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

Tale of two hugs and PM Modi's 'Bharat first' policy amid Russia-Ukraine war

NEW DELHI: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Poland in more than four decades, he said, "For decades, India's policy was to maintain distance from all countries. The situation has now changed ... Today, India's policy is to maintain close ties with all countries. Today's India wants to connect with everyone." And setting the tone straight for India's shifted foreign policy, PM Modi arrived in Ukraine and met president Volodymyr Zelenskyy with a handshake and a hug. Just over a month ago, PM Modi's hug with Russian president Vladimir Putin in Moscow was criticised by many, including the US and Zelenskyy himself who called it a "disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts". PM Modi, however, on Friday offered the same treatment to Zelenskyy with a handshake, a hug and a hand on the



"It's a Bharat-First policy, unlike what it was before"

The images also echo what External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had mentioned as the essential difference in India's foreign policy in previous and Modi government. "It's a Bharat-First policy, unlike what it was before," he said. PM Modi's visit comes as the Russia-Ukraine war continues for the third year. Since the beginning of the war, India has tried to balance its relations between Russia and

Ukraine and repeatedly called for "peaceful resolution through dialogue". **NEW DELHI:** The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday told the Supreme Court that there was an attempt to cover up the Kolkata doctor rape and murder by the police alleging that the crime scene was altered. The Bengal government denied these allegations saying that the whole procedure was taped. "We entered the probe

shoulder as both the

leaders visited a

"Two defining images capture the unique essence of a Bharat First Foreign Policy"

PM Modi wrote as he shared the photos on X. Assam CM and BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma soon put up the images of PM Modi hugging both Putin and Zelenskyy and noted that the "two defining images capture the unique essence of a Bharat First Foreign Policy." "A policy that allows a resurgent India to exercise strategic autonomy in an increasingly polarised climate, pursue national interests and reaffirm its pole position in global diplomacy!" he wrote.

Ukraine. "Conflict is particularly devastating for young children. My heart goes out to the families of children who lost their lives, and I pray that they find the strength to endure their grief."

'Risking nation's unity': Amit Shah attacks Congress over tie-up with NC for J&K assembly

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed the National Conference (NC) and Congress alliance for the upcoming assembly election in Jammu & Kashmir and demanded that the grand old party to clarify its stance on reservations for Dalits and other backward castes in the state, which its ally partner has vowed to review if elected to power. 1x1 polls Taking to X, Shah said, "The Modi government ended years of discrimination against Dalits, tribes, Pahadis, and backward communities by granting them reservations after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A." "Does Rahul Gandhi support the JKNC manifesto, which calls for abolishing reservations for Dalits, Gujjars, Bakerwals, and Pahadis?" he asked. "After allying with the National Conference, he should now clarify the Congress Party's stance on reservation policy," he added.



PM Modi comforts Zelenskyy but asks him to have peace talks with Russia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to take the sting out of the Western outrage over his visit to Russia last month as he expressed solidarity with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in their meeting in Kyiv, while also urging him to quickly sit with Russia and find a way out of

the ongoing crisis. Modi called for "innovative solutions" that will have broad acceptance. As expected, Modi didn't propose any peace plan of his own, or endorse Zelenskyy's 10-point peace formula, but he told the president that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The home minister also accused the Congress party of 'risking the nation's unity and security to satiate its greed for power' and posed 10 questions for Rahul Gandhi and his party. "The Congress party, which has repeatedly

risks the nation's unity and security to satiate its greed for power, has once again exposed its ulterior motives by allying with the Abdullah family's National Conference in the Jammu and Kashmir elections," he said.

India asks Pakistan to return the drone that strayed across the LoC

NEW DELHI: A small tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the Indian Army inadvertently strayed across the Line of Control with Pakistan in the Bhimber Gali sector of the Poonch district in J&K on Friday morning. The Army has sent a message to the Pakistan Army over the hotline between the directors-general of military operations to return the "mini drone", which sources identified as a 'Switch' fixed-wing VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) UAV deployed by infantry battalions for surveillance operations. There were, however, some reports that the drone had been shot down by Pakistani forces. An Indian officer said, "The drone was on a training mission well within Indian territory when its control was lost due to technical malfunction at 9.25 am.

Pune family wearing 25 kgs of gold on their body amuse many during their pilgrimage to Balaji mandir



TIRUPATI: A family of three from Pune, who displayed their fetish for gold by wearing about 25 kilograms weighing gold ornaments on their body, amused many during their pilgrimage to the world-famous Lord Balaji mandir at Tirumala on Friday. Sunny Nanasahab Waghchoure and Sanjay Gujar, renowned as the golden boys of Pune, flaunted around their flashy gold accessories including heavy gold chains etc, when they arrived at the world-renowned Tirupati Balaji temple early this morning. When the Pune golden boys family completed their darshan and walked out of the hill temple, anxious devotees surrounded them for some quick selfies and their 15 odd personal bodyguards and the TTD security guards had a tough time in dealing with the commotion. Sunny Waghchoure is an Indian businessman and a film financier based at Pune, while his friend Sanjay Gujar is also a film financier and is also into infra and realty business. Known as the golden boys of Pune, the duo are infamous for their fetish for gold, which they often display.

Infosys' Murthy, Mark and 3 other tech leaders who spoke against work from home

Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt recently said that Google has fallen behind the AI race because of its remote work policy - a remark for which he later expressed regret. However, he is not the only tech leader who has said that remote work has a negative influence on productivity. These leaders include Infosys co-



founder Narayana Murthy, Facebook parent Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who have expressed concerns about the long-term viability of remote work. A notable mention

is Schmidt who argued that remote work policy hindered Google's ability to innovate at the same pace as its competitors. "Google decided that work-life balance and going home early and

Delegation of central govt employees to raise assured pension with PM Modi

NEW DELHI: The staff representatives of Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) will demand an assured pension of 50% of the last salary under the National Pension System when they meet PM Narendra Modi on Saturday. This will be in addition to their demand for periodic inflation adjustment, a minimum payout for those who leave govt service before completing 20 years as well as protection for family pension.



The move, which has been under consideration for over a year, will benefit all central govt employees who joined service from 2004 and comes amid Congress reversing NPS in several states. JCM president M Raghavaiah also demanded additional pension for those who

live beyond 80 years. JCM is a statutory platform for dialogue between the govt and its employees to resolve disputes amicably. It has members from more than a dozen govt organisations representing around 36 lakh Central govt employees. "The PM wants to meet the committee members. There is no specific agenda. But we will raise the demand for applicability of OPS provisions to all central govt employees.

Bombay High Court restrains any political party or person from calling for strike

NEW DELHI: In a significant legal direction, the Bombay High Court on Friday issued a restraining order against any political party or individual from calling for a Maharashtra Bandh. "We are restraining any political party or individual from proceeding with call for bandh. We will also direct the State to take all steps in terms of B G Deshmukh judgment," said Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya. The order comes just days after the opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) had announced plans for a statewide bandh on August 24 to protest against an incident of rape of two minors in Badlapur.



The HC issued notice to the Congress, Shiv Sena-UBT and Sharad Pawar-NCP, and restrained them from proceeding with the call for bandh on Saturday or on any other subsequent day. The notices are made returnable on October 9. The court directed the chief secretary, additional chief secretary (home), DGP and district collectors shall enforce directions given in HC's 2004 judgment. MVA responds, calls off strike After the order, NCP-SCP chief Sharad Pawar tweeted: "In the wake of the Badlapur incident, a statewide public shutdown was called for on 24 August 2024. This was an attempt to draw the government's attention to this matter. This bandh was with- in the purview of the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution of India. However Bombay High Court has ruled that the

bandh is unconstitutional. Urgent appeal in Supreme Court is not possible due to time limit. As the Indian Judiciary is a constitutional institution, it is requested to withdraw tomorrow's bandh while respecting the Constitution." Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said the parties will respect the court's order.

"Honouring Bombay High Court judgement, all Congress leaders will protest in all Maharashtra district headquarters with black bands on their face/mouth from 11 AM to 12 noon against the cases of sexual harassment against women and failure of Maharashtra govt to prevent that.

Cognizant sues Infosys in the US court

US-based software major Cognizant TriZetto has filed a lawsuit against Indian tech giant Infosys in a Texas federal court. The lawsuit filed by Cognizant alleges that Infosys has stolen trade secrets related to its healthcare insurance software. New Jersey-based Cognizant has 70% employees based out of India. Infosys has vehemently denied these allegations and has vowed to defend itself in court. "Infosys is aware of the lawsuit. We deny all allegations and will defend our position in the court," an Infosys spokesperson said. What Cognizant's lawsuit against Infosys claims Cognizant claims that Infosys unlawfully extracted data from its databases and used this information to develop and market.

Asserting her patriotic credentials, Kamala paints Trump as un-American



WASHINGTON: Characterising her opponent Donald Trump as an "unserious" self-seeker and asserting her patriotic credentials, US vice-president Kamala Harris on Thursday became the first woman of color and of Indian-origin to accept a major party presidential nomination in American history. In doing so, Harris unapologetically harked back to the journey of her immigrant South Indian mother, Shyamala Gopalan, while reassuring voters she would be a presi-

dent for all Americans, one who would "put country above party and self," in contrast to a rival she painted as cynical, selfish, and dangerous for the United States. "On behalf of the people, on behalf of every American, regardless of party, race, gender or the language your grandmother speaks. On behalf of my mother, and everyone who has ever set out on their own unlikely journey... on behalf of every one whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on Earth.

Online applications invited for various scholarship schemes for disabled students

Prayagraj/Lucknow: State Minister of State for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Independent Charge) Narendra Kashyap said that the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India has invited online applications for various scholarship schemes for disabled students for the academic session 2024-25. The objective of this initiative is to provide financial assistance to disabled students for their education. He has appealed to all the eligible disabled students to apply on time. Joint Director of Disabled Empowerment Department, Ranjit Singh said that applications for centrally funded pre-matric, post-matric and top class scholarship schemes run for disabled students are available through National Scholarship Portal (National Scholarship Portal) and its mobile application. The application deadline for Pre-Matric Scholarship is 31st August 2024, while the last date for Post-Matric and Higher Division Education Scholarship has been set as 31st October 2024. The eligibility conditions for the scholarship will be as per the guidelines of the Government of India. Scheme details, guidelines and application procedure are available on scholarship related websites www.scholarships.gov.in and www.depwd.gov.in.

