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## Rahul mistakenly calls Kashmiri Pandits as refugees, Amit says 'leader of opposition can't distinguish

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday landed in trouble once again after he mistakenly called Kashmiri Pandits refugees from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

While addressing a public rally in Jammu, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha said that the promises made to refugees from PoK by former PM Manmohan Singh will be fulfilled.

Recognising his mistake, Gandhi swiftly corrected himself and said, "Sorry, the promises made to Kashmiri Pandits by (former PM) Manmohan Singh will be fulfilled. And the promises made to the refugees from PoK in 2014 regarding financial package will be fulfilled by us."

After he made this mistake, BJP's information technology cell chief Amit Malviya took a jab at Rahul Gandhi and said the Indian Overseas Congress chairman Sam Pitroda wanted people to believe that the



The mess in Kashmir is a legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru.

The mess in Kashmir is a legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru. As if that wasn't enough, we now have Rahul Gandhi also," Amit Malviya said. Several netizens reacted on the Rahul Gandhi's mistake. One of the users said, "The more Rahul Gandhi campaigns, the better for BJP Star campaigner of BJP delivers in Jammu Kashmir by scoring a massive self goal & he calls himself a Janeudhari Kashmiri Brahmin." After he made this mistake,

Congress leader is not "Pappu" anymore, and

BJP's information technology cell chief Amit Malviya took a jab at Rahul Gandhi and said the Indian Overseas Congress chairman Sam Pitroda wanted people to believe that the Congress leader is not "Pappu" anymore, and that the mess in Kashmir is a "legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru". "Then Sam Pitroda wants us to believe that he isn't Pappu anymore... a man who is the leader of opposition can't distinguish between refugees.

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**Jagan to visit Tirumala temple on September 28, calls for 'forgiveness'**

**NEW DELHI:** YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief and former Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit the Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Tirumala Hills on September 28 as part of statewide temple rituals initiated by the party. The rituals are aimed at atoning for the 'sin' allegedly committed by chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who accused the YSRCP of using substandard ingredients, including animal fat, in the making of Tirupati laddus.

Jawaharlal Nehru". "Then Sam Pitroda wants us to believe that he isn't Pappu anymore... a man who is the leader of opposition can't distinguish between refugees from PoK and Kashmiri Pandits.

## Despite government advisory, edible oil prices rise by up to Rs 22/litre

**NEW DELHI:** Despite the food department's advisory to edible oil industry associations to ensure no increase in prices during the festive season and the subsequent request of the associations to companies, the price of major oils have increased by Rs 8-22 per litre. The department had urged industry to maintain the prices considering that there is enough old stock imported at zero or less duty.

Government data show that the prices of key edible oils have increased in the past two weeks after the Centre increased import duty on soyabean, sunflower and palm oil on September 13. While the average price of mustard oil has increased from Rs 141 per litre to Rs 152 in the past two weeks, palm oil was selling at Rs 122 per litre on Wednesday compared to Rs 100 on September 12. In the case of soyabean and sunflower oil, the increase in retail price during this period was around Rs 9-10 per litre. Recently, taking note of abnormal rise in



Gadkari orders probe into poor upkeep of Delhi-Mumbai, Amritsar-Jamnagar e-ways

**NEW DELHI:** Perturbed over high number of complaints against poor maintenance of national highways (NHs) during monsoon, Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari has ordered his ministry to conduct an "end-to-end investiga-

average prices, the food department had sought a "clarification" from the industry since it had urged industry not to increase the MRP till they exhaust the old stock that were imported at zero or less imported duty. In a letter addressed to solvent

tion" of both Sohna-Vadodara stretch of the Delhi-Mumbai and Amritsar-Jamnagar expressways. The minister has instructed that the investigation must be carried out by the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) at the earliest.

extractors, vegetable and soyabean oil producer associations last week, the department had flagged how the industry had increased prices "drastically" since the announcement of import duty hike and despite government's directions.

**Virat Kohli's spin vulnerability exposed again as Axar Patel cleans him up in nets**

**NEW DELHI:** Virat Kohli's struggles against spin continue to deepen, as the star India batter faced difficulty negotiating the Indian spin trio during a practice session in the Kanpur nets ahead of the second Test against Bangladesh, set to begin on Friday. In the second innings of the first Test in Chennai, he was trapped by off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz for 17. This dismissal marked a recurring pattern for Kohli, as it was the 18th instance since 2021 where he fell victim to spin bowlers. Kohli faced challenges during Wednesday's practice session in Kanpur. While attempting to play inside-out shots against Ravindra

Jadeja, he missed the ball three consecutive times, visibly frustrated

## 'Why was he shot in head?': Important questions HC raised in Badlapur encounter

**NEW DELHI:** The Bombay high court on Wednesday questioned several aspects concerning the death of the Badlapur accused who was shot down after he allegedly grabbed a gun and opened fire while in police custody.

Noting the probe into the shoot-out should be carried out in a fair and impartial manner, a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Prithviraj Chavan said if it finds that the probe is not being done properly, then it would be constrained to pass appropriate orders. The court was hearing a plea filed by the father of Akshay Shinde, who was killed in a shoot-out by the police on September 24. In the plea, Akshay's father has sought a special investigation team (SIT) probe into what he has called the "fake encounter".

Here's what court said: The Bombay high court observed that the shoot-out could have been avoided if the police had tried to overpower Akshay Shinde first.

The court noted that it was very hard to believe that he (Akshay Shinde) managed to seize a pistol from a police officer and open fire.

It is not very easy to unlock and open fire from a pistol, the court said. Why the accused was shot in the head, and not on hand or legs first? the court asked. Why are the files not handed over to the CID yet? Preservation of evidence is vital. Any delay on your part would raise doubts and speculations, the court said. The high court also asked as to why the accused was shot in the head, instead of opening fire.

## Haryana assembly election: Why 'unhappy' Selja could play the spoilsport for Congress

**NEW DELHI:** Kumari Selja, senior Congress leader from Haryana and a prominent Dalit face of the grand old party, has added an interesting new twist to the electoral battle in Haryana, which will vote on October 5 to elect a new government. Selja, who is AICC general secretary and Congress MP from Sirsa, has stayed away from party's campaigning amid reports that she is unhappy over being



sidelined during ticket distribution for the assembly elections. The Congress campaign in Haryana has been dominated by former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who, reports

say, is calling the shots within the party, much to the discomfort of other senior leaders from the state like Selja and Randeep Singh Surjewala. The BJP has been quick to

capitalise on Selja's reported "discontent" against Hooda and accuse the Congress of insulting dalit leaders in the party. Union home minister Amit Shah led this attack targeting Rahul Gandhi at an election rally for insulting "sister" Selja. In fact, days before Amit Shah's attack, former BJP chief minister ML Khattar had invited Selja to join the saffron party.

## Paracetamol, pill ...': Check CDSCO's list of drugs that do not meet standards

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has declared over 50 drugs, including paracetamol, as "not of standard quality" in its recent report. The list includes calcium and vitamin D3 supplements, anti-diabetes pills, and high blood pressure medicines. Several pharmaceutical companies have denied responsibility for these drugs, calling them spurious. Investigations are



underway to verify these claims. The Central drugs standard control organisation has announced that over 50 drugs are "not of standard quality" (NSQ) and Paracetamol is one of them. In the latest

month drug report, the CDSCO said that paracetamol, calcium and vitamin D3 supplements, anti-diabetes pills, and high blood pressure medicines had failed to qualify the test. from Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd have also been flagged for quality concerns. According to the report there were 48 drugs which falls under "not of standard quality."

## Opposition will fight for J&K statehood in Parliament, on streets: Rahul Gandhi

**NEW DELHI:** Congress MP Rahul Gandhi issued a stern warning to BJP-led Union government Wednesday, vowing that the opposition INDIA bloc will "hit the road and use full force" both inside Parliament and outside if J&K's statehood is not restored after the ongoing assembly elections. The three-phase elections will wrap up on Oct 1, with votes counted on Oct 8. Addressing a rally in Jammu, Gandhi reiterated the primary election promise of the Congress-National Conference (NC) alliance, saying the restoration of statehood is J&K's "right and future". He said: "J&K cannot move forward without it." Gandhi pointed out



that while other states had been created after 1947, this was the first time a state had been reduced to a Union territory. "States were divided. Telangana was formed out of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand out of Bihar, and Chhattisgarh out of Madhya Pradesh. But for the first time, a state was turned into a Union territory. This was done to J&K," Gandhi said. J&K lost its special status after the abrogation of Article 370 in

2019 and the subsequent bifurcation of the region into two Union territories, including Ladakh. The former Congress president condemned the move as "injustice" and accused the Narendra Modi government of snatching away the democratic rights of the region's people. "Today, J&K is run by people from other states," he said, targeting lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha, whom he described as a "king, not LG". Gandhi alleged that

as long as the current administration led by the LG continues "outsiders will get benefits, and you will be sidelined". Later, Gandhi spoke at a rally in Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, where he focused on the economic potential of the region's apple. Holding an apple in his hand, he declared: "This apple has to be taken abroad. Your future lies in this." He promised that if the Congress-NC alliance is elected, it would promote the Sopore apple in international markets. "I want this apple to go to America. If this apple has to reach Japan and America, the first step has to be the restoration of statehood. Without that, it is not possible," he said.

