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

'Nafrat ki dukaan pe ...': PM Modi attacks Congress over 'brutality' in US

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday slammed the leader of opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi over his slogan "Mohabbat ki dukaan". "They talk about the Constitution. Ye nafrat ki dukaan pe mohabbat ki dukaan ka board laga kar ke ghumte hai. But a journalist of our country was subjected to cruelty in the USA by Congress. A son of India was insulted in the USA," said PM Modi while addressing a rally in Jammu & Kashmir's Doda. Congress claims run Mohabbat Ki Dukaan but insults Indian journalist in the US: PM Modi The Prime Minister also criticised the Congress party, National Conference, and People's Democratic Party, warning that Jammu and Kashmir will return to the days when schools were set ablaze and children will have stones in their hands if their policies get implemented. "Congress, PDP, and NC



Mamata's olive branch to doctors fails to end RG Kar impasse

NEW DELHI: Meeting between West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and protesting junior doctors failed to take place at the last moment as deadlock between the live telecast and video recording continued. The impasse, which almost seemed nearing its end on Saturday evening, now remains as protestors, not willing to relent on their demands initially, had to leave CM Mamata's house. However, the protesters claimed that

they had agreed to have a meeting without video recording but were told by a government official that "it was too late and no meeting was possible now". In the beginning of the meeting, Mamata Banerjee tried persuading the medics to attend the talks, with an assurance that she would provide the video of the meeting, filmed by her government, once the Supreme Court gives nod for the same. that the three families will once again snatch

'More women non-smokers are showing signs of lung cancer'

'More women non-smokers are showing signs of lung cancer' Dr Prasanta Raghav Mohapatra, dean (academic), professor of pulmonary medicine and critical care at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, speaks about the risk factors of lung cancer. Is there any link between pollution and lung cancer? The link between pollution and lung cancer is well-established, particularly concerning outdoor air pollution and exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and other harmful pollutants. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5), tiny particles.

the reservation of the Pahadis. If their manifestos are implemented, the schools will once again be burnt, children will have stones in their hands, and there will be strikes," Modi said.

Led by PM, ministers flag benefits of the Centre's decisions on Basmati rice, onion and oilseeds

NEW DELHI: A day after the Centre removed the minimum export price of onion and Basmati rice, and increased import duty on edible oils, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home and cooperation minister Amit Shah and agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday emphasised how these decisions would not only boost export but also ensure that the farmers get better price of their crops. "We are leaving no stone unturned for the benefit of our farmer brothers and sisters who have been working round the clock to ensure the country's food security... such decisions (on onion, Basmati rice and edible oils) are going to greatly benefit our food producers. While these decisions will enhance their income, employment opportunities will also be increased in rural areas," Modi said in his remarks, responding to



Blast in central Kolkata leaves 1 person injured, bomb disposal squad cordon off

NEW DELHI: A blast on Saturday at the intersection of Blochmann Street and S N Banerjee Road in Central Kolkata injured a 58-year-old rag picker identified as Bapi Das. Das, a resident of the footpath on S N Banerjee Road, sustained an injury to his right wrist. According

to sources, the Taltala Police Station (PS) was alerted to the incident that occurred at around 13:45 hours. Officer-in-Charge (OC) Taltala, upon reaching the site, discovered that the injured individual had been taken to NRS Hospital for treatment.

Chouhan's multiple posts on X about benefits of the "farmers' friendly" decisions. The government on Friday decided to remove the minimum export price (MEP) on onions and reduce the export duty on it from 40% to 20%,

remove the MEP on Basmati rice, and increase the duty on the import of crude palm, soybean, and sunflower oils from 12.5% to 32.5% and on their refined oils from 13.75% to 35.75%.

Bengaluru woman sparks controversy with comments about Swiggy delivery executive, internet reacts

A Bengaluru woman has stirred controversy on social media with her comments about a Swiggy delivery agent. She criticised the food delivery platform for not having Kannada-speaking delivery agents in the city. The woman's comments have reignited the insider-outsider debate in Karnataka, with locals advocating for preference to be given to Kannadigas in job opportunities. In a post shared on social media platform X (earlier Twitter), a Swiggy customer shared a screenshot of her order details and wrote: "Bengaluru is in Karnataka or Pakistan @swiggy Your delivery guy is neither speaking nor understanding Kannada, not even English. Do you expect us to learn his state language Hindi

Government extends deadline for updation of Aadhaar card

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has announced that it has extended the deadline for free updates to Aadhaar card details. The final date for free online Aadhaar detail updates was previously set for September 14, post this deadline, uploading documents on myAadhaar portal and making changes in profile required a fee.

What is the new deadline to update details on Aadhaar Cards for free

The new date by which Aadhaar card holders can update their details for free is December 14.

"UIDAI extends free online document upload facility till 14th December 2024; to benefit millions of Aadhaar Number Holders," UIDAI said in a post on X. "This free service is available only on #myAadhaar portal. UIDAI has been encouraging people to keep documents updated in their #Aadhaar," it added. Aadhaar card holders can easily update their address, changes to their names, mobile number, or photograph online.

Why it is necessary to update details in Aadhaar card

India's unique biometric-based identification system, Aadhaar number serves as a crucial identifier for every citizen. It also helps in eliminating fraudulent identities and preventing leakages.

Prashant Kishor pledges to end Bihar liquor ban within 60 minutes of taking office

NEW DELHI: Political strategist-turned-politician and Jan Suraj chief Prashant Kishor on Saturday vowed to immediately end Bihar's contentious liquor ban, if elected to power. He made the claim just days before his party's foundation day on October 2. In an interview with ANI, Kishor said, "There is no need for any special preparation for the 2nd. We have been preparing



for the last two years. If the Jan Suraj government is formed, we will end the liquor ban within one hour." The liquor ban, introduced by chief minister Nitish Kumar in 2016, has been a polarising issue in Bihar, with critics

pointing to its alleged failure to curb alcohol consumption and its negative impact on the state's economy. When asked about RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's yatra, Kishor wished him well, saying, "My best wishes to him. At least he has

come out of the house and is going among the public." Kishor didn't hold back when addressing the ongoing friction between Tejashwi and chief minister Nitish Kumar, sparked by Tejashwi's claim that Kumar had apologised for joining the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Kishor said that both leaders have caused harm to Bihar and urged them to leave the state.

Meerut building collapse: 3 dead; rescue operations continue

NEW DELHI: Three people including a child died after a three-story building collapsed in Meerut's Zakir Colony on Saturday, news agency PTI reported. "In this incident, a man named Sajid who is around 40 years of age and his 2.5-year-old daughter died. About three people have died in total, including a child, one female and one male," says Meerut DM Deepak



Meena. Earlier, commissioner Meerut division Selva Kumari said that 8-10 people were believed to be trapped. "A building has collapsed in Zakir Colony. 8-10 people are trapped under it. Rescue operation is underway. Police and fire officials are carry-

ing out rescue operation. Army, NDRF, SDRF have been informed," said Selva Kumari. Senior officials, including ADG DK Thakur, IG Nachiket Jha, and SSP Dr Vipin Tada, have arrived at the location to supervise the rescue efforts and teams from the NDRF, fire brigade, and police are working to rescue the victims from the debris.

US govt approves sale of anti-submarine warfare sonobuoys to India for 'hunter-killer' helicopters

NEW DELHI: The US government has approved a proposed sale to India of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) sonobuoys and related equipment worth around \$52.8 million (Rs 443 crore) for the multi-mission MH-60R Seahawk helicopters being inducted by the Indian Navy. The Biden administration's notification to the US Congress on Friday said the proposed sale will support Washington's foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to strengthen the bilateral strategic relationship and improving the security of a major defence partner, India, which "continues to be an



important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions". The proposed sale will improve India's capability "to meet current and future threats" by enhancing its capacity to conduct ASW operations from its MH-60R helicopters, the notification said. The Navy in March this year had commissioned its first squadron of six submarine-hunting MH-

60R Seahawk helicopters, armed with Hellfire missiles, MK-54 torpedoes and precision-kill rockets, at INS Garuda in Kochi, as was then reported. By next year, India is slated to induct 24 heavy-duty Seahawks, which are also equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices, under the Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) contract inked with the US in February 2020. The notification said

the Indian government has requested to buy AN/SSQ-53G high-altitude ASW sonobuoys, AN/SSQ-62F HAASW sonobuoys and AN/SSQ-36 sonobuoys as well as engineering, technical and logistics support. "The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region," it said. Navy officers say the induction of Seahawks, which operate from decks of aircraft carriers and other frontline warships, represents a "significant capability jump" in detecting and destroying enemy submarines prowling in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Passengers stage protest after SpiceJet cancels Delhi-Darbhangha flight

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet on Saturday canceled its Delhi to Darbhanga flight which led to disgruntled passengers staging a protest at Delhi airport. A video of passengers protesting and shouting slogans at the airport was shared on social media. A spokesperson of the airline in a statement said that flight SG 495 from Delhi to Darbhanga was cancelled due to unforeseen operational reasons and extended an apology to the affected passengers for the inconvenience. Additionally, SpiceJet provided the option of a full refund or to take an alternative flight.

Ex-principal Sandip Ghosh, policeman arrested for destruction of evidence



NEW DELHI: The CBI on Saturday arrested former principal Sandip Ghosh of RG Kar medical college and police officer-in-charge Abhijit Mondal for destruction of evidence in connection with the Kolkata rape-murder case. The development came just minutes after the protesting doctors returned from CM Mamata Banerjee's residence without holding a meeting as the impasse continued. Earlier, Ghosh was arrested by the central agency in a separate investigation into financial irregularities and is

currently in judicial custody until September 23. Further, Abhijit Mandal, the officer in-charge of Tala police station has also been arrested. On August 26, the CBI conducted a second round of polygraph tests on Ghosh as part of their investigation. Ghosh is currently held in solitary confinement at Presidency Central Jail, where he was transferred earlier this week following a special court's order remanding him until September over alleged financial misconduct at RG Kar Hospital.

Inauguration of Medha: Dialogue series at Shatabdi Boys' Hostel of UoA

Prayagraj: The Shatabdi Boys' Hostel of Allahabad University today marked a significant milestone by inaugurating its newly established academic club, Medha, along with the launch of its monthly dialogue series for 2024. The event, held at the hostel premises, aimed to foster a vibrant intellectual community among the residents. The program commenced with a formal tree plantation ceremony by distinguished guests, symbolizing growth and renewal.

The inaugural lecture, titled "Nation Building: Our Roles and Responsibilities," was delivered by Dr. Sarvesh Singh. The keynote address was given by Dr. Govind Gaurav. Prof. Harsh Kumar, the Dean of Students' Welfare (DSW) at the University of Allahabad, graced the event as the chief guest and commended the Shatabdi Boys' Hostel for establishing Medha, which will spearhead academic programs and initiatives within the hostel. He appreciated the efforts of hostel officials, including Warden Prof. Abhay Kumar Pandey, Superintendent Prof. Rahul Patel, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mrityunjay Rao Parmar, and the hostel residents for supporting such a commendable initiative that will benefit them in the long run.