Shweta Mittal crowned Teej Queen Curtains draw over grand prog of Sawan Teej of Inner Wheel Club of East

Prayagraj: Inner Wheel Club of East's grand program of Sawan Teej concluded, Shweta Mittal elected Teej Queen India is a country of many types of Teej festivals. Along with the month of August and the showers of Sawan, Raksha Bandhan, Independence Day, Shri Krishna Janmashtami, and women's festivals are also celebrated. The fast of Teej observed by the devotees is very important. Inner Wheel Club of Allahabad East organized a colorful program combining all these colors of festivals with great joy at Hotel Rama Continental, Civil Lines. This program full of diversity started with the lighting of the lamp by the guests. A very captivating presentation of Shiva worship was done by Chaitali. In



the program, there was a competition for theatrical presentation based on Hindu beliefs on topics like Ram Sita, Radha Krishna, Rukmini Radha Samvad etc.

In which she was victorious... Women dressed in beautiful clothes presented one dance after another. Ruby and Smita Gupta received the Best Act Award for their live portrayal of Krishna Sudama. Fresh face was given to Anjali Singh. Best dress was given to guest Kanchan Pandey. Meena ji got the title of Best Dress Senior, Jyoti Srivastava and Traditional Teej Queen Sandhya Jaiswal, and Divyaani got the title of Sawan Queen, Shweta Mittal got the title, Henna Queen Abhilasha, Make-up Queen Sushma Agarwal was given to Elegant Queen Nutan Singh. Vineeta Narayan ji and Neha Gupta Ji, who were present as chief guests on this occasion, praised the entire event and said that programs like this give a new direction and knowledge to the cultural activities of the society. Active member Sushma Aggarwal heartily welcomed all the guests and greatly appreciated the enthusiastic performance of the club members. On this occasion, folk singer Mohini Srivastava and club members presented the song on the beats of Dholak.

950 science labs in govt-run secondary schools to be upgraded

Prayagraj: As many as 950 science laboratories in government-run secondary schools across 42 districts of the state will soon be equipped with new equipment and gadgets worth Rs. 1 lakh each. A budget of Rs. 9 crore in this regard has been released by the state project director of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Kanchan Verma, informed officials of the state secondary education department. This initiative will cover 318 physics laboratories, 319 chemistry laboratories, and 313 biology laboratories in these schools, they added.

According to a directive dated August 9, sent to the district inspectors of schools (DIOSs), for a group of 40 students, 129 specific items will be purchased for chemistry labs, 139 for life sciences, and 91 for physics labs under this initiative. A special feature of this move is the inclusion of new equipment for Physics Labs, based on a list prepared by CBSE in accordance with the NCERT syllabus. For the first time, students will have access to equipment such as telescopes, cameras, barometers, lactometers, electric bells, binoculars, metallic cylinders, spectrometers, hydrometers, and gold leaf electrosopes in their labs.

A committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the respective DIOS to oversee the procurement of materials and equipment in each district. The committee will also include the finance and accounts officer (secondary) and one lecturer each from Physics, Chemistry, and Biology, as nominated by the DIOS. This district committee will supervise the purchase of the specified materials and equipment through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, officials said. The district committee for 2024-25. The list of materials and equipment will be made available to the principals of the schools by August 31. The principals will provide the demand letter accordingly to DIOS concerned by September 10.

ASISC Zonal Debate Competition organized in Saint Joseph College

Prayagraj: ASISC Zonal Debate Competition was organized in the famous auditorium of Saint Joseph College, Prayagraj. At the beginning of the program, Literary Organization President Sarthak Singh welcomed Principal Rev. Father Walter De Silva, Additional Administrator A. Magan, Chief Coordinator Jyoti Dubey, program judges Dr. Sonal Shankar, Suchita Tripathi Mishra and D. Guha and program moderator Divya Raj. In this competition, 9 teams each in the senior and junior categories participated, in which there were a total of 36 children including the pros and cons. After which Bible was read by Devansh Pandey and prayer was done by Shayan Zaman and prayer song was sung. The first judge of the programme, Dr. Sonal Shankar is currently working as an Associate Professor in

the Department of Law, Allahabad University. His teaching experience is more than 15 years. More than 25 of her research papers have been published in both national and international journals, which clearly reflects her hard work. The second judge of the program, Suchita Tripathi Mishra, is a qualified advocate who has expertise in civil, education, service, constitutional, revenue, tax, corporate. He has been practicing for more than 8 years in Allahabad High Court, C.A.T., D.R.T., C.L.T.T. and C.E.S.T.A.T. on such subjects. She is also a member of the All India Advocates Council of the High Court Unit of Kashi Province. His experience is inspiring for everyone.

The third judge of the show, Dibanjan Guha, currently serves as the regional head of Yes Bank Limited. He has also won many interna-

tional sales training programs. Due to his exemplary performance, he was elevated from Branch Head to Cluster Head within a year,

pal presented a bouquet to all the judges and moderators. The debate was started by the senior class whose topic was "Rapid progress

(GHS). Speaking in opposition, first place was won by Ananya (GHS), second place was won by Janvi Singh (St.JOHN'S CO-ED

and third place by Anushka Malik (SMC). Speaking in opposition, first place was won by Raghav Mishra (SJC), second place by Shreyanshi. Choudhary (SMC) and third position was obtained by Haya Abbas (GHS). While addressing, Dr. Sonal Shankar first thanked the Principal Rev. Father Walter de Silva for inviting her. He said that debate is a way to discover new ideas. In the end he ended his speech by congratulating all the winners. Thereafter, the Principal presented mementoes to all the guests present. After this, vote of thanks was given by Osmani Abdul Rehman. The successful leadership of the contestants was done by teacher Miss A. J. D'Cruz and only due to her dedication; this program could be organized smoothly. The competition ended with the national anthem.



which shows his dedication. The moderator of the program, Divya Raj, is a former teacher of the English department of Saint Joseph's College. He has devoted himself completely to the education and development of children and has served the school. This is a source of inspiration for all the children. After this, the Princi-

pal presented a bouquet to all the judges and moderators. The debate was started by the senior class whose topic was "Rapid progress (GHS). Speaking in opposition, first place was won by Ananya (GHS), second place was won by Janvi Singh (St.JOHN'S CO-ED SCHOOL), second place was won by Daksh Abhishek Loyal (SJC), second place by Yashika Sharma

SCHOOL) and third place was given by Ajwad Abbas Ansari (SJC).

After which there was a debate by the junior class whose topic was "Censorship is a necessary evil". In this category, speaking in favor, first place was won by Tanmay Pandey (ST.JOHN'S CO-ED SCHOOL), second place was won by Aditya Mishra (SJC) and third place was won by Yashika Sharma

Kesarwani community should get backward class reservation: Shiv Kumar Vaishya

Memo submitted in the name of Chief Minister

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of District and City Kesarwani Vaishya Sabha, under the leadership of District President Narayan Kesarwani and City President Rajendra Kesarwani, Uttar Pradesh Kesarwani Vaishya Sabha for the reservation of backward classes to the Kesarwani community. State President Teerthraj Kesarwani and State General Secretary Pramil Kesarwani submitted a memorandum to MLA Harshvardhan Vajpayee in his office at Bai Ka Bagh in the name of the Honorable Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government. On this occasion, MLA Harshvardhan Vajpayee assured that this demand will be conveyed to the Honorable Chief Minister. I will do the work and will make every effort to include Kesarwani community in the backward class. On that

occasion, National Patron Shiv Kumar Vaishya and Treasurer Satish Chandra Kesarwani, through a memorandum, demanded from the Uttar Pradesh gov-



ernment that Kesarwani community should be included in the backward class. Should be included as soon as possible. Because Kesarwani community gets backward class reservation in Bihar and Jharkhand, hence in Uttar Pradesh also Kesarwani community should get

backward class reservation. State President Mr. Teerthraj Gupta said that 70 pc of Kesarwani community people are engaged in serving tea, chaat and hawking.

also mentioned Kesarwani caste in part number 2 screw 171 of its report. Disciplined to be included in Other Backward Classes, on the said occasion prominently National Patron Shiv Kumar Vaishya, National Treasurer Satish Chand Kesarwani, Vinod Kesarwani Advocate, Shrikant Kesarwani Advocate, Ramchandra Gupta, Kanhaiyalal Gupta, Abhilash Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Suresh Chand. Kesarwani, Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, Laxman Kesarwani, Guddu Kesarwani, Anirudh Kesarwani, Dharmendra Kumar Kesarwani, Paras Kesarwani, Yogendra Prasad Lala, Uttam Kumar Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Radhe Shyam, Kesharwani Ashok Kumar Kesarwani, Anil Kumar Kesarwani etc. and a large number of people of the society.

Tree plantation program done by Lions Club Allahabad Arunima in Hindustani Academy

Prayagraj: Lions Club Allahabad Arunima organized a tree plantation program in the premises of Hindustani Academy Prayagraj on 23.8.2024. Key Features of the Programme: Major Objective: The objective of this tree plantation program was to promote environmental protection and greenery. On this occasion, showed our commitment towards environmental protection. Sub Divisional



President First Lion Dr Arpan Dhar Dubey, Homeopathy Chairperson said, "Our aim is not just to plant trees, but to nurture and care for them so that they purify our environment. We want more and more people to join this campaign. Join us and fulfill your responsibility towards the environment." On this occasion, Sub Divisional President First Lion Dr. Arpan Dhar Dubey, Homeopathy Chairperson Lion Dr. S.K. Shukla and Lion Shrish Srivastava, Santosh Kumar Tiwari and Gopal ji and other personnel of Hindustani Academy were present.

