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

Past govts didn't conserve heritage due to slave mentality: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Accusing Congress of ignoring Mahatma Gandhi, PM Modi has said the icon remained unknown to the world till the 1982 film 'Gandhi' was made, inviting swift retaliation from Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge who said "those whose ideological ancestors along with Nathuram Godse were involved in the assassination of Babu can never follow the path of truth shown by him".

Replying to a question on whether opposition didn't do enough to promote India's cultural heritage and pilgrimage sites when in office at the Centre, Modi said, "The question is not just about (that)... Gandhi was a tall personality... In the past 75 years, was it not our responsibility to let the world know about him? No one knew (of him)." When the film ('Gandhi') was made, it attracted global interest. We have not done this (the film was an India-UK co-production directed by Richard



Attenborough). If the world knows Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, Gandhiji was no less. This I am stating after my worldwide travels. We've to accept that Gandhi and, through him, India should have received its share of attention in the world. Gandhi is a solution to many of the global issues today, said PM Modi. Countering the PM, Congress's Jairam Ramesh said, "If there is someone who has destroyed the heritage of the Mahatma, it is the 'caretaker PM'. It is his govt that has destroyed Gandhian institutions in Varanasi, Delhi and Ahmedabad. The 2024 elections are between a Mahatma follower and a Godse follower. The defeat of

the 'caretaker PM' and his Godse-follower companions is evident." In a post on X, Kharge added, "Now lies are going to pack up and leave." Rahul Gandhi too took a dig at Modi and said, "Only the student of 'entire political science' would need to watch a film to know about Mahatma Gandhi." Modi accused past govts of failing to conserve heritage because they viewed things from a "slave mentality" and also there were "compulsions of appeasement." Modi cited the examples of Statue of Unity, Dandi and development of Panchteerth, five places associated with Babasaheb Ambedkar, all developed under his govt.

"We have to live and connect with our history"

"We have to live and connect with our history. There is cultural heritage as well. Moreover, we have to brand our 500 years of struggle (of Ram Mandir) globally. When the court gave its judgment, there was absolute peace in the country. The credit of this peace goes to all. Should we not market it?" Asking whether India should have not marketed and branded this legacy, he accused the opposition of being concerned with "vote bank politics." Modi said the opposition's pursuit of political shortcuts restricted them to the "politics of vote bank". "That's why they turned communal, casteist and dynastic," he added. "Earlier, during elections, they used to visit temples. Not any more. Not just that, no party functionaries are seen at Iftar parties now. Modi has ensured that none of your drama will be accepted."

'Not in permanent marriage': Kejriwal on AAP's alliance with Congress

NEW DELHI: Giving a glimpse into the future of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the opposition bloc INDIA, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said his party struck an alliance with the Congress with the primary goal of defeating the BJP and that the tie-up was "not permanent". While stating that there would be a "big surprise" on June 4 as INDIA bloc will win the Lok Sabha polls, Kejriwal told India Today in an exclusive interview that AAP is not in a "permanent marriage with Congress". "Our aim is to defeat the BJP for now and end the dictatorship and goondagardi of the present regime," Kejriwal said. The AAP and Congress had a major falling out in the run up to the polls. The parties eventually reconciled but did not enter into a seat sharing arrangement in Punjab, where AAP is the ruling party. All 13 seats of Punjab are going to the polls on June 1. "I feel that



Fake birth certificate : Azam conviction stayed but will remain in jail

PRAYAGRAJ: Allahabad high court on Friday granted bail to Samajwadi Party veteran Azam Khan, his wife Tazeen Fatima and son Abdullah Azam Khan in the fake birth certificate case. However, the single-judge bench of Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh only stayed the conviction of Azam Khan. The three family members were convicted by a Rampur court for forgery. According to Nasir Sultan, Azam Khan's counsel, Azam Khan and Abdullah Azam will have to remain behind bars as several other cases are going on against them. "I have not read the HC order yet, but following the bail order.

we will win 13 out of 13 seats, people have made up their minds. Because in the last 2 years, we have made electricity, free, we are making schools here. We are giving employment to youths. People are very happy...so we will win all 13 seats,"

Kejriwal told ANI. The AAP and Congress are fighting together in Delhi, with the Congress contesting on 3 seats and AAP on 4. Kejriwal is currently out on interim bail to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections till June 1.

SUV from Brij Bhushan's son's cavalcade kills 2 cousins in UP's Gonda

GONDA: Two cousins on a bike were killed and a woman was wounded Wednesday in UP's Gonda after being hit by an SUV allegedly part of the convoy of BJP's Kaiserganj candidate Karan Bhushan Singh, the son of sitting Kaiserganj MP and Wrestling Federation of India's former chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The SUV driver Luvkush Srivastava, 30, has been arrested. The accident happened on Colonelganj-Huzurpur road when the SUV, with the registration number UP32HW 1800, fatally struck Rehan Khan, 17, and Shehzad Khan, 20, according to SHO Nirbhay Narayan Singh. Both Rehan and Shehzad died.

India in focus as UAE set to open cultural district in 2025

Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island aims to be a melting pot of global cultures. Two over-a-millennium-old statues of Nataraja and Jina, a 12th century Pala dynasty manuscript, a sandstone frieze from Rajasthan dating to the short-lived Ghurid empire, and S H Raza's 'Bindu'. There's "an imprint of Indian history" on almost every gallery of Louvre Abu Dhabi, said Mohamed Al Mubarak, chairman of the department of culture and tourism (DCT) Abu Dhabi. India will be a central focus when Abu Dhabi unveils its Saadiyat Cultural District, with seven world-class cultural venues, next year. The district on Saadiyat Island aims to be a melting pot of global cultures while being rooted to the land, foster dialogue, and challenge the Western lens of looking at art.

Three institutions are operational: Louvre Abu Dhabi, whose architecture is no less than the art it hosts; Berklee Abu Dhabi that offers music, performing arts and educational programmes; and Manarat Al Saadiyat, which hosts cultural events. The remaining-Zayed National Museum, the national museum of UAE; TeamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi, an immersive digital art space; Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi; and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, a contemporary art museum-are 76% complete and on track to meet the 2025 deadline, said DCT Abu Dhabi. Al Mubarak said the district "embodies 'cultural hope'... will convey a message of cultural diversity that will become more powerful over time, creating global connections, inspiring cultural exchange, and fostering new ways of thinking to support the region, the Global South and the world".

Asserting that one cannot tell the history of art without India, he told in an exclusive chat that the country is, "to some extent, the epicentre of culture". Positioning the district's significance within the Global South, he said while places in Europe or America may have taken a step back from investing in culture, "places in this part.

Porsche case: Reinstated doctor on MLA, minister's letter, says dean, sent on leave

PUNE: Revelations about Sassoon General Hospital's arrested forensic sciences head Dr Ajay Taware being reinstated as medical superintendent in April based on a recommendation by medical education minister Hasan Mushrif and NCP MLA Sunil Tingre led to dean Dr Vinayak Kale being sent on compulsory



leave Wednesday evening, hours after he went public with information that steered the Porsche Taycan accident case into new territory. Taware, who is in custody along with casualty medical officer Dr Shrihari Halnor and mortuary staffer Atul Ghatkamble for allegedly manipulating an alcohol test in the accident case

involving a Pune builder's 17-year-old son, had been stripped of the post of medical superintendent over his suspected involvement in a kidney racket at the state-run hospital. The action against Kale came after the state govt issued an order to the Directorate of Medical Education and Research.

Prajwal set to land tomorrow; to be arrested instantly: Karnataka home minister

BENGALURU: Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna, 33, wanted for sexually abusing several women, is expected to land in Bengaluru from Munich in the early hours of Friday, sources said. The JD(S) MP will be arrested immediately upon his arrival, Karnataka home minister G Parameshwara said. "There is a warrant for him and sleuths from SIT will



have to arrest him," Parameshwara said. Prajwal's advocates had approached a court for legislators, seeking anticipatory bail in cases filed against him. However, special judge Gajanana Bhat

adjourned the hearing on the petition to Friday. The plea was filed in connection with a sexual abuse and rape case filed in Holenarasipura and two other rape cases filed with SIT.

Nawaz Sharif signals peace as India awaits new government

NEW DELHI: While former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif has in the past too accused his own country (read Pervez Musharraf) of violating the peace agreement he reached with India in 1999, his reiteration of the same on Tuesday is significant because of the timing. The elder Sharif, who is now the most powerful civilian leader in the country, spoke about Pakistan having sabotaged the agreement through its Kargil adventurism while taking back the reins of his ruling party after 6 years, and days before the outcome of the Indian elections. "Once Pakistan conducted five nuclear tests in reply to India's [then Indian



premier] Atal Bihari Vajpayee sahib came here and made a [peace] agreement with us... but we violated it and it was our fault," said Nawaz, after being re-elected PML-N president, according to the Dawn newspaper. Nawaz, whose brother Shehbaz Sharif is Pakistan PM, has long maintained that he learnt about Musharraf's Kargil "misadventure" only from a phone call by his then counterpart A B Vajpayee and that the Pakistani

military operation scuttled the peace process he had initiated with Vajpayee in the form of the Lahore Declaration early that year. The latest remarks by Nawaz, who has even otherwise been making favourable noises about ties with India, are seen as significant also because they come in the middle of Indian elections, and just before the results are declared on June 4. "It must be read as a significant signal from Pakistan's cur-

3 Bihar girls on 'spiritual quest' found dead in UP

AGRA: Four days after the bodies of three girls were found on a railway track near Bajna Bridge on the Delhi-Mathura rail route in Mathura, their families reached the city from Muzaffarpur in Bihar and identified them as their teenage daughters. Gauri Kumari, 14, Mohini Kumari, 14, and Maya Kumari, 13, were friends and students of Class 9. Umesh Kumar, the SHO of the Highway police station in Mathura, said Bihar Police were handling the investigation. Gauri's father, Amit Rajk, said that before leaving home on May 13, his daughter and her friend Maya left a letter saying, "Baba has called. Going to the Himalayas for a spiritual quest. We will return home after three months on Aug 13."

India test-fires RudraM-II missile from Su-30 fighter



NEW DELHI: India successfully flight-tested the indigenous RudraM-II air-to-ground missile, which is designed to have a strike range of almost 350-km, from a Sukhoi-30MKI fighter of the IAF off the coast of Odisha on Wednesday. The RudraM series are being developed by DRDO as new-generation anti-radiation missiles (NGARMs) for destroying a variety of enemy surveillance, communication, radars, and command and control centers on the ground. The 150-km range RudraM-I missile, with INS-GPS navigation with a passive homing head for the final attack, was first tested in Oct 2020, while a 550-km RudraM-III is also under-development. The test of the solid-propelled RudraM-II around 11.30 am on Wednesday met all trial objectives, validating the propulsion system and control and guidance algorithm. Defence minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO & the Indian Air Force on the successful test of RudraM-II.

