability but would love to know the potential market size in each state. It would help the government with policy planning, budget allocation, and infrastructure development by focusing on the disabilities in the region.



Maharashtra Polls: Congress, Pawar Bargain Hard with Uddhav

Intense negotiations are underway ahead of the crucial assembly elections in Maharashtra. Former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was recently in Delhi to meet Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Sharad Pawar for discussions. The opposition alliance, MVA/INDIA, which includes the Congress, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Bal Thackeray, or 'UBT'), and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar), aims to build on the momentum from the general elections and challenge the Mahayuti/National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, consisting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),

Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde), and the NCP (Ajit Pawar), by capitalising on perceived anti-incumbency. During the general elections in 2024, the Shiv Sena (UBT) contested 21 seats, the Congress 17, and the NCP (SP) 10. The Shiv Sena (UBT) had the lowest strike rate, winning only nine of the 21 seats (43%), while Congress and NCP (SP) had strike rates of 76% and 80%, winning 13 and eight seats, respectively. This disparity has led to concerns within the Congress and NCP (SP) that the Shiv Sena (UBT) was allocated more seats than warranted, and that this should not serve as the

basis for seat-sharing in the assembly elections. The Shiv Sena (UBT) wants to contest the maximum number of seats again in the assembly polls. The Congress also aims to contest the most seats, arguing that both the Sena and the NCP have weakened due to splits and no longer enjoy the same level of support. In the 2019 elections, the Congress contested 147 seats, NCP (pre-split) 121 seats as part of the UPA, and the pre-split Shiv Sena 126 seats in alliance with the BJP. The Chief Ministerial candidate is another contentious issue. Uddhav Thackeray has stated that it is up to the MVA

leadership to decide whether he should be the alliance's CM candidate. While the Shiv Sena (UBT) is advocating for a CM candidate, the Congress and the NCP (SP) prefer to go to the polls without a designated name and decide the top post based on the number of MLAs each party secures. These are the various seat-sharing formulas under consideration: This formula proposes that all three parties—Sena (UBT), NCP (SP), and Congress—contest approximately 90-95 seats each, leaving the remainder for smaller parties. This approach is supported by their similar vote shares (16%-17%) in the 2019 assembly polls.

Two months into Modi 3.0, NDA's 'Fevicol bond' shows signs of stress



There were many takeaways for the Congress from the monsoon session of Parliament that concluded on Friday. Post-Lok Sabha elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party is taking Rahul Gandhi more seriously than it ever did. Prime Minister Narendra Modi intervening twice during his speech must have boosted Gandhi's self-esteem to no end. His confidence must have gone up by several notches every time his words triggered the Treasury benches. The Congress seemed to be working to a strategy as it fielded its Dalit faces in the Lok Sabha—Kumari Selja, Charanjit Singh Channi and Praniti Shinde. They made good impressions. Forty-three-year-old Shinde gave an inkling of why many consider her the Congress' most promising face in Maharashtra. The INDIA bloc looked rock-solid—in the Parliament, at least. The Treasury benches, however, looked listless. BJP MPs Anurag Thakur and Nishikant Dubey were at their usual rhetorical and provocative best. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman was at her combative best. Most of the others went through the motions. The Lok Sabha results seemed to hang thickly in the air. Overall, there were two big takeaways for me. First, Shivraj Singh Chouhan shone in his new role as Union Agriculture Minister. In a Cabinet packed with former chief ministers who needed rehabilitation—Manohar Lal Khattar, Jitan Ram Manjhi, HD Kumaraswamy, Sarbananda Sonowal—the former Madhya Pradesh CM,

Chouhan, was in a different league. His speeches and interventions in the Lok Sabha left even Opposition benches gasping. Think of the agriculture minister reading all Prime Ministers' addresses from the Red Fort since 1947 and telling the Congress how Jawaharlal Nehru didn't mention 'farmer' in his 15 speeches. For once, the Union Agriculture Minister in the Modi-led government made headlines regularly. Chouhan looked and sounded like someone who didn't care about being unfairly denied a fifth term as CM because he was convinced that he was meant for bigger things. The second big takeaway, which is actually central to this column, is how the NDA constituents remained mere curious onlookers whenever BJP MPs got into heated exchanges with the INDIA bloc. While the INDIA bloc reacted in unison, the BJP was left to fight its own battles. The allies' message to the BJP was: "You mind your own business, we will handle ours." By the end of the monsoon session—just two months into Modi 3.0—dura-

bility of the Fevicol bond in the NDA, as put by Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, appeared to be subject to future weather conditions. On the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) virtually endorsed the Opposition's demand to refer it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for scrutiny and wider consultations. The Janata Dal (United), whose leader and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh had unequivocally supported the Bill in the Lok Sabha, saw his party leadership frown at his stance later. On Friday, Bihar minister Vijay Choudhary, a confidante of CM Nitish Kumar, endorsed the decision to send the Bill to the JPC, stating that "the apprehension of the minority community about the Bill must be addressed before it's finalised." In a nutshell, the TDP and the JD(U)—whose combined 28 MPs are crucial to the government's survival—ended up siding with the Opposition on this Bill. Not that the BJP would mind it much. It suits the party that the debate on the waqf prop-

erty rages on in the run up to the next round of Assembly elections in October-November. What must, however, bother the ruling party is that the discordant voices have started coming way too early into its third term. Outside Parliament, too, NDA partners are being assertive. Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has appointed 46 in-charges and 93 observers for 113 Assembly seats in Maharashtra, virtually laying claim on these seats. Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has demanded 80 to 90 seats in the 288-member state Assembly. If the BJP were to concede to the allies' demands, it can't get to contest even 105 seats that it had won in 2019. Settling these claims of allies would be ticklish for the BJP but the bigger problem is likely to arise after that. With two deputy CMs from different parties aspiring to replace the CM from a third party, it's in each one's individual interest to bring the two rivals' tally down in the next Assembly. In Karnataka, the NDA is already showing strain. The Janata Dal (Secular) declared to stay out of the BJP's Mysore-Bengaluru padayatra, only to relent after many BJP leaders called on Kumaraswamy. The ostensible reason for the JD(S)' first declaration was former BJP MLA Preetham Gowda's alleged involvement in the distribution of pen drives with sex videos of Kumaraswamy's nephew, Prajwal Revanna. The real reason, however, was the JD(S)' reluctance to allow the BJP to expand and consoli-

date its footprints in the JD(S) stronghold. Out of the 24 BJP allies that contested the elections, the TDP, JD(U), Shiv Sena, NCP and JD(S)—in addition to Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP)—have larger stakes. That is in terms of their areas of influence, not just in terms of their current Lok Sabha strength. The BJP can't afford to have uneasy relations with them at the very start of Modi 3.0. Moreover, most of the other NDA partners with one or two MPs have a history of switching alliances. A source with good connections with regional players in the north-east told me that many of the parties depending on the Christian votebank are already growing restless. Modi-Shah are ostensibly not worried about the durability of the Fevicol bond between the BJP and its allies. Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu needs the Centre to rebuild his state, especially the capital city of Amravati, and put down any resistance by Jagan Mohan Reddy. Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav is unlikely to offer the CM chair to Nitish Kumar again. Naidu and Kumar, therefore, have much to gain in Modi's company. The last Budget was a testimony to that. For now, the trade-off looks balanced. Or so Modi-Shah would think. They may also think that INDIA bloc, with 237 MPs, is still three MPs short of the BJP's 240 and that there are so many prime ministerial aspirants in the Opposition camp. Who would want to join an inherently unsteady coalition like that?