Police Commr embarks on inspection spree to maintain integrity of exam and conducting it without cheating

Prayagraj: Police Commissioner, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh Civil Police Constable Direct Recruitment -

Allahabad University - Commerce Department Katra, Allahabad University - Law Department Katra,



2023 In order to ensure that the examination is conducted safely and without cheating while maintaining the integrity of the examination, police lines, district CCTV camera control room located in Prayagraj and examination centers of Prayagraj district -

Hindu Mahila Vidyalyaya Inter College. And Prayagraj Mahila Vidyapeeth Inter College was visited/inspected and necessary guidelines were given to the concerned regarding compliance as per the points given in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Varanasi Aurangabad Highway (VAH) organises Health Check-up Camps for school children

Varanasi: Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to community welfare and development, Varanasi Aurangabad NH-2 Tollways Private Limited (VAH) organised a 3-day health check-up camp across the schools adopted in Varanasi. The series of health check-up camps were conducted from August 21 - August 23, 2024, across three schools: Composite School Sunderpur, Composite School Naipura, Dafi, and Composite School Naveen. This initiative was organised in collaboration with NGO partners Khushii and The Hans Foundation (THF). The health camp was graced by the presence of Shri Skand Gupta, Block Education Officer for the Urban Area of Varanasi.

Emphasising the importance of the initiative, Shri Skand Gupta, Block Education Officer - Urban Area, Varanasi, said, "The health and wellbeing of our children are paramount to the future of our community. This initiative reflects a commendable commitment to ensuring that our young students have access to essential healthcare services. Such efforts not only address immediate health needs but also lay the foundation for a healthier and more prosperous society. We are proud

to support this initiative, which exemplifies the spirit of community and progress in Varanasi."

Aligned with the commitment to the SDG goal of health and wellbeing, the health check-up camps catered to over 400 students from grades 1st to 5th, aiming to promote awareness around health and hygiene among these young students. The camps focused on comprehensive medical



checkups to detect health issues and provide immediate prescriptions and references as appropriate. Ensuring a healthier and illness-free future for the young students, the camp included full body check-ups, BMI assessments, and eye and dental check-ups. Additionally, the program included awareness sessions to equip students with essential knowledge for maintaining optimal health. Follow-up sessions on check-ups will be conducted at regular intervals via the VAH - Hans Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) operated by The Hans Foundation (THF). As VAH continues to expand its community outreach efforts, the company remains committed to fostering healthier, stronger, and more resilient communities, ensuring that the youth of today are well-prepared to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Rahul Gandhi to attend 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan'

Congress leader and Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi will attend a 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' to discuss various aspects related to the Constitution. The event will be held on Saturday in the Allahabad Medical Association Convention Centre in the Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh. Furthermore,

Rahul Gandhi also hit out at the BJP and said that they will resist any attempt by BJP leaders to undermine the constitution.

Taking it to a social media post on Facebook, Rahul Gandhi wrote, "The Constitution of India guarantees justice, equality, and liberty to all our people. Any attempt by the BJP to undermine it

will be met with the strongest resistance--from me, from every dedicated Congress karyakarta, and from every deshbhakt Indian. Join me tomorrow as we stand united to make this message resound loud and clear. Together, let us defend the values that define our nation."

Meanwhile, following Congress' announcement of

allying with the National Conference (NC) ahead of the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Amit Shah accused the Congress of repeatedly risking "the nation's unity and security to satiate its greed for power."

Taking to social media site X, Shah said, "The Con-

gress party, which has repeatedly risked the nation's unity and security to satiate its greed for power, has once again exposed its ulterior motives by allying with the Abdullah family's 'National Absence' in the Jammu and Kashmir elections." He further questioned the Congress party and their leader, Rahul

Gandhi, if they support the promises made by the NC in their election manifesto. Shah questioned if the Congress party supports NC's promise of "a separate flag for Jammu and Kashmir," the "JKNC's decision to restore Article 370 and 35A," and thereby "push Jammu and Kashmir back into an era of unrest and terrorism."

DM conducted surprise inspection of various examination centers

To ensure Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment Examination conducted safely

Prayagraj: District Magistrate Navneet Singh Chahal conducted a surprise inspection of the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment Examination being conducted at various centers of the district on Friday. In order to ensure its safe conduct, a surprise inspection was conducted at Mary Wanamaker Girls Intermediate College, Mehboob Ali School and College, Bharat Scouts and Guides Inter College and other examination centres.



While inspecting the control room set up for monitoring the police recruitment examination in the examination centres, he tested the functioning of the CCTV cameras there and the monitoring done through it.

The District Magistrate has informed the Static Magistrate and Principal appointed at each examination centre, how many candidates are enrolled at the respective examination center and in relation to that, how many candidates have ap-

peared in today's examination and in how many rooms the examination is being conducted in the concerned center and their seating capacity. Gave necessary guidelines after getting information about seating arrangement and other arrangements. The District Magistrate inspected each examination room of the centers and also obtained information about Aadhaar authentication for identification of the candidates.

"Constitution Conference" today

Prayagraj: Leader of Opposition Shri Rahul Gandhi will address the "Constitution Conference" at the Medical Association Convention Center in Prayagraj. To welcome him, on the instructions of National Secretary in-charge Prayag Zone Shri Rajesh Tiwari, a preparatory meeting was held at the residence of Allahabad MP Shri



Ujjwal Raman Singh. In which it has been decided to give a warm welcome to the people's leader Rahul Gandhi ji from the arrival of Bamrauli Airport to the venue of the program. In this preparatory meeting, prominent people included MP Honorable Ujjwal Raman Singh, former MLA Mr. Anugrah Narayan Singh, State Vice President Mr. Vishwvijay Singh, Mr. Manish Mishra ji, City President Pradeep Mishra Anshuman ji, Gangapur District President Suresh Yadav, Yamunapur District President Arun Tiwari, Kaushambi District President Gaurav Pandey etc. many senior leaders were present.

Janmashtami festival celebrated at Cobra Pre-Army School

Prayagraj: Janmashtami festival was celebrated with pomp today at Cobra Pre Army School located at OD Fort. Small children were dressed up as Lord Krishna and Radha, which was a sight to behold. During this, children danced on devotional songs. Appreciating the presentation of the children, the Principal distributed sweets and coffee among all. During this time a large number of parents of children were present.



After allotment of ITI admission, selection result for upgradation declared

Prayagraj/Lucknow: State Minister of State for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) Kapil Dev Aggarwal said that Uttar Pradesh State Vocational Training Council, Aliganj, Lucknow has announced the second phase of session 2024-25 (one year) and session 2024-26 (two year). After allotment of phase and first phase, the selection result for upgradation has been declared. The admission dates for Phase II have been scheduled from August 23, 2024 to August 28, 2024, including holidays. He has requested the selected candidates to complete the admission process by reaching the selected institute on time with their documents. Special Secretary and Executive Director, Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department, Abhishek Singh said that the selected candidates will be informed about their selection. It is also

being sent through SMS. The rank information of the candidates who are not selected will also be displayed on the website, and they will have to wait for the next admission stage. Candidates selected for admission will have to contact the Principal of the concerned institute along with the call letter along with all their original certificates, attested copies of mark sheets and two passport size photographs. The admission process will be completed only after verification from the selection list in the institute. Candidates can check their selection results on <http://www.scvtup.in> or <http://www.upvesd.gov.in/dte> website. If candidates require any additional information, they can contact their nearest Industrial Training Institute. Apart from this, technical helpline number 0522-4150500, 91 7897992063 and for other information can be contacted on 0522-2336115, 91 9628372929.

2 vicious accused who stole luggage and mobile phones of passengers arrested

Prayagraj: Under the guidance of Principal Chief Security Commissioner / UMCR and under the guidance of Senior Divisional Security Commissioner RSU / UMCR / Prayagraj and under the efficient leadership of Post Commander / RSU Prayagraj. Dated today by Railway Protection Force Post Prayagraj and GRP Police Station Prayagraj for prevention of theft of passenger luggage and arrest of criminals involved in theft. On 23.08.2024, 02 vicious accused were jointly arrested from PF-1 Delhi & Junction Board of Railway Station Prayagraj at 11.15 am along with 02 mobile phones stolen from passengers, who upon being interrogated admitted to having stolen them, to be done.

Shri Krishna Janmotsav will be celebrated with pomp on Aug 26

Shri Krishna Janmotsav to be celebrated till Chhath Mahotsav with spectacular electrical decorations

Prayagraj: The festival of Shri Krishna Janmotsav will be celebrated with great pomp on the occasion of the 125th year of the temple in the ancient temple of Radha Krishna located in Bagiya Narayan Vatika of Munshi Ram Prasad. Convenor Kumar Narayan told that Krishna Janmotsav will be organized with great pomp



from 26th August, Shri Krishna Janmashtami to 31st August, and the tradition of Lord Shri Krishna's Janmotsav will be followed with rituals. Rajesh Kesarwani, media in-charge of the program, said. That on this occasion, a spectacular tableau based on the life of Lord Shri Krishna, bhajan evening by well-known artists and the entire temple premises will be decorated with spectacular and attractive lights and complete preparations are being made for organizing Shri Krishna Janmotsav.

RaGa's Prayagraj pitch to be game-changer: Shekhar Bahuguna

Cong workers all set to accord grand welcome to LoP

Prayagraj: "Continuing his pitch on the 'threat to the Constitution', Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is set to take part in an event - 'Samvidhan Samman Sammelan' - in Prayagraj Saturday. The event is being organised by the civil society where Rahul will be the principal speaker. The conference will be held at a medical convention centre on Stanley Road, which is only a couple of kilometres from Anand Bhavan - the ancestral house of the Nehru family and now a museum," informed senior Congress leader, Shekhar Bahuguna while replying to queries of mediapersons.

