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

'Mere interrogation can't be ground for arrest': What SC said while granting interim bail to Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with a money laundering case linked to the excise policy case.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna stated that certain legal questions raised by Kejriwal in his plea challenging his arrest need to be considered by a larger bench of the top court.

In his appeal to the apex court, Kejriwal argued that his arrest following the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections was driven by external factors.

On March 21, Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in relation to a money laundering investigation concerning alleged irregularities in the now-cancelled Delhi excise policy 2021-22. Despite being granted bail in the ED case, Kejriwal will remain in custody due to the ongoing case initiated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Here are the top obser-



'How can state block highway?': SC to Haryana govt on Shambu border

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Haryana government how it can block a highway and directed it to remove the barricading set up at the Shambhu border near Ambala, where farmers have been camping since February 13. The Haryana government had set up barricades at the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in February

when Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) (non political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) announced to move towards Delhi in support of various demands, including a legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP) for crops. A bench of justices, Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, made the observation after counsel for the Haryana govern-

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Kejriwal has been incarcerated for more than 90 days while granting him interim bail in the case filed by the ED.

The court also acknowledged that Kejriwal is an elected leader and stated that it is his decision whether to continue serving as the chief minister of Delhi. "We are conscious that Arvind Kejriwal is an elected leader and the Chief Minister of Delhi, a post holding importance and influence.

While we do not give any directions as we are doubtful whether a Court can direct an elected leader to step down or not to function as a chief minister or a Minister, we leave it to Arvind Kejriwal to make a call," the court observed. "Given right to life is concerned and since matter is referred to larger bench, we direct Arvind Kejriwal to be released on interim bail," the court ordered.

The Supreme Court also ruled that mere interrogation cannot be a ground for arrest.

Former Andhra CM Jagan , two IPS officers booked in 'attempt to murder' case

VIJAYAWADA: The Nagarpalem police of Guntur district on Friday registered a case against former chief minister and YSRC president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and 4 others.

The case was also registered against former director general (DG) of police (Intelligence) PSR Anjaneyulu, former additional superintendent of police (CID) and Dr G Prabhavathi former superintendent of government general hospital, Guntur following the complaint from Undi MLA K Raghurama Krishnam Raju (RRR) of TDP.

The MLA brought up allegations like attempt to murder, custodial torture and criminal conspiracy against the police officers and Jagan Mohan Reddy. During his detention, he was subjected to physical abuse, including being beaten and an attempt to suffocate him by sitting on his chest and choking his heart, he



Vizhinjam port, India's largest transshipment port in Kerala

BENGALURU: Vizhinjam port, equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and advanced automation and IT systems, is poised to become India's first semi-automated port. Big milestone! Vizhinjam port, India's largest transshipment port in Kerala, welcomes first mother-ship; top facts about

said. The police have registered a case against them under sections 120 b, 166, 167, 197, 307, 326, 465, 506 r/w 34 of IPC and further investigation is on. As per the FIR, Raghurama Krishnam Raju (former Member of

Adani-built port Vizhinjam port is expected to be fully commissioned in September or October 2024. The Vizhinjam International Sea Port, India's largest transshipment port in Kerala, has welcomed its first container ship, a large cargo vessel named 'San Fernando'.

Parliament from Narsapuram Lok Sabha constituency) mentioned that he was arrested by AP CID personnel in Hyderabad in May 2021. Instead of producing him before the local in Hyderabad and obtaining a transit .

Jalandhar police arrest Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh's brother Harpreet Singh, another with 'ice'

CHANDIGARH: Jalandhar Rural police arrested Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh's brother Harpreet Singh and his friend Lovepreet Singh with 'ice' drug (Methamphetamine) near Phillaur.

According to police their dope test was positive and a Ludhiana based drug peddler, from whom they allegedly procured the contraband, has also been arrested. SSP Ankur Gupta said that a patrolling party spotted a Creta car parked on the roadside on - on Ludhiana to Jalandhar side - near Phillaur on Thursday evening. "As a car with tinted glasses parked like this appeared suspicious and the patrolling party then accosted those sitting in the car. Police found a lighter and other things and further search led to recovery of four grams of 'Ice' from them.

Muda scam: 'I am from backward class', Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah plays caste card to slam BJP



MYSURU: Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah rebuffed Thursday BJP's allegations that Mysuru Urban Development Authority (Muda) had illegally allotted land to his wife Parvathi, accusing the opposition of targeting him due to his successful leadership as a backward-class CM for the second time.

"They are upset and are hatching a conspiracy against me because I became chief minister again," he said, accusing BJP of making unsubstantiated claims without proof: "Muda has not suffered losses from the scam; instead, landowners may have due to the involvement of middlemen."

According to BJP, Muda allotted Parvathi 14 sites totalling 38,284 sqft in an upscale Mysuru locality as compensation for land in Kesare village on the city's outskirts. The party has demanded a CBI probe into what it called a Rs 4,000-crore land-allotment scam, but Siddaramaiah denied the charges, saying Muda had encroached upon the 3 acres and 16 guntas gifted to his wife by her brother. BJP circulated documents Wednesday to support its allegations. Siddaramaiah countered the next day by releasing a set of papers and challenging critics to show where illegal activities had occurred. "It was an agricultural land, and the deputy commissioner effected conversion in 2005. I've no connection (with the entire exercise). Mallikarjunaswamy, my brother-in-law, has legally gifted it.

Captain Anshuman parents want Army's 'next of kin' policy revised. What is it?

NEW DELHI: Just a few days ago, heartbreaking visuals of Captain Anshuman Singh's widow Smriti went viral as she received the posthumous Kirti Chakra awarded to her husband from President Draupadi Murmu. Now the parents of Captain Singh have come out against their daughter-in-law Smriti seeking revision of a crucial Army policy - 'next of kin'



(NOK). "We now just have a photo of our son hanging on the wall with a garland on it. We can't place the Kriti Chakra on his photo as his wife took it away," the father,

Ravi Pratap Singh said. "The criteria set to NOK is not correct. I have also spoken to defence minister Rajnath Singh about this. Anshuman's wife doesn't live with us now, the marriage was just five months old and there is no child," he added. But what is Indian Army's 'next of kin' policy? Captain Anshuman Singh, a 23-year-old Army doctor, lost his life in

July 2023 in Siachen while rescuing others in a fire. The 'next of kin' phrase refers to a person's closest relative -- parents, spouse, family member or legal guardian. By default, when a person enrolls in Army, his parents (if alive) or guardian is named as 'next of kin'. According to Army rules, when a cadet or officer gets married.

Chhattisgarh government allows use of 91 hectares of forest land for coal supply

NEW DELHI: JAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government has given permission to use 91.21 hectares of forest land of Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) coal block for supply of coal to the power plants of Rajasthan, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said on Friday. Thanking Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai for this, his Rajasthan counterpart said his government is con-



stantly taking efforts to ensure uninterrupted power supply, in accordance with the resolution of 'Apna Agrami Rajasthan'. "Rajasthan government is committed to ensure uninterrupted

ed power supply. Hearty thanks to Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Dev Sai on behalf of the entire Rajasthan family for granting permission by the Chhattisgarh government to use 91.21 hectares of forest land of Parsa East and Kanta Basan (PEKB) coal block operated in Hasdeo Aranya coalfield for supply of coal to the power plants of Rajasthan," Sharma posted on X.

SC stays Karnataka HC order restraining broadcasting of Kannada news channel 'Power TV'

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the Karnataka high court order of restraining broadcasting of stop broadcasting of news channel 'Power TV' on grounds of lack of proper license. The TV channel had made elaborate telecast of sex scandal allegations against JD(S) leaders Prajwal and Suraj Revanna. The Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud while hearing the matter said that, "the more we hear you the more we are convinced this is political vendetta." "The idea was to completely blank out his voice, the state is duty bound to protect his freedom of speech and



expression," CJ added. Earlier, the Karnataka high court has restrained Power TV from carrying on broadcasting activities until the next hearing on July 9. Justice SR Krishna Kumar passed the interim order after hearing a petition filed by IPS officer BR Ravikanth Gowda and ex-MLC Ramesh Gowda wherein they claimed that the channel has been carrying out

broadcasting activities unauthorised since 2021. Both petitioners are said to be victims of certain programmes broadcast by the channel, tarnishing their reputation. Earlier, the Union government informed the court that proceedings have already been initiated against Power Smart Media Limited (the company running the channel), which is not permitted to

uplink and downlink programmes. Justice Krishna Kumar said documents revealed that no approval or renewal had been granted to the said channel. The channel's permission ended on Oct 12, 2021 and it submitted an application seeking renewal on Dec 30, 2022. "It would be just and appropriate to direct the respon-

Teen abducted, drugged & raped, rescued after 10 days

AGRA: Ten days after a 16-year-old girl was abducted and assaulted in captivity by three boys in Aligarh, police rescued her and apprehended the accused, among them a minor and a woman, officials said on Tuesday. The perpetrators had allegedly held the teenager captive, force-feeding her multiple sleeping pills every day to render her unconscious, and then gang-raping her. During this period, they even called the girl's family and demanded a ransom. Subsequently, a team of 24 police personnel traced the mobile location and reached the accused on Monday. The father of the survivor, resident of a colony in the Quarsi police station area, had filed a complaint.