FALLOUT OF RAJKOT FIRE

Special fire safety audit kicks off at commercial buildings and multiplex

Prayagraj: The major blaze at the Rajkot game zone that claimed lives of more than two dozen people in Gujarat, has come as an eye-opener for the police, fire and district authorities. The fire department has launched a 12-day special fire safety audit at commercial buildings and multiplex. Chief Fire Officer (Prayagraj) RK Pandey said that department has roped in as many as 10 teams including two each in Civil Lines and Naini and one each team at Handia, Meja, Phulpur, Soraon, Koraon, and Bara. He added, "These

teams will be checking fire fighting arrangements at around 400 buildings including hotels, hospitals, commercial establishments and malls from May 26 to June 6. The officials have also asked owners and management of buildings to improve fire safety apparatus or notices will be served them after June 6. The department has also closed a gaming zone at a multiplex in Civil Lines after finding inadequate fire fighting arrangements during fire audit on Monday night. "Officials have asked to change old and rotten electric wir-

ing, and outdated fire fighting equipments while carrying out checks at some commercial establishment in city," said CFO adding "The majority of owners of commercial establishments in the city including those located at prime localities like Civil Lines, Chowk, Ghantaghar, Katra have no idea about electric safety audits."

Officials are also checking whether commercial establishments in the city have obtained NOC (No Objection Certificate) from the Electrical safety directorate or not and take actions accordingly. However,

officials of the fire department, taking a cue from the Rajkot game zone inferno, have advised traders of different commercial establishments and management of multiplex in the city to opt for electric safety audit from electrical safety directorate at the earliest. Fire department officials have also advised traders to go for new wiring as old wiring is unable to bear increased load and often cause short circuit. Pandey, meanwhile, said, "Management of hospitals, hotels and big commercial establishments have also been directed to

install advanced and latest fire safety systems in their establishments. A four point safety guideline has also issued appealing authorities concerned to ensure that clearance should be maintained on exit routes and each and every shop owner should install firefighting arrangements. Besides, traders should switch off all electric appliances before pulling down their shutters.

A recent survey conducted by the department has revealed that more than 60% shops in the city neither have adequate fire-

fighting arrangements nor people know about the steps that should be taken in case of a fire. Officials of fire department, meanwhile, said, "Fire officials have been regularly advising people to install advanced firefighting arrangements, especially a well-planned escape route." Commercial complexes must have required number of fire extinguishers, first aid hose reel, terrace tank and terrace pump. The arrangements should be accordingly enhanced if the size and shape of a commercial shop is plus one or two-storied building or more.

104th AEC Foundation Day event planned for June 1

Prayagraj: A meeting of Ex-Servicemen Army Education Corps Group was held at Civil Lines Prayagraj in which like last year, this year also decided to celebrate the 104th Foundation Day of the Army Education Corps on 01 June 2024, which will be held in Prayagraj on Saturday, 01 June from 06 pm to 06 pm in front of Tulsii Restaurant, Civil Line, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Vatsalya Hospital, in which all you Army Education Corps Ex-servicemen are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Chief administrator of the program Captain Shyamnarayan Dubey, Subedar Major Mukesh Mishra, Subedar Major AK Singha, Subedar Major Suresh Tiwari, Subedar Major Rajesh Pandey, Subedar Major DK



Mishra, Subedar Major S.P. Singh etc. were present in the program as the chief guest. Former Subedar Shyam Sundar Singh Patel ji is respectfully invited and will be present. During the meeting, former Subedar Major Mukesh Mishra ji, while giving information about the Army Education Corps and the purpose of following it, said that we all the ex-servicemen of the Army Education Corps believe that we served in this Corps for 25 to 30 years and our aim was to take all the army personnel and the voluntary level of the army to a higher level. We have worked on many dimensions in the Army. Now it is the responsibility and duty of all of us to salute the flag under which we all have spent 30 years, keep the flag flying high and remain dedicated to the service of the country, with this very purpose in the Army. Prayagraj resident ex-servicemen of the Education Corps have decided to celebrate the 104th Foundation Day of the Corps with great pomp. One of the objectives of this event is to send a message to the civil society that education is very important in human life. Overall development is not possible. All retired families of Army Education Corps are requested to please participate in this program and make it a success. The slogan of all of us has been, we are soldiers, we are also teachers, our slogan is Vidaiva Balam.

Body of youth found

Prayagraj: The body of a young man was found next to Rudra Apartment near Arail Mode under Naini police station on the Yamuna crossing of Prayagraj. From the outline, the young man is known to be a laborer. At present, the police has taken the body in its custody and sent it to Swaroop Rani Medical Hospital. The body is yet to be identified. It hasn't happened yet.

Ekart's Refinish Service sets new industry standards, turning returns into opportunities

Varanasi: Ekart, one of India's leading 4 PL supply chain companies, has introduced a comprehensive 'Refinish Service' tailored to address the challenges of returns management in the fashion and lifestyle sector. This initiative marks a significant leap forward in efficient and sustainable return logistics management, offering brands unparalleled solutions to reclaim sellable inventory.

Mani Bhushan, Chief Business Officer, Ekart, said, "Returns management is a significant challenge for fashion brands, both logistically and financially. With Refinish, Ekart has introduced a transformative solution to the persistent challenge of returns management. By harnessing cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices, we are empowering brands to optimize their supply chains and are driving a positive change on a broader scale. Our Refinish service also marks a significant milestone with a one-of-a-kind large-scale setup in the sector. It sets a new standard for returns management, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to innovation, efficiency, and sustainability." In an era where customer returns pose a significant challenge for fashion brands, especially with products like apparel and footwear that have been tried at home or have minor defects, Ekart's Refinish service emerges as a transformative solution. By refurbishing over 90% of returned inventory, Ekart enables brands to mitigate losses and maximize revenue potential. This service targets direct-to-consumer (D2C), e-commerce, and retail players in the fashion and lifestyle segments.

Vistarako had major influence in organization's expansion: Mayor

Prayagraj: Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani and BJP workers sent Allahabad Lok Sabha's extender Prince Gupta and Phulpur Lok Sabha extender Rishabh Mahajan, appointed by the top leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party for the Lok Sabha elections, to Kidganj. On this occasion of respectful farewell at the camp office, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani said that it is definitely due to the sacrifice and penance of the Vistaraks that the Bharatiya Janata Party has achieved the distinction of becoming the largest party in the world and the Vistaraks played a huge role in the expansion of the organization. The work done by him and the guidance the workers have

been receiving and will continue to receive guidance to be aware of the organiza-



tion. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the top leadership of the organization had sent Prince Gupta, a resident of

Ballia, to Allahabad 6 months ago. Rishabh Mahajan, a member of the

structured the booths and played an important role in the empowerment of the booths and helped the workers in performing all the functions of the Lok Sabha very well. Motivated and provided their cooperation. On this occasion, the workers congratulated them on their advance victory and invited them to come to Prayagraj once again. Those honored included Rajesh Kesarwani, Padum Jaiswal, Pramod Modi, Councillor Mukesh Katera, Anand Jaiswal, Dinesh Vishwakarma, Bharat Kesari, Ajay Agrahari Shatrughan Jaiswal, Manish Kesarwani, Subhash Vaishya Rajan Shukla Girjesh Mishra, etc. hundreds of workers were present.

Admission for int'l students in four different courses for new academic session commences at AU

Prayagraj: The University of Allahabad (UoA) is pleased to announce the commencement of the admission process for International students for the academic session 2024-25, starting from the last week of May 2024. Admissions are open for various undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), professional courses, and doctoral programs (Ph.D.) under the "International Students Admission Rules & Procedure 2024". International students are classified into the following categories: Foreign Nationals, Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders and Non-Resident Indians (NRI). Admission for international students will be on super-numerary seats, which will not affect the sanctioned seats of any courses. International students can apply through one of the following modes: Self-Financing International Students, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Govern-

ment of India Category, Foreign students visiting under MoUs with international institutions. Special concessions are available for students from SAARC countries, who will receive a 50% fee waiver on the



registration fee and university fee (excluding professional fees).

International students are exempt from the entrance test for admission. The minimum eligibility qualifications for international students are the same as those for Indian students for each course/program, as specified in the UoA admission procedures and related Brochure 2024-2025. Inter-

ested candidates should carefully read and follow the "International Students Admission Rules & Procedure 2024" available for viewing and download on the University website- <https://www.allduniv.ac.in>.

Foreign students who intend to seek admission for the 2024-2025 session will first have to register at the Indian Government's STUDY IN INDIA portal (<https://studyinindia.gov.in/admission/login>). An UID will be generated at the Study in India admission portal, which will later be required during the admission process at the University of Allahabad. International students must submit a scanned copy of the duly filled application form in the prescribed format (available with the "International Students Admission Rules & Procedure 2024") along with necessary supporting documents by 11:59 PM (IST) on 31st July 2024 (Wednesday) to internationalstudentsoffice@allduniv.ac.in. No application processing fee is required. The Office of the International Students Advisor (ISA) will provide necessary guidance for the admission of international students. For any queries or assistance, please contact us at internationalstudentsoffice@allduniv.ac.in or isa@allduniv.ac.in. All correspondence related to international student admissions should be addressed to: Office of International Students Advisor, 2nd Floor, Prof. Ishwar Topa Academic Complex, Senate House, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj, (U.P.)-211002, India.

Bridging Hope: Mirzapur's Quest for Safety

Varanasi: Mirzapur's Shastri Bridge, once hailed as an emblem of connectivity, now teeters on the brink of peril. Every day, the rumble of overloaded trucks sends shivers down its structure. As queues of trucks pass by, it shakes awfully. Oblivious to an unseen danger, countless commuters and bridge-crossers tread their paths. Amidst myriad risks, a flicker of hope gleams as a promise of a new bypass emerges, offering relief and aspirations. Yet, as engi-

neers toil tirelessly, the looming question remains: can they safeguard the future of a bridge and its surrounding area?

Continuous overloading has turned the Shastri Bridge into a significant threat, necessitating the establishment of active monitoring posts to ensure its safety. Immediate action is imperative in this regard.

There's no denying that the government is actively focused on the development of foundational structures. Consequently, devel-

opment and connectivity in the region are on the rise. However, the success of development projects heavily relies on vigilance and timely maintenance to ensure the longevity and safety of crucial assets. Shastri Bridge in Mirzapur is also one such property. Regular bridge inspections are necessary to keep its structure secure over the long term.

Considering the current condition of Shastri Bridge, commuters are strongly advised to consider safer alternatives such as NH2 (cur-

rently named NH19), leading towards the Varanasi toll. This alternative route provides a reliable option for travellers seeking to avoid the overloaded Shastri Bridge, ensuring the safety of themselves and their loved ones.

The Shastri Bridge over the Ganga in Mirzapur is currently facing the challenge of overloading, despite undergoing several repairs. This raises serious concerns about the safety of the bridge itself and the lives of those who use it.

"Goal" U14 Football Competition: Northern Football Academy champion

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of Northern Football Academy, the "Goal" U14 Football Competition under the aegis of Northern Football Academy was held on Wednesday at the football field of Vishnu Bhagwan Public School Jhalwa in the U-14 boys category. Defeated Vishnu Bhagwan 2 - 1 in the tiebreaker in the final. In the final match, Northern Football Academy captured the winning trophy by defeating Vishnu Bhagwan School Boys Jhalwa 4-3 with the help of tiebreaker in a thrilling final match. According to the head coach of the



academy, Indranil Ghosh, both the teams were 1-1 till the full time of the match. The first goal of the match was scored by Mohd. Shadab of Northern while Aditya Upadhyay of Vishnu Bhagwan scored the goal and the score came to a tie of 1-1. The score remained one at full time after which in the tiebreaker Northern Football Academy won by 3-2. Shadab, Shaksham, Aditya Singh scored goals on behalf of the winning team while Aditya Upadhyay and Kumar Ansh scored goals on behalf of the runner-up team. Trainer Indranil Ghosh conducted the program and congratulated both the teams as winners and assistant trainer Rahul Verma. He gave away trophies to the runners-up and awards to the players. The recently released movie "Maidan" on Indian football will also be shown to all the players. Supratik expressed his gratitude.

