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

Vote for 'dynastic' NC-Congress, PDP to serve Pakistan's intentions in J&K: Amit Shah

JAMMU: Union home minister Amit Shah cautioned Thursday that electing candidates from the NC-Congress alliance and PDP in the ongoing J&K assembly elections would play into Pakistan's hands. "If they get elected, Pakistan will celebrate," he said, addressing a BJP campaign rally at Chenani in Udhampur district for the third and final phase of polling on Oct 1. Alleging that the three "dynastic" parties are responsible for 40 years of terrorism in J&K, during which he said 40,000 people were killed and 3,000 days were lost to bandhs and curfews. Shah said PM Narendra Modi's government has brought down terrorism-related violence, but NC and PDP seek to revive it. "Whatever be your wish, terrorism will be eradicated forever from Kashmir. I want to tell (NC vice president) Omar Abdullah that despite his desire, we will bury terrorism deep down under the earth and it will never



'On PM's order, BJP killing ...': AAP's Sisodia attacks Delhi LG's order

NEW DELHI: Former Delhi deputy CM and AAP leader Manish Sisodia launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP on Thursday, accusing them of "killing democracy" in the Delhi Municipal Corporation. Sisodia's remarks came in response to an order from Delhi LG VK Saxena, directing the immediate completion of the election for the final member of the MCD Standing Committee by 10 pm. "Tonight, on the orders

of PM Narendra Modi, the BJP is killing democracy in the Delhi Municipal Corporation," said Sisodia. He alleged that the BJP had prior knowledge of the LG's directive and had strategically kept its councillors in the MCD House while AAP and Congress members were absent. Sisodia also criticised the sudden nature of the directive, stating that Mayor Shelly Oberoi had already adjourned the House until October 5 due to chaos during the election process.

come back," he said. "There is only one sym-

bol to eradicate terrorism. That symbol is

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IIT Delhi's Technology & AI Leadership Programme prepares future tech innovators. In an era of technology and artificial intelligence reshaping industries at an unprecedented pace, tech leadership has emerged as a critical success factor. With 70% of CEOs planning increased investments in new technologies and AI, and over half of Indian CEOs predicting revenue growth from Generative AI, the need for strategic, innovative leadership has never been more pressing.

These are the first assembly elections in a decade in J&K and since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and the subsequent bifurcation of the region into two Union territories, including Ladakh.

Parliament standing committees formed: Rahul Gandhi on committee of defence, B

NEW DELHI: Department-related standing committees of Parliament were announced on Thursday. The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) B Mahtab will now helm the panel on finance. Crucial committees of external affairs will be chaired by Congress' Shashi Tharoor and home will be led by BJP's Radha Mohan Das Agarwal. Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, is a member of the committee on defence. The name of Sonia Gandhi, the UPA chairperson, does not appear in any of the committees. BJP's Radha Mohan Singh will head the defence committee. Sunil Tatkare, the lone NCP Lok Sabha member, will be heading the panel on Petroleum and Natural Gas, while Shrirang Appa Barne of the Shiv Sena will lead the committee on energy. Former minister Anurag Thakur also found a position and will chair parliamentary panel on coal, mines



'Is this the end of my YouTube career?': Ranveer Allahbadia 'celebrates death of BeerBiceps'

YouTube Ranveer Allahbadia fell victim to a major cyber attack targeting his YouTube channels. Hackers seized control of his main channel, "Beer Biceps," altering its name to "Tesla" and modifying the to "@Elon.trump.tesla_liv

e2024." The breach also affected his Allahbadia's personal channel as well, which was rebranded as "@Tesla. event.trump_2024." After the incident, YouTube removed the channels from its platform.

and steel. Committee on education will be led by Congress' Digvijay Singh. One committee each will be headed by major BJP allies such as the TDP and Janata Dal (United), as well as its partners in the poll-bound Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena and the

NCP. The committee on transport, tourism and culture will be headed by Sanjay Jha of the JD(U), while the committee on Housing and Urban Affairs will be chaired by Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy of the TDP.

'Raped me in Vidhana Soudha, his car': Woman in complaint against BJP MLA Munirathna

NEW DELHI: The woman who has filed a case against BJP MLA N Munirathna Naidu in Karnataka has mentioned in her complaint to the police that the lawmaker allegedly raped her inside the state assembly, Vidhan Soudha, and also inside his government-issued car, police sources told news agency PTI. Munirathna, MLA from Karnataka's RR Nagar constituency, who was in judicial custody following his arrest in connection with a rape and honey-trap case, has now been taken into the custody of the Special Investigation Team (SIT). The BJP legislator, however, has denied all the allegations, claiming they are false.

Zerodha CTO Kailash Nadh: I have stopped using Google for....

NEW DELHI: Zerodha chief technical officer (CTO) Kailash Nadh said that he has stopped using Google and other search engines for technical queries. Instead, he "depends on Claude or GPT-4 for technical debugging." In an interview with Money Control, Nadh said "the idea, especially for technical people, of web search as a medium for finding answers is dying." "However, new engineers should not depend on GPT to generate code without understanding it. In the short term, it'll work because these things do produce great code but I don't think it'll automatically make them good engineers without learning the fundamentals," he further added.

He said that generating code is just one aspect of designing a piece of technology. The other aspect, he noted, is understanding the essence of why something is being built. "You have to understand consumer expectations. You have to take bets. You have to factor in business considerations. You have to factor in human psychology." The CTO further stated "In the very long run — decades or centuries — perhaps these things won't matter anymore as software and technology mature as disciplines but in the medium term, they will absolutely matter." On impact on mental health after coming back to office. When asked about his statement that the team's mental health has improved after coming back to the office, Nadh said "the gist of it is that Zerodha's history, culture, and way of working is built on well-balanced interpersonal relationships within teams that fuel collaboration." "We have always hired people for these traits, and not traits that are essential for remote work.

India climbs to 39th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2024

NEW DELHI: India has ranked 39th out of 133 economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, according to a report by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization. This marks an improvement from last year, when the country was ranked 40th. "India rises to 39th position among 133 global economies in the Global Innovation Index 2024," com-



merce and industry minister Piyush Goyal announced in a post on the social media platform X. He said that India's innovation landscape continues to thrive, driven by innovators and

entrepreneurs. The improvement in the GI ranking is attributed to India's knowledge capital, a dynamic start-up ecosystem, and the remarkable contributions of both public

and private research organizations. The index highlighted that India currently leads the lower-middle-income group, having outperformed on innovation for the 14th consecutive year. According to WIPO's Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, the world's most innovative economies include Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, Singapore.

Biden gives 'salesman' Zelenskyy more weapons as Trump fumes about US getting suckered

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Thursday announced an \$8 billion "surge" in "security assistance" to Ukraine, including supply of a glide bomb that will enhance Kyiv's strike capability against Russia. Moscow has warned that use of missiles that can strike deep into Russia could trigger nuclear retaliation. The White House announcement of the military aid, which came ahead of Zelenskyy's meeting with Biden and Kamala Harris in Washington, drew a furious response from the MAGA leadership and its rank and file, which is accusing the Ukrainian leader of bilking American taxpayers and lead-



ing the US into a world war. MAGA supremo Donald Trump denounced Zelenskyy as the "greatest salesman in history" saying at a rally that "every time he comes into the country, he walks away with \$60 billion," while arguing the US is stuck in the Ukraine-Russia war and will not be able to get out unless he becomes president. "Biden and Kamala -got us into this war in Ukraine, and now

they can't get us out. I think that we're stuck in that war unless I'm president. I'll get it done. I'll get it negotiated, I'll get out. We gotta get out. Biden says, 'We will not leave until we win.' What happens if they win?" Trump, who is seen as a Russian stooge by Washington's establishment traditionalists, said at a rally. "Zelenskyy's only strategy for victory is to embroil us in

World War III. And VP Harris is all for it," Trump's surrogate Robert Kennedy Jr tweeted, as MAGA principals raged at the Ukrainian leader being flown to Pennsylvania on a US military plane to visit a munitions factory, and subsequently making remarks critical of Trump's running mate JD Vance, which MAGA surrogates claimed is tantamount to election interference. While many MAGA associates are transparently pro-Russia, Kamala Harris too is openly playing for the votes of 800,000 Polish-Americans in Pennsylvania, a battleground state. Poland is Ukraine's neighbor and fears Russia.

Musk's wealth surpasses McDonald's and Pepsi, soars to \$270 billion

Elon Musk, the world's wealthiest person, has seen his fortune rise dramatically in 2023, with his net worth reaching \$270 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Musk's wealth has surged by over \$100 billion since April, marking an extraordinary rebound following a significant dip earlier in the year. **Elon Musk's wealth is more than McDonald's and Pepsi**



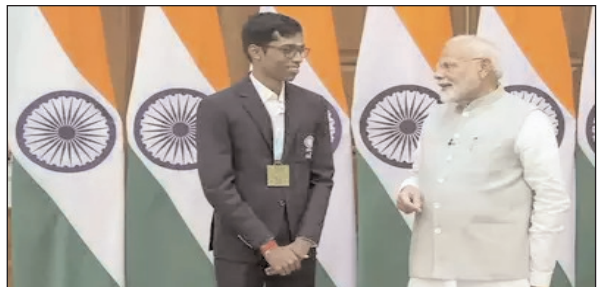
At the beginning of the year, Musk's net worth was \$229 billion. However, by April, his fortune had plummeted to \$164 billion due to a sharp 40% drop in Tesla's stock price. Investors expressed concerns

over Tesla's performance, including disappointing delivery numbers in the first quarter of the year, and challenges from rising interest rates and increasing competition from Chinese automakers like BYD. These factors, combined with price cuts that impacted Tesla's profit margins, caused a dip in Musk's wealth. The tide began to turn for as shares rebounded by over 80% from their April low.