Neighbours name & shame desis in US trafficking case

NEW DELHI: BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi Lok Sabha constituency, and actress, Kangana Ranaut, in a unique demand on Thursday said that if people of the constituency want to meet her then they will have to bring their Aadhar card. The 'Queen' actor said that a large number of tourists and outsiders are visiting her office, due to which she is implementing the rule. "Himachal Pradesh attracts a lot of tourists, so it is necessary to have an Aadhaar card from the Mandi area. Your work related to the constituency should also be written in the letter so that you don't have to face inconvenience." Ranaut said while talking to reporters in Mandi. "Tourists come so much that common people face a lot of

inconveniences," she said. Congress attacks Kangana The diktat from Kangana Ranaut has sparked a political war of words in Himachal. Congress leader Vikramaditya Singh, who lost to Kangana in the Lok Sabha elections, slammed the BJP leader and said, "We are people's representatives. So, it is our responsibility to meet people from every section of the state." "Whether it is a small task, a big task, a policy matter, or a personal work, it does not require any identity. If a person is coming to a public representative, they are coming for some work," he added. Congress leader also said that if the people want to meet him, they "don't need to bring the Aadhaar card".

Admission starts in Govt Industrial Training Institutes

Interested candidates can apply for admission till 4 Aug

Prayagraj: Principal Government Industrial Training Institute Naini Arun Kumar Yadav has told through a press release that the Professional Examination Council, Aliganj, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, the application process for admission session 2024-25 in Government Industrial Training Institutes has started from 10.07.2024, interested candidates can apply online by visiting the website <http://www.scvtup.in>. Can apply. Online payment can be done through debit card/credit card/internet banking/UPI, for which the facility of payment gateway of Union Bank of India, State Bank of India and other banks will be available. The last date for application will be available till 04.08.2024 at 12:00 midnight. The admission registration fee for General/Backward Class is Rs. 250/- and for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe is Rs. 150/-.

6 candidates selected in employment fair

Prayagraj: A one-day employment fair was organized on Friday in the Regional Employment Office, Prayagraj campus. A total of 06 candidates were selected by various private sector companies in this fair. A total of 30 unemployed candidates participated in the employment fair. District Employment Assistance Officer Chandra Kant Singh and fair in-charge officer of the office Prashant and fair in-charge Maroof Ahmed and other officers/employees of the office were present in this program. Career counseling work in the fair was done by KK Kushwaha, Instructor.

ABVP demands reopening of online application portal for UGC-NET

Prayagraj: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has written a letter to the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) demanding the reopening of the online application portal for UGC-NET (June 2024). The admissions in PhD programs in various universities are based on the scores of UGC-NET examination, which many students could not apply for due to certain reasons. It is to be noted that the UGC-NET examination held on June 18 was canceled due to concerns over a possible paper leak and has been rescheduled to take place between August 21 and September 4, 2024. ABVP mentioned in its memorandum that many students were unaware that PhD admissions in many universities would be based on UGC-NET scores this time, making it reasonable to reopen the online application portal.

ABVP National General Secretary, Shri Yagywalkya Shukla, stated, "Reopening the online application portal will provide an opportunity to the students who were left out and couldn't apply before. The UGC-NET examination should be held as scheduled, and the results should be announced in mission mode so that the admission procedure for PhD programs in various universities takes place as scheduled."

Civil Defense providing full support to Muharram night procession

Prayagraj: Since the beginning of Muharram, the entire team of Civil Defense has been continuously providing its full support in all the arrangements and processions. Under the guidance of Muharram in-charge ICO Mohd. Yakub, people from one to ten posts are supporting the police administration. Whatever be the festival, the entire team of Civil Defense continuously performs its duty. Be it Rath Yatra, Moharram or the upcoming Kavay Yatra. The Night Alam procession of Moharram is going on continuously. Muharram procession under Division Chowk, Sarai Gadi. Originating from Ghantaghar, Chowk, Nakas Kona, Sewai



Mandi area, Shahganj police station ends at Dufferin till Karbala. They participate in the procession and maintain peace by coordinating with the administration. Civil Defense Headquarters Deputy Controller Narendra Sharma, Sadiq Hussain Siddiqui, Additional Deputy Controller Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Chief Warden Anil Kumar, Chief Raunak Gupta. Wardens from Post 1 to Post 10 were present in Sarparast and helped in taking out the procession. Coming under the special support of CO Mohd. Yakub ji, he provided his special support in taking out all the processions. Deputy Divisional Warden Mani reached the spot. Mehra ji greeted everyone and encouraged the enthusiasm and work of each of the working wardens.

Now high speed Wi-Fi available in over 1200 cities: Gopal Vittal

Lucknow: Wi-Fi has become an integral part of our daily lives, shaping how we work, learn and entertain ourselves in our homes. We now need high speed internet at home for smart devices, studying and working. While Airtel Wi-Fi has historically had limited availability, Airtel has worked towards solving this problem and now we have high speed Wi-Fi available at present in 1200+ cities. This means that those of you who were unable to access high-speed internet will now be able to do so. As a mark of this capability, we have now chosen to offer you even more value here. Offer the largest selection of TV shows, movies and web series which come included with your Wi-Fi plan. In specific, this content delivered through Airtel Wi-Fi will give you access to 22+ OTTs and 350+ TV channels. In addition, to signal our gratitude to you, every time you choose to add a new Airtel service - Mobile, Content or Wi-Fi we will offer extra value over and above your basic plan.

Public should not be harassed in the name of development: Vijay Vaishya

Memo submitted to railway officials regarding closure of bridge route of Idgah Dot

Prayagraj: After knowing from the newspapers the news of closure of Idgah Daat bridge from Monday, former chief whip of Bharatiya Janata Party councilor party Vijay Vaishya appealed to the traders and Due to the stay of Divisional Railway Manager in Delhi along with BJP workers, he met Additional Divisional Railway Manager Sanjay Singh and Senior Commercial Divisional Railway Manager Himanshu Shukla and said that Bharatiya Janata Party has a government in the country and the state which wants development and along with this the government She also wants that

along with the development work, the public should not have to face any kind of trouble. She told the railway officials that from Mansarovar to Chandralok Square 2. Chandralok Square to Ram Bhawan Square 3. Prayagraj Development Authority has badly dug up the road connecting Ram Bhawan intersection to Kothaparcha and Kothaparcha to D Road for many months in the name of road widening, due to which the movement of common citizens has been badly affected. The Daat bridge itself was open as an option due to which people were relieved. If now the Railways will close this



route for 3 months, then it will be a big problem for the common citizens school going children, which will be monitored by the Railways and Prayagraj Development.

Vaish further said that

you people should get information from the development authority whether the authority has fixed any time limit for completing the road widening or whether the authority has left the public at the mercy of the con-

tractors to keep working as long as they want and said that The authority has given the work of road widening to goon contractors who are also taking away public property, shine boards etc. but the author-

ity officials are not able to convince them not to take the belongings of the common people to their homes and Due to the slow pace of road widening work, they do not reprimand him in any way, the public is upset and the government is being criticized and further he also told the railway officials that you people should ask the officials of Prayagraj Development Authority to complete the work. Know the time limit and start the work of closing the bridge after 15 days, otherwise the public will have to face a lot of problems. BJP workers will not keep quiet on this. They will inform the situation to their top leaders.



State Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay along with MLAs of Agra division on Friday met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his official residence.

Krisumi supported JIIF innovation event grand success

New Delhi: With an aim to support innovation and encourage start-up ecosystem in the country, Krisumi Corporation, a joint venture between India's Krishna Group and Japan's Sumitomo Corporation, successfully partnered with the JITO Incubation and Innovation Foundation (JIIF) for its annual innovation conclave, which was organized in New Delhi on July 6-7, 2024. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address in the conclave, which was also attended by who's who of the startup ecosystem.

Elated as being the title sponsor of the coveted event, Mr. Ashok Kapur, Chairman, Krisumi Corporation, said, "As India aims to become a developed nation by 2047, creation of robust entrepreneurship ecosystem is utmost important. In-

dia boasts of a large startup ecosystem, which needs to be further strengthened and nurtured. Events like JIIF provide a right kind of platform to encourage entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship. By associating with such events, we also endeavour to contribute our bit in this direction."

Echoing similar sentiments, Mr. Mohit Jain, Managing Director, Krisumi Corporation, said, "It is indeed a pleasure to partner JIIF. Krisumi on its part has always been very supportive of innovations in various industries and JIIF's annual Innovation Conclave was a complete fit for us to partner with. The Startup ecosystem in the country is flourishing and its needs to be nurtured. Our collective aim is to promote a startup ecosystem in the country, empowering

entrepreneurs and encouraging research & innovation."

The theme for this year was 'Ideas to Impact: Cultivating Innovation and Entrepreneurship' and it brought together a diverse range of innovative enterprises, from budding startups to established unicorns, across industries such as food, IT, AI, banking, and more.

