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

With spotlight on Speaker, it's NDA vs opposition again. This time over mics

NEW DELHI: On Friday morning, Congress moved adjournment motions in both Houses, seeking an immediate discussion on paper leaks and suspension of other businesses. However, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla refused to admit it, saying the House was scheduled to discuss the Motion of Thanks on President Draupadi Murmu's address to the Parliament, prompting an uproar. Birla adjourned the House amid protests by opposition, Congress shared a video on X, showing Rahul Gandhi requesting Speaker Om Birla for a microphone. With spotlight on Speaker, it's NDA vs opposition again. This time over mics



intentionally. On Friday morning, Congress moved adjournment motions in both Houses, seeking an immediate discussion on paper leaks and suspension of other businesses. However, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla refused to admit it, saying the House was scheduled to discuss the Motion of Thanks on President Draupadi Murmu's address to the Parliament, prompting an uproar. Birla adjourned the House amid protests by opposition, Congress shared a video on X, showing Rahul Gandhi requesting Speaker Om Birla for a microphone. The video showed

Rahul Gandhi, leader of opposition, demanding a "respectful" discussion on the NEET issue to show solidarity with the students. As Om Birla objected, Rahul persisted with the demand and said: "We wanted to give a joint message to the students of India, on behalf of the Opposition as well as the government that we consider this an important issue. So, we thought that to respect students, we should have a NEET discussion today, a dedicated discussion." Replying to Rahul's charge, Om Birla said, "I don't have any button to switch off the microphone. There existed a similar set-up

earlier also. There is no mechanism to gag the microphone." Sharing the video on X, Congress wrote: "While on one hand, Narendra Modi is not saying anything on NEET, opposition leader Rahul Gandhi is raising the voice of the youth in the House. But, on such a serious issue, a conspiracy is being hatched to suppress the voice of the youth by doing cheap acts like switching off the mic." The party also claimed that the microphone of Congress chief Kharge was switched off in Rajya Sabha by Speaker Jagdeep Dhankhar. Sharing the video of the same on X, Congress said: "The Congress president and leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mr @kharge raised the voice of students suffering from paper leak in the country but his mic was switched off. This government is itself silent on the issue of paper leak.

Core sector growth steady in May, tops 6% for 4th month

NEW DELHI: Growth in the country's key infrastructure sector remained steady in May but three sectors - crude oil, fertilisers and cement - contracted due to sluggish demand and base effect. Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Friday showed the infrastructure sector, spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, rose an annual 6.3% in May, marginally slower than the previous month's 6.7% expansion but higher than the 5.2% growth recorded in May 2023. This was the fourth month in a row that growth has remained above 6%. The sector accounts for nearly 41% of the index of industrial production (IIP). The electricity sector grew by 12.8% in May, faster than the 10.2% in April and above the 0.8% in May last year. The steel sector rose



Three arrested for 'hurting religious sentiments' in J&K's Samba

JAMMU: Three persons were arrested for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of a particular community in J&K's Samba while disposing of the body of a dead cow, police said Friday. The accused had dumped portions of the carcass at several places, some of which came into the notice of citizens who alerted police. 7.6% in May, below the 8.8% in April and 12% in May 2023. The crude oil sector contracted 1.1%, fertilisers 1.7% and cement by 0.8%. "While the core sector growth sustained above 6% for the fourth consecutive

month, it eased slightly to 6.3% in May 2024 from 6.7% in the previous month, led by all constituents except electricity and coal," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ratings agency Ica. "Around 06.20pm Thursday, information was received about the desecration of a cattle carcass lying in the general area of Ward 8, Triloke di Chapri, Samba. A case was registered under relevant sections of the law. A special team headed by DySP HQ Samba was constituted and an investigation was launched.

Amarnath Yatra begins today; first batch of 4,600 pilgrims arrive in Kashmir

JAMMU: The first batch of pilgrims reached Kashmir on Friday for the annual Amarnath Yatra, beginning Saturday, with J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha flagging off 4,603 yatis in the morning from the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas base camp in Jammu under a tight security cover. Amid blowing of conch shells and chants of "Bum Bum Bhole", "Jai Baba Bolfani" and "Har Har Mahadev", the pilgrims left for the two base camps in Kashmir in a cavalcade of 231 vehicles, escorted by CRPF personnel. The 52-day pilgrimage will begin from the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km.

NTA announces new exam dates for postponed UGC NET, CSIR-UGC NET

Vatika Times



NEW DELHI: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced the new dates for the UGC-NET 2024 June session exam. The Joint CSIR UGC NET will take place from July 25 to 27, while the UGC NET June 2024 cycle is set to be held from August 21 to September 4. The June shift exam was initially conducted on June 18 in two shifts across over 317 cities, with more than 9 lakh candidates participating. However, the exam was cancelled on June 19. The day after the exam was concluded the ministry of education cancelled the exam, citing concerns that the "integrity" may have been compromised due to an alleged leak reported by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the ministry of home affairs. Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated that the question paper was leaked on the darknet and circulated on the Telegram app. Shifting from the previous format, the exam was conducted offline on a single day. However, the rescheduled exam will revert to the earlier pattern of a Computer-Based Test (CBT) spread over a fortnight. These adjustments in examination dates aim to accommodate candidates affected by recent disruptions and ensure the smooth conduct of these crucial entrance tests across India.

US supreme court criminalizes homelessness allowing laws that arrest people who sleep in public areas

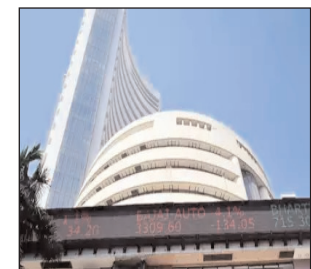
NEW DELHI: US supreme court criminalizes homelessness allowing laws that arrest people who sleep in public areas. With an American flag flying in the background and tents in the distance, amputee Donnie Snow, who is homeless, uses his bike to carry his dog Bubba, March 23, 2024, in Grants Pass, Ore. (AP) The supreme court of the



United States has ruled in favour of anti-camping laws implemented by the city of Grants Pass, Oregon, to prevent homeless individuals from sleeping in public spaces such as parks and streets. The decision allows police to ticket, fine or arrest those who sleep in public areas, a decision that could open the door for laws across the country to criminalize homelessness. The 6-3 decision overturned a lower court's ruling that found the enforcement of these ordinances unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on "cruel and unusual" punishments when no alternative shelter is available. Justice Neil Gorsuch, who wrote the majority opinion, stated, "Homelessness is complex.

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Sensex rally takes breather after crossing record 79k



MUMBAI: The Sensex and Nifty ended their four-day rally in Friday's session. After hitting new highs in the first half of the day, profit booking in banking and IT stocks led to both indices closing in the red. The Sensex declined 210 points to close at 79,033 after hitting a new high of 79,672 in the first half. Meanwhile, Nifty - after touching a new life-high of

24,174 during the day - ended 34 points lower at 24,010. Despite the selling pressure, the Sensex and Nifty closed above the psychological levels of 79,000 and 24,000, thanks to a strong rally in

Reliance Industries. Shares of Reliance rose 2.2% to a record high on Friday after its telecom arm revised its tariff. Sensex rally takes breather after crossing record 79k. "Profit-taking in banking stocks led the downfall in key benchmark indices, which had hit fresh intra-day highs in early optimism," said Prashanth Tapse, senior VP (research), Mehta Equities.

T20 World Cup Final: Five key contests that can impact the outcome

NEW DELHI: India and South Africa are set to face off in the T20 World Cup final in Barbados on Saturday. As the two unbeaten sides in the tournament gear up for the finale, here's a look at 5 key contests that could determine the course of the match. Rohit Sharma vs Marco Jansen. Rohit Sharma's contest against Marco Jansen will be critical. While it is not yet a well-known rivalry, Rohit's vulnerability to left-arm pace, revealed previously by Pakistan's Mohammad Amir and Shaheen Shah Afridi, offers Jansen a chance to exploit this weakness. Jansen has been in excellent form during the tournament and



could disrupt India's early momentum with his line outside off-stump. Numbers show a slight edge for Rohit, who has faced Jansen in nine T20I innings, scoring 113 runs and being dismissed only once. Virat Kohli vs Kagiso Rabada. Virat Kohli's performance in the World Cup has been below par with just 75 runs from seven matches at an average of 10.71. Kohli will face a formidable opponent in Kagiso Rabada during the

title clash. Rabada, with 12 wickets from eight matches, has an impressive economy rate of 5.88, considering his frequent bowling during the Powerplay and death overs. In their T20I meetings, Rabada has dismissed Kohli four times in 13 innings, conceding only 51 runs. This is a crucial matchup and Kohli will need to be cautious with Rabada's incoming deliveries, particularly while attempting his trademark swat-flick.