Bengaluru woman Mahalakshmi's suspected killer dies by suicide in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: A man suspected of killing a 29-year-old woman in Bangalore and stuffing her dismembered body in a fridge before fleeing to his hometown allegedly died by suicide in Odisha's Bhadrak town on Wednesday, police said. The manhunt launched by Karnataka police in Odisha to arrest Mukti Ranjan Ray, 30, for the brutal murder of 29-year-old Mahalakshmi on September 21, met an unexpected setback. Ray, 30, allegedly hanged himself from a tree, fearing arrest, police said. Sources said Ray left behind a suicide note, purportedly confessing to the gruesome crime in Bangalore. After a post-mortem.

'Conversation with PM Modi went over an hour': Chess Olympiad gold medallist R Praggnanandhaa



NEW DELHI: Indian chess grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa expressed his elation following the team's gold medal win at the 45th Chess Olympiad. Reflecting on the achievement, he stated, "Our goal in the Olympiad was to win the gold. This is a historic achievement. We are all very happy with the way we have played. For both men and women, winning the gold is a special experience." Praggnanandhaa highlighted the sig-

nificance of the victory, emphasizing the hard work and dedication that led to this milestone for Indian chess. The achievement marks a pivotal moment, showcasing the rising talent and competitive spirit within the country's chess community. One of the memorable highlights of the experience was the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Meeting PM Modi was a very good experience, and we had a conversation for over.

SP means a party full of demerits; Keshav Prasad Maurya

Mainpuri: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Thursday slammed the Opposition, saying that under the rule of SP, BSP and Congress, only hooliganism and plunder took place in the state. "Samajwadi Party means a party full of demerits. For this reason, the national president of this party, Akhilesh Yadav, has reached the sky of arrogance," he commented.

The Deputy CM, who participated in the Lakhpati Didi Gram Chaupal organized in village Simrau of Karhal area, said that, "Today work is being done for the development of people. In the SP government, votes were taken by intimidating voters, but now people have no need to fear them". He however admitted that due to increase in political strength of SP by winning more seats in Lok Sabha elections, the strength of the criminals too has also increased. But the BJP government in the state is ready to take strict action against the goons, he asserted.

Maurya said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government at the Center and the state led by Yogi

Adityanath is continuously working in the interest of the public. On the question of transfers of officers, he said that if SP President Akhilesh Yadav has any complaint or problem, he should tell the government. The opposition people indulge in politics of appeasement and we do politics for the development of all, he said.

"The previous governments did not do any work in the interest of villages, poor and farmers. But the central and state governments are continuously bringing new schemes for their upliftment. Under the Har Ghar Jal Yojana, pure drinking water is being provided to every village," he claimed, further adding, earlier there was a crisis of drinking water in any locality and people used to complain to their representative, but now this problem has been completely eliminated. "Ration is being provided to every household under the Anna Yojana. Under Ayushman Yojana, free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh is being provided," he added.

Local police made women aware by setting up a chaupal in village Himmatpur Bakuchiya

Bhadohi: Under the Mission Shakti campaign being run by the state government for women's safety, respect and self-reliance, today on 26.09.2024, under the direction of Dr. Meenakshi Katyayan, Superintendent of Police Bhadohi, Ajay Kumar Chauhan, Area Officer Bhadohi, Inspector in-charge Bhadohi, Outpost Women were made aware by setting up a chaupal in village Himmatpur Bakuchiya along with in-charge Rajpura and female beat employee. And through Shakti Didi (Women's Beat and Women's Help Desk), they run outreach programs in all the police stations of the district and reach populated areas, markets, crowded areas, schools, colleges, coaching institutes, fairs and villages under their respective police station areas. / Students and women were made aware about the rights related to prevention of harassment of women and the action taken by the police regarding harassment of women and various schemes being run by the state government for women empowerment like Chief Minister Sumangala Yojana, Destitute Women Pension Scheme, Detailed information was given regarding Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission, Banking Correspondent Sakhi, Chief Minister Group Marriage Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and National Nutrition Mission.



People got relief from heat after rain in Prayagraj on Thursday after humidity.

Tremendous anger of employees shown on streets against NPS/UPS

Prayagraj: On the national call of Ateva/UPS, thousands of teachers, employees and officers protested against NPS/UPS. On September 26, thousands of teachers, employees and officers protested against NPS/UPS. Protest march taken out from District Panchayat of Prayagraj to Collectorate in protest against UPO. In the Collectorate premises, State Organization Minister Ashok Kanojia, National Co-Media Incharge and State IT Cell Incharge Syed Danish Imran and District General Secretary RK Yadav submitted a memorandum addressed to the Honorable Prime Minister of India and the Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh through the District Magistrate. It was said through the memorandum that there is tremendous anger among the teachers, employees and officers across the country including Prayagraj regarding NPS/UPS, anger which everyone has taken to the streets today to express it. Employees across the country want restoration of the same old pen-

sion, the same OPS which the Prime Minister is taking, the same OPS which the Chief Minister, MPs and MLAs are taking. Under the call of National President Vijay Kumar Bandhu and under the direction of National General Secretary Prayga, tremendous anger

charge Ravi Shankar Mishra said that today a crowd of employees of various organizations and the public gathered at the district headquarters, which was shocking in itself. Seen for the first time in Prayagraj. Ateva and its allied organizations put in all their strength to make this

tion, Phoolchandra from PWD, Yadav; From Prayagraj Ashok Kanojia, Syed Danish Imran, Sanjay Patel, RK Yadav, Narendra Singh, Suresh Yadav, Ravi Shankar Mishra, Surendra Pratap, Ram Achal Pal, Shailendra Kumar Pandey, Dharamraj Yadav, Arun Patel, Mo



against NPS/UPS was seen on the streets from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, North to South India and East to West India today, which was historic in many ways.

The memorandum was handed over to the City Magistrate of Prayagraj, Shri Vinod Kumar Singh by the State Organization Minister of Ateva, Ashok Kumar Kanojia. District Media In-

charge Ravi Shankar Mishra said that today a crowd of employees of various organizations and the public gathered at the district headquarters, which was shocking in itself. Seen for the first time in Prayagraj. Ateva and its allied organizations put in all their strength to make this

Zeeshan, Anurag Pandey, Neelam Singh, Anjali Atri, Anjana Singh, Pushpalata Singh, Deepa Singh, Aarti Singh, Preeti Bridge, Deepthi Gaur, Shashikanta, Ranjana Pandey, Deepali, Anjula Das, Ranjana Srivastava, Sandeep Kushwaha, Sachin Rawat, Ashok, Manoj, Rajeev Yadav, Dinesh Yadav, Thousands of teachers, employees, and Officers were present.

In view of the preparations for Mahakumbh Mela, a meeting was held in Prayagraj division

Prayagraj: In view of the preparations for Maha Kumbh Mela-2025, a meeting was organized in the Sankalp Auditorium of Prayagraj Division Office under the chairmanship of Himanshu Shukla, Senior Divisional Commercial Management/Coaching of Prayagraj Division. In this meeting Senior Divisional Commercial Management/ Goods, Atul Yadav; Assistant Commercial Manager, Dinesh Kumar; Assistant Commercial Manager, Sanjay Gautam, Assistant Commercial Manager, Anil Kumar and Supervisor and Commercial Inspector of Commerce Department were present.

shelters, announcement in 22 languages at stations, movement of passengers on foot over bridges, color coding of tickets, Topics like estimated requirement of trains at stations, crowd control by presence of employees at particular places were discussed in detail and suggestions were taken. Experiences of Kumbh Mela-2013 and Kumbh

Mela-2019 were also shared in the meeting and the plan was refined accordingly.

The need for additional trains and more than 1900 additional employees in the upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela-2025 was discussed point by point. An outline was prepared on how the Commerce Department employees would coordinate with the Railway Protection Force, Bharat Scout Guides and other volunteers at the stations.



To celebrate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in a dignified manner, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate City

Prayagraj: Under the chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate Nagar Madan Kumar, a meeting was organized in the Sangam Auditorium on Thursday regarding the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi - 02 October 2024, to celebrate the national festival in a dignified manner and preparations for various programs to be organized on this occasion. Went. In the meeting, the Additional District Magistrate has

clean the statues in the city area, conduct cleanliness drive for the cleanliness of the city and special cleanliness around the slums and on the banks of rivers. He has directed the District Panchayati Raj Officer to

grams and painting based on the thoughts, philosophy and biography of Mahatma Gandhi in schools.

On this occasion, the national flag will be hoisted in all government/semi-government offices and in-

Department, traffic awareness campaign and felicitation ceremony by the District Crime Prevention Committee, free health check-up by Punjabi Sabha Prayagraj and Blood donation camp will be organized by Prayagraj Vyapar

Mandal, fruit distribution in Khuldabad Children's Home and various programs will be organized by other social organizations. On this occasion, Additional District Magistrate Supply Rajesh Singh, Additional City Magistrate First Sandeep Kumar, Additional City Magistrate Second Prem Narayan Prajapati, Additional City Magistrate Third Sudama, Sub-District Magistrate Bara Jaijit Kaur, Sub-District Magistrate Saurabh Kumar, District School Inspector PN Singh, Civil Defense Trade Board, Representatives of District Crime Control and other officers were present.



get special cleanliness done in the Gram Panchayats. Additional District Magistrate Nagar has asked to get the cleaning work done properly in all the offices before October 2. He has asked the District School Inspector and Basic Education Officer to organize essay art, speech competition, cultural pro-

stitutions and the national anthem will be sung. Along with this, wreaths will be laid on his portrait and a symposium will be organized in the offices. On this auspicious occasion, cross country race was organized by the Regional Sports Officer from Chandrashekhar Azad Park Gate No. 3, health camp in slums by the Health

Deendayal Upadhyay's entire life was filled with social harmony: Professor Singh

Open University is following the path of Deendayal Upadhyay: Vice Chancellor

Prayagraj: A national seminar cum lecture on Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and social harmony was organized at Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Prayagraj on Thursday. Chief guest of the national seminar organized under the aegis of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Research Chair at Lokmanya Tilak Shastrarth Auditorium and keynote speaker of the lecture, Professor Hareesh Pratap Singh, Member, Public Service Commission, Uttar Pradesh, Prayagraj, said that Deendayal Upadhyay's entire life was full of social harmony. Was full of it. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay kept trying to uplift the lowest section of the society through education, health, service and self-reliance. A glimpse of cultural nationalism is reflected in his entire personality. He looked at the sensation at a lower level. Professor Singh said that for social harmony one has to sacrifice personal interests. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay believed that change in society happens only through work and behavior. He laid great emphasis on Antyodaya. New ideas always arose in his mind for the education and advancement of the deprived classes. He said that the work being done by the Prime Minister in the interest of the country is based on the ideas of Deendayal Upadhyay. By implementing them, the country is moving towards progress in the world.