"The event brought together over 300 angel investors, 100 startups, and numerous international investors, making it a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs to connect with investors and industry experts. Such events need to be supported by various sectors of the economy and at Krisumi we are proud to partner with the event of such a magnitude," said Vineet Nanda, Director,

Sales & Marketing, Krisumi Corporation.

JIIF is a platform for JITO members that gives firsthand access to the Indian and global startup ecosystem. JITO's Incubation and Angel Network Arm focuses on fostering entrepreneurship. The 6-year-old foundation has an active member base of 1000 Jain investors from JITO Network. As per the data available on JIIF website, it has invested more than Rs. 150 crores in 80+ early-stage companies and incubated 50 Jain Founder start-ups.

Krisumi Corporation continuously supports various unique initiatives. Previously, the real estate conglomerate had partnered with the coveted International Indian Film Academy Awards, 2022 (also known as the IIFA Awards) in the capacity of a brand partner.

OPPO India launches Reno12 5G series

Varanasi: OPPO India today announced the launch of the Reno12 series, its first step towards accelerating the availability of AI phones in the country. The Reno12 series - "Your Everyday AI Companion"-boasts features such as AI Eraser 2.0, AI Clear Face, AI Best Face, and Smart Image Matting 2.0 for flawless yet fun photos without complex image editing. The devices also pack the AI Toolbox, powered by Google Gemini LLM, that comprises AI Writer, AI Summary, and AI Speak to enhance daily productivity.

Speaking at the launch Peter Dohyung Lee, Head of Product Strategy, at OPPO said, "The Reno12 series marks a milestone for OPPO as we pledge to accelerate AI phone adoption. The Reno series, which showcases OPPO's advanced GenAI capabilities, futuristic fluid design, and unparalleled energy efficiency, reflects our commitment to cutting-edge technology. We envision that AI will make mobile devices more personalized and intuitive to not only enhance smartphone capabilities but also transform the way users interact with their devices." The Reno12 Pro 5G will be available in two variants: INR 36,999 for the 12GB+256GB model and INR 40,999 for the 12GB+512GB version. The Reno12 5G will be priced at INR 32,999 and come with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage. The Reno12 Pro 5G will go on sale in India starting 18th July, and the Reno12 5G will be available from 25th July on the OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and across mainline retail outlets. Stylish, backed by a Durable Design: The Reno12 Pro sports a unique Quad-Micro Curved



Infinite View screen with a 43-degree curve for extremely narrow bezels of just 1.69mm and a 93.5% screen-to-body ratio. Both devices come with 6.7-inch FHD+ AMOLED displays with 120Hz refresh rate for smooth browsing and scrolling; their 1200nits peak HDR brightness ensures legibility even under direct sunlight.

The handsets boast 10-bit panels that output 1.07 billion colours to display images with a high dynamic range (HDR) and subtle colour gradations for life-like, immersive pictures.

The Reno12 Pro 5G-available in Sunset Gold and Space Brown-sports a Panda Glass back with dual textures: The top half is treated with anti-glare technology that is smudge-resistant, while the lower glossy area is defined by a smooth ribbon that carries the OPPO branding. The Reno12 5G, on the other hand, has a Gorilla Glass 7i display and comes in Sunset Peach, Matte Brown, and Astro Silver colours. Sunset Peach uses a graphic liquid crystal process for a fresh look, the Astro Silver colour combines OPPO's Fluid Ripple Texture to create an illusion of liquid on a smooth surface while Matte Brown offers a rich cocoa hue with a fingerprint-resistant finish.

For durability, the Reno12 Series packs an aerospace-grade High-Strength Alloy Framework to protect against bends. OPPO's All-Round Armour protection-inspired by a sponge-makes these phones resistant to drops and impacts. As a testament to their ruggedness, both devices carry an SGS certification.

3-day yagya for inauguration of newly constructed cow shed at Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi

Prayagraj: The three-day ritual for the inauguration of the cow shed at Shri Baghambari Gaddi on July 15 has started from Friday. The three-day ritual of inauguration of the newly constructed and state-of-the-art cow shed was formally inaugurated by Mahant Balveer Giri Ji Maharaj of Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi. During this period, apart



from the sages and saints of Niranjani Akhara, Brahmins from North and South were also present. The rituals started with Ganesh Vandana on Friday. In the morning, Dwadash Narikael Ganapati Havan, Chaturavarti Tarpan and in the evening Durga Deep Namaskar and Chandika Saptashati Parayan were performed. At the same time, on Tuesday i.e. 13th July, there will be Bhoo Varah Havan in the morning, Rakshoghnan Havan, Aghorastra Havan, Digbali in the evening. Apart from this, there will be Image Shuddhi Go Sukta Mantra Havan in the morning on 14th, Object Havan in the evening, Digbali, Murti Pratishtha, Cow Puja, Pratishtha Havan Purnahuti on 15th in the morning and Maha Sudarshan Havan, Digbali in the evening. Lakshmi Narayan Hriday Havan, couple worship and Brahmin worship will be performed on 16th July.

Consume adequate amount of water and juice for electrolyte balance in body: Dr. Bhanwar

Prayagraj: A meeting of Ideal Homeopathic Welfare Organization was organized in a hotel located in Rambagh. National Executive Member Dr. Bhanwar Singh, who was the chief guest at the meeting, said that diarrhoea and viral fever can occur when you ingest harmful toxins and germs from contaminated foods or drinks. Once they reach your stomach, the toxins or germs can cause diarrhoea. "Travelers' diarrhoea" occurs when you suffer from diarrhoea while travelling to a new environment with poor sanitation or hygiene.

Whatever you eat plays an important role in increasing the symptoms of diarrhoea. Since this problem causes water deficiency in the body, keep yourself as hydrated as possible. Drink adequate amount of water and juice to maintain electrolyte balance in the body. To prevent diarrhoea, drink pure water, eat well cooked food, eat freshly cooked hot food, avoid consuming raw food, avoid consuming tea, coffee, soda, chocolate etc. Keep in the refrigerator immediately. We should avoid stale and stale food. Mainly present in the meeting were Dr. Pushpendra Sharma, Dr. Sagar Gupta, Dr. Akhil Nigam, Dr. Sunil Kumar Patel, Dr. SN Mishra, Dr. Devesh, Dr. Zafar, Mohammad Khurshid, Dr. Kapoor Keshwani, Dr. Ankit Jaiswal, Dr. SB Kesari, Dr. Amit Kushwaha, Dr. Adwadesh, Dr. Sumit, Vinod Kumar Yadav, Hari Om Shukla, Dhruvar Kumar Shukla, Tej Prakash Giri etc. were present.



Police Commr gheared demanding action against ex-principal

Prayagraj: Illegal appointment of Parul Solomon, former Principal of Bishop Johnson Girls School Katra Prayagraj, to the post of Principal and papers of ARO and ARO Vo recruitment examinations conducted by the Public Service Commission Bishop Principal Shirley Masih led the school teachers Sukriti Massey, Anita Tiwari, Vandana to file an FIR against Parul Solomon, who was the main supporter in getting Johnson Girls School Katra shifted from Prayagraj, who embezzled crores of rupees of salary and PF fund of the teacher employees.

Principal Secretary, Urban Dev reviewed progress works ahead of Mahakumbh

Prayagraj: In view of enhancing the divinity and grandeur of Mahakumbh 2025, the principal reviewed the progress of the works being done by various departments on Friday. It was held under the chairmanship of Secretary, Urban Development, Amrit Abhijat at the Gandhi Auditorium located in the Commissioner's office. In the meeting, the Principal Secretary has instructed the officers of all concerned departments to compulsorily complete the work with quality and within the stipulated time. He has said that the work of all departments must be completed by 31st October. He asked for special attention to be paid to the quality of the work being done. The Principal Secretary has asked to regularly check the quality of the works by a third party and get the work done as per the report of the investigation. In the meeting, Fair Officer Vijay Kiran Anand first informed about the progress of the works done so far and the problems being faced in them, after which the works were reviewed department wise. During the review of the works being done by the Bridge Corporation, the

Principal Secretary gave instructions to complete all the remaining works on time and with quality in order to reduce the disruptions in traffic due to the joints installed on new and old bridges. Instructed the officers to do whatever pos-

sible solutions can be done. He expressed his dissatisfaction when the progress of the works being done by Prayagraj Development Authority was found to be slow and gave instructions to complete the remaining work as soon as possible by increasing the manpower. On being informed that there is difficulty in getting the work done due to less number of JEs and AEs in



the authority, he assured to depute the required number of JEs and AEs very soon and told the Divisional Commissioner that until the JEs and AEs are by the time they are sent, JEs and AEs should be attached to other departments so that the

progress of work does not slow down under any circumstances. Apart from this, while making a daily report of the number of laborers at each site, he instructed the third party agency to conduct workshops for contractors as per requirement so that there is no reduction in quality anywhere due to lack of information. In this sequence, he also

suggested to use plastic in making the roads as per CRR guidelines on the roads being constructed by the Municipal Corporation. He clarified that nowadays plastic is being used on a large scale in making roads, hence here also the Municipal Corporation should work in this direction. In order to make the traffic on the roads smooth, he instructed to install table top speed breakers, to plant weather appropriate trees on the dividers for beautification and to make arrangements for drainage on every road.