"Congress workers are busy in hectic preparations to accord a grand welcome to Rahul Gandhi on his first arrival to Prayagraj after becoming LoP," he added. Another leader, Javed Urfi who is overseeing the intricacies of event gave details of the no-holds-preparation.

"Lok Sabha MP and

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of abolishing the Constitution for the last several years. In the Lok



Sabha elections held this year too, 'India Alliance' had entered the fray with the message of saving the Constitution, and after the results, Rahul Gandhi and many opposition leaders took oath as MPs with the Constitution book. Now Rahul Gandhi is leading a Constitution Honor Conference in Prayagraj (Allahabad) of Uttar Pradesh tomorrow i.e. Sat-

urday, for which he has called upon people to join. Sharing a post on social media platform Facebook, Rahul Gandhi urged Congress workers and patriots to participate in this conference," said Javed Urfi.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is coming to Prayagraj on Saturday 24th August. He will participate as the chief guest in the Constitution Honor Conference organized by the civil society at the AMA Convention Center located near Maharana Pratap Square. Congress UP in-charge Avinash Pandey and Congress state president Ajay Rai gave this information to journalists at Rahi Ilawart located on Civil Lines Roadways.

Both the leaders told that Rahul Gandhi is coming to his home district for the first time after becoming the Leader of Opposition. He will reach Prayagraj airport at around 4 o'clock and from there he will di-

rectly reach the venue. After this, Rahul Gandhi will also talk to intellectuals. Ajay Rai said that the campaign launched by Rahul Gandhi to save the Constitution in the Lok Sabha elections has paid off. Its widespread results have emerged in the Lok Sabha elections.

Sharing a poster titled 'Constitution Samman Sammelan', Rahul Gandhi wrote in the caption, "The Constitution of India guarantees justice, equality and freedom to the people. On my part, on behalf of every dedicated Congress worker and on behalf of patriotic Indians, there will be the strongest resistance to any attempt by the BJP to weaken it. Join me tomorrow as we come together to get this message clearly into their ears. On August 24, 2024 at 1:00 pm at Allahabad Medical Association Convention Centre, let us all come together to protect the values that define our nation."

Strike 1 celebrates 58th AWWA Day celebration at Mathura

Prayagraj: The 58th AWWA Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and participation from all quarters. The event highlighted the importance of community engagement and showcased a wide array of activities aimed at empowering women/Nari Sashaktikaran and honouring the Veer Naris of our Nation. Key highlights of the function are as under.

Wellness & Fitness Fest: A Wellness & Fitness Fest for all families and children was organised on 18 Aug 2024. The event included a Walkathon where families & children came together to promote a Healthy Lifestyle. The event also showcased talent and mesmerising performances by children of Army Public School, ASHA School, Mathura and girls of Samid Gurukulam, Sanik School, Vrindhavan.

Talk by Dr Sreya Chattopadhyay on Digital

Marketing & AI. A insightful talk on Digital Marketing & AI was delivered by a renowned expert. The session focused on the importance of leveraging digital platforms for personal use. Families including aspiring entrepreneurs gained valuable



knowledge on the latest trends and strategies in digital marketing.

Nukaad Natak: Cyber Safety & Cyber Crimes. To emphasise the importance of safe online practices a Nukaad Natak was performed by a talented group of AWWA participants. The Natak creatively highlighted common online threats and provided prac-

tical tips on how to stay safe in the digital world. The performance was well received, raising awareness amongst the attendees about the significance of cyber safety.

Felicitation of Veer Naris: In a heartfelt Ceremony, Zonal President,

Strike One, Mrs Rita Mitra, honoured the wives of our fallen heroes, who have shown immense strength and resilience. Their sacrifices and contribution were acknowledged with deep respect and gratitude. The felicitation was a poignant reminder of the debt we owe to our brave soldiers and their families. Display of Entrepreneurial Skills &

Items: The AWWA Day event also featured vibrant display of entrepreneurial items, showcasing the creativity and innovation of our families. The exhibition provided a platform to our families to reach a wider audience. The display was a testament to the spirit and the potential for growth within our community.

Felicitation of Winners: Various competitions were also conducted as a run up to the AWWA Day. The winners were recognized and awarded for their outstanding achievements encouraging a spirit of healthy competition and excellence. The AWWA Day celebrations were a resounding success, bringing together the fraternity in a spirit of unity, learning and recognition. The event not only highlighted important social issues but also provided a platform for empowering women to express their talents and entrepreneurial skills.

North Central Rly Admin made elaborate arrangements for convenience of UP Constable Recruitment Exam candidates

Prayagraj: In continuation of this, the Railway Administration has made helpdesks at various stations including Veerangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Lalitpur, Orai, Banda for the convenience of the candidates. Additional security and commercial staff have been deployed at major stations of Jhansi, Prayagraj and Agra divisions for crowd management and safety and convenience of passengers. Apart from this, in coordination with the district administration, along with the operation of special trains, for the convenience of the candidates, the timings of many trains have been changed as per the timing of the examination and if required, the availability of additional rakes for the operation of special trains has been ensured.

Shirley Masih embraced those near to ex-principal Parul Solomon, allege teachers

Bishop Dan sidelined as soon as she took the job

Prayagraj: Bishop Johnson Girls College located at Mission Road is once again showing resentment among the teachers, the main reason for which is said to be that their PF allowance has not been deposited in their account and no action has been taken till now for ESI facilities. Teachers allege that the newly appointed Principal Shirley Masih is also following the footsteps of former Principal Parul Solomon and is very kind to those close to

Parul Solomon. At the same time, the fourth class employees of the school also told that the employees are being harassed by Principal Shirley Masih's husband Mohd Anees alias Ashish Masih and they are being kept in the school overnight and are being made to work, which also includes former principal Parul Solomon's personal accountant Praful Masih. On the other hand, Shirley Masih has sidelined the Bishop and Chairman of Diocese of Lucknow, Morris Edgar Dan, as soon as she got the post of Principal and now she is completely rejecting any

of his orders. According to the information, due to the harassment of the newly appointed Principal Shirley Masih, some teachers have even left the job, while now there is widespread anger among the teachers against the Principal Shirley Masih and her husband Mohd Anees. The teachers have demanded that Shirley Masih should be immediately dismissed from her post. This should be done

and the reins of the school should be handed over to someone capable. One teacher has even alleged that despite being a CBSE college, Principal Shirley Masih does not know how to write and speak English, due to which there is anger among the parents as well. After continuous complaints were received from the school, when it was investigated, all the allegations made by the teachers were found to be true and if action is not taken as soon as possible, the situation could become serious.



Editorial

Navigating India's choppy geopolitical waters

India appears beset on all sides by disruptive forces. China remains a toxic element. Pakistan, fresh off a turbulent election, is a loose cannon. Small fry like the Maldives are irritants. Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka blow hot and cold. Beyond the neighbourhood, strategic partners like the United States use the deep state, packed with neo-cons, to needle India when New Delhi's autonomous foreign policy rankles beyond a point. Canada hasn't recovered its poise from India evicting 41 Canadian diplomats from the country. First World nations aren't used to such peremptory treatment from the Third World. The second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine falls on February 24, 2024. Western sanctions haven't worked on Moscow. The rouble has recovered. Defying expectations, Russia's GDP grew 3.6 per cent in 2023. India continues to buy Russian crude, refine it, and sell it back to Europe as diesel. India's economy meanwhile powers on at above 7 per cent a year while Europe's largest economy, Germany, slips into recession. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects average global growth in 2024-25 at just over 2 per cent. It projects India's GDP growth at more than thrice the global average. With China caught in a downward economic spiral, President Xi Jinping recently met with the country's top finance authorities to stem China's fall into Japan-like stagflation. Beijing last week sacked Yi Huiman as chairman of China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC). He has been replaced by Wu Qing, a former head of the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The US economy, in contrast, is growing faster than expected at 2.5 per cent a year. Inflation has dipped to 2 per cent. The Federal Reserve is likely to start lowering interest rates from May 2024. Three rate cuts of 0.5 per cent each — from the current level of 5.25 per cent down to 3.75 per cent — are likely in calendar 2024. If that happens, India's already bullish stock market will be on steroids. Foreign funds have few places to invest profitably once the Fed's rate falls to 3.75 per cent. China remains an outcast. In a presidential election year, US politicians, Republicans and Democrats, will vie with one another to be tough with China.

Cutting China Off

Technology sanctions on Beijing are likely to widen. The US-led ban on selling advanced chips to Beijing has already set China's semiconductor industry back by half-a-decade. China has meanwhile shot itself in the foot. It passed draconian criminal laws on foreign companies sharing their data with headquarters outside China. This has caused an exodus of foreign executives from China fearing prosecution and jail terms if they transmit their own corporate data back to Washington or London. With JP Morgan including India in its widely tracked Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM) from June 2024, over \$20 billion is expected to flow into Indian securities, boosting overall sentiment and integrating Indian financial markets into the global ecosystem. India's stock market capitalisation of \$4.3 trillion overtook Hong Kong's stock market cap last month. It is now the world's fourth largest stock market by capitalisation after the US (\$50.86 trillion), China (\$8.44 trillion) and Japan (\$6.36 trillion). With CIA agents thick on the ground in India, Washington knows exactly what this data means. For America's deep state, dealing with one Asian power — China — is bad enough. Dealing with another rising Asian power — India — which is supposed to be America's strategic partner requires more nuanced policy-making.

No proof

For a country that assassinates targets on foreign soil at will, it takes exceptional hubris for the US to move a New York court over an unproved allegation of a murder-for-hire plot by Indian businessman Nikhil Gupta.