Rishabh Pant taking on Keshav Maharaj. Another key battle involves Rishabh Pant and Keshav Maharaj. Pant has accumulated 171 runs from seven matches at a strike rate of 129, while Maharaj has taken nine wickets in the same number of matches. Pant, batting at No.3, is likely to face Maharaj within the first 10 overs. Maharaj will need to bowl with utmost accuracy to curtail Pant's unconventional shots. Notably, Pant has been dismissed thrice while attempting the reverse sweep and paddle shot. Jasprit Bumrah versus Quinton de Kock. De Kock is another anticipated duel. De Kock, who is the highest run-scorer.

Three children killed in wall collapse in Greater Noida

NEW DELHI: Three children were killed and five others were injured when an under-construction wall and roof collapsed on them in Greater Noida on Friday evening, according to DCP Suniti. The children were playing near the construction site. Emergency services quickly responded to the scene, and the injured children were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the collapse and to ensure that safety regulations were followed at the construction site.

LJP implodes as uncle Paras isolates Chirag Paswan

NEW DELHI: In a surprise turn of events, Chirag Paswan, the president of Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) founded by his father late Ram Vilas Paswan, was on Monday unceremoniously unseated as the leader of the party in Lok Sabha. Chirag, who took over the mantle of the party in 2020 after the death of Ram Vilas Paswan, stood completely isolated at the top within his party. Five of the six members of Parliament of the LJP revolted against Chirag in an overnight coup and elected Pashupati Kumar Paras, his uncle, as the new leader of the party in Lok Sabha. Pashupati Kumar Paras ousted Chirag Paswan as LJP leader in Lok Sabha: Key developments Besides Pashupati Paras, the rebel group includes

Chirag's cousin Prince Raj, Chandan Singh, Veena Devi and Mehboob Ali Kaiser. The group has already met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to inform him about the changes in the party. In the coming days, the rebels may stake claim in the Election Commission to represent the real LJP and could also move to oust Chirag from the top party post. 'You reap what you sow' Nitish Kumar's party, the Janta Dal (United), reacted with a sense of vindication to the developments within the LJP. Chirag had led an aggressive anti-Nitish Kumar campaign in the 2020 assembly elections and in the process dealt a heavy political blow to the ruling Janta Dal (United) in Bihar.

Uttar Pradesh became Runner Up PEFI Under-17 National Football Championship

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh lost to West Bengal by 0-2 in final of the Under-17 National Football Championship 2024 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, in the first half UP were trailing by 0-1. In the second half of the game, the midfielders of Uttar Pradesh create few opportunities in the opponent box but fail to score. In the last min 90th min. WB scored the second goal to finish 0-2

UP Goalkeeper Ashwani Tomar was adjudged Best Goalkeeper of the championship. Uttar Pradesh team was as follows: Shivam Yadav, Prashant Pal, Ashwini Tomar,

Road to finals

LEAGUEROUND

Match 1 - UP 5 beat Jharkhand 0

Match 2 - UP 3 beat Delhi 0

Match 3 - UP 0 Vs Bihar 0

As pool TOPPER with 7 points qualified for SEMIFINAL

Semifinal - UP 1 Vs Haryana 0

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), Satyam (Ambedkar Nagar), Ankush Singh (Agra), Siddarth Singh (Basti), Shreyans Chowksey (Varanasi). Head Coach - Indranil Ghosh (Prayagraj), Team Manager - Dr. Dinesh Singh Yadav (Agra).

In grief over death of his wife, youth jumped into Yamuna, PAC soldiers saved his life

Prayagraj: At around 08.00 am, a young man, name- Pushp Pandey, age 30 Year old son Late - Koshram Pandey resident - Hydrail Colony 20, Clive Road Civil Lines, Prayagraj due to the death of his wife, due to the death of his wife, he committed suicide on top of pillar number 18 of Naini Bridge with the intention of commit-



ting suicide even before the cremation took place due to separation from his wife. Jumped into the deep water of Yamuna river and started drowning, immediately PC Parmatma Yadav, constable Rohit and Ranjit Kumar, who were on duty from the flood relief team of 42nd battalion PAC Naini Prayagraj deployed under the leadership of team leader Mithlesh Kumar Rai, took care of their lives. By reacting immediately, the said young man was saved from drowning and proper first aid was immediately given. This commendable work of PAC jawans was highly appreciated by the people present there and the bathers. Appreciating this courageous act of the said soldiers, the award was given by Commander 42nd Corps PAC, Naini Prayagraj Rajesh Srivastava.

UP polytechnic JEECUP 2024 results announced

Prayagraj: Ankit Tiwari from Prayagraj obtained 522 Rank with Physics Chemistry and Maths as subjects.

BJP to organize voter felicitation ceremony at assembly level

Prayagraj: Bharatiya Janata Party is engaged in the work of the organization regarding the upcoming programs. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that after the Lok Sabha elections on June 30, the organization of Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat is going to be launched again in BJP Metropolitan. Under the leadership of President Rajendra Mishra, voter felicitation ceremony will be organized at all the 1216 booths of the metropolis and till July 14, at the assembly level, the voter felicitation ceremony will be organized in the city southern, city north and city western assembly of Prayagraj metropolis in which Bharatiya Janata Party will express gratitude to the voters. Apart from this, the ongoing tree plantation campaign in the name of Ek Vriksha Maa will be given more intensity which will continue till 6th July, the birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee and a seminar will be organized in the memory of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee.

District Health Committee meet concludes

CDO warns against exhibiting carelessness in implementation of health related schemes

Prayagraj: Chief Development Officer Gaurav Kumar has given instructions to the medical officers in charge who have poor progress in making Ayushman cards, without showing any kind of carelessness or indifference in the implementation of health related schemes, to bring the expected progress against the target in a week. A meeting of the District Health Committee was organized in the Sangam Auditorium on Friday under the chairmanship of. In the meeting, the Chief Development Officer discussed the implementation of other schemes related to the health department including the works of communication campaign, JSY, delivery entry on Mantra portal, e-Kavach app, Ayushman Yojana, family welfare program, regular

vaccination, registration and updation on RCH portal. While reviewing the progress, he instructed that any kind of negligence or indifference in health services is not forgivable. Expressing displeasure over poor progress being found in the review of making Ayushman cards, the Chief Development Officer has directed to speed up immediate work in the blocks where the progress in making Ayushman cards is poor. In the review of payment of ASHAs, if the progress of development block Dhanupur and other development blocks was found to be poor, instructions have been given to the concerned medical officers in charge to ensure 100% payment.

While reviewing the Janani Suraksha Yojana, the Chief Development Officer



has expressed his displeasure on the medical officers in charge of the development block Koraon, Bahria, where the progress was found to be poor and has given instructions to improve the situation. While

reviewing the ongoing works of the Health Department, he has instructed the executing agencies to complete the works on time and with quality. While reviewing the institutional deliveries, the Chief Development

Officer has given instructions to ensure 100% institutional deliveries. He has directed to take action against ANMs who are negligent in identification and registration of pregnant women. He said that 100%

pregnant women should be identified and 100% registration should be ensured. The Chief Development Officer has given instructions to warn the concerned MOIC if the progress in payment of incentives is found to be poor in the review of incentives given to mothers. If feeding is found to be defective on the Mantra app, a warning has been given to the concerned MOIC and instructions have been given to ensure 100% feeding. In the review of registration of pregnant women on the RCH portal, instructions have been given to improve the situation if the progress is found to be poor. On this occasion, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ashu Pandey, Additional Chief Medical Officers, Incharge Medical Officers and other concerned officers were present.

Difficulties had to be faced in Ashadha Saptami fair in Shringverpurdham

*Administrative officials did not reach the Dham

*Administrative officials did not visit Shringverpurdham even once

*Lakhs of devotees took bath, people got injured after falling

Shringverpurdham: Ashadha has been running in Shringverpurdham since ancient times. At the Saptami fair, lakhs of devotees acquired virtue by bathing in the Ganga and donating. A crowd of believers gathered in Shringverpurdham since morning. The fasting women offered prayers for the welfare of the family. But due to administrative inconvenience in Shringverpurdham, women and devotees had to face severe problems. Devotees from many districts arrived in the Ashadh Saptami fair. Ashadh fair has special significance in Shringverpurdham. President of Shringverpur Teerth Kshetra Trust, Arun Dwivedi said that lakhs of devotees took bath in Shringverpurdham. But the police administration remained completely silent. Not a single policeman was deployed for security at Shringverpurdham main ghat. Difficulties had to be faced due to lack of women



No arrangement for ambulance

Lakhs of devotees arrived from far flung areas to take bath in the fair of Sanatani Ashadha Saptami. Lakhs of devotees kept arriving since morning. But there was no primary facility of any kind or any facility of ambulance or fire brigade to prevent any accident.