Two-wheeler of police constable stolen

Prayagraj: Two-wheeler of constable Abrar Ahmed, posted in Naini Central Jail, was stolen from Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital premises on Monday, May 27. Ac-



ording to the information, Abrar Ahmed had come on prisoner security duty and had parked his Passion Pro iSmart (Registration Number: UP78ER6568) on the stand at 10 in the morning and left. When returned at 6 pm, the vehicle was not found at the stand. This incident of theft has raised questions on the security system.

3 robbers arrested



Prayagraj: Yamuna Nagar zone police got a big success, Shankar Garh police and SOG and surveillance team arrested 3 robbers, many items including a car and bike were recovered.

VMC to conduct NAT on June 2

Noida: Vidya Mandir Classes (VMC), the nation's leading institution and a hub for JEE (Main & Advanced), NEET preparation, is gearing up to conduct its flagship test for Admission & Scholarships, National Admission Test (NAT) on June 2 through both offline and online modes in order to reward and encourage good students across the country and elevating them towards academic growth. This test will give a significant boost to the preparation of JEE and NEET aspirants with Mentorship / Motivational Sessions by VMC Founders & Experts. Free Doubt Resolution and Hand Holding support at the nearest VMC centre all days a week. Well Researched & Scientifically driven E-study material and unlimited mock tests. Students who are in class 9th-12th or have passed class 12th have the chance to take this test to enrol in one of the many programs offered at Vidya Mandir Classes, giving them a head-start and the chance to receive scholarships of up to 100%. "Building a solid foundation of scientific and technical knowledge and thus to prepare competent and motivated engineers and doctors is the primary motto of Vidyamandir Classes.

Various Hindi literary competitions mark event organized by Official Language Dept NC Rly

Prayagraj: With the aim of increasing the constructive participation of officers and employees in the use and dissemination of the official language Hindi, as per the instructions of General Manager Ravindra Goyal and under the guidance of Chief Official Language Officer and Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Satendra Kumar, North Central Railway Headquarters, Hindi noting and draft writing, Hindi essay writing and Hindi elocution competitions were organized at the regional railway level by the

Department of Official Language. In the Hindi speech competition organized on the topic 'New dimensions of environmental protection in Indian Railways', the participants expressed their useful views on the important works and schemes being done by Indian Railways for environmental protection and also discussed about the functioning of the Railways, passenger facilities, highlighted the importance of environmental protection in national life including railway operations. Deputy Chief Official Language



Officer and Deputy Vismuledhi/Headquarters Shailendra Kumar Singh, present as the judge on this occasion, said that from the point of view of

environmental protection, railway system, road Transportation has always been expected to be better as it provides environment

friendly and hygienic services to its passengers and customers. In the direction of using renewable energy, alternative sources like solar energy, wind energy, hydrogen etc. are the future of green railways. Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh informed that REMCL has been established in Indian Railways for systematic environmental management, which provides strategic advice regarding alternative sources of energy for railway operation and management. Singh appreciated the subject knowledge of the speakers

and praised their language and style of expression. In this competition P.K. Ojha, Inspector, Railway Protection Force, Main Line got first place, S. M. Najmi, Senior Section Engineer/Tele, Construction Organization, Headquarters got the second position and Kamlesh Singh Kushwaha, Helper, Electricity Coaching, Prayagraj Division got the third position. The program was coordinated by Senior Official Language Officer Chandra Bhushan Pandey and conducted by Official Language Officer Yathar Pandey.

Eagle-eye watch at Sangam ghats amid increasing drowning incidences

Prayagraj: As the rising temperature attracts the youth to the river ghats for bathing, drowning accidents are increasing in Prayagraj. On Monday, two youths drowned in the Yamuna while bathing. In response to Monday's incident, Jal police and local cops will monitor the ghats to control such incidents. Teams of divers and water police personnel will now keep a strict vigil at all ghats at Sangam, Arail Ghat, Phaphamau, Shivkuti, Subban Ghat on the Yamuna River in Kareli, and other ghats in the Atarsuiya area. Additionally, cops will also keep vigil at ghats on the Ganga River in the Dhumanganj area.

With temperatures reaching around 47 degrees Celsius in Prayagraj, many people, especially youths, are heading to different ghats to bathe and cool off. However, youths venturing too far into the rivers result in mishaps as they drown due to deep water and swift currents.

Police officials said that besides the deployment of divers and life-guards, boatmen and fishermen at different ghats have been asked to keep watch on youths coming to bathe and warn them. Cops have been asked to patrol the ghats and warn youths to take baths in the rivers.

It is worth mentioning

that deep-water barricading is installed at all ghats at Sangam to prevent people from going into deep waters. Police officials said people often cross the barricades while ignoring the warning signs. In all cases of drowning at Sangam, the victims had crossed the deep-water barricades and went into deep waters where they drowned or were carried away by swift currents, officials added.

Last year during the summer, over a dozen people drowned in separate incidents in Shivkuti, Phaphamau, Arail, Sangam, and other ghats in the district. Jal Police In-charge JP Sahni said, "A strict watch is now being kept at Sangam and all adjacent ghats. Divers and Jal police personnel have been deployed at Sangam nose and other ghats in one shift. A team of divers and water police personnel is also on alert under the New Bridge. Moreover, water police personnel will also patrol the Sangam waters on motorboats to keep an eye on all ghats including Arail Ghat." Prayagraj police commissioner Ramit Sharma said steps have been taken to avert drowning incidents at Sangam nose and other ghats. Soon, a more concrete plan will be devised to control incidents of drowning.

At 48.4 C, Prayagraj hottest breaks 3 decades record

Light drizzle increased humidity

Prayagraj: Prayagraj recorded the highest ever May temperature. Maximum temperature in other parts of region continued to be above 46 degrees Celsius on Wednesday with the temperatures expected to come down from Thursday onwards. On Wednesday, Prayagraj met stations of eastern Uttar Pradesh recorded all time high May temperatures. Prayagraj was hottest at 48.8 degree Celsius, 7.1 degree above normal. It is the highest for May since 1896, as per the available manual Observatory data of IMD.

The previous highest May temperature of 48.4 degrees was recorded on May 30, 1994. Light drizzle increased the humidity in Sangam city Prayagraj, after the scorching heat of the day, rain increased the problem.



Inspector instantly collapsed and died

Prayagraj: Inspector Rankendar Singh (56), who was on duty in the court of Prayagraj, died suddenly, death due to heat stroke suspected. He was posted at Dhumanganj police station. On Wednesday i.e. today he came to the court on duty. Here he suddenly gasped and fell down. He was immediately taken to Bailey Hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. Rankendra Singh, originally a resident of Uldan village of Jhansi, had joined the police department in 1987. Some time ago he was promoted to the post of Sub Inspector. He was posted at

Dhumanganj police station from 19 January 2023. These days his duty was in court security. On Wednesday, the Inspector, who reached the court from the police station for duty, suddenly fainted and fell down at around 9 in the morning. He was immediately taken to Bailey Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. He lived with his family in Jhansi. The family members reached there after getting information about the incident. It is suspected that he died of heat stroke. At present, the exact cause of death will be known only after the post mortem report comes.

Ford School Club beats SJC in inaugural match

Prayagraj: Ford School Cricket Club won the inaugural match of the Railgaon Trophy Under-16 Cricket Competition by defeating St. Joseph's College by eight wickets. The competition started from Wednesday at the Railgaon ground

not out, Shivansh 15 not out, Krishnam Pandey 1/05, Amogh Prasad 1/20). Shishir Mehrotra and Mohammad Arif were the umpires and Khurshid Ahmed the scorer in the match. Before this, the competition was inaugurated by the chief guest



Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, General Secretary and Co-Chief Public Relations Officer of North Central Railway Sports Association. Assistant Personnel Officer Jitendra Singh welcomed the chief guest by giving him a bouquet. Krishnanand Tripathi, Vashishtha Kumar Rai, Ajay Veer, Vishal Kumar, Shiram Yadav etc. were present on this occasion. On Thursday, Kayastha Pathshala Trust Club will face St. Joseph's College at 7 am.

PMEGP: Prayagraj attains 100% target in providing aid

Prayagraj: In the financial year 2023-24, the Prayagraj district has achieved 100% target ensuring that the benefit under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) reaches the eligible. Under this scheme, financial assistance and subsidy ranging from 15% to 35% of the project cost, depending on the category and location of the beneficiary, is provided by the government to eligible entrepreneurs who set up new micro-enterprises, officials said. A target of 116 beneficiaries was set in the district for the financial year 2023-24 and of which 100% has been achieved. Loan amounts of over Rs. 18.80 crore have been distributed by the designated bank to all 116 beneficiaries. Among these beneficiaries, subsidies amounting to over Rs. 17.20

crore have also been released to 51 people who claimed subsidy, officials informed.

Deputy commissioner, industries, Sharad Tandon, said that in the financial year 2022-23, financial assistance of over Rs. 14.20 crore was given in the district under this scheme, while in the financial year 2023-24 it increased to over Rs. 18.80 crore, which was over Rs. 4.60 crore more than the previous year.

In terms of subsidies given to them, in the year 2022-23, a subsidy of over Rs. 4.67 crore was given under this scheme, while in the year 2023-24, a subsidy of over Rs. 1.72 crore was given, he said. More than 11,000 people have got employment locally in the financial year 2023-24 from this scheme alone, he added.

PMEGP is implemented by the Khadi and Village

Industries Commission (KVIC) functioning as the nodal agency at the national level. At the state level, the scheme is implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks. In such cases, KVIC routes government subsidies through designated banks for eventual disbursement to beneficiaries / entrepreneurs directly into their bank accounts.

The maximum cost of the project/unit admissible in the manufacturing sector is Rs. 25 lakh and in the business/service sector, it is Rs. 10 lakh. Categories of Beneficiary's Rate of subsidy under PMEGP (of project cost) area (location of project/unit) include general category 15%(Urban), 25% (Rural), Special 25% (Urban), 35% (Rural) (in-

cluding SC/ ST/ OBC/ Minorities/Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas, etc).

The balance amount of the total project cost is provided by the banks in the form of term loan and working capital. Any individual above 18 years of age who has passed Class 8 at least can apply for projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the business/service sector. Only new projects are considered for sanction under PMEGP.

Self Help Groups (including those belonging to BPL provided that they have not availed benefits under any other scheme), institutions registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860; production co-operative societies, and charitable trusts are also eligible.

Organisation mark World Menstrual Hygiene Day with distribution drives, awareness campaigns

Prayagraj: On World Menstruation Day, a special event was organized by Poonam Sant Mahila Evam Vikas Samiti under the awareness campaign at Arya Basic Junior High School, Rajrooppur on Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Poonam Sant, president of the organization, while making the women present there aware about this important issue, said that we all have to come out of these conservative evils



and empower our daughters and sisters physically and mentally and along with this, we should also get

rid of this monthly problem. Special care will have to be taken about eating habits and cleanliness during this

period. All the women present in the program were provided free sanitary napkin packets by the organization. Mainly present in the program were National Coordinator of the organization Isabel Brandish, National Secretary Abhishek Sant, Archana Maurya, Srishti Kumari Preeti Prajapati, Sanjana Devi, Satikala, Chahat Tiwari, Rekha Devi, Gudiya Devi, Gunja Devi, Lalli Devi, Meera Devi etc women took part in.