During the review of the works being done by the Jal Nigam, the Principal Secre-

tary said that where the sewer line is laid, action should be taken to compulsorily connect every house to the sewer line. He said that wherever there is a sewer connection in the district and there is no sewer connection, he gave in-

structions to make efforts to provide sewer connections wherever possible. Also, to solve the problem of pipe leakage during the Kumbh Mela, the concerned officials of Jal Nigam were instructed to use technology for identifying pipe leakage and asked to prepare an action plan in this direction.

During the review of the work being done by the Health Department, he directed to conduct mock drills from time to time by coordinating with the police and other concerned departments to test the readiness of the Health Department, so that health facilities can be provided to the devotees coming in such huge numbers. The preparedness of the department can be accurately assessed. He also instructed the concerned officers to prepare an SOP in this direction. In view of the renovation and beautification of the temples, he asked to pay special attention to the facade lighting of all the temples. Also, in view of Sawan, instructions were given to clear the circulating area before the start of Sawan and to get daily monitoring of all the works being done there so that the devotees do not face any inconvenience due to the ongoing work in Mankameswar temple. On this occasion, Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, IG Prem Kumar Gautam, District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal, PDA Vice President Arvind Chauhan, SSP Kumbh Mela and officials of other concerned departments were present.

Karbala took place for sake of Deene Mohammad: Meraj Mahmood

Majlis held at journalist's residence on the occasion of fifth Muharram

Prayagraj: Like every year, on the fifth of Mahe Moharram this year also a Majlis was organized in the memory of the seventy-two martyrs of Karbala at the residence of senior journalist ZAINULABDIN HASHMI resident of Babujan Bazaar. This year on the fifth day of Muharram a Majlis was organized in memory of the martyrs of Karbala. In which Hafiz Meraj Mahmood who came from Bhadohi while presenting the Kheraj Aqidah to the seventy-two martyrs in Karbala, said that in Meraj the gift that our master Sallallahu Wa Waal Wasalam had received for Roza, Namaz, Haj, Zakat, was given to Hussain for his upbringing. S. Bring happiness to the world. To save his grandfather's religion and to make it intoxicating, Hussain did not kneel before the Yazidi army in Karbala, nor did



Yazid, the queen of Bayat Qubool, put pressure on the Hussaini family in every way for Bayat. In Karbala, food and water were kept under guard. But Hussain did not bow down and was martyred in the battle at the hands of Yazidi warriors. Imam Hussain saved Nana's religion by being martyred. Today Hussain's name is famous all over the world whereas Yazid's name has been erased. Present in the Majlis Qari Mohammad Hussain, Hafiz Ghulam Mohammad, Hafiz Mohammad Waris, presented Naat and Mankabat On this occasion, Hafiz Haji Abdul Khaliq, Ali Ahmed Hashmi journalist, Mohammad Mobeen Hashmi, Mohammad Ashal Malawa Shadab, Mohammad Saif Hashmi, Nehal Ansari, Sumbul, Mohammad Masood etc. were present.

Bhagwat Geeta is world treasure of Indian religion and culture: Madhukarji Maharaj

Prayagraj: Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust and Kshatriya Sonar Youth Committee and Women's Society, on the occasion of the sixth day of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, organized by Shrimad Bhagwat Katha

gives the entire human world the experience of life and death and at the core of which is the vision of the great personality of Sachchidanand Lord Shri Krishna, who appears to the devotees in the form of love and devotion and

Gopi songs were sung related to the marriage of Lord Shri Krishna and Mata Rukmani. On this occasion, former councilor Umesh Chandra Jaiswal, Shashikant Jaiswal Pappu., Durga Prasad Gupta, Rohit Verma, Jai Ram Gupta,



at the Dham of Lord Jagannath Ji in Prayageshwar Nath, Kashiraj Nagar, while giving the devotees the relish of the story, Pujya Shri Vinay Priya Tripathi Madhukar Ji Maharaj said that Bhagwat Geeta is an encyclopedia of Indian religious culture. It

wants to attain Him because there is no power for them. The feeling is that Shri Krishna and Radhamay want to merge into the tide of Sachchidanand Sagar. Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani said that on this occasion, a tableau was presented in which

Women President Poonam Gupta, Kanhaiyalal Gupta, Rajesh Kesarwani, Triloki Kesarwani, Amar Rastogi, Indresh Nath Verma, Shivam Soni, Mrs. Kranti Johri, Rachna Verma, Asha Soni, Aarti was conducted by Rath Yatra coordinator Basant Lal Azad. On this occasion, Preeti Gupta, Arun Sahu, Sunil Arora, Shubham Aggarwal, Happy Kasera, Pawan Gupta, Ramlal Garg, Arun Sahu, Ajay Agrahari, etc. were present.

Supporters performed Rudrabhishek puja to commemorate re-birth of minister Nandi

Event organized in Shiv temple, wished for long life of minister Nandi

Prayagraj: Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, the Industrial Development Minister, Uttar Pradesh Government, who despite being badly injured in a fatal attack in 2010 while fighting for the interests of entrepreneurs and businessmen, came back to life by the grace of Lord Bholenath and the prayers of the people of Prayagraj. Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi's re-birth was celebrated with pomp by BJP officials, workers and supporters on Friday. At the ancient wish-fulfillment Shiv temple located in Bahadurganj Prayagraj, the supporters performed Rudrabhishek and worshiped and prayed for the long life of Minister Nandi. They celebrated the re-birth of Minister Nandi by offering special worship to Lord Bholenath. The minister ex-

pressed gratitude to God for resurrection even after the fatal attack. A large number of people participated in the puja to bless the revival of Minister Nandi. A large number of people took the Prasad.

It was the same day on July 12, 2010, when Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, the Cabinet Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government, who was fighting for the interests of businessmen and entrepreneurs and challenging the goons and mafias, was fatally attacked with an RDX remote bomb. The attack was so powerful that the entire city was shaken. In this deadly attack, a security personnel and a journalist were killed and Minister Nandi was seriously injured. After treatment that lasted for about seven months, Minister Nandi de-



Minister Nandi performed puja

Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, who reached Prayagraj late in the evening, reached the ancient wish-fulfillment Shiv temple in Bahadurganj and offered puja on his re-birth anniversary. Prostrated in the court of Lord Bholenath and wished for virtue and public welfare.

feated death and returned with the love and blessings of thousands of supporters and fans. Since then, 12th

July is being celebrated as Traders Courage Day in the entire state, because Minister Nandi not only raised

his voice against the hooligan tax collection and harassment of traders and entrepreneurs but also actively advocated for it. Due to which the fear spread among the traders was ending rapidly. This seemed like a challenge to the mafia. Because of which Minister Nandi was fatally attacked. On this occasion, Manoj Gupta, office in-charge Lallu Lal Gupta, Sumit Vaishya Mandal President Chowk, Dilip Kesarwani Mandal President Naini, Raghavendra Mishra Mandal President Kidganj, Manmohan Mishra, Sonu Singh, Ankur Aggarwal, Lokendra, Ashish Kushwaha, Rajesh, Atul Khanna, Lata, Upadhyay, Abha Dwivedi, Shivam Saxena, Rahul, Sandeep Srivastava, Ashish Kesarwani etc. were present.

Bishop Dan shots off letter to CM to quash filing of fake cases under pressure of paper leak gang

Prayagraj: Bishop Diocese of Lucknow Morris Edgar Dan has shot off a letter to chief minister seeking quashing of fake cases filed by paper leak gang. The letter reads as follows: "Apart from being the highest religious leader of the Diocese of Lucknow, I am also the Chairman of Ewing Christian College Prayagraj and St. Andrews Degree College Gorakhpur along with about two dozen prestigious schools of the state. The policy of zero tolerance towards crime by you and your government and the way strict punitive action is being taken against the gang of cheating mafias who leak papers in the competitive examinations being held in the state, in the same sequence, the exam organized by the Public Service Commission and exam results which were leaked by Center Administrator Arpit Vineet Jaswant from Bishop

Johnson Girls School Katra Prayagraj on 11/2/2024 in which S. T.F. was called for questioning by giving notice. S. T.F. taking strict action, Arpit Vineet Jaswant, who leaked the paper, was immediately arrested and sent to jail. Ever since I took charge, the teachers and staff of the school were complaining that Parul Solomon, the head of the paper leak gang, was hand in glove with Vineet Jaswant, with the intention of getting the paper leaked. Parul's father, whom your government has booked under the Gangster Act, with the connivance of someone who was imprisoned in Lucknow jail, Parul Solomon was made Principal in an irregular manner without any qualification."

"Upon investigation by me, it was found that the appointment of Parul Solomon was done illegally and for the purpose of leak-

ing the paper, against the rules of the Public Service Commission, Parul Solomon had illegally appointed Boys High School employee Arpit Vineet Jaswant to the center. An administrator was created so that the paper could be leaked easily. All the evidence of Parul Solomon's illegal appointment and her involvement in the paper leak case were made available to the police administration. But no action was taken by the police, after the investigation report came; Parul Solomon was dismissed from the post of Principal on 12/10/1023 as per the decision of the Society meeting."