Inter-school competition of recitation of poems held at RTMM

Prayagraj: Today, on the occasion of Hindi Day, an inter-school competition of recitation of poems by Hindi poets was organized under the Official Language Hindi Week organized from 8 September to 14 September 2024 in the Hindi Vidyapeeth branch of Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya, constituent Allahabad University. In which students of inter colleges across Yamuna participated. The judge of the said competition was Dr. Rita Chauhan, Associate Professor (Retd.) Department of Education, SS Khanna Girls Degree College Prayagraj. Dr. Rita Chauhan said in her address that if ability and talent match then no one can stop it. In No One Loses as Much, participants perform and are assessed. On the basis of this assessment, someone goes up and

someone goes down, one should take inspiration from it and think of taking it further next time. The chief guest of the closing ceremony, Dr. Shashi Tandon, Chairperson, Governing Body, Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya and Secretary Hindi Vidyapeeth, along with Principal Professor Ranjana Tripathi, Professor Neelima Singh and Principal of Rajarshi Tandon Inter College Shri Swaminath Tripathi ji offered garlands and lighting of lamps to Maa Saraswati. Started the program by lighting the lamp. In his address, Dr. Shashi Tandon said that today it has been 75 years since Hindi became the official language and it is our good fortune that today on the occasion of Hindi Day, we are organizing the Hindi Day program at Hindi



Vidyapeeth, the penance and place of work of Bharat Ratna Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon. Who played a tireless role in getting Hindi the status of official language. Dr. Shashi Tandon fur-

ther said that Rajarshi Tandon ji expressed his sense of service and special love for Hindi through Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Hindi Vidyapeeth and many other mediums. Tandon ji's many struggles

for the upliftment of Hindi language were discussed and the efforts made by Indian philosophers for the Hindi language were also mentioned. He said that Rajarshi ji actually came into politics because of his

love for Hindi. Certificates were distributed to the winning participants of inter-school competitions slogans, essays, and recitation of poems of Hindi poets. The students who got the certificate belonged to Boys Inter College Chhivki, Satyam Girls Inter College, Bal Vikas Inter College, Rajarshi Purushottam Das Tandon Inter College, Madhav Gyan Kendra Inter College. Principal Prof. Ranjana Tripathi welcomed and expressed gratitude to the guests. Program coordinator Prof. Neelima Singh conducted the program. On this occasion, a large number of students including teachers of Rajarshi Tandon Mahila Mahavidyalaya, teachers of Rajarshi Tandon Inter College and teachers of participating schools were present.

Opening hospital in rural area is noble task

Prayagraj: Neurophysician BK Singh, who was serving in the Government Medical College, with the aim of improving the medical facilities in Gauhania Hindupur of Karchana, first left his job as a doctor in the medical college, then he decided to open a hospital in his native village. Made up my mind to. Now his dream has also been fulfilled today. He has opened a hospital by the name of Nivisha Nethralaya Multi Specialist Hospital in your area. It was inaugurated by Phulpur MP Praveen Patel on Saturday. The MP said that opening a hospital is a sacred task. This hospital will prove to be a milestone in providing better medical facilities to the people



in rural areas. He said that hospitals work to provide life to patients. Along with treatment, better facilities for ultrasound and eye examination are also available in this hospital. While speaking to the media, Dr. BK Singh said that most of the people from rural and rural areas keep wandering in the city to get treatment, keeping all this in mind, he decided to open a hospital in his native village and rural area. Had kept. Everyone turns to the city to open a hospital, but does not pay attention to the villages and rural areas for better medical facilities. With the opening of this private hospital, not only the people of rural areas but also the people coming from Mirzapur and Rewa will get convenience. People living on this side will no longer need to travel 20 to 25 kilometers towards the city for treatment. The director of this hospital and neurosurgeon, Dr. BK Singh, claims that treatment will be provided here at half the price of urban hospitals. Major MLA Sandeep Patel, Dharendra Singh Anshuman Singh and others were present on this occasion.

Modi is now spent force in politics: Pramod Tiwari

Prayagraj: Deputy leader of opposition in Rajyasabha, Pramod Tiwari said in the upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand there is a clear wave for Congress and the India Alliance, Modi and BJP are facing a wipe out in these states. While addressing the party men at his residence after being nominated as Star campaigner of J & K assembly elections received warm welcomed, said that Prime Minister Modi is now a spent force in politics.

Tiwari asked if LOP Rahul Gandhi discuss the issues of unemployment, Inflation,



Corruption etc. during his recent America visit, how it could come under treason. He shared the Congress

chief Mallikarjun Kharge's 20 more seats in Lok Sabha, said gleaming electoral mal

state, he claimed even BJP MLAs are not safe, Sitapur MLA Gyan Tiwari and Behraich MLA Sureshwar Singh and other incidents are examples.

Tiwari expressed deep shock and grief over the untimely demise of former AICC Secretary in charge UP, MLA Zubair Khan, Ex. MLA Vijay Prakash, DCC chief duo Suresh Yadav and Arun Tiwari, Mukund Tiwari, Kishore Varshney, Fuzail Hashmi, Harikesh Tripathi, Sudhakar Tiwari, Talat Ajim, Anil Pandey, Haseeb Ahmed and others.

practices must be investigated to save democracy. Regarding the deteriorating Law and order conditions of

BJP Yuva Morcha burnt effigy of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav

Prayagraj: Under the joint auspices of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Prayagraj district, a protest was registered by burning the effigy of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Effigy While lighting the dahan, Yuva Morcha General Secretary Shyam Prakash Pandey said that Akhilesh Yadav has insulted the saints and Hindu society by interpreting the word Mathadhishti to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji as mafia, which is highly condemnable, it is strongly condemned by the Indian public and youth. If the Morcha does not apologize, then we will be forced to protest on a



Aman Kesarwani, Satish Kesarwani, Shashank Rahul, Rahul Kushwaha, Abhinav Chaudhary, Aastik Shukla, Sanu Singh, Abhishek Singh were present.

large scale. On the said occasion, Yuva Morcha Yamuna Par District President Sudhakar Pandey, District President Yuva Morcha Metropolitan Rohit Pappu Pandey, General Secretary Shyam Prakash Pandey, Shyam Chandrahela, District Spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani, Vivek Mishra, Shubham Pandey Bala, Jai Vrat Singh, Yash Kaushal, Shivam Mishra, Sagar Dixit, Luvkush Kesarwani,

Hindi Diwas: MPVM celebrates language and culture

Prayagraj: MPVM School commemorated Hindi Diwas 2024 with a vibrant and engaging assembly on September 14th, 2024. The event showcased the school's commitment to preserving and promoting the Hindi language, a cornerstone of India's rich cultural heritage. Various activities were organized across different classes to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Hindi. From storytelling to poetry recitations, the students showcased their linguistic skills and creativity. The morning assembly featured a soulful rendition of a Hindi prayer, followed by a thought-provoking speech by the Principal, emphasizing the importance of Hindi as a unifying language and a reflection of India's diverse culture.



The students from Classes 1 to 10, took part in a series of creative and educational activities. Class 1 learners described pictures in Hindi, enhancing their vocabulary and storytelling skills. Class 2 students practiced using matras correctly to form Hindi words. Class 3 read aloud short Hindi stories, encouraging reading habits and expressive narration. Class 4 recited Hindi poems, showcasing the beauty and rhythm of the language. Class 5 presented Sanskrit shlokas and Hindi proverbs, sharing timeless wisdom and moral values. Class 6 recited famous dohas by Sant Kabir, exploring their philosophical meaning and simplicity. Class 7 acted out Hindi idioms for their classmates to guess, improving their understanding of idiomatic expressions. Class 8 played a literary Antakshari game based on Hindi poets and their works, promoting knowledge and enthusiasm for Hindi literature. Class 9 recited modern Hindi poems, highlighting contemporary themes and styles of poetry. Class 10 recited short, powerful Hindi poems, showcasing the emotional impact of brief poetic expressions.

Dr. Sushil Sinha enumerated achievements of his eight months tenure

Prayagraj: Seeing the tremendous work I am doing for the interests of the Kayastha community in just eight and a half months, some opposition people are not liking to see me and I have started getting irritated in their eyes. Not only this, people are humiliating



each other. Now, by joining hands with each other, they are conspiring to humiliate me. Despite this, I am not perturbed by this and am carrying out my work with full devotion and honesty. I am neither afraid nor stopped, nor will I stop nor get tired.

I will continue to work in the interest of Kayastha Pathshala because I am de-

termined to add each and every member to the Kayastha family. My victory was a historic victory and I Does not get distracted by struggle. These are the words of Dr. Sushil Sinha, President of Kayastha Pathshala, who was answering the ques-

tion of media persons in a local hotel on Saturday. While stating this openly in front of everyone, he attacked the opposition fiercely and cited two copies of the rules of the organization and said that before I came to power, the people had also cheated the general public by making fake rules. Placing two copies on the table, he said that there

is a change in the rules of 29th October 2017. One is the exact copy of 48A which has been submitted to the Registrar Society and the other is 48A which is completely fake to fool the general public. Now the question arises that these rules have been given in March 2018 also, now the question arises that which of these is correct. It is wrong to give two types of rules to the society.

Not only this, while giving his views, he said that when I took charge in January 2024 and was busy in rejuvenating the K a y a s t h a

Pathshala Trust, to create hurdles in my life, a GST raid was conducted and all the financial records were seized. Not only this, electricity was also cut off in KP College due to outstanding electricity bill of Rs. 10 lakhs. Due to heavy house tax and water tax arrears in many buildings and institutions, the Municipal Corporation took action to seize them.

In a notable display of personal engagement, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, personally met with each of the 60 competitors to boost their motivation. He observed

WSC 2024: Jayant Chaudhary meets competitors, boosts morale of Team India

Varanasi: The Indian delegation at WorldSkills 2024 in Lyon, France, received a significant morale boost with a visit from Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Over the two days of his visit, the Minister, accompanied by Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, actively engaged with 60 competitors across 52 skills, including robotics, web development, joinery, hospitality, 3D Digital Game Art, Additive Manufacturing, Autobody Repair, Chemical Lab Technology, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, Digital Construction and culinary arts. This visit underscored India's unwavering commitment to global skills development and proudly showcased the nation's talent on the international stage.

While witnessing the ongoing performance of the competitors, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said, "Watching our competitors in action, I am truly impressed by their dedication and passion. Visiting their booths, it's clear that they are working tirelessly and with great

enthusiasm. As a nation, we take immense pride in our young talent. I am confident that their exceptional performance will lead us to victory, reinforcing skilling as a cherished and aspirational value in India."

Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, also engaged in significant discussions with Ministers and representatives of other member countries, aiming to enhance global skill development efforts. He had a productive meeting with Hon'ble Professor Paul Mavima (MP), Minister of Skills Audit and Development, Zimbabwe. The talks explored potential areas of cooperation in skill



in their impressive performance on this esteemed global stage.

development, vocational training, and capacity building. Both sides are committed to strengthening these ties, with a delegation from Zimbabwe scheduled to visit India soon to advance these collaborations and exchange best practices.

He also met with Amb (Designate) Prof. Peter Ngunjiri, Permanent Delegate of Kenya to UNESCO. The discussion focused on collaborative initiatives in skill development, education, and capacity building. Both leaders highlighted the importance of knowledge exchange and partnerships to empower youth with future-ready skills, underscoring the growing cooperation between India and Kenya in advancing global skill development initiatives.

Shri Jayant Chaudhary also met with Chris Humphries, President and Chair of the Board, WorldSkills International, and Mr. Fahar Ali, CEO, WorldSkills Asia, along with Mr. San-Quei Lin, Board Member - Strategic Development, Zimbabwe. The discussions centered on

strengthening India's position in the WorldSkills and enhancing collaboration to elevate the nation's performance in future competitions. Shri Jayant also attended key sessions of the WorldSkills Conference, a platform for global leaders to discuss the future of skills and vocational education.