Demand to make health a fundamental right: Disha student organization

Prayagraj: Disha student organization demonstrated in support of Dr. Om Shankar and distributed pamphlets on Wednesday in Prayagraj. Dr. Om Shankar of the Department of Cardiology in BHU is on fast unto death since May 11 to protest against the corruption of BHU administration and to make medical treatment a fundamental right. On Wednesday, May 29, Disha student organization demonstrated at the main gate of Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital in support of Dr. Om Shankar and against the apathy of the BHU administration and distributed pamphlets. Avinash of Disha student organization said that for the last two years, the Cardiology Department 41 beds were locked, due to which patients had to be referred to private hospitals outside. As a result of Dr. Om Shankar's fast unto death in

March, an order was given to give those beds to the Cardiology Department, but the Superintendent of BHU, against this order, allotted these beds to another department. The fourth floor

issues, the BHU administration, showing a dictatorial attitude, removed Dr. Om Shankar from the post of Head of the Department.

It is noteworthy that a large population of Bihar

doctors, and wait for weeks to months for tests. This is the situation of the city where Prime Minister Modi had made big promises of development. When Dr. Om Shankar is on fast regarding these basic problems, on the other hand, Prime Minister Modi is maintaining silence on this issue. The medical system in the entire country is in a bad state. Modi government talks about trillion dollar economy, but only one and a half percent of GDP is spent on medical care, which is less than countries like Sri Lanka. There is one doctor for about 10,000 patients in India. Long queues at government hospitals and health centers confirm this

situation. Treatment in private hospitals is expensive and people are not able to get treatment even after selling their property. Private hospitals get the support of politicians because they give election donations. The prices of medicines have continuously increased during the tenure of Modi government. Since April 1, the prices of 800 essential medicines have increased by up to 12 percent. Even in 2022, the prices of such medicines were increased by 10 percent. The government's agenda is not to improve the government medical system, but to increase the profits of private pharmaceutical companies and hospitals.

Their demands: 1. All the demands of Dr. Om Shankar, who is struggling in BHU, should be fulfilled immediately. 2. The right to health should be made a fundamental right. 3. The govern-

ment should guarantee free universal health care in which medical and pharmaceutical treatment for every person is the responsibility of the government. 4. The vacant posts of doctors and health workers across the country should be filled and the ratio of 1 doctor for every 1000 population should be ensured.

NOTICE

The general public is informed that the name of my daughter Abrish Tauheed was earlier Abrish Fatima, now she should be known by the new name Abrish Tauheed, whereas in her passport her date of birth is recorded as 20-10-2015 which is wrong. Whereas his correct date of birth is 20-06-17. Tauheed Alam son of Rakib Khan resident of Jhansi Kohna Phulpur Prayagraj UP.



and half of the fifth floor of the super specialty building allotted to the Cardiology Department have not been opened yet. Instead of taking any action on these

and Uttar Pradesh comes to BHU for treatment, but they have to face long queues for treatment. People with serious illnesses also have to wait in lines for hours to see

Editorial

The Architectural Marvel of Gaganyaan

In the pantheon of India's space exploration endeavours, Mission Gaganyaan stands out as a bold and ambitious project. It signifies India's resolve to join the league of nations capable of sending humans to space and safely returning them to Earth. This mission is not merely a testament to India's growing prowess in space technology but also a beacon of its scientific spirit and quest for cosmic knowledge.

Like Carl Sagan said, we, on Earth, are living amidst a shooting gallery of comets and asteroids. The need for humanity to become a multi-planetary being is not a luxury but a necessity.

The Architectural Marvel of Gaganyaan
Mission Gaganyaan is an intricate tapestry of cutting-edge technology and innovation, designed to propel India into the elite club of countries with human spaceflight capabilities. The mission's architecture is a triad of crucial components: the Crew Module (CM), the Service Module (SM), and the launch vehicle, GSLV-Mk III. The Crew Module is the heart of Gaganyaan, designed to house the Vyomnauts, providing them with life support and safety throughout the mission. It is a fortress of human ingenuity, equipped with advanced systems to ensure the crew's well-being in the void of space. The Service Module, attached to the Crew Module, is the powerhouse of the mission, equipped with propulsion, power, and life support systems. It ensures that the Crew Module has the necessary resources for survival and mission success. The GSLV-Mk III, India's most potent rocket, serves as the chariot for Gaganyaan. It is tasked with the monumental responsibility of propelling the spacecraft beyond the clutches of Earth's gravity into orbit.

The Chosen Protectors of India's Space Dreams

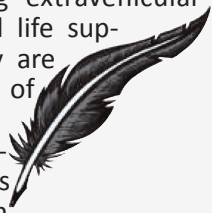
The selection of the crew, an elite group of Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots, is a narrative of unparalleled rigour and meticulousness. The process was not merely about selecting India's finest pilots but about finding individuals who embody resilience, intellect, and the indomitable spirit of exploration. The chosen Vyomnauts, after a stringent selection process involving medical evaluations, psychological assessments, and rigorous physical tests, are Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Pratap, Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla. These individuals represent the zenith of professionalism and dedication, poised to be the torchbearers of India's manned spaceflight.

Training for the Unknown

The training regimen for these Vyomnauts is as comprehensive as it is intense, designed to prepare them for every conceivable challenge of space travel. From acclimatising to the micro-gravity environment to handling the unforeseen contingencies of space, the training covers every spectrum of the mission. They undergo extensive sessions in specialised facilities like the Human Centrifuge and parabolic flights to adapt to the physiological demands of space travel. Simulators and virtual reality setups provide them with a taste of the space environment, honing their skills in spacecraft operation and emergency procedures. Moreover, their training extends beyond the confines of Earth.

Collaborations with international space agencies provide them with exposure to advanced training modules, including extravehicular activity (EVA) and advanced life support systems, ensuring they are well-versed in the nuances of human spaceflight.

Gaganyaan is more than a mission; it's a statement of India's burgeoning capabilities in space technology and its unwavering.



Why India is right to exclude Muslims from the Citizenship Amendment Act

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is a tiny window of legislation at the intersection of a subcontinent's dark-crimson history, tumultuous geopolitics and upwardly spiralling aspirations. For Islamists and their intrepid western 'liberal' allies, this window is where simplistic, anti-India propaganda converges. For the religious minorities who have faced unrelenting discrimination, murders, rapes, conversions, and land grab in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, it is a enough of an opening to climb into sunshine. One cannot imagine what implementation of CAA will do in border states like West Bengal, Rajasthan, Punjab and Kashmir. Pockets of a mute, invisible, exploited and vulnerable population will come alive. Horrors like the one in Bengal's Sandeshkhali — in which many of the victims of rape, murder and land grab by TMC goons like Sheikh Shahjahan were Hindu refugees driven away from Bangladesh — will meet with swift and fierce resistance. If India had the CAA rules in 1979, there would be no Marichjhapi massacre. The then Left Front government and CPM cadre in Bengal presided over the killing of nearly 1,700 persecuted Dalit Hindu



refugees who had fled Bangladesh to settle in West Bengal. They were butchered across 100 islands in the Sunderbans delta. Even their drinking water wells were poisoned. The stock, uninformed attack against the CAA is that it is anti-Muslim. Why should citizenship applications of only persecuted Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis from these three Islamist countries be expedited? Why shouldn't persecuted Muslims like Shias and Ahmediyyas of Pakistan not be included in CAA? There are six good reasons why India is justified and wise not to include Muslims from these three nations. First, CAA is a nar-

row-window legislation to protect persecuted 'religious' minorities, not 'sects'. Muslims from these countries can still apply under the old Citizenship Act. Former Pakistani singer Adnan Sami got Indian citizenship and is a much loved and respected figure in India today. The US has a similar narrow-window legislation called the Lautenberg-Specter Amendments which give preferential shelter to persecuted minorities from Russia and Iran. Second, the historical premise of CAA is the Liaquat-Nehru pact that was signed after Partition in 1950 to safeguard minorities in the divided subcontinent. India kept its

population has grown by over 5 per cent in seven decades. But Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh didn't keep their word. Percentage of religious minorities have dwindled to single digits in Pakistan and Bangladesh, and close to zero in Afghanistan. Third, now-hounded Islamic sects like Shias and Ahmediyyas were at the forefront of the movement to create Pakistan. India is not obligated to protect them from one another now. Fourth, India has the right to defend itself against demographic and cultural takeover. It has already lost several body parts in the course of

the 1,000-year demographic war unleashed against it by colonisation and Islamic invasions. It has seen large tracts of its territory, especially along the border. It must not accommodate further demographic usurpation. Fifth, India should learn what not to do from the western model of 'liberalism' which the Left and far-Left have long hijacked. In the name of 'multiculturalism' and 'cultural enrichment', Left-leaning parties in the West have facilitated unbridled immigration to grow their vote bank. It has gaslighted white populations to drop all survival instincts against demographic takeover. This model makes 'liberal democracies' ripe for takeover by parasites and the very enemies of democracy. And sixth, India has nothing to prove by being magnanimous vis-a-vis Pakistan, Bangladesh or Afghanistan. All are right now failed or struggling states while India is the fastest rising global economic and military power. India neither needs their validation nor needs to belittle them for liberal brownie points. The CAA is absolutely fine and effective as it stands. It is the first step to making Bharat the natural home for the persecuted people of all Indic religions.

Modi's India is ensuring it doesn't end up on the losing side this time

Many centuries ago when the world at large didn't have much clue about statecraft and strategy, Kautilya had advised Chandragupta Maurya, his disciple, that the country with which his kingdom would share an immediate border will always be its enemy. But the enemy's enemy will be a friend and hence all strategic calculation must be undertaken keeping this basic premise in mind. It seems India was following this exact logic when a set of very interesting images from Afghanistan splashed across the media this week. An Indian delegation led by JP Singh, joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, met Taliban's foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul. The Indian delegation also met former President Hamid Karzai,

officials of the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan as well as some people from the business community. This was the second such public engagement between India and Taliban after the latter returned to power in 2021. The first public engagement took place in 2022 when at that time also, Joint Secretary Singh met Taliban's foreign minister Muttaqi. In the last three years since Taliban has come back to rule the country by establishing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, India's diplomatic engagement with the new rulers has been on a very firm footing. Time and again, India's foreign policy establishment has invoked civilisational ties and the role of history to justify maintaining strong ties with Kabul. Not without Prime

Minister Narendra Modi urging Taliban to form an inclusive government in the country. Although, India has not accorded diplomatic recognition to the state set up by Taliban yet but it has continued to engage the various stakeholders in Afghanistan including Taliban itself. A major part of this engagement is focused on humanitarian aid to people of Afghanistan which is being coordinated by a technical team posted by India since June 2022. As a part of this aid, India had provided Afghanistan with food-grains to tide over an unprecedented food shortage, medical aid that also included Covid-19 vaccines besides continued support for more than 500 projects in critical sectors such as power, water supply, road.