Severe traffic jam

There was a severe traffic jam in Shringverpurdham during the fair of Ashadh Saptami. Due to which the villagers had to face problems. Had to face problems due to vehicular traffic in the scorching heat. Meanwhile, the devotees also had to face problems for the facility of drinking water.

police personnel and water police. From SDM to BDO did not inspect any kind of facility. Many devotees got injured due to pile of stones in Shringverpurdham. Development works were carried

out in Shringverpurdham at a cost of crores. But all the work is limited to paper only. President Arun Dwivedi said that Shringverpurdham is still deprived of basic facilities. Villagers are facing problems

in the Sanatani fair organized on Ashadh Saptami. On Saturday, the second day of the fair, rural women will offer Kheer Puri to Mother Ganga by burning it in Shringverpurdham.

Construction work of Lord Jagannathji's Yamanika Tirtha Shri Temple completed

Prayagraj: Shri Jagannath Ji Mahotsav Committee Trust has completed the construction work of Prayageshwar Nath Temple, Jagannath Dham, Yamanika Teerth Shri Temple of Lord Jagannath Ji in the courtyard of Jagannath



Dham, Kashiraj Nagar, Rath Yatra Co-ordinator of the Trust. Rajesh Kesarwani told that on July 7, when Lord Jagannath ji along with his Bharata Balbhadra and Devi Subhadra will go on a city tour to visit the devotees along with his Bharata Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra and when he will return to his residence after meeting his aunt, then Lord Jagannath ji will visit his place. Brother Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra will be installed in the Yamanika Tirtha Shri Temple and told that lights and fans have been installed inside the temple and it has been covered with glass and the devotees will be able to see Lord Jagannath in person from a distance.

PDA team sealed illegal construction in Naini

Prayagraj: Illegal construction was being done by Shiv Shant Dixit in a posh area on Mirzapur Road in Naini area of Prayagraj. This land was in the name of Reetu Sharma. The Secretary of Prayagraj Development Authority, Ajit Singh, took the matter seriously and investigated it. As soon as the case was investigated and illegal construction was confirmed, an order was given to seize the construction site. Today the PDA team reached the spot and sealed the construction.

Serve by placing picture of heaven under feet of mother:

Maulana Syed Hasan Raza Zaidi

Sharib Lucknowi recited Taaziyati Ashar in Majlis-e-Sawab in memory of late Marhuma Nuzhat Askari

Prayagraj: In Madrasa Anwarul Uloom Marhuma Nuzhat Askari daughter of Late Hasan Askari in Majlis-e-Barsi, Lucknow Famous poet Sharib Lakhnavi, who came from India, presented a refreshing poem, while Maulana Syed Hasan Raza Zaidi Saheb Qibla praised the glory of the mother. He said to serve the mother by imagining heaven under her feet. Mother is that great personality who is in the womb for nine months. After the birth of the child, she remains busy in giving good upbringing while tolerating the troubles and even after death, she prays for the children. Maulana also mentioned the glory of the mothers of Karbala. At the same time, he praised the glory of Fatima Zahra, daughter of Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad Sahib. The Majlis started with the recitation of



Kalam Pak and Hadith Kisa by the children of Madrasa Anwarul Uloom. Forgiveness of Marhuma Nuzhat Askari Binte Late Hasan Askari and Syed Raza Hussain Ibne Haider Hussain. Prayers were also offered. Whereas the women's majlis was held at Marhuma's residence in Kareli, which was presided over by Mohtarma Shazi Syeda. Mohtarma Jaza Raza read the Kalams of Salaam, while Ima Raza and others read the sad Nauha. In the men's majlis, Maulana Jawadul Haider Rizvi, Maulana Mohammad Abbas, Sibte Asghar Rizvi, Agha Mohammad Qaiser, Masood Abdi, Ahmed Raza, Naseem Mustafabadi, Syed Mohammad Askari, Nayyar Abdi, Arshad Naqvi, Ahmed Javed Kajjan. Zaan Raza, Zaran Raza, Adnan Raza, Shahjib Abbas, Arham Abbas, Mahe Alam, Mirza Azadar Hussain, Zaigham Naqvi, Zargham Haider etc. were included.

Yogi government's initiative for transparency in scholarship

Aadhaar based biometric/facial authentication system will be implemented

Prayagraj/Lucknow: Yogi government has taken another important decision to increase transparency in scholarship and efficiency of students. On the instructions of CM Yogi, it has been decided to ensure the daily attendance of students receiving scholarship/fee reimbursement under the Purva Dasham, Post Dasham Scholarship and PM Yashasvi schemes operated under the Backward Classes Welfare Department through Aadhaar based biometric/facial authentication. In the first phase, this system will be implemented in Group-I courses (all government, non-government and government aided educational institutions) under the

Post-Death Scholarship Scheme run in educational institutions in the financial year 2024-25. After this, from the financial year 2025-26, this system will be implemented in all the educational institutions related to the pre-10th and post-10th scholarship/fee reimbursement scheme. State Minister of State for Disabled Empowerment and Backward Class Welfare (Independent Charge) Narendra Kashyap said that for the scholarship Implementation of Aadhaar based biometric system will increase transparency and efficiency. He said that the facility of scholarship/fee reimbursement will be allowed only if the attendance of the students is 75 per-

cent or more. Certification of attendance and all expenses incurred on it will be borne by the respective educational institutions. Educational institutions have been directed to ensure the attendance of students within the prescribed time limit through Aadhaar based biometric/facial authentication system, so that no student is deprived of scholarship due to procedural reasons.

The department has the facility of UIDAI authorized SUB AUA, under which facility of Aadhaar authentication and e-KYC in marriage grant scheme, services of Aadhaar demography/OTP authentication of applicants in scholarship schemes and daily atten-

dance facility of trainees in computer training scheme Shritran. It is being given through India Limited. Group-I courses include BAMS, B.Arch, BBA and MBA Integrated (BBA MBA Integrated), BDS., BFAD, BPharm., B.Tech (Integrated), B.Tech/BE, B.Tech. M.Tech Integrated, Doctor of Pharmacy, LLM, LLM Courses in Human Rights and Duties Education, LLM One Year, MTech, MBA, MBBS, MDS, MIB, MPT, MPharm, MS, Master of Pharmacy (Pharmacology), Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Chemistry), Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceutics), MBA (Integrated), MCA, MD Ayurveda, MS Ayurveda and PhD.

Afsar Mahmood re-appointed president of AIMIM



Prayagraj: Expressing gratitude to the party's top leadership, State President Shaukat Ali, Purvanchal President Israr Ahmed, on re-appointing Afsar Mahmood as the Metropolitan President of AIMIM Prayagraj, he has given full assurance that now the caravan of Majlis will move forward in Allahabad Prayagraj and with full devotion and Work will be done with honesty by taking all the workers into confidence. Officer Mahmood is known for old Majlisi cadre and Muslim politics and is also a founding member of the party. The prominent people who were congratulated by the party workers on making Afsar Mahmood the Metropolitan President included Quresh Ahmed Jafri, Iftekar Ahmed Mander, Mohammad Usman, Mohibbulhaq, Mohammad Muntajir, Mujibur Rehman, Arshad Ali, Danish Ansari, Meraj Ahmed, Shaukat Ali, Imran. Ahmed Siddiqui, Mohammad Hasan, Happy Hub, Alameen Ali, Israr Ahmed, Mohammad Shamim, etc.

Ministry of Agriculture Hosts National Workshop on Unleashing India's Agribusiness

Prayagraj/New Delhi: Reflecting on the importance of Agriculture Finance in the value chain, Manoj Ahuja, Secretary of DA&FW, underscored the pressing need to transition from a production-centric approach to a demand-driven one. "To develop Agricultural Value Chains (AVCs) more holistically and integrate them with global markets, we must shift our focus from merely addressing supply shortages to meeting market demands," he stated. Shri Ahuja emphasized the importance of implementing accountable and digital systems for effective AVC development and highlighted the need for a comprehensive policy framework to ensure financial inclusivity for all stakeholders.

Ahuja further advocated introducing financial instruments like bill discounting, bridge financing, and risk-hedging to improve liquidity and economic stability. "Creating an enabling environment with simplified application processes and reduced bureaucratic hurdles is crucial for effectively implementing these instruments," he added.

Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary of DFS, emphasized the critical role of Digital Financial Services (DFS) in providing timely credit within the Agricultural Value Chain Financing (AVCF) framework, noting a significant increase in agricultural credit availability. "Our focus is on ensuring seamless and affordable access to credit to support farmers throughout the value chain," he stated. Further highlighted is the significant role of NBFCs, fintech, and startups in providing last-mile credit access and specialized financial products, particularly in high-value agricultural markets.