While at the WorldSkills competition and witnessing the performance of the Indian team, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE said, "It has been an interesting experience. Meeting our Indian candidates and witnessing their energy, passion, and determination was truly a proud moment. Competing against the best from countries like China, Japan, France, Germany, and Switzerland, they stand tall, representing the spirit of a New India. Driven by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of making India the Skill Capital of the World, these young talents embody resilience, innovation, and global competitiveness. Their grit and focus are unmatched, and I am confident they will shine on this world stage."

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Two female SIs and constable in Kanpur suspended for not complying with HC order

Prayagraj/Kanpur: Allahabad High Court has sent the Kanpur Police Commissioner, in-charge of Mahila Police Station, Qamar Sultana and the investigator related to the case, Ruby Singh, to the High Court for not ensuring the compliance of the order. 09/08/2024 was sought. The case is that Vikas Pandey of Kanpur city is having a domestic dispute with his wife, in connection with which the wife had registered a case against Vikas Pandey under domestic violence and other sections, which was canceled by the Allahabad High Court by its order, despite this the case The investigator Ruby Singh was continuously putting pressure on the accused named in the FIR and demanding bribe, while the accused told several times that the case has been closed by the High Court, yet the police station in-charge and the investigator went to the house of the accused along with the police force. And she started pressurizing him to send her to jail, hence Vikas got upset and filed a contempt petition in the High Court, in which after listening to the learned advocate Shri Prince Srivastava, the High Court gave the above order and personally sent the police commissioner Kanpur Nagar along with the station in-charge and the investigator on 9th September. Was ordered to appear in the High Court.

On the 9th, the Police Commissioner informed the court through an affidavit that a constable has been suspended due to negligence in the case, but the High Court was not satisfied with this and asked the Commissioner to investigate. What was done against him and rejected that affidavit and ordered that action should be taken against the guilty investigator and all should appear personally before the court on 13th September. On September 13, the Police Commissioner appeared before the court and gave an affidavit that the convicted investigator Ruby Singh has been suspended and a letter has been sent to the commissioner to suspend one of the investigators, Lalita Chauhan, who has been transferred to Gautam Buddha Nagar and a constable, Hina, who looked after the postal work, has also been suspended. Advocate Prince Srivastava presented the victim's side.

Why was teacher's income terminated sans formal order?

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has ordered the District Basic Education Officer and Finance and Accounts Officer of Saharanpur to provide a personal statement by September 26 explaining why the petitioner assistant teacher's income was halted in September 2023 without a formal notice. The court made it clear that if the document is not filed, both officials must appear on September 26 to justify the salary halt. Ashish Jaiswal, an attorney of the Allahabad High Court, argued this case.



Hindi Week kicks off at IFFCO

Prayagraj: Hindi week was started in IFFCO Phulpur unit in the auditorium of the training centre. Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia said that it is important that we are celebrating Hindi Day, but it is even more important that we make Hindi a part of everyday life. He said that we should be proud of our mother language and it is our responsibility to propagate it. He said that the



importance and usefulness of Hindi has to be linked to Artificial Intelligence and this is the theme of this year. Anil Kumar Gupta, coordinator of Hindi Working Committee, said that we should try to develop Hindi as a world language. Apart from this, essay and quiz competition was organized in which a large number of IFFCO employees participated. The program was conducted by Hemlata Sijoria and the vote of thanks was given by PRO and IFFCO Officers Association General Secretary Swayam Prakash. During this, GMs respectively Sanjay Vaish, M.D. Mishra, Sanjay Bhandari, JGMs respectively Ratnesh Kumar, Arvendra Kumar, S.K. Singh, HOD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, President of IFFCO Officers Association Anurag Tiwari, General Secretary of IFFCO Employees Sangh Vijay Kumar Yadav and a large number of IFFCO officers and employees were present.

Hindi essay competition held



Prayagraj: Under the Hindi Fortnight, North Central Region Cultural Center organized a Hindi essay competition on the role of Hindi in the present times at Rani Revati Devi Saraswati Vidya Niketan Inter College, in which 40 students participated enthusiastically.

Bagless Day Activity Classes- 6th- 8th held at GHS

Array of activities including flower decoration, salad decoration and fireless cooking

Prayagraj: To encourage skill based activities the middle school organized activities such as fireless cooking for class 8th, salad decoration for class 7th and flower decoration for class 6th on Saturday. All the bagless day activities are held under the able guidance of our Principal, Rev. Dr. V. Eusebius. Despite her busy schedule ma'am makes it a point to supervise and offer her valuable suggestion for every activity. This leads to the seamless perfection of all our programs under her benign gaze.

The students were introduced to these activities by a power point presentation. This presentation incorporated all the elements of skill based activity with beautiful and colourful pictures which was greatly enjoyed by the students. Mrs. A. Sukh who demonstrated cooking without fire came up with innovative dishes. The students were also taught aesthetic plating to make these dishes look attractive and



appetizing.

Mrs. T. Jaiswal demonstrated salad making to the students of class 7th. Healthy salads like sprout salad and Russian salad were introduced to them which encouraged them to learn newer techniques to decorate their salads using different kinds of fresh vegetables.

Artificial flower decoration was demonstrated to the students by Mrs. R. Misra. The students were encouraged to develop their artistic skills and use different decorative items to enhance the flower decorations. Activities like this enable the students to learn new skills and develop newer areas of interests. These skills are a great source to destress and spend their time in a meaningful way. Many students can develop these hobbies to make meaningful career choices in their adulthood fulfilling one of the aims of the New Education Policy.

Rotary Platinum jointly organized inter school elocution competition

Prayagraj: On the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Rotary Platinum organized a grand inter-school elocution competition in collaboration with all the Rotary clubs of Prayagraj division. About 20 students from different schools of Prayagraj participated enthusiastically in this competition. Rotarian Shashank Jain, President of Rotary Platinum, said that this year an elocution competition was organized on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. The presence of the presidents and members of Rotary Midtown, Rotary Royals, Rotary Academia, Rotary Grand, Rotary Allahabad, Rotary Prayagraj Sangam, Rotary North, and Rotary South Club of Prayagraj Mandal in the program was especially commendable. Program coordinator and charter presi-

dent Ritesh Singh said that on this occasion, Dr. Avinash Kumar Srivastava, Chief Proctor of Rajendra Singh Rajju Bhaiya University and coordinator of the Department of Gandhi Thought and Peace, graced the program as the chief guest. Rotary President welcomed him by giving him a blouse and memento. Literacy Chairman Gaurav Aggarwal said that on this occasion, DGRH Rotarian Pankaj Jain of Prayagraj Region of Rotary District 3120, Assistant Governor Rotarian Saurabh Puri, Amit Tripathi, and Zonal Secretary Anurita Dwivedi were also welcomed by Angavastra and Memento. Program Chairman and Director of BBS Group of Schools, Dr. Rishi Sahay welcomed all the Presidents

of Rotary Club, Rotarians Radha Saxena, Sharmili Jain, Vaibhav Goyal, Mandeep

Prayagraj division jointly participated. Many distinguished Rotarians, school

and assessed the ideas of the children. The jury was also welcomed by



Srivastava, Aftab Ahmed, Ajay Aggarwal, Vijay Aggarwal, Krishna Murari Prajapati and Shashank Jain. Did. Rotarian Shashank Jain described this program as the most successful event till date, in which 9 Rotary clubs of

students and teachers were present in the event.

Secretary Sumit Aggarwal said that in the elocution competition, former divisional president Rotarian Stuti Aggarwal and Dr. Kripa Kinjalak played the role of judges

Angavastra and Memento. Media in-charge Manish Garg said that the participants in the competition presented excellent preparation and thoughtful speeches, which impressed everyone. First place was given to Kumari Ankita

Saroj, Class 10 student of BBS School, Shivkuti, Second place was given to Kumari Shraddha Singh, Class 10 student of BBS International School, Gohari, and Third place was given to Kumari Shambhavi, Class 10 student of St. Peter's Academy, Govindpur. Mishra received. All the winners were awarded medals, bags, watches, certificates etc. while other participants were awarded watches and consolation certificates. The competition was successfully conducted by Program Coordinator Rashmi Mishra. In the end, Rotarian Dr. Rishi Sahay gave the vote of thanks and described it as an unforgettable program in which many prominent Rotarians of Prayagraj Mandal participated.

HINDI PAKHWADA

Central Library, SHUATS, organizes Hindi motivational talk

Prayagraj: The Central Library of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) successfully organized a Hindi motivational talk on 12 sep.2024 at 4p.m. during the ongoing Hindi Pakhwada. Librarian Mr. Christofhar Sudhir George emphasized the library's commitment to the holistic development of its patrons. In line with this mission, the Central Library hosted a motivational session titled "Student's Life in the 21st Century". The talk was delivered by Dr. Sugriv Singh, Librarian cum Counselor at the Model Career Center, University of Allahabad.

In his address, Dr. Sugriv Singh encouraged students to align their thoughts in the right direction and seize opportunities

at the right time. He inspired students to work diligently during their academic journey, emphasizing that hard work during this phase



would yield significant benefits in the future. The event was coordinated by Mrs. Shweta Chaurasia, Assistant Librarian. It began with an opening prayer led by Mr. Navneet Hambroane, a

member of the library staff. Mrs. Leena John also part of the library team, delivered the welcome address. Librarian Mr. Christofhar

tendees with its message.

Students Alok Kumar Pandey from Department of Agribusiness Management and Ravi Yadav, from Warner college of dairy technology along with library staff member Mrs. Rekha Patel, recited Hindi poems, enriching the cultural atmosphere of the program. In concluding announcement, Mr. George encouraged students to visit the Hindi book display, which was organized as part of the Hindi Pakhwada activities in the Central Library. As a token of appreciation, Dr. Sugriv Singh was felicitated by library staff member Mr. Kishan. The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. Rekha Patel, and a closing prayer offered by Mrs. Chhandita Sen, Deputy Librarian.

Audience regaled to the songs of Piyush Mishra

Prayagraj: Cultural program in the hall of Allahabad Medical Association in the fifth session of the international seminar organized under the aegis of Thakur Har Narayan Singh Group of Colleges. A grand event was organized on this occasion. Famous lyricist and singer of the cinema world, Piyush Mishra won the hearts of the people with his brilliant presentation of his songs. He sang "Aarambh Hai Prachanda", "Woh Suhane Din Aashikane Din", "Whiskey To Meri Jaan Whiskey To Meherban". On this occasion, college manager Devendra Pratap Singh, director Dr. Uday Pratap Singh, deputy director Dr. Vinay Pratap Singh, Cinema singer Piyush Mishra and all the artists were honored by presenting mementos. Apart from this, the spectacular presentation of ODC and Kashmiri Flock dance by the Golden Girl enthralled the audience. The program was inaugurated with the national song Jana Gana Man Adhinayak Jai He and Maa Tujhe. The occasion was celebrated with the song Salaam and Jai Ho. Ambassadors from 13 countries, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, Principal Ajay Govind Rao, Abhishek Thakur, Rajesh Kesarwani and thousands of audience were present on this occasion.



