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

'Will make Centre accountable:' Patnaik hints end to outside support for NDA government

NEW DELHI: BJD chief and ex Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Monday exuded confidence that his party with 9 seats in the Rajya Sabha will be a "vibrant opposition" and press the Central govt to be more accountable on all issues. The BJD chief also pointed out that several demands of Odisha remain unmet, stressing the need for these to be addressed by the central government. The BJD's assertive position follows a decade of offering outside support to the BJP on various bills in the Rajya Sabha. However, this stance comes after the BJP and BJD snapped ties in March, just weeks before the elections started. Addressing the meeting, the BJD supremo Patnaik told his party colleagues to "be the voice of the 4.5 crore people of Odisha in Parliament." "We will be a very



strong and vibrant Opposition and will make the Centre accountable for all issues. The BJD MPs will raise all issues pertaining to the State's development and the welfare of the people of Odisha," he added. "Many just and rightful demands of Odisha haven't been met. We must ensure that those demands are met in right earnest by the Centre," he said. Key demands include Special Category Status for Odisha, due to frequent natural disasters, an issue BJD has pursued for years and which was

also part of the Odisha BJP's 2014 manifesto. The party also pointed out the poor condition and delays in National Highway projects in Odisha, particularly the Cuttack-Sambalpur National Highway, and criticized the decade-long inactivity on the coastal highway, which is crucial for economic development. "The condition of National Highways in Odisha is bad, with inordinate delays in work and poor maintenance being a major cause of concern. NH projects such as the Cuttack-Sambalpur

National Highway are causing great pain to the people. Work has not started on the coastal highway for the past 10 years," said the party in the statement. The Party also touched on the proposed Odisha Capital region ring road near Bhubaneswar. "Proposals to build more than 15 lakh houses were blocked over the past 10 years. The party is going to demand at least 20 lakh Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana houses," said the regional party. The BJD also aims to push for AIIMS facilities in Sambalpur, Koraput, and Balasore, alongside initiatives like IT parks, semiconductor parks, textiles parks, and industrial corridors to boost employment for Odisha's youth.

(with input from agencies)

T20 World Cup: Rohit Sharma shines as India beat Australia to enter semis

NEW DELHI: Indian skipper Rohit Sharma led his team to a convincing 24-run victory over Australia in their final Super Eights match of the T20 World Cup on Monday. Rohit's scintillating 92 off just 41 deliveries propelled India to a formidable total of 205 for five, after Australia had won the toss and elected to field on a batting-friendly surface. Australia, facing the prospect of an early exit from the tournament, showcased their characteristic resilience during the run chase. Skipper Mitchell Marsh, who had rediscovered his form, contributed a valuable 37 off 28 balls, while Travis Head, who had previously tormented India in the ODI World Cup final last year, played a blistering knock of 76 off 43 deliveries. However, the Indian bowling trio of Kuldeep Yadav (2/24), Jasprit Bumrah (1/29), and Arshdeep Singh (3/37) rose to



No pretence of bonhomie, session kicks off amid hostility

NEW DELHI: The divide between the treasury and the opposition benches in the 18th Lok Sabha went beyond seat-arrangements to appear like battlelines drawn on the first day of the new House. INDIA bloc kicked off the day with a protest in the Parliament complex.

the occasion, effectively containing the Australian batsmen and restricting them to 181 for seven. India's victory secured their position as the top team in their group. With their second defeat in three matches, Australia's

Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, K C Venugopal, and Trinamool MPs like Mahua Moitra, DMK's Kanimozhi and T R Baalu, N K Premachandran, Rajkumar Roat and others, held up red-covered copies of the Constitution and led rounds of lusty.

fate now rests in the hands of Afghanistan, who are set to face Bangladesh later on Monday. The outcome of that game will determine which team claims the second semifinal spot from Group 1. alongside India.

Elon Musk welcomes his 12th child

Tesla CEO Elon Musk, widely known for his concerns about population decline, recently welcomed his twelfth child, according to a Bloomberg report. The baby's mother is Shivon Zilis, director of special projects at Musk's brain-implant company Neuralink. The name and sex of the new baby have not been revealed yet. His latest child was first revealed in a Bloomberg article published Friday and titled, "Elon Wants You to Have More Babies," focusing on his obsession with birth rates. While the news surprised the public, Musk insists the birth wasn't a secret. In a statement to Page Six Musk that a press release would have been unusual, and close friends and family are aware.

Opposition makes its intent clear with 'save democracy' march



NEW DELHI: The INDIA bloc of opposition parties made their intent clear on the very first day of the 18th Lok Sabha on Monday by marching from the old Parliament building gate towards the new Parliament House holding copies of the Constitution and chanting slogans of "save democracy" and "long live Constitution". Opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party MP Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress's Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's T R Baalu, among others, assembled at the spot where the Gandhi statue once stood in the Parliament complex. Rahul said they (opposition) would not allow the Constitution to be "attacked" by PM Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah. "This attack is not acceptable to us and that is why we held the Constitution and took oath," he said. "Our message is reaching the public and no power can touch the Constitution and we will protect it," he added. The Gandhi statue, which was the favourite protest site for opposition MPs, was recently relocated along with 14 other statues that dotted the complex, to a new spot in the Parliament complex named Prerna Sthal. Several opposition parties said the mandate of the Lok Sabha elections was against the BJP, even though it was able to form government with support of other parties. The INDIA bloc has claimed that the results showed the people have backed opposition parties to "save the Constitution". In the House, Rahul Gandhi.

Wikileaks founder Julian to plead guilty in deal with US authorities

NEW DELHI: Founder of Wikileaks Julian Assange, has agreed to admit guilt to a felony charge in an agreement with the US Justice Department, according to court documents submitted on Monday night. This plea deal is set to bring an end to a protracted legal battle that involved multiple countries and focused on the



release of classified Western Pacific, to plead guilty to conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defense information under the Espionage Act. The guilty plea,

pending a judge's approval, marks a sudden end to a criminal case that garnered international attention. Assange's widely popular website, which shared secrets, made him a celebrated figure among many advocates of press freedom who argued that he acted as a journalist to uncover US military misconduct.

Big fat Indian wedding drives \$130 billion industry, average spend

NEW DELHI: The Indian wedding industry at \$130 billion ranks second only to food and grocery, and is a significant driver of discretionary consumption, says a new report, highlighting the enormous economic impact of the event across sectors. The Indian wedding market is twice the size of the US market but smaller than China, said the report by investment banking



and capital market firm Jefferies. The overall size of the industry was based on various available numbers and the report was prepared after visiting various hubs that cater to the industry. It estimated

that the average expenditure on a wedding is around \$15,000, or Rs 12.5 lakh, and an average Indian couple spends approximately twice on weddings compared to education (pre-primary to graduation) - a sharp contrast to countries such as the US, where the spend is less than half that of education. The numbers suggest that the average spend on a wedding.

Sena (UBT) wants 50% quota for Marathis in new buildings

MUMBAI: Months ahead of assembly elections, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab submitted a private member's bill to the legislative council seeking 50% reservation for Marathi-speaking people in new residential buildings in Mumbai. The bill, awaiting the deputy chairman's approval for tabling in the House, has pushed for a penalty of Rs 10 lakh and/or a jail term of up to six months on the developer for failing to provide such a quota. Sena (UBT) has nine legislators in the 288-seat assembly. MVA, the opposition bloc, has 75 members in the assembly and 29 in the council, while



Mahayuti, the govt alliance, has 212 members in the former and 28 in the latter. The bill may be tabled during the course of the monsoon session of the legislature, which begins on Thursday. Parab alleged that "multiple instances" of Marathi-speaking people being denied housing under pretext of food preferences or religion had prompted him to submit the bill. "Any discrimination based on religion or food preferences is unconstitutional."

or tweaks in an existing statute.

GST made household goods cheaper, helped poor save: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that his govt is committed to moving ahead on the reforms path to "transform people's lives" and pointed to the introduction of goods and services tax (GST) helping lower prices of commodities. "For us, reforms are a means to improve the lives of 140 crore Indians. After the introduction of GST, goods for household use have become much cheaper. This has resulted in significant savings for the poor."

Muslims with Kunbi certs too should get OBC quota: Jarange

CHHATRAPATI SAMBAHAJINAGAR: Adding a fresh twist to the Maratha-OBC quota issue, Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange on Sunday said Muslims and other community members, including Brahmmins, who have Kunbi records should get OBC quota. "Benefits, like Marathas. The statement comes at a time the state govt is trying to appease Marathas by providing those with Kunbi records OBC quota, while OBC activists are up in arms demanding that OBC quota shouldn't be disturbed. This is likely to add a fresh challenge to Mahayuti govt as BJP has consistently opposed quota for minorities, while its partner Ajit Pawar-led NCP has been backing quota for Muslims in

Sebi probes Quant mutual fund over front-running by employees

MUMBAI: Sebi has launched an investigation into possible front-running by Quant Mutual Fund employees after the markets regulator's surveillance system flagged suspicious activities. Front-running refers to an illegal practice in the stock market where an entity trades on the basis of advance information from a broker or analyst before the information has been made available to their clients. Sebi is understood to have conducted search operations at Quant's offices in Mumbai and Hyderabad. After reports of search operations, several stocks in the mutual fund's portfolio ended lower on Monday. RBL Bank closed 2.6% lower while Nalco was down 2%. Quant MF is one of the fastest-growing mutual funds, with over Rs

84,000 crore in assets under management as of May 31. The company's small-cap funds top the industry in performance with 31% returns in five years. Sebi probes Quant MF over front-running by employees. Market surveillance tools typically help detect front-running in stocks by continuously monitoring trading patterns and analysing order timing to identify suspicious activities. They compare employee trades to client orders, flagging those that consistently precede large client transactions. These tools also analyse profitability, looking for unusually high trade profits before significant market movements. Quant MF, in a communique to shareholders, confirmed the inquiry from Sebi. "Recently, Quant MF has received inquiries.

Public awareness fortnight against drug abuse and illegal trafficking held

Prayagraj: Public awareness fortnight against drug abuse and illegal trafficking was celebrated in the community center of IFFCO Ghyanagar Phulpur and all the employees were administered oath to prevent it. The chief guest in the program was Ajay Kumar, Assistant Director of Narcotics Control Bureau Regional Unit, Gorakhpur. He said that the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to observe the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking every year on 26 June 1988. In 1994, the United Nations decided to celebrate Narcotics Control Week from 20th to 26th June to create awareness about



it, but considering its importance, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India celebrates Narcotics Control Fortnight from 12th June to 26th June. He

said that narcotic drugs can affect our body and brain as well as the central nervous system to any level. We consider heroin, hashish, ganja, cocaine as narcotics drugs. He highlighted the reasons for drug consumption like depressive conditions, social exclusion or loneliness, health related misconceptions, bad habit & friend circle etc. It also has some symptoms like redness of eyes, weight loss, lack of concentration, change in nature etc. Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia said that all of us are committed to this campaign of the Government of India to stop drug addiction. During this time, a short film was also

shown to create awareness about it. The program was conducted by Sharad Agnihotri and vote of thanks was given by Rekha Mishra. During this, GMS respectively Sanjay Vaish, M.D. Mishra, A.P. Rajendran, JGMs respectively Anita Mishra, P.K. Singh, Sanjay Bhandari, P.K. Patel, Arun Kumar, Arvendra Kumar, HOD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, IFFCO Officers Association General Secretary Swayam Prakash and a large number IFFCO employees were present in the program. Apart from this, children of Kendriya Vidyalaya were also administered an oath to prevent narcotics drugs.