It is pertinent to mention that the Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (DA&FW) organized a workshop titled "Unleashing India's Agribusiness Potential through Innovative Agri Value Chain Financing" on 27th June 2024 in New Delhi. The event brought together senior officials of the Government of India and the State Government, experts, and stakeholders to discuss the dynamics of agricultural financing.

The workshop focused on creating awareness, facilitating collaboration, exploring solutions, and empowering participants with innovative agricultural finance solutions. The workshop saw robust participation from academia, industry, financing agencies, facilitating agencies, and various government departments. It served as a crucial platform for collaboration and partnership-building,

paving the way for transformative initiatives in India's agricultural sector. It included high-level strategic discussions featuring notable speakers such as Prof. Ashok Gulati, a Distinguished Professor at ICRIER, who highlighted the importance of transitioning to a demand-driven approach in agriculture to improve farmer incomes, the need to focus on the nutrition aspect in the food chain and develop climate resilience in agriculture.

While welcoming the participants, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary (Credit), DA&FW, set the context at the beginning by highlighting the need for a holistic approach to Agri-

cultural Value Chain Financing (AVCF), noting that projections indicate agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) will reach Rs 105 lakh crore by 2030, making value chain financing increasingly vital.

Chairman NABARD, Shri K.V. Shaji, emphasized the urgent need to improve farmers' finance access and ensure reliable data availability for SHGs and FPOs, as the data is critical for the banks to make informed decisions and offer effective value chain financing. He advocated for the development of public infrastructure in rural areas, including facilities for processing, branding, and marketing agricultural products. He also emphasized the need to strengthen the governance structure of cooperatives in rural areas. He said these will lead to integrated value chain financings.

Insurance and CEO of PMFBY, Shri Ritesh Chauhan, gave a presentation on fostering financial resilience in agriculture through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme. Shri Chauhan highlighted the government's holistic approach to Agri-Value Chain Financing, emphasizing the need for comprehensive risk protection and financial support throughout the agricultural value chain. He under-

scored the importance of leveraging technology through platforms like SARTHI, AIDE, Kisan Rin Portal, and AGRISTACK to streamline credit availability and enhance agricultural resilience.

Panel discussions covered various aspects of agri value chain financing, including cluster-based approaches, innovative financing mechanisms, and integrating Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) into value chains. Experts from diverse backgrounds shared insights and experiences, enriching the discourse.

The workshop highlighted the potential of cluster-based agricultural value chain financing approaches to unlock synergies and scale impact. It identified opportunities for innovation and collaboration to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and profitability within the agricultural value chain. The event aimed to improve strategic access to financial tools across value chain actors. Understanding critical finance points, including current fund flows and sources, was deemed essential for enhancing model effectiveness, contributing to the development of self-sustaining agricultural finance models capable of being scaled and replicated.

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Due to the promptness of railway employee, passenger's mobile phone left in train recovered

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Mock drill conducted to assess preparedness to cope contingencies

Prayagraj: Onsite emergency plan was rehearsed (mock drill) at IFFCO Phulpur unit. During this period, Fire & heavy leakage of Natural gas from the D/S flange of the isolation valve of PSV installed on main header from GAIL terminal to IFFCO



Phulpur complex. First the leakage started, after which the fire brigade tried to control the natural gas and the rescue team took the injured to the hospital. After this, a review meeting of the onsite emergency plan was held with the local administration,

IFFCO management and all the department heads. In the review meeting, Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) Sanjay Kudesia said that in any disaster, we should analyze it technically so that how we can deal with it technically. With such mock drills we can perform better at the time of an accident. During this, teams from Fire Department (IFFCO), GAIL (IFFCO), local administration, Fire Department Uttar Pradesh, Security Department cooperated in the rehearsal. In the rehearsal, Civil Defense Controller Narendra Sharma and Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, GMS respectively Sanjay Vaish, M.D. Mishra, JGMs respectively Dr. Anita Mishra, P.K.Singh, Sanjay Bhandari, P.K.Patel, Ratnesh Kumar, Arun Kumar, Arvendra Kumar, A.K.Gupta, HOD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, Chief Manager Fire and Safety Sanjeev Kumar, Manager Fire and Safety A.K. Yadav, Vikas Kumar, Manoj Patel and officers and employees of the concerned department were present.

Prayagraj: The entire staff, teaching, office and assistants of St. Joseph's College came out to warmly welcome the new Principal, Rev. Father Walter D'Silva and gathered at the famous Hogan Hall. Sumona Banerjee, the moderator of the ceremony, congratulated the present Principal, Rev. Father Thomas Kumar, Headmaster Rev. Additional Administrator of Father Melvin Pius, A. Mac Gowan, Staff Coordinator

guidance of the Almighty Father. After this, the KG section staff sang a soulful prayer song under the guidance of B.Solomon.

Thereafter Dr Sheetal Sebastian highlighted the various achievements and accolades of Rev.Father Walter D'Silva, his spiritual journey so far, his keen acumen and his vast administrative experience. He succeeded the current principal, Rev. Also reiterated the depth of gratitude of the entire St. Joseph family towards a humanitarian and visionary like Fr Thomas Kumar. The St. Joseph family then expressed their happiness by presenting beautiful bouquets to their new Principal. Rev.Fr. Thomas Kumar, present Principal, Rev.Fr. Melvin Pias, Headmaster, Aubrey Mac

Gowan, Additional Administrator, Jyoti Dubey, Staff Coordinator, Junior Section Soumya Prakash, Primary Section Coordinator

bouquet and greeted Rev. Fr Walter D'Silva one by one. Always pithy and articulate in his insightful speeches, Rev. Fr Thomas

Lynette More, Middle School Coordinator Aparna Ranjan, Senior School Coordinator Linda Gaffney, senior most office staff P. Horo and Peter from the support staff presented the

Kumar thanked the Almighty for Rev. Fr Walter D'Silva. He also presented the new college diary, annual calendar and college magazine to Rev.Father Walter D'Silva, mentioning that all these will be formally released on July 1, 2024. The college diary, magazine and annual events calendar are all representative of the long-standing tradition of assembly prayers, patriotism, college rules, human resources and diverse college activities.

In his subsequent address to the gathering, Rev.Father Walter D'Silva thanked everyone for the warm wishes and bouquets, while also encouraging everyone to remember to remain true to their calling. He also stressed the need to be true to one's capabilities so as to achieve maximum good results. The program concluded with Preeti Bhoj

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St. Joseph's College welcomes new Principal

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Editorial

Navigating India's choppy geopolitical waters

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

Cutting China Off

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

No proof

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



India's temple diplomacy in the UAE

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The rigging thereafter

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

White paper on the Indian economy: From fragility to stability

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

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

Under the NDA government led by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Gross NPA ratio in public sector banks was reduced from 16.0% to 7.8%, but during the UPA era, it escalated to 12.3% by 2013, partly due to political meddling in bank lending decisions. The crisis deepened by 2014 with the banking sector grappling with a substantial increase in bad loans, much of which were not recognized in official accounts. A Credit Suisse report from

March 2014 highlighted that top companies with poor interest coverage ratios contributed significantly to the unrecognised NPAs, suggesting a systemic underestimation of the banking sector's distress during this period. This period saw a massive escalation in gross advances by public sector banks from Rs 6.6 lakh crore in 2004 to Rs 39.0 lakh crore by 2012, with a large portion of loans turning problematic, particularly those originated between 2006 and 2008, as noted by a former RBI Governor in a 2018 parliamentary panel response. The Modi government addressed the NPA crisis through a strategic approach termed the '4R' strategy, encompassing recognition, resolution, recapitalization, and reforms. This strategy led to a significant reduction in bad loans, with public sector banks (PSBs) witnessing a decline of Rs 89,189 crore in their gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) during the financial year 2018-19. The efforts were part of a comprehensive plan to clean up the banking system, which included the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, among other measures.

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

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

leadership of the Armed Forces of Ukraine." General Zaluzhnyi had gained enormous credit for spearheading the successful effort by Ukraine's forces to halt and then reverse Russia's initial attack launched on 24 February 2022. He was appointed Commander-in-Chief in July 2021, just half a year before Russia launched its all-out invasion. The Armed Forces of Ukraine, under his leadership, had succeeded in pushing back initial Russian advances near the capital, Kyiv, and then led successful counteroffensives later in 2022,

freeing parts of eastern and southern Ukraine. Both General Zaluzhnyi and General Syrskiy played key roles in those campaigns. The dismissal ended weeks of speculation about the fate of General Valery Zaluzhnyi, whose relationship with President Zelensky had deteriorated, and there were strong rumours regarding his exit. The Ukrainian forces under General Zaluzhnyi had contained the initial Russian onslaught. That was a great achievement, because almost everybody expected the

Russian forces to steamroll their way across the plains of Ukraine. But lately, his record has been tarnished by the failure of last year's counteroffensive, which ran into well-prepared Russian defences. Last year's highly anticipated

counteroffensive, using soldiers trained by NATO allies and Western weapons and equipment, reclaimed little territory, falling far short of expectations. General Zaluzhnyi and his American counterparts disagreed sharply over tactics.