Microplastics from tyres & shoe bottoms create oxidative stress in plants, harming soil ecology

Prayagraj: Internationally renowned Padma Shri awardee scientist Dr Ajai Kumar Sonkar said that the production and consumption of plastic products and the amount of plastic debris are constantly increasing. He informed that Plastic fragments smaller than 5 mm are being found in all environments, and their detectable amount is 690,000 particles/kg and 155,000 particles/liter in soil and freshwater environments, respectively. Common sources of microplastics in soil include plastic waste, polyethylene-based mulching vinyl used in agriculture, and friction of tire tread and shoe soles. This daily friction is generating a considerable amount of plastic particles, which cannot be ignored. Assuming

that every person uses one shoe sole within two years, 2 grams of shoe sole fragments are entering the soil ecosystem annually. Several studies have evaluated the toxicity of tire particles. Research has shown that debris from tires increases human lung cell mortality and damages DNA. Studies have shown that toxicity is caused by zinc and lipophilic organic compounds in the leakage from tire material. It was found that worn tire particles reduce the growth and survival of bloodworms and amphipods. Additionally, tire particles affect soil organisms and their microbiota. Studies have also looked at the toxicity of shoe sole fragments that contain synthetic rubber. Shoe sole microparticles are gener-

ated from the abrasion of soles, which is inevitable. These fragments enter the soil ecosystem. Studies have evaluated their effects on soil and plants. The toxicity of shoe sole fragments



on a crop plant, Vigna radiata (mung bean). Shoe sole particles ranging from 57 to 229 micrometers were obtained from four types of shoes (trekking shoes, slippers, sneakers and running shoes) and the toxicity to plants was assessed. Additionally, the fragments were leached for 30 days and potentially toxic leachates

were identified. Shoe sole fragments displayed adverse effects depending on the type of shoe. The sneaker sole fragments increased the bulk density of the soil and reduced its water holding capacity. In addition, microplastic fragments and leachates directly affected plant growth and photosynthetic activities. Slipper and running shoe fragments promoted plant growth but altered flavonoid content and photosynthetic factors. Trekking shoe sole fragments did not exhibit photoinhibition of plants; however, their leachate inhibited photosynthesis. Overall, it was concluded that shoe sole particles are adversely affecting plants and Tires and shoe sole wear have become a major source of unintentional emissions of primary microplastics into the environment. Tire particles and tire leachate are causing various biological reactions in aquatic and terrestrial organisms, damaging the soil environment. The study findings suggest a need to develop tyre and shoe soles that are not made of petroleum-based plastics that do not have a harmful effect on the environment. Dr Ajai told that people are not aware of the horrors of microplastics not only in India but also in many developed countries. Just 2 days ago, it was published in a leading newspaper of Singapore that the plastics which cannot be recycled will be used in making roads, which they have named as Greener Road. This is a matter of great concern. This

shows that people related to system management across the world are not aware of the results of scientific researches and studies. Its dissemination is very necessary. Dr Ajai told that he has written a letter to the Environment and Foreign Ministry of Singapore, making them aware of the danger of roads made using plastics. When the friction of vehicle tyres and shoe soles on the road is having such a fatal effect on humans and plants, one can imagine the situation when plastic is used in the construction of roads. The friction of vehicles on the road will increase the production of microplastics in the environment in abundance, and the speed of this process will be many times faster due to the exposure of the road to sunlight.

Editorial

Botswana's diamond legacy: How do they keep unearthing the world's biggest gems?

Botswana has solidified its place as a global diamond powerhouse with the discovery of a massive 2,492-carat diamond, the largest found in over a century. This exceptional gem, unearthed at the Karowe Mine, adds to Botswana's legacy of producing some of the world's most valuable diamonds, raising the question — what makes Botswana the ultimate treasure trove? Botswana's diamond legacy: How do they keep unearthing the world's biggest gems? A person holds a 2,492-carat diamond which was found in the country and on show, in Gaborone, Botswana, August 22, 2024.

Botswana has long been renowned for its extraordinary diamond discoveries, consistently unearthing some of the world's most exceptional gems. The recent discovery of a colossal 2,492-carat diamond further defines Botswana's status as a global leader in the diamond industry. Botswana's diamond mining journey dates back to pre-historic times, but modern exploration began in earnest in the mid-20th century. The country's first significant discovery occurred in 1967, a year after its independence, with the unearthing of the Orapa kimberlite field. This discovery marked the beginning of a diamond boom in Botswana, leading to the establishment of major mines such as Letlhakane (1968), Jwaneng (1973), Gope (1981), and Lerala (1991). Since then, Botswana has become the second-largest producer of natural diamonds globally, trailing only Russia. The country has produced 665 million carats of diamonds since 1971, representing 14 per cent of the world's total diamond production. Notably, Botswana's diamond reserves are still far from depleted, with the potential to increase its global share as other producers' resources dwindle.

The recent discovery

In a remarkable find, Canadian mining company Lucara Diamond Corp. unearthed a staggering 2,492-carat diamond at the Karowe Mine in Botswana. This diamond, the largest found in more than a century, is the second-largest ever discovered, following only the 3,106-carat Cullinan diamond unearthed in South Africa in 1905.

The as-yet-unnamed diamond was revealed to the world at a ceremony at the office of Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi, who expressed his awe at the sight of the stone, saying, "It is overwhelming. I am lucky to have seen it in my time." The diamond, which weighs nearly half a kilogram, was located using advanced X-ray technology designed to identify large, high-value diamonds, highlighting the role of innovation in modern diamond mining. Botswana's Karowe Mine has been the source of several other notable diamond discoveries in recent years. Before the 2,492-carat diamond, the mine had produced the 1,758-carat Sewelo diamond in 2019, which was purchased by luxury group LVMH in January 2020. Another significant find from Karowe was the 1,109-carat Lesedi La Rona diamond, discovered in 2015 and later sold to British jeweler Laurence Graff for \$53 million. Other remarkable diamonds from Botswana include the 1,111-carat Lesedi La Rona and The Constellation, which set a record when it was sold for \$63 million. These discoveries have consistently placed Botswana at the forefront of the diamond industry, demonstrating the country's unparalleled geological richness. Botswana's diamond production has significantly impacted the global market. Between 1870 and 2012, the world produced approximately 4,898 million carats of diamonds, with Botswana contributing 665 million carats to this total.



'A balancing act': How global media reported PM Modi's Ukraine visit

During his visit to Kyiv, PM Modi extended India's support to the war-struck nation in a meeting with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy. But how did the media react to his trip? Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Friday. AP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made history with his groundbreaking visit to Ukraine, becoming the first Indian PM to set foot in the country since diplomatic ties were established in 1992.

During his visit to Kyiv, Modi met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, shared a warm embrace and held a moment of silence at a memorial dedicated to children who lost their lives in the ongoing Russian invasion.

PM Modi also extended India's support, offering to help bring peace to the war-struck nation and positioning himself as a "friend" to Ukraine, igniting hope among many who see India as a potential mediator in the conflict between the two nations.

This visit, which came just months after Modi's trip to Moscow, has attracted considerable global media attention, with many reflecting on its potential implications for the conflict and India's foreign policy. From being labelled as a 'balancing act' to being called a 'symbolic gesture,' here's how international media



reported on PM Modi's visit to Ukraine. The agency reported that PM Modi's Ukraine visit comes at a "volatile juncture" in the war launched by Russia in February 2022, where Moscow is making slow gains in eastern Ukraine as Kyiv presses a cross-border incursion. It also reported the Ukraine visit had optics that "closely resembled" Modi's visit to Moscow last month where he called for peace and embraced Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Reuters said Modi's Ukraine visit had optics that "closely resembled" Modi's visit to Moscow last month where he called for peace and embraced Russian President Vladimir Putin. Image courtesy: PTI, AP. It further said that this stance had angered Ukraine, especially after a Russian missile attack struck a children's hos-

pital in Ukraine on the same day Modi met with Putin.

Previously, Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser in Zelenskyy's office, had told Reuters that Modi's Ukraine visit was significant because New Delhi "really has a certain influence" over Moscow and it was "extremely important" to build relations with such countries to "explain...what the correct end to the war is and that it is also in their interests."

The New York Times reported that Modi's visit was carefully calibrated his country's relations with the two warring nations. It quoted Harsh V. Pant, a professor of international relations at King's College London as saying that Modi's Kyiv visit was "about positioning India as a voice of the global south" on the war in Ukraine. Pant further told the NYT that Modi's

trip created a chance "to talk about, in some ways, the impact this conflict has had" on poorer nations.

The American news agency said the visit to Ukraine could be an "attempt by Modi to strike a more neutral stance after what has been seen as his lean toward Russia".

A Ukrainian analyst told AP that the outcome of Modi's first visit is likely to be modest, as this is just "the beginning of a complex dialogue between India, Ukraine, and Europe."

"Establishing relations with India will be challenging and a long process," said Yurii Bohdanov on his Telegram channel. But stressed the importance of this relationship for Ukraine. Bohdanov also noted that if India supports Ukraine's peace efforts, it could strengthen Kyiv's influence in the "Global South," where India competes with China for influence. He added that this support could "increase pressure on Russia."

Modi's visit to Ukraine is more about signalling the world that "while India will continue to have strong relations with Russia, it will still work closely with the West," the British media outlet wrote in a report titled, 'Diplomatic tightrope for Modi as he visits Kyiv after Moscow'. It also quoted Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Centre think-tank in Washington, who said the trip

will further reassert India's strategic autonomy.

Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Centre think-tank in Washington, who said the trip will further reassert India's strategic autonomy. File image/Reuters

"India isn't in the business of placating Western powers, or anyone for that matter. It's a trip meant to advance Indian interests, by reasserting friendship with Kyiv and conveying its concerns about the continuing war," he said. During the visit, PM Modi emphasised India's long-standing commitment to peace, drawing on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, whose statue he visited in Kyiv. However, the outlet pointed out that "behind the language, the fact remains that India has never condemned Russia's full-scale invasion" and has, in fact, "been helping to power Moscow's war economy" by buying Russian oil, even as Western sanctions have intensified.

The Chinese media outlet was rather critical of PM Modi's Ukraine visit labelling it as a "symbolic gesture...unlikely to significantly advance peace talks". The report titled 'Modi's Kyiv visit 'a symbolic gesture' for peace talk' said that the visit is framed as "an effort to balance its relations between the US and Russia", particularly.

From Kamala's sneakers to Trump's red ties: How US presidential candidates use fashion to sway voters

Fashion choices play an important role in US politics; it is a silent, powerful way for presidential candidates to tell the American public who they are. Kamala Harris, Tim Walz, Donald Trump, and JD Vance each have a fashion statement that appeals to voters and possibly hint at how they'll lead.

With Election Day approaching, candidates are courting voters with everything they've got: targeted ads, texts, taunts and stump speeches. As a fashion historian, I think an overlooked aspect of electioneering is clothing, which is a silent, powerful way for candidates to tell the American public who they are.

It's an act as old as

power itself. "Clothes, from the King's mantle downwards, are emblematic," wrote Scottish philosopher Thomas Carlyle in "Sartor Resartus," a seminal text in fashion studies. Tim Walz, Kamala Harris, JD Vance and Donald Trump have all taken a page from that 1834 publication. Each wears an emblem in an effort to appeal to voters — and hint at how they'll lead.

What's more American than a baseball cap?

When Tim Walz, the Democratic vice presidential candidate, dons one on the campaign trail, he's doing more than covering up a thinning head of hair.

To the bane of many churchgoers and office managers, baseball caps have moved

beyond the ballpark to become a ubiquitous symbol for an American dude. "It's completely egalitarian," surmised a brand guru at New Era, the official baseball cap supplier of Major League Baseball. "It's the people's crown." Tim Walz, the Democratic vice presidential candidate dons cap on many of his campaign trails. AP

The baseball cap is born of functionality. Shaded eyes can see better. In the 1880s, ballplayers chose among styles ranging from bellman-inspired, stout-brimmed pillboxes to something newsboys might wear. Consumers' choices pushed manufacturers such as Spalding to settle on the domed design used today.