BJP will celebrate the black day of emergency today

Prayagraj: Indian people The party will observe the most tragic and darkest chapter of Indian democracy and politics, the 50th anniversary of the Emergency Day of 25 June 1975, as Black Day today on 25th June at 5:30 pm under the leadership of BJP Metropolitan President Rajendra Mishra at Prayagraj Metropolitan Civil Lines Office. And will organize the seminar. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that during the emergency, those democracy fighters who have endured the tortures given by immediate Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the emergency, the chief guest of the program will be the Minister of State for Independent Department Dayashankar Mishra Dayalu Guru. Will be honored and saplings will be distributed to the party workers under the ongoing program 'Ek Vriksha Maa Ke Name Sapling Plantation Campaign' scheduled by the party.

Lord Jagannath ji consumed Jaljeera

Prayagraj: Lord Jagannath ji fell ill due to heatstroke at Arya Bhawan Zero Road Rest Home by Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust. Trust minister Gagan Das Gupta offered moong khichdi in the morning and jaljeera in the evening and symbolic aarti was performed. Rath Yatra co-coordinator Rajesh Kesarwani told that Lord Jagannath ji, who was ill for 15 days, will be examined daily by the doctor and health check-up will be done. Food offerings will be offered according to their health.

Noose tightened on cyber criminals in Prayagraj, over 6K mobile numbers blocked

Prayagraj: With a view to tightening noose on cyber criminals, the cyber cell of the Prayagraj police is getting their mobile numbers blocked and bank accounts seized. "In the last six months, the cyber cell has got 6,414 mobile numbers used by cyber fraudsters blocked. Also, over a dozen cyber criminals have been held during the said period," said additional DCP, crime, Satish Chandra. These fraudsters were based in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Delhi, he added. They were targeting bank customers using these numbers, the cop said.

Moreover, cyber cell has also taken action on bank accounts used by the cyber criminals. The investigation so far has revealed that around 574 bank accounts are run by cyber fraudsters in which cash of fraud victims are transferred. Cyber cell in-charge Vinod Yadav said in the first phase, 49 bank accounts had been seized while letters were being forwarded to concerned bank authorities to seize other bank accounts as well. "Efforts are being made not only to seize these bank accounts but also get the cash returned to the victims," he added. Meanwhile, police investigation has revealed that cyber criminals are now taking bank, ATM cards and passbooks details of the poor and labourers and are using their accounts for transferring cash of fraud victims.

High-quality Prayagraj mangoes now heading to UAE, Oman

Prayagraj: The mango production in Prayagraj region has got a boost due to the new bagging technique introduced in the mango orchards with the help of the state horticulture department. Officials from the horticulture department informed that with the increase in the production, mango growers can anticipate improved earnings from their harvests this year. The fruits now meet international standards and have found buyers in UAE and Oman.

"The mango yield of farmers in Prayagraj region has witnessed a significant increase of 1.5 to 2 times compared to previous years. This is due to the new technique that not only safeguards the fruit from extreme heat, strong winds and dust but also effectively combats insects and pest infestations and ensure the fruit meets export standards," said deputy director of horticulture at Prayagraj Krishna Mohan Chaudhary.

Earlier, the farmers were facing challenges like smaller and sunburnt fruits that developed black patches that put them out of the export market. Moreover, harsh winds and heat also damaged their produce. Therefore, we assisted them by introducing them to the bagging technique using

special bags having wax paper insides, he added.

Chaudhary said that mango cultivation is being done in a total of 2100 hectares in the Prayagraj division. "For the first time, more than 1.10 lakh fruit bags were tied on mango fruits at the end of April when the size of the fruits were around 50 grams," he added.

Andhra Pradesh company Fruit Tech provided these fruit bags. The price of one bag was Rs. 2.75. This bagging was done on mango fruits with the cooperation of the horticulture department and a mango exporting company which has brought significant results. This new technique has helped the region generate a yield of 50,000 tonnes of Chausa and Dussehri mangoes in Prayagraj division, he said.

These high-quality mangoes are now also being exported to Dubai in United Arab Emirates and Salalah in Sultanate of Oman by MICE Overseas Private Ltd, the official shared.

The largest belt of mango cultivation in Prayagraj division is in Pratapgarh district where mangoes are being grown in 1100 hectares. In Prayagraj, mangoes are cultivated in 600 hectares. This year, 16,000 tons of mangoes have been harvested

in Pratapgarh, 11,000 tons in Kaushambi and 10,000 tons in Prayagraj till the first week of June, officials said.

The mangoes cultivated in this region were previously distributed solely to neighboring districts. However, this season, the mango harvest is being shipped overseas as it meets the required export criteria. The current market value of the produce is 1.5 to 2 times higher than last year, attributed to the improved health and quality of the fruits.

"The mango cultivation in the region till now were solely distributed to neighbouring districts, but this season, the harvest is being shipped overseas as it meets the export standards. The current market value of the produce is 1.5 to 2 times higher than last year as the fruits are healthier and of better quality," said Kamlesh Master, a mango cultivator from Manikpur in Kunda tehsil of Pratapgarh district.

"Due to bagging technique, the period of survival of the fruits on the trees and post-harvest has also increased and they saved the fruit from unnecessary exposure to pesticides as well. All this has helped us in getting better prices for the mangoes too," said Mango orchard owner Sandeep, a resident of Hathigawan in Pratapgarh district.

District Mahila Vyapar Mandal conducted training camps for women prisoners

Prayagraj: District Mahila Vyapar Mandal organized a training session in Naini Central Jail today. Under the supervision of Deputy Jailor Shri Ram Singh and Dariksha Madam, women prisoners

were taught to make paper bags and paper envelopes. This initiative aims to increase employment among the most deprived section of the society by providing employable skills to the prisoners within the prison. This is the second project of District Mahila Vyapar Mandal whose objective is to empower women prisoners. The first project involved teaching prisoners to sew cloth bags, which can be used as shopping bags by different sections of the society. District President Avantika Tandon, General

Secretary Mrs. Pallavi Arora, Vice President Mrs. Hena Khan, Heartfulness Trainer Mrs. Radha Saxena and President of Women Teachers Association, Mrs. Anuragini Singh together gave shape to this program.

Senior Vice President Shiva's Hina Khan asked to take this step forward more vigorously to empower women. Mrs. Radha Saxena and Mrs. Anuragini Singh taught the women prisoners how to make bags in a very simple



District President Mrs. Avantika Tandon said that we are making fancy paper bags along with cloth bags. General Secretary Mrs. Pallavi Arora said that women Bandhiya will also be paid at the rate of per bag.

way. The women prisoners enthusiastically participated in this camp. In this training camp, Mr. Gurucharan Arora (Channi Bhaiya) of Pankaj Traders made bags in the jail. Instead of clothes, I presented my own gifts.

Max Hospital, Lucknow Launches Specialised OPD Services in Azamgarh

Azamgarh: Max Super Speciality Hospital, Lucknow, today announced the launch of their multi-speciality OPD services for cardiac Surgery and nephrology specialities in Azamgarh. This strategic initiative seeks to address the cardiac care needs of Azamgarh and its neighboring areas. The comprehensive services include preventive cardiology, early disease detection, chronic condition management, and tailored rehabilitation programs aimed at promoting heart health and recovery.

Dr. Vishal Srivastava, a Senior Consultant in Cardio Thoracic Vascular Surgery at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Lucknow with over 27 years of experience will be available for consultations every Fourth Saturday of the month at Vedanta Hospital from 11 am to 3 pm. Dr. Santosh Kumar, Senior Consultant Nephrologist & Kidney Transplant Physician at Max Super

Speciality Hospital, Lucknow with over 15 Years of Experience will be available for consultations every second and fourth Saturday of the month at Global Hospital from 11 am to 2 pm.

Addressing the media, Dr. Vishal Srivastava emphasised the importance of accessible cardiac care. "Our new Cardiac Surgery OPD in Azamgarh is dedicated to delivering state-of-the-art cardiac care. Our mission is to make specialised heart treatments accessible, ensuring better health outcomes for our community." Adding, Dr Santosh Kumar said through our specialised OPD services, we aim to offer comprehensive care for patients, ensuring they receive the necessary treatments and support without the need to travel far.

"Early diagnosis is crucial in managing conditions like chronic kidney disease, and our regular consultations will help in timely intervention and better patient outcomes," he said.

This initiative by Max Hospital, Lucknow, reaffirms their commitment to extending advanced cardiac care beyond their primary

facilities, enhancing the well-being of residents in Uttar Pradesh. By leveraging their expertise and resources, they aim to make a significant impact on heart health in the region.

About Max Healthcare: Max Healthcare Institute Limited (Max Healthcare) is

one of India's largest healthcare organizations. It is committed to the highest standards of clinical excellence and patient care, supported by latest technology and cutting-edge research.

managed healthcare facilities, which includes state-of-the-art tertiary and quaternary care hospitals located at Saket (3 hospitals), Patparganj, Vaishali, Rajendra Place, and Shalimar Bagh in Delhi NCR and one each in Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Mohali, Bathinda and Dehradun, secondary care hospital in Gurgaon and medical centres at Noida, Lajpat Nagar (2 centres) and Panchsheel Park in Delhi NCR, and one in Mohali, Punjab. The hospitals in Mohali and Bathinda are under PPP arrangement with the Government of Punjab.

In addition to the hospitals, Max Healthcare operates 19 healthcare facilities (4,000+ beds) with a significant presence in North India. The network consists of all the hospitals and medical centres owned and operated by the Company and its subsidiaries, partner healthcare facilities and



Mahakumbh 2025: Transit hostels being constructed for cops in Prayagraj zone

Prayagraj: As part of the preparations for Mahakumbh-2025, transit hostels for policemen are being constructed at Prayagraj and adjoining districts. The construction of these hostels will cost Rs. 81.33 crores and cops doing duty at the mela religious fair will reside in these hostels equipped with all basic amenities. The construction of these hostels will be completed before Mahakumbh. These hostels

would help do away with the problem of lodging facility for cops on mela duty, police officials said. "A proposal of Rs. 81.33 crore has been cleared for construction of transit hostels and barracks at Prayagraj and adjoining districts of Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot and police stations on way to fourth battalion PAC. A proposal of Rs. 81.33 crores has been approved for the purpose," ADG (zone)

Bhanu Bhaskar said.

A transit hostel is also under construction at the Prayagraj police lines where a room with a kitchen will be available for policemen. So far rooms were only available for senior police officials at the guest house at the police lines. Transit hostels are also being constructed at Sandeepan Ghat police station of Kaushambi and at Pratapgarh police lines, where 112 cops each could put up.