1 killed, couple injured in separate terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir

NEW DELHI: A former sarpanch was killed while a tourist couple from Rajasthan sustained injuries in two separate terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday night. According to the officials, the first attack took place on an open tourist camp near Pahalgam while the second on the former sarpanch at Hirpora in south Kashmir. "Terrorists fired upon and injured a woman, Farha, a resident of Jaipur (in Rajasthan) and her spouse Tabrez at Yannar in Anantnag. The injured were evacuated to a hospital for treatment. The area has been cordoned off. Further details shall follow," the Kashmir Zone Police posted on X. In another attack, within half-an-hour, terrorists shot dead former sarpanch Aijaz Sheikh in Shopian's Hirpora around 10.30 pm, the officials said. Sheikh, who was associated with the BJP, was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed



to injuries, the officials added. The areas in Anantnag and Shopian have been cordoned off and search operations have been launched to nab the attackers, the officials said. The attacks came as the state is preparing to go for the polls for the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Polling in Baramulla will be held on May 20 in the fifth round of the seven-phase general elections. Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the National Conference, PDP and the BJP, condemned the attacks. Former chief minister

and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, said on X, "While we condemn the attack in Pahalgam today that resulted in injuries to two tourists followed by another attack on a (former) sarpanch in Hirpora, Shopian - the timing of these attacks given that the south election was delayed without any reason is a cause of concern. Especially keeping in mind normalcy claims touted by GOI (Government of India)." National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah also condemned the terror attacks.

Poll promises unfulfilled, iron factory linked to Dalai Lama waits for revival

KODERMA: On the outskirts of Jharkhand's Koderma town, a defunct iron factory stands abandoned and corroded, greeting visitors at the entrance of Hirodih, a dusty and sleepy settlement of four villages next to a forgotten legacy. Thousands of residents of Hirodih swing between hope and despair every election, as their demand to revive the plant, once owned by Tibetan spiritual leader and Nobel Prize winner, the Dalai Lama, getting them promises and assurances from candidates seeking

votes every time, only to be forgotten after the polls. After the Buddhist monk crossed into India from Tibet in the 1950s, he set up this plant, spread over 350 acres of land bought from the villagers for Rs 4 crore in 1960, and named it Gayday Iron & Steel Company. The only venture owned by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the factory was a major avenue for employment in the region. But, more than four decades since its closure, hopes of its revival have only diminished due to half-baked attempts, failed promis-

es and administrative apathy, turning Koderma into a migration-prone region. Jung Bahadur Singh, who is now in his late 70s, was among the first employees of this factory. He continued to be on the rolls even when the factory's ownership kept changing hands, but the jobs continued to shrink owing to a lack of proper patronage to run the factory. The septuagenarian lives in Gamarwad village, one of the four villages where people voluntarily gave up their lands for the factory, hoping it would usher in prosperity.

In jail since 2019, J&K candidates' assets up, liabilities dip

BARAMULLA: Independent candidate from Baramulla Lok Sabha seat Abdul Rashid Sheikh, who is lodged in Tihar for alleged terror-funding activities, has significantly reduced his liabilities and increased assets in the last five years, his poll affidavit

shows. Better known as 'Engineer Rashid', the former MLA's assets are now valued at Rs 1.5 crore compared to Rs 80 lakh in 2019. It includes a 41,072 sq ft non-agriculture land in his home town Lingate and a house in Srinagar

worth Rs 90 lakh. Rashid has declared Rs 11.3 lakh home loan and Rs 3.1 lakh Kissan Credit Card loan as liabilities. The former MLA has only Rs 1,424 in his sole bank account, his financial disclosures show. In the affidavit, he cited pension as his source.

Acharyakul Chandigarh honoured Nalin Acharya

Chandigarh: Acharyakul Chandigarh honored its Senior Vice President and senior journalist Nalin Acharya on being elected President of Press Club Chandigarh. The program was organized at Chandigarh Press Club. Acharyakul President KK Sharda, Senior Vice President Prem Vij and other members honoured him by giving him a shawl, citation and flower bunch. Senior journalist and litterateur Prem Vij, while introducing Nalin Acharya on this occasion, said that many of



his generation are contributing in journalism. Acharyakul President KK Sharda shared his experiences with his

father Santosh Acharya. Secretary Tajinder Thakur was also present. Dr. Rajiv Kapila, MM Juneja, Dr.

Vinod Sharma, Dr. Varinder Singh Yogi, Kanshi Ram, Varinder Kumar, Yogesh Sharma Gurdarshan Mavi expressed their views. Nalin Acharya gave information about his journey in journalism. Dr. Pragya Sharda, Dr. Anish Garg, Vimla Guglani, Annuarani Sharma, Sangeeta Sharma appreciated the works of Nalin Acharya through poems. The program was conducted by Annuarani Sharma. Famous bhajan singer Somesh Gupta presented bhajan.

More than 40 Telangana IAS officers were transferred and given new assignments

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 commis-

sioner, is now GHMC commissioner. Transport Commissioner Jyoti is now Registration, Stamps, and Housing secretary. He took over as Commissioner and Inspector General Registration and Stamps, Commission of Survey Settlements and Land Records, and Project Director of Bhubharathi, replacing veteran official Navin Mittal. Mr. Jyoti Buddha Prakash will remain

Transport Commissioner until Ilambarathi arrives. Sabyasachi Ghosh, currently Youth Services principal secretary, has been shifted to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, while 1995 batch officer Sanjay Kumar, who was waiting, has been posted to Labour. After Shailaja Ramaiyer was promoted to Endowments department main secretary, A. Vani Prasad, principal secretary of Environment.

Rename namesake disease hitting Ranikhet's fame: HC

DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand high court has directed the state to propose a new name for a disease that has Ranikhet, a picturesque tourist spot, in its name. After a PIL highlighted that the hill station's reputation suffers due to its association with an avian disease known as 'Ranikhet disease', the administration has now been told to file an affidavit suggesting an alternative name by June 27. During the hearing, Chief Justice Ritu Bahri and Justice Rakesh Thapliyal discussed the negative impact of the disease's name on Ranikhet's tourism. Ranikhet renowned for healthy air, Himalayan views

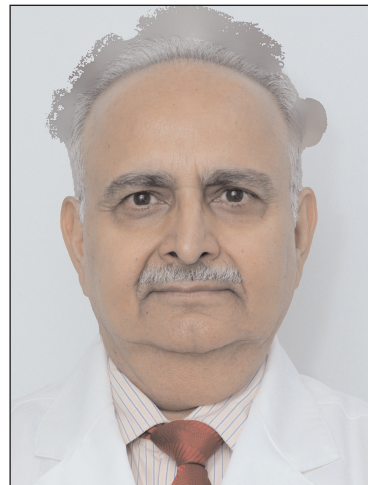


The petitioner, Satish Joshi, of Ranikhet, said "the picturesque town's allure is overshadowed by this association". Ranikhet, about 50km from Almora, is renowned for its healthy climate, pleasant breeze, stunning Himalayan views, and pollution-free greenery with deodar and oak trees. The area's attractions, including Kumaon Regimental Centre, museum, & golf course, offer memorable experiences for visitors. Ranikhet disease,

also known as Newcastle disease, affects the birds and poultry, leading to severe respiratory issues, nervous system problems, and high mortality rates. This affliction has significant economic implications for poultry farmers and can affect the large local bird populations. The petitioner contended other celebrated hill stations like Mussoorie and Nainital are exalted. Ranikhet, therefore, should not be overshadowed.