"Despite the dismissal order, Parul Solomon, the leader of the paper leak gang, did not step down from the post under the pressure of Arpit Vineet Jaswant and the gang and despite being dismissed,

forcibly remained on the post and got the question paper leaked by taking part in the conspiracy, which the teachers of Bishop Johnson School can testify to. At the beginning of the new school session, when we along with all the principals went to take charge of the new Principal, Parul Solomon got her brother-in-law to lock the Principal's room from outside and sat inside and started tearing important forms from there. Feeling apprehensive, when we reached inside, a pre-planned fake video clip was made that she was molested and her clothes were torn and her purse and mobile were looted. While it is clearly visible in the video clip that her clothes are the same as before, she is laughing while leaving and she has both mobile and purse in her hand, yet the police registered a case against us while on the

spot. Police force was present and no incident happened in front of them.

Under the pressure of the paper leak gang, a fake case was filed against us, while no action is being taken against Parul Solomon and her associates, who embezzled crores of rupees of school teachers' salaries and PF. If the police harassment is not stopped by ending the fake cases registered against us, then we will be forced to close all the schools running across the state indefinitely. Therefore, it is a humble request that after taking cognizance of the said case, stop the police harassment by ending the fake cases registered against us under the pressure of paper leak mafia. Please take action against Parul Solomon in the case of paper leak case and embezzlement of teachers' salary/PF.

RPF/Prayagraj handed over child who ran away from home to Child Help Line

Prayagraj: Prayagraj the division is continuously engaged in providing continuous service through various campaigns for the pleasant and safe journey of the passengers. Railway Protection Force of Prayagraj Division, Mission Rail Suraksha, Operation Vigilant, Operation Narcos, Operation Matrashakti, Operation Life Saving, Operation Available, Operation Samaypalan, Operation Wildlife, Operation Unauthorized Vendor, Operation Sanraksha, Operation Meri Saheli and Operation Nanhe Farishte. The medium is doing commendable work. During the financial year 2023-24 in Prayagraj division, through Operation Nanhe Farishte campaign, 347 children were rescued from trains/railway zones and handed over to their families, NGOs and Child Welfare Committee.

Railway Protection Force/Prayagraj Junction Sub Inspector Gaurav, while patrolling the station premises, found a minor child near the ticket office located on the city side of Prayagraj Junction. On being interrogated by the Railway Protection Force, the child revealed his name as Karan, son of Sarvesh, address Kheripur, Faridabad. The child told that he ran away from home angry and he had to go to

Mumbai. His name, address and mobile number were written on the child's right hand, on contacting which the mother of the minor told that her child has gone away



from home in anger. The child was brought to Prayagraj Junction post by the Railway Protection Force and the Railway Child Line Prayagraj was informed about this. When the Railway Child Line staff reached the Railway Protection Force post, the child was handed over to the Railway Child Line.

Editorial

Putin did a surprise reshuffle

The President has chosen deputy prime minister and long-time economic advisor Andrei Belousov to replace Shoigu, who in turn has replaced Patrushev. The latter's new appointment remains unknown. The move is being seen as an effort to reduce the unsustainable and soaring costs of the war in Ukraine. It also challenges the narrative that the Russian economy is unaffected by the sanctions in the long-standing war. For 2024 alone, Putin has allocated \$117 billion for the special military operation against Ukraine. His war economy runs feverishly in an overheated mode. Most international estimates state that 7.5 per cent of Russia's GDP is directed to the military-industrial complex although Kremlin's official estimates claim it is 6.7 percent. It is a rare submission of a rising-cost problem from Putin, who had preferred to continue with his hunting-holidaying excursions pal Shoigu despite repeated allegations of systemic corruption and inefficiency against him for years. These allegations became the order of the day when mercenary group Wagner, led by Yevgeny Prigozhin, was brought to deliver victory in the infamous battle for Bakhmut in 2023. Putin's slighting of Prigozhin's outright allegations against Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov led to the incredible Wagner mutiny against the two generals, which ended up with Prigozhin's death in uncanny circumstances. It, however, unleashed an investigation into rampant corruption inside Russia's military leadership, of which Prigozhin had become the most notorious victim. Russia-watchers had an inkling of Shoigu's exit after Prigozhin and his aides were made to bid adieu to the flannel skies, and many corrupt links started to get exposed in the Ministry of Defence. The inkling became stronger as Shoigu's deputies, including Timur Ivanov, got arrested on corruption charges last month. Soon, two other deputy defence ministers allegedly backdated their resignations before 9 May, or the Soviet Victory Day. The Russian army was supposed to make an impressive win in Chasiv Yar on the eastern front but had to make do with American tanks captured at a small village called Berdychi when Ukrainians retreated, running out of ammunition to fire. All has certainly not been going as planned. The latest reshuffling in key defence and security offices has been Putin's biggest shake-up in the past 15 years. There are two reasons for this. One is ensuring economic efficiency at a time when the stakes are very high for Russia and Putin. And two, Shoigu's leadership has not been able to yield the anticipated results in the Ukraine war. His current appointment is a step-down with little direct authority. Getting an economist like Belousov in the key position of a defence minister also shows that Putin is preparing for the longer haul. It is a solemn reiteration that the Ukraine war has indeed been reduced to a grinding war of attrition, with both sides lacking the capabilities to end it anytime soon. Europe's combined strategies to support Kyiv militarily won't come to fruition until mid-2025. American aid and the conditionalities attached are likely to help Ukraine stay afloat, but not gain a decisive edge. That said, Russia, too, has been astonishingly lacklustre in exploiting the window of opportunity that had remained open for the last six months as Ukraine was outgunned and outnumbered with a lack of troops and ammunition. Despite the high intensity, war-economy mode with the reported 7.5 per cent of GDP directed to war effort.



Channelise the strength of the alliance

Though some point out that Kharage and not Nitish was foisted as the chair of the alliance, given his track record, the Bihar chief minister's opposition to the BJP was always suspect. The second move by the Congress has been to channelise the strength of the alliance partners to keep itself afloat. To this end, the Congress is contesting only 328 seats this time, significantly fewer than the 421 it contested in the 2019 polls. This number would have been 330, but one candidate's nomination papers were rejected in Surat, and another withdrew in Indore. This means that the Congress

in INDIA has created an alliance base that is much wider than that of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). This also means that the party has shrunk from the position of a dominant partner to a senior partner with some other members of the bloc like the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab not even entertaining an alliance. Those in charge of forging alliances for the Congress claim that this time the grouping is much more pragmatic than in 2019. Uttar Pradesh is a case in point. In 2019, the Congress went into the polls alone, with no major allies. Facing both

the BJP and the SP-BSP alliance, it contested 67 of the state's 80 seats but could win only one: Sonia Gandhi in Raebareli. This time, in alliance with the Samajwadi Party, it is contesting just 17 seats, down by 50. People close to poll planning point out that it has been done to conserve the party resources for more realistic contests. Similarly, in West Bengal, from contesting 40 seats in 2019, the Congress is taking on just 14 seats this time, giving the remaining Ones to its alliance partner, the Left. The Congress has extended its alliances with Left parties in Andhra Pradesh, giving the Araku seat to the

CPI(M) and Guntur to the CPI. It has also partnered with local parties in other states, such as ceding the Dibrugarh seat in Assam to the Assam Jatiya Parishad and allocating three seats to regional parties in Rajasthan. To avoid repeating past mistakes, the Congress allocated one seat to the Samajwadi Party in Madhya Pradesh. Ironically, the SP candidate's nomination papers were rejected, leading the Congress and SP to back a candidate running on the All India Forward Bloc symbol. Similar arrangements have been made in Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. How would this affect.

His reputation definitely changed, the reason for which is his clean image and saintly

In 2014, when Modi was running in the whole country, no one would have thought that a BJP leader would come in this way and by creating his own identity away from the allegations of corruption that are usually leveled on leaders, he would become famous among the people like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and became so famous that people started seeing him as the next Prime Minister. But when the five-time MP from Gorakhpur parliamentary seat, Mahant of Gorakhnath Bhaam Math and former MP, became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, which has the highest number of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats in the country, in 2017 at the age of 45, his reputation definitely changed, the reason for which is his clean image and saintly nature. It is usually said that no other face can become big in front of a big face, but Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has earned his stature through his work, law and order and his impeccable image that when it comes to the public, no one else can be compared to him in the party in the state. Actually, Chief Minister Adityanath is not only famous for his impeccable image, he is also famous for taking action



against the wrongdoers and working in the interest of the common people.