OPPO Unveils A3 Pro: Sets a New Benchmark for Extreme Durability and Quality

Varanasi: OPPO India announced the launch of the OPPO A3 Pro which is engineered for all-around endurance and boasts a stunning premium design. The new A-series smartphone features a Damage-proof All-Round Armour Body for drop and impact resistance, IP54 certification for water and dust resistance and Splash Touch technology for use with wet hands. It boasts additional features like a

120Hz Ultra Bright Display, AI LinkBoost, AI Eraser, and a large 5,100mAh Hyper Energy Battery with over a four-year lifespan plus 45W SUPERVOOCTM Flash Charge. Extreme Reliability and Durability: The OPPO A3 Pro's Damage-proof All-Round Armour Body features a new reinforced internal structure and a suite of drop-resistant materials like Blue Glass double tempered glass for the screen cover that en-

sure the phone can withstand most everyday drops and impacts. Key components inside the phone are also cushioned with a Biomimetic Sponge for shock absorption. In recognition of its extreme ruggedness, the A3 Pro has received SGS Drop-Resistance Certification (Standard) and SGS Military Standard Certification. For even greater protection against accidental drops, the OPPO A3 Pro

comes with a newly designed Anti-Drop Shield Case in the box. In tests conducted at OPPO labs, the device survived 450 rotations in a tumble drum to demonstrate a 200% increase in protection compared to when it is without the case. Further to this, OPPO's Splash Touch feature makes it possible to use the phone with wet hands. This technology is based on an advanced touch-detection algorithm within the

touch chip to improve touch accuracy and responsiveness when the screen is wet. It allows users to continue operating the phone while cooking, immediately after getting out of the shower, or in virtually any other situation in which their hands may be wet. The OPPO A3 Pro is rated IP54 for water and dust resistance, which means it can withstand everyday splashes and dust, and has been tested in OPPO Labs to work perfectly

after being exposed to rain for 10 minutes.

The OPPO A3 Pro not only boasts durability but also maintains a sleek (7.68mm) and lightweight (186g) design. The smartphone-available in Moonlight Purple and Starry Black-features a premium, glossy middle frame design and a rectangular camera module on the back cover to exude a sophisticated look. The Moonlight Purple variant employs

OPPO's Magnetic Particle Design to create a dynamic flowing texture against its dark purple back cover, while the Starry Black model sports a matte texture that has undergone the iconic OPPO Glow process. Best-in-Class Entertainment: A standout feature of the OPPO A3 Pro is its new 120Hz Ultra Bright Display, which reaches a maximum brightness of 1,000nits in sunlight. The standard brightness can be manually

adjusted to 850nits, making this mobile phone's screen the brightest in the under INR 20K category. The 6.67-inch screen offers one of the clearest and smoothest viewing experiences among smartphones in its price range. It also comes with a 180Hz touch response (120Hz default) that makes it ideal for casual gaming, complete with an immersive visual experience that brings games to life with stunning clarity and fluid motion.

{RO/ARO PAPER LEAK} STF arrests six more, including printing press employee

PRAYAGRAJ: Uttar Pradesh STF on Sunday arrested six more accused, including a printing press employee, in connection with the UPPSC Review Officer/Assistant Review Officer (Preliminary) Examination-2023 paper leak. The mastermind, Rajiv Nayan Mishra, along with other members of the gang, are already behind bars. The accused had obtained the examination paper from the printing press, STF officials said.

It is worth mentioning that an FIR was registered in this connection at Civil Lines police station on the complaint of UPPSC officials on March 4 this year, and the examination was subsequently canceled.

The investigation was handed over to UP STF.

STF officials said six members of the gang were arrested near Parade Ground on Sunday. They were identified as Sunil Raghuvanshi of Bhopal, Subhash Prakash of Madhubani, Vishal Dubey, Sandeep Pandey of Prayagraj, Amarjeet Sharma of Gaya, and Vivek Upadhyay of Balia district. A laptop, six mobile phones, some educational documents, and blank cheques were recovered from them, they said.

STF officials said that prima facie evidence revealed that the question papers for the RO/ARO examination were leaked from the examination centre at

Bishop Johnson Girls Wing, School staff member Arpit Vinit Yashwant provided the question papers to the gang. He scanned the question papers before the start of the examination at around 6:30 am and sent to Rajiv Nayan and Kamlesh Kumar Pal via WhatsApp.

Following investigations, the STF team arrested other members of the gang, including Rajiv Nayan Mishra of Meja area in Prayagraj, Saurabh Shukla of Pratapgarh, Arun Kumar Singh of Chunar, Amit Singh of Gonda, Arpit Vinit Yashwant of Cantt in Prayagraj, Abhishek Shukla of Lucknow, Kamlesh Kumar Pal of Jhansi in Prayagraj, Ravi Atri of

Gautam Buddh Nagar, and Vikram Pahal of Haryana.

However, STF officials later discovered that in addition to leaking the question papers from the examination centre at Bishop Johnson Girls Wing, the question papers were also leaked from the printing press in Bhopal where they were printed.

Rajiv Nayan Mishra, Subhash Prakash, Vishal Dubey, and printing press employee Sunil Raghuvanshi had studied in private colleges in Bhopal from 2014 to 2017. They planned to earn hefty sums by leaking question papers of different examinations printed at the press.

Sunil Raghuvanshi alerted his accomplices

when the RO/ARO question papers were sent for printing in Bhopal. One question paper contained 140 questions, while the other had 40. However, Sunil demanded ₹10 lakh for leaking the papers. He also insisted that aspirants read the question papers in front of him, as he did not want the papers to go viral.

Sunil stole a copy of the question paper under the pretext of repairing the printing machine. As per the plan, the gang members assembled at a hotel on February 8, where aspirants were asked to learn the questions. They were given the question papers in exchange for Rs.12 lakh each. Subhash Prakash, who had himself appeared for the

RO/ARO examination, helped the aspirants solve the question papers. Subhash Prakash even clicked photographs of the question papers and sent them to other gang members. Rajiv Nayan Mishra, in a bid to earn more money, sent the question papers to Sharad Patel, Amit Singh, Arun Kumar, Ravi Atri, and others, following which the question papers went viral on social media platforms.

Further investigations have revealed that Rajiv Nayan Mishra's close aide, Shivani, who used to keep details of cash transactions, is still at large. STF officials further said the role of the principal and manager of Bishop Johnson Girls Wing was also under scrutiny.

Matter resolved due to wisdom of police station in-charge

Prayagraj: Niaz son of Munir Ahmed and Naushad son of Abdul Jabbar jointly purchased a house in Pura Daleel Allahpur Prayagraj in September 2023 from Savitri Devi resident of 337A Pura Daleel Allahpur Prayagraj, whose filing is also rejected for the above mentioned house. Vijay Kumar Saroj, son of Roshan Lal, who lives in the neighborhood, is a government employee in the court. He used to threaten Niaz and Naushad every day that they should vacate the above house, the house is mine. During the summer holidays, the family of Niaz and Naushad had gone back to the village. 13 On coming back in June, they saw that Vijay Kumar Saroj had locked their house. When asked, he abused both of them and chased them away from the house. Both the families were forced to stumble from door to door and after getting tired, prayed for their problem. On giving the letter to Outpost Incharge Allapur and Police Station Incharge Investigation Town Prayagraj, Station Incharge Investigation Town Rajeev Kumar Srivastava and Outpost Incharge Vipin Verma called both the victim and the accused at the police station on June 24 and reached the spot to make a compromise and made the situation right. And while giving instructions to Vijay Kumar Saroj, he said that whatever process is done, it should be done in a legal manner, if the house is yours then go to the court, if you do this type of act then the law will take its course, do not misuse your position, please use the wisdom of the police station in-charge and outpost in-charge. The family, which had been living in fear since June 13, got its own roof. Both Niaz and Naushad work as barbers and run their family by collecting every penny.

Second Consecutive Victory for Uttar Pradesh, Beats Delhi by 3-0 PEFI Under-17 National Football Championship

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh defeated Delhi by 3-0 in its second league match in the Under-17 National Football Competition being organized by Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI) in Bardhaman University, West Bengal.

According to the Head Coach of the Uttar Pradesh team, Indranil Ghosh, Uttar Pradesh team had taken a 1-0 lead in the first half of the match. The first goal of the match was scored by Shivam Yadav. At half time Uttar Pradesh was ahead by one goal.

In the second half of the game, the midfielders of Uttar Pradesh performed well and made many good moves on the opposition team Delhi, which gave them the advantage in the form of the second goal at the 62nd minute when a penalty was given by the referee due to hand ball by the opponent team defender, Alok Kumar prajapati scored the goal from

penalty to give Uttar Pradesh lead by 2-0. After this, the Uttar Pradesh team completely dominated the match. On the 76th minute, Uttar Pradesh's midfielder vaibhav manishi scored a goal and gave the team a decisive lead of 3-0. Alok Kumar Prajapati received the Player of the Match award. Uttar Pradesh team was as follows: Shivam Yadav, Prashant Pal, Ashwini Tomar, Tejaswa Tomar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Vaibhav Manishi (all Meerut), Alok Kumar Prajapati, Priyaansu Verma (both Lucknow), Rahul Chandna, Shivam Saroj, Vedant Tripathi, Mayank Maurya, Shrestha Maurya (all Prayagraj), Satyanshu (Ambekar Nagar), Ankush Singh (Agra), Siddharth Singh (Basti), Shreyans Chowksey (Varanasi). Head Coach - Indranil Ghosh (Prayagraj). Team Manager - Dr. Dinesh Singh Yadav (Agra).



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ABVP to Launch "Parisar Chalo Abhiyan" Nationwide; "Parisar Chalo Rath"

Prayagraj: The National Executive Council meeting of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) was held in Surat from June 7-9, during which the ABVP made important decisions on various subjects. Resolutions were passed on five major topics: addressing mismanagement of examinations and institutional evaluations, prioritizing the effective implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, campaigning for the creation of modern infrastructure and financial support in educational institutions, encouraging youth participation in a developed India, and meeting public expectations from the newly elected Government of India.

In response to irregularities in NEET and NET examinations conducted by the NTA, ABVP members from all districts and major educational institutions across India held nationwide demonstrations. ABVP



Kashi has set a target of enrolling over 5 lakh members, and through the 'Parisar Chalo Rath' initiative, students in all districts of Kashi will be encouraged to engage with their campuses. The attendance rate of students in campuses has been continuously decreasing. To address this, the Vidyarthi Parishad will launch the "Parisar Chalo Abhiyan" across the coun-

try, completing the campaign in two phases. This initiative aims to ensure the participation of students and other stakeholders in the education sector.

At a press conference held at Patrakar Sangh Bhawan in Town Hall, Varanasi today, ABVP Kashi's State Secretary Shri Abhay Pratap Singh stated, "The Vidyarthi Parishad is dedicated to positive

change in the country's education sector through continuous constructive efforts. At the National Executive Council meeting, we discussed necessary reforms, whether in infrastructure, curriculum, or the establishment of new educational institutions. As a responsible student organization, the Vidyarthi Parishad will act promptly on these issues." He further added, "The

Vidyarthi Parishad has demonstrated across the country regarding allegations of irregularities in the NEET-UG and NET examinations conducted by the NTA. We have long demanded that 'there should be no compromise with transparency in any examination.' Last evening, in response to our demand, a decision was made to conduct a CBI inquiry into the NEET exam. ABVP welcomes this decision and maintains that educational irregularities are never acceptable. We will continue to fight vigorously for students' rights until these issues are resolved."

ABVP's State Secretary Shri Abhay Pratap Singh, National Executive Member Payal Rai, State Joint Secretary Naman, State Media Convener Abhinav Mishra, and State Media Co-convenor Sakshi Pandey were present during the Press Conference.