Sudden Anger Outbursts Can Spike BP: Experts at Paras Health Panchkula Raises Awareness on World Hypertension Day

Panchkula: In recognition of World Hypertension Day, experts at Paras Health Panchkula raises awareness about the dangers of sudden anger outbursts and their potential to significantly increase blood pressure. "Uncontrolled anger can have a very real and negative impact on your cardiovascular system," asserted Dr. H. K. Bali, Chairman, Cardiac Sciences, Paras Health Panchkula. "During anger, the body undergoes a physiological stress response. This hormonal cascade causes blood vessels to constrict, heart rate to escalate, and blood pressure to surge rapidly. These spikes in blood pressure put a tremendous strain on the heart. Over time, repeated episodes of uncontrolled anger can



damage the delicate lining of blood vessels, leading to chronic hypertension, a major risk factor for a multitude of life-threatening conditions." "Many people don't realize how intensely anger can affect their physical health," said Dr. Vinay Verma, Director, Internal Medicine, Paras Health Panchkula. "When we get



angry, our bodies go into fight-or-flight mode, releasing a flood of stress hormones like adrenaline and cortisol. These hormones act like a double whammy on our blood pressure. While occasional spikes are normal, frequent anger outbursts can lead to chronically high blood pressure, a silent killer that significantly

increases the risk of heart disease, stroke, and even kidney failure. It's crucial to manage your anger for the sake of your overall health by identifying the triggers, embracing relaxing techniques like deep breathing, meditation, and yoga which are proven to lower stress hormones. "By managing anger and adopting healthy lifestyle practices, you can significantly reduce your risk of developing hypertension and its associated complications. If you find it challenging to manage anger on your own, consider seeking anger management therapy. A therapist can equip you with coping mechanisms and communication skills to address anger in a healthy way.

CAPSULES

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 has 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 jumlabaz 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. of your choice in Chandigarh. If your government is formed in Chandigarh, you will be heard.

'Make Your Way' with Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor

AMBALA: The All-New Toyota URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is Toyota Kirloskar Motor's latest addition to its robust SUV lineup in India. This dynamic SUV seamlessly blends style, advanced features, and power-packed performance, making it a perfect choice for Indian customers seeking both prestige and practicality. With its modern styling and cutting-edge technologies, the URBAN CRUISER TAISOR reinforces Toyota's commanding presence in the SUV category. The vehicle's powertrain options include a 1.0L Turbo engine, a 1.2L Petrol engine, and an E-CNG variant, each designed to deliver a remarkable driving experience. The 1.0L Turbo engine is available with both 5-speed manual and 6-speed automatic transmissions, offering versatility for those who prioritize power and performance. The 1.2L Petrol engine comes with a 5-speed manual transmission and Intelligent Gear Shift (IGS), while the 1.2L E-CNG option ensures



exceptional fuel efficiency. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR delivers maximum power of 100.06 PS @ 5500 rpm in the 1.0L Turbo option, offering a power packed driving experience with segment best fuel efficiency of 21.5* km/l for Manual and 20.0* km/l for Automatic. The 1.2L Petrol Engine offers maximum power of 89.73 PS @6000rpm with a fuel efficiency of 21.7* Manual and 22.8*(AMT) km/l. The All-New URBAN CRUISER TAISOR is also available in the E-CNG option offering fuel efficiency of 28.5* km/kg. Exterior - All-New D 27 proudly reflects Toyota's illustrious SUV pedigree through a bold, unique and stylish Aerodynamic Exterior

design with a sleek sloping roofline, enhancing both visual appeal and performance.

The vehicle boasts a premium front grille with chrome garnish showcasing Toyota's signature elegance uniquely created by Toyota designers. Complementing its sporty demeanour are the sleek 16" Machined Alloy wheels, the S+ and G variants stand-out with Dynamic All Black Painted Alloy Wheels. Twin LED Day Time Running Lights not only enhance visibility during the day but also contribute to a modern aesthetic. The Connected LED Rear Combi lamps, Shark Fin Antenna and the Sporty rear Skid Plate add a contemporary and adventurous touch.

President makes way for cafe run by persons with disabilities in 'Presidents Estate' for making inclusion a reality

NEW DELHI: Sending a strong message towards creating an inclusive environment, President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday inaugurated a cafe in the President's Estate run by persons with disabilities. 'Mitti Cafe', which has more than 40 outlets in different parts of the country, including one in the Supreme Court, will now be available to all visitors to the President's Estate which is home to the much visited museum, the sprawling greens of 'Amrit Udyan' and the families living in the complex. Murmu, who turned 66 on Thursday, also chose to

spend a good part of her morning meeting and addressing children with disabilities and their families at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities in central Delhi. Addressing the gathering at the National Institute, the President said the progress of a country or society could be measured by the sensitivity shown by people towards persons with disabilities. She cited examples of sports persons like Deepa Malik, Arunima Sinha and Avani Lekhara and social workers like K S Rajanna

and said all such people were examples of the fact that with dedication and determination, one could overcome every kind of physical limitation. Meanwhile, as Rashtrapati Bhawan shared photos of Murmu inaugurating Mitti cafe and celebrating her special day with the cheerful staff at the Cafe, a post from the official handle of the President of India on X described the opening of the cafe as "another step towards creating an inclusive environment" by the President. "Mitti cafe is a movement towards an inclusive society.

Canada Parliament honours Nijjar; India plans Kanishka tribute

JALANDHAR: Canadian parliament honoured pro-Khalistan separatist and designated terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar with a moment's silence on his first death anniversary Tuesday, reigniting the row triggered by PM Justin Trudeau last year when

he insinuated that Indian agents masterminded the Punjab-born immigrant's killing. The Indian consulate general in Vancouver responded almost immediately with a reminder of the country's fight against terror and an open invitation

to the diaspora to "a show of solidarity against terrorism" at a memorial service this weekend for the 329 victims of the 1985 Kanishka bombing. Nijjar was killed outside the parking lot of a gurdwara in Canada's Surrey on June 18 last year.

Strengthening last mile connectivity with the Tata Magic Bi-Fuel

GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD : From bustling city streets to rural landscapes, the Tata Magic has successfully transported lakhs of passengers across the country on their last mile journeys. Now, the recently launched Tata Magic Bi-Fuel is set to elevate the journey even further. Combining a 60-litre CNG tank with a 5-litre petrol tank, the vehicle offers a cumulative range of approximately 300 kilometers on a single fill, making it ideal for



longer routes and varied terrains. This innovative variant offers a seamless switch between CNG and petrol, helping save time and reduce

fuel consumption. The Tata Magic Bi-Fuel caters to the evolving needs of passengers as well as drivers. With the highest seating

capacity of 9+D in its segment and features including radial tyre, gearshift advisor and enhanced driver ergonomics, the vehicle optimizes fuel consumption, thereby offering a low cost of ownership. Backed with an exceptional two-year or 72,000 kilometers warranty, the Tata Magic Bi-Fuel reiterates the company's promise of offering reliable and durable vehicles, ensuring peace of mind for fleet owners and individual operators alike.

Flagged high speed of goods train, gateman deposes before probe panel

Ten railway staffers - three gatemen of level crossings between West Bengal's Rangapani station and the accident site, two linesmen, two station managers, the pilot and the co-pilot of Kanchanjunga Express and another railway employee - deposed before the chief commissioner of railway safety, NFR, on the first day of the probe on Wednesday, with one of the gatemen confirming that he had raised an alarm about the



goods train moving at more than the approved speed, report. "One of the gatemen said that he had seen the train passing at a speed higher than the allowed limit and had immediately called

Rangapani station to alert them. We are checking the timing of the landline conversation and are questioning the station manager and other officials about what they had done after receiving the information," said

Surendra Kumar, divisional railway manager, Katihar Division, who is part of the investigation team. Probe day 1_ Level-crossing gateman had alerted about goods train speed. So far around 30 people - including railway personnel, multiple witnesses and rescuers who reached the spot immediately after the accident - have been called to help the investigation being held at the additional divisional railway manager's office in Siliguri.

When will NEET exam be cancelled': Congress demands PM

NEW DELHI: The Congress party on Wednesday called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the ongoing controversy surrounding the NEET-UG 2024 exam and take responsibility for preventing paper leaks.

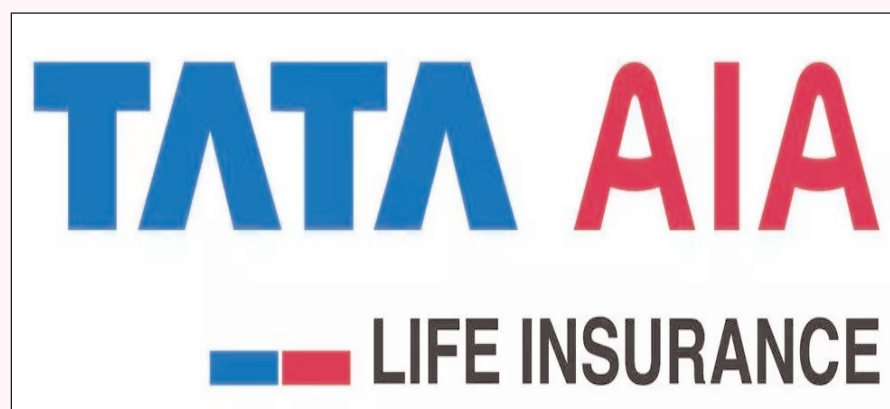


the post. Kharge also pointed out the inconsistencies in the Education Minister's statements regarding paper leaks and demanded the cancellation of the NEET exam. "The Union Education Minister had earlier said that no paper was leaked in NEET. When arrests are made of the education mafia in Bihar, Gujarat and Haryana, the Education Minister accepts that some scam has taken place! When will the NEET exam be cancelled?" he added. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi also

commented on the matter, highlighting the negative impact of the BJP government's alleged laxity and corruption on the youth. "The laxity and corruption of the BJP government is fatal for the youth. After the news of the scam in NEET exam, now the NET exam held on June 18 has also been cancelled due to the fear of irregularities," Priyanka said in a post on X. The ministry of education has sought a detailed report from the Economic Offences Unit of the Bihar Police regarding the alleged irregularities.