'India ready to play active role': The big takeaways from PM Modi's Ukraine visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kyiv has rebuffed the claim that India has taken a neutral position on the Russia-Ukraine war, saying it has 'not been a neutral or an indifferent bystander' and that it has always remained on the side of peace. The two countries also signed a number of agreements to cooperate in the fields of agriculture, food industry, medicine and culture.

'India ready to play active role': The big takeaways from PM Modi's Ukraine visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wrapped up his trip to Ukraine. Modi became the first Indian prime minister to make a state visit to Ukraine since the two countries established relations over three decades ago. Modi and Volodymyr Zelenskyy held wide-ranging talks at Mariiynskyi Palace, the official residence of the Ukrainian President, paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at 'Oasis of Peace' park in Kyiv and honoured the memory of the children that have been killed by the Russia-Ukraine war at the Martyrologist Exposition on children at the National Museum of History of Ukraine. Modi wrote on X, "My visit to Ukraine was historic. I came to this great nation with the aim of deepening India-Ukraine friendship. I



had productive talks with President Zelenskyy. India firmly believes that peace must always prevail. I thank the Government and people of Ukraine for their hospitality."

Modi on Friday rebuffed the claim that India has taken a neutral position on the Ukraine war.

India was always on the side of peace, he added. India has been taking flak from the United States and the West since the beginning of the war for not condemning Russia's 'special military operation' in Ukraine in February 2022. While the West has imposed a number of sanctions on Moscow, India has sought to balance its relationship between the two. New Delhi has sought to maintain its decades-old strategic relationship with Moscow — which also provides much of India's military hardware. Modi also expressed India's willingness to play an active role to bring peace between Russia and Ukraine. "I want to assure you that India is ready to play an active

role in any efforts towards peace. If I can play any role in this personally, I will do that I want to assure you as a friend," Modi said as per Indian Express. "The road to resolution can only be found through dialogue and diplomacy. And we should move in that direction without wasting any time. Both sides should sit together to find a way out of this crisis," Modi added. Modi, since the beginning of the war, has repeatedly reiterated that diplomacy and dialogue is the only way to resolve the conflict. Modi was criticised by some including Zelenskyy for his recent visit to Russia in July. Modi's trip to Russia — his first since 2019 and the beginning of the war in Ukraine — and his meeting with Putin came on the day that Russia's missiles targeted various locations across Ukraine including a children's hospital in Kyiv which left scores of people dead. Russian President Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his official residence in Moscow.

Is mpox caused by the COVID vaccine? The many myths around the virus

After Africa, cases of mpox have been detected in Thailand, Pakistan and Sweden. As the virus travels across the globe, it has triggered a wave of online misinformation. We debunk some of the misinformation around it. The World Health Organization has declared a global health emergency as mpox spreads across several African countries. The outbreak, which began in the Democratic Republic of Congo and has claimed at least 450 lives, has reached Central and East Africa, with the Clade 1B

strain now moving beyond the continent. Mpox has spread its wings to Europe and South East Asia where countries such as Sweden, Thailand, the Philippines, and Pakistan are reporting cases of the viral disease. The escalating crisis has not only prompted a public health emergency declaration but also triggered a wave of misinformation online. We debunk some of the most common misconceptions surrounding mpox.

No links to shingles or the Covid vaccine

In a recent video circulated on

X and Facebook, German doctor Wolfgang Wodarg, known for his anti-vaccine stance, claimed that mpox and shingles exhibit the same symptoms. According to Mayo Clinic, Shingles is a viral disease that causes a painful rash with blisters on one side of the body or face. Wodarg also alleged that the pharmaceutical industry is using fear to profit.

However, this claim is incorrect. Mpox is not a shingles outbreak triggered by the Covid-19 vaccine. The virus, which was first identified in

the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the 1970s, predates Covid vaccines by decades.

mpox vaccine Mpox is not a shingles outbreak triggered by the Covid-19 vaccine. File Image/ Mpox, transmitted from animals and spread between humans through close contact, is part of the poxvirus family, while shingles is caused by the herpes virus. Their symptoms also differ significantly: shingles produces smaller, painful lesions and rashes, contrasting with mpox.

Sebi categorises dues worth Rs 76k crore as tough to recover



Delhi : Capital markets regulator Sebi has segregated dues to the tune of Rs 76,293 crore under difficult to recover (DTR) category at the end of March 2024, marking an increase of 4% from the preceding year. Of this, a huge chunk is on account of cases pending before court-appointed committees. Difficult to recover (DTR) dues are those that could not be recovered even after exhausting all modes of recovery. "Segregation of such DTR dues is purely an administrative act and

this will not preclude the recovery officers from recovering the amount so segregated as DTR as and when there is a change in any of the DTR parameters," Sebi said in its annual report for 2023-24. As of March 31, 2024, Sebi identified 807 cases as DTR, with a total outstanding of Rs 76,293 crore, up from 692 cases amounting to Rs 73,287 crore the previous year, according to the report. Among these 807 cases, 36 are pending due to ongoing proceedings in State PID courts, National Company

Law Tribunal (NCLT), National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) involving Rs 12,199 crore. Additionally, 60 cases are before court-appointed committees, with Rs 59,970 crore at stake. These two categories together account for 95% of the total amount yet to be recovered. With regard to 140 DTR certificates falling under untraceable category, 131 relate to individuals and nine relate to companies amounting to Rs 13.3 crore and Rs 15.7 crore, respectively. The Sebi has been disseminating data.

The Supreme Court ordered PSUs, miners to pay state royalties, taxes from 2005

Delhi : The Supreme Court ordered public sector undertakings and private entities engaged in mining and those using mineral produce as raw material to pay states arrears of royalty and tax on mineral-bearing land from 2005 in a staggered manner over the next 12 years. With Justice B V Nagarathna dissenting, a nine-judge bench of CJI DY Chandrachud, Justices Hrishikesh Roy, A S Oka, J B Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, S C Sharma, and A G Masih declared the arrears would not include interest on prin-

PAYMENTS TO BEGIN FROM APRIL 2026

Arrears won't include interest on principal amount due, no penalty for late payment on demands made before July 25, 2024. Prerogative of state legislatures to forego dues

Payouts, in instalments over 12 yrs, to begin Apr 1, 2026

Financial implication for PSUs, without interest, stands at ₹70,000cr. Together with pvt sector industries, arrears from 2005 would be ₹1.5L crore



States expected to reap huge windfall are Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan

cipal or late payment penalties "The levy of interest and penalty on demands made for the period before July 25, 2024, shall stand waived for all the assesseees," stated. The bench overturned a

1991 seven-judge order (India Cement case) and upheld a 2004 five-judge decision (Kesoram case) to allow states to tax and collect royalty on mineral-bearing land by an 8-1 majority.

Small business payment rules to change by centre

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

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

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

CAPSULES

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

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

Ola leaves Google Maps and relocates to its own Maps Ola

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

Domestic flyers up 5% this year despite higher airfares

"Travel industry insiders say domestic airfares are 10-25% higher for the coming festive season"

Delhi : Last month saw almost 1.3 crore passengers flew within in the country, 7.3% more than July 2023, DGCA data showed. The first seven months of this calendar year have seen 9.2 crore domestic flyers, 4.7% more than Jan-July 2023's 8.8 crore — in spite of higher airfares. Travel industry

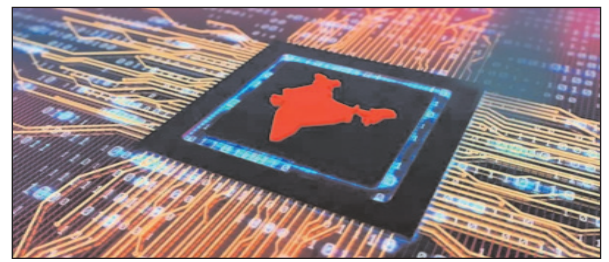


insiders say domestic airfares are 10-25% higher for the coming festive season. "This is the lean travel quarter and airlines have come out with sales. But, these sales mostly offer lower fares on flights that do not see much demand," said Anil Kalsi,

VP, Travel Agents Federation of India. Rise in domestic passengers To be sure, India continues to have a very high-cost operating environment for airlines especially due to jet fuel prices. A weaker rupee

adds to the equation as significant part of airlines' costs are dollar-denominated like lease rentals. With two mega airlines, India's aviation landscape has changed from earlier fight for market share by offering low (often below cost) airfares — that eventually led to collapse of big airlines like Kingfisher and Jet (GoAir was a different story) — to now what airlines call "pricing discipline" of not repeating that mistake. India now has two well-funded mega airlines — Tata-backed Air India-led group and IndiGo — that between them have 91% of domestic market share.

Arm India's techies with AI skills on war footing



Delhi : India's IT sector is sitting at the edge of the next big inflexion point with the AI revolution all set to take off. But the country could fall woefully short of the manpower needed to cash in on this opportunity if it doesn't beef up its AI talent pool many times over. A joint report by Nasscom and Deloitte, exclusively accessed India's AI talent pool is expected to grow to over 1.25 million by 2027 from around 6 lakh to 6.5 lakh currently. But the AI market is expected to grow at 25%-35% CAGR, resulting in a sig-

nificant gap in terms of skilled manpower. The report titled 'Advancing India's AI skills: Interventions and programmes needed' says the global AI market for products and services is expected to reach \$500 billion by 2027. The estimated market potential for AI services for India could be in the range of \$25 billion. The global AI

market stood at \$120 billion in 2023 with AI services accounting for 24% at around \$29 billion. At the same time, India's software product exports, which stood at only around US\$15 billion in FY24, could hit \$100 billion by 2030 driven by higher penetration of deep tech such as AI and GenAI, Blockchain.

Rural income growth to drive demand: RBI report

Delhi : According to RBI's State of the Economy Report, aggregate demand conditions are gathering momentum with revival in rural consumption on the back of growing incomes and are expected to reinvigorate the hitherto subdued participation of the private sector in total investment. According to the report, persistent geopolitical tensions, fears of a potential recession in key economies, and financial market volatility driven by divergent monetary policies are casting a shadow on global economic prospects. Despite these challenges, inflation has moderated, albeit grudgingly, across countries. "Headline inflation moderated from its



spike in June to 3.5% in July, but this was primarily due to the downward statistical pull of base effects," the report said. The outlook for private capital expenditure is positive according to the report. In the first quarter of 2024-25, the total cost of projects sanctioned or assisted was Rs 1,01,433 crore — higher than the quarterly average of Rs 97,745 crore during 2023-24. Additionally, funds raised through IPOs

for capex purposes also increased compared to the previous quarter. Noting that India was the world's largest economy with the highest share of global GDP from 1 to 1,000 AD, the report added that after intermittently falling to second position in the subsequent centuries, India had regained the top spot by 1,700 AD with 24.4% of global GDP, before colonial rule led to a long decline.