2nd annivv of Triveni Sangam Seva Samiti Maheva celebrated

Prayagraj: The second anniversary of Triveni Sangam Seva Samiti was celebrated with great joy at Lagan Bihar Guest House Maheva! Chief guest of the program Mr. Rinku Nishad ji Honor Lagan Bihar The guest house started after worshipping Goddess Saraswati and lighting the lamp by Bharat Petrol Pump and chanting conch shell by Acharya. On this occasion, the chief guest said that the work of the committee for marriage of girls from very poor families of the entire society is very commendable. He said that helping the exploited and helpless people of the society is a true human service. He further said that Triveni Sangam is my family. Whenever I am needed, I will always be ready as a social worker! Officials from other organizations, journalists and social workers were honored by the chief guest



and other senior social workers by presenting them with clothes, flowers, garlands and mementos! Founding Secretary Dinesh Yadav said that The Samiti is always ready to help the poor, weak, helpless and

disabled people of the society. On 12th April 2024, with the help of joint organizations, the marriage of 15 girls of all castes was solemnized in a divine and grand manner! On 26th February 2025, Once again

a pledge was taken for the marriage of 21 girls. The program was conducted by senior patron of the committee Mr. Santosh Tiwari and secretary Dinesh Yadav. Chief patron of the committee, Swaminarayan

Tripathi was present to announce the closing ceremony after the national anthem. On this auspicious occasion, Santosh Tiwari, Chandrabhan Singh, Anil Jaiswal, Brijesh Bharatiya, Rajesh Yadav, Vijay Rawat, Pradeep Bharatiya, Juh Saxena, Sanjeev Saxena, Preeti Ashok Sonkar, Rakhi Srivastava, Vindu Srivastava, Mukta Srivastava, Gaurav Srivastava, Mamta Srivastava, Vishal, Mohit, Rohit, Tarjan Kumar, Saroj Jaiswal, Sunita Jaiswal, Pooja Jogi, Sachin, Gupta, Sumit Kesarwani, Renu Srivastava, Naem, Vinayak Yadav, Yuvraj Singh, Bhagwat Kushwaha, Ram Prakash Mishra, Shyamala Yadav, Soni Yadav, Pradeep Tent, Abhilash Kranti, Nasar Ahmed, Sumit, Rohit, Bipin, Sagar, Anand, Virendra, Akhilesh Srivastava, Rajul Yadav, Ravi Yadav, etc.

Minority Cong expressed gratitude to Muslims, Dalits and backward classes

Prayagraj: Minority Congress City President Arshad Ali has expressed gratitude to the public for the support received by the India Alliance in Uttar Pradesh in the Lok Sabha elections. He expressed

hope that mid-term elections can be held any time in which the success figures will be further improved and the India Coalition government will be formed at the Centre. Addressing the press conference, City President Arshad Ali said that this is from the post poll survey of CSDS and Lokniti. It has become clear that the India Alliance has got the outright votes of Muslims. At the same time, a large section of backward, extremely backward and Dalits were also with the Indian alli-

ance. For this, the Minority Congress expresses special gratitude to these sections. He said that the survey also revealed that 80 percent of the upper caste votes went with the BJP and only 16 percent of the upper caste

votes went to the Indian Alliance. This is a matter of concern for the country and the India alliance. A major reason for this could be the lack of reach of India Alliance issues in this society. Congress is seriously considering developing new faces in the upper caste

community. So that from now on, the entire vote of the upper caste community can be taken by the Indian alliance and the Congress. He said that the minority Congress will campaign in the coming days on the



agenda of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi on social justice, caste census, removal of 50 percent restriction on reservation. On this occasion, City Vice President Talib Ahmed, Haji Sartaj, Mukhtar Ahmed, Mohd Hasin, Zahid Neta, Ghulam Waris, Bilal Khan, etc.

Tarun Gaba takes over as Prayagraj police commissioner

Prayagraj: Senior IPS officer Tarun Gaba took charge as commissioner of police, Prayagraj, on Monday. Gaba is the second commissioner of Prayagraj. The first police commissioner, Ramit Sharma, has been transferred as ADG Zone, Bareilly. Hailing from Chandigarh, Gaba is a 2001 batch IPS officer and has served with the CBI. After taking charge, Gaba met with his subordinates besides holding a formal meeting with former police commissioner Ramit Sharma.

The new police commissioner met the

DCPs and ACPs posted in Prayagraj and took information about the working of the police in the commissionerate. Gaba, who has also served as home secretary, has been transferred just ahead of the upcoming Mahakumbh-2025. Issuing necessary instructions to the subordinates, Tarun Gaba said that strengthening law and order will be his priority. Additional commissioner of police N Kolanchi, DCP trans-Yamuna Shradha Narendra Pandey, DCP trans-Ganga Abhishek Bharti and other senior police officials were present at the meeting.

Now, spl progs for overall dev of adolescent girl students at govt secondary schools in UP

Prayagraj: Special programmes like seminars, lectures, meetings and health events will be organised specially for adolescent girls studying in 2,262 government-run secondary schools spread across Uttar Pradesh. The Department of School Education and Literacy of the union ministry of education has approved Rs. 2.26 crore for the implementation of

this programme under the annual action plan and budget for year 2024-25 of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in UP, said officials of the state secondary education department.

The objective of these special programmes will be the overall development of girls aged 11 to 18 years, assisting adolescent girls to improve social experience and have better decision-

making ability besides developing life skills and awareness regarding health, cleanliness and nutrition etc. These programmes will also aim at developing a sense of self-reliance among these girls and also strive to develop their physical and mental ability through sports, the officials said.

Confirming the develop-

ment, official of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Vinay Prakash said that a budget of Rs. 3.1 lakh has been released for 31 schools of Prayagraj as a part of this initiative. Officials said that due to physical and emotional changes in adolescent girls, feeling of social inequality and lack of health-related information, often their schooling gets disrupted and girls sometimes leave school

midway. To ensure regular attendance for increasing the educational quality of girls, it is necessary that seminars, meetings, lectures and health related programmes get organised in the school itself to provide them information about physical and emotional changes being experienced by them due to adolescence and instill in them a feeling of social security, they added.

Editorial

Has Left been forgotten by Bengal? After three ducks in a row, it can take a cue from Rahul Gandhi

Surendranath Biswas, a 74-year-old retired public bank clerk and ardent Left voter, has continued to frequent the small alley next to the busy Jadavpur bazaar in south Kolkata, despite the Left parties' three consecutive defeats in West Bengal. Every day, the pages of Ganashakti, the official mouthpiece of the Marxist Communist Party of India, are on display at a kiosk at the alley's entrance, next to a statue of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin. Every day, Biswas and other Leftists gather here, behind the 8B bus terminal, across from the Jadavpur University campus, to discuss politics over raasta cha (roadside tea). There has been a depressing atmosphere here ever since the Left's poor showing in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In Bengal, the Left parties received 0 seats in 2019, 2021, and 2024. What is there in their mouthpiece these days to read? Biswas disclosed to ThePrint. "This time, I had anticipated that Bengal would give the CPI (M) at least three seats. And without a doubt, Bhattacharyya, our Srijan, would be among the winners. Sayan Banerjee, Dipsita Dhar, and Srijan, our fine girls and lads, could not turn the CPI(M) around, not even Rahul Gandhi could turn the Congress around. The disenchantment of supporters such as Biswas is understood by Srijan Bhattacharyya, 31, the state secretary of the Students' Federation of India and the CPI(M) candidate for the Jadavpur Lok Sabha constituency. Bhattacharyya became the darling of many young voters from Jadavpur University with his clever one-liners and upbeat campaign message centered on "people's issues," and sizeable crowds flocked to his rallies in the predominantly middle-class area. However, on results day on June 4, he received 258,712 votes, placing him third behind Saayoni Ghosh of the Trinamool Congress (717,899 votes) and Anirban Ganguly of the BJP (459,698 votes). Some of us from the CPI(M) received a tonne of support from the public and on social media. However, Bhattacharyya informed ThePrint over the phone that it was a bubble. We must now venture outside of our echo chambers. The large number of people that attended our Brigade Parade event on January 7th did not result in any seating. At the historic Brigade Parade Ground on January 7, the CPI(M), a party that is frequently criticized in West Bengal for not being able to shake off the legacy of the Jyoti Basu, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Anil Biswas, and Biman Bose era, held a symbolic rally to give the baton to the next generation. Bose followed Biswas as the state secretary in charge of party affairs, and Basu and Bhattacharjee led Left Front governments in the state for a total of 34 years. Md. Salim, the state secretary at the moment and another seasoned leader, hinted to a generational change inside the party at the much-maligned rally. "In order to assist the seeds become plants, we are sowing them. To aid in their growth, we'll pretend to be gardeners, supply fertilizer, and properly irrigate the field," he declared to the applauding audience. At the rally, everyone noticed how many new faces there were. Journalist Swati Das noted that the CPI(M) had brought in youthful leaders who had established themselves in student politics to replace its "weather-beaten and battle-scarred veterans." " she noted, appeared to be being shed by this, she noted. That was hardly the only astute remark. Many Left sympathizers were hopeful that the CPI(M) wouldn't lose this time around because of the focus on roti, kapda, and makaan that Bhattacharyya and the other newcomers . to the polls placed throughout the campaign.

During a thought-provoking talk, Supreme Court Justice Abhay Oka posed several persuasive queries about Article 32 of the Constitution, which protects the ability to petition the Supreme Court directly to have one's fundamental rights upheld. With an astounding 83,418 cases pending in the highest court, Justice Oka wondered if writ petitions filed under Article 32 need to be filtered. He made reference to the potential use of "rational tests" to choose which circumstances covered by this clause should be considered. Though it is important to thoroughly understand the relevance of this provision before moving further, this is an intriguing



concept that is worth investigating. It is helpful to remember Dr. BR Ambedkar's remarks from the December 9, 1948, Constituent Assembly Debate in order to understand the significance of Article 32: "I could not refer to any other article except this one if I were asked to name any particular article in this Constitution as the most important—an article without which this Constitution would be a nullity." It is the essence of the Constitution, its essential core. It is obvious that Article 32 was highly valued by the Constitution's framers, and with good cause. A right to petition the Supreme Court to uphold the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution is "guaranteed" by this provision. Any procla-

mation of rights would have been meaningless and empty without a meaningful legal recourse for enforcement. As a result, the Supreme Court of India has more jurisdiction under Article 32 than courts in comparable locations. It gives the court the authority to grant writs as well as any other directives or orders required to successfully uphold basic rights. Suddenly, those writs that had previously been at the mercy of a legislator were an essential part of the framework for upholding fundamental rights. Over the course of the next twenty years, the Supreme Court has emphasized the importance of safeguarding and upholding fundamental rights to prevent them from being degraded to the status of

"playthings of a special majority" in a number of following constitutional issues. The 1970s then brought about a paradigm shift when the Supreme Court introduced the new process of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions under Article 32. This paradigm change disregarded the idea that the only people who could file a lawsuit in court were those who were directly and personally impacted by executive acts. As a result, this measure gave the poor and disenfranchised access to our nation's top court. But as of June 15, 2023, there were 2,912 writ petitions, 32,761 special leave petitions, and 25,228 appeals awaiting hearing before the Supreme Court as a result of this as well. In addition, there were almost

60,000 written petitions sent in only the previous year. It is worthwhile to consider the possibility of an Article 32 petition filtration system. If that's the case, how may this appear? It is possible that the Supreme Court will create standards or examination procedures to assess listing petitions, taking into account elements like the precise basic right that was violated, the urgency of the request, and the petitioner's socio-economic background, or a mix of all three. However, there are many challenges and complexity involved in creating such criteria for Article 32 petitions. Setting priorities and differentiating between situations of bonded labor, caste-based discrimination, illegal arrests, housing evictions.