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

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

## Is the game over? How 'garbage time' became a metaphor for China's economic woes



The rise of the "garbage time of history" as a term of discontent reflects a deeper societal shift. In Chinese social media discourse and WeChat feeds, a new term has emerged that reflects current sense of economic stagnation and societal despair: "garbage time of history". Coined by essayist Hu Wenhui in 2023, this phrase draws an analogy from sports, where "garbage time" refers to the final moments of a game when the outcome is already

decided. Hu's concept refers to an epoch when a nation, much like a team in a losing game, seems to be merely running out the clock—stagnating, rather than collapsing. As China grapples with its most significant economic downturn in decades, the term has taken on a life of its own. It resonates across social media, infiltrates everyday conversations, and provides a sharp critique of the country's present trajectory under President Xi Jinping.



## Irshad Ullah extends support to 100-day Satyagraha

Prayagraj: Supporting 100 days Satyagraha going on in Banaras, lighted lamps in Allahabad also against the illegal government occupation and demolition of the



premises of Sarva Seva Sangh, Banaras, established to spread the spirit of truth, non-violence, love and democracy to the people. The lamp of justice was lit at the Gandhi statue at Balson intersection in Allahabad in support of the ongoing 100-day Satyagraha programme. Vinod Vikram, Vibhuti Vikram, Vinay Sinha, Mayank, Ashok, Irshad Ullah, Anil, Ayush, Anuj, Vimal, and Satyendra were present in this program.

## Children have to be encouraged and brought forward:

**Kaushalyanand Giri**

Pushpraj, Manju, Kavita, Ajay won Career counselling organized by trust and govt library

Prayagraj: Today, a career counseling seminar for competitive students was organized in the Government District Library by the Government District Library, Prayagraj and the dedicated trust. The chief guest of the program was Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kaushalya Nand Giri alias (Tina Maa), senior member of UP Kinnar Welfare Board and state president of UP Kinnar Akhara. Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kaushalyanand Giri said that children have to be encouraged and brought into the mainstream of the society so that they can move forward in the mainstream of the society. The main speaker was Sharvind Pandey, Counselor and Advocate High Court Allahabad. Nazim Ansari Chairman Dedicated



Trust Operations Urvashi Mishra Convenor/Social Worker Aditya Kumar joined as career counselor to understand and understand the mood of the students. It was presided over by Satya Prakash Srivastava, Librarian of Government District Library, Prayagraj. The seminar was conducted by social worker Mrs. Urvashi Mishra (Deputy Secretary, Dedicated Trust). On this occasion, the guests were welcomed by Tabassum Jahan and Akanksha Dubey. More than 150 boys and girls participated in the seminar. Aditya Kumar, Kaushal Kishore Giri and Prashant Mishra and all the library staff had a special contribution in conducting the seminar. Hindi Fortnight competition was also organized by the Trust dedicated to the seminar. In poetry, Pushpraj Patel (first), Manju Gupta (second), Ramu Shahu (third), Sachin Kumar (song third) and in speech, Kavita Agnihotri (first), Ajay Yadav (second), Ankit Tiwari (third) were awarded.

## X Series from McDowell's & Co, hits the market

Varanasi: the social order has seen shifting patterns post-Covid and when it comes to socializing, connections and celebrations, there is an increasing desire to live life fervently and actively. It is no different in India and this transformation is further fuelled by the rising Middle India, as well as the Gen Z entering adulthood, and millennials seeking evolved experiences, leading to emergence of new status symbols. There is an increasing desire for better drinking experiences with focus beyond traditional whisky, and the rise of cocktail culture also attests to the same, with consumers, young and old, getting more experimental.

Repertoire is the current calling. So, what better time for one of India's most iconic and legendary brands, McDowell's & Co., a 125-year-old powerhouse, to reinvent itself with a metamorphosis that puts the consumer at the center of its portfolio! With seven different distilleries spread across the length and breadth of the country, sourcing raw materials and ingredients from across the nation and the world, the X Series by McDowell's & Co. is reimagining the way consumers will now experience a portfolio of beautiful liquids, ranging all the way from vodka and gin to a vibrant new citrus rum and a delicious dark rum. Combining the best of Indian ingredients with globally exotic flavours, the X Series by McDowell's & Co. presents a distinct new portfolio, the likes of which have not been seen before in India - with honest ingredients, unique recipes and vibrant new packaging, with the purpose of delivering an unparalleled palate experience.

This new range is all set to shake things up and redefine fun for the young men and women ready to experiment with something fresh and exciting. Speaking at the launch of the X Series by McDowell's & Co., Varun Koorichh, Vice President and Portfolio Head, Marketing, Diageo India, said, "McDowell's has consistently set standards of excellence in the world of spirits with its exceptional taste and long-standing legacy of quality.

# Students should get info from university's website and mobile app: Prof Satyakam

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University has taken many new decisions in the interest of students by making the semester system flexible. UGC has provided many facilities under the semester system in the New Education Policy 2020 for the students of distance education system. The requirement of admission has been made flexible in the semester system. Professor Satyakam, an expert in distance education system and Vice Chancellor of the Open University, clarified that the semester system has not been abolished in the Open University, but in view of the flexibility of distance education, students have been given the option to enroll after a year. Can also take the exam. The format of semester system in Open University will remain the same. This system was applicable in the past

also. The technique and format have been changed only for the convenience of the students. Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam said that Governor Anandiben Patel has recently released the Eklavya App to provide information about the daily activities happening in the university to the students. By downloading this app on their mobile, students can get information about all the activities and decisions taking place in the university.

He advised students to be wary of the information being provided by several unauthorized YouTube channels running in the name of the university. These unauthorized channels are misleading students across the state. Since the working area of the university is entire Uttar Pradesh, students from all places are not able to reach

the university. In such a situation, in an attempt to get information from social media, we accept the information given by unauthorized YouTube channels as correct. Professor Satyakam has advised the students of the entire state to login only to the official website of the university www.uprou.ac.in. So that they can get updated information about the decisions being taken by the university. Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam has directed the Center for Online Education established in the university to submit to him within a week the report of such unauthorized YouTube channel using the cover page and logo of the university website. Doing this comes under the category of cyber crime. The university will take serious action in this matter.

Vice Chancellor Professor Satyakam said that the

semester system is the main part of the distance education system. The University Grants Commission has also considered the semester system as an important part of the education system of universities. Admission to



the Open University has been arranged twice a year. This arrangement is beneficial for the students because they can appear in the examination of any semester. The university is giving a chance to those students

who cannot appear in the semester examination for some reason to appear in the annual examination. The specialty of the flexibility of distance education is that here education is being delivered at the doorstep of the students. Public Relations Officer of the University, Dr. Prabhat Chandra Mishra said that the famous Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Satyakam, who has long experience in the field of distance education, is a pioneer in distance education. Constantly trying to change the situation and direction. He is working from the front to take decisions in the interest of the students to overcome the problems faced by them. After workshops at regional centers across Uttar Pradesh, he has formed a VC Grievance Cell after receiving feedback that the number of students has not yet reached 1 lakh

due to lack of prompt resolution to students' problems. Where the problems of the students are being resolved at a rapid pace.

Now after the last date of admission has been extended till 30 September 2024, the Vice Chancellor has expressed hope that the number of students taking admission in the current session will cross the target of 1 lakh. For this, he is continuously holding online meetings not only with the headquarters but also with the coordinators of 12 regional centers of the state. It is noteworthy that in the 18th and 19th consecutive convocation, Governor Smt. Anandi Ben Patel has directed the Open University to increase the number of students. The university is serious about this and is taking the popular programs of the university to the doorstep of the students.

## Grand inauguration of Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show

Lucknow: The second edition of 'Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show' was grandly inaugurated by Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar. On this occasion, the special presence of Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath further enhanced the dignity of the program. The event witnessed a large number of eminent entrepreneurs, businessmen from the industry and participants interested in the field of skill development. On the first day of the trade show, the pavilion of Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission became the centerpiece, where live demonstrations of 10 specific skills were held. This event took place under the able guidance of State Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Vocational Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Kapil Dev Aggarwal. The guests and visitors at the pavilion were provided detailed information about emerging skills and various training programs in the state.

Padmashree Awardee Dr. Rajnikant Dutta of Varanasi, who has made extraordinary contribution in the field of GI tag, also visited the pavilion of Skill Development Mission. Additional Mission Director Priya Singh presented him a kit related to the study material of the Mission, which was appreciated by Dr. Dutta. Praising the skill development efforts taking place in Uttar Pradesh, he said that this is a golden opportunity for the youth of the state. In the coming days, the Department of Vocational Educa-

tion, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will showcase skills in various fields, which will help in the development of the state. Will provide a platform to showcase emerg-



ing talents at the global level. Visitors from all over the world will come face to face with the skills of the youth of Uttar Pradesh and will recognize the skill potential of the state.