While presiding, Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam

said that today the Open University is following the path of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and is working to reach education at the doorstep of the students. He said that today more and more people should read about Deendayal Upadhyay ji. This will reveal the prevalence of social harmony and open new dimensions of social relations. Vice

Chancellor Professor Satyakam said that Deendayal's sentiments are also found in the works of national poets Dinkar and Premchand. Similarly, he finds Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon and Deendayal Upadhyay close to his thoughts because whatever is dedicated to the people will be integrated into each other. Deendayal ji was very saddened by discrimination. Referring to Rabindra Nath Tagore's novel Gora, he advised to read it. In the beginning, the guests were welcomed by Professor Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director and Convener of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Research Chair and presented the introduction of the National Seminar. The National Seminar was coordinated by Organizing Secretary Dr. Dinesh Singh, Deputy Director Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Research Chair, conducted by Dr. Bal Govind Singh and vote of thanks was given by Registrar Colonel Vinay Kumar. More than 100 participants participated in the national seminar.



To avoid malnutrition, take a balanced diet: Dr. Bhanwar Singh

Prayagraj: A scientific seminar of Ideal Homeopathic Welfare Organization was held in a hotel in Civil Lines. The seminar was presided over by chief guest Dr. Bhanwar Singh. In the seminar, key speaker Dr. Vishwadeep Kesarwani presented his views on malnutrition. He said that malnutrition is a condition that arises from eating food that contains insufficient or excessive amounts of nutri-



ents, resulting in health problems. These include nutrients, calories, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. A person who does not get enough of a specific nutrient is considered nutritionally deficient. This does not mean that he or she will suffer from serious disease. The most serious malnutrition problem in the world is iron deficiency, which can lead to anemia, which is a sign of malnutrition. To avoid malnutrition, take a balanced diet, consume fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, nutritious food, include vitamins and minerals etc. in the right quantity in the diet. Drinking adequate amount of water also protects from malnutrition. Mainly Dr. Akhil Nigam, Dr. Pushpendra, Dr. Sumit, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Ashutosh, Dr. Rajesh Srivastava, Dr. Saurabh Singh, Dr. Sushmita, Dr. Ankit, Dr. Niharika, Dr. Shri Bhagwan Keshari, Dr. Rajesh Singh, Dr. Sanjay Singh were present in the seminar.

Air Cmde Manish Sinha assumes command of Air Force Station Bamrauli Alumnus of the National Defence Academy

Prayagraj: Air Cmde Manish Sinha took over the command of Air Force Station Bamrauli on Thursday. Commissioned on 21 June 1993, Air Cmde Manish Sinha is a helicopter pilot and a Qualified Flying Instructor. He has ap-



proximately 4050 hours of flying experience on Chetak, ALH and Mig 21 T-77. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune.

He has held various operational and staff appointments in India and abroad including deputation to United Nation Peace Keeping Mission at Sudan and headed the Indian Air Force Training Team in Mauritius. He has commanded a frontline helicopter squadron in the west and an airbase in the east. His last appointment has been at HQ IDS, where he contributed immensely towards Integrated Operations in Defence Services, informed Samir Gangakhedkar, Group Captain, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Defence, Prayagraj.

Inter-college speech competition held at RTMM

Prayagraj: Under the Hindi Fortnight (13 to 27 September 2024), an inter-college speech competition on the status of Hindi in the race of modernity was organized in Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya, whose judge was Professor Martand Singh, Hindi Department, Allahabad Degree College. In his address, first of all, Professor Martand Singh ji paid trib-



ute to Hindi savior Bharat Ratna Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon ji and underlined his incomparable contribution towards Hindi. Prof. Singh said that language touches the senses. While clarifying modernity, he said that no era is bad, we should find good in it and we should respect our mother tongue because only when we respect our language, the world will also respect our language. It is the basis of any nation

the vote of thanks was given by Principal Professor Ranjana Tripathi. The program was coordinated and conducted by Professor Neelima Singh. Students of Arya Kanya Degree College, KP Training College, Allahabad University and Rajarshi Tandon Women's College participated in the speech competition. On this occasion, Dr. Renu Anand, Dr. Shamenaz, Dr. Anamika Tiwari, Dr. Ashwani Rai and Dr. Anil Kumar were present.

Railway employees take out torch procession against NPS-UPS

If pensions for respectable individuals not burden, how can pensions for employees who toiled and died for their country be? Quips Manoj Pandey

Prayagraj: On Thursday, a torch procession was taken out by the Indian Railway Employees Federation affiliated to the North Central Railway Workers Union from the CDO office in a peaceful democratic manner against NPS and UPS, in which hundreds of employees from all departments of the Railways participated, leading the torch procession Indian Railway Employees Federation National President and North Central Railway Workers Union Union General Secretary Manoj Pandey said that the statement of the Finance Secretary is very shameful; he should tell that the pension given to the honorable people is not a burden on the country, then the pension of the government employees who work day and night and die. How is the burden on the entire country? Today, restoration of old pen-

sion is the biggest issue of government employees, at such a time, the organizations responsible for implementing NPS by becoming trustees of NPS are being ousted in the upcoming recognition elections in Railways on the strength of pensionless employees and the struggle for restoration

of old pension. Will further strengthen, there is a huge shortage of drivers, new recruitment should be started in Railways immediately.

decreasing, contract workers are being exploited a lot, that is why accidents have increased in Railways, the government is completely

ways, the number of trained experienced permanent employees is continuously decreasing, due to which the work pressure on the

and privatization has been done by, contractors get work done by unskilled and untrained laborers for their profit, whenever a contract labourer talks about his legal rights, he is immediately thrown out and another cheap and inexperienced labourer is hired. The ongoing struggle against privatization of railways will be stopped with the participation of the common people, railway employees from all departments of the railways participated in the torchlight procession which mainly included North Central Railway Workers Union, Central Assistant Minister Syed Irfat Ali, Prayagraj Division Minister Chandan Kumar Yadav, RA Rizvi, I Cell Incharge Rakesh Sharma, Mrs. Sudha Patel, Sandeep Singh, Shivendra Pratap Singh, Surendra Yadav, Ramesh Kumar, Piyush Mohit, Alok Kumar, Arvind Kumar, Om Prakash.



permanent employees has increased and on the other hand, most of the sensitive departments of the Railways are also being affected. Now contracting

National Movement to Save Railways National Publicity Secretary Dr. Kamal Usri said that today the number of government employees in Railways is

responsible for railway accidents. Railways has a policy of handing over the Railways to private hands, due to which, due to lack of new recruitment in the Rail-

ways, the number of trained experienced permanent employees is continuously decreasing, due to which the work pressure on the

Northern Football Academy nominated in National Excellence Award 2024

Prayagraj: Northern Football Academy Prayagraj is nominated in National Excellence Award 2024 as "Best Sports Academy" for promoting grassroots & youth footballers in State, National Level & other work done in promoting professional footballers. Founder & Head Coach of the Academy, Mr. Indranil Ghosh will receive the prestigious award during the International Ramayana Pratishtha Mahotsav & National Excellence Award 2024 on 28th Sept. in Ayodhya Uttar Pradesh organized by International Human Rights & Crime Control Council, New Delhi. The confirmation of the award has been given by Director Deepak Rana via email. Northern Football Academy is the first profes-

sional academy of Prayagraj & second of Uttar Pradesh after Tectro FC to get recognized by All India Football Federation (AIFF). Since the establishment in



Jan. 2015 the academy has produced many State, National & Inter Varsity players of various age group categories from U-11 to Senior level who have brought laurels for the city & state. The academy is at present playing in Himachal Pradesh State Football League (both Men &

Women), Reliance Youth League.

The Northern Football Academy team has many achievements for the city in various age groups in state National Inter Club Competitions some of which are as follows

1. Champions in both U-11 & U13 DASC Kids Football Tournament New Delhi 2023
 2. Champions in Inter Club National Soccer Championship Vrindavan 2023
 3. Runner Up in U-11 Bunkerhill Delhi Golden State League 2022-23
 4. Runner Up in Himachal Pradesh Senior State Women's Football League 2020-21
- Academy has got two branches in Prayagraj as Vishnu Bhagwan Public

School (VBPS) Jhalwa & CAV Inter College Civil Line & One in Kinnaur Himachal Pradesh are coached by NIS Diploma Holder-AFCC License Coach Indranil Ghosh & their Asst. Coaches Rahul Verma & Vikram Singh Bisht.

Apart from this Award, Northern Football Academy won the following awards earlier for the commendable work done in the field of football:

1. Chetan Chauhan National Award New Delhi (2023)
2. Best Academy Award in International Glory Award Mumbai 2022
3. Best Academy Award in India Sports Awards New Delhi (2022)
4. Best Academy Award by Rotary Allahabad Midtown Prayagraj (2020)

Education plays a major role in progress of nation

Prayagraj: The role of education has become important in today's technological world, because only education enables us to use technological system. BEO Ajay Tiwari expressed these things. He was speaking as the chief guest in a special lecture organized on the topic "Significance of Education" at Samdariya school in Dandupur



on Thursday. The Block Education officer cautioned the students and said that education is more important in your life than food, clothes, air and water. He also announced that a smart class system and sport kits will soon be available for children.

Dr. Mani Shanker Dwivedi, director of the institute said that education not only develops the natural qualities of an individual but also plays a major role in the progress of the nation. Co-ordinator Anupama Singh welcomed the guests. The welcome song presented by the students under the direction of music teacher kadambari Dwivedi. Rupa Chaturvedi conducted the program and Mishti Rai expressed gratitude. Apart from Mrinal Jain, sangita Pal, Mohini Agrahari, chetna Tripathi, Aneeta, vinod yadav, Rajesh, Neha, Dharmendra Yadav and a large number of students were present on this occasion.