Gen Z workforce is a challenge for most offices. No, pizza party won't fix it

The Great Resignation of 2021 saw an unprecedented number of employees voluntarily quitting their jobs, drastically shrinking the workforce. In the United States alone, 47 million people quit their jobs. This trend, already in motion, was accelerated by the pandemic. In India, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy reported that over half of 900 million eligible citizens stopped looking for jobs in 2022. In 2024, India's youth unemployment rate is staggering and disturbing — at 83 per cent. This spells a crisis. The World Happiness Report 2024 states that well-being has fallen in North America, Western Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia for 15 to 24-year-olds since 2019. The most influential factor in happiness is a sense of purpose at work. Gen Z is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with work due to values misalignment, perceived lack of recognition and reward, economic instability, and

lack of access to managers and investment in career development. Their early work experiences, massively disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, have led to a chaotic introduction to the workforce, and the strong presence of remote work made the situation worse. The trade-off between work flexibility in remote work and empathetic in-person interactions has exacerbated their dissatisfaction and incongruence. Managers critique Gen Z for their perceived lack of "work readiness" and professional skills, citing challenges in fostering effective communication, professional etiquette, and conflict resolution—skills traditionally honed through consistent in-person interactions. Concurrently, Gen Z's tendency to switch jobs frequently and take more mental health days is seen by senior leaders as precocious and entitled, further deepening the challenge to create cohesive, productive teams.

Govt intent to 'reform' waqf is suspicious. Consult Muslims first

The Union Government introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lok Sabha and, after much drama, agreed to refer it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee that will comprise MPs from all parties. As with most issues associated with minority communities, there have been questions about the "intentions" of this ruling dispensation. Almost all recognised Muslim organisations across India, including Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Firangi Mahal, and other prominent clerics, have protested against substantial components of this proposed Act. It is being said that there was a lack of consultation with stakeholders and that the Bill is antagonistic to Muslim interests and contrary to the principles enunciated in Articles 24-28 of the Constitution of India. Nearly the entire Opposition in Parliament has labelled this an attempt to interfere in Muslim affairs. Some people argue that it's an attempt by the government to finally take over and manage properties that have been "waqfed" by Muslims over centuries. Waqfs have been in existence for over 1,400 years since the advent of Islam. A waqf is a type of private property owned by a Muslim that is given for a specific purpose—whether religious, charitable, or for the benefit of the owner's family. A woman can also establish a waqf if she is the owner. Waqf is perpetual in nature and cannot be taken back or de-waqfed, even if the original waqf desires it. A property can be declared as waqf either orally, in the presence of two witnesses, or through a deed known as the Waqfnama. Since 1913, various governments have overseen the governance of waqfs to ensure proper and fair management. The last amendment to the Waqf Act, 1995, made in 2013, prescribed imprisonment up to two years in case of encroachments, sale, or transfer of

waqf properties. Waqf properties in each state are managed by their respective waqf boards, which are composed of a chairman and members nominated by the state government. These members are typically former MPs and MLAs, clerics, and mutawallis. Needless to say these boards are often an extension of the favours or largesse distributed by the government. Their merits, qualifications, and integrity are never central to their appointments. Unfortunately, this is our system. Disputes related to waqfs are heard by a tribunal established by the state government, which is headed by a judge from the state judiciary and includes two members who are usually from the state civil service. Here lies the nub of the problem. This is why everyone, Muslims more so, complains about the rampant corruption, red tape, and inefficiency of these waqf boards. People report mismanagement, exploitation, and dispensation of favours. Numerous properties are waqf-alal-aulad, where benefits are supposed to go to the beneficiaries named in the Waqfnama. In case of disputes among beneficiaries, matters often drag on for years, ruining poor families while they wait for resolution. Therefore, there is no doubt that the selection process for waqf boards, the qualifications of its members, and their working must be looked at. Since each board has its own procedures, a comprehensive examination and reform of these systems across all states are necessary.

Having said this, I believe this cannot happen because every government feeds on this milch cow to accommodate disgruntled but powerful supporters. The allure of the valuable assets—the cream—in possession of the waqf boards is appealing to everyone.

33 individuals recognized with nation's top scientific honor

Delhi: The Indian government unveiled the recipients of 33 scientists' highest science prizes, including a pioneering biochemist and the team responsible for India's first lunar landing. The winners of the inaugural Vigyan Puruskar have been announced by the ministry of science and technology. Winners of the team prize were the Chandrayaan-3 mission crew. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, a biochemist and a recipient of the Padma Bhushan and the Vigyan Ratna Puraskar, was honored for his lifetime of work. He was formerly the director of the Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru. There were thirteen Vigyan Shri laureates and eighteen Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarn Bhatnagar laureates in the scientific community. The government has just announced

Adani aims to retire at 70 years of age, eight years from now

Delhi: Gautam Adani, 62, will reportedly step down as chairman of the Adani Group in the early 2030s, passing the reins to his two sons and two nephews. Adani created the infrastructure company in 1988 when he was 70 years old. According to the analysis, the conglomerate's long-term survival might be affected by political scrutiny, legal issues, reputational threats, and the difficulties of a four-way leadership structure. The ports and airports companies are run by Gautam's sons Karan (37 years old) and Jeet (26 years old), while the FMCG and green energy portfolios are overseen by his nephews Pranav (45 years old) and Sagar (30 years old). In 1958 prizes. For the SSB prize, scientists had to be under 45 years old. This year, the government streamlined the award programs under the Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarn Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team, which recognize outstanding accomplishments in a team, spanning thirteen areas.