## Admin aware of condition of Shastri Bridge, yet no barriers for heavy vehicles

Mirzapur: The Shastri Bridge, considered the lifeline of Mirzapur, has been a hot topic of discussion recently. Since a part of the sidewalk broke, it has become a serious issue. Although the broken part has been repaired, the question arises whether the administration is aware of the bridge's condition and still remains complacent, or will it take timely action? Perhaps the administration is waiting for a major accident to wake up. The Shastri Bridge has been serving for over 50 years, and its construction has its own unique story, which raises doubts. Adding to the woes, there is no arrangement to stop overloaded and heavy vehicles, which could be diverted to alternative routes. The monsoon's wrath is no secret, and the network of rivers in Purvanchal causes significant damage to the general public every year due to floods and erosion. The rising water levels and erratic monsoon could spell disaster for the Shastri Bridge. Since this bridge connects cities like Jaunpur, Varanasi, Bhadohi, Gopiganj, Allahabad, Sonbhadra, and Varanasi, it plays a crucial role in local trade. If the administration wakes up in time and installs barriers on both sides of the bridge to stop heavy vehicles, the bridge could continue to serve for a few more days.

Had the administration installed large and high barriers for heavy vehicles earlier, the bridge would not have reached this state. However, the administration neither thought about it before nor wants to take the trouble to think about it now, even if citizens cross the bridge in fear. The potholes on the bridge, the movement of two-wheelers on the sidewalk meant for pedestrians, hours of traffic jams, and the weight of large and heavy vehicles have made the bridge dilapidated. To ensure the convenience of local traders and the general public who cross the bridge daily, it is essential to stop heavy and overloaded vehicles on this bridge, and only the administration can do this.

## 4400 candidates get job offer letters at Bijnor Kaushal Mahotsav

Varanasi: The Bijnor Kaushal Mahotsav concluded successfully today under the leadership of Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt of India in Bijnor, reinforcing the government's commitment to empowering local youth through skill development. During a month-long job readiness program, more than 13,500 youth from Bijnor district registered on Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH). Out of these, 3500 candidates were selected and offered jobs after 5 day of rigorous training and career counselling. Today, 6000 youngsters participated in the Kaushal Mahotsav and close to 900 on the spot job offers were distributed.

In his address, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Govt of India emphasized the critical role of skill development in fostering economic growth and said, "Our government is unwav-

ering in its commitment to equip every young person in Bijnor with the skills essential for success in a competitive economy. Initiatives like Kaushal Mahotsav not only create job opportunities but also bring new industries to your doorstep. I am confident that the youth of Bijnor will once again showcase their remarkable talents and seize every opportunity that arises. It is crucial for them to fully leverage the schemes and benefits offered by the government. With their immense potential and renowned work ethic, the youth of Bijnor are poised to shape a prosperous future."

He further added, "Our efforts for every young student will continue and to support that initiative, we have introduced Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) for connecting the youth around the country with the best of Indian industry. An initiative like this will open doors for the youth in Bijnor across a wide spectrum of industry. Our Government has tailor-made schemes for them and it is important that they fully leverage these. With their immense potential and renowned work ethic, the youth of

Bijnor are well poised to shape a prosperous future."

The outreach efforts successfully engaged employers from Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring regions, ensuring a diverse array of opportunities for local job seekers. Approximately 4,800 candidates underwent training over four weeks, with significant de-

velopment among Bijnor's youth. The program aims to establish Bijnor as a central hub for skilled workforce development, capitalizing on the district's educational institutions that produce a consistent flow of qualified candidates. His remarks underscored the government's dedication to creating employment opportunities that align with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for

lance Foods, Barbeque Nation, Vision India and Yuva Shakti Foundation were among the corporates at the event today. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the aegis of MSDE, initiated the 'Kaushal Mahotsav: Job Readiness Program' earlier this year to enhance job

readiness among Bijnor's youth. The program aims to establish Bijnor as a central hub for skilled workforce development, capitalizing on the district's educational institutions that produce a consistent flow of qualified candidates. His remarks underscored the government's dedication to creating employment opportunities that align with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for

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mand noted across various educational backgrounds.

The mega recruitment drive saw major names from industry queuing up to recruit the youth of Bijnor and adjoining areas. Drawn from across a vast swathe of industry ranging from tourism and hospitality, logistics, food processing, IT-ITES, automotive, BFSI and electronics, corporates such as Burger King, Zepto, Ques Corp, Flipkart, Jubi-

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ployability training program, which included training on essential soft skills and domain-specific skills for various roles such as Assembly Line Operator and Customer Care Executive. Over 30 companies participated in this recruitment drive from various sectors including electronics, automotive, logistics, banking, IT, and tourism with salaries ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 35,000.

This initiative not only represents a substantial opportunity for Bijnor's youth but also aims to stimulate local economic development by connecting skilled individuals with potential employers. The Kaushal Mahotsav stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of government bodies and industry leaders in shaping a skilled workforce ready to meet future challenges.

As a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Kaushal Mahotsav represents a significant step towards enhancing employment prospects for youth on a large scale, with a commitment to speed and high standards in achieving the vision of a 'Skilled India'.



## TODAY EVENT

Under the banner of Atewa / NMOPS, at 3:30 pm, officials of many departments, organizations, teachers and employees took out a protest march in front of the District Panchayat office against NPS / UPS, asking the District Magistrate Prayagraj to restore the old pension OPS, the Honorable Prime Minister and Chief Minister. The memorandum addressed to Ji will be given at the District Magistrate's office at 4 pm.

## PCF chairman will inaugurate International Conclave at SHUATS today

Prayagraj: An International Conclave 'Krishi Mantrana 2024' on Entrepreneurial Development in Agribusiness and Sustainability of Agri-Tech in Self-Reliant Agriculture will be held at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) on Thursday. The Chairman of UP Cooperative Federation Ltd Mr. Balmiki Ji Tripathi will inaugurate the International Conclave at University Auditorium at 10.00 AM. The aims of the Krishi Mantrana is to address the challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector. The conclave will bring together researchers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore innovative solutions and foster collaboration for agribusiness and agricultural sustainability. Various awards like young scientist award, young agriculturist award, young professional award, young researcher award, young entrepreneur award will be given in the international conclave.

## Danger looms as pesticides reign supreme on India's farms

India has world's lowest pesticide provisions, yet its fruits and vegetables are most dangerous: Dr Ajay Kumar Sonkar

Prayagraj: Internationally renowned scientist Padmashree Dr Ajay Kumar Sonkar told that the provision for the use of pesticides per hectare in India is the lowest in the world, only six hundred grams per hectare, whereas in Europe it is five to seven kilograms per hectare, the maximum pesticide use in China is thirteen kilograms per hectare. You might be surprised to know that despite this, the fruits and vegetables consumed in India are more poisonous than in other countries.

When asked, Dr Sonkar told that the reason for this is that these provisions in India are limited to paper only. In reality, our farmers do not have any serious training in the use of pesticides, they use dangerous pesticides unlimitedly. Along with this, they use so many pesticides that have been banned for years.

This matter came to light when news of sudden death of many farmers due to kidney failure without any symptoms came. Then a leading health institute of Lucknow, after examining the blood samples of many farmers who used to spray pesticides in their fields and their family members, found that many dangerous pesticides are present in their blood which are responsible for kidney disease carcinoma.

It is generally seen that farmers do not use adequate protection while spraying pesticides, whereas in any case, inhalation of pesticides, entering eyes, coming in contact with skin can prove fatal. On the other hand, due to unlimited use of pesticides, not only the air, water and soil are becoming sick, but the grains, fruits and vegetables grown from it have become poisonous which are causing cancer and serious diseases of liver and kidney.

## Assistant Town Planner (Main) Exam held

Prayagraj: Assistant Town Planner (Main) Examination-2023, was held on (Wednesday) in two sessions (First session - 09:30 am to 11:30 am and Second session - 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm). It was conducted in the examination hall (ground floor) of Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, Prayagraj. A total of 29 candidates were registered in the said examination in which the total attendance was 100 percent. The examination in question was conducted safely, smoothly and accurately, informed Vivek Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Secretary.

## Taekwondo player Om Mishra selected in Sports Authority of India (SAI) center

Prayagraj: The 13-year-old player from Pakri village of Saidabad development block of the district not only brought glory to his name but also brought glory to his entire area and his family. Has worked to boost morale by highlighting the name of the whole thing is about



Taekwondo player Om Mishra, who has boosted the morale of his teachers and his colleagues during his 3 years of training. Now Om Mishra is receiving training at the Sports Authority of India SAI Center in Rae Bareilly. Mr. Mishra's father Sanjay Mishra said that Om continued to work with great dedication in his sports, the results of which have been visible. Om's grandfather Vasudev Mishra told that along with studies, Om used to pay more attention to sports. Om constantly maintained his position at the top among Taekwondo players, due to which today Om has not only brought glory to his family but also to the entire region. By doing this he has set an example for other players.

## Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay wrote book on human integration from land of Prayagraj: Mayor

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the 108th birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji, the unveiling of the statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji was organized in the premises of Professor Rajju Bhaiya State University Medical College under the leadership of Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani. On this occasion, MP Praveen Patel, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani BJP, District in-charge Mahesh Chandra Srivastava and metropolitan president Rajendra Mishra unveiled the statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and paid homage to him. Presiding over the program on this occasion, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani said that the world should be taught human integrationism. In order to give the philosophy of the idea of humanity, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji wrote the treatise of Human Integralism from this place in the State University Prayagraj in 1941 during BT education which gave the

world a great philosophy for humanity and said that in fact this place is today It is like a pilgrimage site from where the youth will get the energy to work towards the nation and said that very soon the new statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji located at Balsam intersection along with former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Ram devotee and patriot Pujya Ashok. The divine statue of Singhal ji will be unveiled which will become a center of energy for the youth towards Ram Rashtira.