Why The Economist's analysis of North-South economic schism is frivolous rather than factual

On leap year's leap day, an analysis that can't be leapt. With two articles titled "To see India's Future, go south" and "India's north-south divide", The Economist argues that India's economic rise is over-reliant on South India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trading ideological aims for national unity. Similar arguments have been utilised by a parliamentarian from a major political party to demand a separate nation. This party had organised a movement in New Delhi in February, demanding 'Our Tax Money, Give it to us.' It is being portrayed that the ruling party in the Centre stands for an illiterate, underdeveloped, Hindi-speaking North India, while the opposition stands for a developed, inclusive, and Hindi-opposing South India. This portrayal oversimplifies the complexities of Indian politics and regional dynamics, necessitating clarification to challenge attempts to undermine India's sovereignty.

First things first. The protests against the alleged divide are not economic but political. The analysis of the economy notably excludes the Western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, which collectively contribute to almost 24 per cent of India's GDP. However, a strong demand for separatism still doesn't

exist. Among these states, Gujarat has been ruled by the BJP for nearly three decades. The Economist, not for once, mentions these states and their stats. Political leaders of the opposition in the South are leveraging economic injustice to solidify their political positions, often in response to challenges posed by Prime Minister Modi's popularity and his party's strategies. These leaders also support the farmers' protests in North India despite their purported concerns about tax distribution. This raises questions about the sincerity of their motives regarding the North-South economic divide.

A historical perspective may shed light on why West and South India have experienced more economic growth than the North and East. From 1952 to 1993, the Government of India implemented a freight equalization policy that subsidized the transportation of minerals. This policy incentivised the development of manufacturing facilities near the coastline, where transportation of raw materials was more feasible. Although the policy was eventually revoked, its impact persisted as new investments favoured regions with existing infrastructure. The role of migrants in contributing to GST collections in states like Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil

Nadu is significant. For instance, an IT engineer from Uttar Pradesh settled in Bengaluru contributes to income tax collections, while workers from Bihar purchasing goods in Tamil Nadu contribute to GST revenues. Consider the service they are adding to these states. This commercial activity contributes to state-wise tax collections, which are then redistributed by the union government based on developmental needs. If the argument of using Karnataka's money for UP is made, then the same argument of using Bengaluru's money for Hassan can also be made and similarly, using the billionaire's money to uplift the masses. If the last two would be illogical,

then the former would be too. As long as the tax money collected from the developed states goes to underdeveloped states for infrastructure development, security, and education over frivolous subsidies, this distribution is fair. Such distribution will only encourage fresh investment in the underdeveloped regions and the taken-for-granted approach for migrant labourers will be reduced. Naturally, one would prefer to work closer to their hometown, provided enough economic opportunities and other basic amenities. In July 2023, Namma Metro in Bengaluru.

Agni V with MIRV gets India into global deterrence league

Agni V with MIRV gets India into global deterrence league (File) DRDO conducts first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology. PTI

The successfully test-fired Agni-V ballistic missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology vastly extends India's strategic envelop.

range, exceeding 5,000 kilometres. This extended reach significantly alters India's strategic landscape. Traditionally, India's missile arsenal primarily focused on deterring threats from its immediate neighbours. However, the Agni-V's extended range allows India to potentially engage targets across vast distances, encompassing a broader spectrum of potential adversaries. This expanded reach compels any potential aggressor to consider the wider ramifications of a conflict with India. The psycholog-

ical impact of this extended deterrence capability is undeniable. The stakes have just gone up.

MIRV technology: A game changer

The integration of multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicle technology turbocharges India's capability to launch a survivable multiple nuclear attack from a single source. MIRV allows a single missile to carry multiple independently targeted warheads. During the final stages of flight, these warheads separate and manoeuvre towards

pre-designated targets. This capability significantly complicates an enemy's missile defence system. Previously, an enemy could potentially expend a single interceptor missile to neutralise an incoming threat.

However, with MIRV technology, the enemy's defence system would need to engage and destroy each independently targeted warhead, exponentially increasing the defensive burden. This complexity significantly enhances the effectiveness of the Agni-V as a deterrent.

Rename namesake disease hitting Ranikhet's fame: HC

DEHRADUN:

Uttarakhand high court has directed the state to propose a new name for a disease that has Ranikhet, a picturesque tourist spot, in its name. After a PIL highlighted that the hill station's reputation suffers due to its association with an avian disease known as 'Ranikhet disease', the administration has now been told to file an affidavit suggesting an alternative name by June 27.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal discussed the negative impact of the disease's name on Ranikhet's tourism.

Ranikhet renowned for healthy air, Himalayan views. The petitioner, Satish Joshi, of Ranikhet, said "the picturesque town's allure is overshadowed by this association".

Ranikhet, about 50km from Almora, is renowned for its healthy climate, pleasant breeze, stunning Himalayan views, and pollution-free greenery with deodar and oak trees. The area's attractions, including Kumaon Regimental Centre, museum, & golf course, offer memorable experiences for visitors.

Ranikhet disease, also known as



Newcastle disease, affects the birds and poultry, leading to severe respiratory issues, nervous system problems, and high mortality rates.

This affliction has significant economic implications for poultry farmers and can affect the large local bird populations.

The petitioner contended other celebrated hill stations like Mussoorie and Nainital are exalted. Ranikhet, therefore, should not be overshadowed.

by a negative association with a malady.

State govt acknowledged its limited jurisdiction in the matter but has, in turn, suggested that Centre could take necessary steps to rename the illness.

Indians extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay: Uber CEO



BENGALURU: Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said that Indians are extremely demanding, but unwilling to pay. The Uber top boss was in conversation with Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani in Bengaluru on Thursday at an interactive session on building population scale technology.

"India is one of the toughest markets out there. If we can succeed here, we can succeed anywhere," Khosrowshahi said.

Uber is also planning to expand to low-cost service segments of two- and three-wheelers in India. The company will be getting into bus services in some of the geog-

raphies. "It is also an extraordinary opportunity for us to expand our services to a wider population. We don't just want to be an upper-middle-class product. We want to be available to everybody," Khosrowshahi said companies and govts around the world can learn from the scale and ambition of India's digital public infrastructure. He added that as a technology company, Uber views open-source tech stacks with a lot of interest and recognises the opportunities they bring for everyone.

Khosrowshahi said that Uber's approach has changed since the pandemic. As much as the

focus is on the customers, he also said there is a growing focus on improving the experience for its drivers. Uber has signed an MoU with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app. Khosrowshahi said that Uber made \$3 billion in terms of profits during the pandemic.

It also lost 85% of its volumes overnight during the lockdown that led to the laying off of some of its employees. Uber operates across 125 cities in India and has clocked 3 billion trips in 10 years.

CAPSULES

Upstox forays into insurance distribution; aims to simplify wealth management in India

GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD : Upstox, one of India's premier wealth management platforms, today announced its entry into the insurance distribution business. While Upstox has traditionally been recognized for its offerings in Stocks, F&O, and Mutual Funds, the introduction of Insurance marks a significant stride towards evolving into a comprehensive wealth-building platform. Today, Upstox is a one-stop-shop for a wide array of financial instruments including Stocks, IPOs, F&O, Commodities, Currencies, Fixed Deposits, P2P Lending, Government Bonds, T-Bills, NCDs, Gold, Insurance and much more. With this launch, the company aims to revolutionise India's insurance landscape by offering its users a simplified, transparent and customised experience of purchasing insurance in line with their needs. Currently, Upstox is offering Term Life Insurance on its platform and is planning to roll out Health, Motor and Travel Insurance soon. HDFC Life is among the first insurers to partner with Upstox and feature their Term Insurance plans on the platform. Kavitha Subramanian, Co-Founder, Upstox said, "We are thrilled to expand our offerings on Upstox and foray into the insurance distribution segment."

We have recognized that navigating the insurance landscape is a daunting task. Customers are inundated with so many questions - which is the right plan, what should be the correct criteria to select a plan, how much insurance cover will be enough. At Upstox, we understand these challenges, and we're dedicated to helping our customers get answers to all of these without overwhelming them.

Book Khamoshiyan released

Poems give peace to the heart and mind: Professor Vig

Chandigarh: Professor Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor of Panjab University, Chandigarh, released the latest poetry collection Khamoshiyan of renowned writer Dr. Pragya Sharda in her office today. This is the author's eighth book. There are 73 poems in this poetry collection which have been written about society and family. At the beginning of the program, famous social worker KK Sharda introduced the dignitaries present. Senior litterateur Prem Vij, while discussing the



book, said that in the presented poetry collection, the poetess has made social relations and relationships the basis of her poems with an open eye. Poet Dr. Vinod Sharma, while speaking on the poems, said that the poetess has effectively expressed the evils and discrepancies prevalent in the

society in her poems. Social worker Jaidev Cheema congratulated the poetess and said that her poems will guide the society. Novelist and publisher Vijay Saudai said that the poems reflect the truth of the poetess's experiences. Senior journalist and President of Chandigarh Press Club, Nalin

Acharya, while congratulating the poetess, said that more knowledgeable poems will be read from her writings.

CA Prithvi Goyal was also present in the program. Speaking on this occasion, Vice Chancellor Professor Vig said that poems give solace to our heart and mind.

Wabtec Inaugurates New Manufacturing Campus in Rohtak India

ROHTAK: Today, Wabtec Corporation (NYSE: WAB) inaugurated its new manufacturing campus in Rohtak, India. The new plant represents a \$18 million (Rs. 150 crore) investment and will initially manufacture transit rail components and sub-systems followed by other Wabtec product lines in the coming years. Several Wabtec executives were on hand for the grand opening including Pascal Schweitzer, President - Transit Business, Sujatha Narayan, Senior Vice President and India



Regional Leader, and Ajay Mani, Managing Director - Transit India. "India is an important growth market for Wabtec, especially for the transit business," said Schweitzer. "The new site will further improve Wabtec's ability to deliver enhanced value through our diverse product offerings for both Indian and global customers." The factory, set on 10,000

square meters will start off producing axle mounted disc brake systems, distributor valves, brake calipers, and actuators, as well as friction material for freight cars, metro coaches, and locomotives for Indian Railways and metros.

This campus is expected to host many products in the coming months and years that serve the rail, mining, and industrial segments, a testament to Wabtec's commitment to the Indian market and the "Make in India" initiative.

Upstox forays into insurance distribution; aims to simplify wealth management in India

DHARAMSHALA:

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the first insurers to partner with Upstox and feature their Term Insurance plans on the platform. Currently, the insurance penetration in India stands at just 4.2% with a considerable portion of the population still being dependent on traditional and agent-driven models to purchase policies. Along with that, there is a lack of awareness, overload of choices, heavy paperwork and complex jargon involved in the process of buying insurance. Through its research, Upstox recognized that often users succumb to a one-size-fits-all approach; and opt for a term insurance plan without proper assessment.