Constitution Honour Conference: Diwakar Bharatiya appointed media in-charge

Prayagraj: For the publicity of Phulpur Legislative Assembly by-election 2024 of Uttar Pradesh and the Constitution Honor Conference program, on the instructions of All India Congress Committee General Secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Avinash Pandey and with the consent of State President Mr. Ajay Rai, Diwakar Bharatiya was appointed media in-charge. Diwakar Bharatiya on becoming media in-charge, Metropolitan Congress Committee President Pradeep Mishra Anshuman, State Vice President Mr. Manish Mishra, Rajesh Rakesh, Ashfaq Ahmed, Lallan Patel Ram Manorath Saroj, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Brijesh Singh, Vinay Pandey, Eklakh Ahmed, Ajendra. Gaur, Dr Ashok Singh, Ram Lakan Yadav, Ramesh Yadav, Dattatreya Tripathi, Bhola Tiwari, Devraj Upadhyay, Amrish Pandey, Mustaq Baba, Saadab Ahmed etc. have congratulated and expressed their gratitude to the top leadership.



School Education and Literacy Dept took info on education of disabled children

Prayagraj: To conduct a pilot study of the app related to children with special needs, the team of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India, Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary, School Education and Literacy Department, Ram Singh (IES) Deputy Field visit and educational indicators of Composite School Patti Ram (PM Shri Vidyalaya) and Public Inter College Motiha of Development Block Saidabad and Composite School Balrampur of Development Block Bahadurpur by Director School FC, Education and Literacy Department, Abdul Momin Consultant

TSG Samagra Shiksha) Was reviewed. The team took information related to the education of disabled children



(marking, enrollment, screening, cmo certificate, stipend, SCOT, TLM.) and information related to the education of normal children was taken by Mr. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Dis-

trict Basic Education Officer, Prayagraj. Under the direction, the disability certificate and screening of

children prepared for the benefit of disabled children in the district was appreciated by the team. The information about the children was given in a very good manner by the nodal

teacher of the school of both the development blocks, the team of Government of India expressed extreme happiness, along with the team, Block Education Officer Headquarters Virendra Kanojia, Block Education Officer Headquarters, Akhilesh Yadav, Block Education Saidabad Officer Rakesh Yadav, Block Education Officer Bahadurpur, Vikas Pandey District Coordinator Integrated Education etc. were present and Special Educators Chandra Kala Yadav, Shubhra Srivastava, Kamlesh Kumar, Pramod Kumar were present in the school and provided support.

Yellow house wins Kho-Kho inter house tournament

Prayagraj: The Closing Ceremony of Inter House Kho-Kho Tournament (Men & Women) held at the University Kho-Kho Court, where yellow house won the final match and received champions trophy in both categories, while Blue

House secured the runner-up position. The Best Player in boys' category was awarded to Mr. Tilak of Blue House and Miss Shreya of Yellow House in the women's category. The Most Promising Player title was given to Mr. Anil of

Red House in men's category and Miss Prachi of Yellow House in women's category.

The Chief guest was Prof. Dr. Enid Masih, Head of Business Studies and Dr. Sunita B. John was the Guest of Honor. During the

Closing Ceremony of Final match staff members, of Department of Physical Education including Dr. Deepti Joshi and others University dignitaries were present. This information was given by Rakesh Sahu, Assistant Professor.

Editorial

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

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

Maharashtra Polls: Congress, Pawar Bargain Hard with Uddhav

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

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

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

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

His confidence must have gone up by several notches every time his words triggered

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



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

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

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

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

Why India's \$100 bn proposed trade deal with Europe is different

In the pursuit of economic growth, the Maldives seems to have missed a crucial lesson: relying solely on a handful of major players isn't a sustainable strategy. The key to sustainable growth lies in opening up to broader economic participation.

India is a case in point

India stands on the brink of sealing a significant trade deal that could have far-reaching implications. Negotiations with Europe are nearing completion, with the potential for India to attract a staggering \$100 billion in investment. This proposed agreement with Europe is noteworthy for several reasons. Unlike conventional trade deals focused on tariff reduction, India is poised to open up its markets in exchange for substantial investment, a move that could inject significant capital into its economy over the next 15 years. The pact, unlike typical free trade agreements, comes with binding investment guarantees, a rare feature that could set a precedent for future trade negotiations. The investment is slated to originate from a special bloc

of European nations known as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprising Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. While negotiations involve this bloc rather than the entire European Union, the agreement could serve as a model for broader regional trade engagements.

The potential investments are earmarked for both new and existing manufacturing projects, promising to create over a million jobs and bolster India's industrial landscape. Beyond the economic windfall, the deal offers additional perks for India, including enhanced visa provisions for Indian professionals seeking access to the EFTA countries. In return, the EFTA nations seek expanded market access for their goods in India, spanning processed foods, beverages, electrical machinery, engineering products, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. While the deal holds immense promise, its fruition has been a long time coming, with negotiations spanning back to 2008. However, recent reports indicate that key issues.

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

The Union Government introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lok Sabha and, after much drama, agreed to refer it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee that will comprise MPs from all parties. As with most issues associated with minority communities, there have been questions about the "intentions" of this ruling dispensation. Almost all recognised Muslim organisations across India, including Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Firangi Mahal, and other prominent clerics, have protested against substantial components of this proposed Act. It is being said that there was a lack of consultation with stakeholders and that the Bill is antagonistic to Muslim interests and contrary to the principles enunciated in Articles 24-28 of the Constitution of India. Nearly the entire Opposition in Parliament has labelled this an attempt to interfere in Muslim affairs. Some people argue that it's an attempt by the government to finally take over and manage properties that have been "waqfed" by Muslims over centuries. Waqfs have been in existence for over 1,400 years since the advent of Islam. A waqf is a type of private property owned by a Muslim that is given for a specific purpose—whether religious, charitable, or for the benefit of the owner's family.

A woman can also establish a waqf if she is the owner. Waqf is perpetual in nature and cannot be taken back or de-waqfed, even if the original waqif desires it. A property can be declared as waqf either orally, in the presence of two witnesses, or through a deed known as the Waqfnama. Since 1913, various governments have overseen the governance of waqfs to ensure proper and fair management. The last amendment to the Waqf Act, 1995, made in 2013, prescribed imprisonment up to two years in case of encroachments, sale, or transfer of

waqf properties. Waqf properties in each state are managed by their respective waqf boards, which are composed of a chairman and members nominated by the state government. These members are typically former MPs and MLAs, clerics, and mutawallis. Needless to say these boards are often an extension of the favours or largesse distributed by the government. Their merits, qualifications, and integrity are never central to their appointments. Unfortunately, this is our system. Disputes related to waqfs are heard by a tribunal established by the state government, which is headed by a judge from the state judiciary and includes two members who are usually from the state civil service. Here lies the nub of the problem. This is why everyone, Muslims more so, complains about the rampant corruption, red tape, and inefficiency of these waqf boards. People report mismanagement, exploitation, and dispensation of favours. Numerous properties are waqf-alal-aulad, where benefits are supposed to go to the beneficiaries named in the Waqfnama. In case of disputes among beneficiaries, matters often drag on for years, ruining poor families while they wait for resolution.

Therefore, there is no doubt that the selection process for waqf boards, the qualifications of its members, and their working must be looked at. Since each board has its own procedures, a comprehensive examination and reform of these systems across all states are necessary. Having said this, I believe this cannot happen because every government feeds on this milch cow to accommodate disgruntled but powerful supporters. The allure of the valuable assets—the cream—in possession of the waqf boards is appealing to everyone. To hide behind the issue of mismanagement of waqf boards to suggest holistic amendments.

Atishi keeps 13 ministries, Bharadwaj keeps 6 and obtains 2 more

"Bharadwaj now oversees social welfare and cooperatives, which Raaj Kumar Anand left the government and party earlier this year"

Delhi: Atishi, the new chief minister, will keep her 13 portfolios—finance, planning, power, water, revenue, and public works—while Saurabh Bharadwaj gets eight new ones. Mr. Ahlawat



will lead five ministries. Bharadwaj now oversees social welfare and cooperatives, which Raaj Kumar Anand left the government and party earlier this year. Mukesh Kumar Ahlawat, the new council of ministers member, will take over Anand's five

departments, including labor, employment, and SC & ST welfare. Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, and Imran Hussain will keep their portfolios from the previous government. While Rai's three departments were environment and development, Gahlot

will oversee five—home, transport, women and child development—and Hussain two—food and supply and election. Atishi replaced her mentor and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, who resigned last week, as Delhi's seventh chief

minister on Saturday at Raj Niwas. She's the second youngest Delhi CM after Chaudhary Brahm Prakash (34) in 1952-55 and the youngest of three women CMs, following Sheila Dikshit and Sushma Swaraj. Four ministers from the previous administration—Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Saurabh Bharadwaj, and Imran Hussain—and new Cabinet member Mukesh Kumar Ahlawat took oath with Atishi. LG VK Saxena swore her and others to office and secrecy. Atishi is the 17th female chief minister in independent India. Atishi, a first-time legislator, will serve as CM for five months.