On this occasion, BJP's outgoing regional president and district in-charge Mahesh Chandra Srivastava said that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's visionary thoughts and inclusive thinking have laid the foundation of a self-reliant and developed India. The path shown by him for national progress and public service through the all-embracing thoughts of 'Antyodaya' is an inspiration to many of us BJP workers.



On this occasion, MP Praveen Patel and MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai said that Deendayal ji remained committed to purity and transparency in politics throughout his life. His idea of Antyodaya strengthened social harmony. Following the principles of cultural nationalism of Deendayal Upadhyay ji, who emphasized on building a bright

future by taking inspiration from the glorious past of the country, Modi ji is extending the benefits of government schemes to the last person standing in the line of development. BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra said that I remember and salute the pioneer of Integral Humanism, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji, on his birth

anniversary. He presented a new philosophy of integral humanism not only in India but in front of the entire world and established purity and authenticity in politics. His thoughts and his entire life are inspiring for all of us. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani informed that the suggestion of installing the statue of Pandit

Deendayal Upadhyay ji in the courtyard of the State Medical University was given by former Human Resource Development Minister Dr. Murlu Manohar Joshi ji, which was established in 2004 under the leadership of former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh. Which could not be unveiled and later during the tenure of SP and BSP, the statue was neglected and was unveiled today. During this, Dr. Santosh Kumar, a retired teacher of the State University, kept fighting for the unveiling of the statue. On this occasion, he presented his Giri Shankar Prabhakar, Varun Kesarwani Girjesh Mishra, Rajesh Kesarwani Pramod Modi, Rajan Shukla, Councilor Mukesh Kaser, Rudra Sen Jaiswal, Akash Sonkar, Ritesh Mishra, Sachin Mishra, Meenu Pandey, Manoj Mishra, Abha Bharti, shared their experiences on this occasion. Hundreds of BJP workers like Ishu Kesarwani etc. were present.

## Ethelind College of Community Science Hosts Successful 4-Days Bakery Classes

Hands-on Training in Bakery Arts Attracts Enthusiastic Response from Participants

Prayagraj: The Department of Family Resource Management and Consumer Science (FRMCS), Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS), and Extension Education and Communication Management (EECM) of Ethelind College of Community Science, SHUATS, recently organized a 4-days bakery classes program. The event, held from 17-20th September 2024, saw an enthusiastic response from participants.

The bakery classes provided hands-on training in various aspects of bakery arts, including making sponge cake, cake decorating, and pastry preparation. The participants learned about the science and art of baking, including ingredient selection, mixing, and bak-

ing techniques.

The program was conducted by experienced baker of 'Trendy Bakers' Mrs. Laxmi, who shared her



expertise and provided personalized guidance to the participants. The classes were interactive, with participants getting to practice

their skills in a well-equipped bakery laboratory. A series of training on the art of bakery has been planned which will be con-

ducted in the near future. "We are thrilled with the response to our bakery classes," said Dr. Anshu, Dean, Ethelind College of

Community Science. "Our goal was to provide a comprehensive learning experience in bakery arts, and we are glad that our participants found it informative and engaging", said the organizers. The program was open to students, homemakers, and anyone interested in learning bakery skills. Participants received certificates upon completion of the program. Ethelind College of Community Science, SHUATS, is a leading institution in the field of community science, formerly Home Science and its departments of FRMCS, HDFS, and EECM are committed to providing quality education and training in various aspects of interior designing, human development, and extension education.

## Meeting held to assess prep for Constitution Conference ceremony

Prayagraj: The preparation meeting for the Constitution Conference ceremony to be held on 29th September was held in the metropolitan office today, on Wednesday, 25th September, in the Chowk office of the Metropolitan Congress Committee under the chairmanship of Metropolitan President Mr. Pradeep Mishra Anshuman and in-charge of State Secretary, Allahabad, Imran Khan. Preparatory meeting has been completed under the leadership of Shri Pradeep Mishra Anshuman ji. Metropolitan President Shri Pradeep Mishra Anshuman ji said that this preparatory meeting is necessary to make the Constitution Honor Conference successful and we will also present

our strong claim in the by-election of Phulpur Legislative Assembly. In this preparation meeting, prominent people were Metropolitan President Mr. Pradeep Mishra Anshuman, State Secretary Imran Khan, Rajesh Rakesh, Diwakar Bharatiya, Lallan Patel, Vinay Pandey, Ram Manorath Saroj, Jitendra Nayak, Ajendra Gaur, Satish Kesarwani, Farhan Khan, Vishnu. Kant Pandey, Faheem Khan, Dilip Patel, Raj Kumar Shukla, Shyam Ji Shukla, Rajendra Agarwal, Sahin Fatima, Pratima Tripathi, Munna Yadav, Abdul Kalam Azad, Vishal Sonkar, Shakeel Ahmed, Bharat Lal, Santoshanand Maharaj, Abdul Sakur, Nafees Qureshi, Sachin, Pradeep Verma, Vikas Kaushal, Mohammad Javed were present.

## Successful free treatment of injured Assam resident at Saifai Medical Univ

Prayagraj/Etawah: Shyam Lal Kharia, a resident of Assam, was admitted to Uttar Pradesh Medical Sciences University located in Saifai village of Etawah district of Uttar Pradesh on 7th of last month. The patient was traveling from Jammu to Guwahati when he sustained critical injuries while boarding the train at Etawah Junction. He was immediately admitted to Etawah District Hospital, where seeing his serious condition, the doctors referred him to the Emergency and Trauma Department of Saifai Medical University. The patient was immediately provided free treatment at the hospital, and later admitted to the orthopaedic department.

36-year-old Shyam Lal was treated under the supervision of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Assistant Professor, Orthopaedic Department of the University. The patient's condition was critical, and there was no family member present, making his care a major challenge. Keeping this situation in mind, Medical Superintendent Dr. S. P. Singh ordered all necessary tests and treatment of the patient free of cost. This included X-rays, blood tests, and other necessary treatments. Manoj Kumar Maurya, Social Services Officer of the hospital, provided every possible help in the treatment of the patient.

The patient did not have any identity card, due to which it became difficult to

contact his family members.

Despite many efforts, no contact could be established, but the treatment continued without interruption. Considering the condition of the patient, successful surgery on the lower part of his left leg was also done free of cost. Meanwhile, a message was received on the hospital's cell phone from Lalit Jha, manager of T-State Company, Jiyajhudi, Assam. In this message, information and status of the patient was asked, which revealed that the patient's daughter worked in that company.

Based on this message, after continuous efforts, the patient's family could be contacted, and after this the hospital staff started informing the family about the patient's condition. After this treatment which lasted for about one and a half months, the patient's condition improved, and the hard work and dedication of the doctors, nursing staff, and other hospital staff saved the patient's life. Now the patient is completely healthy, and preparations are being made to send him to Etawah Junction by government ambulance along with his daughter and son-in-law. The patient and his family members have expressed their gratitude to all the hospital officials, doctors, nursing staff, MSSO cadre, and other employees wholeheartedly expressed their gratitude and appreciated their efforts.

## Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniv celebrated at 1216 booths

One booth, one worker, a campaign of 100 members was run

Prayagraj: On "Antyodaya Diwas", the birth anniversary of the pioneer of Integral Humanism and Antyodaya, a fierce nationalist and great thinker, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, the total number of people from all 15 divisions of Prayagraj metropolis At 1216 booths, BJP workers paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay by garlanding his portrait and statue and pledged to follow the path shown by him. On this occasion, under the membership campaign, a special campaign of 'one booth, one worker, 100 members' was run, under which the workers made people join the party by conducting door-to-door contacts and organizing camps at all 1216 booths. Prayagraj metropolitan in-charge Mahesh Chandra Srivastava, former cabinet minister Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur and metropolitan president Rajendra Mishra along with workers and officials paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay by garlanding the statue at Balsam intersection. On this occasion, Metropolitan in-charge Mahesh Chandra Srivastava said that the life of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, who nurtured the organization with the spirit of integral humanism and Antyodaya and dedicated his life to the service of the nation, is inspiring for all of us. Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur said that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay has done the work of giving a new direction to India. Metro-

politan President Rajendra Mishra said that the name of the personality who works tirelessly for the organization and ideas is Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. L. S. Ojha, Avadhesh Chandra Gupta, Kunj Bihari



Mishra, Kush Srivastava, Ravi Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani Vivek Mishra Manoj Kushwaha, Natwarlal, Mrityunjay Tiwari, Rajesh Shukla, Anand Dubey, Prashant Rajshukla, Deep Dwidived, Rakesh Bharti, Vijay Srivastava, Ganesh Verma, Nawab Khan, Shiva Tripathi, Manjesh Srivast, Ajay Hela, Aman Sharma etc. were present.