Tata AIA announces its highest ever bonus payout of INR 1,465 crores

HISAR : Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (Tata AIA), one of India's leading life insurers, has declared a bonus of INR 1,465 crores for Participating (PAR) policyholders for the financial year 2024. The bonus payout announced is the highest ever paid by the Company, showcasing an increase of 24% over the INR 1,183 crore bonus announced in FY23. Tata AIA's strong investment management capabilities and robust risk management practices have consistently resulted in higher bonuses for participating policyholders. This is also one of the reasons that the company enjoys the trust of its consumers, as they continue to renew their policies. During FY24, Tata AIA



achieved industry-leading Persistency performance (based on premium), ranking #1 in 4 cohorts - 13th Month (89.40%), 25th Month (80.70%), 37th Month (75.00%) and 49th Month (73.10%). Persistency ratio indicates the percentage of policyholders who renew their life insurance policy every year, demonstrating their loyalty and trust in the brand. Kshitij Sharma, Executive Vice President and Appointed Actuary,

Tata AIA, said, "We are delighted to deliver yet another year of excellent performance of bonus payout in our participation policies. Tata AIA's record bonus announcement underscores our commitment to rewarding our policyholders for superior returns to our policyholders is our continuous endeavor, enabling our consumers to live a fikar-free life and fulfill their aspirations towards their loved ones." Tata AIA offers

a range of Participating products that help consumers accumulate wealth or earn income, to secure their family and fulfil their aspirations. These products offer life insurance cover, income, as well as regular or lump-sum benefits in the form of bonuses. Consumers can grow their investments through these solutions without taking any risks associated with market-linked investments.

Congress poses six questions as PM Modi visits J&K

NEW DELHI: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir since the Lok Sabha elections, Congress party posed six questions regarding the restoration of full statehood to the Union Territory and the holding of assembly elections. Congress General Secretary Jai Ram Ramesh took to X and questioned BJP for not holding elections in the region and raised concerns about the deteriorating law and order situation under Modi's watch. "As the 'one-third' Pradhan Mantri makes his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir since the Lok Sabha elections, six questions he should answer," Ramesh wrote on X. "Since 2018, the people of J&K have been denied any avenue to express their grievances. The region has become a bureaucratic fiefdom controlled by the BJP-RSS cabal.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

tion. The court said that if the petitioning students were to succeed in their legal challenges, it would lead to the cancellation of the 2024 exam and the subsequent counselling process. This development follows the hearing on Tuesday, during which a petition seeking the cancellation of NEET UG 2024 was considered. During the proceedings, the court remarked that the 'sanctity of the exam has been affected' and requested a response from the National Testing Agency (NTA) regarding the matter.

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

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

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



Bhavan despite being granted requisite permission. He had sought a reply from CM Mamata Banerjee, alleging that Kolkata Police had tried to prevent him from carrying out his duty as governor. On Monday morning, Raj Bhavan officials requested closure of the police outpost at the North Gate, but cops said they could not leave without a directive from Lalbazar. Additionally, Bose wanted to set up a Jana Manch near the gate, but the police team refused, citing that Raj Bhavan was in a high-security zone with prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPc permanently imposed around it. Sources said the gover-

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

CAPSULES

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Army doctor turns saviour for ill man onboard flight

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

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

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

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

NEW DELHI: The NEET paper leak controversy has taken a political turn with Bihar's deputy chief minister, Vijay Sinha, accusing the leader of the opposition in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, of involvement in the scandal. During a press conference in Patna, deputy CM Vijay Sinha detailed phone calls made by Tejashwi Yadav's personal secretary, Pritam Kumar, to book accommodations for Sikander Kumar Yadavendu, the mastermind of the NEET question paper leak. "On May 1, Tejashwi Yadav's personal secretary

Pritam Kumar called guesthouse worker Pradip Kumar to book a room for Sikander Kumar Yadavendu... On May 4, Pritam Kumar called Pradip Kumar again for booking the room... The word 'mantri' was used for Tejashwi Yadav," Sinha said. "Sikandar Yadavendu is a close relative of Tejashwi Yadav's PS Pritam Kumar. An NHA guest house was booked for Sikandar's sister Reena Yadav and son Anurag Yadav on May 4. A phone number and 'Mantri Ji' were mentioned in the NHA guest house's

diary. The investigating agency is trying to identify this 'Mantri Ji,'" Sinha added. Sinha, also the minister of road construction, ordered an inquiry into the booking of the NHA guest house. "I am conducting a thorough investigation in my department to identify officers or employees working at the behest of Tejashwi Yadav. The entire RJD system is based on crime and corruption," he said. However, NHA has clarified that it does not operate any guest house facility in Patna.

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

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

reservation laws. On November 21, the state government had notified the amended reservation laws. The Bihar government in November last year had officially notified in the state gazette two bills, aiming to raise the quota for deprived castes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and educational institutions. With the enactments, Bihar held the highest reservation percentage among larger states, reaching a total of 75 per cent. Reacting to the court's order, RJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha urged Bihar CM Nitish Kumar to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court. "We consider it as very unfortunate. I would like to say that we should see the social background of the petitioner. Who are those people trying to do this

from behind the curtains? We would urge Nitish Kumar to challenge this decision immediately in the upper court," Manoj Jha said. The two bills that hiked quota The two bills, namely the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Bill-2023 and the Bihar (in admission in educational institutions) Reservation Bill, 2023, had become law after the gazette notification. Bihar, with the law, was the second only to Tamil Nadu to provide the highest percentage of reservation to backward classes. While Tamil Nadu offers 50 per cent, Bihar provided 43 per cent reservations for them, followed by Sikkim and Kerala with 40 per cent

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

HYDERABAD: Travelling to the United States with a Puma, Adidas, or Nike fake? Your bargain buys might just get confiscated - or even destroyed - by US customs officials. With US Customs and Border Protection (CPB) stepping up its surveillance of smuggling of counterfeit goods, many Indian students and travellers who flew into America in recent months had their fake luxury items seized at the port of entry. Some told they had to watch the staff run scissors through their clothes or ditch them in the trash can. CPB rules say an individual can carry one counterfeit item of each type (like one shirt, handbag, or pair of shoes) provided it is for personal use and not for sale. Anything in "excess" of this is banned. travelled to the US to meet my son, who is pursuing a master's in supply chain management in Texas. I was carrying eight shirts, four trousers, some socks, and a pair of shoes. All the goods were still packed as I had just bought them, said a schoolteacher from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. "At the port of entry officials checked my bags and bombarded me with questions about where I was travelling from, who the goods were for, if I was smuggling them, etc. Though I tried explaining to them that it was all for my son, they insisted that I could not take them as they were all counterfeit goods - copies of big brands - which I wasn't aware of. Since they threatened me with criminal charges, I had no choice but to let them seize everything immediately." The traveller said many of the clothing items were torn before being discarded. "I lost goods worth at least Rs 30,000," added the 43-year-old, appealing to authorities to mention these rules on relevant platforms for the benefit of travellers.

Unrecognized schools are instructed to cease operations

Delhi-163

unrecognized schools in Gurugram have received letters from the district elementary education department requiring them to close and forbidding further enrollment. The list was created as a result of the schools' failure to meet the standards necessary for recognition until March 31, according to people with knowledge of the situation. According to the agency, unrecognized schools will not be permitted to continue operating. The education administration published a list of 282 schools in the district earlier this month that did not meet the requirements for recognition. Of them, 20 have ceased business, 163 have received notices, and 99 have sought affiliations. They said that those who received notices had been asked to reply. The district elementary education officer, Muni Ram, stated that they had begun the process of bringing



"PS Baghel is in charge of enrollment, making sure that rules are followed and that, in the event that parents are not present, a legal guardian is named"

IIT-Kharagpur has announced graduated fines for fighting and alcohol misuse

Delhi:

IIT Kharagpur has proposed graded fines of Rs 5,000 for the first offense and Rs 10,000 for a repeat offense for students caught consuming alcohol on campus. In both situations, parents will be notified. A disciplinary committee will be tasked with reviewing cases involving students found guilty more than twice. The committee's recommendation will include "appropriate punishment" and a minimum penalty of Rs 50,000.

criminal charges against these institutions. They have requested that police look into and take action against schools that continue to accept new pupils in defiance of governing directives. "We have intervened and notified the police in the suburbs of Manesar, Pataudi, Farrukhnagar, and the city.