Maha elections are possible in November; CM Eknath prefers two phases

Delhi:

Maharashtra CM and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde stated that assembly polls will likely be held in the second week of November and that a two-phase election is best. Maharashtra last held a two-phase assembly election in 1999. "We expect that the polls will be announced some time in Oct," the CM told reporters at his official bungalow, Varsha, during Ganapati festivities. Shinde stated Mahayuti seat sharing talks are based on winnability and strike rate. When asked about pre-poll programs' fiscal impact, he stated, "We are well within the fiscal limits." CM Eknath Shinde said women had responded well to the state government's Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin



Yojana, which gives d i s a d v a n t a g e d women aged 21-65 Rs 1,500 a month. Over 1.6 crore women have joined the initiative. He said 1.4 lakh applications had been approved for Mukhyamantri Yuva Prashikshan Yojana, an internship program for unemployed youngsters. The state wants 10 lakh applicants for the initiative. Shinde claimed that the government's pre-election programs don't strain the e x c h e q u e r

"Government borrowings are within limitations. New projects and infrastructure are being funded. Long-term, this spending will boost state income, especially GST." He downplayed fears that the state government is having trouble paying personnel. "Just rumors," he said. Shinde said state agencies like Slum Rehabilitation Authority, Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority,

Delhi CM-designate Atishi may get 'Z' security

Delhi:

Authorities stated Delhi Police will likely grant 'Z' category security protection to Chief Minister-designate Atishi, who claimed to create a new government after Arvind Kejriwal quit. Officials said police would assess outgoing chief minister Kejriwal's security after his resignation. Kejriwal has 'Z-plus' security, which provides 40 guards in shifts. The official stated the CM-designate's security will be decided in the coming days. He claimed



Delhi's chief minister is entitled to 'Z' security cover by protocol. Around 22 Delhi Police officers guard 'Z' category protectees in shifts. Aam

Aadmi Party named Atishi Delhi's new chief minister earlier in the day, replacing resigned Arvind Kejriwal. The third female Delhi chief minister.

DDA to rent 3 sports complexes to Ads

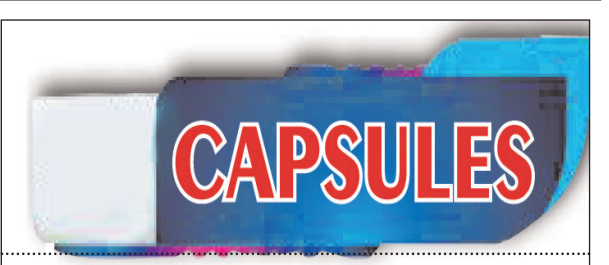


Delhi: For the first time, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will lease areas at its three major sports facilities—Qutab Golf Course, Yamuna Sports Complex, and Siri Fort Sports Complex—for digital and other advertising for seven years. The authority is seeking new revenue streams and will hold a pre-bid meeting on August 28. This comes as DDA prepares to open its Sector 17 sports facility on August 18. "We have allowed instructive commercials and camps for a week/few days at our sports complexes, but this is the first time we have leased areas for seven years at established pricing. The official said the contract can be extended by two years based on bidder performance. The decision will yield crores in money, and bidders will determine final advertisement pricing, the official said. Sites for at

least 40 digital panels/hoardings/backlit boards/unipole in various sizes will display premium products. Parking area proposals include 35 tiny boards. In addition to commercial use of specified advertising areas, the program will improve the aesthetics of DDA sports complexes/golf courses with world-class advertising. We can expand their numbers pro-rata "added the official. The DDA announced its advertising lease policy for sports complexes/golf courses. "Currently, the DDA is not required to share advertising money from DDA sports complexes/golf courses with municipal bodies like MCD. However, if the DDA becomes responsible to split such funds with local bodies in the future, then it will take a call," the tender document said. 13 categories of ads are banned.

IIT and AIIMS researchers demonstrate benefits of 'Yoga Nidra'

NEW DELHI: Yoga nidra or the practice of sleeping consciously has been known globally for its potential to improve psychological well-being and health for decades. However, for the first time, Indian researchers have carried out functional MRI - a non-invasive brain scan that measures brain activity by tracking blood flow changes - on followers of this ancient practice to explain how it works. According to the study, published in international journal Scientific Reports researchers from IIT Delhi, AIIMS Delhi and Mahajan Imaging, experienced meditators had a unique neural mechanism during yoga nidra which resulted in being restful yet aware. Our brain has a Default Mode Network (DMN) - a collection of interconnected brain regions - that are active when we are not focused on the outside world.



LG blames Delhi for Nangloi-Tikri's problems



Delhi: Lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena visited the stretch from Nangloi to Tikri border and found it unusable due to broken roads, open and overflowing sewers, two-foot potholes, and damaged streetlights. He urged chief minister-designate Atishi to repair it immediately. Saxena felt the region was neglected and visited after hearing from locals, civic groups, the MP, and the councillor. He urged authorities to remedy the issues, and PWD officials said corrective actions began. Due to government neglect and administrative delay, lakhs of West Delhi residents live in miserable conditions. During the inspection, Saxena saw two-foot-deep potholes and dilapidated roads submerged in sewer water, overflowing drains filled with silt from years of neglect, knee-deep stinking water mixed with sewer, water, rotting garbage, back-flowing sewer line, and hundreds of helpless people expressing their pain and anger amid poisonous insects and mosquito.

He is a disgrace': Congress slams TN governor for 'secularism' remark

NEW DELHI: Congress on Tuesday lashed out at Tamil Nadu governor RN Ravi over his "secularism was a European concept" comment calling it "outrageous and unacceptable". Party general secretary Jairam Ramesh called for the sacking of Ravi, calling him a "disgrace." "This man, who has taken an oath on the Constitution, and who - in spite of his drumbeating - remains a Constitutional functionary, should be sacked forthwith. He is a disgrace," he said in a post on X. Ramesh called Ravi a "trial balloon floater" and claimed that he was echoing what the Prime Minister wants to get done. "This is not the first outrageous and unacceptable statement he has made. But he is only a trial balloon floater. He is echoing what the non-biological PM wants to get done," he said. The Tamil Nadu governor had stoked controversy on Monday after he alleged that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had introduced secularism in the Constitution during the emergency to "appease some sections of people".

Delhi bans firecracker production, sale, and use till January 1, 2025

Divya Delhi: The Delhi government banned all firecrackers till January 1, 2025, to reduce winter air pollution. State environment minister Gopal Rai said the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, bans the production, storage, sale, and use of all firecrackers, even "green" ones. Rai told a press conference that firecrackers increase local



air pollution in Delhi during winter. Like previous year, all firecracker production, storage, sale, and use are banned to prevent pollution. It will also be

illegal to sell firecrackers online, the minister said. DPCC officials stated they will make a formal ban announcement in the coming days.

MCD fights vector-borne diseases



Delhi: Construction sites were inspected for mosquito breeding. Dengue, malaria, and chikungunya are vector-borne diseases that Delhi Municipal Corporation has said to battle. According to sources, the city has 612 dengue cases. MCD has stopped reporting vector-borne infections since last year. 148 of 290 construction sites evaluated during the campaign had mosquito breeding. MCD officials claimed 83 legal letters and 60 charges were issued to the r e s p o n s i b l e

owners/builders after breeding was eliminated immediately. According to officials, construction sites with stagnant water can be breeding grounds for Aedes and Anopheles mosquitoes, the sole vectors for transmitting serious diseases. Simple methods like channeling water or treating stagnant water with diesel/kerosene oil can prevent mosquito breeding. The company has urged consumers to prevent water stagnation around their homes and cautioned that mosquito breeding is a crime.

Court accuses Daati Maharaj, two others in 2018 rape case

The Saket District Court charged Madan Rajasthani alias Daati Maharaj with rape in 2018

Delhi: The Saket District Court charged Madan Rajasthani, Ashok, and Arjun. The court acquitted Anil. Madan Rajasthani and others disputed charges and demanded trial. The court then scheduled prosecution evidence for October 18. An FIR



a special fast track court charged Madan Rajasthani, Ashok, and Arjun. The court acquitted Anil. Madan Rajasthani and others disputed charges and demanded trial. The court then scheduled prosecution evidence for October 18. An FIR

was initially filed at Fatehpur Beri police station. The Delhi police crime section took over the probe. The court then scheduled prosecution evidence for October 18. An FIR was initially filed at Fatehpur Beri police station. The Delhi police

crime section took over the probe. Daati Maharaj and others were charged with IPC sections 376, 377, 506, etc. After hearing the complainant's appeal, the Delhi High Court handed the inquiry to the CBI. A charge sheet was filed by Delhi police. CBI submitted a charge sheet later. The 2018 complaint claimed the woman was raped in 2016. She claimed she was raped repeatedly at Gurukul Ashwasan in Bal Gram, Rajasthan. She said she was scared by the self-proclaimed God guy and did not register the complaint earlier.

How first battle between Modi govt 3.0, INDIA bloc hits a flashpoint over NEET

New Delhi: With the Lok Sabha election results signalling a resurgent Opposition INDIA bloc, the raging row over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination and the now-cancelled UGC-NET examination have become the first major issue of conflict between the new BJP-led NDA government and the Opposition alliance. This is set to make stormy the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha beginning June 24. The Congress-led Opposition has made its intent clear soon after the poll results — that it will not let the government rest, vowing that it would be a “fierce challenger” on issues of national importance. At a press conference in Delhi two days ago, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi repeatedly attacked the government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over their



alleged failures to stop paper leaks. Rahul made it clear that the Modi government 3.0 will face “intense scrutiny” of the Opposition on various public issues. “They (government) can indulge in eye-wash. But they will face such pressure from the Opposition that they are going to think twice about whatever they are doing. We will make sure that we put so much pressure on them that this issue (leaks of exam papers) is resolved,” Rahul said. He added that the Opposition would raise this issue in the upcoming session of Parliament. **Was paper leaks a**

poll issue? During the recent Lok Sabha polls, which saw the INDIA bloc win 234 seats, the issue of paper leaks featured frequently in the election speeches of prominent Opposition faces — including Rahul, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, among other INDIA leaders — as a way to reach out to the youth. The Congress, in its manifesto, had promised fast-track courts to adjudicate cases related to question paper leaks.

Like a dictator’: Jagan Mohan Reddy hits out at Andhra CM

Guntur : A row broke out over the demolition of an office of YSRCP in Guntur district on Saturday with party chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy accusing Andhra Pradesh Minister Chandrababu Naidu of functioning “like a dictator”. “Chandrababu took vendetta politics to the next level. Like a dictator, he got YSRCP’s central office demolished with excavators and bulldozers, which was almost complete,” he said in a post on X. Former CM Jagan also accused the state government of carrying out the demolition against the high court orders.