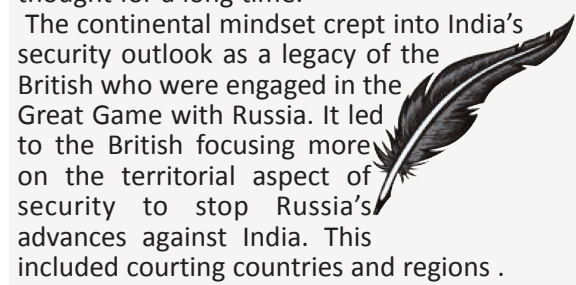


## Editorial

### Anchored in Shivaji's spirit, India's naval operations get a desi touch in international waters

By carrying out back-to-back rescue operations in the past month, the Indian Navy has emerged as the bright spot in the otherwise unstable waters of the Red Sea. The Israel-Hamas war has not only thrown the Middle East into a flux but its effects are now also spilling over to South Asia and the wider expanse of the Indian Ocean Region. The worsening security concerns in the Red Sea due to constant attacks from the Yemen-based Houthis on cargo ships have further been exacerbated with Somali pirates also targeting the ships passing through this region. As the security situation in the Red Sea and also in the Arabian Sea has deteriorated, the Indian Navy has now emerged as the net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Navy has always been exemplary in its duty and in particular, has always been proactive in benign causes like Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. However, with the spill-over effects of the war in the Middle East threatening the security of the Indian Ocean Region, India is asserting its position as the resident power and as the primary stakeholder in the security architecture of the region. India's rescue operations and in particular the role of the Indian Navy not only correspond to the existing global order. The current security concerns may have pronounced the role of the Indian Navy. But there is also a strong civilisational undertone to India's naval operations. This undertone could be considered from decolonisation and indigenisation perspectives. The decolonisation narrative has been a major issue in the Indian political discourse for a long time. However, in the past few months, there has been a tangible and accelerated effort towards decolonisation and indigenisation across different spheres. Some important steps in this direction include the use of the name Bharat instead of India. This was the highlight when India hosted the G20 Summit in September 2023 as the placard in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi displayed the name Bharat. Besides, three criminal justice laws, the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, the Bharatiya Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act, recently passed by the Indian parliament also seek to replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. The recent consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya is projected as one of the most prominent steps towards decolonisation. Also, the scope of the decolonisation narrative has now expanded. For decades, only the 200-year British rule in India was earmarked as the colonial period in the collective memory of the Indian people. Now the 200-year period is being replaced by a period of about 1,000 years which includes the Islamic invasions in India. This indigenisation process which is becoming visible in the political, legal and cultural domains is gradually gaining emphasis in the security domain as well. Just as the decolonisation debate had been restricted to British rule, the same principle was evident in Indian strategic thought as well for a long time. As one of the relics of British rule, the continental mindset had remained a norm in Indian strategic thought for a long time.

The continental mindset crept into India's security outlook as a legacy of the British who were engaged in the Great Game with Russia. It led to the British focusing more on the territorial aspect of security to stop Russia's advances against India. This included courting countries and regions.



## The remarkable rise of Biharis in Delhi: From cheap labour to influential vote-bank

The emergence of the Purvanchalis/Biharis as the most influential electoral community is a story of a long journey of struggle and perseverance. During the watershed Assembly election in Delhi in 2013, the then Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit was looking forward to a fourth term. The confidence emanated from the development overhaul she carried out during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Though the Congress government at the Centre was mired in allegations of corruption, Dikshit felt assured of steering clear of it. However, then Congress member of Lok Sabha from West Delhi, Mahabal Mishra, had warned Dikshit about an impending defeat and had suggested to her that she could gamble by giving a large chunk of tickets to the party workers from Purvanchal (migrants from east UP and Bihar). Dikshit, who was never comfortable with Mishra, saw it as a ruse on the part of the Purvanchali leader to create a claim for himself as a rival to her. As the results came out, she was dismayed that her development drive was drowned in the cacophony let loose by the Anna Hazare movement, whose product is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The arrival of Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP marked the beginning of a new



genre of politics. During the past three decades, Delhi has undergone a deep demographic change. The migrants arriving in the city, which is North India's El Dorado, have given a new character to its social and cultural life. From being poor tenants in the unauthorised colonies, they are now proud holders of plots but have been fighting with successive governments for the assertion of their civic rights. Their struggle has not been limited to the recognition of their housing plots. They eke out a living fighting various forces of corruption aka government. The Congress and the BJP all those years instead of holding their hand depended on poll malpractices, exploiting their poverty to get their mandate. The migrants from the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and some districts of Madhya Pradesh bordering these areas for

long looked for a role in the politics of the national capital. When Kejriwal, during the campaign in 2015, said to accept liquor and money from the Congress and the BJP but vote for him, he showed that he had his ear to the ground. In that poll, the AAP had put up Purvanchali candidates in 15 out of 70 seats and they all romped home. Today, Mahabal Mishra is AAP's candidate from West Delhi. His son Vinay is an AAP MLA from their traditional Dwarka seat. For the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, for which voting is scheduled in Delhi on May 26, the BJP has fielded one Bihari candidate Manoj Tiwari, the sitting MP from the North East Delhi seat. AAP-Congress has fielded three Biharis - Kanhaiya Kumar from North East Delhi, Somnath Bharti from the New Delhi seat and the veteran Mahabal Mishra from the West Delhi seat.

While Kanhaiya Kumar and Manoj Tiwari are imports into the capital's politics, Mahabal Mishra and Somnath Bharti have grown politically in the national capital. One may recall that Mahabal Mishra was the first Bihari to win an electoral battle, winning a seat as a corporator from Nasirpur in Outer Delhi in 1996.

Though before him, a Purvanchali, Lal Bihari Tiwari had won Assembly polls from the East Delhi seat of Ghonda and become a minister in the state BJP government. Later, Tiwari won three consecutive Lok Sabha polls in 1997 (bypoll), 1998 and 1999. However, there is a marked difference in the politics of Tiwari and the present-day Bihari politicians in the capital - from meek submission to that of aggressive assertion. According to the data released by the Election Commission, Delhi has a total of 1,47,42,145 voters - 79,98,652 male, 67,42,330 female and 1163 from the third gender. This is up by about 6.5 per cent from 1,38,46,482 in 2019. According to estimates, 33.5 per cent of the total 1.48 crore voters across the seven Lok Sabha constituencies are Purvanchalis. Their presence varies from 24 per cent in Chandni Chowk to 41 per cent in East Delhi. On the

North East Delhi seat, they constitute 40 per cent of the votes, while they account for 37 per cent of votes in New Delhi, 34 per cent in West Delhi, 31 per cent in North Delhi and 27 per cent in South Delhi. Today, there isn't a constituency in Delhi where the 'Chhath' festival of Bihar is not celebrated. But will the Biharis vote as a bloc or would have ideological preferences depending on their allegiance in the home state? This is something which the political parties, especially the BJP, would be accountable for. There are two other crucial seats - New Delhi and West Delhi, where the BJP needs to crack the Bihari pot to sail through. The selection of Bihari candidates for the Lok Sabha polls from Delhi by both the major formations - Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party-Congress alliance clearly indicate that Purvanchalis, rather Biharis, have become a major political entity in the national capital. Today, they are not just at par but more influential than other major electoral blocks like that of Punjabis, Vaishyas, Gujjars, Jats and minorities. Numerically, the two formations together have fielded two Vaishyas, two Gujjars, two Punjabis, one Jat, three Scheduled Caste (two from reserved seats).

### Why Iran, Israel avoided crossing red lines

Rewriting the rules of engagement is challenging, but undoubtedly both Iran and Israel have made a symbolic statement and managed the escalation cycle wherein they have played to the gallery as far as their domestic audience is concerned. On April 14, Iran launched its first direct military offensive against Israel. The attack consisted of over 300 Shahed drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles. The launch was detected immediately, and the Israeli forces on high alert had approximately two hours of response time before the drones reached Israeli airspace. The strike was then taken apart as it moved across the Middle East by members of the US-led Middle East Air Defence Alliance, which included jets from the RAF, the Jordanian Air

Forces, and the US Air Force. Most of the surviving munitions were then intercepted by Israel's Air Defence Systems, which include the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 2 and 3. At least five penetrated through these defences and struck targets in and around an Nevatim Air Base in the Negev Desert. These five hits resulted in no casualties and caused only structural damage. The world was on edge, and there was danger that a threatened Israeli retaliation would result in a regional, if not wider, conflict. Crude prices spiked, markets dropped across the globe, and gold reached new heights. For India, one of the major dangers of escalation was the blocking of the Straits of Hormuz, as it would result in disruption of both crude and

natural gas. The Israeli reaction took place within the week. On April 19, they struck a military airbase near the city of Isfahan, and Iranian officials also claimed to have shot down small drones near the northern city of Tabriz, but this was downplayed. Isfahan Province, in the centre of Iran, is home to significant Iranian military infrastructure, including a large air base, a major missile production complex, and nuclear facilities. As per reports in the Jerusalem Post, the Israelis were targeting an air defence radar site near Isfahan that's part of the protection of the Natanz nuclear facility. The choreography of missile strikes once again ensured that there were no casualties and, moreover, no targeting of Iranian nuclear facilities.