Will GIFT City Emerge As The Preferred Fintech and Investment Hub, Beating Out Singapore And Mauritius

Delhi: GIFT City, Gujarat is home to India's first international financial services center (IFSC), which has recently created a lot of buzz as a new hub for fintechs, alternative investment funds (AIFs), and a range of other international financial services. For instance, buying money from foreign banks and IFSC banking units will now be accessible, paving the way for significant M&A deals involving Indian startups and other corporate organizations. Furthermore, EXIM plans to establish a bank subsidiary specifically for trade



finance. During her budget talk, Sitharaman also disclosed plans to open data embassies in GIFT IFSC for countries "looking for digital continuity solutions". This would enable GIFT IFSC to have a robust digital, legal, and regulatory framework. With each new national and international enterprise that joins, GIFT IFSC rapidly grows into a globally competitive financial platform that operates under a special offshore status and attracts foreign capital.

India's defense exports surpass 21,000 crore

Delhi: India's defense exports increased 32.5% this year, surpassing 21,000 crore for the first time, with the focus on enhancing domestic production and military exports, according to the defense ministry. Defence exports reached a record

21,083 crore (US\$ 2.63 billion) in FY 2023-24, a 32.5% increase over the previous fiscal year's 15,920 crore. The ministry stated that defense exports had surged 31 times in the previous decade compared to FY 2013-14. It claimed the private sector contributed

60% and DPSUs 40%, and export authorisations grew from 1,414 in FY 2022-23 to 1,507 in FY 2023-24. India's defense exports hit Rs.21,083 Crore in 2023-24, a 32.5% increase over the previous fiscal, defence minister Rajnath Singh wrote on X.

CAPSULES

Brokers increase margin trading fees because they anticipate increased volatility

Delhi: Some stock brokers have increased the cost of trading for their clients in anticipation of heightened volatility surrounding the Union Budget and the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting, two events that could influence the direction of the market in the near future. Customers of these brokers must pay up to 100% upfront margin for any new positions inside the margin trading facility (MTF) in the cash sector beginning in the first week of February in order to discourage traders from taking unnecessary risks in the event of severe swings.

Government considers 5% diesel ethanol blend

Delhi: The government is considering a 5% ethanol blend in diesel (ED-5) to reach its aim of 20% ethanol in fuel within two years. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) met with all relevant departments last week to consider this new plan, according to media reports. June ethanol-gasoline blends hit 15.9%, advancing the government's aim. The report also said the administration is preparing for diesel ethanol mixing. Blending ethanol with diesel would enhance production of this green fuel, but also has environmental advantages and reduces crude oil imports, saving foreign cash, said an official. BS-III and BS-IV buses were tested for 500 hours to determine performance, emissions, and durability. Despite somewhat lower fuel usage than diesel, there were no severe breakdowns.

LIC will spend Rs 1.30 lakh crore in stocks in 2024-25

"The insurance giant invested Rs 38,000 crore in shares in April-June FY25, up from Rs 23,300 crore a year earlier"



Delhi: LIC MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty said the company plans to spend Rs 1.30 lakh crore in stocks this financial year. The insurance giant invested Rs 38,000 crore in shares in April-June FY25, up from Rs 23,300 crore a year earlier. LIC made Rs 15,500 crore from stock investments in the first quarter. Investment profit rose 13.5% quarter-over-quarter. "We are surely looking at the markets and price movements...we are looking to invest a good

amount at least whatever we had invested in last financial year...LIC invested around Rs 1.32 lakh crore in FY'24," said. He said LIC's stake in various firms' equities was worth roughly Rs 15 lakh crore at the end of June. LIC invested in 282 firms' shares as of June 30, 2024. AUM rose 16.22% to Rs 53,58,781 crore at June-end from Rs 46,11,067 crore in the same quarter last year. Investment rose Rs 7,30,662 crore from Rs 42,44,852 crore in March 2023 to Rs 49,75,514 crore on

March 31, 2024. Equity investments are Rs 12,39,740 crore, up from Rs 8,39,662 crore in 2022-23, while other investments total Rs 37,35,774 crore, up from Rs 34,05,190 crore. LIC recorded a 10% increase in net profit to Rs 10,461 crore in June 2024 from Rs 9,544 crore. In the June quarter, total income rose to Rs 2,10,910 crore from Rs 1,88,749 crore. The quarter's premium income rose 16% to Rs 1,13,770 crore from Rs 98,363 crore a year earlier.

Delhi: The government introduced a bill to amend banking laws, including changes to nomination facilities to make them more consumer-friendly. However, it left the floor on its holding unchanged to ensure that the Centre retains majority stake in public sector banks, indicating that stake sales in state-run banks will not be. The government planned to privatize two PSBs and IDBI Bank, but only a share sale in the financial institution-turned-retail lender is likely. The law allows up to

Introduced bill to enable 4 bank account nominees

ENSURING SMOOTHER TRANSITION	
YOU READ IT HERE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt seeks to make nomination facility more consumer-friendly Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 has a provision for simultaneous and successive nominations This means nomination of first nominee will be effective after death of the deposit or account holder 	<p>Govt plans to increase deposit nominees to 4</p> <p>Bill To Introduce 'Successive & Simultaneous' Nominations To Reduce Customer Hassle</p> <p>Aug 3 2024</p> <p>Nearly ₹78,000 crore is lying unclaimed with private and state-run players as banks are known to make it difficult to transfer funds to heirs</p>

four nominees per bank account and includes bank lockers. Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced by Lok Sabha minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary allows simultaneous and consecutive nominations. Nomination of the first nominee will take effect upon deposit or account holder death. It proposed that the second nominee become effective only after the first dies.

Bangladesh unrest affects India Inc. manufacturing, sourcing

Delhi: Indian enterprises in Bangladesh have been affected by the violent political upheaval that has disrupted regular living. Despite claiming that most of its retail sales staff and distributors have resumed operations, FMCG manufacturer Marico's Bangladesh manufacturing activities remain closed. Marico operates three plants in Gazipur and Chattogram, Bangladesh, where 44% of its overseas operations and 12% of its consolidated sales come from. "The operating conditions in the market are gradually improving, however we remain watchful of the evolving situation...we expect our manufacturing operations to resume soon while we continue to maintain an adequate assurance

FROM FMCG TO LUGGAGE COS	
<p>Marico Mfg ops shut. Bangladesh accounts for 44% of Marico's int'l biz & 12% of consolidated revenue</p>	<p>VIP Industries 20-25% of revenues are dependent on sourcing from Bangladesh. Will rethink sourcing based on how situation pans out</p>
<p>Pidilite Has mfg facility and sells locally in the country too</p>	<p>Dabur Low exposure relative to peers though it has a mfg plant and sells products in the country</p>
<p>Asian Paints, Jubilant Foodworks are some other Indian cos that have exposure to Bangladesh</p>	<p>Among global cos, Unilever Bangladesh has temporarily shut ops</p>

Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC to raise \$7 billion

Delhi: LIC plans to sell some of its premium commercial buildings and land nationwide to raise \$6-7 billion (50,043-58,384 crore). LIC, India's third-largest landlord, has instructed an internal team to develop a selling plan for its real estate assets nationwide, according to two sources. The process may begin in Mumbai. The article listed LIC's premium assets as the Jeevan Bharti building in Delhi's Connaught Place.

of supply of our products to meet market demand," Marico said in a stock exchange filing. Its medium-term business prospects in Bangladesh remain unchanged. The firm sells shampoos, edible

Amara Raja starts battery pack facility, prepares cell factory

These battery packs will serve EV makers and stationary energy storage



Delhi: Amara Raja Energy & Mobility inaugurated a new battery pack plant and laid the foundation stone for a Customer Qualification Plant (CQP) at the Gigacorridor in Divitipalli, Mahbubnagar district, advancing India's battery manufacturing sector. The 260-acre Gigacorridor will manufacture battery packs and cells with 5GWh and 16GWh capacities by 2031. The 1.5 GWh Phase 1 battery pack facility produces

Indian-specific lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery packs. These battery packs will serve EV makers and stationary energy storage. The CQP, planned to open in Q1 next year, will produce multiple cell types for client testing and validation. This follows Amara Raja's partnership with Gotion Inobat (GIB) to improve technology, manufacturing, and specialized solutions. Senior officials from

Piaggio Vehicles India, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Ather Energy joined Jayadev Galla, Chairman and Managing Director of Amara Raja Energy & Mobility, to lay the foundation stone. Amara Raja will develop and provide Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) cells, chargers, and battery packs for Piaggio's EV 3-Wheelers and forthcoming 2-Wheelers under this agreement.

NARCL aims to acquire 2 trillion stressed assets by FY26

Delhi: The government-backed bad bank, National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), aims to take over 2 trillion worth of banks' stressed or non-performing assets

As of July 2024, NARCL had acquired 18 accounts with outstanding loans of 62,000 crore, while resolution plans have been approved for two accounts worth almost 33,000 crore, said Vivek Joshi, secretary of the finance ministry's department of financial services. Bad banks are asset recon-

struction companies that buy bad loans from commercial banks, manage them, sell them in the market and recover the money to liquidate the transferred assets. "The Swiss challenge process is completed for an account worth 591 crore, and the process (the Swiss challenge) has been initiated for six accounts worth about 30,000 crore," Joshi said.

Due diligence is underway for 13 accounts worth about 36,000 crore," he added. The Swiss Challenge method allows private players and state-backed companies to accept contracts from the government through the process of bidding image.

More than 50% of patients face delay in discharge due to time taken to process mediclaim: Study

GURUGRAM : A new study from healthcare provider Pristyn Care found that 5 out of 10 patients face delays in discharge due to the time taken to process medical insurance claims. To alleviate the hassle experienced by health insurance policyholders, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is likely to introduce a 100% cashless hospital network that will include both empanelled and non-empanelled hospitals. The study indicates that over 40% of individuals attribute delays in health insurance claims in India to hospital administrative processes, while 25% cite a lack of coordination between hospitals and insurance providers. Complex documentation procedures also significantly contribute to these delays. Furthermore, the survey underscores various challenges encountered by patient families throughout the insurance claims process, with nearly 4 out of 10 respondents reporting difficulties with customer support regarding the claims process. The study also found that 6 out of 10 individuals never initiated the health insurance claim process. Among those who did, 34% expressed dissatisfaction with the paperwork, while 40% faced challenges in receiving timely responses from their insurance providers. Roughly 3 out of 10 patients encountered discrepancies between pre-approved and final claim amounts. Additionally, around 38% of respondents reported that the discharge process took over 8 hours, with hospitals requiring a similar timeframe to process claims. Approximately 4 out of 10 individuals lacked clarity on their policy's terms and

conditions. Furthermore, about 18% expressed dissatisfaction with the communication received from their insurance providers regarding claim statuses.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor, Co-founder of Pristyn Care, said, "There is a huge gap between the intended ease of cashless health insurance and the reality experienced by policyholders. Despite 75% of survey respondents having cashless insurance, a significant number still face challenges during the claim process. This creates additional stress for patients and families already dealing with a medical emergency. However, it's encouraging to note that insurance providers have already started digitizing and using tech to make the process quick and smooth."

With the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers, we will hoist the flag of victory in the elections: Pala Ram

Kaithal: Jananayak Party's Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency candidate and famous social worker Pala Ram Saini said that he will represent the constituency in the Delhi Parliament by hoisting the flag of victory in the elections on the strength of the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers. Will raise the voice of the public. Along with the workers, people of every section are also walking shoulder to shoulder with them and working hard continuously and appealing to the people to vote in their favor. Pala Ram Saini was addressing the people during election campaigning in various villages of the constituency. During this time, people from every section welcomed the JJP candidate at various places



by laying flower garlands and announced their support in the elections. Before this, Pala Ram Saini took blessings by offering prayers in the court of Baba Khatu Shyam in Sista Dham and the committee members honored Pala Ram by giving mementos. Social worker Pala Ram Saini said that Congress and BJP candidates will not be able to stand before the blessings of the public and the hard work of the workers and the public will reject the candidates of both the parties and make them victorious by voting in their favor. He said that he

is getting support from every section of the society in the Lok Sabha elections and in winning the Lok Sabha elections, people of every section including mothers and sisters will also have a big participation. Today, JJP's name is echoing on everyone's lips and during his tenure, former Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Dushyant Chautala has done record-breaking development work in the public interest across the state. The public is still getting full benefits of this. The public interest is completely safe in JJP only.

CAPSULES

TDP chief launches Praja Galam yatra, vows to end YSRCP's autocratic rule in the state

TIRUPATI: Former Chief Minister and Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu launched the "Praja Galam" poll campaign amidst much fanfare at Palamaner in his home district of Chittoor on Wednesday and vowed to end the autocratic rule of the YSRCP in the state in the 2024 polls. Addressing an impressive rally at Palamaner, Naidu denounced the manner in which the YSRCP government neglected the irrigation projects in the water-parched and perennially drought-prone Rayalaseema region of the state. Telugu Desam founder and former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao had a vision to bring Krishna waters to address the drinking and irrigation water needs of the Rayalaseema region. "It was during the Telugu Desam Party regime in the state that various irrigation projects such as the Telugu Ganga, Handri Neeva, Galeru Nagari, etc., were taken up. While 90% of the works of the irrigation projects were completed by the TDP, the YSRCP government couldn't complete the pending 10% of the works in the last five years," Naidu lamented. "During the TDP regime between 2014-2019, about 62 irrigation projects were initiated, and 24 were completed. While the TDP spent Rs. 68,000 crore on irrigation projects across the state, Rs. 12,000 crore was allocated for the completion of irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region alone. The Jagan Reddy government allocated only Rs. 2,125 crore for irrigation projects in the Rayalaseema region in the last five years, reflecting the government's lack of resolve for the completion of irrigation projects in the state," the TDP chief observed.