To address the backlog, Justice Abhay Oka proposed sifting Article 32 cases. It's challenging.

Signs of democracy returning to the BJP

There has been discussion over the last ten years regarding the Bharatiya Janata Party's increasing commandism and centralization of authority. For many, it was the Congressification of the BJP. Chief ministers were replaced and replaced essentially at random. And so were party office holders and ministers. Deliberations and consultations came to be associated with being bold and decisive. The astute BJP leaders quickly learned the secret to both surviving and prospering: lowered heads, downcast eyes, folded hands, bent spines, and sealed lips that opened only to give praise to Amit Shah, the home minister, and Prime Minister

Narendra Modi. Within the ruling party, there have been signs of upheaval following the outcome of the Lok Sabha election on June 4. Consider the train ride that former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, took from New Delhi to Bhopal following his appointment as Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Union cabinet. Chouhan made a bold speech, accompanied by large, jubilant gatherings of BJP workers, people embracing him at train stops, and the roadshow in Bhopal. He was marginalized by Modi and Shah following his spectacular win for the BJP in the 2023 MP assembly election. Alarms sprang up in Delhi

when he said he would remain in Bhopal and keep the doors of "Mama ka Ghar" open for everyone. Madhya Pradesh and Bhopal have to be kept off the radar. Chouhan was persuaded to run for the Lok Sabha seat from Vidisha by the BJP high leadership. His triumph with more than eight lakh votes cemented his popularity, particularly after the public was shocked by PM Modi's drastically narrowed victory margin in Varanasi. Shivraj Chouhan, who was wrongfully denied the position of Chief Minister, could not have been prevented from joining the Union Cabinet. A statesman deserving of a seat on the Cabinet Committee on

Security was one who oversaw a nation for roughly 17 years. He was given ministries for rural development and agriculture by the PM. However, that was also a cherry on top for the former CM. It recognized the way he had revolutionized agriculture in MP. Chouhan's rail trip garnered national notice against this context. It demonstrated his level of fame. As chief minister of Gujarat, Modi used to do this to communicate with party members all around the nation. No other party leader would have dared to demonstrate their popular appeal after Modi-Shah got to the Centre. People with such appeal were chopped down to size, including BS Yediyurappa,

Vasundhara Raje, Raman Singh, Devendra Fadnavis, and Chouhan. Chouhan's train's whistle of change was audible against this background. It took the BJP members back to a time when a leader could impress party bosses with their popularity and win their respect and gratitude. The statement made by Kartikeya, the son of Chouhan, that all of Delhi "bows down" before his father may be an example of a son's conceit. It does, however, contain some reality, in that every person in the corridors of power is closely monitoring every action taken by Chouhan. Permit me to mention another example that shows signs of reform in the BJP.

Decoding BJP's Unexpected Loss in Ayodhya

The 2024 general elections have concluded, and the results have generated considerable discussion. The INDIA coalition's performance exceeded expectations, impacting the BJP's anticipated dominance. While the BJP had projected a significantly higher seat count, the actual results fell short of their projections. The Uttar Pradesh outcomes, particularly the loss in the Faizabad (Ayodhya) constituency, were unexpected for the party. The significance of the Ram Mandir, a long-held aspiration for many BJP supporters, contributed to expectations of a comfortable victory in Faizabad. However, the BJP candidate, 70-year-old incumbent BJP MP Lallu Singh was unseated by Samajwadi Party's (SP) Awadhesh Prasad, who won by a margin of 54,567 votes. While this margin might not be considered substantial in the context of national parliamentary elections, the loss itself carries symbolic weight for the BJP. Therefore, it's essential to

analyse the factors that contributed to this unexpected outcome in the city of Lord Ram. The Faizabad (Ayodhya) Lok Sabha constituency comprises five Vidhan Sabha constituencies: Dariyabad, Rudauli, Milkipur, Bikapur, and Ayodhya. The BJP held four of these except Milkipur, where the Scheduled Castes and Muslim demographic plays a pivotal role in determining electoral outcomes. In the 2024 general elections, the BJP secured victories in Rudauli, Bikapur, and Ayodhya but faltered in Dariyabad and Milkipur. The SP candidate, Awadhesh Prasad, an incumbent Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), managed to secure a lead from his home constituency of Milkipur as well as Dariyabad. The BJP's leads in the remaining three constituencies were insufficient to counter these losses. Both candidates are seasoned politicians with substantial experience and accomplishments in their respective careers.

BJP and Congress' Double-Edged Sword: 2024 Results

Everyone benefits from the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Though unhappy by its drop from 303 seats in 2019 to 240 this time, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is relieved to have won three consecutive terms for the first time in over 60 years. The Congress-led Opposition's 2024 numbers may be lower than the BJP's, but it seems to have found a weakness in Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After three general elections in a succession of two-digit votes, the Congress under Rahul Gandhi had its third-worst Lok Sabha performance, but its supporters are celebrating keeping the BJP below 272. Same with their supporters: Hindu BJP voters are thrilled that their party is back in power, but Muslim voters believe they have returned their 'veto power' in Indian politics. The Congress-led Opposition may be celebrating, but the BJP should be relieved. After all, it realized the party is in trouble without losing power in Raisina Hill. The party has five years to clean up. A vote where everyone has something to be thrilled about makes it easier to misread the outcome, which is the BJP's problem. First, the BJP should view the Lok Sabha results with cautious optimism, as three consecutive terms are exceptional. The Modi government has defeated anti-incumbency and the post-pandemic tendency of Covid-19 being a graveyard for ruling dispensations globally. Most incumbents have failed to recover from the enormous coronavirus outbreak. Taking the wrong medication is more dangerous for the BJP than not taking any corrective actions. Unfortunately, politicians' egoistic tendency to blame voters rather than party leadership for recent political defeats makes the latter more likely. One can understand

how Uttar Pradesh voters, especially Ayodhya, were villainized after the poll. Dubious political commentators have already given their verdict, exposing Hindutva's declining returns in Indian politics! Such feellood, part-dubious analysis should not be accepted by the BJP. The party may also view the results as localized and one-time. Localized because while losing approximately 50% of seats in Uttar Pradesh, the party swept Madhya Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh, unlike Madhya Pradesh, has a viable opposition with a strong M-Y vote-bank for anyone who can defeat the BJP. The Opposition troubled the BJP wherever it had a party infrastructure, albeit a basic one, and vote-banks, whether in Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra. Naturally, the Opposition distributed tickets smartly, notably in Uttar Pradesh, where Akhilesh Yadav generously offered SP tickets to Dalits and OBCs and less than 10 seats to M-Y candidates! In contrast, the BJP had ticket distribution troubles. Misfits, incompetent, and corrupt candidates were common, as were imports from other parties. This sparked party discontent and heartburn. The Ayodhya BJP candidate was unpopular before the election, and he was on sticky ground. Of course, his loose statements on reserves and the Constitution made matters worse for himself and the party. Ideological fluidity in the BJP compounded its problems. A party that earns 18–20% of votes for being a Hindutva vehicle is bound to boomerang when its national president publicly distances itself from "bhagwa" during the election campaign. In an interview with a Delhi daily, JP Nadda said the "BJP and bhagwa (saffron) are not synonymous" and that the BJP might win the 2024 elections.

Why Balochistan is erupting once more

Pakistan President Asif Zardari is visiting Gwadar at a time when the fifth insurgency since 1947 in Balochistan is now in its third decade. During his 2009 presidential tenure, Zardari attempted to buy off the Baloch with a package of political and economic concessions known as "Aaghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan." Zardari is attempting to connect with the Baloch once more, but as usual, he is doing it with hollow words and false promises, after his disastrous attempt to appease their sentiments failed. He has advocated for political discourse throughout his stay in an effort

to bring prosperity, growth, and peace to the unrest-plagued region. He has also advocated for strengthening the capabilities of law enforcement organizations. Anyone who studies Balochistan will see the inconsistency in his message: the biggest threat to peace in the province is the lawlessness of the so-called "law enforcement" and security agencies, which are responsible for networks of extortion, kidnapping, smuggling, drug trafficking, and human trafficking. Furthermore, the Punjab-dominated Pakistani administration prefers to have talks with those who would

follow their lead and continue to be obedient to the Punjabi establishment rather than with actual Baloch representatives. Because of this, Balochistan has burned continuously since Pakistan invaded it under duress in 1948. Ever since, Pakistan has maintained its tight grip on Balochistan, albeit with the use of extreme force and censorship that would make the Chinese blush. Nobody anticipated that the most recent and longest episode of Baloch rage against Pakistan's neo-colonial exploitative and extractive authority would last more than a few years, beginning

around 2001. However, the 2006 assassination of the esteemed Bugti leader, Nawab Akbar Bugti, significantly bolstered the Baloch movement. The movement has since rolled onward despite ebbing and flowing. The Baloch liberation movement has picked up speed and changed course throughout the previous three years, particularly since the Afghan Taliban loosened the "shackles of slavery" held by Pakistanis and Americans alike. Of course, it would appear that the Baloch movement has lost momentum if one were to look via Pakistan's mainstream media.

Delhi car buyers left in the dark as EV policy expires

Delhi: Since the EV scheme expired last year, Delhi car purchasers have been without the incentive for six months. The policy, which gives EV buyers financial advantages, expired on December 31, 2023, and was supposed to be extended in January. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot said bureaucratic hurdles prevented the extension, depriving the public of subsidized benefits for six months. "This should be expedited so that the people can benefit and Delhi can continue to be the No. 1 state in terms of EV penetration," Gahlot added. The state cabinet approved the

IN LIMBO

The policy

- ▶ The initial Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy was notified on August 7, 2020, for a duration of three years and was later extended till Dec 31, 2023
- ▶ The next extension was due in Jan this year for benefits to continue
- ▶ However, the extension has not been sought despite govt making announcements earlier that it would be extended till June

Sources in the department said that the interruption is because of bureaucratic delay

The govt wanted to bring EV policy 2.0 in Oct after the expiry of current policy in August for which it did consultations with different stakeholders

Two-wheelers	Subsidies under EV policy	Four-wheelers
₹ 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity (maximum ₹ 30,000)	Three-wheelers ₹ 30,000 per vehicle, irrespective of cost and battery capacity	Not applicable anymore as it was offered only for the first 1,000 EVs that were registered

executive order for the policy extension, but the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections prevented its implementation, a transport department official said. "We have now sent the extension

proposal again for approval," the person said, expecting approval in a week. The bank managing the EV subsidy webpage had difficulty, the spokesman said. "The portal hadn't used the vehicle num-

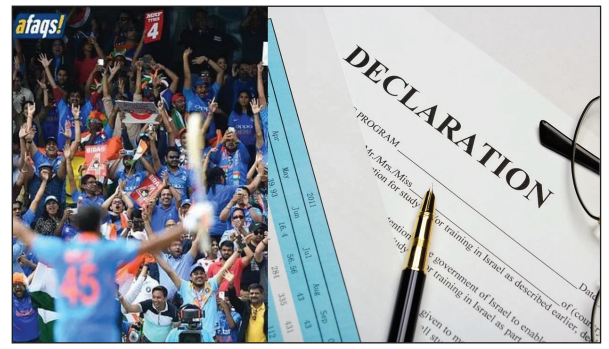
ber as a unique ID number, which may have led to discrepancies," stated. "The bank caused the delay. But now the portal is fixed." Electric two-wheelers receive a Rs. 5,000 subsidy per kWh of

battery capacity (maximum Rs. 30,000) under the EV program. A Rs. 30,000 subsidy is given to three-wheelers regardless of cost or battery capacity. The four-wheeler incentive was just for the first 1,000 EVs registered in Delhi under that plan, thus it no longer applies. After the present policy expired in August, the administration sought to create EV Policy 2.0 in October.