### 'Mind your own democracy'

When prejudiced opinion posts masquerade as journalism, it violates one of the four foundational pillars of democracy. As mainstream media is pivotal in shaping popular perceptions and helps the voter make informed choices in an election year, much of the Western observers' anti-India blitzkrieg must be discounted by the discerning voter due to its inherent bias and colonial mindset. A free, fair and thriving multiparty democracy is at work at the scale of 970 million, as Indians ready to exercise their franchise in the general elections. Stunningly ignoramus and half-informed foreign scribes that write for global media outlets, West's India watchers, activists and NGOs are on overdrive to undermine the integrity of the Indian democratic process. The woke brigade of journo who anoint themselves as upholders of liberal democracy are completely disconnected from the vox populi of the voting nation. Their feedback loops are through proxy, based on what they hear and perceive, and not by touring the expansive electoral terrain. The voter-on-the ground, primarily comprising rural and urban middle classes, neither read the likes of The Economist, New York Times, UK Guardian, Chatham House, Le Monde France, La Croix International Catholic News etc., nor hear the views on BBC, CNN or Bloomberg. Besides, in a country with 80 per cent of the population comprising Hindus, the resurgence of Hindu nationalism renders the opinions of the elitist Western collective as redundant and powerless to influence or impact India's electoral outcomes. For too long, international institutions of the West have held sway in determining the pecking order of 170 nations, whether it is in determining their sovereign credit ratings or democratic credentials. In proportion to India's growing heft, and being the

largest democracy, it is a step in the right direction that India has set in motion the process of redefining the codes for an alternative 'Global Standard for Elections', and creating its own metrics of gauging the democracy ratings index in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation. Much has transformed during Modi's decadal tenure. India has indeed emerged as the nation of the decade, and a critical player in just about every issue pivotal to playing peacemaker on geo-political tensions, or issues facing the planet. India's inclusive economic growth under Modi and its expanding global ascendance has made it a formidable global power. It is therefore no surprise that Modi as the front runner is poised for a successive third term, and is expected to return in a stronger avatar in 2024. Should that happen, the pace of economic reforms and saturation of flagship schemes is expected to accelerate. An industrial prime minister helming the fifth largest economy is an intimidating prospect for the US and Western nations, as the more the axis of economic power steadily shifts towards India, one expects negative news blitzes from foreign soil to further intensify.

**Why West fears a stronger India** This is exactly what the Western mainstream media in cahoots with India's opposition parties, and external lobbyists are striking at. They would prefer an electoral outcome that throws up a rag-tag coalition with a weakened prime minister, one who would be subservient to their business and political interests in preference to a strong, assertive and nationalist PM who would pursue nation-first interests, undaunted by the US or the Western powers. We are living through a period of tumultuous change, as the global order crumbles, and the writ of multilateral institutions is ineffective in controlling geopolitical tensions.

### Planting trees is a simple solution to counter air pollution

Planners and designers are reimagining cityscapes with verdant green corridors and tree-lined boulevards, weaving greenery seamlessly into the urban fabric. Image: Wikimedia Commons

As Delhi grapples with yet another harrowing bout of air pollution caused by Ghazipur landfill fires, the city, especially its eastern part, finds itself ensnared in a blanket of toxic smog, pushing its air quality index to alarming levels again. With readings skyrocketing to several times the World Health Organization's recommended limit, the severity of the situation has prompted drastic measures, including school closures and restric-

tions on construction activities. This onslaught of pollution not only poses immediate health risks but also casts a long shadow over the residents' quality of life, with projections suggesting a staggering reduction of 10 years in life expectancy. Health experts equate breathing this hazardous smog to smoking a staggering 14 cigarettes every day. Laden with nanoparticles capable of infiltrating the lungs and bloodstream, this lethal smog poses a grave threat, fueling respiratory ailments and health complications. In the face of this crisis, the urgent need for effective solutions to combat air pollution has never been more evi-

dent. It is no news that the scourge of pollution has seeped into every facet of our lives - the water we drink, the soil we rely on for sustenance, and the very air we breathe. This dire reality confronts millions in bustling metropolises across the globe, where densely packed populations are disproportionately exposed to harmful contaminants. As these pollutants infiltrate our environment, they accumulate, magnifying in intensity as they ascend the food chain. With urbanisation advancing at breakneck speed and our demands on natural resources escalating, we stand close to tainting the very essence of our existence.

Clean air to fill our lungs, uncontaminated food to nourish our bodies—these are not luxuries, but fundamental necessities for our survival. Can we, in good conscience, stand idly by as our cities succumb to this relentless march of degradation? The time for action is now.

**What is pollution?** Before we unpack why pollution occurs or how to mitigate it, it is vital to ask, what do we exactly mean by pollution in our cities. Pollution occurs when high concentrations of substances persist in the environment due to human activities or natural events, which have harmful effects to the environment.



## 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."

## 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, Himansh Chawla with 710 AIR 658, Alina Garg with 694 marks, Harshpreet Kaur



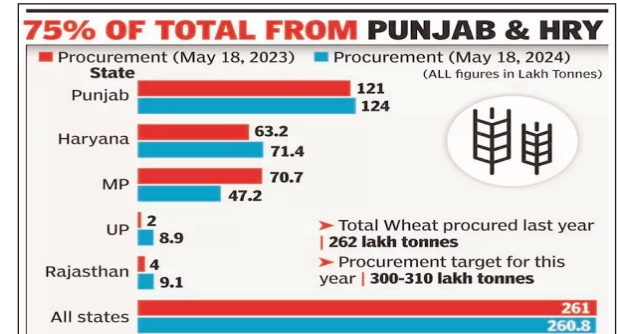
with 690 marks, Kusha Lamba with 687 marks, Aksha and Kanika with 685 marks. A total of 18 students from Ambala scored 650 and above. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has recently declared the results of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2024. The achievement of the stu-

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 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.



## The Ultimate Father's Day Gift by KOLLAGE

**New Delhi:** Father's Day is a special time to honour and celebrate the invaluable role fathers play in our lives. As this meaningful day draws near, many of us are on the lookout for the perfect gift to express our gratitude and love. To mark this occasion, the premier silverware brand KOLLAGE has unveiled their exclusive Gift Edit, featuring a selection of the finest gifts. Crafted from pure copper or brass, each piece is exquisitely coated with fine silver and lacquered to achieve a stunning finish. Their remarkable offerings comprise of Hexa Chess Set This unique chess set is designed in a hexagonal form, adding a touch of elegance to the classic game. The set is presented in a gleaming glass box with the chessboard printed on the top.



Each chess piece is meticulously packed in felt cloth. The pieces are crafted in resin silver, with pure electrolytic copper coated in fine silver, making it a sophisticated addition to any game collection. Mobius PF Round Continuing with their tradition of excellence, the Mobius PF round offers the same impeccable craftsmanship as the Hexa

chess set. This piece is sure to impress with its refined design and quality. Wine GobletA sophisticated addition to KOLLAGE's bar range, the Wine Goblet is finely silver plated and perfect for any time of the day. It's an ideal gift for all occasions and is best purchased in pairs. With a height of 21 cm, it makes a stunning statement in any collection. Champagne Flute Similar to the Wine Goblet, the Champagne Flute is a testament to KOLLAGE's dedication to quality and elegance. Standing at 22.5 cm, these flutes are perfect for toasting special moments, making them an excellent gift choice. Celebrate Father's Day with the timeless elegance of KOLLAGE's silverware, and show your appreciation.

## PAT Day 1 marked by shortage of question and answer booklets

**Mumbai:** As the Progressive

Assessment Test (PAT) for class 3 to 8 students of government and aided schools in the state began on Thursday, a number of schools complained of shortage of question-cum-answer booklets.

On the very first day, schools had to take photocopies of the first language paper. The maths and third language English papers will be held on Friday and Saturday, respectively. The question papers were set by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). School heads said despite sending details of the number of

students appearing for PAT, the SCERT on Wednesday directed schools to take photocopies of the question papers wherever there was a shortage. Schools also complained of not receiving the answer keys to the questions. Teachers assess papers based on answer keys. Mahendra Ganpule, spokesperson of the Maharashtra School Principals' Association highlighted the need for improved planning by the education department. Ganpule said, "Despite the challenges, teachers managed to distribute papers on the first day, albeit with additional effort and expense. The issue was more

pronounced in remote areas and was exacerbated by a lack of manpower at the taluka level for distribution." Over one crore students are participating in these exams, which are part of the Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States project funded by the World Bank. The PAT aims to enhance the quality and governance of school education and includes a basic test followed by two comprehensive assessments. The mandatory test is to determine the learning outcome of students. It is based on second semester syllabi. Schools that incurred expenses on photocopying question papers last year.

## Girders launched between Kalyan & Kasara till early Sunday morning

**MUMBAI:** The Central Railway launched a girder on the bridge between Khadavli and Vasind stations shortly till early Sunday morning and also girders for FOB between Asangaon and Atgaon. Due to the girder

work and related rail blocks, passengers were inconvenienced with late night suburban train cancellations for Kasara. Six Mail and Express trains were rescheduled while ten other long distance trains were regulated due to

the girder work. Girders were also launched for FOB between Shahad and Ambivali station. As a result, the suburban local train for Kasara leaving CSMT at 12.15am on Sunday was short terminated at Thane.