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



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

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

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

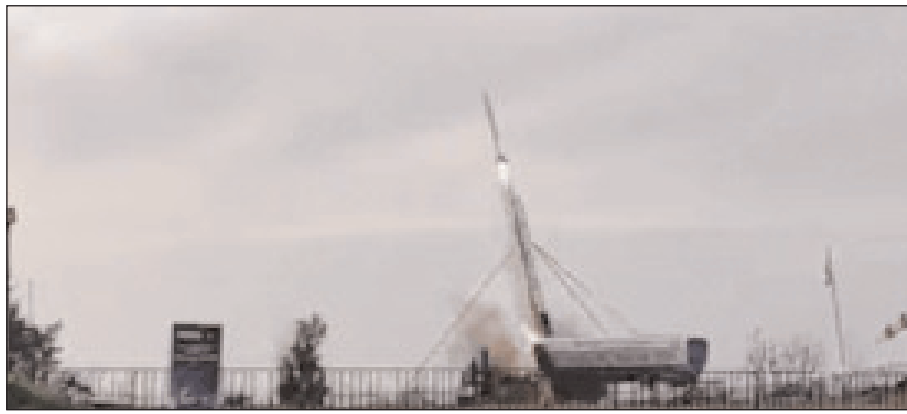
Oberoi Group on 90th anniversary launches scholarship programme



Delhi : On its 90th anniversary, the Oberoi Group has launched "The Oberoi Group Scholarship Program" to "honour the legacy of its founders and nurture the next generation of hospitality leaders". The group was founded by Rai Bahadur Mohan Singh Oberoi and his legacy was taken forward by his son, Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi. To honour them, the group will offer two scholarships: "Rai Bahadur Mohan Singh Oberoi - 'Dare to Dream' Scholarship: Named after the pio-

neering founder, this scholarship is open to hotel operations employees from hotels outside The Oberoi Group in India. It aims to encourage individuals to dream big and pursue excellence in their careers, reflecting Rai Bahadur's belief in the power of ambition and hard work," the group said in a statement. "Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi - 'Be the Best' Scholarship: Named in honour of the visionary leader who put India on the international luxury traveller's map.

India launches 'RHUMI-1' first reusable hybrid rocket



India's first reusable hybrid rocket, 'RHUMI-1', launched successfully from Chennai by Space Zone India and Martin Group. This rocket carried 50 PICO satellites and three Cube satellites. Its hybrid motor uses a safe design, combining propellants during combustion. The previous launch failed due to deployment issues but was resolved this time.

India's first reusable hybrid rocket, 'RHUMI-1', was successfully launched from Chennai on Saturday by Space Zone India, a Tamil Nadu-based start-up, in collaboration with Martin Group. The rocket was launched using a mobile launcher and traveled on a suborbital trajectory while carrying a payload of 50 PICO

satellites and three Cube satellites.

The rocket, measuring 3.5 metres in height, was launched at approximately 7:25 am, slightly later than the originally planned 7 am lift off time, according to Anand Megalingam, the Founder and CEO of Space Zone India.

"It is more of a sounding rocket. It flew to an altitude of about 35 kms

and right now my team is there to collect it as per our plan (since it is a reusable rocket)," Megalingam told to PTI. He further elaborated on the launch, stating, "Compared to an 89 degree inclination, we had launched the rocket with 70 degree inclination due to heavy wind and gusts." Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, a former director of ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC),

provides direction to Anand Megalingam, the creator of Space Zone, as he leads the expedition. The RHUMI Rocket is completely free of fireworks and uses no TNT. It has a hybrid motor powered by generic fuel and an electronically activated parachute deployer. The RHUMI-1 rocket utilised a combination of liquid and solid fuel propellants to enhance effi-

ciency and minimize operational costs. The first launch was attempted in February 2023 encountered a parachute deployment issue, resulting in the rocket falling into the sea and making recovery impossible. To prevent a similar occurrence, the team has incorporated multiple timers for this launch.

Rhumi 1's hybrid design, which uses solid propellant and liquid oxidizer, reduces the risk of accidental detonation by combining these components only during combustion.

Space Zone India has plans to develop two-stage rockets with a payload capacity of up to 500kg and is exploring the possibility of a future launch in the UAE deserts.

BRS & Congress workers clash over KTR's 'brake dance' remark



NEW DELHI: A scuffle broke out between women workers of the BRS and Congress parties on Saturday when KT Rama Rao, or KTR, Telangana's ex-minister, reached the women's commission office over his alleged derogatory remark on women.

The BRS leader, who also happens to be the son of ex-CM K Chandrashekhara Rao, or KCR, was stopped by the Mahila Congress workers, who started protesting in front of his vehicle. 1x1 polls Congresswomen were

demanding that KTR should apologise to women for his alleged comments against women.

Telangana Women's Commission had initiated a suo moto probe into KTR's alleged derogatory remarks. Women's Commission chairperson Sharada Nerella had said that the Commission took suo moto cognisance of a media post made by KTR.

However, last week, the BRS working president issued an unconditional apology over his 'break dance' remarks on women at

a party meeting on Thursday.

Taking to X, KTR said, "I am sorry if our sisters were offended by the usual comments made in the party meeting yesterday. I never meant to offend my sisters".

On Thursday, during the party meeting of the Station Ghanpur assembly constituency, KTR had said "let them (women) do break dance, or recording in RTC buses" while commenting on the Congress government's free bus travel scheme for women.

Supreme Court: Fast-track release of undertrials of first-time offenders under new law

NEW DELHI: In a first, the Supreme Court on Friday gave a retrospective application to Section 479 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that mandates the release of undertrial first-time offenders lodged in prisons if they have served one-third of the maximum punishment prescribed for the offence allegedly committed by them. Though BNSS, along with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Sanhita, came into force this year, on the request of ASG Aishwarya Bhati, a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep



Mehta said the beneficial provision would apply to all undertrial prisoners irrespective of the date of arrest and their going to prison. Now, SC makes way for release of undertrials under new criminal laws. The bench ordered jail superintendents to initiate steps for grant of bail to those first-time offenders who are lodged as

undertrials and have served one-third of maximum imprisonment. It asked them to complete the process of making application to the court for release of such prisoners, who fulfil the criteria under Section 479, within 2 months and report back to the state govt's department concerned. Let the undertrial prisoners who meet the criteria spend this Diwali with their families," Justice Kohli said. Bhati also requested the court to ask the jail superintendents to take steps for release of undertrial prisoners, who though not first-time offenders.

Mumbai club under fire for 'dating scam' after man gets Rs 61,000 bill



Mumbai: A new wave of scams has emerged in the country where women are trapping men on dating apps and exploiting them financially in connivance with bar and pub owners. These scams have targeted unsuspecting men who are lured into meeting at specific establishments. Once there, the victims are pressured into spending large amounts of money, often on overpriced drinks and food.

According to reports, these women collaborate with certain bar and pub owners to maximize the financial exploitation of their targets. The men, looking for genuine connections, end up being victims of a well-coordinated scam. This trend has raised concerns about the safety and integrity of dating platforms, as well as

the ethical practices of some hospitality businesses.

Incidents have been reported in cities like Delhi, Hyderabad, and Chennai. The most recent incident has taken place in Mumbai's The Godfather Club in Andheri West. The scam was uncovered after a social media post went viral. The post was shared by activist Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj on X. The scam described by Bhardwaj begins on popular dating apps like Tinder, Bumble, Hinge, and OKCupid. Men connect with women who quickly show interest in meeting. They often choose The Godfather Club or similar establishments nearby for their rendezvous. At these locations, the women reportedly order expensive items.

NCP's Amol Mitkari Attacks Mahayuti

Delhi: The BJP and Shiv Sena are fighting for Mahayuti alliance domination, while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) is being marginalized. Ajit Pawar adviser proposed he form an alliance with Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) president Prakash Ambedkar for the assembly elections, fueling the flames. This proposal has raised concerns about the NCP leaving Mahayuti. NCP spokesperson Amol Mitkari openly criticized Mahayuti and hinted at internal discord. "Some want Ajit Pawar to leave Mahayuti. He is being singled out for the alliance's Lok Sabha performance. According to a viral video, Mitkari said this will revolutionize Maharashtra politics. His comments have raised suspicion about Ajit Pawar leaving the Mahayuti to run in the assembly elections alone.



Army drone on recon mission strays across LoC into Pakistan

NEW DELHI: A small tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the Indian Army inadvertently strayed across the LoC into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Friday. An officer said the drone was on a training mission when its control was lost due to a technical snag and it drifted into POK's Nikial sector. A message has been sent to Pakistan Army over the hotline between the DGs of military operations seeking the return of the 'Switch' fixed-wing VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) UAV which is deployed by infantry battalions for surveillance operations. However, reports say Pakistan has shot down the "mini drone". Both India and Pakistan regularly deploy small and large UAVs for surveillance along the 778-km long LoC, as is also the practice along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control with China. Pakistan for the last several years has also been using small drones to courier weapons, explosives and drugs to Punjab and J&K from across the border.

5 killed after roof collapses in MP

INDORE: Five men - a contractor and four labourers - were killed in their sleep when a roof they had laid less than two days earlier caved in on them at an under-construction resort near Indore early Friday morning. Two of those killed were brothers. The victims were building a cottage for the resort in Choral village of Mhow tehsil, around 32km from the district headquarters on the Indore-Ichhapur highway. It was raining hard on Thursday night, which led the victims to take shelter in the half-built cottage. Heavy showers could have weakened the newly laid concrete slab and it collapsed early on Friday. The accident was discovered in the morning. SP-rural Hitika Vasal told the guard saw the collapsed structure and alerted cops. "The exact time of the accident is yet to be ascertained," she said. Heavy machines were deployed to reach the victims. Five bodies were pulled out from the rubble, Vasal said. Four of the labourers had clicked a selfie with the roof after casting it on Wednesday afternoon. One of them joined work a day later. Police were registering a case against four people for causing death by negligence.

Gujarat House nod to bill for special courts to seize illegal assets

The Gujarat assembly passed a bill to establish special courts targeting disproportionate assets of government employees, bootleggers, GST scammers, land and drug mafia, and elected representatives. The courts will handle cases with prison terms exceeding three years and assets over Rs 1 crore, facilitating rapid property confiscation linked to criminal activities.

Stolen Chola-era idol of Krishna brought home from Bangkok

CHENNAI: An exquisitely cast antique Chola-era bronze idol of 'Kaliya (cobra) Krishna' or 'Kalinga Nardhana Krishna' (dancing Krishna), smuggled out of the country several years ago and recovered in Bangkok, was returned to India and handed over to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). In a letter dated Aug 14, director-antiquity, ASI, informed Shailesh Kumar Yadav, then DGP Idol Wing CID, that it received the idol (from Bangkok) on June 25 and was in its 'safe custody'. "As the sculpture is a case property, the competent authority

has agreed to hand over the sculpture to Idol Wing, Tamil Nadu," said the letter, asking Yadav to depute a team "to take over the object". "Due to shoddy probes in India, despite idol smuggler Subhash Kapoor being extradited to the country and a lengthy trial, no leads were forthcoming on even a single idol of the thousands he had stolen and sold for past 35 years." said idol hunter and India Pride Project co-founder K Vijay Kumar. "It was by sheer luck the bronze surfaced with another noted antique smuggler and collector Douglas Latchford.

TMC and Congress to work together against BJP in Parliament



Delhi: After a contentious general election season in West Bengal and sharp comments from both sides, the two key INDIA bloc allies have reached out to each other to jointly formulate issue strategies and bolster the Opposition's united offensive against the government in the upcoming Parliament session, sources said. TMC chief Mamata Banerjee pulled out of the alliance in West Bengal amid repeated barbs by Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Weeks after the latter lost his home seat of

Baharampur to the TMC, former Union minister P Chidambaram met Banerjee to improve relations. According to the sources, the two leaders discussed the enormous number of measures passed in the past decade that needed reconsideration and greater coordination in. The Congress even requested Banerjee to

campaign for Priyanka Vadra, who is running in her first election in Kerala's Wayanad, which her brother Rahul Gandhi deserted this week for Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. In the last INDIA meeting before elections, Banerjee advised Priyanka Gandhi to face Modi in Varanasi. The TMC also Opposition alliance to downplay

the Left. Congress has 125 MPs in both Houses of Parliament, followed by TMC's 42 and Samajwadi Party's 41. "There is a large section of the Congress leadership that wants a good relationship.

with the Trinamool," said Derek O'Brien, TMC Rajya Sabha leader. The Lok Sabha defeat of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury eliminated a key "roadblock" in the TMC-Congress alliance, according to TMC leaders. In the session starting June 24, the Opposition will attack the government over the NEET and UGC NET issue.