He is the first Chief Minister of the country, who, apart from being famous as a saint after becoming the Chief Minister, has also become famous as Kulchner Baba. He has also received the title of the most popular Chief Minister of the country. Chief Minister Adityanath has not only benefited the people of Uttar Pradesh, but has done excellent work under many development schemes on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government. And not only is his support base the strongest in Uttar Pradesh, but he is the main face of all the MLAs and ministers in his government, due to which he is able to take decisions in his government unopposed. He not only gave free hand to the police to deal with the criminals to

end the lawlessness in Uttar Pradesh, but also by ordering bullock carts to break the chains of those who grab property illegally, he created the image of a good Chief Minister in the minds of those people who eat simple food. Even today he finds immense joy in serving cows and used to sing Hindu Hriday Samrat. He is known as the image of Ram R Ram Rajya.

Apart from this, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has done major reforms in the pilgrimage places of Uttar Pradesh and has also given the names of places changed in the modern times to their historical names.

The old name of Allahabad Sangam was Prayagraj. It has got its own identity. The biggest Kumbh Mela of the country has been held in Prayagraj for centuries, but no one till the time of the state paid attention to its

development and improvement.

But after becoming the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath first got the Pracharagan renovated and the Prayagraj is worth seeing. Similarly, he has also developed many other places. Eastern Uttar Pradesh was once suffering in terms of development, now international level roads have been built there. Apart from this, his government has made efforts to provide water to every village. Now in Uttar Pradesh, whether it is the election of the Prime Minister, Assembly or Lok Sabha, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has a big and strong influence in the elections, on the basis of which BJP gets a good number of seats in every election. Actually, I am getting all this because many people are not aware of the stature of Chief Minister Aditya and his clean political record or it can be said that they are taking Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lightly. Yesterday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, after coming out of jail, held a press conference and said that as soon as Modi becomes the PM, he will finish Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Arvind Kejriwal said that PM Modi does not want to fight this election for the country or the party,

he wants to fight only for one person Amit Shah. He said that he will remove Yogi Adityanath from power next time. Sources say that after Arvind Kejriwal's statement of removing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the game of checkmate and checkmate started in the coin division, and it also revealed who all are in the race for the post of Prime Minister in BJP. According to the number of supporters and impeccable record, Yogi Adityanath is the youngest leader in India who has the capability to become the Prime Minister after Modi.

But due to past experience and the decision of the Central Government to ignore the decisions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the formation of the cabinet, rumours spread that the Gujarat lobby does not like Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. But now the supporters of Uttar Pradesh are angry with the Chief Minister of Delhi saying this and due to this the Gujarat lobby has started doing something and Chief Minister Yogi has intensified his strategy by drawing his Laxman Rekha.

And there are such political experts that if Gujarat Chief Minister does not help, then BJP will be able to get only 30-40 seats in Uttar Pradesh.

Milestone. With its presence in Chabahar, India aims to circumvent reliance

After extensive negotiations, India and Iran have finally sealed a historic 10-year bilateral agreement for the operation of the strategically located Chabahar Port on the Gulf country's eastern coast. While India initially engaged in short-term agreements with Iran starting in 2016, the newly inked deal marks a significant milestone. With its presence in Chabahar, India aims to circumvent reliance on Pakistan's ports in Karachi and Gwadar, facilitating smoother access to landlocked Afghanistan and other Central Asian nations via Iran.

This deal has a lot of economic significance for India. Despite the nation's preoccupation with the ongoing Lok Sabha election, the

Narendra Modi government's decisive action, including the special permission reportedly obtained from the Election Commission of India (EC) to dispatch a central minister to Iran, underscores the paramount importance of this deal for the nation's strategic interests and economic dynamics, this deal is a major achievement for India and a testament to Modi's personal diplomacy. It marks our first step into managing overseas ports and serves as a strategic move against the emerging

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Its timing, amid the chaos in West Asia disrupting important trade routes, makes it even more significant.

Furthermore, beyond these tangible benefits, India's diplomatic success shines through the forging of successful ties with conflicted powers. Its diplomatic success is evident in its ability to foster friendly relations with Israel while extending support to Palestine. Simultaneously, New Delhi adeptly navigates deepening ties with the United States and successfully negotiates with Iran, showcasing its diplomatic prowess. Meanwhile, our long-standing partnerships with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, and Japan continue to flourish. India's leadership roles in the G20 forum and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) highlight that its diplomacy is actually working.

A sign of serious concern

These figures have been in the public domain for the last five years, still, it is amazing that in this country, we have some eminent journalists and political commentators misinterpreting the 2019 election as mostly decided on the basis of Pulwama and Balakot. Coming to the 2024 elections, Lokniti-CSDS released a pre-poll survey in April where the data pointed out that the satisfaction level towards the Modi government has seen a dip of around 8.1 per cent — a sign of serious concern for the BJP. Increasing unemployment (12.2 per cent), price rise (7.6 per cent) and falling income (4.1 per cent) are some of the crucial issues in the survey that matter to voters. The pre-poll survey also points out that there is an increase of around 5 per cent in support for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi — 26.5 per cent — as the next prime minister compared to the 2019 pre-poll survey. Interestingly, there is also a 2 per cent increase in support for Narendra Modi — 47.5 per cent — as the next prime minister. This is despite 10 years of anti-incumbency. Many journalists and political commentators are seen discussing that Ram Mandir in Ayodhya isn't a poll issue. First of all, this isn't an issue for a particular election — Ram Mandir is a sentiment for the Hindus. That said, it's still an issue in this election. According

to the pre-poll survey, for 7.5 per cent of voters, Ram Mandir is an important issue when they vote, with an additional 2.3 per cent of voters separately pointing to Hindutva as an important issue when they vote. Clearly, the BJP's Hindutva agenda remains a significant factor for 9.8 per cent of voters in this election, though a small fraction of them may be anti-Hindutva voters. Unemployment remains the most important issue for voters — 27.3 per cent — when they vote. However, it is wrong to conclude that all voters citing unemployment as an important issue are necessarily anti-BJP voters. If they vote for the Modi-led BJP, liberals and Leftists label them as being "blind" towards basic issues like unemployment and price rise. Interestingly, according to the pre-poll survey, 9.1 per cent of voters cited employment as the most liked work of the Modi government — the second most liked factor after Ram Mandir. This means that there is a section that believes that although unemployment is a burning issue, the Modi government has been working to address it. After unemployment, price rise has been cited by 23.4 per cent of voters as an important factor. However, it's worth noting that despite price rise being an important issue during the 2009 elections, the

Congress-led UPA came to power with an increased number of seats. This is not to deny the disillusionment of voters towards the Modi government on price rise. However, welfare schemes, cited by 18.1 per cent of voters as the biggest change since Modi became prime minister, and infrastructure-related works are likely to aid the government, lessening the impact of this disillusionment and preventing it from converting into votes against the BJP-led NDA. Liberals and Leftists aren't happy with Narendra Modi's election speeches targeting Congress-led Opposition for Muslim appeasement. They argue that this is not a significant issue. While the Congress manifesto does not discuss wealth redistribution, the CSDS-Lokniti pre-poll survey suggests that concerns about policies targeting Muslim communities resonate with some voters. The survey found that 47.3 per cent of voters agreed that Muslims are unnecessarily pampered, compared to 32.2 per cent who disagreed, while 20.4 per cent chose not to respond. Modi's speeches on Muslim appeasement, targeting the Opposition, particularly Congress, aim to address the concerns of these voters, close to 50 per cent of those surveyed, while also appealing to undecided voters.

The top IT services businesses' collective gross hiring declined



Delhi: LinkedIn and other leading job sites said that top IT services companies' active hiring rose to 82,000 in March from 50,000 in January, the first growth in 20 months. However, due to declining attrition, the top IT services businesses' collective gross hiring declined 4-6% QoQ in the quarter ending March, according to Xpheno's study for ET based on talent movement patterns in January-March. Wipro, Infosys, TCS, HCL, LTI Mindtree, L&T Technology Services, Tech Mahindra, and Cognizant were exam-

ined. "While gross hiring (attrition refills and fresh hiring) has been low and declining for eight quarters, the current rise in active demand denotes a return of hiring for capacity in the ITS cohort," Anil Ethanur, co-founder of X Gross hiring volume for the quarter ending March 2024 may be the lowest in over two years due to the 4-6% reduction.

Despite the drop in gross hiring, fewer exits will result in a lower headcount degrowth than last quarter "and IT sector consultants said FY25

discussions are still focused on bench dilution, automation, efficiency, and targeted hiring in niche areas like AI and GenAI due to macroeconomic uncertainty and few signs of demand recovery.

"IT services bellwethers will be cautious in FY25 talent acquisition as they focus on profits. Even if some regions are showing signs of improvement, overall demand signals are poor and do not indicate a spending comeback in the next two quarters.

Will invest if EV GST stays 5% for 10 years: Mercedes-Benz

Delhi: Mercedes-Benz, one of the first major carmakers to show interest in the government's new EV policy, said it would invest \$500 million "provided it gets an assurance that the current 5% GST regime for electrics will continue for a decade." "We must determine its logic. The tax advantage of 5% GST on EVs must last ten years for investments to be made "Mercedes India MD & CEO Santosh Iyer. "We'll start with a business case.