KARAM Safety acquires Midas Safety India to strengthen its leadership position (PPE) India

Faridabad: KARAM Safety, a leading global PPE player and fall protection solutions provider, is pleased to announce the successful acquisition of Midas Safety India, a prominent player in the hand protection safety products industry. This strategic move marks a significant milestone in KARAM Group's journey towards expanding its presence and enhancing its product offerings. The acquisition of Midas Safety India strengthens KARAM Group's position



as a market leader in the safety industry, combining KARAM's expertise in fall protection and personal protective equipment (PPE) with Midas Safety India's extensive portfolio of hand protection safety products. This synergy will enable KARAM Group to offer customers a comprehensive range of high-quality safety solutions to meet their evolving needs. The 25-year-old KARAM Group, with a turnover of INR 1000 crore, has acquired the operations of Midas Safety India having a top line of INR 110 crore through a slump deal. Hand protection prod-

ucts are a major revenue contributor to Midas Safety India which was established 16 years ago. Today, KARAM proudly carries out that tradition in delivering premier products under Midas's brands, Ninja®, Techtion®, Valpro® and Frontier®. The acquisition will be a good strategic and financial fit for KARAM Group and will open up significant market opportunities in the fast growing PPE market in India. KARAM Group is growing at a CAGR.

HC junks Cong substitute nominee's plea for Indore fight

INDORE: A division bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Friday upheld a single-judge bench's order dismissing a plea by Congress' Moti Singh Patel for his candidature to be accepted as the party nominee for Lok Sabha elections after official candidate Akshay Kanti Bam pulled out of the poll race at the last minute. The Indore bench, comprising Justice SA Dharmadhikari and Justice Gajendra Singh, said Patel's application was "bereft of merit and substance". Patel had approached

the division bench after a single-judge bench of Justice Vivek Rusia on April 30 turned down his plea to overturn the rejection of his nomination by district election officer and to be allotted the Congress 'hand' symbol to contest polls. Indore votes in the fourth phase on May 13. Patel's candidature was rejected during scrutiny on April 25. Bam's papers were cleared as the 'approved Congress candidate', but he suddenly pulled out on April 29, the last day for withdrawal of nominations. It left Congress

without a candidate in Indore for the first time ever. Patel's counsel Vibhor Khandelwal contended before the division bench that the returning officer may have been right in rejecting Patel's nomination on April 26 since at that time he was not the approved Congress candidate and his form was not signed by 10 proposers. But in view of the proviso to sub-section (5) of Section 36 of the Act, the returning officer ought to have given a day's time to Patel to get signatures of 10 proposers and examine the nomi-

nation form the next day, he said. Since Bam withdrew his candidature, Patel's form should be scrutinised and accepted so that he can contest the election, Khandelwal contended. Election Commission counsel Mini Ravindran submitted that the writ petition itself is not maintainable, arguing that Supreme Court had earlier held that any interference by high courts entertaining petitions under 226 of the Constitution and issuing directions after commencement of the electoral process.

At 11%, UP tops 2024 list of JEE (Advanced) candidates

NEW DELHI: Eleven per cent of candidates appearing for Joint Entrance Examination-Advanced (JEE-Advanced) 2024 — the gateway to 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) — will be from Uttar Pradesh. An analysis of JEE (Main) qualification data also revealed that of the 2.5 lakh candidates who qualified to take the IIT entrance, more than 54% are from just six states and nearly 73% from 10 states. Moreover, though over 75% of the registered candidates opted to take both (Jan and April) sessions of the JEE (Main), which is also an entrance test for centrally funded technical institutions and others, just around 28% of them managed to improve their results in the second



sitting. JEE (Advanced) is considered one of the toughest competitive exams in India, where aspirants must first qualify among the top 2.5 lakh in the JEE (Main) and then compete for 17,000 odd seats in IITs. Uttar Pradesh (28,300+), Maharashtra (24,500+) and Telangana (24,100+) not only continue to dominate the results, these top three states also account for more than one-third (30.7%) of

the total candidates eligible for JEE (Advanced). There are 11 states which have more than 11,000 eligible candidates, which is close to 79% of the total candidates to have qualified. There are five states with over 21,000 candidates, which include Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan as well. A total of 14.1 lakh candidates registered for JEE (Main) this year of which over 75% appeared in both the sessions of the exam.

Cong to review 'anti-people laws', says Ramesh, mum on CAA repeal

NEW DELHI: Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh on Friday said the party's position on Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was clearly stated in its manifesto where it promised to "review and change all anti-people laws" brought by BJP govt. However, he refused to explicitly say whether the contentious law would be repealed. Senior Congress politician P Chidambaram had said last month that CAA would be scrapped once the INDIA bloc was voted to office. Notably, CAA did not find a mention in the party's mani-



festos, which was drafted under Chidambaram's chairmanship. Asked whether the party would repeal CAA, Ramesh told, "I am not commenting on what Chidambaram said. What he said is his personal view. I am going by the manifesto approved by him as chairman of the committee and approved by Congress prez and the party's working committee. I am

stating the party position. The word CAA does not figure in the manifesto." He, however, said Congress believed that making religion the basis of reservation and citizenship was unconstitutional. "We opposed CAA in Parliament on the ground that it gives citizenship on the basis of religion. Our Constitution doesn't provide for reservation or citi-

zenship on the basis of religion," Ramesh added. Congress manifesto said, "We promise that all anti-people laws passed by the BJP-NDA without proper parliamentary scrutiny and debate, especially those relating to workers, farmers, criminal justice, environment and forests and digital data protection will be thoroughly reviewed and changed."

Shouldn't have happened: Mahajan on Congress candidate's pullout in Indore

Former LS speaker Sumitra Mahajan expressed surprise over the last-minute withdrawal of nomination by Congress candidate from Indore, Akshay Kanti Bam, calling it unfair and unethical. Voters had the right to decide in a democratic set-up, she asserted. Bam had pulled out of the poll race on April 29, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, and joined BJP within hours, leaving Congress stunned. "People are calling me and asking me, 'what has happened Tai?'" Mahajan told Saturday. "This should not have happened. There was no need for this, as BJP's victory in Indore was a foregone conclusion," Mahajan said, hinting that she believed BJP was behind Bam's move. Indore is a saffron stronghold and Mahajan, now 81, represented the constituency eight consecutive times since 1989.