What had the high court said about demolition activity? According to a statement by YSRCP, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday had ordered the demolition to be halted. The order was also conveyed to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) commissioner by a party lawyer, but the authority is said to



have still gone ahead and demolished the structure at 5.30 am on Saturday. “The demolition proceeded even though the YSRCP had approached the High Court the previous day (Friday), challenging the preliminary actions of the CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority),” the statement read. According to YSRCP, CRDA’s action amounts to contempt of court. ‘Law and justice completely vanished’: Jagan on NDA govt in Andhra The former chief minister lashed out at the newly-formed NDA government in the state and added that the demolition indicates how Naidu’s reign in the next five

years would be. “Law and justice have completely disappeared in the state,” he said in his post. The NDA government in the state comprises of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in alliance with Pawan Kalyan’s Jana Sena Party and the BJP. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the TDP won 16 seats while its allies won three (BJP) and two (JSP) respectively. In the state Assembly polls which were held simultaneously, the TDP won 136 Assembly seats, while the JSP and BJP emerged victorious in 21 and eight seats respectively. The Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP was restricted to 11 seats, down from the 151 it won in 2019.

CAPSULES

Aundh-Baner residents grapple with inadequate garbage disposal problem and its consequences

Ill-equipped waste disposal systems, leading to garbage getting piled at various points, is a cause of worry for residents of Aundh, an area which is otherwise considered as one of Pune’s most developed and progressive zones. Residents are concerned about the problems that could be caused by frequent dumping of trash at various spots in the Aundh-Baner areas, such as those between Jupiter Hospital and Nagras Road. “I know there are these agencies that dump garbage anywhere in Aundh; there are specific spots. There is no control at all,” noted Subhabrata Sanyal, 51, a resident of Kumar Padmalay. He said the waste menace could also draw in more stray dogs, posing a threat to people going for morning and evening walks.

“When you walk onto the streets, you can see food littered all over, that attracts stray dogs. In case we go near the garbage by mistake, these animals could even attack us,” observed Deepa Adiga, 47, a resident of Sylvan Heights. Residents blamed lack of a proper collection system by the municipality for the mounting garbage piles. “Sometimes the municipal truck may be arriving at a particular time and the waste is generated later, particularly by restaurants where the waste is generated very late at night, post 11 pm or midnight, after the restaurant is closed,” said Anil Gokarn, founder of ProEarth Co., a company that deals with effective waste management.

Meet Dot, a new AI chatbot that could become your ‘friend, companion and confidant’

AI chatbots like Gemini, ChatGPT, and Copilot may be helping you with work and everyday tasks, but Dot AI is designed as a digital companion that mimics human speech and empathy. Developed by New Computer, a startup founded by ex-Apple designer Jason Yuan and engineer Sam Whitmore, the app is currently available for free on the Apple App Store. While it may appear to be just another AI chatbot at first glance, what makes Dot unique is



its ability to remember your conversations to offer a more personalized experience. As of now, there are no specific details on the underlying technology, but some reports suggest that Dot AI uses natural language pro-

cessing in combination with machine learning to understand user inputs and generate responses. Unlike ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot, which focus on providing factually correct information, Dot AI focuses on

emotional support and intelligence. Dot AI App Store For unlimited conversations, you have to buy a monthly subscription. According to the Apple App Store listing, Dot AI is described as a “friend, companion, and confidant.” On opening the app, users are taken through an onboarding process with questions like “What do you do for work?”, “Favorite TV show?”, and “How do you spend a typical Sunday?” Based on these answers, the chatbot asks more

about the user.

Subscribe for new launches, reviews and all that’s making headlines in the tech world The App Store description also indicates that Dot AI has an infinite long-term memory and can assist with career advice and date spot recommendations. While a free plan offers limited conversations, users can bypass this limit by purchasing the paid plan for \$11.99 per month, which includes access to Chronicles, a feature that curates a history of the user.

Tamil Nadu govt to rehabilitate reformed bootleggers

Tamil Nadu:

Prohibition and Excise Minister S Muthusamy told the legislative assembly on Friday that bootleggers who are remorseful and wish to turn over a new leaf will be rehabilitated after they serve a prison term. Such persons who repent for their wrongdoings should be rehabilitated to prevent them from returning to bootlegging, he said. The minister’s statement comes amid the hooch tragedy that has claimed the lives of 48



persons and has affected the health of more than 100 people, who are currently undergoing treatment at various hospitals. “Persons punished for the offence of distilling and selling illicit arrack will be rehabilitated if they show a change of heart, after serving a term,” Muthusamy said. They will be provided a sub-

sidy of Rs 50,000 each and encouraged to start a trade on their own. The government has earmarked Rs 5 crore for the rehabilitation fund, he said replying to the demand for grants for his department. Further, an integrated scheme will be formulated to equip them with the required skills through various departments, he added. A campaign to create awareness among the people, particularly the youth, on the dangers of consuming illicit arrack.

No request yet from Nikhil Gupta for consular access: MEA

New Delhi: Indian authorities haven’t received any request for consular access from Nikhil Gupta, the Indian national extradited to the US from the Czech Republic following allegations of his involvement in a foiled plot to assassinate Khalistani extremist Pannun. Gupta, who was arrested in the Czech Republic in June last year, was extradited to the US on June 14. “He was extradited to the US on June 14. We have so far not received any request for consular access from Gupta but his family has got in touch with us,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “We are in touch with the family mem-



bers and are looking at the matter as to what can be done on their request,” he said during his weekly media briefing while replying to a question. Gupta, 53, pleaded not guilty when he was produced in a court in New York on June 17. While Gupta was in custody of Czech authorities, Indian officials were given consular access to him on a few occasions. Last November, US federal prosecutors charged Gupta with working with an

employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun in New York. Pannun, wanted in India on terror charges, holds dual of the US and Canada. The issue of consular access to Gupta would be decided in line with provisions of the Vienna Convention on Consular of 1963, people familiar with the matter said. Article 36 of the Convention states that a detained person will have to make a request for consular access to authorities of his or her country. “Nevertheless, consular officers shall refrain from taking action on behalf of a national who is in prison, custody or detention if he expressly opposes such action,” the article states.

National Conference urges PM to keep his word on holding J-K polls

Jammu : The National Conference urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to back his word on holding assembly elections, restoring statehood and bridging development gaps in Jammu and Kashmir with concrete action. In a statement, NC leaders and members-elect of Parliament, Mian Altaf Ahmad and Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir “are tired of empty promises and meaningless rhetoric”. “It is time for some real progress. Let’s see some action instead of just words. The people of J-K deserve more than just lip service.

It is time for the prime minister to deliver on his promises and bring about real change in the region. The future of J-K hangs in balance, and it is up to PM



Modi to make a difference.

The time for action is now,” they said. The newly elected MPs said the people of J-K “have been dealt a raw deal for the past 10 years”. “They (people) are demanding action, not just empty words. Our people lament the lack of progress despite all the talk of humanity, democracy, and bridging ‘Dil Ki Doori’. It seems like all we have gotten are vague promises and no real answers about where the funds are going,” the joint statement

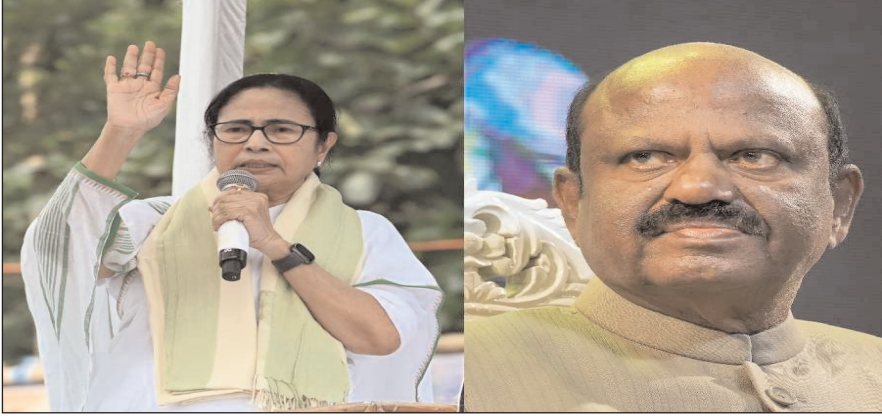
said. The MPs-elect said people were expecting big announcements about infrastructure projects like Gurez, Simthan, Mughal Road and Karna tunnels, as well as a substantial employment package for the youth. during the two-day trip of the prime minister to the valley. n’But, alas, all they got was big disappointment. With over 14 lakh educated individuals twiddling their thumbs due to unemployment, what good does it do to issue a measly .

Seasoned diplomat and India’s envoy to Turkiye Virander Paul dies

New Delhi: A 1991-batch IFS officer, Paul was struggling with health issues for over one-and-a-half years and he breathed his last at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi this evening, one of his colleagues said. “Deeply grieved at the passing away of Virander Paul, our Ambassador in Türkiye,” Jaishankar said on X. “A great loss to the Indian Foreign Service. Have worked closely with him in his many postings. Always admired his commitment and service and value his many contributions,” he said. Paul held a medical degree from AIIMS. The external affairs minister also conveyed his “deepest condolences” to Paul’s family. Paul is survived by his wife Racheline and two daughters. “We are deeply sad-

dened at the untimely demise of Ambassador Virander Paul, India’s envoy to Turkiye. A dedicated officer, he will always be remembered for his exceptional human qualities and impactful professional contribution,” external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “Our heartfelt condolences to his family. Team @MEAIndia stands with them in this difficult hour,” he said on X. Before arriving in Ankara as ambassador of India to Türkiye in the second half of 2022, he was India’s High Commissioner to Kenya and Ambassador to Somalia. Prior to that, he served as additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, dealing with multilateral engagement in India’s neighbourhood.