No commercial case exists today." Mercedes was one of the first multinational automakers to invest in electric



mobility in India and is developing six green automobiles. The company's electric lineup comprises the EQS limousine, EQB MPV, and EQE SUV. Cars are made in its plant outside Pune. The company is introducing its smallest electric SUV, the EQA, and planning the EQS Maybach and electric G Class green SUVs. Iyer said the company

hopes the government would use tax incentives to promote green mobility in India. "On our part, we will do everything possible to accelerate the transition to EVs through our six models." Iyer said firms and service providers must work together to build a dense EV charging network. In addition, like the telecom industry and cell tower sharing, electric charger infrastructure may be common and pooled.

Iyer said the government should encourage EVs as India goes toward carbon neutrality.

Small business payment rules to change by centre

Delhi: An exporter in Chennai with multiple units was forced to deregister one of its entities on Udyam, the portal for micro, small, and medium enterprises, because some large buyers did not want to be caught in a government mandate requiring actual payment of

all dues to MSMEs within 45 days to claim tax deduction for expenditure. Several small businesses across the country are protesting that the government's well-intentioned attempt to ensure prompt payments is being used against them since they have little leverage in

negotiating with large enterprises that set pricing and payment terms. Others argued the standards were against business practices in particular sectors or in specific parts of the country where 60-90-day payments are common.

CAPSULES

375 million subscribers' details are reportedly for sale, however Bharti Airtel disputes any data breach

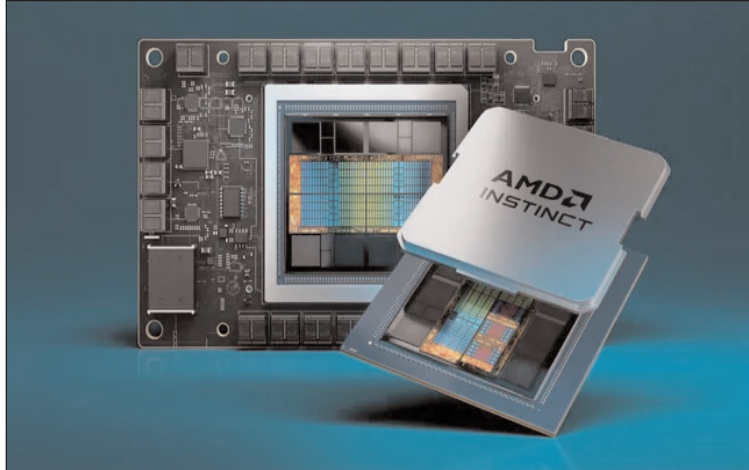
Delhi: In the midst of accusations of a significant consumer data leak, telecom giant Bharti Airtel has denied any security system compromise. A claim has surfaced suggesting that there has been a compromise of Airtel customer data. This is nothing more than vested interests' desperate attempt to damage Airtel's brand. An Airtel representative clarified the rumors of a data breach that have been circulating since yesterday, telling Moneycontrol, "We have done a thorough investigation and can confirm that there has been no breach whatsoever from Airtel systems." Unverified claims claimed that the Aadhaar number, phone number, email address, and address of 375 million Airtel subscribers were out for grabs on the dark web. Moneycontrol was unable to confirm the veracity of the report on the data leak. A database was purportedly offered for sale on a dark web forum by a threat actor going by the handle "xenZen," who apparently demanded \$50,000 for the material.

Ola leaves Google Maps and relocates to its own Maps Ola

Delhi: The ride-hailing company Ola has replaced its Google Maps integration in its app with its own internal map system, Ola Maps, according to a statement made by CEO and founder Bhavish Aggarwal. Aggarwal claimed in a post on X that the action had allowed the business to save Rs 100 crore a year.

Set up a cluster of 25,000 GPUs

Delhi: According to media reports, the Indian government is considering a public-private partnership (PPP) to set up a cluster of 25,000 GPUs (graphic processing units) for Indian companies working on AI and other emerging technologies that require high computing capacity. The Ministry of Electronics and IT is debating the INR 8,000-10,000 crore plan at the highest levels. Indian AI startups, corporations, and CEOs have urged the government to invest in scarce and expensive processing resources. Experts say the proposal will keep Indian data sovereign. They added many in the business have been using foreign clouds because GPUs are scarce in



India. One of Meity's seven AI working groups recommended a 25,000 GPU cluster, reports said. Data and people capital are abundant in India due to many digital changes, according to experts. India needs at least 25,000 GPUs for supercom-

puting to compete in the global AI race. The 75th fastest supercomputer in the world, India's 'Airawat' at C-DAC in Pune, has 640 GPUs. Worldwide, the fastest supercomputers have over 30,000 GPUs. The official said the government

will invite private companies to set up GPUs here through the usual tendering process after finalizing the project.

If they had a 1,000 GPU cluster instantly, AI businesses in the country may attract more funding, experts claimed. While the government considers this suggestion, recent agreements between Nvidia, Reliance Jio, and Tata Sons may provide entrepreneurs with computing infrastructure. Experts also said India needs fast supercomputers, and companies are looking at government programs to develop gigantic supercomputers and enterprises to train large language models (LLMs) in numerous Indian languages.

Optiemus Infra, a contract maker of electronics, would invest Rs 140 crore

Delhi: To grow and provide drone manufacturing services to the agriculture, mapping, and allied industries, Optiemus Unmanned Systems, a subsidiary of Optiemus Infra, a contract maker of electronics, would invest Rs 140 crore. According to chairman Ashok Gupta, the company is localizing parts and components in order to reach 75% indigenization by the end of the fiscal year.

If interest rates



were high right now, would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit?

"We are set to leverage our expertise in drone technology to offer a cost-effective and efficient solution for agricultural and defence needs," Gupta stated.

The Law Tribunal advised Byju's to have its finances reviewed

Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal advised Byju's to have its finances reviewed to determine if it can pay its employees. The court ruled that Byju's is still operating and must generate revenue to pay salaries while hearing a group of employees' request for unpaid wages. The court ordered the firm to establish its incapacity to pay or face an audit. The remarks were part of the arguments, and no decision has been made. Byju's didn't comment. Several Byju employees haven't been paid for February and March. In an earlier letter to staff, founder and CEO Byju Raveendran stated a few investors' deci-



sion to prevent the company from using rights issue funds had delayed salary payments. Byju's laid off 500 workers and closed most of its offices in April.

In an interim order in late February, the NCLT ordered the company to keep all \$200 million rights issue funds in a separate escrow account and not withdraw them until the mismanagement and oppression suit filed by a section of

investors against the company's management was resolved. Since the start, Byju's investors Prosus, Peak XV Partners, Sofina, and General Atlantic have opposed the rights offer and are believed to have appealed the Karnataka high court's recent decision to lift the NCLT stay on its second rights sale. Discover how frozen accounts affect employee compensation at Byjus in Karnataka.

Air cargo from India increases amid Red Sea crisis, aiming for 10 mn tonnes by 2030



Delhi: Air freight from India has more than doubled since the Red Sea crisis, allowing the country to reach its 2030-31 goal of transporting 10 million tonnes (MT) of air cargo. India's air freight peaked at above 3.5 MT in 2017-18 and has recovered from COVID-19. President of the Air Cargo Forum of India (ACFI) Yashpal Sharma stressed the significance of minimizing trans-shipment carriage times and allowing foreign freighter

aircraft to reach numerous Indian destinations. Air transport accounts for less than 2% of worldwide freight. A half-percent adjustment will improve aviation cargo volumes after the Red Sea crisis. India has a huge chance but must address the hurdles, especially speeding up trans-shipment, which takes 2-2.5 days "Sharma stated Thursday at the ACFI Annual Conclave 2024 in New Delhi. India's air freight sector is unique, with foreign

imports, exports, and domestic cargo each accounting for one-third of volume. Less than 15% of aviation cargo is carried by freighters; most is in passenger planes' bellies. Freighter aircraft numbers fluctuated, according to aviation ministry senior economic advisor Piyush Srivastava. Before COVID, India had six freighters. This number grew to 28 during the pandemic as airlines shifted passenger planes to cargo.

South Korea's antitrust regulator is poised to punish Google (NASDAQ:GOOGL)



Delhi: South Korea's antitrust regulator is poised to punish Google (NASDAQ:GOOGL) for improperly bundling its premium service with its premium membership program, authorities. Since February last year, the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) has conducted an on-site investigation into whether the tech giant violated fair transaction rules by offering YouTube Music to Ad-free YouTube premium members without further charges. After a

months-long inquiry, the FTC presented a review report calling for Google's punishment before a plenary meeting, Yonhap News Agency reports. Officials said the examination focused on whether Google abused its market dominance by deploying such a technique and limited fair competition in the industry. Some argue that bundling has increased YouTube subscribers but limited consumers' choices and unfairly hurt other music streamers.

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 chal-

lenges 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 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 Janata 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®, Tection®, 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

AGR.

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 subsection (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 reservation the basis of 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.