27 companies, 3,000 students: DU job mela resonates

Delhi: A two-day placement-cum-internship employment fair ended at Delhi University. The university central placement unit organized the career fair. The expo attracted around 3,000 kids this year. The university's placement department expects many students to be placed this year. The placement exercise included 27 companies, according to DU. The placement cell reported that 1,000 of 3,000 registered students were shortlisted by firms. "The job mela was a hit. Student involvement was high across disciplines and colleges. Around 27 companies offered placement and internships to over 3,000



students. We are certain that our students will receive good gifts and hope this trend continues in future melas and recruitment efforts." She said the institution barred registration this year to simplify placement, unlike usual. "We will know the exact packages offered during the placement and how many students actually got placed only in the coming days after the entire process is over,"

stated. Jasleen Kaur, 21, a BSc mathematics student at the employment fair, stated, "I like that the institution organizes job fairs. That way, students can find work." Subham Kumar, 20, a BSc student, said the employment fair offers students possibilities and should be held more often.

Some students wanted more companies and more detailed career options at the job fair.

National Eligibility Test to replace PhD entrance exams at JNU

Delhi: JNU will use the National Eligibility Test (NET) score instead of the National Testing Agency (NTA) entrance test for PhD admission starting this academic year. JNU reported that UGC, as part of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, has decided to

allow universities/HEIs to use the score of the National Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by UGC and CSIR for Ph.D admission in place of an entrance test.

According to this decision, JNU will use NET scores for Ph.D admissions, replacing the NTA

entrance test. "Accordingly, JNU has decided to use NET score in place of the entrance test conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to Ph.D Programmes in the University from the academic session 2024-25," said the note.

CAPSULES

Centre advises CBSE on biannual board logistics

Delhi: Officials said the Union ministry of education has ordered the CBSE to create a plan for twice-yearly board exams and will confer with stakeholders next month. The new national curriculum framework (NCF) unveiled last year suggested pupils take board exams twice a year. In February, union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated the scheme would likely start in 2025-26. A senior education ministry source said CBSE has been urged to figure out how to organize the academic calendar to allow another round of board exams without affecting undergraduate admissions. "The ministry and board will consult CBSE school principals and stakeholders on this. The person, who requested anonymity, indicated that other NEP 2020 implementation difficulties will be examined. A second official claimed scheduling is the board's biggest issue. CBSE exams are held in February-April and results are released in May. The entire process takes nearly three months. Another exam will take three months, by which time most universities have resumed classes. The board discussed the problem with Delhi CBSE school principals early this year, according to the principal. In addition to extra tests, the board offers improvement exams. Several school principals suggested making the improvement exam the second board exam at the meeting.

After that, the board hasn't responded." The board is still finalizing the details, according to a senior CBSE official.

One-year DDA flat maintenance with RWAs

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



must join the registered agency or RWA to maintain common services. Per pocket, one RWA will be registered. All new DDA plans

require upfront monthly costs for one year, depending on flat type. "DDA shall do daily maintenance from maintenance charges

for one year or until RWA is formed, whichever comes first. An RWA will get the balance maintenance fund if it is founded before one year. If a RWA is not created within a year, it will be done on actuals," said the official. "For subsequent years, the necessary arrangement will be communicated to the residents," he said. Residents expect standard changes to speed up DDA flat maintenance, which had been delayed for a long period. The authority.

MCD commissioner inspects primary schools' infrastructure

Delhi: MCD commissioner Gyanesh Bharti visited elementary schools across the city to inspect their facilities, maintenance, and student services, including book and uniform distribution. The commissioner, along with additional and deputy commissioners and education department officials, visited MCD-run schools a day after Delhi High Court expressed its displeasure over the lack of textbooks, uniforms, and stationery. In a routine tour, the com-



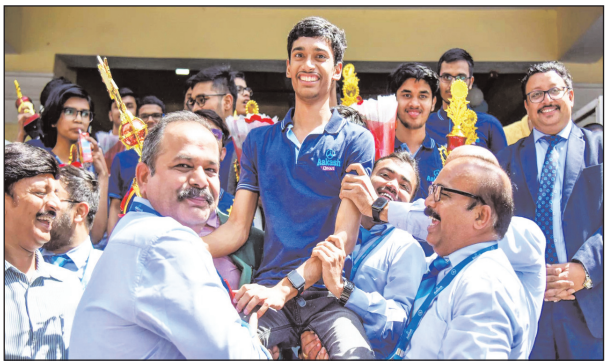
missioner visited schools in Old Gandhi Nagar, Kailash Nagar, South Gandhi Nagar, and Subhash Mohalla. The goal was to improve school facilities and atmosphere, "explained an official. He stated that department heads have been ordered to use mainte-

nance monies and allocate school budgets based on urgency. "The department will take necessary steps for the schools that need extensive repair or maintenance work." The commissioner told the court that two lakh students lacked bank accounts and were

being opened on a "war footing". He further blamed the delay in book delivery on the lack of a Standing Committee with authority over Rs 5 crore contracts. With 1,534 schools, MCD allocates maintenance money annually based on classroom count. Schools with one to 10 classrooms receive Rs 1 lakh, those with 10 to 20 Rs 1.5 lakh, and those with 20+ Rs 2 lakh. The official said schools must utilize the monies by March 31 or MCD will take them back.

JEE-Main: 56 applicants score 100 NTA, IIT cut-offs rise

Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) reported that 56 applicants, including two women, scored 100 in JEE-Main. The qualifying percentile for JEE (Advanced), the entrance test for 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), reached a five-year high. In the JEE (Main) January ses-



sion, 23 applicants obtained 100 NTA, whereas 33 in April did. The 56 winners include 40 generals, 10 OBC, and six EWS. No SC or ST applicant scored 100 NTA this year. Officials say NTA score is not the same as mark %. "NTA scores are normalised across multi-session papers and based on the relative performance of all one-session exam takers. For each exam session, marks are translated into a 100-to-0 scale," said a senior NTA official.

The official added that 39 students were blacklisted from JEE-Main for cheating. According to protocol, candidates' ranks are based on the best of two NTA scores. Telangana leads state-wise for the third year with 15 top scorers. Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, with seven individuals each scoring 100 percentile, were distant second, followed by Delhi with six. About 96% of the 14.1 lakh candidates.

Despite university protests, the ambassador tells Indian students the US is safe to study



Delhi: After nearly half a dozen Indian and Indian-origin students died in the US this year, US ambassador Eric Garcetti stated the US is safe and "cares deeply" for their well-being. After President Joe Biden's decision to cut the time for Indian applicants, Garcetti said the US took on the issue of decreasing visa backlogs and is proud of the three-quarters reduction in

American visa wait times in a year. Indians favor the US for higher education, but a succession of deaths of Indian and Indian-origin students has raised concerns. Indian students in the US reached a record 268,923 in 2022-23, according to the US embassy. "We care deeply about US Indian students' well-being. When in the US, parents should realize

their children are ours. In the US, there are many mental health and distance-learning options for students.

, parents, and families, The US is safe and has many resources to protect students. We may not learn about occurrences until it's too late if they don't seek out, he said. Students accepted to US universities attended a pre-departure orientation

Before the T20 World Cup, Uganda named Abhay Sharma as their coach

Delhi: In the lead-up to the Twenty20 World Cup, the Uganda Cricket Association appointed Indian former first-class cricket player Abhay Sharma as the men's national team's new coach. Uganda has secured its spot in the competition for the first time, and starting on June 1,

20 teams from the United States and the West Indies will compete together. In a statement posted on its website, the UCA announced Sharma's hiring on a three-year working contract.

program at the American Center in New Delhi.

Former wrestler Narsingh named WFI's seven-member athletes' panel

Delhi: former Commonwealth Games gold medalist Narsingh Panchar Yadav was chosen chairman of the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) Athletes' Commission, as required by the sport's world governing body. Eight people competed for seven seats. Paper ballots were used. Narsingh made news before the 2016 Olympics when two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar, who missed the qualification event due to injury, demanded a match against him. After Sushil's Delhi High Court petition was dismissed, Narsingh was confirmed for the Rio Olympics. In a startling turn of events, Narsingh failed two dope tests before the Games and was banned for four years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) despite the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) clearing him on the grounds.