SC stays all proceedings before high courts on pleas against NEET-UG paper leak

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice on petition filed by National Testing Agency (NTA) seeking transfer of pleas relating to NEET-UG, 2024 from high court to the apex court and stayed all proceedings before different high courts on alleged leak of NEET-UG exam question paper.

The apex court also issued fresh notices to Centre and National Testing Agency seeking their responses on new petitions filed by students against NEET-UG and said that all petition so far filed would be taken up together on July 8.

'Memorised overnight': Arrested candidate confesses leaked NEET paper matched with exam paper

It refused to pass any interim order on the case. The announcement of the NEET-UG 2024 results on June 4 sparked significant



backlash from both students and their parents. The results were met with legal challenges, which focused on three primary concerns. Firstly, there were allegations that certain students were awarded grace marks. There were also assertions that the question paper had been leaked prior to the examination. Suspicions were raised about potential malpractices at particular exam centres.

No stay on NEET counselling SC once again declined to halt the counselling process for admissions based on the results of the NEET-UG examina-

tion. The court said that if the petitioning students were to succeed in their legal challenges, it would lead to the cancellation of the 2024 exam and the subsequent counselling process.

This development follows the hearing on Tuesday, during which a petition seeking the cancellation of NEET UG 2024 was considered. During the proceedings, the court remarked that the 'sanctity of the exam has been affected' and requested a response from the National Testing Agency (NTA) regarding the matter.

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

NEW DELHI: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose on Thursday said he sees the current contingent of Kolkata Police posted at Raj Bhavan as a "threat" to his security.

"I have reasons to believe that the presence of the current officer-in-charge and his team is a threat to my personal security," Bose told news agency PTI. "I have informed Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee that I am insecure with Kolkata Police in Raj Bhavan, but there was no action," he said. The West Bengal governor's statement comes days after he called for the Kolkata Police team to leave Raj Bhavan campus. Police officers, however, remained at their posts as the Lalbazar official said no communication had been received from Raj Bhavan on the matter. According to a Raj Bhavan official, a letter was sent to the relevant state government authority. At a press meet on Friday, Bose had expressed his displeasure at victims of poll violence being denied entry to Raj



Bhavan despite being granted requisite permission. He had sought a reply from CM Mamata Banerjee, alleging that Kolkata Police had tried to prevent him from carrying out his duty as governor. On Monday morning, Raj Bhavan officials requested closure of the police outpost at the North Gate, but cops said they could not leave without a directive from Lalbazar.

Additionally, Bose wanted to set up a Jana Manch near the gate, but the police team refused, citing that Raj Bhavan was in a high-security zone with prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPc permanently imposed around it. Sources said the gover-

nor wanted the team of over 100 Kolkata Police personnel to be removed, suspecting that they were keeping tabs on him. Bose already receives Z category security from CRPF; Kolkata Police is posted only in the outer ring. An official said since Raj Bhavan was a state-owned heritage property maintained by the PWD, it was the duty of Kolkata Police to guard the area, which it had been doing since 1866. Additionally, several cabinet ministers reside on the campus. The governor, therefore, could not give police marching orders at whim, the official said, hinting that the state may seek legal opinion on the matter if needed.

CAPSULES

Man with dyed hair, beard held at Delhi airport for impersonating 60-plus passenger

NEW DELHI: A 24-year-old man, disguised as a 67-year-old, was arrested by the CISF at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport while attempting to board an Air Canada flight to Canada on

Tuesday evening. The man, identified as Guru Sewak Singh, was detained after security personnel found his behavior suspicious, said a senior CISF officer on Wednesday.

The suspect presented a passport under the name Rashvinder Singh Sahota, claiming to be a sexagenarian. However, his youthful appearance, voice, and skin texture raised doubts among the CISF personnel, leading to a more thorough investigation. Closer scrutiny revealed that Singh had dyed his hair and beard white and was wearing glasses to appear older.

Upon further questioning, Singh admitted to his true identity and showed a digital copy of his authentic passport on his mobile phone. The real passport identified him as a 24-year-old named Guru Sewak Singh. The CISF handed Singh and his belongings over to the Delhi Police for further legal action.



'Memorised overnight': Arrested candidate confesses leaked paper matched with exam paper

NEW DELHI: Amid the ongoing controversy over the alleged National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) paper leak, one of the arrested candidates from Bihar, Anurag Yadav (22), has confessed to receiving the leaked exam papers through his uncle, a junior engineer. In his statement, Anurag Yadav said, "I returned from Kota and was taken to Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar by my uncle on the night of May 4, where I was given the NEET exam question paper and answer sheet, which I was made to study and memorise overnight." The confession from Anurag Yadav, report-



edly a student of Allen Institute Kota, highlights the extent of the leak. As per the report by Times Now, Yadav said that his uncle arranged the papers for him. Upon receiving the call from his

uncle, Anurag returned to Bihar, where he was given the question paper and answer sheet on the night of June 4. He confirmed that the questions provided to him matched those in the

actual exam held at DY Patil School. Despite the National Testing Agency (NTA) denying any paper leak, Anurag's confession, along with those of others, brings to light the serious breach in the examination process.

"I am conducting a thorough investigation in my department to identify officers or employees working at the behest of Tejashwi Yadav. The entire RJD system is based on crime and corruption," he said.

However, NHA has clarified that it does not operate any guest house facility in Patna.

Army doctor turns saviour for ill man onboard flight

MUMBAI: An Army doctor saved the life of a 27-year-old critically ill man onboard a Pune-Chandigarh flight by resuscitating him, giving emergency medicines and also requested for an emergency landing in Mumbai. Major Simrat Rajdeep Singh, a medical officer with the Western Command Hospital, Chandimandir (Haryana), said while he was travelling from Pune to Chandigarh by an Indigo flight on Monday, a co-passenger, who boarded in Goa, started experiencing respiratory distress

mid-air at an altitude of 39,000 feet. "I asked about the previous medical history of the patient, who was from Belgaum, from his brother who was also travelling with him. The medical reports showed the patient has small kidneys with poor renal function," Singh told PTI over phone on Tuesday. Clinically, the patient was in "fluid overload" and was getting drowsy. He also had accelerated hypertension, tachycardia, tachypnoea and he gradually he started gasping, the medical officer said. The crew

had most of the necessary equipment and drugs available in their medical emergency kit, he said. Singh said he administered the required emergency drugs to the patient through intravenous line access and kept him on continuous oxygen support for an hour. He also requested the flight captain to lower the altitude and make an emergency landing at the nearest place, as Chandigarh was still two hours away. Since Mumbai was the nearest airport, the flight made an emer-

NEET paper : RJD leader Tejashwi's aide booked room for arrested students, alleges Bihar deputy CM Vijay

NEW DELHI: The NEET paper leak controversy has taken a political turn with Bihar's deputy chief minister, Vijay Sinha, accusing the leader of the opposition in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, of involvement in the scandal.

During a press conference in Patna, deputy CM Vijay Sinha detailed phone calls made by Tejashwi Yadav's personal secretary, Pritam Kumar, to book accommodations for Sikander Kumar Yadavendu, the mastermind of the NEET question paper leak. "On May 1, Tejashwi Yadav's personal secretary

Pritam Kumar called guesthouse worker Pradip Kumar to book a room for Sikander Kumar Yadavendu... On May 4, Pritam Kumar called Pradip Kumar again for booking the room... The word 'mantri' was used for Tejashwi Yadav," Sinha said.

"Sikandar Yadavendu is a close relative of Tejashwi Yadav's PS Pritam Kumar. An NHA guest house was booked for Sikandar's sister Reena Yadav and son Anurag Yadav on May 4. A phone number and 'Mantri Ji' were mentioned in the NHA guest house's

diary. The investigating agency is trying to identify this 'Mantri Ji,'" Sinha added. Sinha, also the minister of road construction, ordered an inquiry into the booking of the NHA guest house.

"I am conducting a thorough investigation in my department to identify officers or employees working at the behest of Tejashwi Yadav. The entire RJD system is based on crime and corruption," he said. However, NHA has clarified that it does not operate any guest house facility in Patna.

Highcourt strikes down Bihar govt's 65% reservation in jobs

NEW DELHI: Patna high court on Thursday struck down a 65 per cent reservation cap set by the state in government jobs and educational institutions.

The high court in March had reserved its judgment on a batch of writ petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the increase in quota for backward, extremely backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and higher educational institutions in the state. A division bench of Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Harish Kumar reserved the judgment while concluding a marathon hearing on 10 writ petitions filed by one Gaurav Kumar and others. The petitioners had challenged the constitutional validity of the amendments made in

reservation laws. On November 21, the state government had notified the amended reservation laws. The Bihar government in November last year had officially notified in the state gazette two bills, aiming to raise the quota for deprived castes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and educational institutions. With the enactments, Bihar held the highest reservation percentage among larger states, reaching a total of 75 per cent.

Reacting to the court's order, RJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha urged Bihar CM Nitish Kumar to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court.

"We consider it as very unfortunate. I would like to say that we should see the social background of the petitioner. Who are those people trying to do this

from behind the curtains? We would urge Nitish Kumar to challenge this decision immediately in the upper court," Manoj Jha said.

The two bills that hiked quota The two bills, namely the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Bill-2023 and the Bihar (in admission in educational institutions) Reservation Bill, 2023, had become law after the gazette notification.

Bihar, with the law, was the second only to Tamil Nadu to provide the highest percentage of reservation to backward classes.

While Tamil Nadu offers 50 per cent, Bihar provided 43 per cent reservations for them, followed by Sikkim and Kerala with 40 per cent

'Didn't know carrying copies of big brands is a serious offence':

HYDERABAD: Travelling to the United States with a Puma, Adidas, or Nike fake? Your bargain buys might just get confiscated - or even destroyed - by US customs officials. With US Customs and Border Protection (CPB) stepping up its surveillance of smuggling of counterfeit goods, many Indian students and travellers who flew into America in recent months had their fake luxury items seized at the port of entry. Some told they had to watch the staff run scissors through their clothes or ditch them in the trash can.

CPB rules say an individual can carry one counterfeit item of each type (like one shirt, handbag, or pair of shoes) provided it is for personal use and not for sale. Anything in "excess" of this is banned. travelled to the US to meet my son, who is pursuing a master's in supply chain management in Texas. I was carrying eight shirts, four trousers, some socks, and a pair of shoes. All the goods were still packed as I had just bought them, said a schoolteacher from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. "At the port of entry officials checked my bags and bombarded me with questions about where I was travelling from, who the goods were for, if I was smuggling them, etc. Though I tried explaining to them that it was all for my son, they insisted that I could not take them as they were all counterfeit goods - copies of big brands - which I wasn't aware of. Since they threatened me with criminal charges, I had no choice but to let them seize everything immediately." The traveller said many of the clothing items were torn before being discarded. "I lost goods worth at least Rs 30,000," added the 43-year-old, appealing to authorities to mention these rules on relevant platforms for the benefit of travellers.