## CAPSULES

### Kashi Vishwanath temple clocked highest revenue in March

**VARANASI:** As the Kashi Vishwanath Temple continues to attract devotees from far and wide who are making generous donations, the temple earned Rs 83.34 crore in 2023-24 financial year, registering a jump of 42.43% as compared to collections in 2022-23. The income of Rs 11.14 crore in March was also the highest single-month collection made ever by the temple. Talking to, temple's chief executive officer Vishwa Bhusan said, "Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust (SKVTT) has recorded its highest ever collection as well as expenditure in the 2023-24 financial year. On the income part, its gross earning was Rs 83.34 crore, which was 42.43% more than the gross earnings of 2022-23. The expenditure was Rs 25.32 crore which was 40.38% more than the figures of the previous financial year." All previous records of income were broken by Feb-end when Rs 69.92 crore was received by the temple even when the value of precious metals received as donation was not included in it. In 2022-23, the temple had recorded income of Rs 58.51 crore while it was over Rs 26 crore in 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years.

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

**KOLKATA:** The hot and discomfort weather conditions in the past few days are taking a toll on the health of Kolkatans, especially those who have to remain outdoors for hours.

## "Jewels Amore" showcased by Anjalee and Arjun Kapoor At the BRDS Ahmedabad Fashion Week

**Ahmedabad:** Introducing "Jewels Amore" by the dynamic design duo Anjalee and Arjun Kapoor, a couture marvel that seamlessly blends the epitome of luxury fashion. This recently unveiled collection showcased at the Grand Finale of BRDS Ahmedabad Fashion Week exudes an air of regal sophistication, cocooning its wearers in an ambiance of majestic opulence. The infusion of Swarovski elements elevates its allure, casting a dazzling radiance that weaves an enchanting spell on all



beholders. Anjalee & Arjun Kapoor express, "Beyond being mere garments, these outfits are exquisite pieces of art, a testament to the unmatched craftsmanship of gifted artisans. "Jewels Amore" sets a new standard for haute couture, promising timeless beauty and opulence. Those adorned in these creations are destined to

make a grand entrance, leaving an indelible mark on any occasion. Bhanwar Rathore, founder & president of Bhanwar Rathore Design Studio and title sponsor of the event said that Ahmedabad Fashion Week is undoubtedly one of the biggest fashion weeks of Gujarat. Curating and supporting this event have been an

honour for our organisation as it provides significant networking opportunities for our fashion design students in the design industry. The Most extravagant Fashion Week of Ahmedabad featuring the top Fashion designers and Design institutions of India is powered by Ahmedabad Mirror and associated with ISAS - International Beauty School, Unicorn by Apple, Red FM, Shambhu's Café, Concepts Zone is the most premier fashion event in the city of Ahmedabad.

## Killer caliber: Meet BSF's first woman sniper

**INDORE:** The sniper stealthily crawls into position, smoothly works the bolt and slides a round into the chamber. Target in crosshairs. And a glass ceiling pierced at 3,200kmp/h... It's only when the sniper gets up and takes off the camouflage ghillie suit that you realise it's a 'she'. Meet BSF's first woman sniper, sub-inspector, Suman Kumari, also the first woman to get 'instructor grade' in the grueling eight-week BSF sniper course at Central School of Weapons and



Tactics (CSWT), Indore. Suman joined BSF in 2021 and was commanding a platoon in Punjab when she realized, with fury, the threat of sniper attacks from across the border. Determined to pay back in kind, Suman volunteered for the sniper course and

wrote to her superiors. Encouraged by her steely resolve, they readily gave the go-ahead. "She was the lone woman among 56 men and she put up an amazing performance in every activity. We are hoping that more female recruits will take up this course,"

CSWT IG Bhaskar Singh Rawat told TOI on Saturday.

"Trainees who perform exceptionally well get Alpha and Bravo grading, but a separate screening test is done for 'instructor grade' that Suman has achieved. She is the first woman sniper in BSF and will be an inspiration for other women to come forward. This course is one of the toughest after the commando training," Rawat said. She is now eligible to get posted as a sniper instructor.

## The Best Father's Day Gift that will make him Smile by Forever Living Products (India)

**New Delhi:** Father's Day is a wonderful occasion to appreciate and celebrate the important role that fathers play in our lives. If you're looking for health and nutrition-based products from FLP India (Forever Living Products), here are a few suggestions that could make thoughtful gifts for your father: 1. Aloe Vera Gel: FLP India offers a range of Aloe Vera Gel products known for their potential health benefits. Aloe Vera is often used to support digestion, promote a healthy immune system, and maintain overall well-being. It can be consumed as a drink or used topically. 2. Nutritional Supplements: FLP India provides various nutritional supplements designed to support overall health and vitality. These supplements may include essential vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and herbal extracts that can help maintain a



healthy lifestyle. 3. Weight Management Products: If your father is interested in weight management or maintaining a healthy weight, FLP India offers products that may assist in achieving those goals. These could include meal replacement shakes, protein supplements, and dietary fiber products. 4. Skincare Products: FLP India offers a range of skincare products infused with natural ingredients like Aloe Vera, botanical extracts, and antioxidants. These products can help nourish and rejuvenate the skin, potentially promoting a

healthy complexion. Some of the other products that you can gift to your father from FLP India are - Aloe MSM Gel, Agri+, Immu Blend, Vitolize, Forever Bee Pollen, Vitolize, iVision, Forever Bhringraj Hair Oil and Desire by Forever. One can go to the official FLP India website or contact their Forever Business Owners to explore the available product options, obtain specific product details, and ensure you make a well-informed choice based on your father's individual needs and preferences.

## Experience the Ultimate in Wedding Luxury at the FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend

**New Delhi :** The Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) and RPSG Lifestyle Media are ecstatic to jointly announce the FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend, which will take place at the Taj Palace, New Delhi, on August 3rd and 4th, 2024. An ultra-luxurious showcase of the best in couture, trends and jewellery, the FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend will consist of a bespoke curation of India's top couturiers, jewellers and ancillary service providers to give-to-be brides, grooms and their families a one-stop experience under one roof. It will also mark the launch of RPSG Lifestyle Media's wedding vertical, Manifest, that will consist of a magazine, digital engagements, online experiences, and more. The group



already publishes celebrity magazine HELLO! India, and is soon to launch Indian editions of Esquire and The Hollywood Reporter.

The event will kick off on the day after FDCI's annual Hyundai India Couture Week, which is a highly anticipated event on the city's cultural and fashion calendar. The FDCI Manifest Wedding Weekend aims at presenting the newest wedding trends by face-to-face interactions between patrons and the designers themselves. The selec-

tion of those showcasing their creations will be curated by FDCI and the editorial team of Manifest, ensuring a rich experience for those attending. Given the personal nature of interactions involved with creative professionals, the event will be access-regulated, and patrons will be encouraged to attend by prior appointment and invitation only. Reflecting on the event's significance, FDCI Chairman Sunil Sethi shared, "The overwhelming response to our inaugural FDCI Wedding

Weekend set a high standard. This year, we aim to elevate the shopping experience even more. Print and digital media together form a comprehensive and creative promotional strategy, reaching diverse audiences and driving consumer interest. By uniting coveted couturiers, jewellers, and wedding professionals, we continue to tap into the booming Indian wedding and luxury fashion market, making this event the premier platform for acquiring festive couture, red-carpet creations, and exquisite jewellery." Aarna Jain, Chairperson of RPSG Lifestyle Media, added, "We are delighted to launch our first homegrown brand at this exclusive event in association with the Fashion Design Council of India.

## Met museum head talks art of repatriation and relevance

Vatika Times

**It's not easy running one of the world's largest museums with more than 1.5 million works spanning 5,000 years. And certainly not easy amidst heightened scrutiny over looted objects and mounting pressure for repatriation. Max Hollein—who took charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met), New York as director in 2018 and CEO last July—knows this all too well. Fresh from signing an MoU with India's Ministry of Culture, being "blown away" by the Sanchi Stupa, Jantar Mantar and the Kanheri Caves and ahead of delivering a lecture at the CSMVS on Friday, Hollein remained composed as he sat down for a chat about policing its art and artefacts with a problematic past recent restitutions and keeping the museum relevant in an age of sensory overload. What kind of collaborations do you foresee with the signing of the MoU with India's culture ministry? It marks a continuation.**



## #Travel With Limca On An Exhilarating Exploration Of Your City

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

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

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



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

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

## CAPSULES

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

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

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

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

## Probe Shortage Of Medicines: Bharadwaj To LG

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



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

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

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

## PAT Day 1 marked by shortage of question and answer booklets

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

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

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

## HC seeks status of criminal cases filed in 2020 Delhi riots

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



## Next for Ayush 2021-2022 to improve Ayurveda education and healthcare

Delhi: Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge), said today that the National Exit Test (NExT) for Ayush will begin in 2021-2022. The Minister said the decision was based on the committee's suggestion to investigate student concerns. The committee suggests applying the NExT to 2021-22 students under the NCISM and NCH Acts, 2020, eliminating any ambiguity. The committee was led by Vice Chancellor National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur Prof. Sanjeev Sharma, who reviewed student ideas and submitted them to the Ministry. After a one-year internship, the problem-based test is required for licensing and membership in State or National Registers. It evaluates practical skills using clinical case scenarios, photos, and videos. Without completing their internship, interns who pass the National Exit Test (Next) can only register with a state or national registration board after one year. After several Ayush students expressed concerns about NExT, the Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush met with BAMS/BHMS students to discuss the NCISM & NCH NExT exams.