World's First Live Bariatric Surgery Using Apple Vision Pro Performed by Pristyn Care and Mohak Bariatrics

GURUGRAM : Pristyn Care, in collaboration with Mohak Bariatrics and Robotics, has performed the world's first live bariatric surgery utilizing the Apple Vision Pro. This groundbreaking procedure, which included a sleeve gastric bypass and a Single Anastomosis Duodenal-ileal (SADI) procedure, was performed by Dr. Mohit Bhandari, one of the foremost bariatric and robotic surgeons in the country. The use of Apple Vision Pro, an advanced augmented reality (AR) device, marked a significant milestone in medical technology and surgical precision. The surgery was conducted in 40 minutes on a 45-year-old patient, weighing 155kg and suffering from obstructive sleep apnea and high blood pressure. The Apple Vision Pro provided a



highly immersive and interactive 3D environment, allowing Dr. Bhandari and his team to visualize complex anatomical structures with unprecedented clarity. This technology facilitated enhanced precision in executing the sleeve gastric bypass and SADI procedure, minimizing risks and improving patient outcomes. "At Pristyn Care, we are committed to pushing the boundaries of medical innovation to provide our patients with the highest standard of care. The successful integration of Apple Vision Pro into bariatric surgery marks a significant milestone in our journey towards rev-

olutionising surgical procedures. We are proud to be at the forefront of this technological advancement, which promises to enhance precision, improve outcomes, and set new benchmarks in the healthcare industry," said Dr. Vaibhav Kapoor, Co-founder, Pristyn Care. This historic surgery represents a significant advancement in bariatric care and the broader medical community. By leveraging Apple Vision Pro, Pristyn Care demonstrates the potential of augmented reality in enhancing surgical precision, reducing operative times, and improving recovery outcomes for patients.

Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd. Executes acquisition of EMC Ltd.

CHANDIGARH: Salasar Techno Engineering Ltd. (BSE: 540642, NSE: SALASAR), is a one stop engineering and infrastructure solution provider. The Company is engaged in providing turnkey EPC services for Railway and Power sectors and is also engaged in designing and manufacturing of telecom towers, Monopoles and other Heavy Steel Structures. The company announced that it has executed the acquisition of EMC Ltd. on an "As is where is," "As is what is," "Whatever there is," and "No recourse" basis as a going concern. This acquisition has been executed in compliance with the terms and conditions outlined in the E-Auction Process Information Document issued by the Liquidator. A Sale Certificate has been issued by the Liquidator in favor of Salasar confirming completion of sale. Earlier, Salasar announced that it effectively completed the payment of balance amount of Rs. 1,680 Mn for acquisition of EMC Ltd. (Formerly known as Electrical Manufacturing Company Limited). This demonstrates a pivotal moment in Salasar's continuous pursuit of expanding market presence and capabilities. Commenting on the above status, the management team of Salasar said, "We are thrilled to announce the timely completion of the payment for the acquisition of EMC Ltd., marking a monumental milestone in our journey of strategic expansion. Our ability to swiftly settle the full amount underscores our commitment to executing our plans with precision and agility. This acquisition represents more than just a business transaction.



S&P changes India's outlook from 'stable' to 'positive'

NEW DELHI: Global ratings agency S&P on Wednesday revised India's outlook to 'positive' from 'stable' citing robust growth and improvement in the quality of govt spending, but kept the sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of BBB (minus). "We expect sound economic fundamentals to underpin the growth momentum over the next two to three years. Regardless of the election outcome we expect broad continuity in economic reforms and fiscal policies," said S&P while explaining the rationale for the revision.

Companies can raise funds at competitive cost

Global ratings agency S&P said, "Our positive outlook on India is predicated on its robust economic growth, pronounced improvement in the quality of govt spending, and political commitment to fiscal consolidation. We believe these factors are coalescing to benefit cred-



it metrics." Moody's Investors Service (Baa3) and Fitch (BBB-) have a stable outlook for India and sovereign ratings at investment grade status. S&P had upgrade the outlook to stable from negative in 2010. Govt, which has made repeated arguments for a rating upgrade, appeared pleased with the change in outlook with FM Nirmala Sitharaman describing it as a welcome development. "This reflects India's solid growth performance and a promising economic outlook for the coming years. It has been possible due to the series of macroeconomic reforms undertaken since 2014, along with substantial outlay for capex, fiscal discipline, and decisive & vision-

ary leadership. As envisioned by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi, India is well on track to become the third-largest economy in the third term of govt and become a #ViksitBharat by 2047," she tweeted. The revision in the outlook comes as a shot in the arm for the BJP led govt which is widely expected to be re-elected in the ongoing national election - results for which will be announced on June 4. It will also help boost sentiment for an economy which has remained robust against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions and help companies to raise funds at competitive costs overseas. S&P's +ve outlook to help cos raise funds.

MUMBAI: Insurance regulator Irdai has brought in several reforms in health covers aimed at improving service standards for policyholders. The new norms will require insurers to approve cashless claims within an hour and provide final authorisation for discharge from a hospital within three hours. Insurers will also need to provide a one-month grace period for annual renewal of health policies and protect benefits under policies renewed within that period. Irdai has issued a master circular on health insurance products that comes into effect immediately (with certain exceptions). The new cir-

cular, which repeals 55 previous circulars, consolidates entitlements in a health insurance policy. Under the new norms, insurers have to ensure that hospitals release mortal remains immediately in the event of a death during treatment. Companies cannot repudiate a claim without the approval of a Claims Review Committee. For settlement of claims, insurers must insurers and TPAs (third party administrators) must collect documents from hospitals and not call for them from the insured. Policyholders with multiple health insurance policies can select the policy under which they

claim the admissible amount. The primary insurer will coordinate the settlement of the balance amount from other insurers. The new rules allow insurers to reward policyholders with no claims during the policy period by offering either an increased sum insured or discounted premium amounts. Policyholders, who want to cancel their policies, can receive a refund of the premium for the unexpired policy period. All individual health insurance policies are renewable and cannot be denied on the basis of previous claims, except in cases of fraud, non-disclosure, or misrepresentation.

Court sentences 2 men to 20-year RI for 2020 acid attack on 17-year-old

A court in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich awarded 20 years of rigorous imprisonment to two men on Wednesday for throwing acid on a 17-year-old girl after she rejected the advances of one of the convicts in 2020.

The court also imposed Rs 1 lakh fine each on Ehtesham, alias Saddam, and Suhail, alias PK Baba, who attacked the Class 12 girl returning from her coaching classes in Bahraich's Kotwali area on Dec 21, 2020.

"Ehtesham had been harassing the girl to marry him. He kept troubling her with text messages on her mobile," said police. Statements of a woman witness, and the text messages corroborated the victim's testimony.

How results of Lok Sabha polls will impact sensex, Nifty

According to a Bloomberg News survey of market participants, Indian stocks require Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party to secure more than 303 seats in the general election to continue their unprecedented rally. The survey, which included 32 asset managers, strategists, and dealers, suggests that a reduced majority for the ruling BJP could result in a 2% decline in the NSE Nifty 50 Index, along with potential losses in the rupee and sovereign bonds. Indian stocks need Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party to win more than 303 seats in the general election to extend their record rally, according to a Bloomberg News survey of



market participants.

A smaller majority for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party may lead to a drop of about 2% in the NSE Nifty 50 Index, with the rupee and sovereign bonds also expected to fall, according to a mean of forecast by 32 asset managers,

strategists and dealers. However, a victory exceeding 303 seats — the party's count in the 2019 polls — may result in gains of about 3% in the benchmark stock gauge, the survey showed. Winning by a landslide would give Modi the mandate need-

ed to push through politically difficult reforms in land acquisition and labor that are seen as crucial for accelerating India's economic growth. While investors still back Modi to win a third term, low voter turnout and reports of close contests in some areas have tempered their enthusiasm about his expected victory margin since elections began on April 19. "If he were not to win, that would create some uncertainty and put some pressure on valuation," Henry Mallari-D'Auria, chief investment officer for global and emerging markets at Ariel Investments LLC, said in an interview. "At this time, there is little uncertainty about the outcome of this election."

Skoda Auto Volkswagen India manufactures 15 lakh units

PUNE: Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt Ltd has manufactured 15 lakh vehicles at its Chakan plant since it rolled out the first car, Skoda Fabia in 2009. The popular models of launched by the company include VW Vento and Polo, Skoda Fabia and Rapid, Taigun and Virtus, Skoda Kushaq and Slavia. Over the past years, the engine shop at the Chakan facility has produced more than 3 lakh engines for the Volkswagen Group. The company has also



manufactured 3 lakh unit for its 2.0 car range, which includes VW Taigun and Virtus, Skoda Kushaq and Slavia.

The company exports over 30% of its car production and has exports to over 40 countries and is among

the top four exporter of India-made cars.

"Our decade-long investment in the engine shop and the remarkable output of 15 lakh vehicles at the Chakan plant, showcases India's pivotal role in our global strategy. These achievements not only signify our capabilities but also highlight the immense potential of the Indian market in driving our growth trajectory forward," Andreas Dick, Skoda Auto a.s. board member for production and logistics, said.

Monsoon set to arrive early and simultaneously over Kerala

NEW DELHI: In an uncommon phenomenon, monsoon is expected to arrive both over Kerala and some parts of northeastern states simultaneously with IMD on Wednesday predicting favourable conditions for an early onset/progress during the next 24 hours. Monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on June 1 while it arrives a couple of days later in the North-East and covers most part of it by June 5. Last time, a similar simultaneous onset/progress over Kerala and North-East had happened was on May 30, 2017 triggered by Cyclone Mora that formed over east-central Bay of Bengal. This time, the possibility of simultaneous onset is attributed to Cyclone Remal that formed over Bay of Bengal last week. The cyclonic circulation has pulled the monsoon flow in the region.



"The conditions continue to become favourable for monsoon onset over Kerala during next 24 hours and advance of monsoon over some parts of northeastern states during the same period," said Met department while predicting early onset of showers. Last year, the onset happened over Kerala on June 8 after a delay of seven days. Met department also predicted that the prevailing heat-wave conditions over northwest, including Delhi-NCR, and central India are likely to reduce gradually from Thursday. Drop in temperature can be attributed to western distur-

bances. MD had earlier this month predicted the possibility of monsoon onset over Kerala on May 31 with a model error of ± 4 days. Its operational forecasts of the date of monsoon onset over Kerala during the past 19 years (2005-2023) were proved to be correct except in 2015. Advance of the southwest (summer) monsoon over Indian mainland is marked by monsoon onset over Kerala and is an important indicator characterizing the transition from hot and dry season to a rainy season. Southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala on 1st Junewith a standard deviation of about seven days.

IL&FS, arms told to recover Rs 150 crore from ex-directors

NEW DELHI: In a rare move, govt has asked the board of IL&FS and two of its arms to recover excess money of Rs 150 crore, including managerial remuneration and commissions, from ex-directors after the entities restated their accounts to show losses of Rs 9,600 crore for financial years 2013 to 2018, instead of a profit of Rs 1,869 crore estimated by the management and board, which had to be superseded following massive irregularities. Directors of IL&FS Financial Services (I-FIN) and IL&FS Transport Network, where accounts were not found to be in order, are facing similar action, official sources told TOI. A large part of the amount is to be recovered from four key directors - Ravi Parthasarthy, Arun Saha, Hari Sankaran and Ramesh Bawa - with the sum adding up

to over Rs 100 crore. Milind Patel, Rajesh Kotian, and Vibhav Kapoor are some of the other directors, who face similar action. The independent directors, some of whom are big names in the corporate sector, have to refund a part of the commission paid during their tenure when the fraud was perpetuated. The list includes prominent names, such as, Maruti Suzuki chairman R C Bhargava, VBHC founder and director Jerry Rao, former HDFC boss K M Mistry, former LIC chairman S B Mathur, retired civil servant Michael Pinto and Rina Kamath. After first reported about the revised accounts on May 6, a former independent director had said that board members like them should not be held responsible as they were not responsible for day-to-day functioning of the entities and went along with

the accounts that were presented and discussed at the board meetings. The boards of IL&FS, I-FIN and ITNL had recast the financial statements for five financial years as mandated by NCLAT and submitted their findings to the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA). The company has also filed these accounts with NCLT so that they can be taken on record. When contacted, an IL&FS spokesperson said: "All three companies, IL&FS, IFIN and ITNL, have written letters to their erstwhile directors informing them of the excess managerial remuneration paid to them between FY2013-18. They have been asked to refund the excess managerial remuneration to the company under applicable laws. These amounts have been computed based on the recasted statements for FY2013-18."