Most astounding diplomatic success

India's temple diplomacy has seen the most astounding diplomatic success overseas under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There are several examples of his diplomatic skill, but the building of the biggest temple in the UAE is the most outstanding among them. On behalf of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Hindu temple, Swami Ishwarcharandas, and Swami Brahmaviharidas have invited PM Modi to inaugurate the massive Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi on Basant Panchami on 14 February 2024. The location where the temple stands is exactly called the Abu Mureikha area. The preparation for this temple building and, most importantly, the land allocation began in 2015. The area for its construction constitutes around 5.4 hectares, combining features such as a large amphitheater, a gallery, a library, a food court, a majlis, a garden, a children's play area, and two community halls with an accommodation capacity of nearly 5,000 people. The temple strictly follows the sacred Hindu methods and traditions of temple building. Indian artisans have gone to Abu Dhabi in thousands to make statues and carvings following the Hindu sculptural and architectural traditions. The stonework is most intricate to add an authentic aesthetic taste and visual exceptionalism. This explains the depth of the India-UAE bilateral relationship and the strength of the Indian diaspora in the UAE. Abu Dhabi is the fourth-largest investor in India and the third-largest trading partner. The 3.5 million Indian diaspora in the UAE is arguably the largest by the standard of an individual country. India's soft power diplomacy has been instrumental in reinvigorating the sense of the Indian diaspora's great pride in Indian heritage, culture, and civilisation and promoting the global resurgence of 'Bharatiya-Indianness' as a dharmic process that believes in universal well-being, mutual respect, and peace.



The 'Ahlam Modi' meaning 'Hello Modi' is scheduled for 13 February at the Sheikh Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi, just a day before the temple's inauguration. It also explains the popularity the Indian Prime Minister enjoys among the Indian diaspora. The zeal and enthusiasm of the diasporic community in

the inauguration of the BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi amplified this dharmic and civilisational wave. The spirit of enthusiasm from both sides is reflected through the recent signing of four MoUs in the areas of healthcare, renewable energies, food park, aerospace, port, and other technologies between the Ministry of Investment of Dubai and the Government of India, and between the Government of Gujarat and (Dubai Port) DP World. Apart from the recent ones, the India-UAE bilateralism in export-import, port infrastructure, real estate, agriculture, space technology, defense equipment, herbal medicine, etc., has made remarkable achievements in various areas of engagement. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) to connect Europe involving India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Greece is a connectivity project in this direction. It embodies the

potential to revolutionise the import-export architecture between Asia and Europe. It will also decouple singular reliance on the Suez Canal to transport the cargo to the Mediterranean Sea to connect with Europe. In the event of an IMEC corridor, the stress and congestion emanating from the traffic in the Suez Canal linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden will be significantly eased. These developments keep India at the center of things, displaying India's diplomatic depth and soft power engagement in the region. No doubt, India is poised to be the Vishwaguru (World teacher), profoundly expanding the transnational knowledge space crisscrossing the territorial spatiality while reinforcing a strong sense of confidence among the Indian diaspora. BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi is a remarkable example of the diasporic rootedness in India's culture and its dedication to developing centers of Sanatan culture and spirituality overseas. Apart from BAPS Hindu Mandir, the UAE also has several Hindu and Buddhist temples and Gurudwara that include Shiva Temple (Dubai), Shree Krishna Haveli (Dubai), Shrinath Temple (Dubai), Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir (Dubai), Geeta Shangha (Sharjah), SMVS Mandir (Dubai), Gurudwara Mata Sahib Kaur ji (Abu Dhabi), Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara (Dubai), Mahamevnawa Buddhist Temple (Dubai), Lankaramaya

Buddhist Temple (Dubai), etc. This shows the strength of India-UAE bilateralism. It does not remain confined to commerce alone. It goes to the sphere of culture. On the scheduled inauguration of the BAPS Hindu temple, the Ambassador of the UAE to India, Abdunnasser Alshaali said, "It's going to be a phenomenal monumental day, a special occasion to celebrate tolerance and acceptance, and to further strengthen this relationship." The persistence of confidence and collaborative work has tirelessly contributed to building India's strong presence in West Asia through the UAE and other regional partners, which gives good dividends. The rise of India as a global player, its vibrant diaspora, civilisational value, and ethical gravity have cumulatively worked in its favor to emerge as a bankable partner. Its rich culture, inclusive outlook, youth energy and talent, significant strides in science and technology, art and culture, accommodative and enterprising people, and, more importantly, its ethical and spiritual value and unparalleled antiquity have attracted attention everywhere. The inclusivity that the Sanatana Dharma has shown to the world has generated significant interest across the globe. Bharat is the future and a global guide through virtue and spirituality. Its Yoga and Ayurveda have taught the world the incredible therapeutic dimensions they embody.

How another weak coalition in Islamabad will open a floodgate of issues for India

There is complete fusion among the ranks of analysts, both inside and outside Pakistan. Much-debated television debates and so-called expert commentators predicted that Imran Khan was destined to get a whopping vote and that the rest of the parties were history. As always, reality proved them wrong. What Pakistan is looking ahead to is yet another coalition, which means instability and, surprise, more space for army manoeuvring. Everyone now knows the extent of pre-poll match fixing. Not just Imran Khan and an entire cohort of his party leaders jailed, but the sheer overkill in even charging his wife

Bushra Bibi to seven years in jail, along with a Rs 0.5 million fine each, for "contracting marriage during the 'iddat' (period of waiting)" of the former first lady. That was the third conviction of the former Prime Minister in a week, and the 'iddat' case was widely seen as an attempt at character assassination when really nothing else was available. That's the key to Khan's success. No matter how much the army tries, it has not been able to prove personal corruption, other than a case on taking gifts meant for the prime ministerial office at a fraction of their price. That's peanuts in South Asian politics. The rigging thereafter

Post-poll fixing is not that easy, though there were no shortage of attempts. The most widely discussed case is that of Nawaz Sharif himself, whose win at the Lahore seat (NA-130) and the Mansehra seat are both highly suspicious. In the first, the numbers don't match on Form 47, which the Election Commission of Pakistan issues, and in the latter, a fact check seems to conclude that Nawaz bagged 80,382 votes to PTI's Gusehtap Khan, who secured 105,249 votes and won the seat. There's more, which this author noticed while watching emerging numbers. In Multan, where PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi's family.

White paper on the Indian economy: From fragility to stability

The "White Paper on the Indian Economy", tabled by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on February 8, 2024, outlines the inheritance of loss and the economic misadventures faced by India due to the policies of the previous UPA government. According to the document, the UPA's tenure from 2004 to 2014 was characterised by economic mismanagement, financial indiscipline, and widespread corruption, which significantly hindered India's growth prospects. The paper claims that these issues relegated India to one of the "fragile five" economies globally, creating hurdles that impeded economic activity and growth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a stark critique of the decade preceding 2014, characterising it as a period that gravely endangered India's economic stability. He also alluded to the White Paper on India's economic conditions, which has since ignited widespread discussions. PM's remarks were not just reflections but a scathing indictment of the previous administration's governance, which, according to him, was marked by egregious financial mismanagement, riddled with scams, and paralysed

by indecisive policy-making. This eroded investor confidence but also brought the nation perilously close to a precipice of distrust and despair. There are four areas in which the current administration has worked to deal with the fiscal misadventures between 2004-14. First one of this is the practice of "phone banking" was identified as a contributing factor to the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) crisis in India during the NPA era. This term refers to the alleged influence exerted by politicians over banking decisions, where it is claimed that phone calls from influential figures could sway lending decisions of public sector banks. This led to the approval of loans for certain businesses without proper due diligence, contributing to the accumulation of NPAs within the banking system.

Under the NDA government led by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Gross NPA ratio in public sector banks was reduced from 16.0% to 7.8%, but during the UPA era, it escalated to 12.3% by 2013, partly due to political meddling in bank lending decisions. The crisis deepened in 2014 with the banking sector grappling with a substantial increase in bad loans, much of

which were not recognized in official accounts. A Credit Suisse report from March 2014 highlighted that top companies with poor interest coverage ratios contributed significantly to the unrecognised NPAs, suggesting a systemic underestimation of the banking sector's distress during this period. This period saw a massive escalation in gross advances by public sector banks from Rs 6.6 lakh crore in 2004 to R 39.0 lakh crore by 2012, with a large portion of loans turning problematic, particularly those originated between 2006 and 2008, as noted by a former RBI Governor in a 2018 parliamentary panel response. The Modi government addressed the NPA crisis through a strategic approach termed the '4R' strategy, encompassing recognition, resolution, recapitalization, and reforms. This strategy led to a significant reduction in bad loans, with public sector banks (PSBs) witnessing a decline of Rs 89,189 crore in their gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) during the financial year 2018-19. The efforts were part of a comprehensive plan to clean up the banking system, which included the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and the Securitisation

Russia-Ukraine war: How Zelensky's sacking of his General shows brewing conflict in the Kyiv regime

The Ukrainian forces under General Zaluzhnyi had contained the initial Russian onslaught. Image courtesy: Reuters On 8 February, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that he was removing General Valerii Zaluzhnyi from command of the military and promoting General Oleksandr Syrskiy, the Commander of the Ukrainian Ground Forces, to replace him. "I thanked him for two years of defence of Ukraine," President Zelensky said on social media,

adding: "We also discussed who could be in the renewed leadership of the Armed Forces of Ukraine." General Zaluzhnyi had gained enormous credit for spearheading the successful effort by Ukraine's forces to halt and then reverse Russia's initial attack launched on 24 February 2022. He was appointed Commander-in-Chief in July 2021, just half a year before Russia launched its all-out invasion. The Armed Forces of Ukraine, under his leadership, had succeeded in

pushing back initial Russian advances near the capital, Kyiv, and then led successful counteroffensives later in 2022, freeing parts of eastern and southern Ukraine. Both General Zaluzhnyi and General Syrskiy played key roles in those campaigns. The dismissal ended weeks of speculation about the fate of General Valery Zaluzhnyi, whose relationship with President Zelensky had deteriorated, and there were strong rumours regarding his exit.

Brewing friction

The Ukrainian forces under General Zaluzhnyi had contained the initial Russian onslaught. That was a great achievement, because almost everybody expected the Russian forces to steamroll their way across the plains of Ukraine. But lately, his record has been tarnished by the failure of last year's counteroffensive, which ran into well-prepared Russian defences. Last year's highly anticipated Ukrainian.