'Not secure': Bengal governor says police at Raj Bhavan a 'safety threat'



NEW DELHI: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose on Thursday said he sees the current contingent of Kolkata Police posted at Raj Bhavan as a "threat" to his security. "I have reasons to believe that the presence of the current officer-in-charge and his team is a threat to my personal security," Bose told news agency PTI. "I have informed Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee that I am insecure with Kolkata Police in Raj Bhavan, but there was no action," he said. The West Bengal governor's statement

comes days after he called for the Kolkata Police team to leave Raj Bhavan campus. Police officers, however, remained at their posts as the Lalbazar official said no communication had been received from Raj Bhavan on the matter. According to a Raj Bhavan official, a letter was sent to the relevant state government authority. At a press meet on Friday, Bose had expressed his displeasure at victims of poll violence being denied entry to Raj Bhavan despite being granted requisite permission. He had sought

a reply from CM Mamata Banerjee, alleging that Kolkata Police had tried to prevent him from carrying out his duty as governor. On Monday morning, Raj Bhavan officials requested closure of the police outpost at the North Gate, but cops said they could not leave without a directive from Lalbazar. Additionally, Bose wanted to set up a Jana Manch near the gate, but the police team refused, citing that Raj Bhavan was in a high-security zone with prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC permanently imposed

Global tech partner sought by ONGC for Mumbai High

Delhi: To boost output from Mumbai High, the largest oilfield in India that is still producing almost 50 years after it began operations, state-run exploration company ONGC is looking for long-term technical cooperation abroad. On June 1, the firm declared its intention to go public and invited bids from "internationally-proven" technological service providers that could work with it for ten years, with the possibility of a five-year extension, and had a minimum yearly revenue of \$75 billion. Bids end on July 15th. For the first time, ONGC is looking for a technological partner outside. In



order to unlock the "significant" upside in output, the business brass wants to implement best-in-class reservoir management technologies and globally-best operational and management techniques, even though an internal pool of experts has demonstrated their

ability to maintain production over time.

The chosen service provider would conduct an exhaustive analysis of field performance and pinpoint enhancements in reservoirs and wells, encompassing water injection and facilities administration.

Zee Board approves 2,000cr share sale hike

Delhi: The board approved Zee Entertainment Enterprises' Rs 2,000 crore share sale. Zee's merger with Sony Pictures Networks India failed in January. Zee cut costs and increased earnings once the acquisition failed. It also ended a \$1.4 billion Walt



Disney cricket broadcasting pact. The funding may be done in tranch-

es, it noted. The Punit Goenka-led company would use the capital for "future growth opportunities in the evolving media landscape". Zee has requested a \$90 million agreement termination fee from Sony India after the merger plan collapsed following legal fights.

CAPSULES

All Indian plywood sold after next year must be ISI-certified

Delhi: The government will need ISI certification for all plywood companies next year. They noted that boiling-water-proof plywood will need ISI certification. One person claimed the move aims to improve plywood used in furniture and other goods to endure longer in harsh situations. It should also reduce low-quality plywood imports from Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Nepal. This is crucial because India's plywood trade deficit rose from \$85.83 million in FY19 to \$154.57 million in FY24. One person stated the new rules will force plywood manufacturers to undertake a mycological fungus resistance test for all grades. Haryana Plywood Manufacturers Association president JK Bihani said "The new standards will improve plywood quality, ensuring consumers receive better products. Having ample time to comply with the norms will benefit firms and force substandard product producers to change." "One of the most important quality standards that has been made mandatory from next year is ISI certification for boiling-water-proof (BWP) plywood," said one source.

BigBasket adds gadgets to Q-commerce pack

Delhi: BigBasket is in talks to offer gadgets through BB Now with sibling brand Cromia. "We will hopefully strike a deal soon with our sister company Cromia," BigBasket co-founder and CEO Hari Menon stated at India Global Innovation Connect. He stated that rapid commerce will become multi-category and horizontal.

For improved asset liability management, RBI raises the bulk deposit barrier to Rs 3 crore from Rs 2 crore

Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India raised the bulk fixed deposit threshold to Rs 3 crore from Rs 2 crore to improve bank asset liability management. Bulk fixed deposits earn somewhat more than retail term deposits because banks offer varying rates for liquidity management. Retail fixed deposits now include Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) and Small Finance Banks single-rupee term deposits up to Rs 2 crore. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the bi-monthly policy to re-define bulk deposits as 'Single Rupee term deposit of Rs 3 crore and above' for SCBs



(excluding RRBs) and SFBs after reviewing the bulk deposit ceiling. Also, Local Area Banks' bulk deposit ceiling should be 'Single Rupee term deposits of Rs 1 crore and above' like RRBs. The review is routine. It was one

crore a few years ago, then two, and now Rs 3 crore to keep up with the times. It may improve asset liability management for banks, helping them classify bulk and retail, "RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J told the media. As for fears that it may raise deposit costs, the deputy governor said it depends on the entity. "There may not be a systemic influence, but certain organizations' liability management may have a positive or negative impact. "We don't expect any systemic impact from this change," Swaminathan said. This will simplify business and increase operational flexibility for authorized dealer banks.

TCS launches AI platform to accelerate GenAI adoption

Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) announced TCS AI WisdomNext to help its clients swiftly adopt new technologies like generative AI (GenAI) at cheap prices. Tech businesses are becoming GenAI-friendly, and this platform follows. The Mumbai-based software exporter was the first Indian IT company to unite AI and cloud operations into AI.Cloud. Instead of having separate teams for each client, the company would supply AI and cloud solutions



under one banner. WisdomNext would bundle different GenAI products and offer clients customized industry blueprints based on the company's experience in various industries. "TCS AI WisdomNext gives enterprises a choice to select the right large language models at an optimal

cost," Ganesan said 100 customers in banking, financial services, retail, consumer goods, travel, manufacturing, life sciences, and healthcare used WisdomNext. Krishna Mohan Reddy, vice-president and deputy head of TCS's AI.Cloud branch, said the platform worked on sales, marketing, code development, and real-time supply chain improvements. TCS CTO HARRICK VIN claimed the WisdomNext platform would increase jobs, not replace them.

Sebi alerts PolicyBazaar over the purchase in Dubai

Delhi: PB Fintech, the business behind the insurance-tech platform PolicyBazaar, is under investigation by market regulator Sebi for failing to disclose a \$2 million investment in a company based in Dubai. Yashish Dahiya, the CEO and chair of PB Fintech, has received a show-cause notice from Sebi, the business informed the exchanges. "The SCN pertains to investment of \$2 million by PB Fintech, Dubai on Nov 17, 2022 for 26.7% stake in YKNP Marketing Management (an unrelated party) which was not considered unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) due to non-material value of the transaction," the business stated. It is made clear that the SCN has no appreciable effect on the company's operations,



Stocks will be credited to your demat account without going via a broker

Delhi: Regulator Sebi has ordered that, starting on October 14, investors will receive the equities they purchased straight to their demat accounts from clearing businesses in an effort to reduce

market risks. At the moment, clearing companies credit equities to brokers who then credit the stocks to the individual investors. Broker assistance in crediting stocks to buyers'.

finances, or other business-related activities. In addition, the business is obtaining legal

counsel in order to act appropriately on the SCN in a timely manner."

Indira killer's son lost dad at 6, had no school money.

Delhi: Sarabjit Singh Khalsa, 46, won the Faridkot parliamentary seat as an independent after a difficult political debut. On the revival of Panthic politics in Punjab, Sarabjit Singh, a 1995 matriculant, and self-styled Sikh preacher Amritpal Singh, who is in prison, were voted to LS. These two independent candidates won in the 40th anniversary week of 1984's Operation Bluestar at the Golden Temple, which led to Indira Gandhi's assassination in October and a Sikh massacre in Delhi in November. Sarabjit remembers occasions when his family couldn't afford his school tuition. "My



father didn't care for the family and laid down his life... Sikh community support pulled my family through troubled times and elected my mother and grandfather to Parliament." Sarabjit Singh, who lost three elections, wasn't a viable competitor until Amritpal entered the race. His effort attracted Sikh preachers, ragis, and dhadis, changing Faridkot's stance. His effort soon became a Sikh movement to

settle his father's "debt" for "avenging" 1984's terrorist-flush-out military raid on Harmandir Sahib, the holiest Sikh shrine. "Now that I have won, my priority will be to raise my voice in Parliament to ensure legally there is provision of death penalty for the heinous crime of sacrilege... we will field Panthic candidates in byelections and upcoming SGPC election," stated.

Stock rallies boost Naidu family's wealth by Rs 858 crore in 5 days



Delhi: The rebirth of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its leader Chandrababu Naidu, who is kingmaker in the coalition government, has also helped his family's Heritage Foods business. His family's wealth has increased by Rs 858 crore in five days as Heritage Foods' share price has risen 64% from Rs 403 on Friday (May 31, 2024) to Rs 662, a 52-week high. The stock gained 82% in less than a month, raising his family's fortune by approximately Rs 989 crore in less than a month. These estimates are based on Naidu's fami-

ly's 35.7% dairy company shareholding. In addition to his wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari, who runs the company as MD, Naidu's son Nara Lokesh owns about 10.8% of the company. Naidu's daughter-in-law Nara Brahmani (0.5%) and grandson Devaansh Nara (0.1%) also own less than 1% of the company. Share prices rose by over Rs 298 and Rs 259 a share, the company's market capitalization rose from Rs 3,371 crore on May 13 to Rs 3,738 crore on May 31, a day before the exit polls, to Rs 6,141 crore.

AIP partners with ex-Jamaat

This February, the prohibition was extended for five years. Several Jamaat leaders are running as independents in assembly elections.