Govt. limits tur, chana stock until Sept to curb hoarding

The import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024

Delhi: The Union Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said wholesalers, retailers, huge chain shops, millers, and importers will be subject to stock limits. The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits, and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order went into effect. Stock limits for each pulse are 200

tonnes for wholesalers, 5 tonnes for retailers, 5 tonnes at each retail outlet, and 200 tonnes at the depot for big chain retailers; last 3 months of production or 25% of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for millers. The measures discourage stockpiling and boost market availability. Importers cannot keep imported merchandise after 45 days after customs clearance. Tur, urad, and chana prices have been constant yet high all year. India imports 15% of its pulses annually to meet demand. Legal companies are required to report stock positions on the

Department of Consumer Affairs portal. "In case the stocks held by them are higher than the prescribed limits then, they shall bring the same to the prescribed stock limits by 12th July 2024," the note added. As Kharif pulses like tur and urad are likely to rise, the government expects tur and chana dal prices to fall. The statement anticipates the import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024. A new crop of chana in Australia and its import from October 2024 will help keep chana affordable for consumers.

Google cancels Play Store online gaming trial due to lack of rules

Delhi: Google paused its pilot program to list fantasy sports and rummy games on the Google Play Store, but gave India a "grace period". This means Google will not increase Play Store open access for more real-money games as planned in January. Existing Play Store apps will stay there. Google suspended the pilot, which began in July 2018 and was extended in January in India, Brazil, and Mexico, due to a lack of a "central licensing framework" that governs game legality. "Expanding our support of real-money gaming apps in markets without a central licensing

framework has proven more difficult than expected, and we need additional time to get it right for our developer partners and the safety of our users," a spokesman for Google said. The move hurts India's online gaming industry, which is divided over whether games are 'games of skill' or 'games of chance'. Supreme Court cases challenging Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's internet gaming prohibition remain pending. Google said it is developing a framework for permitted applications in this field. "In the meantime, in India, we are extending the grace period of

the pilot program so existing apps offering fantasy sports and rummy games in India can remain on Play Store," the spokesman said. A senior Google executive said on condition of anonymity that the company intends to create a framework, but conversations are ongoing and there is no "specific timeline" for when these apps can be used again.

India's major online gaming companies by revenue — Sporta Technologies (Dream11), Gameskraft, and Games24x7—listed their fantasy and rummy apps on Play Store after Google's program.

RBI changes priority sector lending rules

Delhi: RBI has amended its priority sector guidelines to encourage banks to provide modest loans in economically challenged districts with low loan amounts. New rules discourage lending in districts with large average loans. Fresh priority sector loans in districts with low credit availabil-

ity (less than Rs 9,000 per person) would receive 125% additional weight starting in FY25. In districts with substantial credit availability (above Rs 42,000 per person), loans weigh 90%. Except for outlier districts with poor credit availability and excessive loan sizes, all other dis-

tricts will remain 100% important. "RBI has decided to rank districts based on per capita credit flow to the priority sector, and to establish an incentive framework for districts with lower credit flow and a disincentive framework for districts with higher priority.

CAPSULES

A Japanese company is creating battery material with an energy density that is 100 times higher

Delhi: TDK, a multinational electronics business based in Japan, has revealed that it has created a material for solid-state batteries that has an energy density that is roughly 100 times higher than that of traditional ones. The Tokyo-based company claims that a variety of wearable gadgets, including smartwatches, wireless earbuds, hearing aids, and environmental sensors, may make use of their technology. Although the new material is intended to replace current coin cell batteries, it makes use of lithium alloy anodes and an oxide-based solid electrolyte. "Batteries are quite safe since they employ solid electrolyte based on oxides. It stated in a statement that "it is intended for use in wearable devices and other devices that come into direct contact with the human body." "The battery can be applied for replacing coin cell primary batteries in compliance with EU battery regulations, which require them to be replaced by rechargeable batteries, which is expected to contribute to the reduction of environmental impact," it stated. According to the company, the new technology also makes it possible for batteries to be smaller and have a longer operating life.

Voda to sell 10% Indus share for \$1.1bn

Delhi: Vodafone Group will sell 10% of India's Indus Towers for up to \$1.1 billion to service debt, according to a term sheet obtained by Reuters. Last week, Reuters reported that Vodafone was considering selling its 21.5% holding in mobile-tower operator Indus Towers through several group businesses.

Parliament group advises the government to suspend EU carbon tax for MSMEs for 3 years

It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws

Delhi: A parliamentary panel advises India to request a three-year delay on the EU's carbon tax on engineering MSMEs since domestic manufacturers may not be able to afford it. The report advised prioritizing the development of a comprehensive framework to support and equip MSMEs to combat CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism). The EU will impose



CBAM on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertilizer, from January 1, 2026. Engineering goods are subject to this import duty. The department-related parliamentary standing committee on commerce's

report, Comprehensive Strategy to Map Major Products and Countries to Maximize Exports and Minimize Imports, advised the government to work at the highest level with the U.S. and EU to protect the domestic industry from additional tariffs and CBAM. "The Committee exhorts the government to seek the deferment on application of CBAM on MSME sector by at least three years," noted.

It also encouraged India to work with the EU on deforestation laws because domestic coffee companies worry it will hurt exports. About 55% of Indian coffee exports go to the EU.

GST Council to change alcohol tax legislation, settle disputes

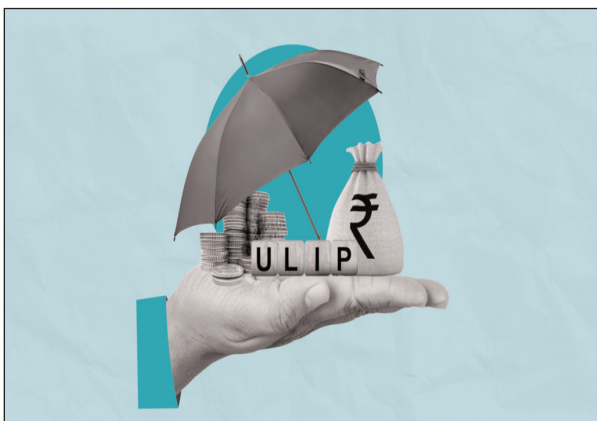
Delhi: The GST Council is considering amending GST legislation regarding extra neutral alcohol (ENA), a highly pure alcohol used in liquor manufacture but not for direct consumption. These revisions explain that ENA should not be GST-taxable, which could relieve the spirits industry by avoiding dual taxes. In addition to legislative changes, the Council is anticipated to propose a mechanism that would allow central and state tax agencies to stop recovering past tax dues,

helping the spirits industry. This action is part of a larger attempt to settle tax disputes and streamline taxation. The GST Council will discuss officer committee revisions at its meeting in the national capital. According to two Centre-state sources, this committee was charged with drafting legislative revisions to keep ENA outside the GST regime, a decision made at the GST Council's 52nd meeting on October 7 last year. The proposed revisions clarify tax implementa-

tion by excluding ENA from GST under section 9 of the Central and state GST statutes. GST is currently applicable to non-alcoholic goods and services, however ENA is not mentioned. The clarification should reduce the alcoholic beverage industry's tax burden by preventing the same commodity from being taxed under several streams. The Centre would submit CGST and IGST Act revisions in Parliament, while states will alter SGST laws. Since the 2017 indirect tax reform.

Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai

Delhi: The insurance regulator prohibits promoting Ulips and index-linked plans as investment products. The Irdai mandated tight standards for fund performance ads in a circular. They should show compounded yearly returns for the past five years with a caveat that past success does not guarantee future results. If applicable, benchmark index performance must be stated with fund performance. The circular advised advertisers not to overestimate benefits, selectively offer benefits without constraints, or make derogatory comparisons to competitors or the industry. The laws compel insurers to form an advertisement committee and appoint compliance officers to ensure compli-



ance. These businesses strictly oversee advertisement material and enforce restrictions. The regulator also requires companies to let policyholders pay premiums online or hire a new agent or direct sales staff if the policyholder's agent leaves. A new policy from the allocated insurance agency or direct sales staff for the same policyholder if the assigned policy is not resurrected or abandoned.

Oyo plans to raise \$125 million at a \$2.5 billion valuation

Delhi: Oyo, a key player in the hospitality industry, is reportedly receiving \$100-125 million in new capital, with a \$2.5 billion market valuation. The international chain of low-cost hotels is finalizing a "fresh fundraising of about \$100 million to \$125 million that slashes its valuation.

Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

Delhi: LIC plans to sell some of its premium commercial buildings and land nationwide to raise \$6-7 billion (50,043-58,384 crore). LIC, India's third-largest landlord, has instructed an internal team to develop a selling plan for its real estate assets nationwide, according to two sources. The process may begin in Mumbai. The article listed LIC's premium assets as the Jeevan Bharti building in Delhi's Connaught Place, the LIC building in Kolkata's Chittaranjan Avenue, and Mumbai's Asiatic Society and Akbarally's buildings. Two sources informed that LIC's real estate assets were valued at a cautious 50,000-



60,000 crore during their latest valuation. "LIC-owned buildings may be revalued for the formal asset sale procedure. LIC buildings may have a market value of at least five times the conservative estimate of 2.5-3 lakh crore, as many have never been sold.

The first insider informed that LIC may incorporate a separate business to keep and monetize real estate assets due to the difficulty of valuing them. He added LIC

owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in M u s s o r i e , Uttarakhand, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

"The insurance company owns numerous marquee buildings. The valuation must be done properly. Only piece-by-piece auctions can determine prices. However, the LIC Act must be amended and laws changed "said the second.

Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

Delhi: As India's e-commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto commerce targets rapid commerce, the sector will heat up again. Three sources told Entracker that Flipkart has begun building infrastructure for its rapid commerce play. "In six to eight weeks, Flipkart will launch 10-15 minute delivery in at least a dozen cities," stated an anonymous insider. "It's building up a chain of dark stores across several cities including Bengaluru, Delhi (NCR) and Hyderabad among others." Flipkart's move into rapid commerce comes as experts expect it to cut into India's e-commerce pie soon. A 2022 Redseer analysis estimates the Indian fast commerce market at around \$45 billion. More crucially, Zomato's Blinkit, Swiggy's Instamart, and Zepto have shown investors that rapid

commerce has a future in India in recent years. Zepto received a unicorn round, but Blinkit (previously Grofers) and Swiggy Instamart have scaled up with improved profits for their owners. "Flipkart's latest launches indicate its move into fast commerce. It started same-day delivery in 20 cities a couple of weeks ago and delivered flowers and cakes around Valentine's Day (February 2024)," an e-commerce and rapid commerce analyst told Entracker, asking for anonymity. Flipkart will have a larger library than Zepto, Instamart, and Blinkit, according to sources. "The company will have a sharp focus on FMCG, grocery and daily essentials but it would also push categories such as electronics, fashion," said the afore-

1.8L hopefuls log in as DU Phase-II admission preferences finish

After multiple student requests, the university extended the program and college combination choice due from Aug 7-9



Delhi: Phase II of Delhi University's Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) filing program and college preferences ended. The institution received 1,59,56,834 choices from 1,80,109 applicants by evening. The first round of CSAS attracted 2,45,273 applicants for 71,000 undergraduate seats at DU. After multiple student requests, the university extended the program and college combination choice due from Aug 7-9. Students' stored selections decide the programs and universities they can attend. Next, all 1,59,56,834

preferences of 1,80,109 applicants will be auto-locked for course and college distribution. The institution advises applicants to select the most preferences they are ready to accept. DU dean of admissions Haneet Gandhi informed that BCom and BCom (H) are the most popular courses this year. According to the admission timetable, applicants' simulated ranks will be announced. On August 16, the first CSAS allocation list will be announced, and applicants must accept their seats by August 18. Each college will evaluate and accept online applications by August 20. Candidate online fee

India's Paris Olympics collection was disappointing

Delhi: Indian supporters have mixed feelings over the country's performance in the Paris Olympics. Our return of one silver and five bronze is pitiful for 1.4 billion people. It's hard to believe the world's most populated nation didn't win a gold. Compared to India's historical Summer Games performance, Paris' score isn't awful. We couldn't beat our 2020 Tokyo haul of seven (one gold, two silver, four bronze), but we fared better than Rio 2016, when we only won two. We expected gold in badminton, boxing, and archery, but they were disappointed.

The planned modifications to the CBSE credit system for students in grades 9 through 12

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is considering major changes to the curriculum for Classes 9, 10, 11, and 12 as part of its effort to adopt creditization in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. According to a news outlet, all principals of CBSE-affiliated schools were asked to evaluate and provide input on the plan by the end of last year. The deadline for comments was set for December 5, 2023. In accordance with the recommendations of the NEP 2020, the goal of creditization is to establish academic equality between general and vocational education, allowing for seamless transfers between the two systems. The University Grants Commission (UGC) established the National Credit Framework (NCF) in 2022 to put his plan into action.

The number of credits granted to each topic would be proportional to the time spent studying that subject.