As hundreds of Chinese items lose tax exclusions, the US-China trade battle escalates



Delhi: Recently, the US has banned, restricted, or imposed high taxes on hundreds of Chinese imports to stimulate domestic production and reduce dependence on Chinese commodities. The USTR has already added tariffs to half of 429 items. The USTR excluded further duties from the "Section 301" probe of China's technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation measures in previous announcements. The current 429 product-specific exclusions (352 reinstated and 77 COVID-related) expire

on May 31, 2024. The US trade agency declared a 14-day transition period for all current exclusions until June 14, 2024, and to "extend certain exclusions through May 31, 2025" in a new notice. "To allow for a transition period, the US Trade Representative is extending all currently expiring exclusions through June 14, 2024," it stated. Chinese motors and medical equipment are excluded until May 2025. The USTR ruled that "extending these exclusions will support efforts to shift sourc-

ing out of China, or provide additional time where, despite efforts to source products from alternative sources, availability of the product outside of China remains limited." Last March, the USTR reinstated some "Section 301" tariff exceptions for Chinese goods. Former President Donald Trump began a trade war with China and imposed tariffs on nearly \$300 billion in Chinese goods, invoking Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Trump granted product tariff exclusions for select businesses

AESL Bhiwani students create history in NEET 2024, Disha Agarwal scores 710 out of 720 and AIR 368



Bhiwani : Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparation services, is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of its 11 students in Bhiwani who have scored 650 and above marks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. Along with this, they have achieved impressive All India Rank. Among the students who scored impressive marks, Disha Agarwal scored 710 marks and AIR 368, Arjun scored 690 marks, Amrendra Singh scored 681 marks, Shubhi scored 680 marks and Kartik Kapoor scored 677 marks. At the same

time, a total of 11 students from Bhiwani scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The students' achievement is a big contribution of their families, teachers, and Aakash Educational Services Limited. The united support of their peers, family, and supporters has brought them to this important milestone. The students have made their parents and the entire staff of Aakash Institute proud by achieving impressive scores. Aakash Educational Services

Limited (AESL) Regional Director Parmeshwar Jha said, "Congratulations to all the students on their outstanding achievement. We are proud of the achievement of our students. Their impressive scores are shining examples of the potential of our students and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. At Aakash, we are committed to providing our students with the best resources and training to help them achieve their dreams. The success of these students will undoubtedly inspire many more students to strive for excellence."

CAPSULES

Comments by Mr. Abheek Barua, Chief Economist – HDFC Bank on RBI Monetary Policy Committee

Ambala/Hisar: As expected, the RBI kept its policy rate and stance unchanged. Although, the MPC decision saw two dissents instead of the one seen in the previous policy. The one positive out of the policy was the upward revision in the GDP growth forecast to 7.2% from 7% earlier for FY25. On the other hand, inflation forecasts were kept unchanged. The RBI remains in a wait and watch mode to assess domestic developments like the monsoon performance, food inflation, and the new fiscal strategy before moving on rates. We continue to see the possibility of a rate cut in Q4 2024. Despite the governors' emphasis that monetary policy decisions are driven primarily by domestic considerations, we think that any rate cut action could end up being aligned with the timing of the Fed's rate cut cycle to limit financial market volatility. On the regulatory front, the increase in bulk deposit limit to INR 3 crore from INR 2 crore, signals the RBI's intention to encourage banks to garner greater retail deposits to fund credit growth.

AESL Ambala students create history in NEET 2024, 18 students score 650 and above

Ambala: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparation services, is proud to announce the remarkable achievement of 18 of its students in Ambala who have scored 650 and above out of 720 marks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The students who scored impressive marks include Ritvik Sharma with 710 marks and AIR 464, Muskan Malhotra with 710 marks and AIR 618, Himanshu Chawla with 710 AIR 658, Alina Garg with 694 marks, Harshpreet Kaur



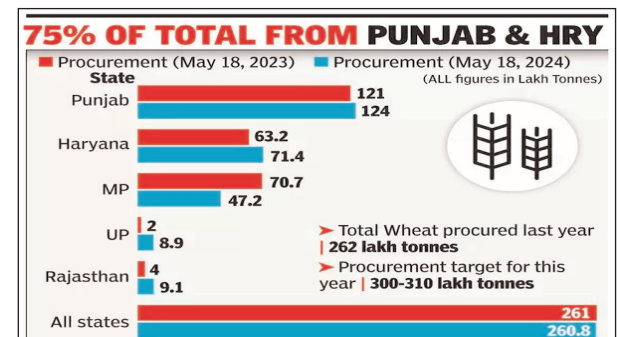
with 690 marks, Kusha Lamba with 687 marks, Aksha and Kanika with 685 marks. A total of 18 students from Ambala scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The achievement of the stu-

dents is a big contribution of their families, teachers, and Aakash Educational Services Limited. The united support of their peers, family and supporters has brought them to this important milestone. The students have made their parents and the entire staff of Aakash Institute proud by achieving impressive scores.

Parmeshwar Jha, Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) said, "Congratulations to all the students on their outstanding achievement. We are proud of the achievement of our students. Their impressive scores are shining examples of the potential of our students and the effectiveness of our teaching methods. At Aakash, we are committed to providing the best resources and training to help our students achieve their dreams. The success of these students will undoubtedly inspire many more students to strive for excellence."

Fully procured wheat by centre exceeds last year's mark

Delhi: This Rabi selling season, the Food Ministry announced that the Central government had purchased 262.48 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in various states, beating previous year's 262.02 lakh. The Rabi marketing season 2024-25 MSP outflow was Rs. 59,715 crores, benefiting 22.31 lakh farmers. Five states dominated procurement. Punjab procured 124.26 lakh metric tons (LMT), followed by Haryana with 71.49 LMT and Madhya Pradesh with 47.78 LMT. Rajasthan and



Uttar Pradesh followed with 9.66 and 9.07 LMT. According to the Ministry, 728.42 LMT paddy equivalent to 489.15 LMT of rice has been acquired directly from 98.26 lakh farmers during the Kharif marketing scheme 2023-24, with a total

MSP outflow of Rs. 1,60,472 crores. The Food Ministry said the Central Pool's wheat and rice stock had topped 600 LMT, allowing the country to meet its food grain needs under PMGKAY, other welfare initiatives, and market interventions.

Intoxicated with power, the BJP government is playing with the future of the youth: Ramchandra

Kaithal: Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee Executive Member Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that the Haryana government is playing with the future of the youth. The recent High Court decision regarding various recruitments shows that thousands of youth of Haryana will be affected by unemployment. The Haryana government is talking about appealing to the Supreme Court only for its political gains. Talking at his establishment in the town, Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that the BJP-led government disappointed the youth in its 10-year tenure and stalled the recruitment of youth due to its

wrong policies. In the second term of the BJP government, the JJP in the alliance was also involved in playing with the future of the youth. Various vacant posts could not be filled and to garner applause, the tune of 75 percent reservation to the youth of Haryana in the private sector was also sung and that too was cancelled. Congress leader Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that similarly not a single recruitment process was completed during the BJP rule and students spent thousands of rupees in filling forms, taking coaching and giving its papers. When the youth were recruited after many efforts, then the High Court

of Punjab and Haryana gave a shock by declaring the rules and policies of the Haryana government as wrong. Congress State Executive Member Ramchandra Gurjar Dhand said that not a single recruitment process was completed in the 10 years of BJP rule and the youth is disappointed with the wrong policies of the government. There can be no greater sorrow for the youth than getting a job once and then losing it. He said that to take electoral advantage, the Haryana government talked about going to the Supreme Court regarding the decision of the High Court, but the government's promises.

Hardwyn India Ltd. Reports Robust Earnings for Q4FY24, Revenue Jumps 23% YoY

CHANDIGARH:

Hardwyn India Ltd. (BSE: 541276, NSE: HARDWYN), a leader in architectural hardware and glass fittings, has announced robust earnings for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2024. For the quarter ended 31 March 2024, the company reported Revenue from operations at Rs. 36.94 Cr, a growth of 23.63% YoY. The EBITDA jumped 5.48% YoY, from Rs. 5.66 Cr (Q4FY23) to Rs. 5.97 Cr (Q4FY24). PAT fell 11.80% YoY, from Rs. 3.73 Cr (Q4FY23), to Rs. 3.29 Cr (Q4FY24). For the year ended 31 March 2024, the company saw a robust 8.34% growth in its revenue from operations, growing from Rs. 125.07 Cr (FY23) to Rs. 135.5 Cr (FY24). EBITDA grew 15.31% YoY, from Rs. 13.91 Cr (FY23), to

Rs. 16.04 Cr (FY24). PAT grew 7.97% YoY, from Rs. 9.03 Cr (FY23), to Rs. 9.75 Cr (FY24). Earlier, the company had announced that it's newly formed Subsidiary 'Slim-X' has unveiled a range of innovative products. The new brand, with cutting-edge technology, now plans to generate revenue of Rs 100 crore in the next two years, leveraging the growth potential of innovative products-ultra-slim, high-performance aluminum profiles- for industries. Hardwyn India Ltd. is a leading brand among the architectural hardware manufacturers in India. For over half a century, Hardwyn India Ltd. has been redefining perfection in the realm of architectural hardware. The company offers comprehensive solutions for resi-

dential and commercial structures as an unwavering manufacturer of architectural hardware and glass fittings. Through rigorous testing and relentless research and development practices, Hardwyn has earned a stellar reputation for benchmark quality through a customer-centric philosophy and relentless pursuit of world-class quality. To create a robust global supply chain and establish a trusted distribution network, Hardwyn has continually strived to expand its global footprint. The company has built a large network of dealers and distributors to provide unwavering customer support. Beyond business success, Hardwyn holds a deep commitment to environmental sustainability.