Giant crocodile tries to climb over railing in UP, video goes viral

NEW DELHI: A video of a giant crocodile attempting to jump back into a canal is going viral on social media. In the video, the locals are seen in a panic as the large reptile, which crawled out of the canal, is seen attempting to climb over a railing but ultimately failing. Videos shared by netizens claimed that the incident took place in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr. Sharing the video, one of the locals said, "UP: This crocodile came out of Ganga canal in Narora of Bulandshahr district. The forest department team reached there and rescued it and released it back in the canal. Crocodile brother, it is hot here, stay in the water..."

Several people recorded this incident and shared on social media claiming that the size of the croc was at least 10 feet. As per the video, officials who came to capture the reptile covered its head with a cloth and sought to immobilize its limbs to prevent any potential attacks on the rescue team. Subsequently, ropes were employed to secure its legs, with four forest officials gripping the ropes attached to the crocodile's head and front legs, while another official looped a piece of rope around its hind legs. Additional personnel lifted the crocodile's tail while others secured a rope around its mouth, as depicted in the videos of the operation.

#Travel With Limca On An Exhilarating Exploration Of Your City

Panipat/Karnal: first sip of the ultimate thirst quencher, Limca, a layer of happiness envelops her, igniting a sense of excitement and curiosity. Energized by the refreshing taste, Triptii's journey takes an enchanting turn, setting out to traverse through the hidden gems of her city. From bustling markets to sizzling street snack shops, she uncovers the rich experiences, inspiring consumers to tour the city with a refreshing Limca. Expressing her excitement about joining the Limca family, Triptii Dimri said, "I am very happy and excited to be a part of Limca. Exploring new places and experiencing different cultures has always been my passion, and I am thrilled to encourage others to do the

same. Together with Limca, I look forward to embarking on this exciting journey of discovery." Ruchira Bhattacharya, Senior Director, Marketing – Hydration, Sports and Tea Category, India and South-West Asia Operating Unit at The Coca-Cola Company, said, "With its legacy of lime and lemony credentials, Limca has been rejuvenating consumers with its unique taste for 5 decades. We are thrilled to launch the #TravelWithLimca campaign featuring Triptii Dimri as our new Limca face. With this campaign, we hope to encourage people to get out there and discover the beauty of their own cities and refresh themselves with a chilled Limca! Mukund VML, Chief Strategy Officer, Studio X said,

AADHAR HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF EQUITY SHARES OPENS ON MAY 8

GURUGRAM : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (the "Company"), proposes to open the initial public offering of its Equity Shares on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. ("Offer") The initial public offering comprises a fresh issue of Equity Shares aggregating to ₹ 10,000 million ("Fresh Issue") and an offer of sale of up to such number of Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 20,000 million by BCP Topco VII Pte. Ltd. (the "Promoter Selling Shareholder") ("Offer for Sale" and together with the Fresh Issue, the "Offer"). The Company proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds from the Fresh Issue, (i) to meet future capital requirements towards onward lending; and (ii) general corporate purposes. The Equity Shares are being offered through the Red Herring Prospectus dated April 30, 2024 ("RHP") filed with the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka at Bangalore ("RoC"). The



Equity Shares issued through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges being BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges"). For the purposes of the Offer, the designated stock exchange shall be NSE. Amit Dixit, Head of Private Equity Asia, Blackstone, said, "The listing is a significant milestone for Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, and its transformation is a great example of what we do best: Building businesses that build India. We brought our scale, network, and best global

practices to grow the business, and empowered the company in digitizing its processes, end to end from origination to collection. It has been a wonderful partnership, and we couldn't be more proud of where the business stands today." Mukesh Mehta, Senior Managing Director in Blackstone Private Equity, said, "It is rewarding to be a part of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited's mission to enable underserved Indians to own homes and play a role in the company's transformation and growth. Our priority has been to build through close.

CAPSULES

Rush at OPDs as heat soars, doctors sound dehydration-exhaustion alert

KOLKATA: The hot and discomfort weather conditions in the past few days are taking a toll on the health of Kolkatans, especially those who have to remain outdoors for hours. Even though none of the city hospitals have recorded any heat stroke cases so far, doctors are getting a good number of people with heat exhaustion and dehydration. Health experts have cautioned people to take all precautions when outdoors to avoid severe consequences.

"Because of such hot and humid weather, the people who are engaged in outdoor activities are prone to develop heat exhaustion when the body starts sweating a lot due to the rise of the core body temperature resulting in dehydration. Heat exhaustion makes the person feel weak, dizzy and thirsty. I have seen two to four such cases in the past one week, mostly middle aged men, probably due to their higher exposure to the sun," said internal medicine specialist Joydeep Ghosh of Fortis Hospital, Anandapur. opd

B P Poddar Hospital had tended to 14 persons in its emergency in the past three days, most of them down with extreme dehydration making them unwell while they were out in the sun. "37 patients came to our OPD with heat related issues. While most of them were middle-aged patients, some were school children. We had to admit two senior citizens because in addition to dehydration they had other issues like BP fluctuation and sodium, potassium imbalance," said Supriyo Chakrabarty, group advisor, BP Poddar Hospital.

Probe Shortage Of Medicines: Bharadwaj To LG

New Delhi: Health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has written to lieutenant governor VK Saxena demanding strict action against officials responsible for the non-availability of medicines and consumables at Delhi govt health facilities. He also demanded a "time-bound inquiry" against them for misrepresenting facts and misleading govt on the issue. The letter was sent on Thursday in response to a story, 'Boy with broken arm turned away by hosps'. On April 1, an 8-year-old boy with a broken arm was turned away by two state-run



hospitals, Dr Hedgewart Aarogya Sansthan and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, a dedicated paediatric facility. While one hospital claimed it did not have cotton, the other said it had no orthopaedic doctor at the time to treat the boy. The boy's father, a guard with a monthly salary of

Rs 15,000, had to ultimately take him to a private hospital and pay Rs 13,000, including the doctor's consultation fees, which would have been negligible at a govt hospital. Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya, where Class II student Aditya Kumar was taken by his parents, has now started "emergency ortho" till

8pm on all working days. Until now, this facility was available from 9am to 4pm. Bharadwaj wrote about the health secretary misinforming and misleading the minister concerned about the availability of the items. Bharadwaj underlined that either the senior officers of health and family welfare were unaware of the actual situation or were not deliberately resolving this imminent crisis. He said he had directed the chief secretary and the health secretary multiple times to ensure the supply of medicines and consumables.

PAT Day 1 marked by shortage of question and answer booklets

Mumbai: As the Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). School heads said despite sending details of the number of students appearing for PAT, the SCERT on Thursday directed schools to take photocopies of the question papers wherever there was a shortage. Schools also complained of not receiving the answer keys to the questions. Teachers assess papers based on answer keys. Mahendra Ganpule, spokesperson of the Maharashtra School Principals' Association

highlighted the need for improved planning by the education department. Ganpule said, "Despite the challenges, teachers managed to distribute papers on the first day, albeit with additional effort and expense. The issue was more pronounced in remote areas and was exacerbated by a lack of manpower at the taluka level for distribution." Over one crore students are participating in these exams, which are part of the Strengthening

Teaching-Learning and Results for States project funded by the World Bank. The PAT aims to enhance the quality and governance of school education and includes a basic test followed by two comprehensive assessments. The mandatory test is to determine the learning outcome of students. It is based on second semester syllabi. Schools that incurred expenses on photocopying question papers last year said they are yet to receive reimbursement.

reimbursement.

HC seeks status of criminal cases filed in 2020 Delhi riots

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday sought status of criminal cases registered following riots that broke out in the national capital in Feb 2020. A bench of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Manoj Jain asked police to furnish details after noting that over 750 FIRs were registered in the aftermath of violence and the investigation in 273 was still pending. Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on Feb 24, 2020, after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 700 injured. The bench was hearing a public interest litigation by Jamiat Ulama-Hind seeking setting up of special investigation team (SIT) to hold an independent probe

into the riots. The petitioner's lawyer said that SIT should be set up at least in those cases where the stage of filing of chargesheet has not even come till now. "How much time will you take? That was 2020 and we have entered 2024...Total cases registered is 757; transferred to Crime Branch 62; number of cases chargesheeted 367; number of cases pending trial 250 and pending investigation is 273. Therefore, pending cases are 273 as on April 2. So many cases," said the bench, relying on the figures furnished. During the hearing, the court observed that the cases were registered in 2020 but several of them were still pending and asked the police the reason behind it. The petitioner had approached the high court in March 2020 seeking several

reliefs, including preservation of the CCTV footage of the riots in northeast Delhi. The PIL claimed that FIRs have not been lodged against persons responsible for the riots and alleged that the police is not accepting the complaint in which the accused are named and they are insisting to give a complaint against unknown persons. The court posted the matter for next hearing on April 29. We also published the following articles recently 2020 Delhi riots: Court rejects Tahir Hussain's bail Former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's bail plea rejected by New Delhi court in the 2020 Delhi riots case due to prima facie true allegations. and UAPA provisions, including dismissal based on a larger conspiracy.

2 calves born in Kashi farm mark new start for Gangatiri breed

LUCKNOW: UP govt's Varanasi farm has become the country's first conservation centre to breed two high-merit Gangatiri cow calves using embryo transfer technology (ETT) and IVF. The two female calves were born on March 26 and 27. Gangatiri breed is native to eastern UP and Bihar. It got its name after Ganga as it is the belt along the river which is its natural habitat. The breed has low input costs and is resistant to many diseases. "Gangatiri is recognised nationally and has high significance as a source of livelihood to local farmers in the state," said Dr Neeraj Gupta, CEO of the UP Livestock Development Board. The ETT will help produce elite cows at a faster rate as a single mother can produce multiple high-merit progenies, he added. In the current case, four elite females at the farm were selected as egg donors. Semen from a high-merit bull was used to fertilise the eggs in-vivo (inside the



body). After about seven days, the embryos were flushed from the donor cows and transferred into four surrogate cows, which may not have been of high merit. However, only two pregnancies were successful, and two calves were born, said Gupta. The ETT is being extensively used for the improvement of indigenous cow breeds at var-

ious places as elite cows are used as egg and sperm donors. "This technique will increase the efficiency as well as productivity of Gangatiri bovine herds. It has huge potential to multiply the income of farmers," said Ravinder, principal secretary of animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries, and chairman of UPLDB.