Delhi: The central government outlawed Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu & Kashmir in 2019. This February, the prohibition was extended for five years. Several Jamaat leaders are running as independents in assembly elections. An alliance between the Awami Ittehad Party

(AIP) led by Lok Sabha member Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer and former Jamaat-e-Islami (JEI) members for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections is a major political move. AIP Supremo and principal

spokesperson Inam Un Nabi led the AIP delegation to a joint meeting today, while Ghulam Qadir Wani headed the JEI team. The AIP stated that prominent JEI members participated in the sessions. The Union Home Ministry

banned Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu & Kashmir in 2019. This February, the prohibition was extended for five years. Several Jamaat leaders are running as independents in assembly elections. An AIP official claimed the parties

agreed to cooperate for the region's residents. He said the idea is to have AIP and JEI candidates win big so Jammu and Kashmiris have powerful representatives who can express their feelings and ambitions. "After extensive discussion, AIP decided to endorse JEI-backed Kulgam and Pulwama candidates. He added that JEI will support AIP candidates across Kashmir. He added the alliance had committed to a "friendly contest," especially in Langate, Devsar, and Zainapora, where both AIP and JEI have candidates. The official said other constituencies will receive mutual help to establish a coordinated electoral effort. "Both parties underscored the importance of unity in resolving.

Didn't indulge in victim shaming, says FM after Oppn fire on EY case



NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday clarified that she had not intended or indulged in any "victim shaming" when she referred to building inner strength to deal with work-related stress. The FM's comments were in response to a post on X by Shiv Sena (UBT) lawmaker Priyanka Chaturvedi who referred to Sitharaman's remarks in Tamil Nadu over the weekend to accuse her of "victim shaming". This was in reference to

the recent death of EY chartered accountant Anna Perayil in Pune due to alleged work-related stress. Sitharaman's comments have stoked a controversy, with Congress and other opposition parties attacking her for "lack of sensitivity". "Anna had inner strength to handle the stress that came with pursuing a gruelling chartered accountancy degree. It was the toxic work culture, long work hours that took away her life which needs to be addressed. Stop victim

shaming and at least try to be a little sensitive, am sure god will be the guide if you seek," Chaturvedi said on X. Referring to her talk at a deemed university on the outskirts of Chennai, the FM said, "Had specifically mentioned that after clearing a demanding and rigorous examination such as CA, the stress on her was unbearable. No names were taken, neither of the lady nor of the firm. The university has set up a meditation hall and a place of worship for all its students.

Phase 1 votes in Jammu & Kashmir have 61% turnout

Delhi: The first phase of Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls on 24 constituencies in seven districts saw 61.13 percent voter turnout. Voting began in 24 seats, including 16 in Kashmir and 8 in Jammu. Voting was calm.

District-Wise Approximate Voter Turnout in Phase - 1 (11:30 PM)			
S. No.	District	No. ACs	Approximate Voter Turnout%
1	Anantnag	7	57.84
2	Doda	3	71.34
3	Kishtwar	3	80.14
4	Kulgam	3	62.46
5	Pulwama	4	46.65
6	Ramban	2	70.55
7	Shopian	2	55.96
Above 7 Districts			61.13

firming the confidence expressed by CEC Rajiv Kumar during the announcement of assembly elections that the people of J-K will give a befitting reply to the nefarious forces attempting to disrupt the electoral process," said it.

The poll panel stated the long lines of

voters at polling sites showed the globe J-K's deep belief in democracy.

Kishtwar had the highest turnout at 80.14 percent, followed by Ramban at 70.55 percent, Doda at 71.34 percent, Kulgam at 62.46 percent, Anantnag at 57.84 percent, and Shopian at 55.96 percent.

Naidu creates SIT after Tirupati row



VIJAYAWADA/ TIRUPATI:

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu announced the creation of an inspector-general-led SIT to investigate alleged TTD violations under YSRCP. Naidu ruled against Tirupati laddus made with animal fat-laced ghee. No one implicated in the "irregularities" will be spared, Naidu stated after receiving the SIT report. He advised former CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy to avoid Tirumala temple if he didn't believe. He further claimed that Jagan's appointment of "non-believers" as TTD chairpersons caused mayhem at the sacred site. TTD will perform 'Santhi homam' to purify the temple, Naidu added. 'P a n c h a g a v y a

Samprokshana' will clean Lord Sri Venkateswara temple as well. Jagan still defends his misdeeds. "He should apologize to Hindus worldwide," he said. Naidu's "reckless and politically motivated" words have injured devotees and degraded the world-renowned TTD, he said.

Kalyan started his Prayaschitta Diksha at Sri D a s a v a t a r a Venkateswara Swamy temple in Namburu, praying for forgiveness and relinquishing it at Tirumala shrine. He condemned YSRCP distribution of laddus to the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya and called the suspected adulteration despicable.

Rate of unemployment unchanged at 3.2% in year ending June 2024

NEW DELHI: The unemployment rate in the country for those in the 15 years and above category remained unchanged at 3.2% in 2023-24, while joblessness rate for women inched up to 3.2% from 2.9% in the previous year, official data showed on Monday. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) annual report for July 2023 to June 2024 released by National Sample Survey Office also showed that the labour force participation rate (LFPR) for both females and males rose to a seven-year high during 2023-24. The LFPR is defined as percentage of persons working or seeking or available for work in the population. The PLFS annual report, which covers both rural and urban areas, showed LFPR for women rose to 41.7% in 2023-24, up from 37% in previous year. Rate of joblessness down from 5.3% in 2017-18 to 2.5% in 2023-25 in rural areas.



Odisha joins Ayushman; BMW Delhi, Bengal remain

Delhi: Odisha may soon join AB-PMJAY. Health ministry sources say discussions with the Odisha government, now led by the BJP, are nearing completion and the government may sign an MoU with NHA, AB-PMJAY's implementing agency, within days. Only Delhi and West Bengal remain to join AB-PMJAY after Odisha. After Odisha joins AB-PMJAY, Delhi and West Bengal are the only remaining states/UTs. A senior health ministry official said all other states/UTs had adopted the scheme. In 2018, AB-PMJAY provided Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 55 million people, or 12.34 crore poor and vulnerable families. The former Odisha government, led by BJD's Naveen Patnaik, refused to join Ayushman Bharat, arguing that its own health system, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), covered about 90% of the state's population and had higher health coverage.

Out of Kashmir, Pandits vote for Valley return

Delhi: Kashmiri Pandits, expelled from Kashmir three decades ago by militancy, cast their ballots in Jammu, Udhampur, and Delhi in hopes of returning. Family and I moved to Jammu in 1990 as part of the exodus. Assembly elections are finally held after 10 years. I voted today in hopes that the new government will restore our property, orchards, and land and fix our long-standing concerns, said PL Tickoo, 83, originally from Batmaloo in Shopian district. Family and I moved to Jammu in 1990 as part of the exodus. Assembly elections are finally held after 10 years. I voted today in hopes that the new government will restore our property, orchards, and land and fix our long-standing concerns.

'Grave insult': Atishi's 'Bharat'-like gesture with CM chair for Kejriwal angers Congress, BJP

NEW DELHI: Delhi's new chief minister Atishi faced criticism from the BJP and Congress as she decided to leave Arvind Kejriwal's chair in the office empty in a symbolic gesture and sat on a second chair on the day she took over the office. The opposition hit out at Atishi describing the gesture as a "grave insult" to constitutional norms and the role of chief minister. Atishi, who took office as Delhi's eighth chief minister, said she would serve a four-month term, likening her role to that of Bharat from the Ramayana, who ruled Ayodhya in Lord Ram's absence by placing his wooden slippers on the throne. Atishi placed an empty chair beside her CM chair and said, "This chair belongs to Arvind Kejriwal. Today I took charge as the CM of Delhi. Today I have the same pain in my heart as Bharat ji had. Just like Bharat ji worked by keeping Lord Shri Ram's sandals, I will take charge as CM for the next four months."

PM Modi heads back to India without handing MAGA supremo a 'trump card'

WASHINGTON: Prime Minister Narendra Modi headed back home to India on Monday night after a hectic 72-hour visit to the US during which he steered clear of domestic American politics, including giving a wide berth to the two 2024 Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris. Modi's packed schedule, which included bilateral talks with out-

going President Joe Biden, a summit of Quad leaders, an address at the UN Summit of the Future, a community reception, and meeting with high-profile CEOs, left him little time to meet the candidates, both of whom have also been on the road election-eering. But a Trump teaser last week that Modi was coming to the US to meet him had

triggered speculation about whether the MAGA supremo would turn up in NYC or at the diaspora event at the Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, where Trump himself had held a raucous rally a few days before. As it turned out, it was just some hot air from the MAGA poohbah, whose bloviating in recent months includes constant bragging.

Hilsa for India not a gift, it's an export: Bangladesh

Delhi: Bangladesh's interim govt clarified Monday that hilsa fish was not being sent as a gift to India but as an export

to help Dhaka earn foreign currency. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to ministry of environment, forests and climate change, said they did not want to keep the door for discussions with India closed over small matters. "The decision came from the top level," she said, and emphasised that the export value of hilsa was significant and should not be underestimated. "The price has already increased so it's not accurate to say prices will rise further due to export. This matter is under govt's consideration." Bangladesh on said it would export.

Delhi airport to get India's first air train by 2027 for seamless terminal connectivity

Delhi: Transitioning between Delhi Airport's Terminal 3 & T2 on one side and T1 on the other will finally be a breeze before the end of calendar year 2027. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has issued the tender to build an air train or automated people mover (APM) that will have four stops — T2/3, T1, Aerocity and Cargo city. The GMR-backed DIAL has given the alignment for this 7.7-km route. Once ready, trudging by DTC buses between these two distant terminals from city side will be a thing of the past. Sources say the airport



operator is likely to get bids for what will India's first air train at an airport, in Oct and Nov. The winning bidder will be decided based on the cost quoted by different parties and whether they offer a revenue share model or seek viability gap funding for the project. "If all goes well, contract will be awarded before the end

of this fiscal. Work will then begin and it is targeted to be over before end of CY 2027. That is what has been conveyed to the Union aviation ministry by DIAL," say sources. The tender document says: "DIAL proposes to implement an elevated cum at-grade APM system at Delhi International Airport on

design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) model. The APM system is intended to provide reliable, fast and seamless connectivity between T1 and T3/2 spanning route length of around 7.7 km via Aerocity and Cargo city. In addition to providing required connectivity between terminals, APM system will enhance passenger convenience, improve ASQ score and reduce carbon footprint. "The aviation ministry in Modi 2.0 had told DIAL it will not allow levy of any development fees to fund this project before the same is ready.