DD Kisan launches 50-language AI anchors Krish and Bhoomi



Delhi: Doordarshan Kisan will be the first government TV channel to introduce AI anchors, ushering in the 'Artificial Intelligence' age in agriculture. Krish and Bhoomi, the AI anchors, are advanced computer algorithms that behave and perform like humans. Once unthinkable, they can deliver news 24/7, 365 days a year without tiring or taking breaks. Farmers in all states will see AI anchors, from Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to Arunachal. These anchors will provide national and global agriculture research, farm market trends,

weather updates, and government scheme updates. The anchors' fluency in 50 domestic and international languages is remarkable. Only DD Kisan broadcasts nationwide. It serves farmers exclusively and was founded by the Indian government. DD Kisan Channel has met these standards for nine years. The DD Kisan channel promotes innovative farmers. To support the country's agricultural and rural populations, it promotes comprehensive education. The DD Kisan channel focuses on sustainable farming, animal husbandry, and plantation.

Delhi HC to treat Swamy's plea on Rahul Gandhi's citizenship as PIL

Delhi: The Delhi high court on Tuesday said that the plea filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy regarding the citizenship of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be treated as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL). Subramanian Swamy, in his plea, had requested that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) be directed to take action on his representation, which seeks the cancellation of Rahul Gandhi's Indian citizenship. During the hearing, the court clarified,



"We have not commented on the merits of the case." Swamy's plea also called for the MHA to provide a status report on the representation he had submitted against

Rahul Gandhi, who is the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha. The petition, filed by advocate Satya Sabharwal, mentioned that Swamy had written to the

ministry on August 6, 2019, alleging "violations" by Gandhi. Specifically, Swamy claimed that Gandhi had "voluntarily disclosed" to the British government that he was a British citizen,

which would require holding a British passport. Swamy argued that, as an Indian citizen, Gandhi's actions violated Article 9 of the Constitution, in conjunction with the Indian Citizenship Act, and that this would result in the loss of his Indian citizenship. Swamy further stated that he had repeatedly inquired with the ministry regarding the status of his complaint, but no action had been taken, nor had he received any communication on the matter.

Congress makes significant changes to the party's units

Delhi : The Congress named Tariq Hameed Karra as the president of its Jammu and Kashmir branch and Keshav Mahto Kamlesh as the leader of the Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee in a significant reorganization ahead of the Assembly Elections. In Jammu and Kashmir, Karra succeeds Vikar Rasool Wani, while Kamlesh succeeds Rajesh Thakur. As the party gets ready for the Assembly Elections in the Union Territory, Congress President Mallikarjun



Kharge named Tara Chand and Raman Bhalla as the party's working presidents for Jammu and Kashmir. The dates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections were released by the Indian

Commission. Addition ally, Wani has been immediately named by Kharge as a special invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC). The party released a statement announcing Karra's resignation as a permanent invitee to the CWC.

Cong workers seize Amt collectorate MP office

Delhi : Congress workers headed by Teosa MLA Yashomati Thakur and Amravati MP Balwant Wankhade smashed the lock of an MP's district collectorate office after not receiving keys. Taking over the local MP's office was discussed during a meeting led by guardian minister Chandrakant Patil. Thakur is furious and

asks Patil questions in a viral video from the meet. Patil stated that the divisional commissioner does not have the keys. Thakur says in the popular video that it's wrong that Wankhade, the new MP, didn't get the keys. "After waiting, we'll break the office lock. If you want to sue us, fine," Thakur replied before

Congress staffers smashed the office lock. The spouse of former MP Navneet, Ravi Rana, told a Marathi news channel, "We had handed over the keys of the office to the collector last week itself, hence we have no connection to this incident." Wankhade, who beat Navneet Rana in Lok Sabha elections, remarked.

HC seeks stand of govt, agencies on plea over child's drowning in drain



New Delhi: Delhi High Court has sought the stand of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi govt and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on a plea by parents of a two-year-old who drowned last year in an open, unbarricaded drain in the city. Pointing out that the matter required "deeper examination," Justice Dharmesh Sharma issued notice to civic authorities last week. The plea, apart from seeking Rs 10 lakh compensation from DDA, also blamed other govt agencies for criminal negligence for their failure to barricade the open drain in Shastri Park, leading to the death of the child. "The present writ petition is directed against criminal negligence on the part of Delhi govt, DDA, and MCD for not

barricading the open drain near Khatta Park, Kabristan, Shastri Park, leading to the death of a two-year-old child, Arman, by drowning in the open drain," said the plea filed through advocate Ashok Aggarwal. The parents have also challenged the refusal of authorities to compensate the family for Arman's death, arguing that it is "violative of the fundamental right to life of the petitioner's son as guaranteed under the Constitution of India". Informing the court about the fateful day, the plea said Arman fell into the open drain at 5.30 pm on Nov 6 last year. Locals were alerted to his cry for help and pulled the child out of the drain. However, by the time he was taken to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, he was declared dead on arrival.

Nod to two airports and three cities' Metro projects

THREE METRO PROJECTS

Bangalore Metro Rail Project
Phase-3 of the project, with an estimated cost of ₹15,611 crore, will add two new elevated corridors totaling 44.65 km, comprising 31 stations.

Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project
The 29-km ring corridor, with a budget of ₹12,200 crore, will feature 22 stations, connecting key areas such as Naupada, Wagle Estate, Hiranandani Estate, and Kolshet.

Pune Metro Phase-1 project
The project will extend further south, with the Cabinet approving the Swargate to Katraj underground line extension. This 5.46 km stretch, known as Line-1B, will include three underground stations, connecting key areas like Market Yard, Bibwewadi, and Katraj, and has an estimated cost of ₹2,954.53 crore.

TWO NEW AIRPORTS

In Bihar
The New Civil Enclave at Bihta will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹1,413 crore. The proposed New Integrated Terminal Building at Bihta Airport spans 66,000 sqm and is designed to handle 3,000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP) and annually cater to 5 million passengers.

In West Bengal
The Cabinet has approved the proposal for the development of a new civil enclave at Bagdogra Airport, Siliguri, with an estimated cost of ₹1,549 crore. The new terminal building will cover 70,390 sqm and is designed to handle 3,000 Peak Hour Passengers (PHP), with an annual capacity of 10 million passengers.

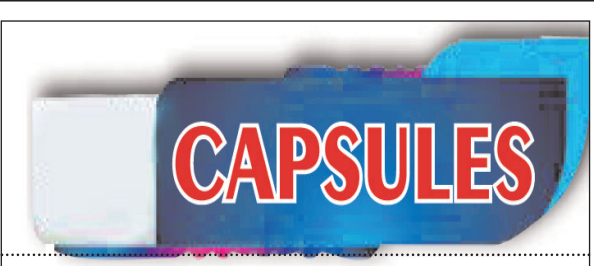
Delhi : The Center authorized two airports for Patna in Bihar and Bagdora in West Bengal, which are now handling commercial aircraft, principally defense facilities, and three major metro projects for well-known cities: Bengaluru, Pune, and Thane. The projects would cost a combined Rs 30,765 crore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over the Cabinet meeting where the decision was made. Union Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnav briefed the media on the choices, stating that two elevated corridors totaling 44.65 km with 31 stations will be part of the Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-III, which was authorized on Friday. Bengaluru will have an operating metro rail network of 220.20 kilometers upon the completion of Phase 3. The project would cost a total of Rs 15,611 crore to complete. Additionally, the Pune Metro Phase-I project's Swargate to Katraj Underground

Line Extension of the PCMC-Swargate Metro Line was authorized by the Cabinet. The 5.46 km long Line-1 B extension would connect important locations including Market Yard, Bibwewadi, Balaji Nagar, and the Katraj suburbs. It will also have three subterranean stops. The project is scheduled for completion in February 2029 and aims to provide seamless connectivity in Pune. The project is expected to cost Rs 2,954.53 crore.

Numerous birds were wounded after being struck by kite strings

Delhi : Numerous birds were killed during Uttarayan in various areas of the state when they struck kite strings. Among them were three painted storks and a white-rumped vulture. During the festival, hundreds of birds were injured, including foreign migratory species like pigeons, geese, ducks, storks, flamingos, kites, eagles, owls, egrets, and peacocks. These injuries were reported by nonprofit organizations that collaborated with the state government in the Karuna Abhiyan campaign to rescue and treat birds. 540 birds who were hurt when they struck kites were treated at the Jivdaya Charitable Trust (JCT), an Ahmedabad NGO dedicated to the welfare of animals and birds. These include migratory birds that travel internationally, such as bar-headed and grey-lag geese, as well as other species.



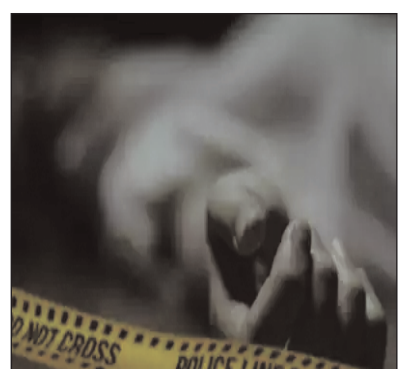
Haryana polls: How the BJP is planning to take on resurgent Congress



Delhi: With the Election Commission announcing October 1 as the date of polls for Haryana assembly, the stage is set for an interesting electoral battle between a resurgent and aggressive Congress and the incumbent BJP which has seen its popularity ebb in the state after two consecutive governments, not least due to farmer protests which have alienated the farming community. While the Congress under veteran leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Hooda is confident of winning back the state after two terms, the BJP is in an overdrive to consolidate its voter base. While the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) of Dushyant Chautala, a former BJP ally, and the INLD-BSP alliance are other contestants, the fight is seen to be between the BJP and the Congress.

Delhi nursing student found dead with cannula in hand

Delhi : A nursing student was found dead in her locked room in Delhi's New Ashok Nagar, leading to suspicions of suicide. The authorities were alerted through a PCR call about the girl's unconscious state behind the locked door. Upon gaining entry, the police and fire department personnel discovered the girl with "a cannula in her hand and two drips hanging from a ceiling fan." The Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS) medical staff declared her dead, and her body was transferred moved to the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital. The police have seized her mobile phone for a thorough investigation and her family has been informed.