It even consulted stakeholders, but that failed, extending the previous policy again. After CNG from petrol and diesel, EVs are the biggest change in capital automobile use.

Self-declaration for ads: Rules are unclear

Delhi: Concerns about advertising self-declarations will persist. The Supreme Court ordered advertisers to attest that their advertising does not make false claims last month. What this means is understandably feared. The marketing head of an FMCG firm thinks self-declaration follows multiple food and beverage advertising issues. "A lot of brands had to deal with the regulators and it is possible that self-declaration is a result of that." How it will unfold is uncertain. "The government has not publicly policed or penalized erroneous declarations. Uploading is good, however the backend needed to verify submissions should have been implemented first. Who assesses claim merit" He asks. According to ASCI Secretary General Manisha Kapoor, mis-



leading assertions in advertising are complex. Technical accuracy is important, but so is knowing how an ordinary consumer could view the commercial given its clues and context. ASCI's impartial jury debates and recommends each ad "she says. Advertisers generally assume their advertising is not misleading, she says. They may leave some remarks and depictions to artistic freedom. Creative freedom is their right and what makes advertising attractive, yet it can become deceptive "said.

Centre will lend Rs 75,000 cr interest-free under Viksit Bharat

Delhi: The Union government will lend Rs 75,000 crore interest-free for 50 years to States to implement 'Viksit Bharat' reforms. The government wants to build India by 2047. Finance Minister proposed this in her Lok Sabha Budget address. To achieve 'Viksit Bharat', states require more economic and development-enabling reforms.

Ensure Sirsa-like victory for Congress in entire Haryana : Kumari Selja

Chandigarh/Karnal: All India Congress Committee General Secretary, former Union Minister and newly elected MP from Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, Kumari Selja said that the people of Sirsa parliamentary constituency have given her a big victory, and Congress has to get the same big victory in entire Haryana. Your 4 months of hard work can make the life of 03 crore Haryanvis easier. Start working on the assembly elections without getting tired from now itself. After winning and forming the government in Chandigarh, celebrate

double the celebrations at the same time. In a statement issued to the media, Kumari Selja said that she wanted to contest the assembly elections, but on the demand of the people of Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, the high command ordered her to contest the elections. Being a true soldier of the Congress, she followed the order and fought the elections wholeheartedly and all the workers and people considered themselves as Selja and fought the entire election and also got her victory with a huge margin. She said that all of you should

start preparing for the assembly elections from now because one battle has been won and the other is yet to come. The people have defeated the always lying jumlabaaaz government in the Lok Sabha elections, the arrogance of the BJP has been shattered. Kumari Selja said that all of you want us to travel together to Chandigarh. This is possible only when all of you bring the BJP to its state before 2014. It is your job to get a big majority for the Congress, after that it is my and the Congress high command's job to form a government.

ARMEE INFOTECH LIMITED FILES DRHP WITH SEBI

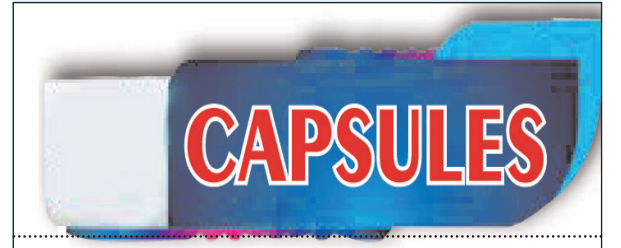


GURUGRAM : Armeefotech Limited ("The Company" or "AIL") has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus ("DRHP") with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"). The Company plans to raise funds of the total issue size through Initial Public Offering of Equity Shares (Face Value 10 each) comprising of fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to 25,000 lakhs [250 crore]. ("Total Issue Size"). The Company is sector agnostic and provides IT Infrastructure solution and IT managed service to a wide variety of projects for both Government/public sector undertakings (PSUs) and private sector with a focus on Government/PSU projects and a predominant presence in the state of Gujarat. The Company proposes to utilize the net proceeds from the Issue towards funding (i) Augmentation of working capital require-

ments of the Company estimated up to 16000 lakhs [160 crore] providing earnest money deposit for bidding for various projects and margin deposits for bank guarantees, in Fiscal 2025 and Fiscal 2026; (ii) Prepayment or repayment of certain outstanding borrowings available by the Company estimated up to 1,063.22 lakhs [10.63 crore]; and balance towards General corporate purposes. The loans that we propose to repay from Net Proceeds (amounting to 1,063.22 lakhs) constitute 26.30% of the total outstanding borrowings of the Company as on December 31, 2023. The Equity Shares to be offered through the Red Herring Prospectus 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").

NCP's Amol Mitkari Attacks Mahayuti

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



BJP names in-charges for the upcoming elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, J'khand, and J-K



Delhi: The party's election in-charges and co-incharges for the assembly poll-bound states of Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Jammu and Kashmir were named by BJP President JP Nadda on Monday. According to a party announcement, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will serve as the state's co-incharge and senior BJP leader Bhupender Yadav has been named as the incharge for Maharashtra. The BJP has appointed former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb as co-incharge of the state's elections, replacing Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, according to the statement. According to the statement, Jharkhand's election in charge is Union Minister and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while Assam's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is the state's co-incharge. It added that G Kishan Reddy, a union minister, has been named the new leader for Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir elections must be held by September, per the Supreme Court's directive to the Election Commission, while assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, and Jharkhand are scheduled for later this year.

Congress would run CM Sukhu's wife in Dehra assembly byelection

Delhi: Congress nominated Himachal Pradesh chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur for Dehra assembly bypoll against BJP's Hoshiyar Singh. AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal announced that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had accepted Kamlesh's Dehra bid after she topped two party surveys. Independent Hoshiyar Singh won the seat in 2017 and 2022 after BJP won in 2012. He is running for BJP this time. Kamlesh, born April 2, 1970, in Nalsooha village, Dehra subdivision, Kangra district, has been active in politics, especially in Nadaun, represented by Sukhu. Her master's in political science is from Government College Chandigarh. Social service, especially women empowerment, has been her focus. She has been involved in the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee for 20 years, keeping strong party links. The by-election will make Kamlesh and his wife the first husband-wife assembly members in Himachal Pradesh.

More than 40 Telangana IAS officers were transferred

Delhi: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's Telangana State Government transferred and posted nearly 40 IAS officers in the first major upheaval. June 24, 2024 IAS officer reshuffle. The government has been discussing transferring IAS personnel for some time, but after the Lok Sabha election 2024 announcement, it did

not act. The Chief Minister met with senior officials led by Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari to finalize the transfer list. The Chief Secretary ordered Energy Department principal secretary Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi to be transferred to the Commercial Taxes and Excise department and replaced by Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Corporation (GHMC) commissioner D. Ronald Rose, who was also appointed chairman and managing director of TG Transco and Genco. Kata, HMDA metropolitan commissioner, is now GHMC commissioner. Transport Commissioner Jyoti is now Registration, Stamps, and Housing secretary.

BJP rejects leadership change in Maharashtra

Delhi: Following the party's dismal performance in the most recent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP ruled against changing the leadership of the state of Maharashtra. The choice was made after a meeting of the Maharashtra BJP core committee that included Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda. Reporters were informed by Union Minister Piyush Goyal at the BJP headquarters that "there will be no change in leadership in Maharashtra." State BJP chairman Chandrashekhar Bawankule, along with senior leaders Sudhir Mungantiwar, Chandrakant Patil,

Pankaja Munde, and Vinod Tawde, were present at the meeting. In the most recent Lok Sabha elections, the BJP secured nine seats in Maharashtra, a decrease from its 2019 total of 23 seats. Devendra Fadnis, the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, had made the offer to leave the MahaYuti administration of Shiv Sena, BJP, and NCP in order to concentrate on leading the party to victory in the September-October assembly elections. During the meeting at the BJP headquarters, the party's showing in the Lok Sabha elections was also a topic of discussion.

TMC and Congress to work together against BJP in Parliament

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



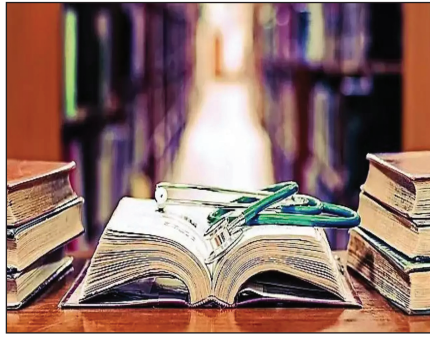
Baharampur to the TMC, former Union minister P Chidambaram met Banerjee to improve relations. According to the sources, the two leaders discussed the enormous number of measures passed in the past decade that needed reconsideration and greater coordination in Parliament. The Congress even requested Banerjee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

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

Congress has 125 MPs in both Houses of Parliament, followed by TMC's 42 and Samajwadi Party's 41. "There is a large section of the Congress leadership that wants a good relationship with the Trinamool," said Derek O'Brien, TMC Rajya Sabha leader. The Lok Sabha defeat of Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury eliminated a key "roadblock" in the TMC-Congress alliance, according to TMC leaders. In the session starting June 24, the Opposition will attack the government over the NEET and UGC NET issue.

Tech-savvy 'handlers' manage exam chaos from paper leak to student training

Delhi: Port cargo, the police dog squad, political campaigns, and even spy rings are no longer the only jobs for a "handler". The NEET-UG paper leak conspiracy investigators know how "handlers" function in the shadowy nationwide test business based in Bihar and Jharkhand. "The nine handlers arrested in the NEET-UG case so far - six in Jharkhand and three in Bihar are tech-savvy individuals who played a crucial role in orchestrating the leak of question papers, training examinees who paid for these to memorise the answers, and even escorting them to their respective centres," a top cop said. The six suspects from Jharkhand's Deoghar lived in rented housing as laborers. The task was to provide leaked papers while retaining secrecy and identity. "Once a particular exam got over, they would get to work on identifying the chinks in the system for the next one," he claimed. These handlers sought pretextual connections with coaching centers, schools, and colleges to grow their clientele. They sought out exam officials to bribe for useful information. On the morning of the NEET-UG exam, Bihar Police raided a safe house on a tip-off and found evidence of these



handlers herding roughly 30 applicants into Ram Krishna Nagar on Patna's outskirts. "Examinees memorized leaked question papers all night. Personal automobiles were used to bring them to their exam centers, with all necessary safety precautions," Officer noted. Around 2010, online entrance exam form submission replaced mail-in applications nationwide. Fraudsters and dishonest authorities exploited old system weaknesses. "Before online forms, exam centers assigned roll numbers based on application envelope receipt. A Bihar-based IPS officer said criminals sent many application forms in one envelope using codes like 'bogie' and 'engine' to allude to candidates and their proxies. "This strategy ensured that all these candidates were allocated roll numbers for the same examination centre and hall, facilitating cheating."