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

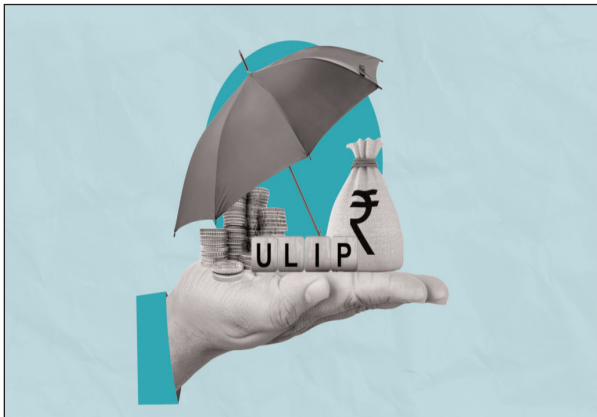
Delhi: The GST Council is considering amending GST legislation regarding extra neutral alcohol (ENA), a highly pure alcohol used in liquor manufacture but not for direct consumption. These revisions explain that ENA should not be GST-taxable, which could relieve the spirits industry by avoiding dual 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 any 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-

Unveiling Hyundai India Couture Week 2024

New Delhi : Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated edition of Hyundai India Couture Week in association with Reliance Brands, set to grace the heart of the capital from July 24 to July 31, 2024, at the iconic Taj Palace, New Delhi. This year marks the continuation of the exciting partnership with Hyundai Motor India Limited and Reliance Brands, promising a fusion of innovation and tradition as India's foremost designers come together to unveil their exclusive collections, celebrating the enchanting realm of artisanal finesse and enduring narratives, each piece lovingly crafted by hand. This year's Hyundai India Couture Week is a celebration of master artisans who bring Indian fashion to life. Through their unique collections, designers will share stories that pay homage to the rich cultural tapestry of our nation, while highlighting the traditional and handcrafted elements that make each piece truly special. With a lineup of 14 esteemed Indian couturiers - Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla, Amit



Aggarwal, Dolly J, Falguni Shane Peacock, Gaurav Gupta Couture, Jayanti Reddy, JJ Valaya, Kunal Rawal, Rahul Mishra, Rimzim Dadu, Roseroom by Isha Jajodia, Siddhartha Tyter, Suneet Varma, and Tarun Tahliani - this edition of Hyundai India Couture Week promises a mesmerizing display spread over 8 days. Commenting on the event, Mr. Tarun Garg, COO, Hyundai Motor India Limited, said, "We are thrilled to continue our association with the Indian Couture Week for the second year in a row. Aligned with our parent company, Hyundai Motor Company's vision of 'Progress for Humanity', we aim to create newer and unique experiences for our customers in India. This partnership with ICW is a testament to our commitment of supporting artisans and the

diverse cultural heritage of India. With ICW, we aim to integrate the essence of creativity and fashion and demonstrate the amalgamation of Hyundai's magnificent product design and outstanding engineering. We are excited to witness the collection of extraordinary designers at the show." Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCI commented "We are honored to partner once again with Hyundai and Reliance Brands for the 17th edition of Hyundai India Couture Week. This event is a testament to the rich heritage and extraordinary craftsmanship of Indian fashion. Through this edition of Couture Week, we aim to not only celebrate the visionary artistry of our designers but also spotlight the timeless beauty and cultural significance of handcrafted couture.

Indkal Technologies to Launch Smartphones

Hisar/Ambala: Indkal Technologies, a leading technology company in India, today announced its foray into the smartphone market under a trademark licensing agreement with Acer Incorporated, a global ICT giant, known for its innovative technology and exceptional products. Under this agreement, Indkal will design, manufacture and distribute smartphones under the Acer brand in India. This strategic deal marks the introduction of Acer-branded smartphones into the Indian market, heralding a new era of innovation and expansion. Indkal Technologies will launch a wide range

of smartphone models under the Acer brand in mid-2024, expecting to quickly build strong momentum and a significant market share. This effort highlights Acer's brand strength and Indkal's commitment to delivering premium-quality products to Indian consumers, featuring robust specifications, cutting-edge hardware and advanced software technologies. Anand Dubey, CEO of Indkal Technologies, expressed his excitement, "Acer smartphones are something we have been working on for a couple of years and we are ecstatic to finally

announce the foray. With Acer smartphones, we are certain that Indian consumers are in for a treat. Our customers will experience exceptionally well-designed smartphones with high end processors, top notch camera technology and a host of premium features across the range. The best part is that all Acer-branded smartphones will be designed and manufactured in India, which is also a unique achievement for Indkal". Jade Zhou, VP of Global Strategic Alliances at Acer Incorporated, added, "Since its establishment in 1987, the Acer brand mission.

Bournvita and Other Drinks Will No Longer Be Listed as "Health Drinks"

Delhi ; The Central Government ordered all e-commerce sites to remove all so-called drinks and beverages, including the well-known milk supplement Bournvita, from the 'healthy drinks' category, dealing a severe blow to fitness drink businesses. The National Commission

for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) undertook an investigation and came to the conclusion that the FSS Act of 2006 did not specify a health drink, thus the Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued the order. "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR), a

statutory body constituted under Section (3) of the Commission of Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 after its inquiry under Section 14 of CRPC Act 2005 concluded that there is no 'health drink' defined under FSS Act 2006, rules and regulations submitted by FSSAI.

Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks

Delhi: To reduce dust pollution and increase green cover, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to plant 2.3 lakh trees and 3.8 lakh bushes in parks, schools, open spaces, and roadsides this year. In 2023-24, the city planted two lakh trees and 3.25 lakh plants. The horticulture department requested zonal office requirements to complete the assignment. "We will plant when the details are acquired. An officer stated schools, hospitals, parks, and below flyovers are used for this. He stated that the



government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request. MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to

reduce dust. Between April 2023 and February 2024, 139 km of roads were resurfaced or repaired. A civic council wants to resurface 180km of roads by Oct. Road

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

Delhi: Delhi Development Authority would give residents' welfare societies maintenance work within a year of creation to ensure flat maintenance. This will also apply to Diwali Special Housing Scheme 2023 units. This conclusion followed Real Estate Regulatory Authority criteria. A maintenance fee is normally collected by DDA during allotment. It has maintained flats for 10-20 years, depending on the scheme. A DDA official stated that applicants must join the registered



agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges for one year or until

RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals "said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated

to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority defined maintenance as green space maintenance, campus, colony, and housing pocket cleaning, light fitting replacement in common areas, lift maintenance and operation, and common area electrical bill payment. "After transfer, the urban authority will be responsible for common areas in many housing pockets.

DPCC issues SOP to seize, dispose of plastic

Delhi: The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has a regular operating system for seizing and disposing of unlawful plastic items sold or used in the city. According to the amended plastic waste management laws, illegal plastic will be defined and DPCC staff will investigate various



locations. It said that only a waste-to-energy plant would dispose of seized plastic products including polyethylene, earphones, silverware, etc. The DPCC seizure procedure requires a team of authorities to take samples of plastic carry bags and sheets from the unit during inspection of all producers, importers, and brand owners and include them in the report. Teams must seize, transport, and store non-authorized

plastic objects at the DPCC lab until disposal. "The unit owner/occupier must pay for seizure, loading/unloading, transportation, storage, waste-to-energy plant disposal, etc. A recent DPCC portal document indicated that the team would take geotagged photos and video of the seized samples and the full seizure procedure of banned/non-permissible stuff. It said that "all the seized non-permissible.

Leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space

Delhi: A month after opening its first engineered landfill in Tehkhand, Municipal Corporation of Delhi assigned its operation and maintenance to an experienced agency. The civic authority noted that managing the leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space, and most significantly, leveling ash from two waste-to-energy plants—Okhla and Tehkhand—requires competence. The site can hold 10 lakh tonnes of ash, and 12,000 tonnes have been dumped. "While the horticulture department has planted a 30-meter strip around the designed landfill, the weighing bridge, roads, and drains need a dedicated system for maintenance. Leachate treatment plant operation will



also be monitored by the agency "official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of conduct is lifted. MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five

layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully. Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash "Source: official. The

landfill's operating terms require MCD to deploy a liner every time ash is added to reduce dust pollution. "An constructed landfill cost Rs 42.3 crore and was inaugurated last month. The urban local body contributes 53.3%, the Centre 35%, and the state 11.7% to this budget. MCD gets Rs 300 per tonne for ash dumping. Here, 400 tonnes of ash are deposited everyday.

Currency circulation increases despite 2k note ban

Delhi: Despite the elimination of Rs 2,000 banknotes, the currency in circulation increased by Rs 1.3 lakh crore in FY24 from Rs 33.5 lakh crore at the end of March 2023 to Rs 34.8 lakh crore. Growth has slowed the most since 2018. In FY24, currency in circulation as a proportion of GDP fell since 4% is slower than GDP growth. CIC grew 7% last year and over 10% the year before due to a pandemic cash rush. Currency in circulation grew 0.5% to Rs 35.3 lakh crore in the week ended April 5. RBI data shows that the increased issue of Rs 500 notes has more than offset the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 notes. ON May 19, 2023, RBI announced their withdrawal. In March 2024, Rs 2,000 notes were worth Rs 8,202 crore, down from Rs 3.6 lakh crore a year earlier. The value of Rs 500 notes rose to Rs 30.1 lakh crore from 25.8 lakh crore a year before.