Preserve CCTV footage: Court on coaching centre deaths

Delhi : A Delhi court recently directed Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to preserve the CCTV footage half an hour before and after the vehicle being driven by the accused/applicant crosses the building of RAU's IAS (Study Centre)," said additional chief judicial magistrate Nishant Garg of Rouse Avenue Court in an order dated Aug 17. Kathuria's counsel told the court that at the time of his remand, cops of Rajender Nagar police station had shown video footage from three different cameras to the court, out of which, one camera was installed in the premises of the coaching centre itself.

vicinity and preserve the CCTV footage half an hour before and after the vehicle being driven by the accused/applicant crosses the building of RAU's IAS (Study Centre)," said additional chief judicial magistrate Nishant Garg of Rouse Avenue Court in an order dated Aug 17. Kathuria's counsel told the court that at the time of his remand, cops of Rajender Nagar police station had shown video footage from three different cameras to the court, out of which, one camera was installed in the premises of the coaching centre itself.

Lateral entry seeks to snatch quotas, give plum posts to RSS picks: Cong

Delhi: Congress' Rahul Gandhi called the "lateral entry" in central govt posts an attack on reservations for Dalits, tribals and backwards, and party president Mallikarjun Kharge said the scheme is designed to hand over reserved posts to RSS nominees — the second day of a full-scale assault on the Modi govt's scheme suggesting that Congress plans to use the controversy as a social justice issue against BJP in coming elections. Rahul said, "BJP's distorted version of Ram Rajya seeks to destroy the Constitution and



snatch reservations from Bahujans." Kharge retaliated against Modi govt's charge that Congress had ushered in the policy, stating that UPA brought lateral entry for "handful of experts in sector specific posts", while Modi govt is deploying it

"not to appoint experts but to snatch rights of SC/ST/OBCs." He pointed out that sale of PSUs has ended 5.1 lakh posts in ten years, "casual and contract employment" has increased 91%, and SC/ST/OBC posts fell by 1.3 lakh till 2022-23. The Congress brass

recently met to renew its pledge to oppose the privatisation of PSUs and outsourcing of jobs as attacks on reservation, and the party has seized upon the Modi govt's celebrated scheme to paint it with the same brush. The offensive is significant in view of coming assembly elections, and indications are Congress will use lateral entry to further accuse BJP of being anti-reservation — an extension of its LS election campaign that BJP is seeking "400 paar" to change the Constitution to the detriment of backward classes.

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

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

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

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

Department of Consumer Affairs portal. "In case the stocks held by them are higher than the prescribed limits then, they shall bring the same to the prescribed stock limits by 12th July 2024," the note added. As Kharif pulses like tur and urad are likely to rise, the government expects tur and chana dal prices to fall. The statement anticipates the import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries

starting in August 2024. A new crop of chana in Australia and its import from October 2024 will help keep chana affordable for consumers.

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

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

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

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

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

RBI changes priority sector lending rules

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

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

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

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

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

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



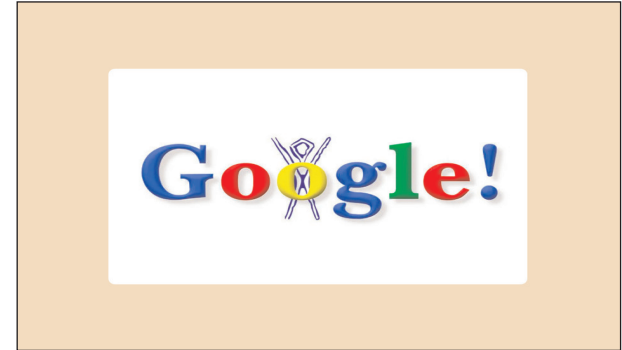
CBAM on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertilizer, from January 1, 2026. Engineering goods are subject to this import duty. The department-related parliamentary standing committee on commerce's

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

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

Google to face South Korean regulator over YouTube bundling allegations

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



of the fiscal year.

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

"We are

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

Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai

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



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

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

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

Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

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



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

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

owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

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

Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

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

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

The curtains have fallen on the Forever Global Rally 2024

New Delhi: The curtains have fallen on the Forever Global Rally 2024, culminating in a dazzling display of achievement for Forever Living Products. Spanning from April 9th to 13th, this grand event unfolded amidst the vibrant energy of New Delhi, promising an unparalleled experience meticulously crafted by Forever. The event took place at Indira Gandhi National Stadium, gathering delegates from over 160 nations, the rally showcased the expansive reach and influence of Forever across the globe. With its captivating ambiance and comprehensive itinerary, the event captured every essence, offering transformative training sessions, interactive workshops, and heartfelt recognition for unwavering dedication. As India graciously hosted this year's rally, it not only provided a platform for business but also lent a significant boost to tourism,

benefiting thousands engaged in the hospitality and tourism sectors. The event witnessed an impressive turnout of over 30,000 attendees from all corners of the country. Aidan O'Hare, President of Forever Living Products, emphasized the significance of navigating global challenges and seizing opportunities, making FGR 2024 a melting pot of innovative ideas and boundless inspiration. Gregg Maughan, CEO of Forever Living Products, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the Forever Business Owners worldwide, particularly acknowledging the exceptional audience in India. He elaborated on the compelling reasons to join the Forever family, followed by a remarkable ceremony honouring outstanding achievements. Mr. Harish Singla, CSM FLP India, remarked, "The week-long extravaganza featured a diverse lineup

of master classes, recognitions, inspiring testimonials, and lots of entertainment ensuring attendees returned home with cherished memories and invaluable insights. Forever Business Owners from over 160 countries converged to explore new products, exchange strategies, and celebrate collective triumphs.

"Amidst the backdrop of a remarkable destination, qualifying members embarked on an extraordinary journey while upholding Forever's unwavering commitment to social responsibility. Through initiatives spearheaded by the Rex Maughan Forever Giving Foundation (RMFGF), including support for Charity Water, the rally aimed to make a meaningful impact by providing access to clean drinking water and assisting communities in need. Forever Global Rally 2024.

IIT grads are earning under Rs 10 lakh this year

Delhi: High-paying jobs at top Indian Institutes of Technology have been difficult to get this recruitment season. With corporations cutting employment and paying lesser salaries, tail-end students are getting annual packages below Rs 10 lakh. Colleges must contact additional companies since companies that would normally pick six students only chose two. Many pay Rs 10-15 lakh annually. Students who have taken college employment at lesser pay rates are still searching job sites and traveling to career fairs and interviews for better opportunities. "The

global economic slowdown has hurt IIT Indore 2024 campus placements. The placement season has been difficult due to fewer recruiters than last year. IIT Indore has sought alumni support and expanded its employer base, including PSUs, to mitigate the impact. "Professor Suhas Joshi, director, IIT Indore. IIT Bombay student: "Last year, companies hired 5-8 students; this year, 1-2. Not all are hired. Some were selected for phase 2 remuneration packages of Rs 60,000 to Rs 80,000 from coaching programs and start-ups." "Spectrum Technologies offered

trainee engineers Rs 3.6 lakh and trainee design engineers Rs 6 lakh," stated another IIT-Kharagpur student. Gem Machinery and Startoon Labs gave Rs 5.5 lakh yearly. Skyroot bid Rs 5 lakh. Sri Chaitanya and Next Education pay Rs 4.8-6 lakh annually. "The scenario now is that many students are taking up jobs offering the bare minimum threshold salary of Rs 6 lakh a year but are looking for other jobs," said a source. Students and placement office workers are marketing to employers, negotiating with NGOs, contacting employment.

CAPSULES

April 26: Delhi municipal elections

Delhi: In the third year, individuals from Scheduled Caste are eligible to run for the mayor's position. According to sources within the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), three candidates are vying for the position. Sources from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stated that they will decide quickly whether to run for office. The BJP had put up candidates for both positions last year, but they later withdrew their nomination. On April 26, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will hold secret ballot elections for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Delhi industries department approves 21-acre e-waste facility

Delhi: Senior officials said the industries department has finalized the plan for a 21-acre facility in northwest Delhi's Holambi Kalan to house a recycling center and training facility for e-waste handling and processing. The Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) has invited private applicants to set up the complex, which will have an integrated ecosystem for e-waste management supply chain, on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis by April 15.

According to the project report, the integrated complex will be placed at the Urban Extension-2 road and have six primary sections: disinfection, dismantling, refurbishing manufacturing and recycling, testing, and training. "We will give the private operator 21 acres to create buildings, utilities, roads, and machinery.

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

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

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

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

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

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



government will continue roadside tree planting in some colonies at homeowners' request.

MCD plans to carpet or repair 50 km of interior roadways by Oct. to

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

maintenance and resurfacing are ongoing. After winter, we started dense carpet work on damaged areas. Work is being done with MLA or Mukhyamantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojna non-plan head funding "said the official. Our 52 mechanical road sweepers are for PWD roads. He added that 195 water sprinklers, jet machines, and 30 mobile anti-smog guns are reducing dust pollution on roadways. PWD gave MCD 60 anti-smog weapons to reduce dust near construction sites.

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

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



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

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

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

DPCC issues SOP to seize, dispose of plastic

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



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

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

Leachate treatment facility, maintaining the green space

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



also be monitored by the agency "official. Three approach roads allow trucks to easily transfer rubbish to the landfill site. The peripheral boundary wall is 3.5 meters high. MCD will submit a maintenance plan for approval after the model code of conduct is lifted.

MCD constructed a 7.5m-deep trench over 15.5 acres and covered it with 500 mm of soil and five

layers of geosynthetic material before dumping ash to prevent leachate percolation and groundwater contamination at the designated landfill. "We're dumping ash garbage in a corner and preventing vehicles from entering the pit. To prevent stacking damage, automobiles are driven carefully.

Once a corner is filled, we gently scatter and layer ash "Source: official. The

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

Currency circulation increases despite 2k note ban

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