NTA held UGC NET June 2024, with almost 9 lakh students

Delhi: The NTA administered the University Grants Commission's National Eligibility Test (UGC NET) 2024 June session. The national autonomous testing agency reported that 11 lakh 21 thousand students registered for the UGC NET 2024 June session, and 9.08 lakh took the exam. The NTA's next big national exam is the UGC NET June 2024 exam after the NEET UG Result fiasco. In its recent notice on successful conduct of UGC NET June 2024, the NTA noted that 11,21,225 candidates took the exam at 1205 Exam Centres in 317 locations nationwide. The National Testing Agency (NTA) administered the UGC-NET June 2024 test to 83 topics in OMR (Pen and Paper) format in two shifts. The announcement further noted that 11,21,225 individuals enrolled for the UGC-NET June 2024 Examination, including 6,35,587 females,



Bihar High Court reverses 65% job, college quota boost

Delhi: The Patna high court struck down Bihar's decision last year to raise caste-based quotas to 65%, ruling that merit could not be sacrificed for reparations. The ruling will have major political and social repercussions. After a caste survey showed that these groups made up 84% of Bihar's population, the state raised the quota for SCs, STs, EBCs, and OBCs in educational institutions and government jobs

from 50% to 65% last year. The court recognized that backward communities were properly represented in public employment and that the government had done no in-depth investigation or analysis before increasing reservation above the Supreme Court's 1992 Indira Sawhney limit. "We set aside the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes.

4,85,579 males, and 59 Third Gender candidates. This was up from 9,45,872 UGC-NET Exam registrations in December 2023. About 81% of enrolled

CAPSULES

European Space Agency shares high-resolution 'Ram Setu' image

Between Rameswaram Island on India's south-east coast and Mannar Island on Sri Lanka's northwest coast, the Ram Setu runs 48 kilometers. The Ram Setu, or Adam's Bridge, a network of shoals connecting India and Sri Lanka, was recently photographed by the European



Space Agency in great detail. Copernicus Sentinel-2 satellites captured the image. Satellites with an innovative wide-swath high-resolution multispectral imager with 13 spectral bands offer a unique view of land and vegetation. Between Rameswaram Island on India's south-east coast and Mannar Island on Sri Lanka's northwest coast, the Ram Setu runs 48 kilometers. It divides the Indian Ocean's Gulf of Mannar from the Bay of Bengal's Palk Strait. One bridge end is on Mannar Island.

The 130-square-kilometer island is connected to mainland Sri Lanka by a road and railway bridge at its southern end. Pamban Island (Rameswaram Island) is the bridge's other end. The 2-km Pamban Bridge connects India to the island. Pamban on the western tip and Rameswaram 10 kilometers east are the island's principal settlements.

MEA is reducing passport police verification time

Delhi: External affairs minister S Jaishankar said that the ministry is working with state and Union territory police forces to speed up passport applicant police verification to strengthen the passport delivery ecosystem. On Passport Seva Divas, Jaishankar said his ministry is committed to ensuring that passports facilitate international trade and investment and improve worldwide mobility to boost the country's growth. The government opened 440 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras to improve passport services. This complements the 93 Passport Seva Kendras, 533 passport processing centers, and 37 regional passport offices nationwide.



The ministry integrated passport issuance systems in 187 Indian missions abroad. Jaishankar said the government is working with States/UTs police to reduce police verification time to facilitate passport delivery. He added that 9,000 police stations in 25 states and Union territories have implemented the "mPassport Police App,"

which streamlines police verification. "The Passport Seva System has also been integrated successfully with DigiLocker to facilitate paperless documentation," he said. Jaishankar told the Lok Sabha in December 2023 that police verification takes 14 days nationwide. He claimed states and Union territories that have implemented the

mPassport Police App have reduced police verification time to less than five days. A standard passport, without police verification, takes seven to 10 days to issue, whereas a Tatkaal passport takes one to three days, Jaishankar said. "Police verification of applicants' particulars plays an important role in timely passport dispatch," he stated. In his message, Jaishankar said the government is committed to ensuring that passports facilitate international trade and investment, tourism, global mobility, education and skills development, diplomatic ties, security and regulation, and legal identity.

A warning against bogus syllabuses and sample question papers is released by CBSE

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) issued a warning alert informing parents and students to be wary of false information pertaining to the curriculum, study guides, and practice exams for the 2024-25 school year. The Board has issued a warning to pupils about the dangers of falling for online scams that spread false information. We've noticed that some websites and online portals are disseminating stale information and unreli-

able updates about curriculum, sample question papers, CBSE resources, and activities. The alert said, "These links and news erroneously assert to offer up-to-date information for the session 2024-25." "In the interest of the public, we wish to emphasize that information from unauthorized sources can be misleading and may cause unnecessary confusion among schools, students, parents, and other stakeholders," it continued. Due to significant discrepancies

between theory and practical scores in a few courses, CBSE has recently instructed schools to assess practical exams appropriately.

In a notification, the CBSE said that, based on data from prior years' results, it had used sophisticated AI techniques to identify significant disparities between theory and practical grades in specific courses among 50% or more students in about 500 CBSE-affiliated schools.

48% of 1,563 grace-marked candidates skip NEET-UG retest

Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) reported that only 813 or 52% of the 1,563 candidates who were initially awarded grace marks in the National Eligibility Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) before they were withdrawn last week took a retest. Affected students who did not retake were allowed to keep their scores without grace marks. Two candidates from Chandigarh did not take the exam, but 219 from 602 in Chhattisgarh, one from Gujarat, 287 from 494 in Haryana, and 234 from 464 in Meghalaya took the retest. NTA released the data after the exam was held at seven centers in five states and one union territory. The 1,563 students' retest was held days after the Centre scrapped their grace marks, taking the first step toward solv-



ing India's premier medical entrance exam's paper leak crisis, which threatens hundreds of thousands of children's futures. Candidates received grace marks for time lost on the May 5 exam. The Centre informed the Supreme Court that 1,563 students' scorecards will be withdrawn and they could take a new exam or keep their scores without grace marks. Thousands of students have protested this year's medical exam, and opposition parties have called for its scrapping and a Supreme Court-moni-

tored probe into paper leaks. Last week, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan denied paper leak claims and reaffirmed the government's commitment to student interests. The Centre replaced Subodh Kumar Singh as NTA director general with IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola. It also organized a seven-member committee to investigate the authority's structure, protocols, and operations after a series of key national exams involving millions of candidates were mishandled.

In sweeping election-year move, Biden offers citizenship to American spouses

Delhi: In an election year move that contrasts with Republican competitor Donald Trump's promise for mass deportations, President Joe Biden unveiled a broad endeavor to provide hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants married to U.S. citizens a path to citizenship. At a White House event, Biden attacked Trump for splitting migrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border and calling illegal immigrants "poisoning the blood of our country." He's speaking these things out loud, which is hard to believe. Totally absurd, "Biden said. "I'm not into border or immigration politics. I want to fix things." The new Biden program will be open to an estimated 500,000 wives who have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years as announced. The program will also include



50,000 U.S.-citizen children under 21. Biden, a Democrat seeking a second term in the Nov. 5 election, promised to reverse Trump's stringent immigration policies. In response to unprecedented migrant arrests at the U.S.-Mexico border, Biden has intensified his approach. The president stopped most migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border from requesting asylum earlier this month, echoing a Trump-era asylum restriction and drawing outrage from immigration advocates and Democrats. Biden's planned legalization program for spouses of U.S. citizens might bolster his campaign nar-

rative that he supports a more humanitarian immigration system and contrast him with Trump, who has long opposed both legal and illegal immigration. "The Statue of Liberty is not some relic of American history," he remarked. "It still stands for who we are." The scheme may be challenged in court and ended by a future administration. Texas Governor Greg Abbott, a Republican who has sued Biden over immigration policies, called the new effort "blatantly illegal" and "pandering for votes." The U.S. allows married immigrants who entered legally on visas to become citizens.

At Paavo Nurmi Games, Neeraj Chopra beats Max Dehning easily, easing fitness concerns

Delhi: It's impressive when Neeraj Chopra combines speed, strength, and technique. As India saw at night, his prowess was elegantly displayed at Turku's Paavo Nurmi Stadium. On his third attempt at the Paavo Nurmi Games 2024, Neeraj felt that perfect synergy of speed, strength, and technique before anyone else as the reigning Olympic and world champions celebrated with a loud cheer and the index finger pointing skyward before the javelin landed. After landing, the LCD indicated 85.97m. That was enough for the Indian athlete to win the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold event. Neeraj led the field with his first javelin throw of 83.63m on his first competitive effort since 15 May. Soon after, local boy Oliver Helander threw 83.96m to lead. Only for Neeraj to repeat. Neeraj shines in huge tournaments and key times, and he answered quickly to the Turku challenge with the largest throw of the day. He failed to exceed that distance in his next two efforts, but it wasn't necessary. Toni Keranen of Finland placed second with an 84.19m throw, while Helander placed third. Neeraj may have thrown harder if challenged, but most of the contestants battled with rhythm that evening. Two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada threw 82.58m, while 2012 London Olympics winner Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago threw 81.93m.



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



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

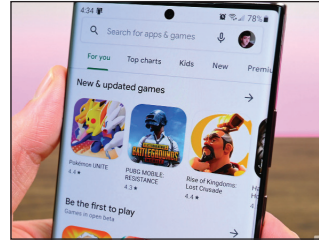
Delhi: The Union Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs said wholesalers, retailers, huge chain shops, millers, and importers will be subject to stock limits. The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits, and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order went into effect. Stock limits for each pulse are 200 tonnes for wholesalers, 5 tonnes for retailers, 5 tonnes at each retail outlet, and 200 tonnes at the depot for big chain retailers; last 3 months of production or 25%

of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for millers. The measures discourage stockpiling and boost market availability. Importers cannot keep imported merchandise after 45 days after customs clearance. Tur, urad, and chana prices have been constant the yet high all year. India imports 15% of its pulses annually to meet demand. Legal companies are required to report stock positions on the Department of Consumer Affairs portal. "In case the stocks held by them are higher than the

prescribed limits then, they shall bring the same to the prescribed stock limits by 12th July 2024," the note added. As Kharif pulses like tur and urad are likely to rise, the government expects tur and chana dal prices to fall. The statement anticipates the import of the current harvest of tur from East African countries starting in August 2024. A new crop of chana in Australia and its import from October 2024 will help keep chana affordable for consumers.

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

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



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

gaming prohibition remain pending. Google said it is developing a framework for permitted applications in this field. "In the meantime, in India, we are extending the grace period of the pilot program so existing apps offering fantasy sports and rummy games in India can remain on Play Store," the spokesman said.

A senior Google executive said on condition of anonymity that the company intends to create a framework, but conversations are ongoing and there is no "specific timeline" for when these apps can be used again.

RBI changes priority sector lending rules

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

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

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

CAPSULES

A Japanese company is creating battery material with an energy density that is 100 times higher

Delhi: TDK, a multinational electronics business based in Japan, has revealed that it has created a material for solid-state batteries that has an energy density that is roughly 100 times higher than that of traditional ones. The Tokyo-based company claims that a variety of wearable gadgets, including smartwatches, wireless earbuds, hearing aids, and environmental sensors, may make use of their technology. Although the new material is intended to replace current coin cell batteries, it makes use of lithium alloy anodes and an oxide-based solid electrolyte. "Batteries are quite safe since they employ solid electrolyte based on oxides. It stated in a statement that "it is intended for use in wearable devices and other devices that come into direct contact with the human body." "The battery can be applied for replacing coin cell primary batteries in compliance with EU battery regulations, which require them to be replaced by rechargeable batteries, which is expected to contribute to the reduction of environmental impact," it stated. According to the company, the new technology also makes it possible for batteries to be smaller and have a longer operating life.