Karnataka legislature joins Tamil Nadu, West Bengal in rejecting NEET

Delhi: The Karnataka legislature voted a resolution against NEET, joining a growing list of anti-BJP states that have requested exemption. The Mamata Bannerjee-led Trinamool Congress administration in West Bengal approved a similar resolution. The assembly also rejected the "One Nation, One Election" approach and demanded that the Union government utilize population statistics from the 1971 census to delimit Lok Sabha seats beyond 2026. Medical education minister Sharan Prakash Patil warned the house that NEET was badly harming rural poor medical education chances. The Congress minister who introduced the motion said the federal system was making school education inefficient and denying the state the authority to accept children to government medical institutes. Patil stated the government's stance as Opposition members tore up NEET resolutions. The state requested an exception to admit medical students based on CET results. NEET, a single eligibility cum admission test for MBBS and BDS courses in India, is under investigation for anomalies and paper leaks.

Forty credits, or 1,200 make up a whole school notional study hours, year.

CAPSULES

Pvt school's 'only veg tiffin' circular outrages

Delhi: A private school recently emailed parents a circular citing "health and hygiene, and respect and inclusivity" to ask them not to bring non-vegetarian lunches. The circular, addressed to parents by Delhi Public School in Sector 132, was criticized by parents and kids for its "interference" with nutrition and logic for discouraging one food type. "We are writing to respectfully request that students not bring non-vegetarian food items to school..." the letter states. It says "two key considerations". The first under 'Health and Safety' states that non-vegetarian food might degrade "when cooked in the morning for lunchtime consumption" and "can pose serious health risks if not stored and handled properly". 'Inclusion and Respect' states that the school "values diversity and promotes a culture of inclusivity" and that "maintaining a vegetarian food environment, all students feel respected and comfortable". Parents didn't comprehend the circular's connection between respect and non-veg food, and they ignored the reality that any meal can go bad when made in the morning and eaten late in a lunchbox in hot and humid conditions.

SOPs for UGC credit system launch

Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has produced the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for implementing the National Credit Framework (NCF), which specifies the number of hours needed for one credit in classroom, practical, and experiential training.

Some schools are piloting the NCF, which includes the guidelines. The framework facilitates credit transfer from school to the PhD level, enabling various entry and departure points in the education and skilling system.

Finalizing the development of the sixth grade textbooks, which will soon be available

The discussion took place against the backdrop of Class 6 textbooks that have been in the works since April but have not yet been finalized

Delhi: Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan of the Union met here to discuss the progress of textbooks developed in line with the New Curriculum Framework (NCF). The discussion took place against the backdrop of Class 6



textbooks that have been in the works since April but have not yet been finalized. New third and sixth grade textbooks will be available for use beginning with the 2024-25 school year, according to an earlier announcement by the National Council for

Educational Research and Training (NCERT). Classes 3 and 6 will have new, exciting texts in the 2024-25 school year.

We are currently in the last stages of textbook creation, and nine textbooks for grades 3 and 6 are accessible. A sen-

ior official from the Ministry of Education (MoE) announced that the remaining eight will be made accessible very shortly. It was originally planned that only Classes 3 and 6 would receive the new textbooks based on the NCF 2023 this year. Class 6 textbooks are behind schedule, but Class 3's are already on sale. In the midst of the current school year, the NCERT has just published new English and Hindi textbooks for Class 6. Schools have been requested to instruct Class 6 pupils from a bridge program until the textbooks for the remaining disciplines, including social science, science, and mathematics, are prepared.

Golden lad Neeraj Chopra: Silver touch

Delhi: World track and field diamond, India's Tokyo Games gold medalist, won silver at the 2024 Paris Olympics. In Tokyo, defending Olympic javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra won a remarkable second individual medal for India. A borderlander who authored history received the Paris gold. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem set a new Olympic record and the sixth greatest throw in history with a second throw of 92.97m. The Indian, despite an impassioned comeback after throwing 89.45m,



couldn't catch up. Anderson Peters of Grenada won bronze in 88.54m. The highlight of the Olympics was India vs. Pakistan, thus the announcer mentioned cricket. On the sports field, Chopra would have to reach the 90m mark to defeat his opponent and close buddy. India has yet to

win a gold in these Games, but Chopra has cemented his position among India's athletic legends.

This Games' gold-silver cabinet is unparalleled, and only Sushil Kumar, PV Sindhu, and Manu Bhaker can claim two medals of any color. png

Skills university lowers 6 UG fees from 50k to 35k

No graduation fee reductions have been declared by the university. University students may also demand lower



"After a steep fee rise for most courses at the UGC-recognized university in the NCT of Delhi, student groups slammed the administration"

diploma course expenses

Delhi: Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University lowered six undergraduate programs' tuition from Rs 50,000 to Rs 35,000. After a steep fee rise for most courses at the UGC-recognized univer-

sity in the NCT of Delhi, student groups slammed the administration. Bachelors in banking financial services and insurance, computer applications, digital marketing and data analytics, digital media design, optometry, and medical laboratory sciences.

Increasing creativity can be achieved by urging students to pursue PhD degrees

Delhi: A major step in the right direction, the UGC guidelines for direct admission of UGs to PhD programs were announced in 2022, and they will help us attract a competent and motivated pool of candidates to our PhD programs. Thanks to NEP 2020's wiggle room, these rules may now promote risky initiatives that can speed up India's STEM development. Regardless of their undergraduate degree, UGC now encourages undergraduates to pursue a PhD in any field of their choice. It would be a courageous step for colleges to take heed to this recommendation and inspire more students to change their majors to pursue research as their true calling. The pursuit of novel con-



cepts, findings, phenomena, or procedures—or a mix of these—through well-established research methodologies is what drives universities to engage and assist staff and students in expanding the boundaries of knowledge. Excellent educational institutions provide an atmosphere that encourages research motivated by curiosity as well as research driven by practical needs. This effort relies heavily on

a PhD student. Doctoral candidates should have strong background knowledge in their chosen profession, strong intrinsic desire, a genuine interest about the world around them, a can-do attitude, the ability to bounce back from setbacks, and an eagerness to take on new challenges. Most of the time, these traits are determined by one's level of basic preparation and one's life experiences.

DU's order on guest faculty appointment leaves teachers

Delhi: The heads of various colleges and departments of Delhi University can appoint guest faculty members only in case of a leave vacancy, an official order stated. This has attracted the ire of several teachers who have written to the vice-chancellor, Yogesh Singh, demanding immediate withdrawal of the order. The university, in the official order issued by deputy registrar (colleges), instructed its to make such appointments only if a permanent faculty member is on leave, including maternity leave, child care leave, study leave, sabbatical leave, medical leave or extraordinary leave. "In so far as appointment of guest faculty in the colleges is concerned, I have been directed to categorically inform that appointment of guest faculties in colleges can only be made against the leave vacancy ie. maternity leave, child care leave, study leave, sabbatical leave, medical leave and extraordinary leave," stated the DU notification. The notification stated that all heads of its colleges should ensure that under no circumstances, appointment of guest faculty members shall be made except against the leave vacancy.