Centre's 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative transforming lives of rural women

JHANSI: In the heart of rural India, a quiet revolution is unfolding, driven by the resilience and determination of women who once confined their aspirations to the four walls of their homes. Through the empowering framework of self-help groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), these women are not only transforming their own lives but also setting an inspiring example for others. From managing government ration shops to becoming adept entrepreneurs, these women, now proudly known as "Lakhpati Didis" -- women earning over a lakh of rupees through their entrepreneurial efforts are rewriting the narrative of empowerment and self-sufficiency in their



communities. Veena, who manages a government ration shop, started her journey when a National Rural Livelihood Mission officer connected her with a self-help group. "When I first got married and came here, I didn't do anything. Then an officer from the NRLM (National Rural Livelihood Mission) came and connected us with a self-help group," she said. "After joining the group, we gathered the women and started running the group efficiently. I took on the responsibility of

managing the accounts, which slightly increased my income. Later, as I started going out more, I learned about the possibility of running this shop. Since then, we have been running this ration shop," she added. Earlier, ration shops were managed by men, and women didn't come out to get the rations. But since women like us started running the shop, the women who used to stay at home now come out to get their rations. Along with that,

Reversing decision, Mayawati reinstates nephew Akash Anand as political heir

Delhi: Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati named Akash Anand as her successor, reversing her decision. BSP reader Sarvar Malik said Akash Anand will be national coordinator. BSP supremo Mayawati withdrew nephew Akash Anand as her political heir and from party office until he was "mature". Akash Anand became BSP National Coordinator. The party announced 13 star candidates for the Uttarakhanda Assembly by-elections.

UP's mammoth police exam begins: 48 Lakh vie for 60k posts

LUCKNOW: UP's police constable recruitment exam, billed the largest ever job test in the state's history with 48 lakh aspirants vying for 60,244 posts, kicked off Friday without any big troubles. This is a re-exam following the cancellation of the previous test in Feb 2024 after a leak. Four more rounds of the test are slated for Aug 24, 25,

30 and 31, reports Pathikrit Chakraborty. Nearly 21% candidates skipped the test on Friday, while 61 people were arrested for allegedly impersonating during the exams conducted at 1,174 centres across 67 districts in two shifts. 1x1 polls Overall, 8.2 lakh students had downloaded admit cards for Friday's

test, but almost 6.5 lakh finally appeared. DGP Prashant Kumar visited several exam centres, monitored with drones and equipped with CCTV cameras and mobile jammers to prevent unauthorised communication. To ensure a cheating-free environment, magistrates were appointed at each centre.

Interior designer missing for one week killed, his body dumped in river

Ghaziabad: A 34-year-old interior designer who was reported missing by his family a week ago was allegedly murdered, his body chopped into six parts and dumped into a river in Bulandshahr.

Tarun Panwar, a resident of KW Srishti apartment in Raj Nagar Extension, went missing on Aug 16. Police said they were yet to recover Tarun's body.

A man detained in connection with the murder claimed Tarun was murdered over money.

1x1 polls Cops are also on the lookout for four other suspects. A complaint submitted by his father Ravinder Kumar said Tarun had received a call around 11 am on Aug 16 and left home to meet that person but never returned. He suspected Tarun had been kidnapped.

"Around 5-6 pm, we called to enquire after him. His phone rang, but he didn't



pick up. We thought he was on his way home, so he had not taken the calls. Nearly 30 minutes later, we called again. This time his phone was switched off. It was unlikely of Tarun to not call back and switch off his phone, but we waited for some time. We started calling his friends and acquaintances when he did not switch on his phone. We called over 35 people, but none of them knew where Tarun could be," Kumar said. DCP Rajesh Kumar said after Kumar submitted a complaint at Nandgram police

station, an FIR was registered under the BNS section 140 (1) (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder).

Tarun's car was recovered near Yashoda Hospital late on Aug 16 night, while call record analysis showed his phone was switched off in Merta.

A man detained on the basis of call records and other intelligence inputs claimed Tarun's body was chopped into six parts before being dumped into a river in Bulandshahr. "Three teams are trying to trace his body," the DCP said.

Gujarat House nod to bill for special courts to seize illegal assets

GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat assembly on Friday passed a bill that provides for setting up of special courts to crack down on disproportionate assets of govt employees, bootleggers, GST scamsters, land mafia, drug mafia and even elected representatives. Introducing Gujarat Special Courts Bill, 2024, minister of state for home Harsh Sanghavi said special courts will be set up to handle cases in which the prescribed prison term exceeds three years and DAs amount to more than Rs 1 crore. According to the bill, accumulation of property through unlawful means and then using such property to expand criminal activities called for setting up of special courts for expeditious confiscation of properties.

111 of 383 capital villages have PNG pipes: LG Saxena

Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena's office said that 111 of the Capital's 383 localities have PNG connections. Officials claimed Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) has installed 77,513 PNG meters, constructed 672 km of pipelines in these 111 villages, and received 129,000 gas connection applications. They said the PNG network will reach 311 Delhi villages by the end of the year and 72 by March 2025. Delhi LG proposed PNG connection

in Delhi's villages in June 2023 to improve the neglected areas. He met multiple times with IGL and other authorities, and PNG pipelines were laid in six months.

LG opened Qutabgarh's first PNG connection in December 2023. LG's official said this was IGL's first venture in rural Delhi, which was previously limited to urban residential complexes. Officials claimed Saxena ordered MCD, PWD, DDA, and NDMC to prioritize PNG pipeline

clearances and other formalities within 30 days at a review meeting. "The LG emphasised that this initiative will also prevent the villagers from the hassle of getting LPG cylinders refilled/replaced and this will result in huge savings in terms of money and energy for the local villagers," stated. The LG had stated that Delhi will be the first metropolis with piped gas in every home.

ED mounts probe into Qaida link in Jharkhand land scam

NEW DELHI Enforcement Directorate has started probing the al-Qaida link in Jharkhand's land scam case in which CM Hemant Soren was arrested earlier and is one of the accused in its money laundering case. ED has summoned Babloo Khan, who runs a hospital in Ranchi, on Monday after it was found that an al-Qaida cell busted by the Delhi Police special cell

Thursday had employed members of the suspected terror module. Babloo Khan is brother of Afsar Ali, arrested by ED in April from Ranchi in the land scam case. According to sources, the hospital Khan was running in Ranchi was registered in the name of Ishfaq Ahmed, an al-Qaida suspect who was arrested in a joint operation by the Delhi Police special cell and the Special Task Force.

By 2030, India to launch zero orbital debris mission: Space minister

NEW DELHI: Space minister Jitendra Singh, who released a report on the socio-economic impacts on Indian space programmes and data on Chandrayaan-3 on National Space Day, said on Friday that India not only became the first to reach Mars in one go and first to land on the Moon's south pole but "will also become the first in the world to launch a technology for a zero orbital debris mission".

1x1 polls "By 2030, all Indian satellites will be launched under the zero orbital debris mission. The debris generated during a launch mission will be retrieved and brought back to Earth, hence reducing debris in space," the minister told TOI. Singh also said that a facility in Bengaluru has come up that tracks space debris and gives visuals of real-time movement of space debris.



Adding to what the minister's said on the sidelines of National Space Day, Isro chairman S Somanath told TOI, "Almost 20,000 space debris are being tracked on a regular basis by this facility. This helps us track them and see if they are on a collision course with our satellites, thus helps us manoeuvre our satellites away from them in time. So, operating satellites, dead satellites and junk are being tracked by this facility. Anything above the size of 10 cm is being monitored." Somanath said that India is monitoring these debris through mathematical models to "follow and predict

these debris. We are also participating in an international effort for a better prediction about these space debris".

The minister also said in 10 years, the Indian space economy is expected to grow from \$8 billion to \$44 billion. A new report released on Friday suggested that for every rupee spent on Isro, the return on investment has been of the order of 2.54. It also said the gross value added by the Indian space sector between 2014 and 2023 was \$60 billion, and in the next 10 years, it can go up to \$89 billion to \$131 billion depending on the forecasting scenarios.

High Court relief for students in Stephen's row

NEW DELHI: Coming to the rescue of students stranded due to a dispute over CUET admissions between Delhi University and St Stephen's College, Delhi High Court on Friday granted provisional admission to six candidates in the college. The court noted that there was no fault of the six students who had successfully cleared the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) and other formalities to be allotted St Stephen's College as per their given choice, yet were unable to secure their admissions due to the "policy dispute" between the university and the college. "In these peculiar circumstances, without there being any fault on the part of the present petitioners and despite them being meritorious and having cleared all the formalities and tests, they are being kept under suspense regarding the fate of their admission. Such circumstances, where their future prospects of studying in the college of their choice are being compromised due to the policy-related disputes of respondent no. 1 (DU) and respondent no. 3 (St Stephen's College), will require judicial intervention, in the interest of the petitioners," Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma noted in an interim order. The court pointed out that the six students, represented by senior advocate Rishi Malhotra, were allocated St Stephen's as the college of their preference and choice as per DU's policy and after clearing CUET and other formalities.

Army drone on recon mission strays across LoC into Pakistan

NEW DELHI: A small tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the Indian Army inadvertently strayed across the LoC into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Friday.

The government will purchase 156 light combat helicopters from HAL

Delhi: The defence ministry has let Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) bid for 156 Prachand light combat helicopters (LCH) to strengthen the Indian Army and Air Force, officials said. According to anonymous authorities, the estimated cost of the new helicopters, 90 for the army and 66 for the IAF, is 50,000 crore. This will increase India's self-reliance. Two months earlier, the min-

istry let HAL bid for 97 light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1A) to help the IAF overcome a fighter squadrons shortage. The new fighter planes will cost 67,000 crore approximately. HAL has produced 15 limited series Prachand helicopters for the IAF (10) and army (5), and soon series production will commence. Officials stated HAL will fulfill the 156 helicopter order in five to six years after signing the contract. The

series production LCH will have more than 55% indigenous content, up from 45%. The LCH can demolish enemy air defenses, target slow-moving and remotely piloted aircraft, destroy high-altitude bunkers, conduct counter-insurgency operations in jungle and urban areas, and support ground forces. The government's affirmative indigenisation lists limit the import of weapons, equipment, and ammunition.

Making small satellites a piece of cake for these students

NEW DELHI: With a tilak on his forehead, a teen was fiddling with a nano satellite, which was small enough to fit in the palm of his hand, and explaining its role to space enthusiasts. B Srinivas was part of a team of 4-5 B.Tech students who set up a stall at a space exhibition at Bharat Mandapam on National Space Day on Friday to showcase their skills in developing nano and microsatellites. Among them, Zeel

Gabani, who is also doing aeronautical engineering from the Thiruvananthapuram-based Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology like others, said, "We are not only developing these small satellites, but some of our satellites have already been launched by Isro in space on its experimental platform (POEM)." Isro nowadays uses the fourth stage of its PSLV rocket as an experimental platform

after it completes its primary task of launching a satellite. Students use this platform for doing experiments in space. "We are working for the Small-Spacecraft Systems and Payload Centre (SSPACE), which is a spacecraft-making centre within our institute. It is a completely-student initiative," the girl student said.

Another student, Jacob, said a small satellite takes 3-4 years to develop. "As a satellite

development is not possible with one batch, so its development is done by generations of students. Our seniors would start work on a satellite. Data is passed on to the second batch. We will work and once we pass out of the college, our juniors will resume work. There is no communication gap as the entire project is documented and our seniors mentor us well on the project even after leaving the campus."