Voda to sell 10% Indus share for \$1.1bn

Delhi: Vodafone Group will sell 10% of India's Indus Towers for up to \$1.1 billion to service debt, according to a term sheet obtained by Reuters. Last week, Reuters reported that Vodafone was considering selling its 21.5% holding in mobile-tower operator Indus Towers through several group businesses.

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

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

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



CBAM on seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, and fertilizer, from January 1, 2026. Engineering

goods are subject to this import duty. The department-related parliamentary standing committee on commerce's report, Comprehensive Strategy to Map Major Products and Countries to Maximize Exports and Minimise Imports, advised the government to work at the highest level with the U.S. and EU to protect the domestic industry from additional tariffs and CBAM. "The Committee exhorts the government to seek the deferment on application of CBAM on MSME sector by at least three years," noted.

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

GST Council to change alcohol tax legislation, settle disputes

Delhi: The GST Council is considering amending GST legislation regarding extra neutral alcohol (ENA), a highly pure alcohol used in liquor manufacture but not for direct consumption. These revisions explain that ENA should not be GST-taxable, which could relieve the spirits industry by avoiding dual taxes. In addition to legislative changes, the Council is anticipated to propose a mechanism that would allow central and state tax agencies to stop recovering past tax dues,

helping the spirits industry. This action is part of a larger attempt to settle tax disputes and streamline taxation. The GST Council will discuss officer committee revisions at its meeting in the national capital. According to two Centre-state sources, this committee was charged with drafting legislative revisions to keep ENA outside the GST regime, a decision made at the GST Council's 52nd meeting on October 7 last year. The proposed revisions clarify tax implementa-

tion by excluding ENA from GST under section 9 of the Central and state GST statutes. GST is currently applicable to non-alcoholic goods and services, however ENA is not mentioned. The clarification should reduce the alcoholic beverage industry's tax burden by preventing the same commodity from being taxed under several streams. The Centre would submit CGST and IGST Act revisions in Parliament, while states will alter SGST laws. Since the 2017 indirect tax reform.

Avoid promoting 'Ulips' as investments: Irdai

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



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

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

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

Land and luxury commercial buildings may be sold by LIC

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



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

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

owns the State Bank of India building on Mall Road in M u s s o r i e , Uttarakhand, and two media house offices in New Delhi and Lucknow.

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

Flipkart will challenge Zepto, Blinkit with fast commerce

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

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

Delhi government to investigate petrol dealers' PUC fee rise request

Delhi: The transport department may raise pollution under control certificate (PUC) fees in the national capital. Transport minister Kailash Gahlot listened to Petrol Dealers' Association delegates' requests and ideas, officials said. Gahlot: "The Petrol Dealers Association wants Delhi PUC certificate prices raised. Delhi last raised fees in 2011. Delhi government would thoroughly consider their demands, I guarantee them." Sources said transport officials have proposed a three-to-four-fold fee increase to Gahlot. We would strike a balance to avoid overburdening them. Though dealer maintenance expenses have increased, rates have not been raised in years "explained an official. A senior Delhi government official



claimed pollution test rates were last raised in 2011 and fines for vehicles without PUC certificates have skyrocketed. For pollution testing of petrol and CNG two-wheelers and three-wheelers, Rs 60 is paid, Rs 80 for petrol, and Rs 100 for diesel four-wheelers. A separate 18% GST applies. The city issued 50 lakh pollution test certificates last year. Without a valid PUC, vehicle owners can be imprisoned for six months or fined Rs 10,000 under the Motor Vehicle Act. Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 require all

motor vehicles, including BS-I/II/III/IV and CNG/LPG vehicles, to have a valid PUC certificate after one year from registration. For four-wheeler BS-IV-compliant vehicles, the validity is one year and for others, three months.

"We have also got requests from people running the pollution test centres, who said it had become difficult to meet expenses as they had to pay a heavy rent," he said. Delhi PUC certification is real-time and connected with the vehicle registration database.

Reversing decision, Mayawati reinstates nephew Akash Anand as political heir

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

As MP, BJP's Bidhuri resigned as LoP in Delhi House

Delhi: After his election as the Lok Sabha member for South Delhi, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Ramvir Singh Bidhuri resigned as opposition leader and Delhi assembly member. The development leaves the LoP job open, prompting a contest among BJP MLAs in the Delhi assembly, Delhi assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel

accepted Bidhuri's resignation and notified him. "I resigned as opposition leader and Delhi assembly member to speaker Ram Niwas Goel... Bidhuri thanked the assembly speaker and my fellow legislators for their support during my term. He won the 2020 Badarpur assembly constituency MLA election. The Delhi assembly

would have seven BJP MLAs and 61 AAP MLAs after Bidhuri's resignation. AAP MLA Raaj Kumar Anand was dismissed under anti-defection legislation weeks after joining Bahujan Samaj Party, decreasing the party's numbers from 62 to 61. Since the next Delhi assembly elections are in less than seven months.

The Delhi government prohibits parking oversize automobiles in public spaces

Delhi: The transport department has issued a public notice prohibiting overage car parking in all public places, including those outside dwellings. To avoid car owner confusion, the agency defined public space. It noted, "Keep such a vehicle in a private parking space owned by the individual, not in a shared parking space, even if it is part of a residential complex." The statement added that a residential complex's owner-assigned parking space is private property. A senior department official said the notification was sent to prevent overage vehicles from leaving in shared or public locations, which can cause congestion and irritation to other people. He added the department encourages owners of such vehicles to discard or find private parking to comply with requirements. The Delhi government deregistered 5.5 million overage and petrol automobiles over 10 and 15 years old.



diesel vehicle more It added owners of such vehicles can get a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to take the vehicle out of Delhi within a year of its expiration date, but no NOC will be provided beyond that. The department stated owners can also use the Voluntary car Scrapping Application at any local registered car scrapping plant. The notice stated that the enforcement wing of the transport department, New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and Traffic Police

may impound vehicles parked in public spaces even if a NOC has been issued but the vehicle has not been moved out of Delhi within one month. Guidelines for Handling End-of-Life Vehicles 2024 allow prosecution of offenders. Delhi's Supreme Court prohibited diesel and petrol vehicles over 10 and 15 years old in 2018. It said that violating automobiles would be impounded. A 2014 National Green Tribunal order bans public parking of vehicles over 15 years old.

UAPA tribunal notifies LTTE of show cause

Delhi: An Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) panel has issued a show cause notice to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to adjudicate its five-year ban. According to the Union ministry of home affairs' June 14 show cause notice, justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora's Delhi high court tribunal has given LTTE 30 days to respond to "why the organisation should not be declared as unlawful".

LTTE has 30 days to object or respond to the show cause notice. The MHA extended the ban on LTTE and stated that the organization is "clandestinely" accumulating funds and spreading propaganda and that its residual leaders are seeking to revive it. The central government believes the LTTE is still threatening national security.

111 of 383 capital villages have PNG pipes: LG Saxena

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

in Delhi's villages in June 2023 to improve the neglected areas.

He met multiple times with IGL and other authorities, and PNG pipelines were laid in six months.

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

and NDMC to prioritize PNG pipeline clearances and other formalities within 30 days at a review meeting.

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

LG authorizes new Bijwasan rly station police station

Delhi: After realigning the Delhi Cantt police station borders, LG VK Saxena sanctioned the formation of a new police station near Bijwasan railway station. Officials say the Delhi Cantt railway station police station oversees 13 railway stations. "After the creation of the new police station at Bijwasan railway station, Palam, S h a h b a d Mohammadpur and

Bijwasan, having a total length of about 9 kilometres, will come under its jurisdiction," stated a source. The new police station will cater to nearly 1.5 lakh population living in the area," he said. tnn Thane railway station officials allegedly beat a passenger over Rs 10 urinal usage charges. Railways Minister sees Bandel Junction reconstruction plan including pit.

IMD forecasts monsoon precipitation in some north Indian states

Delhi: The southwest monsoon is accelerating across the nation. The Meteorological Department predicts southwest monsoon advance over the North Arabian Sea, Gujarat state, remaining parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gangetic plains of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, and some parts of East Uttar Pradesh in 3-4 days. By July 3, the monsoon will hit northwest India, encompassing Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana. The IMD predicted above-normal rainfall in much of the country except the Western Himalayas and West Rajasthan. Over the next five days, the Weather Department predicts light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds over Gangetic coastal parts of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha,



Light to moderate rainfall is expected in coastal Andhra Pradesh

Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are anticipated to receive heavy rains from June 24 to 26. From June 24 to 26, Uttarakhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh will have scattered heavy rain. Kerala, coastal areas, southern interior Karnataka,

Konkan-Goa, and Madhya Maharashtra will have heavy rainfall in four to five days, according to the Meteorological Department. Light to moderate rainfall is expected in coastal Andhra Pradesh, R a y a l a s e e m a , Telangana. Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal over the next five days. Up to 5 days of heavy rain is expected in West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Meghalaya. West Bengal, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh may get heavy rain on June 25 and 26.

The government will purchase 156 light combat helicopters from HAL

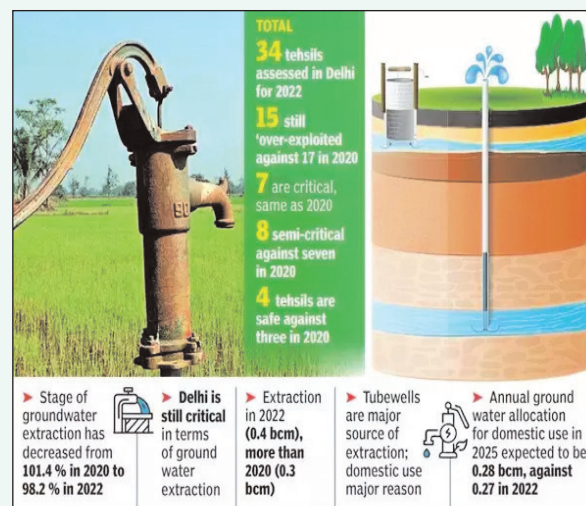


Delhi: The defence ministry has let Bengaluru-based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) bid for 156 Prachand light combat helicopters (LCH) to strengthen the Indian Army and Air Force, officials said. According to anonymous authorities, the estimated cost of the new helicopters, 90 for the army and 66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

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

Delhi has practically exhausted groundwater

Delhi: While Delhi is facing a water crisis and civic authorities endeavor to boost groundwater availability, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reported that yearly recharge and groundwater for extraction had declined. The analysis anticipated Delhi's net annual groundwater recharge in 2023 at 0.38 billion cubic meters (bcm), 0.34 of which was accessible for extraction. Alarming, most groundwater has been removed. It means 99.1% of groundwater is



extracted. The 2022 groundwater recharge was 0.41 bcm, with 0.37 bcm available for extraction and 0.36 bcm pulled out.

The analysis showed Delhi's groundwater extraction rising from 98.16% in 2022 to 99.13% in 2023 despite a drop in recharging.

While some places have made headway in maintaining safe groundwater levels, Delhi still struggles to properly manage its groundwater resources. With 15% of Delhi's assessment units categorized as "safe" for groundwater levels in 2023, up from 12% in 2022, the CGWB report was pleased.