The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) Act 2020 and National Commission for Homoeopathy



(NCH) Act 2020 took effect on June 11 and July 5, 2021. National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) Act 2020 and National Commission for Homoeopathy (NCH) Act 2020 mandate the Commissions to undertake the National Exit Test (NExT) within three years of enforcement. The Minister said we want a fair and transparent procedure while sustaining Ayush education and healthcare standards. In 2020, the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) introduced the NExT, an important exam. It evaluates Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Sowa-Rigpa graduates' clinical proficiency, medical ethical knowledge, and medicolegal skills. Minister announced the nationwide "Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan" campaign for citizen health and well-being in today's Press Conference. He stated that the Ministry of Ayush and the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine would lead the campaign.

## India wins two Chess Olympiad golds

Delhi: Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand joined India's sporting community in praising the men's and women's teams' historic gold medals at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the contingent, saying it symbolizes a new era in Indian sports. India's first win in both the Open and Women's divisions at the same Olympiad shows its expanding chess dominance. Anand, Modi, Hikaru Nakamura, and Rahul Gandhi congratulated the Indian chess team.

India's First Open Section Gold The Indian men's team, with top young chess players like Gukesh D, Praggnanandhaa R, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, and Pentala Harikrishna, won India's maiden Open gold. Srinath Narayanan, their captain, led them to important final-round wins and the top spot. Gukesh D's win over Vladimir Fedoseev and Arjun Erigaisi's win over Jan Subelj helped India overtake their



toughest competitors in the final matches. China losing crucial points against the US let India reach the top. India had to beat top teams like the USA, Poland, and Kazakhstan to win gold. However, their well-rounded squad and strategic brilliance helped them win the majority of their matches, finishing with 17 match points. Female Team Wins Golden Double The Indian women's team also won gold, boosting national pride. The team of Harika Dronavalli, Vaishali Rameshbabu, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal, and Tania Sachdev dominated the competition.

Harika Dronavalli defeated Gunay Mammadzada in the last round to help India beat Azerbaijan 3.5-0.5. The team tied Kazakhstan on 17

points after 10 games, but a great final performance and Kazakhstan's draw versus the USA in the last round gave them the win. Indian women's chess talent is shown by Harika and Vaishali's outstanding performances. The team's gold medal marks India's women chess players' international rise. The Future of Indian Chess India's 2024 Chess Olympiad double win will be remembered as a major chess victory. The players, trainers, and India's chess infrastructure deserve credit for the wins. This success follows Praggnanandhaa R's impressive performances against elite players and Gukesh D's ascent as a top emerging talent. Many more Indian chess players are poised for international stardom.

## CAPSULES

### CBSE issues show-cause notice to 27 institutions for norm violations

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued show-cause notices to 27 Delhi and Rajasthan institutions for violating its rules. Five Ajmer schools and 22 Delhi schools are involved. CBSE found multiple Bye-Law violations, mainly in enrollment and attendance, after surprise inspections. The Board stated that certain schools had enrolled more pupils in classes 11 and 12 despite not having them attend. Attendance gaps raised worries about schools' CBSE compliance. The inspections also found that several institutions were not meeting the Board's infrastructure criteria, which might affect education quality and student safety. CBSE's notification reaffirmed its commitment to educational standards and promised to constantly monitor schools to guarantee compliance.

### GST exemption for educational research grants

Delhi: The GST Council, led by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, declared tax exemption for research funding for higher education institutions and research institutes established under central or state laws and income tax-exempt organizations. At the meeting, the Centre proposed the change, which states accepted, with West Bengal first. After the meeting, Sitharaman told reporters that Prime Minister Narendra Modi questioned notices sent to seven institutions on research grants in light of the government's efforts to boost R&D by allocating funds for research through the budget and creating the National Research Foundation.

## As strict immigration regulations wreck Punjab students' Canada hopes, local colleges see enrollment rise

Delhi: With Canada's once-liberal immigration policies turning conservative, Punjab's prospective students have moved from IELTS coaching institutes and visa offices to the state's colleges and universities. Punjab's higher education institutions saw a sharp surge in admissions this year, with some courses shutting above 90%. With Canada cutting international student visas by 35% this year and 10% next year, the trend is expected to continue. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted on 'X' that "Immigration is an advan-



tage for our economy—but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack down." This year, 24 Punjabi University depart-

ments enrolled about 2,000 students in Bachelors and integrated studies, up from 1,700 in 2023. According to Panjab University, Chandigarh, admissions

increased by approximately 2,000 students in nine colleges. College principals and university officials attributed this sharp rise to students' inability to immigrate to Canada due to immigration policy changes that include no work permits for undergraduates and a higher Guaranteed Investment Certificate requirement that makes immigration more expensive. Additionally, Canadian housing is more expensive and scarce. Students usually study in Canada as undergraduates. Students cannot afford to travel overseas this year.

## 72 in top 100, all in top 10 AIR choose IIT Bombay

Delhi: The top 100 JEE (A) rankers chose IIT Bombay 72 times and Delhi 23 times. All 10 top rankers at the Powai campus have chosen computer science. IIT Madras reported that 179 of the top 500 chose IIT-B, 109 Delhi, and 69 Madras at the end of 2024-28 admissions. In Mumbai, 16 of the top 500 girls arrived, whereas IIT Kharagpur received no top-100 students. 72 of the top 100 JEE (Advanced) rankers chose IIT Bombay. A further 23 chose IIT Delhi, and two IIT Madras.



All 10 top JEE all-India rankers are enrolling at IIT-B Powai, increasing demand for computer science. At the end of 2024-28 admissions, 24 of the first 25 and 47 of the top 50 chose the college over other technology schools. Quality engineering education draws a large number of applicants to the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay computer science department each year. One in two JEE (Advanced) 2024 candidates listed IIT-B computer science as a top choice on their admission papers.

## Helping non-engineering students learn semiconductor technologies is important

Delhi: The semiconductor industry's growing need for skilled workers and India's commitment to initiatives like the Indian Semiconductor Mission have prompted several HEIs to teach non-engineering students semiconductor fabrication. The India

Semiconductor Association (ISA) estimates that the semiconductor industry might create 1.75 to 2 million direct and indirect jobs by 2025. In collaboration with Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), New Delhi, IIT Delhi, and Miranda House, DU, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi (DU), held the 'National Summer School & Workshop on Semiconductors: Hands-on Training for Undergraduates' to train BSc in Physics, Chemistry, Physical Sciences with Electronics students from Khalsa College, Acharya Narendra Dev College, Miranda House, Amity College, and Galgotias University. According to Pradeep Kumar Sharma, assistant professor of physics at

Shyam Lal College, semiconductor technology like layout design and manufacture require technical skill and knowledge of electronic circuits and electronics basics, among other engineering courses. Due to the growing requirement for qualified workers, non-engineering students must learn semiconductor technology. This will increase student interest, improve their CVs, and encourage them to pursue a profession or research in the field in their master's degrees. Several departments teach Semiconductor Physics, Diodes, and Transistors to science undergraduates. "The subjects are not offered in the industry-required format. Some semiconductor-related topics are offered in one department.

## Child pension accounts

Delhi: Parents can now plan for their children's long-term financial security, including retirement. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the NPS Vatsalya pension program for minors to implement the FY25 Budget. Over 250 minor subscribers received PRANS (permanent retirement account numbers) when the scheme debuted concurrently at 75 locations nationwide. FM stated NPS Vatsalya is a major milestone in the government's initiative to create long-term financial stability for all. The system protects subscribers' futures and promotes intergenerational equity by covering older and younger family members. "I encourage parents to bring cakes and other gifts to a child's birthday party, but also money to invest in NPS Vatsalya. Sitharaman claimed it will benefit the youngster forever.

## 1,700 more rooms were added to fight the problem, says the government



Delhi: The Delhi government has built roughly 1,700 rooms to northeast Delhi schools to address overcrowding, which students say is ongoing. Due to classroom space shortages, students in Khajoori Khas, Tukumirpur, and Yamuna Vihar are sitting in staff rooms, libraries, laboratories, and portable cabins. This is despite 30% of enrolled children not attending school regularly, experts claim.

A Delhi government official remarked, "High-enrollment schools in the city's densest neighborhood. With the opening of a Sri Ram Colony school,

Khajoori Khas is less stressed. Classes have been suspended in Tukumirpur while extra rooms are built. However, all pupils now attend school regularly." The source stated 37 local schools were built to accommodate extra kids. Nearly 1,700 rooms have been built for 37 institutions. Some schools have 'new' and 'ancient' building blocks on the same campus. He stated historic blocks coexist with new schools. Three schools in Yamuna Vihar, 152 in the new and old Khajoori Khas schools, 76 in two Tukumirpur schools, 81 in a Karawal Nagar school,

80 in Shahdara, and many more have added rooms, according to Delhi government figures. All Delhi governments since Independence had 24,000 classrooms in 2015. However, in nine years, we erected 22,711 citywide rooms "Source: Delhi government official. He continued, "The government has built new classrooms and improved educational infrastructure. As part of Delhi government school infrastructure expansion, 1,541 new rooms are being built." The Delhi High Court criticized the Delhi government's education department.