Joyride? Man risks life travelling 400km on the train's roof

KANPUR: A man spotted lying on the roof of New Delhi-Gorakhpur bound Humsafar Express (12572) triggered panic at the Kanpur Central railway station on Tuesday. Investigation revealed that the man, identified as Dilip Kumar of Fatehpur, had travelled an astonishing 400km between Delhi and Kanpur by lying on the train's roof. The video of his bizarre act also went viral on social media. Fortunately, Kumar did not stand on the train's roof during the journey and got saved from getting electrocuted by the overhead wires, said GRP personnel. When the train entered platform 9 of Kanpur Central, passengers noticed Dilip on the roof of the B-11 AC coach of the Humsafar Express and raised an alarm. Deputy chief traffic manager Ashutosh Singh, assistant commercial manager railway Santosh Kumar Tripathi, station superintendent.

Ekart's 'Refinish Service' sets new industry standards, turning returns into opportunities

GURUGRAM / PANIPAT : Ekart, one of India's leading 4 PL supply chain companies, has introduced a comprehensive 'Refinish Service' tailored to address the challenges of returns management in the fashion and lifestyle sector. This initiative marks a significant leap forward in efficient and sustainable return logistics management, offering brands unparalleled solutions to reclaim sellable inventory. In an era where customer returns pose a significant challenge for fashion brands, especially with products like apparel and footwear that have been tried at home or have minor defects, Ekart's refinish service emerges as a transformative solution. By refurbishing over 90% of returned inventory, Ekart enables brands to mitigate losses and maximize revenue potential. This service targets direct-to-con-



sumer (D2C), e-commerce, and retail players in the fashion and lifestyle segments. In addition to fashion and lifestyle brands, Ekart's refinish service extends to industries like footwear, handbags, accessories, and the home and decor, encompassing products such as curtains, bed sheets, blankets, etc. Mani Bhushan, Chief Business Officer, Ekart, said, "Returns management is a significant challenge for fashion brands, both logistically and financially. With Refinish, Ekart has introduced a

transformative solution to the persistent challenge of returns management. By harnessing cutting-edge technology and sustainable practices, we are empowering brands to optimize their supply chains and are driving a positive change on a broader scale. Our Refinish service also marks a significant milestone with a one-of-a-kind large-scale setup in the sector. It sets a new standard for returns management, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to innovation, efficiency, and sustainability."

She was not a woman, she was a torch'

Special program in memory of National Nari Shakti Award winner Darshana Gupta

New Delhi: Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh organized a special program at the NDMC Convention Hall in Delhi in memory of Mrs. Darshana Gupta, who received the National Nari Shakti Award and led many education, social upliftment and women empowerment organizations. The program started with Sangeetanjali, in which popular singer Swami Sanjay Prabhakaranand presented his melodious bhajans. In the felicitation session of the program, former National Vice President of BJP Shyam Jaju, executive member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Indresh Kumar, former Union Minister Santosh Bagdodia, Principal of Hansraj College Dr. Rama Sharma and pillars of Agarwal society Pradeep Mittal,



Balkishan Surendra Gopalsharan Shivratna Gupta, Arun Aggarwal remembered Darshana ji and narrated many important memories of his life. **ocean of emotions in the program**

Each and every memoir related to Darshana Gupta came out from the mouth of the speakers and within no time the packed hall seemed to be stirred by a sea of emotions. The words of the speakers created such an atmosphere that everyone remained speechless, pin drop

silence... tears falling drop by drop from the eyes. Darshana Gupta's decision-making ability, her passion for social welfare, her eagerness to bring social justice to everyone, the work done by her in the direction of women empowerment, her tireless and continuous efforts to achieve the target after setting it. Speakers kept talking about his unique ability in their own style. However, while doing this, if a speaker's throat choked, the eyes of the audience became like Ganga-Jamuna.

CAPSULES

Tata Steel to invest \$ 2 billion to fund rejig of UK operations

Mumbai: Tata Steel will infuse \$2.1 billion (Rs 17,408 crore) in its Singapore arm, to repay debt of its offshore entities and to "support the restructuring costs" of its loss-making UK operations. Further, it will convert debt instruments worth \$565 million (Rs 4,661 crore) it holds in the Singapore arm into equity shares. The fund infusion as well as the conversion of debt into equity will be done in this fiscal, said Tata Steel.

Tata Steel's profit slides 65% to Rs 555 crore
The Indian company owns 100% of Singapore arm called T Steel Holdings, which in turn owns the overseas steel assets including the UK plant. T Steel Holdings posted a loss of Rs 4,367 crore in FY23. Tata Steel will also be raising Rs 3,000 crore in the form of non-convertible debentures (NCDs). The company has been raising money through NCDs now and then. Tata Steel is investing £1.25 billion (\$1.6 billion) to build a new electric arc furnace (EAF) at its Port Talbot plant in UK, while deciding to shut down two blast furnaces at facility by Sept. The move will lead to axing of 2,800 jobs at the plant. "We will proceed with proposal to shut down heavy end assets this year, and set up EAF by 2027. This is a difficult period of change for our people... With respect to EAF, we will place equipment orders by Sept 2024 and have signed the agreement with UK National Grid securing high voltage connection, which will be available on schedule. We have as part of discussions with the unions, offered the best ever package of support for affected employees in Tata Steel UK. We have agreed to final terms of proposed grant package.

Exchanges warn investors of fake trading apps, impostors

MUMBAI: The bourses on Wednesday warned investors to not fall for social media posts offering high returns through specialised apps that use names of established brokers and other intermediaries. While NSE said in its warning that there have been cases where people impersonated representatives of Choice Broking and R K Global Shares & Securities, BSE didn't name any broker or market intermediary. "It has been brought to the notice of (NSE) that persons named 'Makhan Prajapati'

and 'Rakesh Sharma' claiming to be associated with entity named 'Choice Broking' operating through mobile number '9977690997' and person named 'Kuldeep Valiya' claiming to be associated with entity named 'R K Global Shares & Securities' and operating through mobile number '9112569388' are providing securities market tips for trading and assured returns on investment in the stock market. He is also offering to handle investors' trading accounts by asking them to share their login ID/pass-

words," NSE said. "Investors are requested to take note that Choice Equity Broking and R K Global Shares & Securities, registered trading members of (NSE), have informed that the above-mentioned person is not associated with them in any manner," it added. "Generally, impersonators carry out their activities via social media platforms and messaging apps such as Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups. They make enticing promises of guaranteed high returns," BSE said. When investors start to

believe they are dealing with legitimate registered intermediaries, they download the app and invest through it. "Reality is that their investments never actually occur on the stock exchanges. Instead, these transactions remain as paper trades within the app. When investors try to withdraw substantial amounts, the app suddenly becomes non-functional." BSE, in its letter, said Sebi had been receiving complaints from investors/intermediaries about fraudulent trading activities.

Prayas Ek Koshish social organization started Aashiyana Abhiyan for protection and promotion of birds

Loharu: Aashiyana Abhiyan has been started from Muktidham Loharu by Prayas Ek Koshish social organization to save birds from the ever increasing temperature and for their conservation. Under this campaign, 50 straw nests have been installed.

Giving information, Master Pawan Swami and Manoj Singhal, founders of Prayas Ek Koshish social organization, said that due to rising temperatures, every living being needs water. At such times, it is our duty to arrange food and



water for the mute birds. We should make efforts for conservation of every living being. Today, some species of birds are becoming extinct, for their conservation, Aashiyana Abhiyan has been started. SSJ Foundation administrator Dr. Anil Joshi, Rinku Prajapat and

youth Naman Sharma said that their organization has been running "Parindo Ke Liye Parinda Abhiyan" for the last 8 years and bowls are kept for birds at various public places, they are cleaned regularly and filled with water. He said that every living being has

an important role in the food chain and if the number of any living being increases or decreases, it has an adverse effect on the environment. We should plant as many trees as possible to conserve living beings and keep the earth's temperature balanced. We should keep arranging food and water for birds and other living beings from time to time. On this occasion, Ravindra Kaswan, Monty, Vishu Swami, Mayank Swami installed nests and bowls on trees for the birds.

RBI puts curbs on 2 Edelweiss companies

MUMBAI: The RBI has placed restrictions on two companies of the Edelweiss group - ECL Finance and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company (EARCL) - over 'evergreening' stressed loans. Evergreening of loans is the practice where lenders extend additional credit to borrowers who cannot repay

their existing loans. ECL Finance offers corporate finance, loans against property and securities, MSME lending among others. EARCL is among the largest companies dealing with the purchase and recovery of bad loans from lenders. RBI has asked ECL Finance to "cease and desist, with immediate effect, from undertaking any structured transactions in respect of its wholesale exposures, other than repayment and/or closure of accounts in its normal course of business". EARCL has received similar orders preventing it from acquiring any new bad loans or restructuring security receipts. Security receipts are units issued to investors in bad debts, entitling the investor to a share in the recovery. RBI said that the decision to take action on ECL was based on

concerns identified during supervisory examinations. This action was prompted by the coordinated conduct of Edelweiss group entities, which engaged in a series of structured transactions to artificially improve the financial health of ECL. They did this by using EARCL's platform and connected alternate investment funds to bypass relevant regulations. Incorrect valuation of security receipts was observed in both ECL and EARCL. Additionally, in ECL, RBI found several issues like providing incorrect details of eligible debts to lenders for calculating borrowing limits, not following rules for loan-to-value ratios when lending against shares, incorrect reporting to the Central Repository for Information on Large Credits and not following KYC guidelines.

Maruti Suzuki opens its 5,000th service touchpoint to further enhance customer delight

GURUGRAM : Maruti Suzuki India Limited announced the opening of its 5,000th service touchpoint in the country. This touchpoint located in Gurugram, Haryana was inaugurated by Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki. The expansion of the service network aligns with the Company's objective to continuously offer a delightful and hassle-free car ownership experience to its customers. Maruti Suzuki's Service Network is spread across 2,500 cities in the country. Maruti Suzuki inaugurated its first service workshop in the year 1983. By 1997, in a period of 14 years, it reached 1,000 service touchpoints. The Company increased its network by another 1,000 service touchpoints in 9



years, followed by 8 years and 7 years. Notably, the last 1,000 service touchpoints were set up in just about 3 years. Commemorating the milestone, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "At Maruti Suzuki, we have always believed in a 'Customer First' approach, and it has been our endeavor to provide our valued customers with convenience and delightful

car ownership experience. One of the ways to achieve this is to reach as close as possible to our customers so that they have assurance of finding a Maruti Suzuki service touchpoint nearby, whether they are navigating city streets or venturing into remote areas." He added, "Going forward, as we aim to increase our sales, a strong network of sales and service will be essential. In line

with this, we will continue to add more service touchpoints in the coming years. Notably, in the financial year 2023-24, we added 400 service touchpoints, making it the highest-ever addition in any financial year. Many of these new service touchpoints are located in the non-urban markets. Through our vast service network, we have been able to service a record 25 million vehicles in the last financial year."

Sensex falls 668 points on global factors

MUMBAI: Profit taking by nervous investors ahead of the Lok Sabha poll results on June 4 pulled leading indices down for the fourth consecutive session on Wednesday. Rising crude oil prices and fading chances of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve also weighed on investor sentiment. As a result, even the improvement in India's sovereign rating by global ratings agency S&P was discounted by Dalal Street investors, brokers and analysts said. At the close of Wednesday's trading, the sensx was down 668 points or 0.9% at 74,503, while Nifty closed at 22,705 points, down 183 points. From its all-time peak of 76,010 points on Monday, the sensx has lost 1,500 points.